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ON THE COVER



Lt. Col. David Gritsavage, 138th Fighter Wing Pilot, flies an F-16 Viper during a sortie over the skies of Oklahoma, April 6, 2019. The F-16 is a compact, multi-role fighter that is highly maneuverable and has proved itself in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack.

(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Rebecca Imwalle)

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(Photo illustration by Master Sgt. C.T. Michael)

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CBD OIL WHAT TO KNOW

**CANNABIDIOL HEMP OIL -
A SUBSTANCE THAT IS MOST OFTEN VAPED,
BUT CAN ALSO BE INGESTED.**

(Photo illustration by Master Sgt. C.T. Michael)

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OF HEMP.**

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ANY KIND OF CBD OIL

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AND WHAT PRODUCTS ARE SAFE TO USE,
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AIRPOWER

06



Sortie generation and the steps to achieve second to none airpower

Photo story by Staff Sgt. Rebecca Imwalle

ALLOYS

08



Several core systems contributing to the lethality of an F-16 Tulsa Viper

Story and photos by Master Sgt. C.T. Michael

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How a 138th Fighter Wing Airman helps others in need

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24/7 alert mission provides protection from potential threats

Story and photos by Master Sgt. C.T. Michael

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CAMR exercise validates wing emergency management readiness through prevention, protection, response and recovery

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Rebecca Imwalle

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A conversation with past and present 138th Fighter Wing generals and the pride they share for the Oklahoma Air National Guard





Story by Tech Sgt. Phillip Cowen

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VOLUME 2 / ISSUE 1

SPRING / SUMMER 2019

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VICE WING COMMANDER
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VECTOR

COL. RAYMOND H. SIEGFRIED III
COMMANDER, 138TH FIGHTER WING

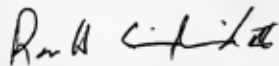
PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. C.T. MICHAEL

Each one of us has a responsibility to be lethal and ready to respond to a combat contingency at all times. Our end game of bombs on target and missiles in the air against our foes depends upon each of us to do our jobs with precision. It is career training, in each shop, at all levels that forms lethality in every sense of the word. For our Full Spectrum Readiness Training lethality comes in four forms that enable us to effectively operate as a lethal war-fighter: Weapons Training, Self-Aid & Buddy Care, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Medical Readiness.

Our Wing planners continually challenge themselves to build realistic training plans for each drill and training deployment, to ensure the Wing deploys and employs combat lethality in our F-16's. The USAF approach to training has shifted away from preparing for the planned AEF rotation of the past two decades, to that of an "always ready" force with FSR. We will continue our FSR training by planning and executing 3-day drills and rotating selected members through an overnight scenario. The first 3-day drill with overnight training will be conducted at Camp Gruber during November Drill. I am excited about these changes as it will allow us additional flexibility for training while enabling a quicker spin-up if a no-notice contingency arises.

Thank you for all you do. I appreciate your service and patriotism.

Strength and Honor!



Col. Tray "Rudy" Siegfried



VISUAL: Col Siegfried has flown more than 2,500 hours in the F-16, 40 combat sorties, and 180 hours of combat time. He has deployed on contingency operations to nations including Turkey, Kuwait, and Qatar in support of Operations PROVIDE COMFORT, NORTHERN WATCH, SOUTHERN WATCH and IRAQI FREEDOM.

BRAVE ONE

COL. MICHAEL B. MEASON

VICE COMMANDER, 138TH FIGHTER WING


PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. C.T. MICHAEL

Lethal & Agile Combat Air Power. The backbone of the 138th Fighter Wing mission statement, the sum total and final product of our combined efforts to continually improve our readiness and strengthen our relationships. Our training and preparation efforts at the squadron level ensure that we're ready individually and as a unit. Our collective readiness translates into proven Lethality when the time comes to answer the call in defense of our Nation or for the protection of our State and our communities.

We demonstrate our "products" of Lethality in many ways. The deterrent and kinetic effects of projecting combat ready F-16 Vipers is the final way we do this, as shown by our operators and maintainers time and again. But before the jets launch and the pilots go to work, lethality is also demonstrated by the way we sustain, mobilize and deploy 138th FW forces through our agile combat and mission support capabilities.

Since taking over the role of vice commander in Feb. 2019, I continue to learn more everyday about what lethality means for each of your mission areas. My goal is to do all I can to help support, enable and resource the execution of all 138th FW missions, while together we do all that we can to take care of our Airmen and develop the future leaders of the 138th Fighter Wing. I am humbled every day by your expertise and professionalism, and it's my honor to serve in support of our commander and the Airmen of the 138th FW!

Strength and Honor!



Col. Mike "Mouse" Meason



VISUAL: Col Meason is an Air Force Command pilot with over 2,900 hours of flight time, 295 carrier landings as a Naval Aviator, and has completed numerous deployments in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, JOINT GUARDIAN.

GENERATING AIRPOWER

UNRIVALED LETHALITY

PHOTO STORY BY STAFF SGT. REBECCA IMWALLE





VISUAL: The F-16A, a single-seat model, first flew in December 1976. The first operational F-16A was delivered in January 1979 to the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

1 - Capt. Adam Gazda, 138th Fighter Wing, dons his flight helmet prior to a sortie May 2, 2019 at Tulsa Air National Guard Base, Okla.

2 - Capt. Adam Gazda, 138th Fighter Wing, and Senior Airman Max Babbidge, 138th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, crew chief, prepare an F-16 Viper prior to a sortie May 2, 2019 at Tulsa Air National Guard Base, Okla. Prior to take-off, pilots and crew chiefs perform detailed inspections of the aircraft to ensure safety and mission success.

3 - Senior Airman Max Babbidge, 138th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, crew chief, performs final checks for an F-16 Viper before take-off May 2, 2019 at Tulsa Air National Guard Base, Okla. Crew chiefs are responsible for aircraft inspections before and after sorties, being on site during routine flying, and assisting with a variety of maintenance tasks.

4 - An F-16 Viper prepares for take-off May 2, 2019 at Tulsa Air National Guard Base, Okla.

5 - Capt. Austin Hornsby, 138th Fighter Wing, approaches a KC-135 Stratotanker in an F-16 Viper to refuel during a sortie over the skies of Okla., April 6, 2019. Air-to-air refueling is a vital tool that extends the flight time and flying mission.

6 - Four F-16 Vipers fly in formation behind a KC-135 Stratotanker during a sortie over the skies of Okla., April 6, 2019. The KC-135 can transfer 1,650 gallons of jet fuel per minute.

7 - Maj. Michael Leary, 138th Fighter Wing, flies an F-16 Viper during a sortie over the skies of Okla., April 6, 2019. The F-16 is a compact, multi-role fighter that is highly maneuverable and has proved itself in air-to-air combat and air-to-surface attack.

UNDER THE ALUMINUM ALLOYS

A LETHAL CONTRIBUTION

STORIES AND PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. C.T. MICHAEL

AIRFRAME IS BUILT WITH ABOUT
80% AVIATION-GRADE ALUMINUM ALLOYS,
8% STEEL,
3% COMPOSITES,
AND 1.5% TITANIUM

TO FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES AN F-16 TULSA VIPER VENOMOUS, WE WILL HAVE TO PEEL BACK ITS GREY METAL SKIN AND EXPOSE SEVERAL CORE SYSTEMS WORKING IN UNISON THAT ENABLE THIS MULTI-ROLE FIGHTER TO NIMBLY AGGRESS ANY FOE, ANY TIME, ANY WHERE.

WEAPONS

THE AIRCRAFT CAN CARRY A WIDE VARIETY OF
AIR-TO-GROUND MISSILES, ROCKETS OR BOMBS;
ELECTRONIC COUNTERMEASURES (ECM), NAVIGATION,
TARGETING OR WEAPONS PODS; AND FUEL TANKS ON
9 HARDPOINTS

EQUIPPED WITH A 30% GREATER AIR-TO-AIR
DETECTION RANGE FOR HIGH-RESOLUTION MAPPING
FOR GREATER TARGET DETECTION-RECOGNITION

AVIONICS

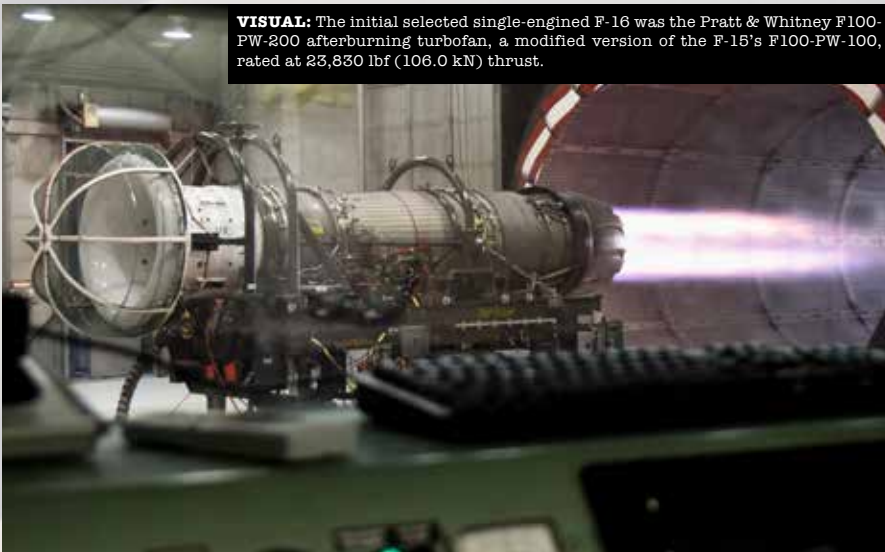
ENGINE

THE F-100-PW-229 HAS A THRUST OF 17,800 LBF
(79 kN) (DRY THRUST) AND 29,160 LBF (129.7 kN)
WITH AFTERBURNER

INCLUDES A FRAMELESS BUBBLE CANOPY FOR BETTER VISIBILITY,
SIDE-MOUNTED CONTROL STICK TO EASE CONTROL WHILE MANEUVERING,
AN EJECTION SEAT RECLINED 30 DEGREES FROM VERTICAL TO REDUCE
THE EFFECT OF G-FORCES ON THE PILOT, AND THE FIRST USE OF
A RELAXED STATIC STABILITY/ FLY-BY-WIRE FLIGHT CONTROL SYSTEM
WHICH HELPS TO MAKE IT A NIMBLE AIRCRAFT



VISUAL: The initial selected single-engined F-16 was the Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-200 afterburning turbofan, a modified version of the F-15's F100-PW-100, rated at 23,830 lbf (106.0 kN) thrust.



FOR MANY OF US, THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE CITY MAY HAVE BECOME ALL TOO COMMON, BUT HAPPENING IN THE TULSA AREA, MULTIPLE TIMES A DAY, SEVERAL DAYS A WEEK IS A VIBRATION OF SOUND WAVES AT AN EXCEPTIONAL RATE, CREATING A DEAFENING AUDIBLE SCREAM TO THE BYSTANDERS BELOW.

SUPPORTING THAT MECHANICAL MID-AIR ROAR IS THE 138TH FIGHTER WING JET PROPULSION SHOP, ENSURING THAT THE F-16 TULSA VIPER'S F100-PW-229 ENGINES ARE READY TO LAUNCH IN AFTERBURNER AT ANY MOMENT.

WITH A MACHINE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING UP-TO 29,000 POUNDS OF THRUST, BURNING AT CLOSE TO TWO THOUSAND DEGREES FAHRENHEIT DURING TAKEOFF, ENGINE SHOP AIRMEN MUST BE FULLY VERSED WITH EVERY COMPONENT OF A JET ENGINE. DURING A 13 WEEK JET ENGINE TECHNICAL SCHOOL, AIRMEN LEARN THE THEORY OF OPERATION, COMPLETE PARTS BREAK DOWN AND THE RE-INSTALLATION OF AN ENGINE INTO THE AIRCRAFT.

"WE STRIP THE ENGINE DOWN," SAID TECH. SGT. CHAD PATTERSON, PROPULSION MECHANIC. "THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OTHER GUARD UNITS THAT TEAR IT DOWN AS FAR AS WE DO AND BUILD IT ALL THE WAY BACK UP."

DEPENDING ON IF THE AIRCRAFT ENGINE HAS AN IMMEDIATE ISSUE THAT CAN'T BE FIXED ON THE FLIGHT LINE OR A TIME COMPLIANCE PART CHANGE, A CREW OF FOUR TO FIVE AIRMEN CAN TURN A SINGLE MOTOR ANYWHERE FROM ONE WEEK TO SEVERAL MONTHS, EVEN POSSIBLY TAKING UP-TO 300 MAN HOURS FOR A COMPLETE TEAR DOWN AND BUILD UP.

"THAT'S THE THING WITH THIS CAREER, WE ONLY HAVE A SCHEDULE FOR TIME CHANGE ENGINE MAINTENANCE," SAID TECH. SGT. KEVIN STARING, PROPULSION MECHANIC. "THE ENGINE MAY COME IN FOR A TIME CHANGE PART AND A COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC FINDS OTHER THINGS WRONG, TAKING MORE TIME TO REPAIR.

WITH ONLY ONE SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER AND NUMEROUS SENSORS ON BOARD THE F100 ENGINE, THE SYSTEM WILL REGULATE THE PILOT'S INPUTS AND AIRCRAFT DURING MANEUVERS, MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT TO HARD BREAK THIS HIGHLY RELIABLE SINGLE ENGINE DURING FLIGHT.

WHEN FLIGHTS ARE COMPLETE AT THE END OF EACH DAY, THE ENGINE SHOP ALSO DOWNLOADS MOTOR DATA FROM EACH AIRCRAFT, VERIFYING CRUCIAL INTERNAL COMPONENT DATA, ULTIMATELY KNOWING IF SOMETHING IS GOING TO BREAK BEFORE IT ACTUALLY HAPPENS.

RECOGNITION OF A VITAL CORE COMPONENT IS GIVEN TO THE JET PROPULSION SECTION WITH THEIR ENDLESS MAINTINANCE ON THIS COMPLEX JET ENGINE, ENABLING THE TULSA VIPER TO STRIKE, NO MATTER THE DISTANCE.

ENGINE

THE F-100-PW-229 HAS A THRUST OF 17,800 LBF (79 kN) (DRY THRUST) AND 29,160 LBF (129.7 kN) WITH AFTERBURNER

VISUAL: The first generation of F-16 uses Raytheon's Modular Mission Computer (MMC), the MMC3000 relied on MIPS R3500, a 32-bit chip processors with 110,000 transistors and running at 12 MHz. The computer had 4 MB of memory RAM.



WE CURRENTLY LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE COMPUTERS ARE INCORPORATED IN ALMOST EVERY FACET OF OUR PROFESSION, EFFORTLESSLY CALCULATING THE MOST COMPLICATED TASKS AND IMPROVING OVERALL JOB PERFORMANCE. SOMETIMES THOSE COMPUTED TASKS CAN END IN AN ERROR MESSAGE, LEAVING NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TOO QUICKLY TROUBLE SHOOT THE SYSTEMS TO FIX THE ISSUE.

TO REMEDY THESE COMPLEX SYSTEM ERROR MESSAGES, THE 138TH FIGHTER WING AVIONICS SECTION MAINTAINS AND REPAIRS EVERYTHING FROM COMMUNICATIONS IN THE COCKPIT TO FLIGHT CONTROLS IN AN F-16 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, ENABLING PILOTS TO COMPLETE THE MISSION WITH PRECISE ACCURACY.

ENSURING PILOTS RECEIVE THE CRUCIAL FLIGHT INFORMATION THEY NEED TO SUCCESSFULLY OPERATE THEIR AIRCRAFT, AVIONICS AIRMEN MUST COMPLETE A SIX MONTH TECHNICAL SCHOOL WITH TWO MONTHS OF ELECTRICAL AND A LITTLE OVER FOUR MONTHS OF HANDS ON TRAINING. SOON AFTER, AIRMEN RETURN HOME AND CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT AND HONE THEIR TROUBLESHOOTING SKILLS WITH MANY MONTHS OF UPGRADE TRAINING.

"IN ORDER TO TROUBLESHOOT THIS AIRCRAFT AND UNDERSTAND HOW ALL THE AVIONICS SYSTEMS WORK, WE HAVE TO KNOW IT FRONT TO BACK, WINGTIP TO WINGTIP," SAID SENIOR MASTER SGT. CHARLES ARROYO, 138TH FIGHTER WING, AVIONICS SUPERVISOR.

THESE VITAL AVIONICS SYSTEMS ARE INTEGRATED INTO JUST ABOUT EVERY AIRCRAFT COMPONENT WITH UP TO 15 MILES OF ELECTRICAL WIRING, A MULTITUDE OF THREAT WARNING ANTENNAS AND CLOSE TO 20 SYSTEMS COMPUTERS ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT, OFTEN GENERATING ERROR CODES THAT NEED TO BE CORRECTED ON THE SPOT, BEFORE THE NEXT FLIGHT.

"IT'S JUST THE NATURE OF THE JOB, ESPECIALLY WITH THIS JET," SAID MASTER SGT. CORY HOOD, 138TH FIGHTER WING, AVIONICS FLIGHTLINE. "ALL THE SYSTEMS ARE CRAMMED IN TIGHT, NATURALLY THE AIRCRAFT IS GOING TO HAVE SOME ELECTRICAL ISSUES FROM TIME TO TIME."

HOW CAN AN AIRCRAFT REALLY TELL YOU IT HAS A BUG? THE ANSWER IS IN THE COUNTLESS BUILT IN SYSTEM DIAGNOSTICS THE COMPUTERS PERFORM IN A MATTER OF MICROSECONDS ON STARTUP, ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A FAULT. WHEN A CONFLICT ARISES, THE AIRCRAFT WILL DISPLAY AN ERROR CODE, GRANTING A STARTING POINT FOR AVIONICS TEAM TO TROUBLESHOOT THROUGH A VAST LIBRARY OF TECHNICAL ORDERS FOR THE QUICK DEBUG.

"TROUBLESHOOTING IS WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE JOB," SAID HOOD. "OUR CAREER FIELD IS SO VAST, THAT NINE TIMES OUT OF 10 IT'S NOT THE SAME PROBLEM, SO IT'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT CONFRONTING US EVERYDAY."

IF THE TULSA VIPER TRULY HAD A NERVOUS SYSTEM, THEN AVIONICS WOULD BE THAT INSTANTANEOUS SURGE THAT DRIVES COMPLEX INFORMATION TO ALL EXTREMITIES INVOLVED, EVER CHALLENGING THE AVIONICS TEAM WITH EVERY MISSION COMPLETED.

Avionics

EQUIPPED WITH A 30% GREATER DETECTION RANGE FOR HIGH-RESOLUTION TARGETS FOR GREATER TARGET DETECTION RECOGNITION



WEAPONS

THE AIRCRAFT CAN CARRY A WIDE VARIETY OF WEAPONS, INCLUDING MISSILES, ROCKETS OR BOMBS; IR-TO-AIR WEAPONS; COUNTERMEASURES (ECM), NAVIGATION, WEAPONS PODS; AND FUEL TANKS ON 9 HARDPOINTS.

IT'S DAWN AND A SMALL GROUP OF AIRMEN ARE DISPATCHED TOWARD THE FLIGHT LINE TO INSTALL BITS OF SOPHISTICATED HEAVY METAL ONTO A MACHINE THAT WAS BUILT TO DEFEND, PURSUE AND ABOVE ALL ELSE; ERADICATE ANY THREAT THAT FLIES OR LIES BELOW.

LEADING THE ADVANCEMENT OF THESE OBJECTIVES IS THE 138TH FIGHTER WING, AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT SYSTEMS SHOP, BY ENSURING WHEN A PILOT PULLS THE TRIGGER, THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCH AWAY FROM AN F-16 TULSA VIPER AIRCRAFT, TOWARD THE TARGET.

TO STRENGTHEN PILOT CONFIDENCE IN THEIR AIRCRAFT DOWN RANGE, AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT TROOPS BEGIN THEIR CAREER WITH A FOUR MONTH JOURNEY THROUGH A WEAPONS TECHNICAL SCHOOL, STUDYING EVERY PIECE OF EXPLOSIVE HARDWARE THAT MILITARY AIRCRAFT CAN POSSIBLY WIELD.

"IT'S NOT JUST THE WEAPONS ASPECT YOU SHARE," SAID CHIEF MASTER SGT. KYLE OVERSTREET, WING WEAPONS MANAGER. "IT'S A FELLOWSHIP YOU SHARE WITH THE SAME INTERESTS."

ONE COMMON PASSION THIS DEVOTED FAMILY SHARES IS THE AMOUNT OF WEAPON COMPONENTS THEY AFFIX TO AN AIRCRAFT IN A MATTER OF MINUTES ON ANY GIVEN MISSION, FROM MULTIPLE 140 POUND HEAT SEEKING MISSILES ON WING TIPS, TO 2,000 POUND LASER GUIDED BOMBS AND EVERYTHING IN-BETWEEN.

ONE FEARSOME COMPONENT OF THE VIPER WEAPONS SYSTEMS IS THE 20MM GATLING GUN THAT IS CAPABLE OF HOLDING ABOUT 500 ROUNDS; FIRING A STAGGERING 100 ROUNDS A SECOND. THE GUN IS ALSO INSPECTED EVERY 18 MONTHS DURING WHICH TIME THE AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT BACK SHOP TEDIOUSLY DISASSEMBLES, INSPECTS AND INSTALLS THE GUN BACK INTO THE FIGHTER IN ABOUT A WEEK.

"THE GUN CAN BE CHALLENGING AT TIMES," SAID OVERSTREET. "IT TURNS AT SUCH A HIGH RATE OF SPEED, THAT ALL THE GEARS AND SPROCKETS NEED TO BE TIMED PRECISELY."

THE EFFECTS OF THESE PRECISION EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE MOST RECENTLY FELT DURING AN AFGHANISTAN CONTINGENCY IN 2018, WHEN THE 138TH AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT SECTION CONTRIBUTED TO A HISTORIC AMOUNT OF BOMB DROPS SPANNING INTO THE HUNDREDS AND EXPENDING MORE THAN 21,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION INSIDED OF THREE MONTHS.

"DURING COMBAT OPERATIONS, WE MIGHT HAVE AN ARMY RANGER ON THE GROUND TAKING ENEMY FIRE, IN NEED OF HELP," SAID OVERSTREET. "IT'S GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT THE BOMB WE JUST LOADED IS PROTECTING AMERICAN LIVES."

AS THE WEAPON SYSTEMS CONTINUE TO EVOLVE, THE DEMAND FOR AN AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT SECTION WILL ALWAYS BE A CRUCIAL ELEMENT THAT SUPPLIES A POTENT COCKTAIL OF VENOM TO THE FANGS OF THE TULSA VIPER.

VISUAL: Early F-16s could be armed with up to six AIM-9 Sidewinder heat-seeking short-range air-to-air missiles (AAM) by employing rail launchers on each wingtip, as well as radar guided AIM-7 Sparrow medium-range AAMs in a weapons mix.



One courageous act

If someone looks up the definition of hero in the dictionary, there are several explanations given, such as a legendary figure with great strength or ability, a principal character in a story, play, film or a person noted for courageous acts.

138th Fighter Wing, Master Sgt. John Lawrence exemplifies the latter, by reacting to a single vehicle accident appearing to have struck a bridge guard rail.

On a frigid morning commute to work, Lawrence approached an airbag deployed vehicle resting sideways on its passenger side door in a deep ditch. Lawrence rushed on foot to the vehicle discovering a woman within, shaken from the sudden impact. Bracing himself on the wrecked vehicle, there was no other alternative but to reach down and pull the woman out of the upright driver side door.

Showing no immediate signs of injury, Lawrence hurried the woman to his vehicle keeping her warm until paramedics arrived on scene.

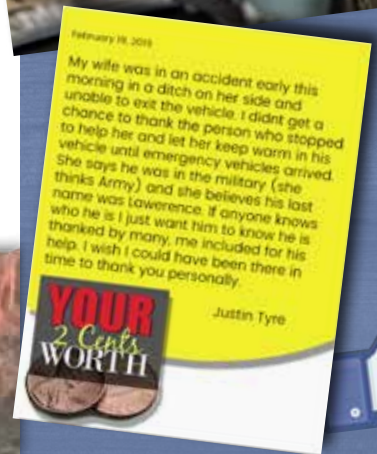
"Sometimes you have to weigh what's important at the time by putting yourself out there to help somebody else," said Lawrence. "Hoping they would do the same for my family."

Several hours later at work, Lawrence's cell phone began pinging excessively with messages from family and friends about a recent post on social media in relation to the accident that morning. Baffled by the onslaught of questions, Lawrence viewed a post going viral with over 900 likes in a matter of hours, thanking him for his courageous acts.

"I thought it was really nice that the woman's husband was trying to reach out and say thank you," said Lawrence. "Making an impact on their family and not even meaning too."

Master Sgt. Lawrence is the supervisor for the 138th Fighter Wing, Aircrew Flight Equipment shop specializing in systems safety technologies, helping protect aircrew during flight and in event of emergency situations.

"I wanted to help, not be a hero, but to react," said Lawrence.



(Story and photo by Master Sgt. C.T. Michael)
(Facebook post courtesy of Owassoisms)

138 FW JAG receives award

Each calendar year Air Combat Command recognizes one active duty office and one Air National Guard Judge Advocate General office for outstanding achievement of professionalism and executing the mission; training assigned members and upholding justice; delivering expert advice and advocacy; and freedom of action, engaging, informing, and partnering.

Congratulations to the 138th Fighter Wing JAG office for achieving the 2018 ACC ANG Legal Office of the Year.

The JAG office provides a full range of legal services to the ANG and its Airmen, working around the globe upholding justice for the people who defend it.

VISUAL: Lieutenant Colonel William Tudor was the first Judge Advocate and was appointed by the Second Continental Congress for the Army in 1776.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. C.T. Michael)

138th Fighter Wing Staff Judge Advocate General Office (left to right), Deputy SJA Maj. Jason Harley, Law Office Manager Tech Sgt. Bonnie Smith, SJA Lt. Col. Christine Hidy, Paralegal Airman 1st Class Chloe Kirk, Assistant SJA Capt. Diane Vaughan.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

GOV. KEVIN STITT TOURS TORNADO DAMAGE

PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT REBECCA IMWALLE

Governor of Oklahoma Kevin Stitt tours damage from a series of storms May 6, 2019. The Okla. National Guard supported the Governor during his visit to Bryan County, Okla., as he assessed storm damage where an EF-3 tornado destroyed homes and took the lives of two Oklahomans. Stitt declared a state of emergency for 52 counties effected by these storms that took place on April 30. The National Weather Service says at least 16 tornados were reported across the state that day.

AEROSPACE CONTROL ALERT

GULF COAST GUARDIANS



STORY AND PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. C.T. MICHAEL

24/7 Alert mission provides protection from potential threats

On a distant gulf coast line, a fully loaded lethal flying machine sits idle 24 hours a day, seven days a week, lying in wait with the relentless mission of safeguarding American skies.

The 138th Fighter Wing Detachment-1 is trained to conduct the North American Aerospace Defense Command's Aerospace Control Alert mission providing domestic and international threat protection to The United States and Canada on a moment's notice.

Operation NOBLE EAGLE ramped up its posture soon after the 9/11 attacks in an effort to quickly respond to acts of terrorism or other potentially harmful airborne threats under any weather condition and applies to all air sovereignty and air defense mission in North America.

The 138th Fighter Wing began the alert mission in February 2008, splintering off a portion of Wing members to support the operation at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, Texas.

To support this crucial operation, an unbroken relationship remains between the Wing in Tulsa and the Detachment to ensure pilots, maintainers, F-16s and equipment are ferried back and forth 512 miles, leaving no room for error in the event of a real world scramble.

"We're essentially a fire department for the skies," said Lt. Col. Travis Clegg, 138th Fighter Wing, Detachment-1. "Instead of fire trucks, we have armed fighter jets ready to go at a moment's notice to protect the airspace over the Gulf Coast region."

When the siren signals an aerial event within a certain radius, pilots and maintenance professionals ready themselves in an instant, scrambling to locked and loaded jets, achieving horn to airborne swiftly to intercept, inspect, influence and, if necessary, defeat a potential airborne threat to the country.

"Everybody here has the same vision," said Clegg. "It's personally satisfying to protect the country and city you live in."

A large engraved rock rests in an entryway to an ACA building reads "WE WILL NEVER FORGET", signaling a constant reminder on the significance of this unyielding mission for the Gulf Coast Guardians, 138th Fighter Wing Detachment -1.

Defense of the homelands is NORAD's top priority and is on alert around-the-clock to execute its aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning missions.





VISUAL: The ACA network provides comprehensive coverage of the Continental United States, as far north as the Canadian border and as far south as the Mexican border, as well as Alaska and Hawaii.



LINE-OF-SIGHT



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Rebecca Imwalle)

Commander of the Air National Guard Readiness Center Maj. Gen. Steven Nordhaus, visits with 138th Fighter Wing Airmen during a meet-and-greet Dec. 13, 2018 at Tulsa Air National Guard Base, Okla. The ANG Readiness Center provides resources, policy oversight and guidance to ensure ANG wings and Geographically Separated Units are ready, trained and equipped for homeland and global operations.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Rebecca Imwalle)

Officials from the Tulsa International Airport visit the 138th Fighter Wing, Feb. 12, 2019. The visit provided members from the airport to become familiar with the F-16 and the capabilities the Wing has to support flight line operations.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Rebecca Imwalle)

Members of Leadership Oklahoma meet with base leadership during a tour of the 138th Fighter Wing in Tulsa, Okla., Feb. 28, 2019. The mission of LOK is to create, inspire and support a network of community leaders whose commitment to service and excellence will help energize all Oklahomans to help positively shape the future.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. C.T. Michael)

The Oklahoma congressional staff delegation become more familiar with the mission capabilities of a F-16 Tulsa Viper Mar. 18, 2019 at Tulsa Air National Guard Base, Okla. The staff delegation visited multiple bases during a state-wide tour to gain a better understanding of military assets within Oklahoma.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. C.T. Michael)

Oklahoma U.S. Rep. Kevin Hern tours the 138th Fighter Wing Mission Training Center Jan. 31, 2019 at Tulsa Air National Guard Base, Okla. Hern was elected in 2018, for Oklahoma's 1st. Congressional district.



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. C.T. Michael)

Governor of Oklahoma Kevin Stitt (left), and Adjutant General for Oklahoma MG Michael Thompson (right), attend a promotion ceremony honoring Brig. Gen. Brent Wright, Assistant Adjutant General for Oklahoma (center) May 1, 2019 at Oklahoma Supreme Court Judicial Center, Oklahoma City, Okla. Wright was the Vice Commander of the 138th Fighter Wing, Tulsa Air National Guard Base, Okla.

WARPAINT

CAMR READIES ARMEN FOR EMERGENCIES

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT REBECCA IMWALLE

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards pose threats to Airmen and the mission that could be detrimental if not taken care of properly.

Several base agencies participated in an intensive four day Counter CBRN All-Hazard Management Response course that was developed to ensure installations are prepared to respond and recover from any and all hazard incidents. It is only held at 15 locations throughout the Air National Guard each year.

"Whether we want them to or not, accidents happen," said Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Enyart, 138th Civil Engineer Squadron installation emergency manager. "In order to ensure we can complete our mission and protect our personnel and property, we must be able to mitigate the effects of any incident."

Members from Security Forces, Emergency Management, Fire Department, and Medical Group worked alongside representatives from the Tulsa Health Department, the Tulsa Area Emergency Management team, Hillcrest Hospitals and EMSA during tabletop exercises, allowing base agencies to coordinate support that mirrors what would happen during a real-world incident.

"One of the great benefits in this course is that it emphasizes the importance of our partnerships within the local community," Enyart said. "If something were to happen, it would take personnel both on and off the installation working together to fix it, so having personnel from various community emergency support agencies was a great addition."

The course provided first responders the opportunity to test the plans and checklists their agencies already had in place to ensure effectiveness. The training environment also enabled the participants to receive feedback immediately following the exercise.

Capt. Kenneth Ground, 138th Medical Group industrial hygienist and bio-environmental engineer, explained that you can never practice for emergencies enough.

"Exercises like this help flush out any imperfections we might not know about until we actually work through it," Ground said. "It's important to know the capabilities of every agency and understand what they bring to the fight, so in the time of an emergency, we have the ability to respond."

The CAMR course was facilitated by the company Federal Resources, which has teams of trainers and subject matter experts that travel around the country to provide this training to military bases and other city and state entities.

"This course not only provided great training on how to do this, but also allowed us to exercise our current response capabilities," Enyart explained.



TULSA WORLD, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1996



World staff photo by Tom Gilbert

Generally Speaking

Gerald "Ged" Wright is flanked by his family as he celebrates his recent promotion to brigadier general in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. Wright is a Republican state senator from Broken Arrow and chief of staff for the state's Air Guard. With Wright are his wife, Linda, and two of his three military children: Jana, an enlistee in the Oklahoma National Guard's 137th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of Oklahoma City, and Capt. Brent Wright, a Tulsa attorney and assistant judge advocate for Edmond's 45th Infantry Brigade. Not pictured is Wright's son, Capt. Brian Wright, a detachment commander with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Fort Clayton, Panama. Wright pinned on his general's stars for the first time Wednesday and swore his daughter into the Guard.



As he looked across the table at his father, Brig. Gen. Brent Wright said, "I just wanted to be like my dad." Those words carried weight, and as soon as retired Brig. Gen. Gerald Wright heard them, he began to choke up.

A few moments passed and Gerald Wright, fighting back tears, responded with the sentiment, "I don't know how I could be more proud." The two reflected about their careers, their relationship and Brent Wright's recent promotion to Brig. Gen., the same rank the elder Wright achieved and retired with in 1999.

"They're just great citizens," Gerald said of his kids' accomplishments. "I am proud of all of them."

Each of his children have served in the U.S. Military, a tradition started by Gerald's father during World War II. This commitment to service became a lifestyle for the retired general as he worked his way through the ranks as a pilot with the Oklahoma Air National Guard and eventually as a state senator. Regardless of the rank he earned or the status he held, Gerald's purpose was very clear...to bring the best leadership to the men and women of the ANG.

Gerald Wright explained that the key to leadership was to set a good example for the troops. Brent Wright echoed this sentiment and added that once a plan was in place, a good leader sets the priorities and then moves the plan forward, aggressively looking for the best resources for the Airmen.



VISUAL: Retired Brig. Gen. Gerald Wright joined the Oklahoma Air National Guard 125th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Tulsa Air National Guard Base in August 1973 as a fighter pilot flying the F-100, A-7 and F-16, flying a total of: 4,782 hours.

STORY BY TECH. SGT. PHILLIP COWEN

WRIGHT



VISUAL: Brig. Gen. Brent Wright serves as assistant adjutant general for the Oklahoma Air National Guard and is responsible for the combat readiness and operational effectiveness of Oklahoma Air National Guard units.

"As a leader, you are going to have to answer to a parent who has sent their son or daughter to be properly led," Brent Wright explained. "To be properly led is to have ethical leadership, and to be insured that any and every resource is available to meet the enemy. If we want to engage with the enemy, we don't want a fair fight. We want to over-resource them, out-maneuver them and overwhelm them."

Brent Wright adopted his father's passion early on for serving his state and country and began his career as an infantryman in the Army. Over time, he was able to join the Tulsa ANG and his path was set to eventually become a part of the small amount of non-rated (or non-flying) Guardsmen to reach the rank of brigadier general.

The life of a service member requires sacrifice and the Wrights have each sacrificed a lot because of their decision to serve. Both talked about the challenges military life can have on a family and how they have relied on each other for support during tough times. However, for each difficult time, they reminisced on many more positive memories they shared throughout the years. From their Alma Mater at Oklahoma State University to their time practicing law together, the Wrights share an unbreakable bond that is strengthened each day.



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