

AirScoop



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



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/104fw



@104fw



@104thfighterwing

From the 104th Communications Squadron, Director of Operations

To all 104 FW Airmen and the Local Community,

We'd like to start by saying it has been our honor to not only support the communications requirements of the Airmen here at the 104 FW by means of the day-to-day Information Technology (IT) assistance and all new communications construction planning for the multitude of projects currently in progress here at Barnes, but also the support that the 104 CS Airmen consistently provides to the local community.

In 2026, the 104 CS provided real-world Joint Incident Site Communications Capabilities (JISCC) that included phone, radio and internet services to the MARNG and local/state police for both the Boston Marathon and the Charles River Fourth of July Esplanade. This support ensured continuous and reliable first responder communications functions that helped to ensure the safety of the over 500,000 spectators that attended each event.

Additionally, our 104 CS Airmen participated in the annual Cyber Yankee joint-training exercise hosted by the CT National Guard at Camp Net for two weeks in May 2026. This year's event hosted over 360 personnel from the National Guard of six states, the Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, international partners from eight countries and ten private industry companies. This training was focused on the prevention of civilian critical infrastructure cyber-attacks and allowed for 104 CS Airmen to gain invaluable cyber-threat-defense experience in a training environment with federal agencies and private utilities prior to a real-world cyber-attack.

These are just a few of the things that the 104 CS has been participating in as of late. As Airmen of the 104 CS, we pride ourselves on always putting customers first, remaining curious with regards to seeking innovative IT solutions to problems, and a "get-to-yes" mindset when it comes to our communications support both on and off base.

Sincerely,
Major James Ingari
104 CS/Director of Operations



— Mission Statement —

Forge combat-ready Airmen prepared to defend our Nation and employ lethal F-35 airpower

— Vision Statement —

To be America's premier combat wing - projecting decisive, unrelenting airpower across the spectrum of joint warfare

— Wing Priorities —

**| Develop elite Airmen | Optimize readiness and lethality |
| Strengthen partnerships | Drive continuous improvement |**

104th Fighter Wing leadership marks the new F-35 era in Fort Worth

Story by Tech. Sgt. Leilani Peltz

Photos by Chris Hanoch

BARNES AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Westfield, Mass. — Key leaders from the 104th Fighter Wing traveled to Lockheed Martin's production facility in Fort Worth, Texas, May 27 to sign the fuselage bulkhead for one of the wing's first F-35A Lightning II aircraft. The milestone begins the chapter of a new story for the Wing.

The assembly building is more than a mile long and up to 155 jets can be on the production line at once. One F-35 takes 18 months to produce from start to finish.

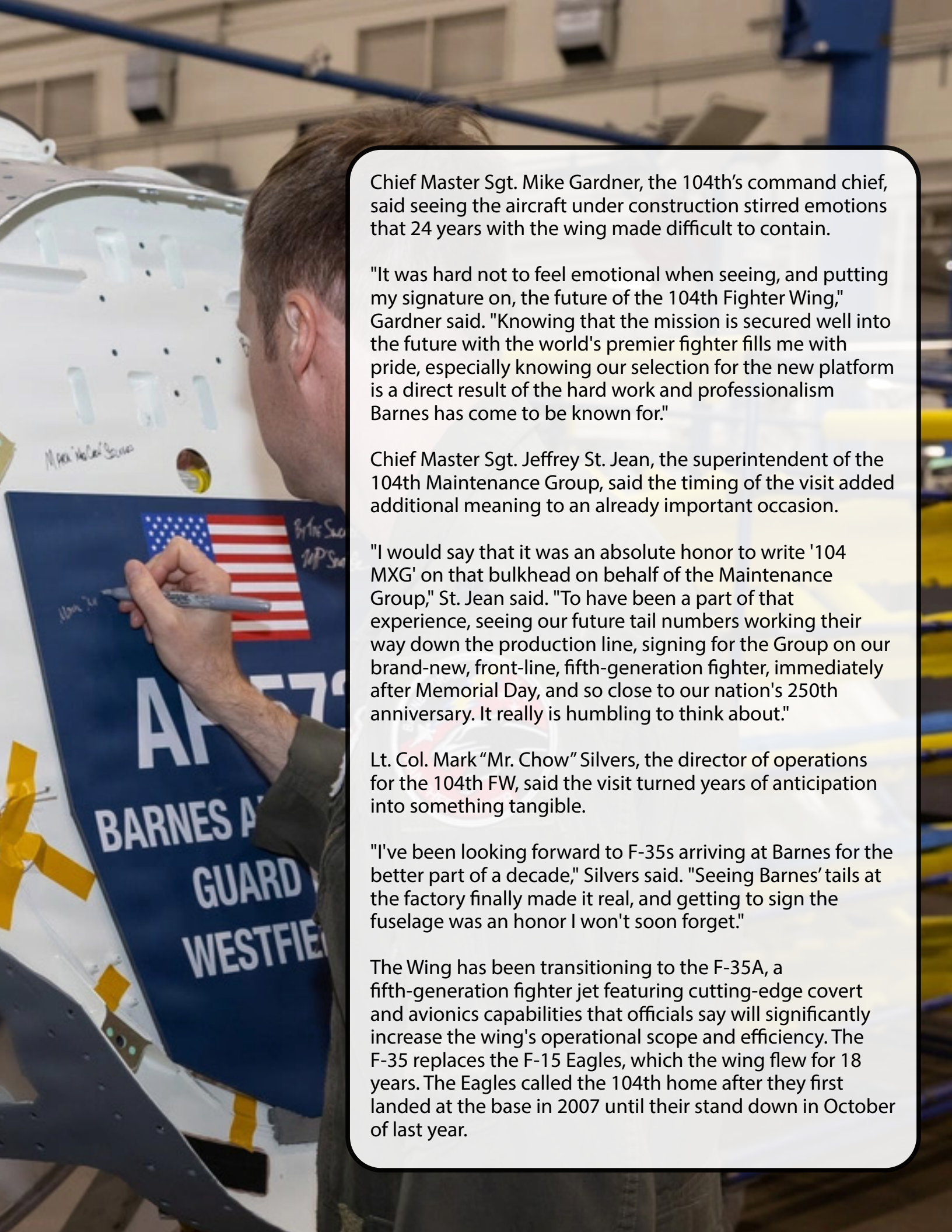
Signing a part of the pre-assembled aircraft is a tradition that allows a unit to leave its mark while the build is still taking place on the assembly line, while also providing a firsthand look at the future jets progressing through production. For those in attendance, the meaning of the moment extended far past the production floor.

"The mission's coming home," said Maj. Brian "Brass" Burke, an F-35 fighter pilot and unit conversion officer with the 104th FW.

Col. Michael "Shot" Glass, commander of the 104th FW, felt the experience to be both grounding and defining.

"Signing the F-35 fuselage bulkhead at Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth was an amazing experience, and it marks a pivotal moment for the wing as we prepare to welcome our first F-35 jets," Glass said. "This solidifies the future of our wing and our dedication to excellence and readiness. I was incredibly honored and humbled to have gotten the opportunity to sign the jet knowing that the F-35A Lightning II will enhance both our mission capabilities and our commitment to protecting our nation."





Chief Master Sgt. Mike Gardner, the 104th's command chief, said seeing the aircraft under construction stirred emotions that 24 years with the wing made difficult to contain.

"It was hard not to feel emotional when seeing, and putting my signature on, the future of the 104th Fighter Wing," Gardner said. "Knowing that the mission is secured well into the future with the world's premier fighter fills me with pride, especially knowing our selection for the new platform is a direct result of the hard work and professionalism Barnes has come to be known for."

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey St. Jean, the superintendent of the 104th Maintenance Group, said the timing of the visit added additional meaning to an already important occasion.

"I would say that it was an absolute honor to write '104 MXG' on that bulkhead on behalf of the Maintenance Group," St. Jean said. "To have been a part of that experience, seeing our future tail numbers working their way down the production line, signing for the Group on our brand-new, front-line, fifth-generation fighter, immediately after Memorial Day, and so close to our nation's 250th anniversary. It really is humbling to think about."

Lt. Col. Mark "Mr. Chow" Silvers, the director of operations for the 104th FW, said the visit turned years of anticipation into something tangible.

"I've been looking forward to F-35s arriving at Barnes for the better part of a decade," Silvers said. "Seeing Barnes' tails at the factory finally made it real, and getting to sign the fuselage was an honor I won't soon forget."

The Wing has been transitioning to the F-35A, a fifth-generation fighter jet featuring cutting-edge covert and avionics capabilities that officials say will significantly increase the wing's operational scope and efficiency. The F-35 replaces the F-15 Eagles, which the wing flew for 18 years. The Eagles called the 104th home after they first landed at the base in 2007 until their stand down in October of last year.

HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



Multi-day Emergency Decon. Course



Injured Kestrel is Rescued



Communications Training

HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS



Enlisted Member Commissions

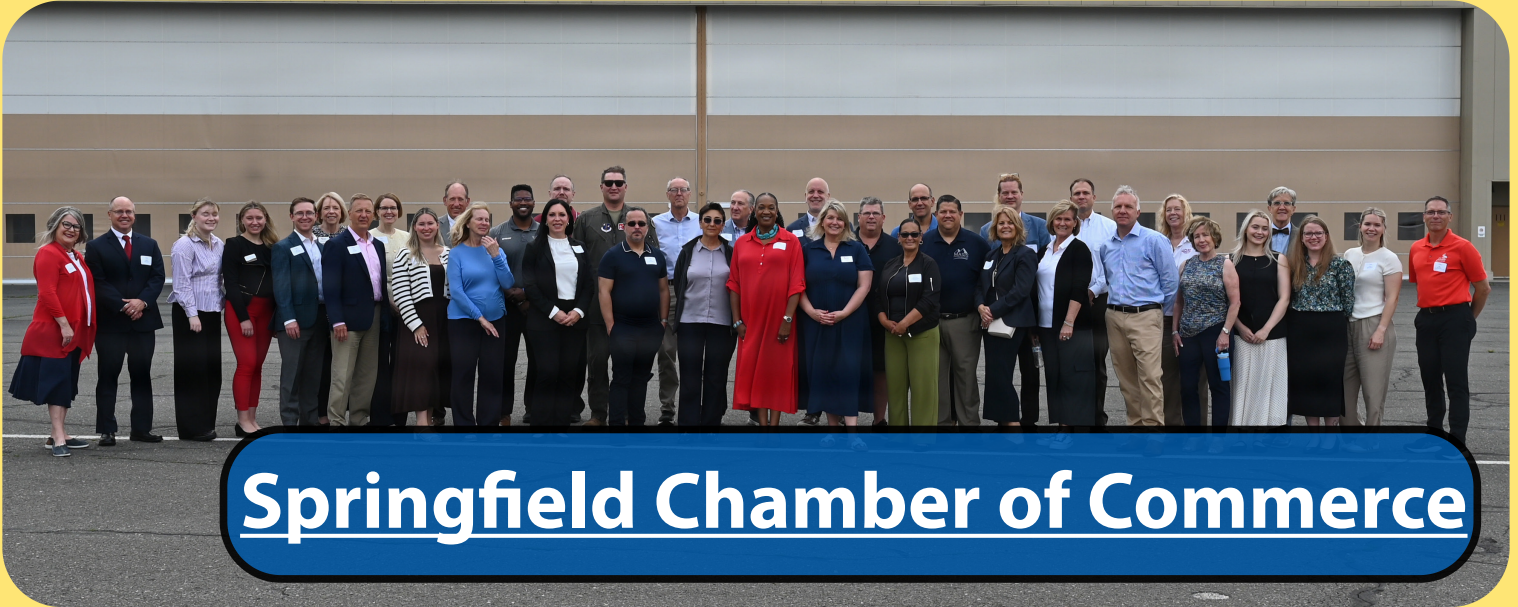


CMSGT Buell Retires



Walker Promotion

BARNESTORMER COMMUNITY



New Recruits

**We're proud to continue sending
new Air National Guard recruits to
Basic Military Training each
month in Texas. Best of luck as
you begin this exciting journey.
We'll see you soon!**

**Spencer Bates
Cameron
Bousquet
Elvis Brito
Frank Sclar
Aiden Walsh**

Aim High!



It's time to have some fun in the sun. The 101 Critical Days of Summer focuses on preventing the annual spikes in injuries and accidents between Memorial Day through Labor Day.

These accidents not only impact individuals and their families, but also mission readiness and force lethality.

Please review the Summer Safety Checklist and enjoy your time off this summer safely!

101 Critical Days of Summer Safety Checklist

Sun Safety

- ☐ Limit your sun exposure between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm
- ☐ Get some sun-protective clothing
- ☐ Wear a hat and sunglasses with UV ray protection
- ☐ Replace any sweat-saturated items with dry clothing
- ☐ Apply sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15
- ☐ Apply sunscreen on both sunny and cloudy days
- ☐ Apply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating



Heat Safety

- ☐ Reduce the intensity of activities 15 minutes or longer in length
- ☐ Make sure you are well-hydrated
- ☐ Limit outdoor physical activity in a place with a warmer climate
- ☐ Allow your body to acclimate to the change in temperature



Pool Safety

- ☐ Never leave a child unsupervised in or near a pool or spa
- ☐ Teach children 4 and older to swim
- ☐ Avoid inflatable swimming aids such as "floaties"
- ☐ If possible, install a 4ft tall or higher fence around all sides of the pool
- ☐ Do not use a pool or spa if there are broken or missing drain covers
- ☐ Do not dive in less than nine feet of water
- ☐ Always employ a feet-first entry
- ☐ Be aware of sandbars



Protect Against Bugs

- ☐ Use insect repellents to guard against ticks
- ☐ Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants when going outside
- ☐ Never leave stagnant pools of water around the house
- ☐ Avoid using scented soaps or perfumes



Safety on the Road

- ☐ Driving and texting don't mix
- ☐ Never drink and drive
- ☐ Plan your outing...know the area and pack accordingly
- ☐ Perform a vehicle check-up
- ☐ Slow down...enjoy the drive
- ☐ Get a good night's sleep the night prior and take frequent rest stops
- ☐ Keep emergency supplies in your vehicle



Fire Safety

- ☐ Never use gasoline to start a BBQ grill or campfire
- ☐ BBQ grills are meant for outdoor use only
- ☐ Ensure charcoal is cool and completely out before disposing
- ☐ Hot surfaces are not limited to cooking surfaces
- ☐ Build campfires in appropriate areas
- ☐ Ensure campfires are completely out before leaving



HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

A REGULAR COLUMN BY KINDA-HISTORIAN MELANIE J. CASINEAU

Access to the World Wide Web

- article from July 1996 AirScoop

By MSgt. Paul Braudis Jr. LAN Manager

With more and more requests coming to the Communications Help Desk for access to the World Wide Web (WWW) it is becoming more and more important for the Communications Flight to monitor access to the Internet. We have established a system in the Help Desk for members of the 104 Fighter Wing to use if they have an official need to access the WWW.

There are several issues to take into account before we implement WWW access throughout the base. The major concerns are how to implement it, how to control it, and what impact will it have on our users of the mainframe to access CAMS, supply, personnel, AFORMS, civilian pay, etc.

The question of implementation refers to the cost of web browsers and the base line system required for acceptable performance. Controlling access is a major concern at this point. Government owned systems are for official use only and we are closely monitored by our internet provider, Hanscom AFB.

Until such time as we can establish a method of accountability we need to closely monitor our web access.

The third issue that needs to be addressed is to ensure our mission critical systems do not suffer with the implementation of web browsers. This issue will be discussed further by the Small Computer working Group and further guidance will be provided as our implementation plan is developed.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Communications Help Desk via E-Mail at HELP@SC@104FW or call ext 1204.

article from July 1996 AirScoop

