

AFTERBURNER

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AFTERBURNER

Wing Commander

Col. Reed Drake

Command Chief

Chief Master Sgt. Clinton Dudley

Address:

5323 E. McKinley Ave. Fresno, CA 93727-2199
559-454-5246 FAX: 559-453-5472

EMAIL: usaf.ca.144-fw.mbx.hq-public-affairs@mail.mil

Website: www.144fw.ang.af.mil/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/144thFighterWing

Maj. Jennifer Piggott
Chief of Public Affairs

1st Lt. Jason Sanchez
Public Affairs Officer

Senior Master Sgt. Chris Drudge
Public Affairs Superintendent

Tech. Sgt. Charles Vaughn
Photojournalist / Staff Writer

Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot
Photojournalist / Editor

Cover Photograph



U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagles from the 144th Fighter Wing and F-15E Strike Eagles from the 366th Fighter Wing are prepared for their next launch during Red Flag 18-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 16, 2018. Red Flag is one of a series of advanced training programs administered by the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center to train pilots and aircrews for. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)

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Commander's Comments

By Col. Reed Drake

144th Fighter Wing Commander



Always Keep Reaching For New Heights

As I wind down my military career and turn over the reins to Col. Kelly, I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to thank all of you one last time.

When I took command two years ago I described a battle rhythm that required us to be ready to deploy in support of the Combatant Command's requirements, support our governor and the adjutant general for any Defense Security Cooperation Agency event, and continue alert operations. You have done all three in superb fashion and I couldn't be more proud of each and every one of you. You continue to excel in every endeavor. From our first theater security package to the last Red Flag we just completed, the results speak for themselves. You are ready to project combat power anywhere in the world. You

have established the 144th Fighter Wing as a premier F-15 unit and I am confident you will be called to protect American interests somewhere in the world in the not too distant future. Even if we aren't called into combat operations the 144th FW will be called to continue to deploy throughout the world to not only support our allies, but also to deter our adversaries. This capability didn't just happen overnight. You proved it to the Air Combat Command commander when he sent out his inspector general team to evaluate our capabilities. Not only did you show we were "effective" in managing our resources, leading our people, and improving the unit, but you also proved we were "highly effective" in executing the mission. That equates to combat power and it made leadership take notice. You had already proved your excellence through Theater Security Packages, Sentry Alohas, Weapon Systems Evaluation Programs, Alert Force

Evaluation/Alert Force Operational Assessment results and everyone other deployment, but this event solidified your place in the current status of forces.

This is no time to relax though. We've been winning at everything and we are just getting into our stride. Col. Kelly will do a great job taking the Wing to the next level. I ask that you give him the same support you gave me. You are the best trained people on the planet. Be proud of it. Be proud of each other and don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something.

I am fortunate to have spent the last seven years in your company and be a small part of your lives. Thank you for that. Keep up the great work. Keep winning. Set your dreams high, work hard, and keep reaching for new heights. Our country demands it. Our country is in dire need of the great Airmen of the 144th Fighter Wing. God Bless. Thank you.



Chief's Corner

By Chief Master Sgt. Lynn Williams
144th Maintenance Group Chief



All Hands Pulling on the Rope!

Teammates our winning track record speaks for itself. We have accomplished many milestones and set the bar high when it comes to being ready to fight and win the war anywhere and anytime. This has been a unity of effort by all members of the 144th Fighter Wing.

We are first to raise our hand to play in the championship game, first to showcase our superior air combat power capability with lethality and are recognized by Air Force senior leaders as the go to F-15 Eagle unit to get the job done!

This is a true testament that we have the right

players on the team with all hands pulling on the rope producing record results. Second to none in the Air Force enterprise on our Quick Draw exercise, we generated and launched 16 aircraft! This is an unprecedented show of combat capability across the ANG fighter community. At the Red Flag Exercise ... we knocked it out the park! We were lauded by our active duty counterparts as their first pick ANG fighter unit to take to war with them. In addition, we are recognized as community ambassadors representing the Air Force and California Air National in support of numerous major sporting events with fly-bys across the state of California, all while maintaining 24/7 homeland defense for the western United States of America.

The reality of all this is: we as leaders recognize this is a team sport and you do have a choice. Without supreme Airmanship and teamwork the job would never get done. Airmen it's your strength, integrity, attention to detail, and unselfish commitment to exceeding the wing commander's priorities, surpassing all expectations beyond mediocrity that makes our TEAM a nationally recognized premier fighter unit.

Keep grinding away at your job and pulling on the rope! Your teammates depend on you more than you know! And equally important, America is depending on you to be READY!



Red Flag 18-2

By Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot

Six U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle fighter jets and over 60 Airmen from the 144th Fighter Wing departed the Fresno Air National Guard Base, California, to participate in Red Flag 18-2 at Nellis AFB, Nevada March 5, 2018.

Red Flag is the Air Force's premier air-to-air combat training exercise. Red Flag gives pilots the experience of multiple, intensive air combat sorties in the safety of a training environment.

"I have never seen so many aircraft in one confined location," said 1st Lt. Benjamin Martin, 194th Fighter Squadron pilot. "It is difficult to keep track of that many aircraft at one time. I think that's what makes red flag different."

This is the first Red Flag exercise 1st Lt. Martin partook in. Red Flag is one of the largest and most rigorous exercises that the Air Force hosts.

"It is very difficult, a lot is going on in the fog of war," 1st Lt. Martin said. "I have been learning to get back to the basics and try to take things step-by-step."

A major part of Red Flag is integration and learning to work as a total force.

"A big part of that is communication that is one thing I am finding out here at Red Flag," 1st Lt. Martin said. "Every piece is very important. The 144th FW is only a small part of the plan to get the mission done."

The 144th Maintenance Squadron made sure that the F-15Cs were ready to fly during the exercise.

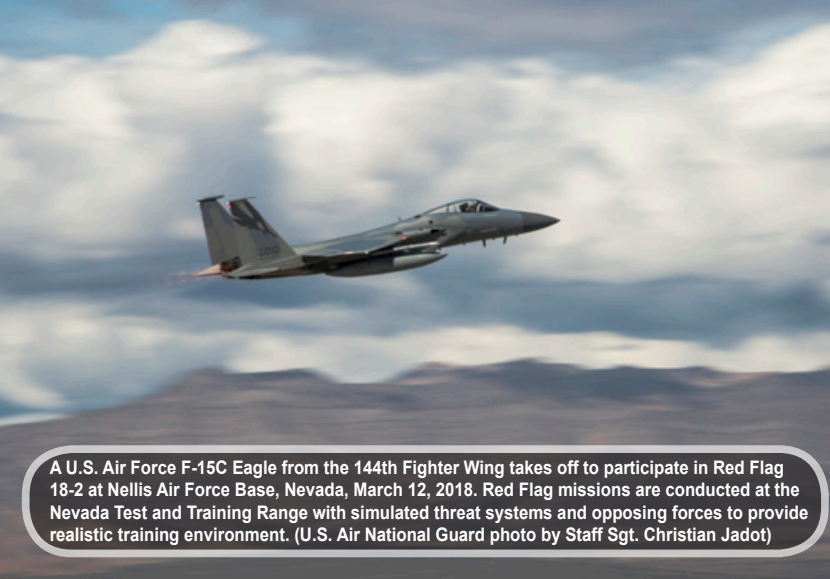
"The crew chief basically runs the launch with the pilot," said Tech. Sgt. Patrick Campos, 144th MXS Expeditor. "They go through and do checks, brakes, flight control, engine checks and they make sure the jet is good to go before it takes off."

The maintenance team overcame many unexpected challenges of getting the planes into the air at the beginning of the exercise.

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U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagles from the 144th Fighter Wing taxi along the runway after participating in a scenario during Red Flag 18-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 14, 2018. Red Flag gives pilots and ground crew the opportunity to train in a collaborative and challenging environment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)



A U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle from the 144th Fighter Wing takes off to participate in Red Flag 18-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 12, 2018. Red Flag missions are conducted at the Nevada Test and Training Range with simulated threat systems and opposing forces to provide realistic training environment. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Charles Van Hofwegen, Senior Airmen Chuete Xoing and Adriana Wright, 144th Maintenance Squadron maintainers, finish refilling F-15C Eagles with liquid oxygen during Red Flag 18-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 15, 2018. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jamie Mabry-Rairigh, 144th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron avionics technician, helps recover a F-15C Eagle after it participated in a scenario at Red Flag 18-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, March 15, 2018. Red Flag gives pilots and ground crew the opportunity to train with real-time war scenarios and enhance their skills. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)



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“It was a little bit rough at first,” Tech. Sgt. Campos said. “We managed to push the sorties out and take care of business. The people have performed flawlessly and we knocked it out of the park.”

The 144th Logistical Readiness Squadron played a major role in making sure the supply chain for parts ran quickly and efficiently.

“Any kind of supply assistance, whether it is from our supply kits or Nellis support center, we take care of that,” said Tech. Sgt. Thomas Winters, 144th LRS supply representative. “Working with different units we have learned to collaborate with them, assist each other whether it is giving them parts or giving us parts to get that mission accomplished.”

The 144th FW took home many lessons learned from Red Flag 18-2.

“I think we have done a really good job training for a large force exercise,” said 1st Lt. Martin. “We are a combat unit that can go and relieve other units around the world. We have proven that. Red Flag has helped diversify our mission besides just being alert at home station.”

The efforts of the 144th FW and other units participating in Red Flag 18-2 did not go unnoticed.

“Thank you for throwing your hearts into this,” said General Mike Holmes, Air Combat Command commander. “The reports I have seen, showed enthusiastic ownership of the problems we face. Regaining skills that are needed in the real world. The evidence of this is very few sorties missed, and I could not be more proud of you.”

Sentinel Response

By Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot

Members of the 144th Fighter Wing's Homeland Response Force team joined other military HRF units and multiple civilian agencies from around California to participate in exercise Sentinel Response at the Sleep Train Arena in Sacramento, California March 23, 2018.

Sentinel Response is a full-scale exercise with training scenarios that involve a series of simulated terrorist attacks and natural disasters to improved emergency preparedness and security in the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Areas.

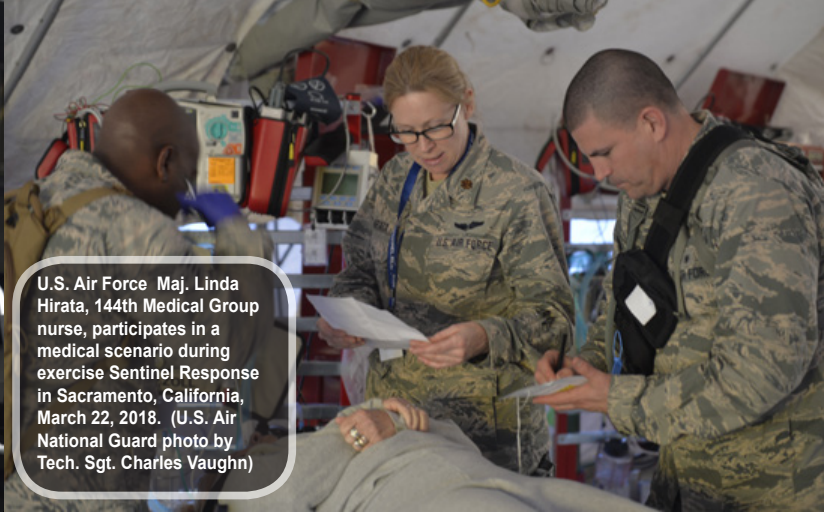
"The 144th Medical Detachment deployed multiple members to be integrated into California based State and National Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces during the simulated radiological dispersal device detonation at the Sleep Train Arena," said U.S. Air Force Captain Chance Pasley, 144th Medical Detachment HRF operational officer. "This exercise was invaluable to the relationship building between military and civilian forces during a mass casualty incident. The 144th Medical Detachment will continue to participate with local civilian first responders to enhance this Tier 1 capability the 144th FW can provide to Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX."

Sentinel Response brought together local, state and federal first responders to test mass casualty management, weapons of mass destruction detection, interdiction and consequence management.

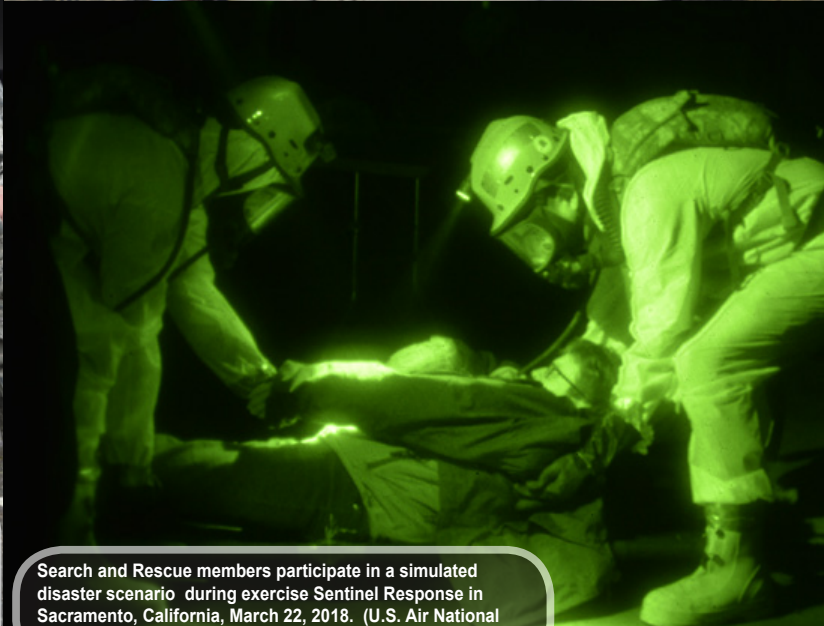
"It's only through regular, realistic training alongside our partner agencies that we keep our skills sharp and response times low," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. David S. Baldwin, Adjutant General for the California National Guard. "These exercises establish the relationships and interagency coordination that is fundamental to an effective response during emergency incidents."



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Mathew Gibbs, 144th Medical Group medic, prepares his equipment for a search and rescue mission during exercise Sentinel Response in Sacramento, California, March 22, 2018. Sentinel Response is a disaster response exercise to prepare the California Air and Army National Guard and other government agencies for natural disasters and possible terror attacks. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Vaughn)



U.S. Air Force Maj. Linda Hirata, 144th Medical Group nurse, participates in a medical scenario during exercise Sentinel Response in Sacramento, California, March 22, 2018. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Vaughn)



Search and Rescue members participate in a simulated disaster scenario during exercise Sentinel Response in Sacramento, California, March 22, 2018. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Charles Vaughn)

Spring - Fresh Beginnings

By Stephanie Grant, LCSW, Director of Psychological Health

Spring is here!

What a great time to enjoy the longer days and take steps to foster personal resilience. Developing new habits and making positive choices in any one of the pillars of wellness (Mental, Social, Physical, or Spiritual) will have a reciprocal effect and influence the other areas of health. It is never too late to create a fresh start and establish a new habit. Research demonstrates that increasing resilience begins with the choice to adopt a new skill and then practice the skill until it becomes a routine aspect of life.

The decision to increase personal resilience often begins with a simple decision. For example, with physical resilience we are faced with choices throughout the day.

-We make decisions to run in the morning (or stay in bed)

-We make decisions about what to eat or drink

-We make decisions about when to go to bed and the number of hours we will sleep

-We make decisions about filling our mind with negative news before bed or reading an uplifting book or other activities that foster relaxation

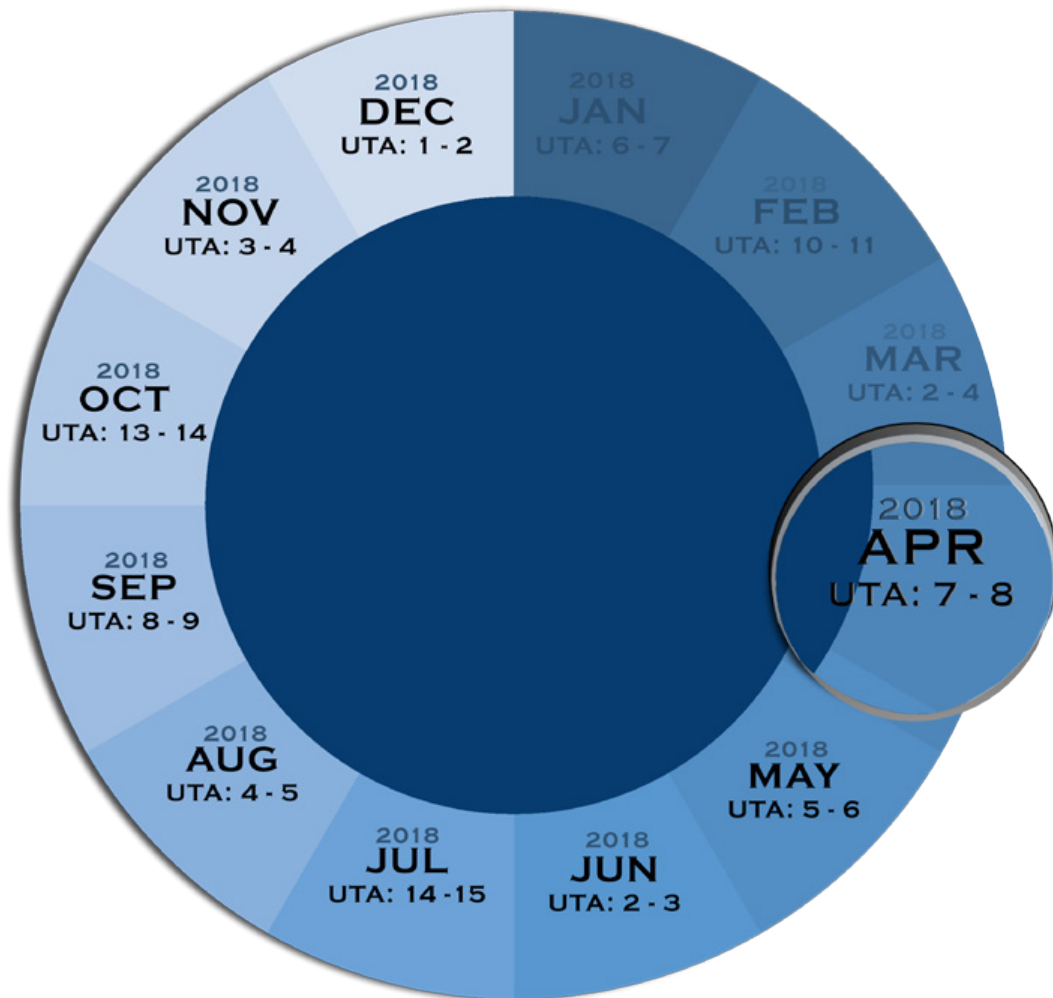
It is important to remember that the decisions we make in the mental and spiritual domains have a direct effect on what our body does and the overall outcome. We know that choosing resilient behaviors lead to positive outcomes. Resilient individuals perform better in a broad range of activities, including

academic achievement, creativity, and decision-making. In addition, resilient individuals experience better sleep patterns, have lower blood pressure, healthier immune functioning, and experience a longer life span. Ultimately, individuals that make resilient choices enjoy better health and better overall performance.

It is all about choices. Our positive choices have a positive rippling effect on all areas of our life as well as others around us.

Spring is a great time to “clean out” some of the unhealthy choices and behaviors and replace them with fresh new ones that foster personal resilience. With the beautiful sunshine, great weather, and fresh growth that we enjoy during this time of year, let’s take time to seek our own opportunity for “new growth” with the choices we make.

Upcoming Events & Announcements



Legal

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

- Article 137 briefings held in the Chapel, Sat. at 3 p.m.
- Sun., 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., walk-ins are available for deploying service members
- Please visit our website:
<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/lass/lass.html>
to receive a ticket number to bring with you to your appointment

Military Spouse Appreciation Event

The California National Guard Family Program is excited to announce that the NorCal Military Spouse Appreciation Event will be held on the Sacramento River Train on May 6, 2018. California National Guard Spouses are welcome to join us for a 2.5 hour train ride showcasing the gold rush history. While riding in a private train car, our military spouses will participate in some fun activities, be treated to lunch, and will receive a gift bag.

Additionally, there will be a Fresno Military Spouse Appreciation event on May 20, 2018 at Pinot Palette in Fresno from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Space is limited. Guard spouses may register for these events by emailing: Jennifer.s.lucero.civ@mail.mil

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.



U.S. Air Force Col. Reed Drake, 144th Fighter Wing commander, gives the signal for the other F-15 Eagle fighters to start their engines for the Colonel's last flight with the Air National Guard March 30, 2018. The afternoon launch was the cap on a 31 year career for Col. Drake, who will be relinquishing command to Col. Daniel Kelly April 8. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 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.