

A close-up portrait of a man in military attire, wearing a white hard hat and a camouflage jacket. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. In the bottom right corner, he is holding a set of blueprints. The background is a wooden structure, possibly a hangar or workshop.

THE BEACON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 124TH FIGHTER WING

SUMMER 2022

COMBAT EXCELLENCE - ALWAYS ON MISSION

COL. CHAD KORNBERG

Once again, another season is coming to a close, along with another fiscal year. We continue to focus on the readiness of every Airman and each and every one of you is essential to our mission success. The actions you take individually make a difference, and means everything to our collective ability as a wing.

We can't be the wing our state and nation need without you. Please continue to knock out your individual readiness items, and if you need help getting things done, please ask.



It definitely has been a busy summer for the wing. We have been able to hone our agile combat employment capabilities during our TDY to the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in the lovely Midwest. During this exercise our pilots were able to knock out hard to accomplish training on austere landings. As an additional highlight, they were the first A-10s to perform austere landings with the recently acquired combat fuel tanks (CFTs) on the jets. Further confirming that we are ready to deploy and meet our near-peer enemies anytime and anywhere.

One of the greatest things we are asked to do as a wing is to serve our local communities. These communities often stretch beyond the border of Idaho. Our civil engineers did just that during an innovative readiness training event, building homes for veterans of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Not only does this mission give back to veterans, but the added benefit of the training received is essential in continuing to prepare for deployed operations for our CE Airmen.

Here at home we are also working to strengthen our community partnerships as we have reinvigorated our Honorary Commander program. We have paired 15 community leaders with our squadron and group commanders to help provide them an up-close view of not only the mission, but how you as Guardsmen get it done.

Continue to keep up the great work; it doesn't go unnoticed. As we throttle up into the new fiscal year we will continue to keep our priorities of Mission, People, Future forefront in our windscreen and they will continue to chart our path forward. Your dedication to mission excellence despite the challenges put in your way continues to amaze me. I am proud to serve along side each and every one of you.

It is a great day to be a Guardsman in the Great State of Idaho.

Go Guard, ATTACK!
COL. KORNBERG



Reflections of Col. Smith's career and future as he promotes to General

After almost 30 years in the Air Force, serving on active duty and in the Idaho Air National Guard, Col. Shannon Smith was promoted to brigadier general during a ceremony, June 4, held at the Idaho Military Division headquarters on Gowen Field.

"As a commander, you always want a good crop of officers on your team, so when you move on and look back at your unit, you know it's in good hands," said Adjutant General of Idaho Maj. Gen. Michael Garshak. "There's no doubt that Col. Smith is a truly deserving officer and will do great things as he steps into his new role as a general."

Smith has been selected to be the new commander for the 113th Wing, District of Columbia Air National Guard, located at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. He and his wife, Lori, are excited to start this new chapter.

Today is about gratitude and accountability," said Smith. "For Lori and me, today is the beginning of opportunity, adventure and a chance to give back."

Smith commissioned in 1992 through the Montana State University ROTC program, where he also earned a degree in civil engineering. In April 1993, he started pilot training and began the steps toward his career as an A-10 pilot, serving 10 years on active duty.

He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Weapons School at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, in 1998. In 2000, Smith became an A-10 weapons instructor and taught at Nellis for nearly two years. He made the transition from active duty to the Air National Guard in April 2002, when he joined the 190th Fighter Squadron, part of the 124th Fighter Wing here at Gowen Field.

In his promotion address, Smith reflected on his time in the 124th FW and the people who mentored and helped him face and overcome challenges.

"Would we still be here if the road was easy?" Smith asked. "I think we probably wouldn't. Sometimes our journey, if it's met with challenges and barriers, is worthwhile."

During his time in the 190th FS, Smith held several titles including weapons officer, chief of safety, director of operations, and squadron commander. During this time, Smith also graduated from Air War College and completed several combat tours to Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He was promoted to colonel in 2014 and as his career progressed, he became the commander of the 124th Maintenance Group and later, the 124th Operations Group. He graduated with an executive Master of Business Administration degree from Boise State University in 2018, and then went on to serve as the 124th FW commander from May 2019 through November 2021.

As part of the promotion ceremony, Smith was awarded the Legion of Merit for his time and service as the 124th FW commander. Smith guided the organization through COVID-19 while providing support to the state of Idaho's COVID response, at the same time, successfully conducting the wing's second largest deployment in its history. The wing supported four named operations across 18 different locations, flying nearly 600 combat hours with no mishaps, and a 100% weapons hit rate with no collateral damage.

After completing his command tour at the 124th FW, Smith became the director of operations for the Idaho Air National Guard at the joint force headquarters. In this role, he supported the IDANG commander and led the development and implementation of policies directly supporting the operational missions of the 124th FW, which include A-10, cyber, and air support operations, as well as the command and control, threat emitter, and cyber training operations of the 266th Range Squadron at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

Smith said he and Lori are all in for this next phase, as they prepare to relocate to the Washington, D.C. area and he begins a new command position.

"There's much to do, and I know that it is not for me to carry the load alone," said Smith, "but I will continue to take a crack at lifting the heavy end for as long as I am able."

Story by: Capt. Bonnie Blakely

Photo by: Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

124TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

WING COMMANDER

Col. Chad Kornberg

CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Rebecca Solosabal

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Capt. Bonnie Blakely

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPERINTENDENT

Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Staff Sgt. Mercedee Wilds

Staff Sgt. Joseph Morgan

Senior Airman Jadyn Sanchez

Mr. Ryan White

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Tech. Sgt. Douglas Murillo, an Airman with the 124th Civil Engineer Squadron, Boise, Idaho, poses for a portrait during an innovative readiness training project in the Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, June 7, 2022. Murillo was finishing up his distance learning NCO Academy course, but didn't want to miss out on the opportunity to give back to the Cherokee Nation veterans housing project. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua C. Allmaras)

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Meet your new Honorary Commander

Putting a face to the name!

ALPENA, MICHIGAN

AGILE RAGE

Airmen from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing spent two weeks at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Michigan, participating in Agile Rage '22, June 4-18.

Agile Rage is an ANG and joint, live-fire exercise designed to train ANG units in the tactics, techniques and procedures highlighted by the United States Air Force's Agile Combat Employment mission.

More than that, Agile Rage, through various combat environment disciplines, facilitates the USAF's focus on the multi-capable Airman – adaptable, agile Airmen, capable of executing tasks outside of their primary scope of work.

STORY BY: STAFF SGT. JOSEPH MORGAN

PHOTOS BY: STAFF SGT. MERCEDEE WILDS & STAFF SGT. JOSEPH MORGAN



"Exercises like these give everyone a better perspective of the entire operation," said Col. Chad Kornberg, 124th FW commander. "Whether it's your most experienced pilot or your newest Airman, training in a new location like this enables units to form camaraderie at an accelerated pace – something you don't often experience in the month-to-month guard weekend schedule."

One of the core components of this exercise was the integrated combat turn. ICTs differ from your standard aircraft launch and recovery process in many different ways. The integration piece brings a variety of shops together from across the maintenance group to accomplish multiple tasks in tandem, such as fueling the aircraft and loading the required munitions with the engine running and the pilot in the seat. These tasks would typically be accomplished independently, without the pilot present. However, the nature of combat requires agility and adaptability in unfamiliar territory.

"It's obviously a bit dangerous, so everyone is on alert," said Capt. Andrew Huff, pilot with the 190th Fighter Squadron. "Working together to quickly turn a jet and keep the fight going is a little non-standard and really good training for us. Being unfamiliar with the area actually sharpens our skills. It allows us to train, see things we're not used to and work through problems together."

While the ACE concept, through ICTs, creates multi-capable Airmen, general maintenance in an agile environment renders a similar effect across the maintenance group. Just as tasks during the launch and recovery process are usually accomplished independently, day-to-day maintenance is typically accomplished by specific shops. In an agile combat environment,

Airmen from different maintenance shops might be required to come together to perform maintenance that would traditionally fall outside the scope of their usual job description.

For instance, during Agile Rage, Tech. Sgt. Cameron Gumm, from the 124th engine shop, guided a team of Airmen from the maintenance group through the complex, labor-intensive process of successfully replacing an aircraft engine. Another example can be seen during an ICT, when crew chiefs assist weapons personnel with loading rockets. Even cyber personnel can be tasked with assisting crew chiefs in an aircraft recovery.

"It's so easy to get wrapped up in what we do at home," said Kornberg, "and oftentimes you don't have the time or make the time to see how everyone else does their job. This kind of experience enables those opportunities. To reduce the time a jet is on the ground getting loaded and being serviced, that requires people doing other people's jobs."

As the nature of military conflict evolves and shifts, the military must adapt. Airmen will continue to grow in their specialized career fields, while simultaneously assisting others in different work areas. This interoperability could be seen on a large scale throughout Agile Rage, as units from the Oklahoma, West Virginia, Minnesota, Michigan, and Illinois Air National Guards came together to collectively exercise the many aspects of ACE.

"There's really no standard yet, and this is why the Air Force has asked us to embrace the ACE concept," said Kornberg. "That's why anytime you can get out with other units, it's a good thing, because then you start to meld minds. And hopefully, this allows us to come together and develop something more scripted."

Employing this concept in Michigan, or someplace other than Idaho, gives our Airmen a unique opportunity.



"The benefit of doing this in Michigan allows for a different sort of terrain – a different kind of flying area, a different range for our pilots," said Staff Sgt. Cole McCormick, a 124th Maintenance Group crew chief. "It allows us to integrate with other units like the C-130s. It allows us to figure out a process that's more of a real-world scenario."

As a state guard unit, the 124th FW fulfills both a state and federal mission. The 124th FW is staffed almost entirely by those in our local community. The training and collaboration received through Agile Rage is just as vital as the community support the wing receives.

"We go to great lengths to get our Airmen trained, so that when they go into a situation, it's not the first time they've seen it," said Kornberg. "Every day, we're out here doing things to make our Airmen ready to go to combat, if called upon, and then to return home safely."



A-10s Get Dirty at Fort McCoy



An A-10 Thunderbolt II, from the 124th Fighter Wing, Boise, Idaho, lands at Young Landing Zone on Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, June 13, 2022. The aircraft were participating in Agile Rage '22 and performing austere landings in support of hub-and-spoke operations, as part of the agile combat employment concept of operations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua C. Allmaras)





BUILDING HOMES

FOR CHEROKEE VETERANS

Airmen from the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Civil Engineer Squadron build houses during an innovative readiness training project in the Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, June 6, 2022. The subdivision is being built through an IRT mission which produces mission ready forces, civil-military partnerships, and stronger communities by leveraging military contributions. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Joshua C. Allmaras)



MAJ. GORSKI ASSUMES COMMAND



Col. Elizabeth Sumner, commander of the 124th Mission Support Group, presents the 124th Communications Flight guidon to Maj. Kahli Gorski at an assumption of command ceremony, June, 5, 2022, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. This is Gorski's first command position, where she will serve as commander of the wing communications flight.
(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Ryan White)



Memorial Day 2022



Idaho Governor Brad Little, military members, veterans and residents of the Treasure Valley community gather at Idaho State Veterans Cemetery for a Memorial Day ceremony, May 30, 2022, Boise, Idaho. The ceremony included guest speakers, a 21-gun salute and firing of American Civil War cannons. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Ryan White)

Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen



Airmen of the 124th Fighter Wing tour the 124th Services Flight's new disaster relief mobile response kitchen, April 29, 2022, Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. The DRMR kitchen is a rapidly deployable mobile kitchen, capable of feeding up to 1,000 people in less than 90 minutes, which is designed to be transported via C-130 or a standard pick-up truck. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Mr. Ryan White)

HONORARY COMMANDER ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND



The mission of the Honorary Commanders Program is twofold; one, to educate key community leaders about a unit's mission and to foster a supportive relationship with the community, and two, to increase military involvement in civic endeavors and organizations and make members of the local community feel part of the unit.

MEET YOUR NEW HONORARY COMMANDER:



Mark Peterson,
President and CEO,
Saber Holding
HCC to the 124 OG/CC



Bernie Zimmerman, Managing
Partner, Cultivation LLC
HCC to the 124 FSS/CC



Todd Lindsey, Owner,
A10 Capital
HCC to the 124 ASOS/CC



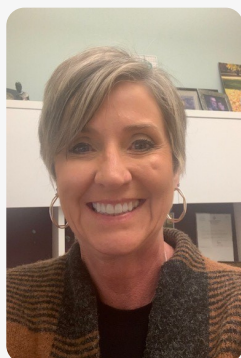
Kacey Nelson, Board
Secretary,
Aaron Butler Memorial
Foundation
HCC to the 124 LRS/CC



Hilary Flint, PhD,
Sr. Manager, Applied
Research Division, St.
Luke's
HCC to the 124 MDG/CC



Chris Taylor, CEO, Fisher's
Technology
HCC to the 124 SFS/CC



Annie Price, VP of
Consultant Support,
Seentsy
HCC to the 124 CF/CC



Jess Flynn,
Founder/CEO, Red Sky
HCC to the 124 MSG/CC



**Alex LaBeau, President,
Idaho Association of
Commerce and Industry
HCC to the 124 CES/CC**



**Jennifer Cammann, Director
of Business Ops,
Central Engineering, Micron
HCC to the 124 OSS/CC**



**Dan DeCloss, CEO,
PlexTrac
HCC to the 224 COS/CC**



**Roger Quarles, Executive
Director,
J.A. & Kathryn Albertson
Foundation
HCC to the 190 FS/CC**



**Lisa Grow, President and
CEO,
IDACORP Inc. and Idaho
Power
HCC to the 124 MXG/CC**



**Spenser Shaw, Accounts
Payable Supervisor,
Hayden Beverage
HCC to the 124 MXS/CC**



**Sarah Rohrbach, Owner,
Earth to Sarah Media
HCC to the 124 MOF/CC**

THE 124TH FIGHTER WING HONORARY COMMANDER OATH OF OFFICE

I (state your name) do solemnly swear,
to serve admirably
as a 124th Fighter Wing Honorary Commander.
I will support my organization
and learn about its mission.
I will share my knowledge
with my family, my friends, and my colleagues.
I will support the 124th Fighter Wing
and its partners
for the duration of my tenure.
So help me God.

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AUGUST 26TH-27TH, 2023



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JOIN ESSENTIAL SIX!

The Essential six is a unified group of ranks E-1 to E-6 with a goal to create change, exchange ideas and resolve issues that affect efficiency, morale and welfare

**ATTEND A
MEETING:**

Bldg. 148 conference room
Saturday of drill at 1400

For questions contact SSgt Thompson at 422-5651

