

THE JET GAZETTE

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 141ST AIR REFUELING WING

APRIL 2024

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10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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THE MISSION OF THE JET GAZETTE
IS TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE EVENTS
AND INFORMATION OF THE 141ST AIR REFUELING WING
TO UNIT MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND RETIREES
AND TO RECOGNIZE PERSONAL AND UNIT
ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN THE WING.

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FRONT COVER PHOTO BY TECHNICAL SGT. MICHAEL BROWN

NOTES FROM THE TOP

Welcome to April RSD!

This month's Jet Gazette kicks off with "Notes from the Top" from AMXS (the Tanker Crew Chief Squadron). I'm going to provide the big picture for our upcoming exercise, "WA ANG Fury." If this is the first time you've heard about it, let me provide some context. J-Mac and Wing leadership have worked diligently to bring the Guard team back to campus, reinvigorate our Guard identity and culture, and prepare our team to operate independently—with our own aircraft—when the time calls. WA ANG Fury checks all those boxes.

In addition to support of Combatant Commands throughout the world, our Wing performs a nuclear mission, which is essential to preserving peace and our national security. As you can imagine, this nuclear mission must be executed without fail, and that's why we practice in exercises such Global Thunder, Titan Fury, and now WA ANG Fury.

What is your part in the nuclear mission? That depends, but here's the short answer: your part is essential. Every member of the Wing performs a task that contributes to combat effectiveness either directly or indirectly. Even if you're not directly air-refueling nuclear-armed aircraft, your job helps ensure our aircraft

are fixed, fueled, and flown. Also, just like our tankers, every member of our Wing needs sustainment: health (Med Group), resources (LRS, Finance, FSS), security (SFS), shelter (CE), etc. It takes every member doing his and her part in this complex orchestra to make the final product a harmonious symphony; however, if anyone is out of sync, then the outcome can sound like middle school band practice.

Our global adversaries take a keen interest in our capability to project power globally—and rapidly. Our National Security Strategy relies on deterring aggression with the credible threat that, if required, we can impose unacceptably high costs that outweigh any benefits that a hostile actor might hope to incur. Our exercises maintain that credibility of capable power-projection. Your part in WA ANG Fury builds that credibility for deterrence, so please sharpen your sword and train our newer Airmen to be ready as well.

We support combat operations that are critical to defending our nation, and most importantly, we serve so that our loved ones can remain safe while we bear the risk and discomfort to ensure this security. We must always



remember: providing credible deterrence against a capable enemy is much cheaper and less painful than going to war. When our enemies see that we can dependably rain down hell across the globe, then they can calculate that the costs of confronting us are not worth the expected gains.

To wrap it up, put on your game faces because your efforts pay enormous peace-dividends. You should leave drill a little tired, yet satisfied, having completed purposeful work in our nation's defense. In August, we'll throttle back and celebrate together for the 100-year anniversary.

Have a great drill!

CHIEF'S CORNER

CHIEF MASTER SGT. JARED OLNEY
141ST AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



I think that it is all too easy to forget the importance of what we do. It's easy to become complacent in thinking that what we do is just a job. We tend to simplify our professions down to the thought that we just work on airplanes or process pay or maintain vehicles and that's what we do for a living; I know I've been guilty of it.

The reality is, every member of this wing is critical to our nation's strategic deterrence options; to its first line of homeland defense, and to its ability to project strength and force our nations will upon our adversaries. Stop and think about that for a second. The weight of that responsibility is heavy, and our approach to it is vital.

While we have seen many positive changes throughout the wing over the last few years, we still have challenges that lie ahead. Our state and wing leadership are working diligently to make us unit equipped again, this will require us to have to exercise muscles we haven't used in nearly 20 years. We face the potential

of war with a peer level adversary and possibly more than one at a time. Add to that we have one of the youngest benches we have seen in decades that will require significant investment to ensure the future success of the 141st Air Refueling Wing. As we face these challenges, remember that what we do is more than just a job.

I will leave you with one final thought; a healthy family doesn't happen by accident. We talk a lot about Guard Family, so I would encourage each of you to be proactive in taking care of one another, protect the culture that we are fighting so hard to create, and do your best to be a part of leaving things in a better state than when you arrived. Get out of your shop this weekend and go meet someone new in the wing.

Have a happy drill weekend!
Chief Olney

Educational Protections for Servicemembers on Orders

Are you a member who is pursuing a post-secondary education?

A recent change in Public Law 117-328 has created new obligations for colleges and universities to protect members of the Armed Forces who receive orders while they are in school. These protections were implemented to prevent institutions of higher learning from penalizing students for their military service.

First, under 38 U.S.C. § 3691A(a)(2)(B) an educational institution may not take the following actions when a member receives orders for a period of service:

- Assigning the member a failing grade,
- Reducing the member's grade point average,
- Characterizing any member's absence(s) as unexcused, or
- Assessing a financial penalty on a member because of a withdraw or leave of absence due to receiving orders for service.

Second, 38 U.S.C. § 3691A(b) provides that an educational institution must take the following actions when a member withdraws due to receiving orders for a period of service:

- Refunding all tuition and fees paid for the academic term to the appropriate party. Please note that the Veterans Affairs interpretation of academic term is the term as reported to your State Approving Agency and Veterans Affairs.
- Refunding payments made by the student (or behalf of the student) to the institution for housing. Please note that in this instance the reference to housing is not the monthly housing allowance provided by the Post 9/11 GI Bill but rather housing costs such as dorm fees.

Finally, 38 U.S.C. § 3691A(c) provides that an educational institution must take the following actions when a member takes a leave of absence from a course(s) due to receiving orders for a period of service:

- Assigning a grade of incomplete (or equivalent) for the course(s) during the term, and
- Providing the opportunity to complete the term after the period of service.

For additional resources, please see the information on the 141st Legal Office/JA SharePoint. If you have questions about this or any other article, please contact the legal office at 247-7036.

APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH!

SINCE APRIL 4, 2024, THERE HAVE BEEN 7,254 INCIDENTS WITH DISTRACTED DRIVERS.



STAY ALIVE, DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE

OSO

10 year anniversary of the
devastating mudslide

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael Brown and Spc. Samantha Ciaramitaro

Tech. Sgt. Tayler Bates and Tech. Sgt. Tony Rohrenbach, members of the Washington Air National Guard 141 Civil Engineer Squadron discuss how to remove debris to drain the water from their search area. (Photo by Spc. Samantha Ciaramitaro)



An aerial photo of the debris field from the 2014 Oso mudslide.



A vehicle that was badly mangled by the slide.



On the morning of March 22, 2014 at 10:37 a.m. the upper crest of the Whitman Bench gave way due to a number of factors and according to Weather Historian, created one of the deadliest slides in United States History. The Washington National Guard immediately began efforts to gather people and supplies ahead of an anticipated call for their support.

The morning of March 24, 2014 the 141st Search and Extraction teams, Fatality Search and Rescue Teams, Medical teams, Command and Control personal and various other support elements left Fairchild Air Force Base with all of the equipment they thought they may need.

“We were eager to get out and help our community,” said Master Sgt. Greg Harada, Search and Extraction team member. “While it wasn’t directly our community it was Washington state and we were ready to assist in any way possible.”

The team arrived that afternoon and immediately prepared to assist in anyway. The team faced a number of challenges before getting to work. “We were informed the mud was up to 60 feet deep in some spots,” said Master Sgt. Don Parlow, Search and Extraction team member. “There was a ton of chemicals and other household hazards throughout the incident site.”

On this 10-year anniversary of the slide thoughts of the 43 victims still resonate with personnel in the wing. “We worked side by side with survivors picking up the pieces of their homes,” said Chief Master Sgt. Caleb Guthimiller. “There were people we worked with that were hoping to find out what happened to their loved ones.”

The team was able to help 42 families gain closure over the course of their support.

“Unfortunately, there was one person we were unable to locate,” said Guthmiller. “Thankfully they were able to recover the last person after we left.”

Feelings still resonate strong across the wing. The Guardsmen that participated are proud of the work they accomplished in helping clear the slide and recover the victims. The memories are still alive and strong and the thoughts of the Washington National Guard are still with the families that lost loved ones, friends and neighbors.

Hear about some of the experiences from Guardsmen who were there below.



Click each link to hear more about the experiences of members who were there and helped.

COPE TIGER

WA ANG PARTICIPATES IN TOTAL FORCE EXERCISE IN THAILAND

Photos and Story by Tech. Sgt. Hailey Haux Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs



Two Republic of Singapore Air Force F-16s fly alongside a Washington Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker during Cope Tiger 2024, Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, March 26, 2024.

Two weeks of flying, mission planning, community events and relationship building have concluded, marking the close of Cope Tiger 2024.

Units from the United States, Thailand, and Singapore air force participated in the 28th iteration of the exercise, marking the 30th Anniversary of the first iteration. Cope Tiger is an annual trilateral aerial exercise meant to enhance readiness and further develop interoperability.

"The theme for this year was 'friendship through the skies,' but as we've just completed our 28th Cope Tiger with the most capable force our three nations have ever assembled, I want to recognize and acknowledge that our relationship is deeper than that," said U.S. Air Force Col. Michael McCarthy, Cope Tiger exercise director. "We are brothers and sisters in arms who stand ready to defend our nations and our freedom together, and I'm proud to be by your side."

This year marked the first time 5th generation aircraft participated in the exercise—F-35A Lightning IIs from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, joined F-16C Fighting Falcons from Kunsan Air Base, South Korea.

"This is the first time the F-35s have operated out of Korat, and this was a great exercise to practice complex large force engagements with both the RTAF and RSAF," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Ryan Worrell, 356th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander. "We brought the F-35 to Thailand to train with our allies and partners, and I was impressed with the skill and professionalism of the Thai and Singaporean air forces. Each time we flew, everyone improved and applied lessons from previous days."

Over the course of the exercise, sorties were flown, flight hours were accumulated, and a priceless number of relationships were forged. Whether it was up in the

cockpit of the numerous types of aircraft or on the ground sharing stories about maintenance, our Airmen were able to break through language barriers and build solid foundations of friendships that will continue to be fostered for years to come.

"I was able to work with the RTAF maintainers to find out we use the same test equipment, and we were able to communicate with the tools we had," said U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Merrick Schofield, 80th Fighter Generation Squadron avionics journeyman. "It just goes to show that we don't have to speak the same language to get the mission done."

Thailand is the United States' oldest ally in Asia, going on 191 years since the two countries established formal diplomatic relations, resulting in almost two centuries of friendship between the two nations.



Airmen from the Royal Thai air force, Republic of Singapore air force and U.S. Air Force stand in formation during the closing ceremony for Cope Tiger 2024 at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, March 29, 2024.

Lt. Col Clinton Albaugh, center right, 116th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 Stratotanker pilot, familiarizes Gen. Songwit Noonpackdee, center left, chief of defense forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and his team with the KC-135 assigned to the 116th ARS during Cope Tiger 2024 at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Kingdom of Thailand, March 19, 2024



For more than 50 years, the United States and Singapore have forged an expansive and enduring relationship based on mutual economic interests, robust security and defense cooperation, and enduring people-to-people ties.

“As a maintainer, sometimes it’s hard for us to see the bigger picture, and being out here building relationships really puts into perspective how important every piece is,” Schofield said. “A lot of people forget their ‘why,’ and being out here making friends from other countries and understanding their culture helps me remember my why.”

This year, the U.S. came as a Total Force package, with the Washington Air National Guard, KC-135 Stratotankers participating. Flying nine missions, they were there to assist in refueling operations with our allies and partners, offloading 225.9 thousand pounds of fuel to 69 receivers from all three nations’ aircraft.

The Washington Air National Guard is the State Partner of Thailand through the State Partnership Program, or SPP. The SPP links a unique component of the Department of Defense - a state’s National Guard - with the armed forces or equivalent of a partner country in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship.

Through the SPP, the National Guard conducts military-to-military engagements in support of defense security goals but also leverages whole-of-society relationships and capabilities to facilitate broader interagency and corollary engagements spanning military, government, economic, and social spheres.

During the exercise, many Airmen had the chance to go to a local school to play games with students while medical professionals from the Royal Thai air force and the Republic of Singapore air force rendered care to locals

with support from the U.S. Air Force medical team.

“Joint health initiatives are so important,” said Lt. Col. Kendall Vermilion, 35th Fighter Squadron flight surgeon. “These events foster a sense of unity and cohesion, demonstrating a collective commitment to health and wellness, and play a critical role in building partnerships amongst our military communities.”

Being strongly united demonstrates our commitment to regional security. We stand with our allies and partners in upholding the rules-based international order.



A Royal Thai Air Force F-16 is refueled by a Washington Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker during Cope Tiger 2024, Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, March 26, 2024.

HISTORY

15 APRIL 1925, 116TH RECEIVES THEIR FIRST AIRCRAFT

The first three Curtiss JN-6 "Jenny" biplanes arrived by rail in Spokane, Wash., the first federal planes assigned to the 116th Observation Squadron. Major Fancher, the first commander of the 116th, left in the middle of plowing his field on his farm in Medical Lake, Wash. when he heard the news.

Pvt. John Dean, together with SSgt. Raymond Carroll and Pvt. Basil Waters, who were all at Parkwater Field (present-day, Felts Field), Wash., decided to get the ball rolling by taking Dean's Maxwell truck over to the

Northern Pacific rail yards. First certain items had to be "borrowed" like a few planks from the lumber yard, a chain hoist and jacks from a Maxwell truck dealership from Hillyard (a district of Spokane), a crowbar from the railroad, and tools out of emergency kits of private cars. When the three men had finished their little "scavenging hunt," Capt. Arthur Easterbrook, the 116th's regular army aviation instructor, had arrived to supervise the effort. Other members had also left their jobs, not even bothering to change into uniforms, to

rush to the field to get the planes up in the air.

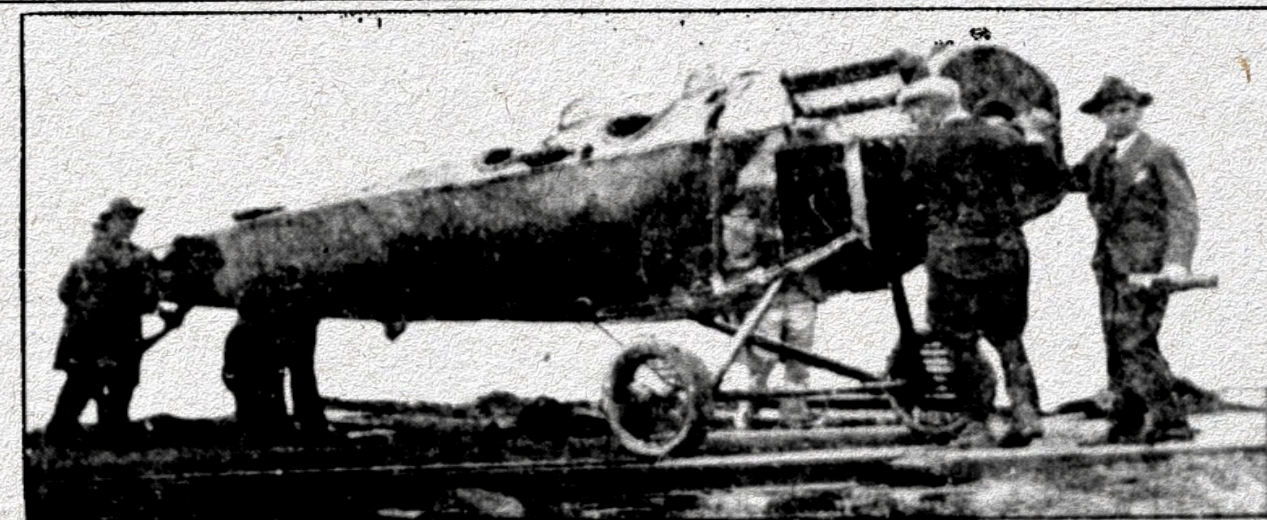
The landing gears were attached to the wingless body of each plane and the tailskids were tied to Dean's flatbed and the fuselages were towed one at time, trailer fashion, to the field, followed by a large crowd of Parkwater kids on bicycles and dogs.

No funds had been provided to the fledgling aviation squadron as of yet, so things like 15 gallons of gas were charged to Dean's personal credit using his wrist watch as collateral. Oil "samples," were solicited at

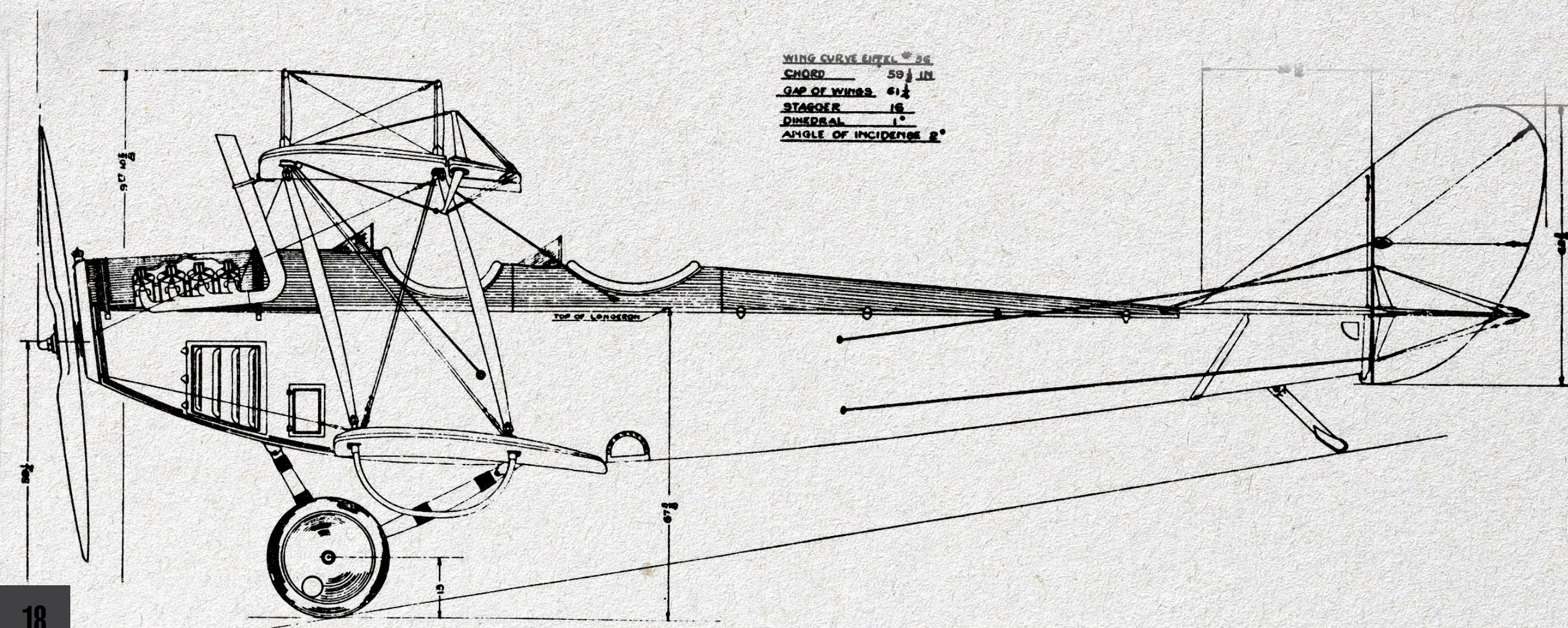
no cost from three different oil-salesmen hoping to do further business with the squadron (when it got money). Radiator water was borrowed from the kitchen sink from a house on the other side of the railroad tracks. Nick Mamer was the only pilot around at the time with a current JAP (Junior Airplane Pilot) rating, a system established by the Air Service in 1921 as a pilot training program. Mamer performed a test-hop on the three "Jennys," to see if assembly had produced a truly functioning aircraft. With the machines found to be in good working order, from then on out, any pilot that could purchase his own gasoline could be checked out

THREE NEW AIRPLANES ARRIVE

Guardsmen Unload Aircraft to Be Used by 116th Observation Squadron of Spokane



Officers and enlisted men of the 116th Observation squadron, Spokane's national guard airplane unit, dropped office duties in the city and rushed to the aviation field yesterday, when word came that three of their planes had arrived from California. All pitched in to unload the planes from box cars and to hurry the day when the unit could take the air. Major John Fancher, the unit commander, dropped his plow in the fields of his ranch near Medical Lake and hurried to superintend operations. He is seen at the left of the fuselage shown above. Captain E. A. Easterbrook, federal instructor, stands at the nose of the plane, facing the camera.



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