

# AFTERBURNER

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**144th Change of Command**

*Page 4*

**EOD Trains with Homeland Security**

*Page 5*

**Grizzlies Honor Vietnam Vets**

*Page 6*

# AFTERBURNER

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Col. Daniel Kelly

**Command Chief**

Chief Master Sgt. Clinton Dudley

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**U.S. Air Force Col. Daniel Kelly, incoming 144th Fighter Wing commander, accepts the guidon of the 144th FW from Maj. Gen. Clay Garrison, California Air National Guard commander, during the wing's change of command ceremony at the Fresno Air National Guard Base, Calif. April 8, 2018. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)**

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## Commander's Comments

**By Col. Victor Sikora**

*144th Operations Group Commander*



Warriors, it's been a while since I've written anything for the Wing's Afterburner. Glad to be back! I thought I'd write about where we are as a Wing, our future, and your dedication.

I was brought back to the Wing as the Operations Group Commander in January, just in time to join the Sentry Aloha deployment for fighter integration training with the Hawaii Air National Guard's F-22 Raptors. There we flew against the F-16 Aggressor Squadron from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. It was a hugely successful exercise because of the teamwork of all those involved.

Shortly thereafter, we deployed to Red Flag 18-2 at Nellis AFB, Nevada, which was also very successful because of your hard work and dedication.

This past week the wing engaged in late night, large force employment exercises practicing the "adaptive basing" concept for full spectrum readiness.

In late summer, we'll be deploying for more fighter integration training with our active duty counter-parts. In the fall, we'll deploy with other Air Guard units in support of the State Partnership Program followed immediately by an

exercise with U.S. Air Forces Europe before returning home.

Back at the 144th FW, we recently had an Alert Force Operational Assessment, and will have an Alert Force Evaluation later this summer.

The F-15 pilots and maintainers were not the only ones operating at peak proficiency, our RC-26 crews had a very busy 2017 with responses to massive flooding up north and then fire mapping last fall in Sonoma, Lake, Napa, Mendocino, and Ventura counties. Additionally, they answered the call during the hurricane emergencies in Texas to aid with damage assessment and personal recovery.

Many other squadrons had personnel activated last year to assist with the North Bay and Ventura fires. The activated Airmen performed duties ranging from security and logistics to personnel and finance functions, most of them working side by side with their Army National Guard counter-parts.

Our plate is full! All of what I just wrote about is in fulfillment of our three core missions: prepare for worldwide deployment to establish Air Superiority, flawlessly perform the 24/7/365 mission of Aerospace Control Alert, and support

the State of California (and other U.S. States and Territories) with civil support. We wouldn't be able to have any of this success if it weren't for you and your dedication!

A couple months ago I addressed the pilots about the concept of dedication, specifically with regard to advice Gen. Carl Spatz gave to Brig. Gen. Robin Olds (then Maj. Olds) at the end of WWII in Europe. During a mentoring session in England, Gen. Spatz described four types of people, or personality traits, to Maj. Olds, and warned him of three of the traits. However, the fourth type of person, the DEDICATED, is what Spatz told Olds to surround himself with. Specifically, Spatz said with regard to the DEDICATED, "Stick with them, search them out, and work hard to be worthy of their company."

We have a righteous mission. You are doing fantastic work. Much is being asked of you, and we will continue to ask it of you. Let's continue traveling on this upward vector! You have proven, and continue to prove that you are the DEDICATED. I am taking Gen. Spatz's advice: I have searched you out, I am sticking with you for the rest of my career, and I will work hard to be worthy of your company.





# Chief's Corner

By Chief Master Sgt. Kostantinas Baladakis  
*Mission Support Group Chief*



Why do today what you can put off till tomorrow? Words spoken from a true procrastinator. Are all your legal affairs in order in the event you have to deploy? If not, you should read this ... and if so ... you should read it anyway.

This short article is not intended to be an all-inclusive checklist, but a reminder that it is important to prepare your family for your deployment. Sometimes we forget that any one of us can be called to duty at a moment's notice. That is why it is very important to take the time now to prepare your family for deployment as well. And for all you "single" people thinking "this doesn't apply to me" ... it IS important for you too.

I know everyone cringes when the First Sergeant brings up all the overdue family plans, but this is a very easy and quick item to complete. If you haven't already done so, take the time to see your First Sergeant to complete.

The next item should be a power of attorney. This document allows a person you trust, called your agent, to make transactions and take care of business that would normally require your signature (things like cashing checks, bank transactions, filing taxes, etc. etc.)

No one wants to think about this, but it is also very important to complete ASAP. A living and last will and testament or living trust (whichever works best for your situation). Although it may not be mandatory, it is the only way to guarantee things to be settled as you wish should something terrible happen. We, in the military, have the unique opportunity to use resources to help us complete those items.

Other documents that I would recommend having ready and available for your spouse or family are marriage and family documents, insurance policies, and property paperwork.

Be sure to have important documents collected in one location. Whether you are a techno-geek, and digitize all your important documents or old-school and keep hard copies, make sure you protect them for security purposes, but not to the point where your family can't get to them either. I recommend keeping all your important documents organized, filed, and labeled in a safe place like a fire-proof safe.

If you start working on some of these things now, it will be a lot easier to complete than you think. If you procrastinate, you will find that it will slowly drop to the bottom of your short term priority list, and will not get done prior to your deployment ... or the next one ... or you get the point.

If you have questions about this, or anything at all on your mind, please do not hesitate to come see me. My door is always open.

# Col. Kelly Takes Command of the 144th

By 1st Lt. Jason Sanchez

Fresno Air National Guard Base, Calif.-- A new commander took the lead of the 144th Fighter Wing during a change of command ceremony attended by over a thousand military members and held outside the wing hangar April 8, 2018.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Clay Garrison, California Air National Guard commander, presided over the ceremony, where Col. Reed Drake, outgoing commander, passed command of the 144th FW to U.S. Air Force Col. Daniel Kelly, former 144th FW vice commander, while praising the men and women of the California Air National Guard and the 144th FW.

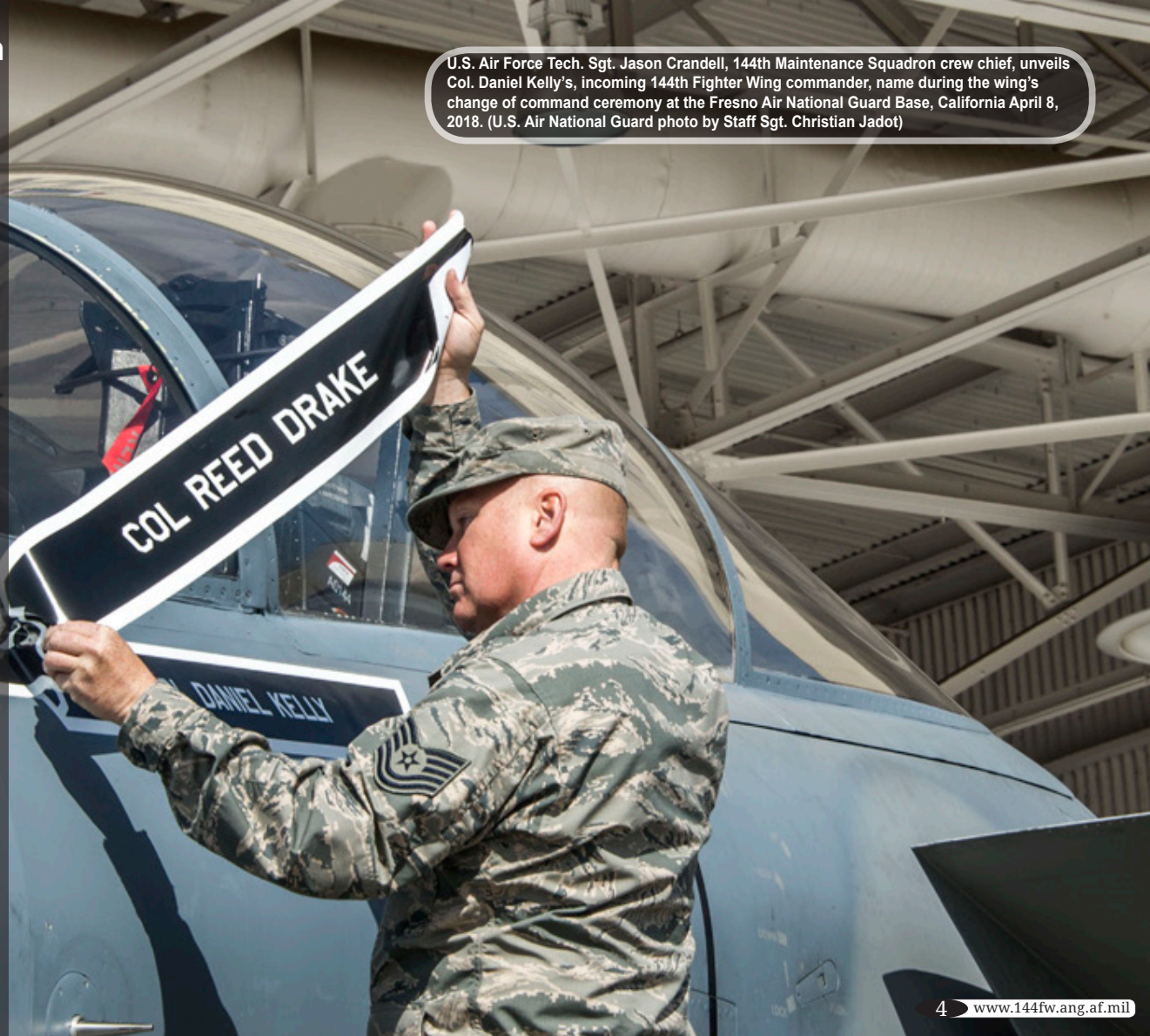
In addition to his praise, Gen. Garrison emphasized the importance of remaining vigilant. "I have great expectations of you, and I have great expectations of this wing. I continue to look forward to your success and your devotion to the mission."

Col. Drake echoed Gen. Garrison's sentiments. "We are the premier F-15 unit in the world- in the world. Keep going on with that battle rhythm" said Drake. "We all know how good it feels to win, but you cannot relax."


After assuming command, Col. Kelly expressed his gratitude to the men and women of the wing for their dedicated and excellent work. He also explained the importance of his new role as the wing commander.

"Obviously we have over a thousand people, and it is a huge responsibility. We have lethal combat air power sitting on the ramp, which is also a huge responsibility," said Kelly. "So it's humbling and it's a big honor to be a part of that team, and to lead that team."

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jason Crandell, 144th Maintenance Squadron crew chief, unveils Col. Daniel Kelly's, incoming 144th Fighter Wing commander, name during the wing's change of command ceremony at the Fresno Air National Guard Base, California April 8, 2018. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)







U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Cory Lassard, 144th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, examines a simulated explosive device during a training scenario in Fresno, Calif. April 18, 2018. Department of Homeland Security personnel ran through various training scenarios with EOD units throughout the San Joaquin Valley. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot)

## EOD Prepares and Disarms

By Staff Sgt. Christian Jadot

FRESNO, Calif.— The 144th Fighter Wing Explosives Ordnance Disposal Unit participated in a training exercise with the Department of Homeland Security and other local law enforcement agencies in Fresno, California, April 18 and 19, 2018.

Participants included members of the 144th Fighter Wing, the Fresno County Sheriff, the Fresno Police Department, the Clovis Police Department, and the Merced Police Department among other agencies from around Central California.

Homeland Security personnel set up a series of scenarios for the different agencies to work through together.

“We went out to a rail yard and trained with local authorities from around the Central Valley,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Charles Greer, 144th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD technician. “One of the scenarios was that a suspect tossed a bag of pipe bombs into the cabin of the rail car. It was our job to remove it safely and disable the device.”

Scenarios such as these help open communications between the different agencies, which in turn increases readiness for the 144th EOD team to respond situation beyond the Fresno Air National Guard Base.

“Our mission for the 144th is supporting the aircraft and the munitions that it carries,” said Master Sgt. Greer. “When deployed we may have to deal with improvised explosive devices. We are continually training to prepare for real world events.”



# A Long Overdue Homecoming

By Senior Master Sgt. Chris Drudge

FRESNO, Calif.— Several Airmen from the 144th Fighter Wing volunteered their Saturday afternoon to participate in the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Ceremony at Chukchansi Park, April 28.

The Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans committee, AMVETS and Chukchansi Park teamed up with several volunteers from the Air Force, Navy, Marines, Army, and Coast Guard to honor those who sacrificed so much for our country more than four decades ago.

“This was my first time helping coordinate an event as large as this,” said Senior Master Sgt. Emiliano Avila, 144th Logistics Readiness Squadron. “It was definitely worth it to see the faces of the veterans and their families. It was an extremely emotional ceremony.”

The 144th Airmen along with all the other volunteers shook the hands of every Vietnam Veteran that came through the park gates. Standing proudly in their dress blues, two 144th FW Airmen also participated in the flag passing ceremony at the beginning of the event.

“It was a great experience to be able to give back and let them know that we support them, even still today,” said Tech. Sgt. Micaelah Tweedy, 144th LRS.

The ceremony took place prior to the Grizzlies game Saturday night and was a huge success. Everyone involved accomplished what they had set out to do, which was to honor, heal and educate.

All of the veterans were escorted down to the field behind home plate for the singing of the National Anthem by the 144th FW’s Tech. Sgt. Sophia Rodriguez.

Timing it perfectly, two F-15C Eagles from the California Air National Guard roared overhead just as Rodriguez finished.

“These veterans are our brothers and sisters in arms. I was truly honored to be able to thank them for their sacrifices,” said Tweedy.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Sophia Rodriguez (center), 144th Logistics Readiness Squadron, performs the National Anthem for the Fresno Grizzlies game celebrating Vietnam Veterans, April 28, 2018. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Chris Drudge)



# Pawsitive Connections with Paige

By Stephanie Grant, LCSW, Director of Psychological Health

A visit from a Facility Therapy dog can break the daily routine, increase overall emotional well-being, and stimulate the mind in dramatic ways. Facility Therapy dogs offer so many wonderful benefits to people of all ages such as:

- Bringing joy and laughter, even if for a short time
- Taking a person's mind off of personal problems, aches, pains and worries
- Getting people to share their emotions and stories
- Giving a chance for people to communicate with others
- Lowering stress levels and blood pressure
- Rekindling warm memories of their pets

Researchers and experts agree that pets excel as therapeutic agents and that dogs are an antidote to depression. Studies have shown a decrease in both blood pressure and stress levels during therapy dog visits.

For the past ten months our 144FW Facility Therapy Dog, Paige, has made some incredible pawsitive connections with fellow Airmen across the Wing. If you have not had the opportunity to meet Paige come say hello to her in the office she shares with the DPH right next to the Chaplain's office in the Wing headquarters building. Paige loves to "chill" with her fellow wingmen and loves it even better when it involves carrots! As you can see with all of the pictures she has ventured to various places around the wing and is ready to explore more! (If you have any pictures you'd like to share for future newsletters please send them to [stephanie.grant9.civ@mail.mil](mailto:stephanie.grant9.civ@mail.mil))



# Upcoming Events & Announcements

## Legal

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

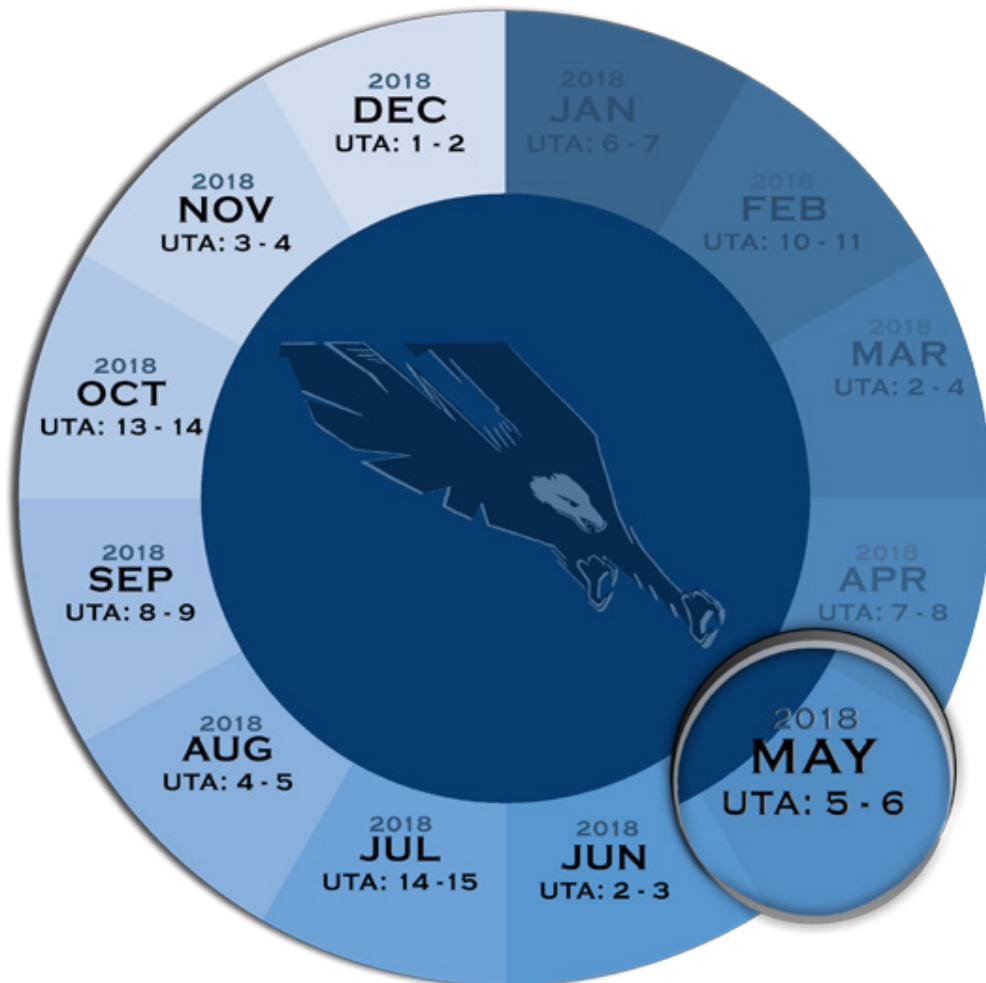
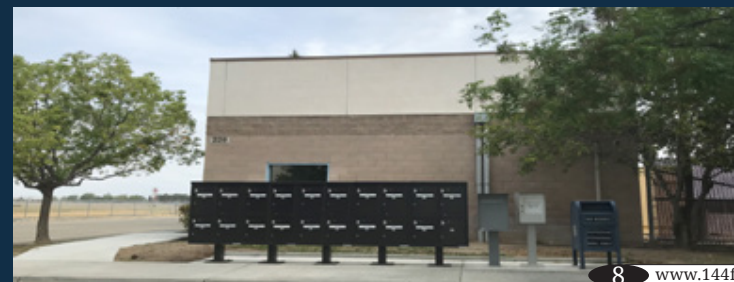
- Article 137 briefings held in the Chapel, Sat. at 3 p.m.
- Sun., 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., walk-ins are available for deploying service members
- Please visit our website: <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/lass/lass.html> to receive a ticket number to bring with you to your appointment

## Clothing Issue Change

Clothing Issue in the Logistics Readiness Squadron will be able to issue you ABU/Blue uniforms under the Basis of Issue of each item in AFI 36-3014 . Uniform items must be unserviceable and will be issued on an one-for-one exchange policy. All old clothing forms are obsolete. Contact your squadron clothing representative if you need the new tracking sheet or have questions regarding clothing policies or procedures. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact LRS Clothing issue at 454-5121.

## New Post Office Location

The new location is in building 228 in conjunction with hazmat, west of LRS, starting 8 May. Hours of operations for the Post Office will be manned from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday. The blue mail box is still picked up daily by the mail courier unless the base is closed. There is also a drop off box for on base distribution.





# 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.



Airmen from the 144th Medical Detachment work to build a victory garden at the Fresno Veterans Home May 1, 2018. (Courtesy photo by U.S. Air National Guard Capt. Chance Pasley)

## 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.