

AirScoop



104th Fighter Wing | www.104fw.ang.af.mil

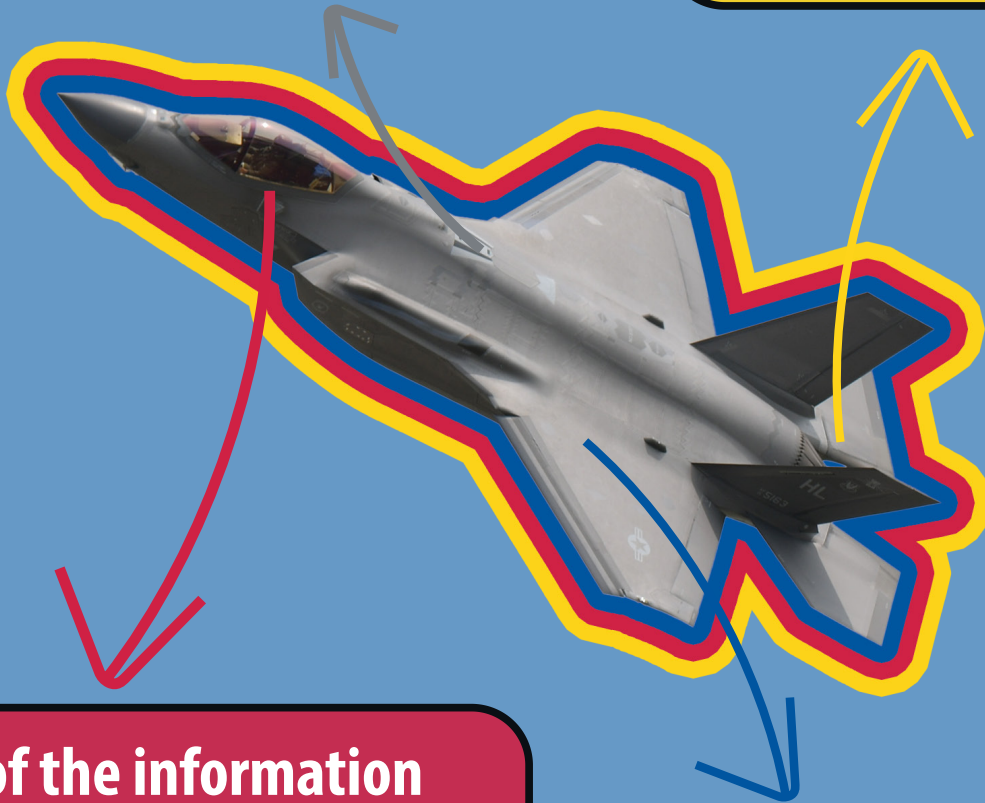


Jan/Feb 2025

F-35 CONVERSION FACTS

With a range of more than 1,350 miles on the internal tanks, and air-to-air refueling, the F-35 is a global weapon.

The P&W F135 is the most powerful jet engine in the world.



All of the information a pilot needs is projected right into the helmet - no heads-up display needed.

All F-35s can be outfitted with JASSM or LARSM weapons for peerless capabilities against armored targets.

2024 OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS



Airman - Senior Airman Alexander J. Becker

NCO - Technical Sgt. Matthew R. Kniep

SNCO - Senior Master Sgt. Dave S. Sutherland

CGO - Chaplain (Capt.) Joshua J. Carollo

FGO - Maj. Brian E. Morecraft

State Civilian - Mr. Eric M. Brogan

Federal Civilian - Mr. Jesse A. Cleland

First Sergeant - Master Sgt. Adam P. Ducharme



HISTORY IN THE MAKING

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELANIE CAISNEAU

Staff Sgt. Angelica Mendez Herrera, 104th Fighter Wing Weapons, stresses that the success of their mission is dependent on the team's ability to work together as a cohesive unit.

"The most important part of my job is working as a team. In this career field, we rarely work alone; we're always part of a crew of three," said Mendez Herrera. "I believe that if we stick together and look out for one another, we can overcome any obstacle and achieve our goals. Teamwork is essential in our line of work, and it's what makes our crew strong and effective."

Airman 1st Class Amanda Calcano, Staff Sgt. Kelsey Robare and Staff Sgt. Angelica Mendez Herrera all joined the Air National Guard for different reasons and brought various experiences with them. Airman 1st Class Calcano has been with the unit for a year. She joined when she was 25 and has always wanted to join since she was 14.

"I started doing JROTC in high school and loved it. I learned to love the structure and discipline that doing military duties had brought me. With over 1,300 hours of community service throughout my high school career, I also discovered what it means to really serve my community, and I knew I wanted to continue serving," said Calcano. "I decided to attend a military college, Norwich University, where I was taught more forms of discipline and what it takes to be a leader. I was surprised with how much I was able to push myself. I knew the sky was the limit, and I spoke to a recruiter as soon as I graduated. I'm proud to now be part of the Barnes community."

Staff Sgt. Kelsey Robare enlisted at age 19 and has been with the unit for six years. Her stepfather, a prior Army guardsman, suggested she might like this career.

"After a lot of research, I chose Weapons because it seemed like the most exciting job. Not only do I get to work on fighter jets, but I also get to load missiles and 20mm bullets into it," said Robare. "After touring multiple shops, the members of Weapons were the most welcoming, most passionate about their career field and seemed like the most fun. Six years later, my closest friends are members of this shop."

Staff Sgt. Angelica Mendez Herrera also joined at age 19 and has been with the unit for seven years.

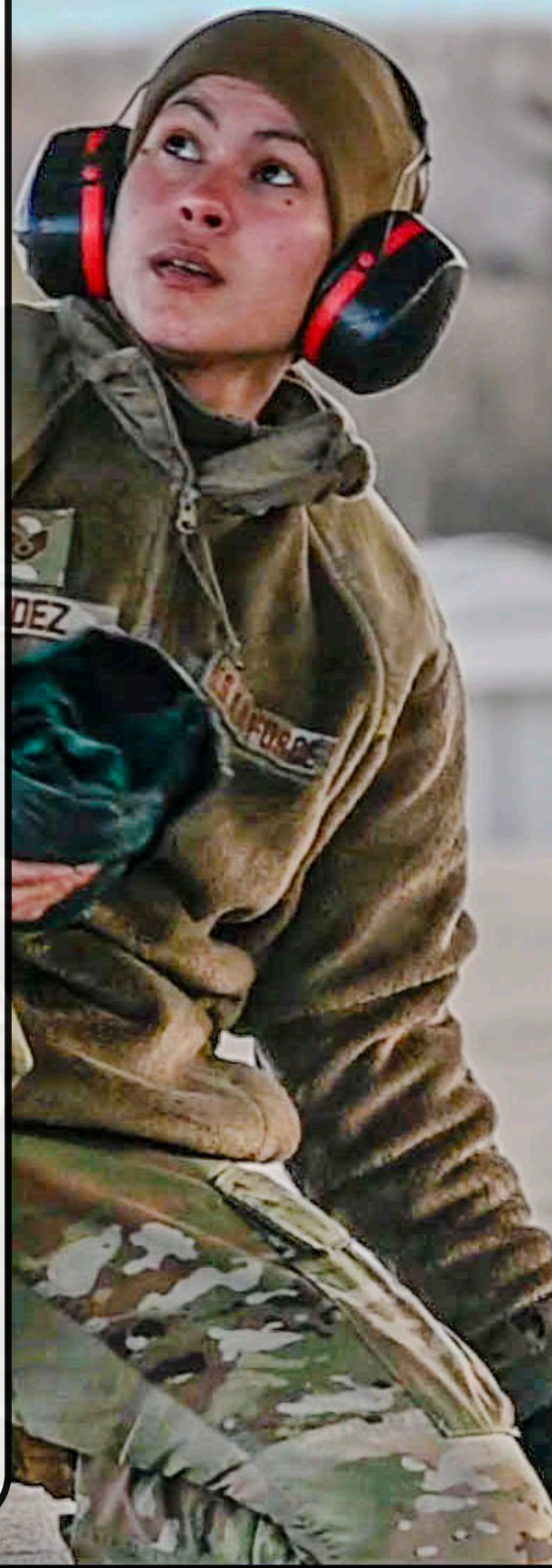
"I chose to join the military because I wanted to serve my country while also having the opportunity to further my education," said Mendez Herrera. "I chose this career field because it's so unique to the military."

The three women have worked in the same shop for approximately 1 month, though not on the same team. Each person has separate responsibilities, but when they are together, they have strong communication and awareness of each other to make the team work effectively.

"The most important part of my job is having situational awareness while loading and making sure that everybody on the spot is safe during loading operations," said Robare.

This team, who came together for the first time, accomplished what they were trained to do: load a reliable, combat-ready F-15 aircraft proficiently, safely, and in a timely manner.

[VIEW THE GALLERY HERE](#)



HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



SFS NEW COMMANDER



TORRES MAKES CMSGT



BATTLE OF THE BASES

BARNESTORMER COMMUNITY



JROTC COMPETITION



COL VISITS RETIREES



THUNDERBIRDS VISIT

CADRE'S CORNER

Happy February Drill!

As always, our student flight will be here for Saturday over the drill weekend starting at 0745 for roll-call and PT. All are welcome to come out and participate.

Because of the TDY to Key West, it will be a light day with the Cadre, but that just means each trainee will have more time to spend in the shops - starting around 1100.

We also want to send best wishes to our Barnestormers heading to BMT in March:

Ebenezer Agyapong	CPTF
Taisha Romero	MOF
Chadd Smith	MXS
Kaci Mack	MXS

Aim High!
SSgt Ryan Carvalho
SSgt Mykel Potter



PROMOTIONS

1st Lt. Capt. Trevor Perreault	CPTF
SMSgt. CMSgt. Christopher Torres	SFS
MSgt. SMSgt. Marilyn Morales	FWHQ
MSgt. SMSgt. Wayne Wilson	SFS
SSgt. TSgt. Anthony Basile	SFS
SrA SSgt. Lindsey Reopel	MXS
SrA SSgt. Aidan Sugure	MXS
SrA SSgt. Ryan Krasnecky	MXS
SrA SSgt. Joshua Towse	CES
SrA SSgt. Ross Mello	MXS
SrA SSgt. Thomas Wolfe-Trovato	AMXS
A1C SrA James Burton	SFS
A1C SrA Reagan Foster	FSS
A1C SrA Angeline Herrera	SFS
A1C SrA Alan Gomez-Tagle	AMXS
A1C SrA Tyler Penney	LRS
Ann A1C Ryan Huettmann	COMM
Ann A1C John Baczek	MXS
Ann A1C William Pramberger	MXS
Ann A1C Jouse Velntin	COMM
Ann A1C Ryan Dragon	COMM
Ann A1C Matthew Ryan	CES

Congratulations!

RETIREMENTS

Lt. Col. Richard 'Mental' Ward
131 FS Pilot | 20 Years



HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

Page Six

The 'THUNDERBOLT'

X SPORTS



« PERSONALS »

Three minor incidents marred the St. Louis mission. Jerry Lemoine developed a slight case of sinus trouble from the altitude. While the crowd was watching Frank Leasius land the C-47 Airliner with the pretty paint job, — it bounced. But the real tragedy happened to Al Willey. He dropped and broke a bottle of whiskey in a hotel elevator. Ain't it a shame?

1st Sgt John McMahon, reg. Instr., was elected post Commander of the Westfield Soviets at last week's meeting.

Arlo Craven won't forget the last drill. He got a phone call during the drill that his wife had presented him with a baby. (Weight and sex data not available here.)

George Toohey suffered minor burns from airplane gasoline which got into his eyes and ears. Although highly painful at the time, George seemed all right the next day. So they asked George to sign a 446 for the gas he had used.

9 WINS IN 12 V-BALL TILTS

The 131st Fighter Squadron volleyball team won nine out of its last twelve games to maintain its position in fourth place in the Westfield City League.

Two games were dropped and one won in matches with the top-place Eagles. The 131st took two games and lost one to the Marine Corps League, and blanked out both the Y. M. C. A. and the Knights of Columbus for the remaining six games.

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY '5

M
E
N
U

HAMBURG LOAF
Mashed Potatoes
Peas
Garden Salad
Bread & Butter
Coffee
Ice Cream

No Cover

No Minimum

BOYLAN & BEALS
BEAUTIFUL BEANERY



FROM FEB. 1950



Lt Col T H Watkins, our former Air Instructor, has been assigned to Kindley AFB Bermuda. The Army's biggest distillery has been dismantled for shipment to Kindley as well. But have no fear that the latter will have any ill effect on the colonel, because the distillery will be used to refine sea water into drinking water, a precious and none too plentiful commodity on the Island.

The Post Theater has not been able as yet to book 'Stromboli'.

At first glance it sounded like just what we were waiting for. 'Flying School' open to Air Guardsmen! read the headline. But perusal of the requirements disclosed that only one man, Lt Les Laurin, Weather CO, is eligible from this base. Oh well, we can just keep on dreaming.

BACKNOTES

Two Holyoke Legion Posts are to be commended on their choice of officers. Both have selected Airguardsmen as Commanders, namely; Capt Leonard Murphy, EngO of Det 1, and S/Sgt John Kurnik of Fighter.

In Georgia, Guardsmen and Reservists are exempt from paying street (poll) tax. Naturally, we think that this is a very good idea. Mass legislators please note.

In case there is anybody on the base who did not see the last issue of the 202d Air Service Group Journal, our airplane inspection, M/Sgt Don Gaunt was the cover boy. His picture was accompanied by the thrilling story of his life.

Of especial interest to Eighth AF veterans: The picture '12 O'Clock High' is about the 8th's activities and should bring back interesting recollections. 'Battleground' has been recommended, too.

The medical insurance which the ATD has in effect, has just issued a new provision which caused chuckles. The waiting period of twelve months for maternity coverage is no longer required for newlyweds.

Don Manchester, chief umbrella man from the parachute section, flew Al Willey of Operations up to Portland, Maine, last Monday to attend a funeral. From the time they got there until this writing, it has snowed constantly. See you after Spring thaw, fellows, have a good time in Maine.

If you want to get the lowdown on the National Guard, check with the very good article on same in the February 'Coronet'.

Since the article on Page 2 on B-26's was printed, several engineering personnel from both Utility and Fighter took issue with any and all aspersions cast on the speedy Douglas 'Invader'. 'Good plane! Less trouble than most', they say.

DRILL SCHEDULE CHANGED

File this under 'Decisions, Revision and Other Decisions':

Headquarters was notified that we must change our drill schedule as announced in a previous THUNDERBOLT, to the schedule shown below, to coincide with that of the other units in the group:

March	15	
	19 (Sunday)	
	22	
April	12	
	16 (Sunday)	
	26	

CVE OUT
KEEP IN
BELL-FOU

The AirScoop is a product of the 104th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

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Massachusetts Air National Guard

104th Fighter Wing

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