

# AFTERBURNER

Vol. 10, Issue 3

A Publication of the 144th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

March 2019



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# AFTERBURNER

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## Cover Photograph



The 2019 Spark Tank finalists presented their ideas on Feb. 28 in Orlando, Florida at the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium, where five judges and an audience vote determined the winner. While Tech. Sgts. Steht and Snyder did not win the competition, their innovative idea received a "Spark" and praise from all 5 judges, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, Air Force Chief of Staff David L. Goldfein, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, Mark Cuban and George Steinbrener IV.  
(Courtesy photo by Chief Master Sgt. Clinton Dudley)

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This newsletter may use materials supplied by the Armed Forces Press Service, the Air Force News Service and the Air Combat Command News Service.

The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs office, 144th Fighter Wing. Submissions are subject to editing. Full names, rank, titles and contact phone number must accompany all submissions.



## Commander's Comments

**By Maj. Michael Yamamoto**  
*144th Communications Flight*



"America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone." – Private Martin Treptow, Rainbow Division, World War I - 1917

We are now entering our 18th year of sustained combat operations in an ever evolving strategic environment that has transformed our Wing from the once strategic reserve to a fully-integrated operational reserve. This year our wing will be asked to do more at one given time than it has ever done throughout its seventy-six year history. Each of you have made invaluable contributions in preparing our Wing for this monumental task.

It is amazing to think that this year Airmen from our Wing will have boots on ground in six out of the seven continents in the world. As a member of this wing, being away from home and family has become a constant reality. Thank you for choosing to serve, and for the sacrifices you and your family are willing to make to answer the call.

We didn't become the greatest country on earth by chance; it is because of men and women like you, who sacrifice for the greater good, that we are able to enjoy the freedoms we possess.

It does not matter whether you are part of the global strike mission, supporting the Theatre Support Package, if you are part of the agile combat support mission headed down range in support of a Reserve Component Posturing tasking, or if you will ensure our homeland defense mission endures. What you do and what you bring to the fight is needed to achieve critical objectives as part of our national defense strategy.

This month marks the beginning of this year-long chapter in our wing's history. Over the coming year take time to remember those that are deployed and their families, and be a good wingman to those who are still serving at home supporting the homeland defense mission. Thank you for everything that you do!



# Chief's Corner



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By Chief Master Sgt. Adrian Davis  
*144th Security Forces Squadron*

## Year of the Defender

President Trump in his 2017 National Security Strategy was quoted as saying, "As long as I am President, the servicemen and women who defend our Nation will have the equipment, the resources, and the funding they need to secure our homeland, to respond to our enemies quickly and decisively, and when necessary, to fight, overpower and to always, always, always win."

The Air Force Security Forces Center, as part of the 2018 National Defense Strategy to have a more lethal force, has revamped Security Forces training and modernized SF weapons and equipment. Additionally, Brig. Gen. Andrea Tullos, Air Force Director of Security Forces, brought back the popular "Defender Challenge."

Brig. Gen. Tullos and her staff decided it was time to revive the annual competition to test the Security Forces ability to shoot, move and communicate as members of a team under varying stress-related conditions. Defender Challenge is an annual competition where fourteen Security Forces teams from U.S. Air Force commands, Great Britain, Germany, Australia and Canadian Air Forces compete in events that test their weapons skills, simulated dismounted operations and grueling combat endurance events. The winning team receives bragging rights and their names engraved on a trophy with the words "Defender

Challenge Champion." Prior to 2018, the Defender Challenge competition has been on a 14-year break, due to Security Forces high deployment operation tempo. In response, the focus has changed to create a more lethal Defender with an increased emphasis on training.

Training is one of the key factors to the mission success of any military organization. The USAF Security Forces Center has swung the pendulum with an increased emphasis on building more repetitions into Security Forces training. The more repetitions Defenders have at shooting, moving and communicating as members of a team, the more lethal, and well trained they become.

For example, every Security Forces unit in the regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard are mandated to implement quarterly sustainment firing with a combination of live fire shooting, moving, and communicating drills, and simulator training. This combination of sustainment training increases our Defenders confidence and muscle memory in an active shooter scenario.

But, how can our Defenders protect the mission if they cannot get to the fight without being physically fit? In response, the USAF Security Forces Center

is developing a physical fitness assessment to test our Defenders fitness levels. It will be called the Security Forces Defender Performance Optimization assessment. When introducing this program, Brig. Gen. Tullos, stated, "Defenders deserve our best effort to prepare them for the physical and mental challenges our mission demands every day...this comprehensive program is foundational to our relentless effort to develop stronger, more lethal and resilient Defenders."

The 144 SFS began training two months ago with Doc's gym, where a group of highly motivated trainers put our men and women through various CrossFit functional movements to help prepare us for the demands of the SF career field. In addition, through Doc's gym, our Defenders have received information and instruction on proper nutrition and exercise to help us understand the importance of staying fit.

Former Secretary of Defense, Gen. Mattis, in his 2018 National Defense Strategy stated, "The surest way to prevent war is to be prepared to win one." Security Forces quarterly sustainment training and equipment modernization and Defender Performance Optimization are a few ways we are preparing to deter aggression, and be prepared for war.

## Two 144th FW Airmen, 2019 Spark Tank Finalists

By Capt. Jason Sanchez, 144th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Fresno, Calif.— Tech. Sgts. Matthew Steht and Cory Snyder, 144th Maintenance Group maintainers, were announced as finalists Jan 29, 2019 by the Air Force for the 2019 Spark Tank. Spark Tank provides a high-profile public forum to celebrate the innovations of Airmen, identifies avenues to increase lethality and cost-effective modernization, pushes boundaries to pursue future technologies, and recognizes problems and creative solutions. Airmen submitted ideas via the Air Force Ideation Platform; out of 320 submissions, only six finalists were selected, with the 144th FW being the sole Air National Guard finalist.

Steht and Snyder lead the design for an adaptive basing platform, allowing for the rapid deployment of four aircraft in five hours, while requiring only 12 personnel. Normally, the deployment of four aircraft can take 72 hours and uses 43 personnel. Their proposal would use a modified semi-truck trailer designed with C-17 Globemaster III loadmasters for the most effective design in airlifting.

“This would be a completely self-contained fighter wing in a box,” said Steht. “This trailer includes a complete UTC package. It allows for 12 crew members to have a living quarters in all climates. It gives us all of our tools. It gives us everything we need for the aircraft, to be able to sustain hydraulic power, electrical power, compressed air, and cooling air.

The idea would provide commanders a turn key platform to deploy quickly and simplify logistics and planning. The 2019 Spark Tank finalists presented their ideas on Feb. 28 in Orlando, Florida at the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium, where five judges and an audience vote determined the winner. While Tech. Sgts. Steht and Snyder did not win the competition, their innovative idea received a “Spark” and praise from all five judges, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, Air Force Chief of Staff David L. Goldfein, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, Mark Cuban and George Steinbrener IV, and has the potential to be funded for construction.



## Airman 1st Class Selected Airman of the Year

By Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Drudge, 144th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Anaheim, Calif.— On Feb. 9th, the California Military Department hosted its annual Service Member of the Year Banquet in Anaheim. The banquet was a joint celebration for the Army and Air Guard. The best of the best were recognized during an evening of good food, friends and traditions.

Service members were introduced in the various categories from Soldier to Airman of the year. After dinner, the festivities ramped up to the announcing of the CMD winners.

The 144th Fighter Wing's very own Airman 1st Class Kimberly Self was awarded the distinct honor of being announced as the Airman of the Year for the California Air National Guard.

Airman 1st Class Self is a finance management specialist in the Comptroller Flight. She enlisted with the 144th Fighter Wing in December of 2016. Self is responsible for providing customer service for Military Pay and Entitlements, Travel Pay and Civilian Pay programs for over 1,100 members of the wing.



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“I am truly honored to have been selected as Airman of the Year for the California Air Guard,” said Self. “I’m a little nervous about the next step, but look forward to meeting all the other Airmen from across the country and representing our wing at the next level.”

Airman Self has always strived for self-improvement through hard work and education. She is currently enrolled at Fresno State University where she is pursuing a degree in Agricultural Business.

“The Airmen of the 144th FW are some of the best the Air National Guard has to offer,” said Col. Dan Kelly, 144th FW Commander. “Airman Self worked extremely hard to earn this recognition and I’m extremely proud that she hails from Fresno. I look forward to watching her shine at the next level of competition.”



Maj. Gen. Clay Garrison, California Air National Guard commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Steven Pyszka, California Air National Guard, state command chief, stand with Airman 1st Class Kimberly Self at the California Military Department Service Member of the Year Banquet in Anaheim, Calif. Feb. 9, 2019. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Michelle Ulber)



U.S. Air Force medical personnel from the 144th Medical Detachment instruct cadets about Chemical, Radiological, and Nuclear defense skills at the Grizzly Academy in San Luis Obispo, Calif. Feb. 9, 2019. (Courtesy Photo by Capt. Chance Pasley)

## 144th Medical Detachment Instructs At-Risk Youth

By Capt. Chance Pasley, 144th Medical Detachment

San Luis Obispo, Calif.— The 144th Medical Detachment joined forces with California National Guard and the Grizzly Challenge Charter School Feb. 9, 2019 to instruct cadets about Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear defence skills.

Operation Grizzly was an opportunity for newly assigned medical detachment members to test their CBRN skills while also engaging with young cadets of

the Grizzly Academy. The Grizzly Academy is a highly-structured environment that promotes leadership, cooperation, and academic skills while building self-esteem, pride and confidence for at-risk teens.

Lt. Col. Francisco Flores, Grizzly Youth Academy director said, “My cadets and staff have been expressing their enthusiasm after participating with the 144th Medical Detachment.”

**SAVE THE DATE**

**144TH FIGHTER WING'S  
CENTRAL VALLEY EDUCATION FORUM**

**APRIL 3RD 2019, 10:00am - 3:00pm**

**VENUE: FRESNO AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE**

*We invite you to have lunch with us and join the discussion with the rest of the valley's education professionals.*

**Topics include:**

- Pay for college
- Community College of the Air Force
- Career opportunities
- Low cost healthcare
- Vocational Training

There will be a base tour followed by a catered lunch

**RSVP:**

<https://invitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=436537&k=0662440C7850>



In this screen shot from a Captain Marvel trailer, the griffin logo of the 194th Fighter Squadron, 144th Fighter Wing, is seen on the tails of the F-15 Eagle fighter jets.

# Upcoming Events & Announcements

## Legal

Legal assistance is available on UTA weekends at the following times:

- Walk-ins available Sun. 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Article 137 held in the Chapel at Sat. 3 p.m.
- Deploying before next UTA? - Come in anytime
- For Power of Attorney see Master Sgt. Garcia, Mon. to Fri. 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Call 454-5153 ahead of time to ensure someone is available Visit our website for your "Ticket Number" to bring with you at: <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/lass/lass.html>

## 3rd Annual 144th Fighter Wing Basketball Tournament

- Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
- Clovis Area Recreation Center, 3495 Clovis Ave, Clovis, CA 93612
- Come cheer on your squadron's team!
- For more information contact Tech. Sgt. Matthew Klundt or Senior Master Sgt. Neil Coppola

## Captain Marvel Red Carpet World Premiere

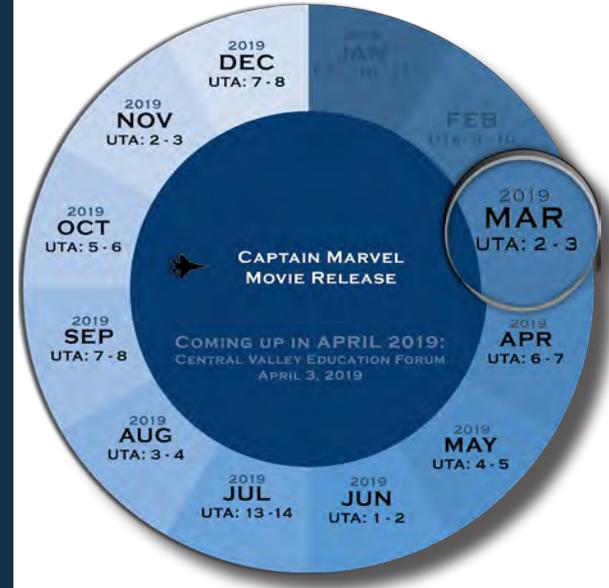
- Monday, March 4, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in Hollywood, Calif.

## Airman and Family Readiness

- Please let your family and friends know that the 144th Airman and Family Readiness Office is here for them upon your absence! If there is anything they need or have questions about, please refer them to our office.
- Ms. Dorene Vierra, 144th Fighter Wing Airman and Family Readiness Program manager: Work: (559) 454-5383 Cell: (559) 530-7807. Please call me any time!
- Command Post's 24/7 number: (559) 454-5155. They are an important contact to relay information to commanders, chaplains or anyone else at the Wing.

## Public Affairs Shared Image Drive

- Images taken by Public Affairs are now available on base through a shared drive. Any one interested in these images can map your base computer to \\144fw-fs-v7\publicmedia.



**RED CARPET WORLD PREMIERE**

**LIVE FROM HOLLYWOOD | MONDAY, MARCH 4TH | 5:30 PM PT/8:30 PM ET**

**TUNE IN AT [MARVEL.COM/CAPTAINMARVELLIVE](http://MARVEL.COM/CAPTAINMARVELLIVE)**

Only seven more days till our #144FW F-15 Eagles hit the big screen! But first, be sure to watch live on Monday to see members of the 144th FW at the PREMIERE in Hollywood!!

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# AFTERBURNER



## Mission Statement

Federal Mission - The 144th Fighter Wing is to provide Air Superiority in support of worldwide joint operations as well as Air Defense of the United States. Additionally, the Wing provides agile combat support, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance to combatant commanders around the globe. The Wing also provides a variety of homeland defense capabilities to U.S. NORTHCOM.

State Mission - The 144th Fighter Wing provides a variety of Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) capabilities to the Governor of California. Primary contributions include Ready manpower, reconnaissance assets, response to chemical, biological and radiological attacks, security, medical, civil engineering and command and control.



Members from the 144th Fighter Wing attended a press junket for the Captain Marvel movie at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Feb. 20. Members met Captain Marvel herself, Brie Larson, and the first Air Force fighter pilot Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, as cast members spoke with various media outlets about the film. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Maj. Jennifer Piggott and Tech. Sgt. Charles Vaughn)

## Top 3 Priorities

1. BE READY TO DEPLOY AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

All 144th Fighter Wing Airmen will be combat ready whenever the Combatant Commander calls or a deployment tasking is assigned.

2. BE READY TO PERFORM OUR STATE MISSION.

All Airmen must be ready when the Governor calls and needs the support of the 144th Fighter Wing.

3. CONTINUE ALERT OPERATIONS.

We have a 24/7/365 alert mission -- we must flawlessly continue to execute that mission.