

# AFTERBURNER

## The 144th Fighter Wing Newsletter



September 2020



**CONNECT TO PROTECT**

Make it Your Mission to  
#BeThere

### Commander's Message - From Col. Jeremiah Cruz, 144th Fighter Wing Commander

Airmen, as we continue DSCA operations into September and beyond, we have regularly demonstrated our value to the state. We have responded to COVID-19, civil unrest, and now wildfire missions. We have been busy, and you have demonstrated superior levels of readiness time and time again. I could not be prouder of you. As we continue our operations into October and November, we are also continuing ongoing trainings and exercises. Within the next few months, Airmen will be expected to complete trainings for Suicide Awareness and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. These trainings are an important part of our culture and are about taking care of people, which is one of my top priorities. Again, if you or your family members are affected by the wildfires, please let your supervisors know so that the Wing can support you. Finally, I wanted to support Dr. Stephanie Grant, our Wing's Director of Psychological Health, as she leads the campaign to prevent suicide. There is no better motto than connect to protect. Take care of each other and yourself, make connections, and never be afraid to reach out for help when you need it.

### Command Highlights

**Connect to Protect - September is Suicide Prevention Month** - By Dr. Stephanie Grant, Director of Psychological Health  
2020 has been the perfect storm: a pandemic, schools closing, civil unrest, people losing their jobs, and now the wild fires. Many of us are trying to navigate a new normal in the midst of overwhelming life stressors. The purpose of Suicide Prevention Month is to bring awareness... Commentary is continued at: <https://www.144fw.ang.af.mil/News/Commentaries>

### 144th Medics Respond to Creek Fire Rescues

By Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Drudge, 144th Medical Detachment 1 Senior Enlisted Manager  
The fire season in California has been relentless this year. This became even more apparent Sept. 5, 2020, when the uncontained Creek Fire in Fresno and Madera Counties engulfed the Mammoth Pool area trapping more than 200 men, women and children in a ring of fire... Story is continued at: <https://www.144fw.ang.af.mil/News>

### Annual School Supply Giveaway Helping Military Families

By Dorene Vierra, Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager, and Capt. Jason Sanchez, Public Affairs Officer  
The 144th Fighter Wing's Airman & Family Readiness hosted its annual School Supply Giveaway for military families Aug. 1 and Aug. 2, 2020 in the engine shop classroom at the Fresno Air National Guard Base, California, providing over 200 unit members with school supplies.... Story is continued at: <https://www.144fw.ang.af.mil/News>

### Department of Defense News

#### Remembering September 11, 2001

The Defense Department honors the memories of those who died in the 9/11 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pa. Photographs, videos, and stories show the ceremonies that solemnly honored those from that date nineteen years ago.

See more at: <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Remembering-September-11-2001/>

