



ON

FIVE

JULY 2023

THE COMMANDER'S COLUMN



Title is from the On Five Issue from November of 1960



Bulldogs, I hope you are enjoying this warm summer after a busy winter and spring. In my last On Five column, I laid out the wing priorities for 2023. The wing would focus on increasing Individual Medical Readiness (IMR) rates, hone our Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) skills, develop our Multi-Capable Airmen (MCA), practice Agile Combat Employment (ACE) on short and small aviation trips, while making a call to action for every airman to engage their social and community networks to help increase our manning.

You've made huge strides in accomplishing these priorities and I couldn't be prouder of your accomplishments. The 148th has consistently been in the

top five IMR units in the entire Air National Guard demonstrating our commitment to readiness. We knocked our Air Combat Command (ACC) evaluated readiness exercise out of the park while demonstrating TCCC, CBRNE, and MCA skills. We've sent small aviation packages to Luke Air Force Base and to Spangdahlem, Germany to participate in NATO's largest air exercise in history while flying the Director of the Air National Guard in one of our jets while doing ACE at multiple German Air Bases.

I've witnessed the entire wing step up to help with recruiting. Many of you engaged your networks and have brought in groups to show them what the 148th Fighter Wing does every day. Additionally, many of you have helped vet guests to gain base access, set up jet static displays while answering many groups questions, brought your work truck and displays to the hangars, while fully supporting and engaging the career fairs. Your efforts have helped the Wing accession 20 new personnel in the third quarter, April through June 2023.

The retiree community continues to advocate for the wing bringing in multiple new airmen to fill the ranks they once held. Additionally, I want to thank everyone that supported the high-profile Duluth and Oshkosh airshows. These events highlighted to thousands the great work of the 148th Fighter Wing. I ask everyone to continue recruiting...we are on the verge of 100% and I think we can make it!

Thank you again to all current and past Bulldogs for everything you are doing for our community, State, and Nation! I'm proud to serve with you.

2023 Readiness Exercise

Agile Bulldog

By Lt. Col. James “RUFUS” Grandaw

The 2023 Readiness Exercise (RE), AGILE BULLDOG, served as the first large-scale exercise of the 148FW Unit Evaluation Inspection (UEI) Cycle, 2021-2026, and a test bed for the Agile Combat Employment (ACE) model. Air Force Doctrine defines ACE as “a proactive and reactive operational scheme of maneuver executed within threat timelines to increase survivability while generating combat power.” To adequately replicate the ACE model, the Wing positioned a significantly reduced footprint of maintenance, operations, mission support personnel and equipment necessary to support simulated combat missions at an austere “forward operating base” location, while simultaneously conducting operations from a “main operating base”.

In addition to integrating ACE concepts, Air Force guidance dictates that RE’s should be relevant and rigorous to give confidence in a unit’s capability against most likely and consequential threats in the most stressful of combat conditions. A 148 FW Inspection Team of more than 50 members developed a robust scenario to test each unit’s ability to survive and operate in a sustained Contested, Degraded, and Operationally-Limited (CDO) environment. Various CDO events were designed into the exercise which included a persistent threat of both conventional and chemical weapon attacks, ground attacks, and communications degradation. Evaluating Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) proficiency was another focus area of the exercise with multiple medical response scenarios conducted to assess Airmen knowledge and application of TCCC techniques. The Air Combat Command Inspector General also took part in the RE, sending a team of inspectors to observe and validate the Wing’s compliance with directed guidance requirements.

Colonel Nate Aysta, 148FW Commander, addressed Wing members following the RE stating “AGILE BULLDOG” was unlike any exercise we’ve previously conducted. Failure is not an option when it comes to the mission. Thank you for showcasing yourselves as combat-ready Airmen.”





148th “Defender” Graduates from Air Force Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course

By Audra Flanagan

148th Fighter Wing Security Forces specialist, and Patrol Officer with the Duluth Police Department, Tech. Sgt. Reid Erickson graduated from the U.S. Air Force’s Weapons and Tactics Instructor course held at the Desert Defender Ground Combat Readiness Training Center, Fort Bliss, Texas on May 26, 2023.

The twelve-week course provides an advanced curriculum that combines intense academics with field training exercises and weapons range training using a full-spectrum of weapons and ammunition. The course goal is to make warfighters more lethal and prepared for all missions by having a better understanding of Doctrine, being more tactically proficient and able to provide viable solutions to any situation.

“Any graduate of this course can provide their commander with a tactical advisor who is able to critically think, observe Operation plans and align doctrine and training to ensure all Defenders are prepared for any mission they are tasked to perform,” said Master Sgt. David Green, Chief of Weapons and Tactics, Air Force Security Forces Center - Desert Defender, Ground Combat Readiness Training Center, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Students spent time conducting basic and advanced weapons firing. The students are taught and tested on instruction methods so they can teach similar courses when returning to their home stations. In addition to firing, the students learn and practice advanced tactics to include tactical communications, fire teams, squad movements, mounted operations, close quarters combat and urban operations. The advanced tactics segments then lead to Field Training Exercises where students planned a mission, oversaw an operation and conducted a thorough debrief.



CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Erickson, who serves as a Fire Team Leader with the 148th Security Forces Squadron, said “the hardest part of the course was the academic rigor necessary to be credible tactical advisors to our commanders.”

Erickson’s favorite part of the course “was creating a full mission profile field training exercise. We had the opportunity to incorporate the 54th Helicopter Squadron from Minot Air Force Base, N.D. into our exercises, which provided value.”

“Completion of the course aligns the Air National Guard with the Total Force and plays a key role in the future of shaping how Security Forces fights and operates as an enterprise” said the National Guard Bureau’s Security Forces Domestic Operations Manager and Interim Security Forces Career Field Manager, Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Judy. Eight Air National Guard Defenders have completed the course since its inception in 2021. “Air National Guard Weapons and Tactics Instructors can identify improvements on training warfighters in a time and resource constrained environment,” added Judy.

In the last decade, personnel from the 148th Security Forces Squadron have deployed to the 409th Air Expeditionary Group, Niger and a half dozen locations within the Air Forces Central area of responsibility throughout Southwest Asia. “Future missions will require personnel to deploy in smaller teams under the Agile Combat Employment framework,” said 148th Mission Support Group Commander, Col. Ryan Kaspari. “The high caliber training from the Weapons and Tactics course provides our best and brightest with a powerful skillset necessary to keep Commanders informed, and to prepare and equip multi-capable airmen for the challenges of future missions,” said Kaspari.

FSRT Training in Montana



148th Services Flight personnel assigned to the Fatality Search and Recovery Team (FSRT) conducted Individual Readiness Training (IRT) in Browning, Montana from July 2 until July 15 in support of the Blackfeet Nation. While at the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Services Airmen provided meals to Civil Engineers who were renovating 50 houses for the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlights Around the Wing



Tech. Sgt. Jared Hinks sang "God Bless America" during the June 17th Minnesota Twins game at Target Field. Hinks was accompanied by his daughter, extended family and friends during the Father's Day game against the Detroit Tigers. Twins win!



May 14 Staff Sgt. Ben Churchill sang God Bless America at the Minnesota Twins game. Churchill also opened for the 2023 Duluth Airshow by singing the National Anthem July 15.



Therapy dog Scarlett poses for a photo next to one of the 148th Fighter Wing's F-16s. Scarlett, a therapy dog certified by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, belongs to Master Sgt. Shannon Housey, First Sgt. for the 148th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



On Mondays after drill the All Ranks Club make and host a pancake breakfast for 148th members to raise morale after a long week of drill.



Vice Commander, Col Babette Van Hees and Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Wendy Gunderson joined security forces personnel at the front gate in April in honor of Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month.

Bulldog and Spouse Lift and an in-air re-enlistment



On June 23rd, 2023 Staff Sgt. Calvin Schmaedeke, a fire protection specialist, and 14 other top performing airmen and their spouses participated in an Airman and Spouse Lift. They witnessed



an F-16 Fighting Falcon, assigned to the 148th Fighter Wing refuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker, assigned to the 185th Air Refueling Wing, Iowa National Guard.

Schmaedeke was given a unique opportunity to re-enlist mid-flight.

“I would say that my favorite part about service has been the people around me.” Schmaedeke said “I am constantly learning from the incredible people around me and have vastly benefited from the experiences the military has had to offer both here at home and traveling our nation and world.”



The members who participated in this event were nominated by their leadership for excellence in their duties. After the flight was over, members received a flag that was flown in the F-16 Fighting Falcons as recognition for their service and excellent performance in their duties and careers.

148TH GROUP EMBLEM APPROVED

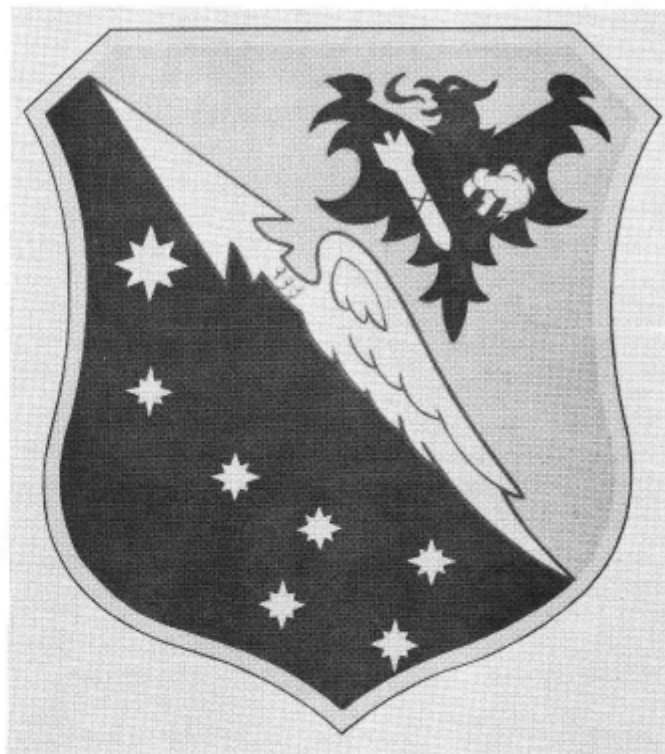
The Department of the Air Force has approved an official organizational emblem for the 148th Fighter Group. The official painting, its "Blazon" and "Significance" were received from the Air Force and become permanent records of the unit until inactivation.

The "Significance" of the official emblem reads:

"The emblem is symbolic of the group and its mission. Polaris at the Zenith in the Ursa Minor constellation refers to Minnesota, "The North Star State", where the unit was activated in 1960. The winged arrowhead represents the airborne might capability of the group. The Phoenix bird bearing the weapon with nuclear symbol and the lightning flashes with the cloud in pile, a heraldic device denoting the wedge, depicts the unit's mission, "Deter the Aggressor but Prevail in War". The emblem bears the Air Force colors, golden yellow and ultramarine blue."

The "Blazon" is the scientific method of verbal description of the emblem which would enable any armorist to emblazon (i. e. to draw and color) the emblem. This heraldic terminology reads as follows:

"Per bend or and azure, throughout in bend between in chief a Phoenix bird, wings disclosed, voided of the field, beak open to dexter emitting a flame gules, of the second and charged pilewise by in dexter a weapon argent encircled by two



orbits of the third and in sinister two doubled-ended lightning flashes of the last debruised by a cloud of the fourth and in base seven mullets having eight points, in the constellation Ursa Minor with Polaris at the Zenith in dexter flank, of the last, a winged arrowhead ascending of the like fimbriated gray, all within a diminished bordure of the fourth."

Copies of the emblem are being made up for placement on our official organizational flags and these flags then become our standards for all official occasions. —CONTINUED PAGE 2

EMBLEM — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The design was originated by Lt Col Wayne C Gatlin and the final design work was completed by the Awards Division of the USAF Military Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. Plans are being completed to have emblem patches made up for individuals for wear on flight and line clothing.

The 148th Fighter Wing 75th Anniversary Logo was created by Tech Sgt. Danielle Tharaldson. The logo incorporates the first and current Jets the 148th Fighter Wing flew over the past 75 years.

The logo incorporates the first jet, a F-51D Mustang, along with the current Jet the F-16 CJ Fighting Falcon

This article was located in an early version of the On Five from 1965. The article shares the explanation behind the 148th's emblem.



75th Anniversary Jet



On June 25, 2023, the 148th Fighter Wing unveiled the 75th Anniversary Heritage Jet in the maintenance hangar. Bulldogs from the 148th Fighter Wing were able to get the first view of the jet from all angles and read about the design's significance before it was open to the public and the media.

The jet, designed by Master Sgt. Ben Riordan and Master Sgt. Karl Goon, contains the wing emblem, lightning bolts as a nod to the unit's original P-51 Mustang paint scheme, and Air National Guard emblem, and the National Guard minuteman. The minuteman is an embodiment of the citizen-airman concept, meaning, the readiness of the men and women ready to take up arms and defend their neighbors and communities while working alongside them.

The jet, painted in-house, came to fruition because of the efforts of 1st Lt. Keegan Flaherty, Master Sgt. Benjamin Riordan, Master Sgt. Karl Goon, Tech Sgt. Derek Seeland, Tech Sgt. Daniel Priest, Staff Sgt. Brett Missinne, and Airman 1st Class Braxton Farrell. The entire process included taping, sanding, priming, and painting. These tasks required 680 hours of labor and approximately 19 gallons of paint and 620 square feet of vinyl.

The jet had its first flight on July 17, flown by Col. Curt "Cooter" Grayson, 148th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group Commander. As the jet was flown the base emblem on the top of the jet and the Air National Guard emblem on the bottom could be viewed by those with a long lens or a sharp eye.

The jet is going to remain painted for approximately one-year and will return to the traditional bulldog color scheme after it has completed its current mission to remind those of all the generations of excellence the 148th Fighter Wing has displayed since its founding.



Bulldogs in the Air (Show)

Bulldogs from the 148th Fighter Wing and 179th Fighter Squadron participated and volunteered at the Duluth Air Show and the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2023. The 75th Anniversary Jet was popular static display at both events where spectators and aviation fans of all ages were able to speak to members of the wing.



The Duluth Air Show, held July 15 and 16, featured fly overs from the 148th on both days, a weapons load demonstration from Aircraft Armament specialists, and opportunities to meet with recruiters and 148th personnel. Fire Protection specialists from the 148th provided emergency response to the show again in 2023 which included immediate support to a member of the U.S. Navy Leap Frog Parachute team who landed hard and fast during a demonstration on Saturday. The parachuter was airlifted immediately and is expected to make a full recovery. Approximately 50,000 spectators attended the Duluth Air Show.





EAA AirVenture 2023 OshKosh

The Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture 2023 was held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin July 24-28. The 148th's efforts were led by Oshkosh-native, Capt. Beth "BATR" Hovland who flew the 75th Anniversary jet to Oshkosh. BATR and several Bulldogs from diverse career fields manned the Heritage F-16 static display from July 24-28th. Additionally, the 148th partnered with NORAD to conduct narrated intercept demonstration on July 24th and 26th, providing spectators education on NORAD's Aerospace Control Alert procedures. Nearly 700,000 spectators attended AirVenture 2023 throughout the week.



RECRUITERS RESOURCES



- Avionics BONUS (126 training days)
- Command Post (31 training days)
- Munitions Systems BONUS (43 training days)
- Security Forces (90 training days)
- Fire Protection (68 training days)
- Administration (41 training days)
- Aerospace Ground Equipment BONUS (95 training days)
- Aircraft Armament Systems BONUS (86 training days)
- AC Electric Environmental Systems BONUS (91 training days)
- Logistics Plans (27 training days)
- Financial Management Apprentice (57 training days)
- Material Management (126 training days)
- Tactical Aircraft Maintenance BONUS (170 training days)
- Services/Fatality Search and Recovery (29 training days)
- Aircrew Egress Systems BONUS (31 training days)
- Maintenance Management Production BONUS (33 training days)
- Aircrew Flight Equipment (56 training days)
- Client Systems (67 training days)
- Traffic Management (44 training days)
- Chaplin assistance



Commander, 148th Fighter Wing

Colonel Nathan Aysta

Requests the honor of your presence at the
75th Anniversary Military Ball

On the fifteenth of September

At five o'clock

In the Harbor Side Ballroom,

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center

Please RSVP via the online registration

www.eventcreate.com/e/148th-fighter-wing-75th-anniversary

Attire

Mess Dress, Semi-Formal Mess Dress,

Formal Civilian Attire



Generations of Excellence

In Memory of Master Sgt. Noah Feehan



Master Sgt. Noah Feehan, a dedicated and valued member of the 148th Fighter Wing.

Master Sgt. Feehan, a resident of Cloquet, fought glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer, for over two years.

Master Sgt. Feehan enlisted in January 2005 as a Fighter Aircraft Integrated Avionics craftsman. His deployments include Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE in 2007-08, Balad Air Base, Iraq in 2008-09 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in 2012, Osan Air Base, Korea in support of the Theater Security Package in 2016 and Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center in 2020 in support of a NORAD Presidential-support mission.

Master Sgt. Feehan's awards and decorations include the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

*Photo taken prior to Feehan's promotion to Master Sgt.

The Airman Care Team



Ariane Norrgard
Director of
Psychological Health



Suzy Hartwick
Airman & Family
Readiness Programs
Manager



Senior Master Sgt.
Sterling Hartwick
1st Sgt.
Wing Preventionist



Wendy Gunderson
Sexual Assault
Response Coordinator

24-Hour Military Crisis Line: 988-1 or Text: 838255

ON FIVE

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DULUTH, MINNESOTA

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