

THE

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144th Fighter Wing Engages in Sentry Eagle 2017

By Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot, 144th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle fighter jets are parked on the flight line before flying in the final day of Sentry Eagle 2017 at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore. July 23, 2017. Sentry Eagle is the largest Air National Guard hosted exercise of its kind. It prepares the units participating to work with each other if a real world need occurs. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)

KINGSLEY FIELD, ORE. – Members of the 144th Fighter Wing deployed to Kingsley Field to participate in Sentry Eagle 2017 in Klamath Falls Ore., July 21, 2017.

Sentry Eagle is a large scale air-to-air combat exercise hosted by the Oregon Air National Guard every other year. Sentry Eagle allows pilots of dissimilar aircraft to train together in a safe learning environment.

“Our instructor pilots are training America’s next generation of air superiority pilots,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Jeff Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, Klamath Falls. “We train F-15C pilots to accomplish air superiority for the nation. We practice year-in and year-out with our students without many dissimilar aircraft opportunities. To bring this wide array of fighters and capability, multiple components, multiple services on to our ramp and in flight. To integrate like this is unbelievable.”

The 144th FW deployed five F-15C Eagle fighter jets and roughly 80 Airmen to take part in this opportunity to train with other units from the nation.

“The mission is going awesome, so far we having a great time,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Kirk Adams, 144th FW pilot. “We are getting a lot of

good training with all the different airframes including the F-16, the F-35, the F-18 Super Hornet and the F-18 Growlers. It is really a great exercise to see all these different platforms that we normally don’t see on a regular basis back home.”

Capt. Adams was not only a pilot but also the project officer (Projo) for this deployment.

“Being the Projo entails coordinating with all the different sections and shops of the 144th FW,” Capt. Adams said. “So basically I get the manning, the bodies, the funding requests from National Guard Bureau and also coordinate with maintenance to get the jets and also the pilots all up to Klamath Falls. This also includes getting everything they need like rooms, rental cars and all the little administration things you don’t really think about.”

(cont. on pg 4)

THANK YOU!

By Col. Daniel Kelley, 144th Maintenance Group Commander



The men and women of the 144th Fighter Wing have been working tirelessly for the last four years. You have converted a unit to the F-15 in record time, gone on numerous deployments around the globe from the Pacific to the North Pole to Europe to the Middle East. And you have passed multiple inspections all while guarding North America with our 24/7/365 Alert Mission. The recent Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI) result puts a bow on one of the most successful unit conversions in recent history.

I am constantly amazed at the incredible volume of work that our dedicated guardsmen accomplish. Despite the many challenges of conversion (new procedures, new equipment, and new personnel), we have accomplished amazing things as a team.

Through the arguments and debates and resource shortfalls and aggressive timelines you have managed to be part of and create an amazing wing – the 144th is a wing to be proud of.

Just before the UEI, we were packing equipment and getting ready to support Sentry Eagle. Just after the UEI, the 144th Fighter Wing excelled again with 100% sortie delivery rate and excellent training for Operations. Handling multiple missions simultaneously has become commonplace for our largely part-time force. We sat Alert at home station while participating in Atlantic Resolve. Our Security Forces guarded the base and Civil Engineering kept the base running while deployed to Operation Inherent Resolve. All these accomplishments require relentless effort and constant teamwork.

The evidence of teamwork is everywhere. For example, everyone who has deployed in the last four years has been medically qualified to go. Our Medical Group ensures we are ready to go. FSS supplies the required orders and the Comptroller Flight makes sure we get paid. There are endless examples, but suffice to say,

you have overcome many obstacles and worked together to rack up an amazing string of Wing victories.

Sometimes, while caught up in the frantic pace of mission execution, we don't take time to stop and celebrate the outcome of our hard work. Now is one of those times – take some time to enjoy your successes. Celebrate the results of the last four years with your friends and fellow guardsmen.

It has been enjoyable to watch the unit win. Someone recently asked me if I get tired of winning – No. Soon we will need to set some new goals for the Wing, but for now enjoy the rest of the summer. The winning will begin again soon. After all, we have a trip to Weapon System Evaluation Program in September. In the mean time, I would just like to re-iterate – THANK YOU!



144th Fighter Wing – UEI Complete

By Maj. Jennifer Piggott, 144th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Franklin Clay and Senior Airman Ryan Smith, 144th Civil Engineering Squadron firefighters, seal up a simulated punctured chemical container during the Unit Effectiveness Inspection at the Fresno Air National Guard Base July 16, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)

FRESNO AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Calif. – Air Combat Command inspectors visited the 144th Fighter Wing July 13-17, 2017 to evaluate the wing’s ability to perform its mission with a Unit Effectiveness Inspection, or UEI.

A UEI measures four Major Graded Areas, which focus on management of resources, improving the unit, leading people, and executing the mission.

The Major Graded Areas show the Air Force that the unit is a well-run organization, not just in time for an inspection, but rather all of the time.

“The inspection focused on aligning the four major grades areas with my priorities for the wing,” said Col. Reed Drake, 144th Fighter Wing commander. “The UEI is our opportunity to showcase the

exceptional work we do at the Wing, as well as to emphasize our innovative processes.”

On July 17, the 144th Fighter Wing was awarded an overall score of “Effective” by the ACC Inspection Team. The wing received an Effective rating in three of the four Major Graded Areas, with a Highly Effective rating in the area of executing the mission.

“I am very proud of the men and women of the 144th Fighter Wing,” said Col. Drake. “Their tireless efforts and hard work made this a successful inspection and showed the IG team that we are a fully operational F-15 unit that knows how to get the job done!”

Previous inspections involved major readiness exercises called ORIs and compliance inspections called UCIs.

These inspections were singular events to test Air Force unit’s readiness or inspect compliance with Air Force and other policies. UEIs differ from the previous inspections.

The inspection cycle is a four year process with a two year mid-point, where the unit’s overall grade is based on performance throughout the inspection period. The on-site component (that the 144th FW just completed) focuses on the unit’s own inspection process and its ability to identify non-compliance and resolve those deficiencies. This was the first UEI for the 144th Fighter Wing.

“This was our first inspection under this new system and we hit a home run,” said Col. Drake. “I am so proud to lead such an amazing group of Airmen.”



A U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle fighter jet and F-35A Lightning joint strike fighter are set up in preparation for the open house portion of Sentry Eagle 2017 at Kingsley Field, Ore. July 21 2017. The 173rd Fighter Wing hosts Sentry Eagle every other year, and open its doors to the public. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)

Sentry Eagle is the largest Air National Guard hosted exercise of its kind. It prepares the units participating to work with each other if a real world need occurs.

“This helps the Air Force by getting training not only for the pilots but also the maintainers,” Capt. Adams said. “Everybody is working hard, everybody is working as a coordinated platform in a deployed

type of location. This helps up our experience as a total entity and also helps us integrate with the different airframes around the Air Force as well as the Navy.”

The maintainers on the ground made sure the 144 FW aircraft never missed a sortie.

“I am a crew chief, I help maintain the jets,” said Airman 1st Class

William Hurst, 144th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. “I make sure the planes are good to go for the flight by communicating with the pilot. I make sure they know everything that is going on with the aircraft.”

For some of the Airmen that deployed with the 144th FW, it was their first time on a training exercise away from the Fresno Air National Guard base.

“This is my first trip and my first deployment with the unit and we’re having a great time,” Airman 1st Class Hurst said. “It has been a lot of fun working with all these guys and getting to see some amazing airplanes and doing good work.”

It takes roughly a year of planning and preparation to host an exercise of this size. Details have to be worked out with all agencies involved to prove a smooth training exercise.

“This is our 16th Sentry Eagle, plan to have one back here in 2019,” said Col. Smith.



A U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle takes off using the afterburner during Sentry Eagle 2017 from Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore. July 23, 2017. Sentry Eagle is a large scale air-to-air combat exercise hosted by the Oregon Air National Guard every other year. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)

Morale and Unit Cohesion

By Chief Master Sgt. Michelle Flaherty and Airman 1st Class Joshua Chaplain



Maj. Carl Fosling once said “a military with poor morale is a military that fights poorly.” Morale can be defined as the confidence, enthusiasm, and discipline of a person or group at a particular time. You can increase morale by telling someone that they are doing a great job or had an interesting idea. It is very important to give our peers feedback and recognize those that are performing. If you think about something positive someone did over UTA, why not send them a text to let them know?

Don't pass up the opportunity to make a positive difference where there can be one. Recognize someone during commander's call, submit that awards package you've been sitting on, or even stop by someone's office to say thank you. It's surprising what a kind word can do for someone's morale. This concept goes both ways in the

chain of command. Morale events such as the socials planned by our Wing's Chiefs are two-fold. These events are designed to have fun, but also to connect with members across the Wing. The Combat Dining In, which will be held on Saturday of September UTA, is a major tradition and moral builder. The Outstanding Airman of the Year banquet is yet another big morale builder. The banquet is your chance as members of the 144th Fighter Wing to support your fellow Airman in their success and show pride for your work centers. However, don't wait until these events come around every year to gather for positive conversations, competitions, laughs, and memories. Band together and plan something for your units to participate in.

I believe that I speak for the Chief's when I say that the morale is very important to us. We strive to make tomorrow better for you than today. Morale is like a wave in the ocean. It rises and falls depending on the tide. It may only take one member that feels unappreciated to impact morale of an entire group. Pay attention, give feedback, and communicate to your peers. Our forces depends on it.

-Chief Master Sgt. Michele A. Flaherty

Airman perspective:

As an Airman 1st Class my understanding of morale is new and constantly evolving. The Medical Group was a bit intimidating my first few drills, this wasn't because I didn't feel welcomed, in fact it was just the opposite. It was clear within minutes of watching the group interact at a Saturday morning commanders call that in spite of a few sleepy eyes, everyone was excited to see each other. TDYs, teambuilding exercises and training all do a great job of raising morale because at the core of it, we look out for one another. Looking forward to every month, to spending time together that gives morale its purpose.

I've seen our Chief fight tooth and nail with a schedule or plan that puts the needs of her airman first and it was her that grabbed scuba gear for each and every Airman who was without so that we could enjoy our TDY downtime to its fullest. That same Chief personally took out the hesitant Airman swimming and guided them. When she speaks to how morale can be improved, it's from a place of experience and success.

-Airman 1st Class Joshua Chaplain

Surviving Fresno Heat

By Lt. Col. Dirk Lough, 144th Fighter Wing Safety Officer

Surviving Fresno heat takes special techniques and awareness. Since we can't spend all day in the pool, we need to be aware of signs of heat related illnesses in ourselves and others.

Heat Exhaustion is a state brought on by the loss of fluids lost during excessive sweating. Symptoms may include nausea, headache, cramps, pale skin and high body temperature. This condition is best treated by taking the patient to a cool place,

applying cool compresses, elevating the feet and giving plenty of fluids.

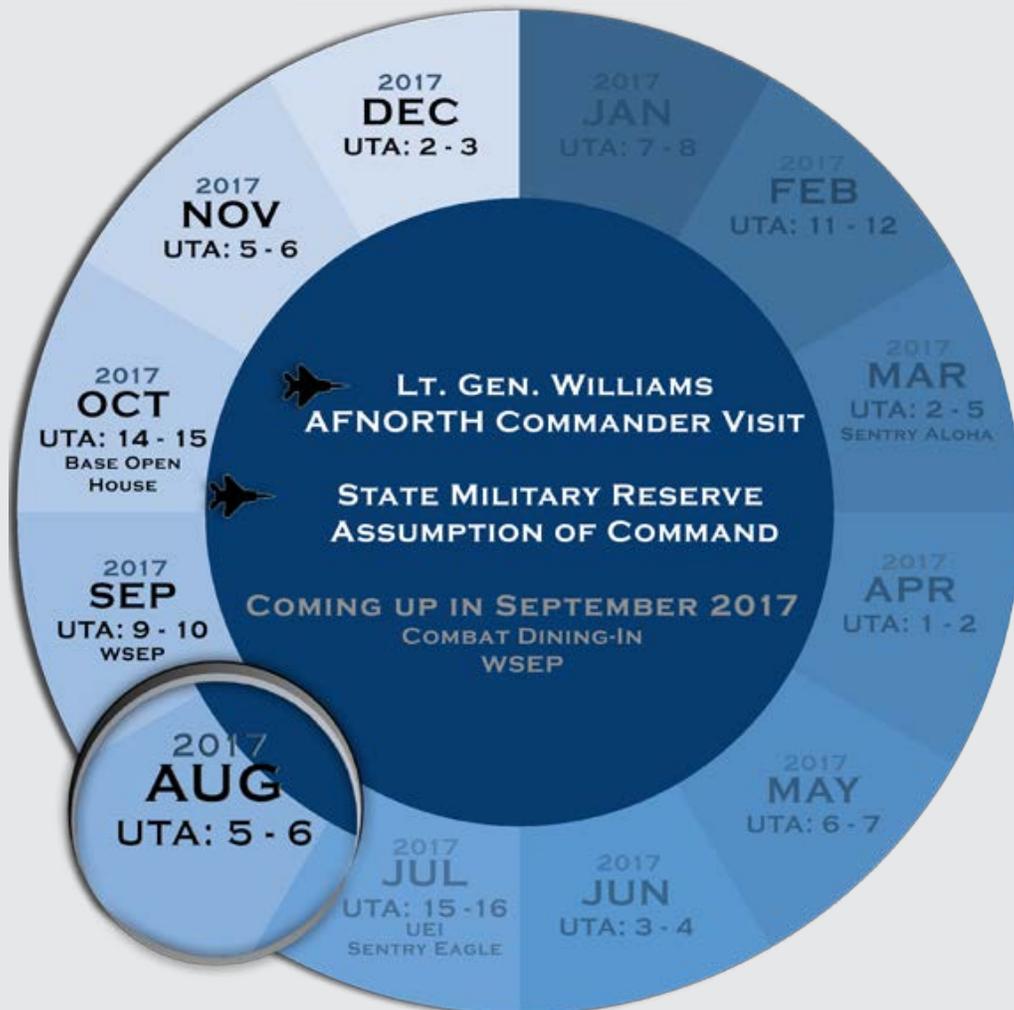
Heat Stroke is a medical emergency when the core temperature gets too high. The individual will have hot and dry skin, high pulse and low blood pressure. Cool the body with water or wrap in cool wet sheets. Immediately seek medical attention.

The buddy system applies here, keep an eye on others- especially those that are new to the valley. Be aware

that your body gets used to the heat and responds better over time. Pace yourself, your exertion level should be lower during the hotter months.

You're more susceptible if you are in bad shape as well so here's another reason to hit the gym! Fluid intake must be maintained throughout the course of physical activity. Ice water helps to lower core temps.

Stay cool.



Upcoming Base Events

Combat Dining-In
September 2017

Open House
October 2017

Airman of the Year Banquet
November 2017

Blended Retirement System FAQ's

As many have already heard, there will be a new retirement system by the name of Blended Retirement System (BRS) that will be effective Jan. 1, 2018. This is going to be a two phase process.

Phase 1 - In accordance with DoD policy, all personnel **MUST** complete the notification acknowledgement and a 2 hr. CBT NLT Dec. 31, 2017; if a member is not eligible or chooses not to opt-in then **NO** further action is required. <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/Atlas2/page/desktop/DesktopHome.jsf>

Phase 2 - BRS Enrollment period will begin 1 Jan 2018 to 31 Dec 2018. Any eligible members who wants to opt-in to BRS will need to log into MyPay to complete an additional CBT and select the Opt in BRS option to complete the transaction. Once a member has completed this action, there is no going back to the previous retirement system.

As we get closer to the launch date, we understand that those of you who are considering to opt-in may have questions. In order to alleviate some possible confusion here are a few FAQ's regarding the Blended Retirement System:

Q: Who is eligible to opt-in to the BRS?

A: Anyone who has a Date Initially Entered Uniform/Military Service (DIEUS/DIEMS) on or before Dec. 31, 2017; and, have less than 4320 retirement points.

Q: If I am not eligible to opt-in to the new retirement system what are my responsibilities?

A: All airmen "MUST COMPLETE" the notification acknowledgement and opt-in training course per DOD policy by Dec. 31, 2017.

Q: I have not received the notification of the acknowledgement for the BRS, what needs to be done to get this resolved?

A: Contact your MPF for a Service Date Correction and once service date have been corrected the Airman's BRS Notification will occur during the next monthly process. In rare instances NGB/A1P may authorize the use of a hardcopy memorandum when all efforts have been exhausted to use the on-line notification process.

Q: How do I know if BRS is the best choice for me and my future?

A: We advise you to contact your financial advisor or the Airman and Family Readiness coordinator for financial resources that are able to provide you with a better financial understanding of BRS and whether it suits you or not.

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.

SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES)

The Service members' Group Life Insurance Online Enrollment System for the uniformed services, commonly referred to as SOES, is an enterprise solution developed by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Veteran Benefits Administration and mandated by DOD Instruction 1341.14, Service members' Group Life Insurance Online Enrollment System. SOES is a self-service based data system that centralizes Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Family Service members' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) information into one authoritative system capable of providing consistent information to authorized users.

The Air Force's 12-month implementation of SOES will begin in July 2017 and conclude in June 2018. During this period, Total Force Airmen will validate coverage and add beneficiary information during their birth month. Please be aware the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Online Enrollment System (SOES) implementation start date is delayed from Aug. 1, 2017 until Aug. 2, 2017.

Individual Airman Responsibilities:

Airmen will log into MilConnect (<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>) using their Common Access Card (CAC) or DS logon username and password, reviews and/or updates his/hers coverage elections, beneficiaries, and allocation of shares and certifies the record with an electronic signature.

A completed SOES Record includes:

- Verification of SGLI coverage amount and effective date
- Designation of SGLI beneficiary name(s) and share(s) of proceeds
- Certification of SGLI election

For further information contact FSS Customer Support at 559-454-5274.

144FW 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.



Airman First Class Andrew Funk, 144th Maintenance Group, waves to Los Angeles Dodger fans during an on-field military recognition. Funk was the "Military Hero of the Game" on July 23, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Nicole Wright)

Top 3 Priorities

By Col. Reed Drake, 144th Fighter Wing Commander

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.

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