

Long awaited: Active Airmen arrive at 173rd FW

Story by

Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. -- After years of preparation the base just welcomed the first of more than 80 active-duty Airmen swelling the ranks at the 173rd Fighter Wing, in early November.

The Total Force Initiative, which has largely been confined to commander's calls and power point slides and briefings for everyone from the Southern Oregon Congressional Delegation to the adjutant general, is now real.

The first maintainer to set foot on Kingsley Field proper was Senior Airman Sandra Gudino who visited in late October while on leave from Nel-



Senior Airman Sandra Gudino, a newly arrived active-duty Airman, works with Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hood, 173rd Fighter Wing Engine Shop, on her 2nd day of work at Kingsley Field, Dec. 3, 2014. More than 80 Airmen are scheduled to join the ranks of Kingsley Air National Guard Base before the fall of 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

lis Air Force Base, Nev. She said that while perusing the Assignment Management System she saw the 173rd as an option and volunteered. That was three months ago and today is her

second day on the job.

"I'm really excited," said Gudino. "I hopefully can just be a sponge from

(Continues on page 3)

Incoming Commander introduces himself to Wing



*Letter from Col. Kirk "Tick" Pierce,
Incoming 173rd Fighter Wing Commander*

As I attend my first drill weekend as an Oregon guardsman, I look forward to meeting and getting to know you over the next few months. All of you, Airman and civilian, have a well-deserved reputation for

providing selfless service to our Nation and the state of Oregon. I am extremely proud and honored to join you as a member of this great wing.

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**Assumption of Command Ceremony:
Saturday, Jan. 10, at 1 p.m. in the base theater**

Incoming Commander lays out vision, road ahead

(Continued from front page)

As I assume command of the 173rd Fighter Wing, it is humbling to follow in the footsteps of Col. Jeremy “Weed” Baenen, an exceptional leader. While it will take some time to meet everyone in the wing, I’d like to take this opportunity to provide a snapshot of my command philosophy and vision for the 173rd.

I firmly believe that command is a sacred responsibility. Furthermore, I believe in the Air Force’s core values and that they start with integrity for a reason. My responsibility is to foster an atmosphere that empowers honesty and emphasizes professional standards. To this end, I expect each of you to tell me the truth, give your best effort every day, and never accept compromise when it comes to our core values. I demand you hold me to the same high standard. As the “Land of No Slack”, I know you will.

My vision for the 173rd Fighter Wing is simple; emphasize the mission, people, and future. As the ANG and the Air Force face significant fiscal challenges and uncertainty, we must ensure the wing is prepared for current and future operations, focused on providing superior support and care to Airman and their families, and infused with a sense of confidence in who we are and where we are going.

My primary charge is to keep the wing trained and ready to execute assigned federal and state missions. Each mission is too important to risk

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-- Col. Kirk “Tick” Pierce,
173rd Fighter Wing Commander

failure due to a slip in leadership focus. To this end, I will meet with our frontline supervisors, the Senior NCOs, to learn more about the issues that impact the enlisted force’s ability to focus on the mission. These engagements will help concentrate my efforts to identify and remove obstacles to mission accomplishment. I do not accept mission failure excuses that start with “because I did not have...” I will foster proactive

supervisors who recognize shortfalls early, try to solve them, and failing that, I welcome sentences that start with, “we will fail unless you, Col. Pierce...”

The strength and future of every wing resides in its Airman and civilians without which the mission will fail. I strongly believe the Air National Guard must develop flexible, adaptive, and resilient Airman that are prepared to meet the challenges confronting the total force. It is my responsibility to foster a culture where Airman are not only subject matter experts in their assigned AFSC, but also have meaningful opportunity to engage in professional development, gain mentoring as they work through the ranks, and have clear, direct feedback in regard to their job performance. Additionally, there must be commitment at all levels to support the families of our Airman and sustained engagement with their civilian employers. Airmen can meet and overcome almost any adversity when they are confident that the wing supports them, their family, and their employer.

Finally, I’ll strive to help each individual in the 173rd know their contributions are important and to take pride in the wing’s accomplishments. If I can help each Airman think of the mission first and understand the consequences of their decisions on others in the wing, then the 173rd Fighter Wing will have an unlimited future. To those I hope to serve - the Airman and civilians in the 173rd—I am eager to assume the responsibility of command.

TFI Airmen arrivals began in Winter 2014

(Continued from front page)

everybody here, because collectively they probably have hundreds of years of experience.”

For her it is also an opportunity to learn operations in the back-shop, where engines are broken down to their basic parts and rebuilt to perform at their peak. At Nellis, this function was contracted precluding her from gaining any experience as enlisted Airmen only work the flightline.

Another troop, Staff Sgt. Sean Long, stepped into the egress shop, Nov. 4. He PCS'd to Klamath Falls from Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City, South Dakota and is converting to the F-15C from the B-1 Bomber.

After five-and-a-half years there he wanted a change and volunteered for this assignment. His first impression was that life at an Air National Guard base is different.

“It is a little bit more relaxed,” he said. “You’ve got guys here that have worked together for 15 or 20 years, and everybody kind of knows everybody.”

He says the guard base is a close-knit group and at the outset he’s enjoying the camaraderie and a warm welcome.



Staff Sgt. Sean Long, a newly arrived Airman, discusses the differences between egress seats for the B-1 Bomber and the F-15C with Airman 1st Class Cayman Graham. Long joined the ranks of Kingsley Field after five years at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., where he worked on egress systems for the B-1 Bomber, and brings a new perspective as that airframe is specific to the active component at this time. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

“I’m really excited ... I hopefully can just be a sponge from everybody here, because collectively they probably have hundreds of years of experience.”

-- Senior Airman Sandra Gudino,
Active-duty Airman on her first
impressions of working at a Guard base

TFI illustrates difficulty in 'breaking new trail'



Lt. Col. Chris "Griz" Clark (top) conducts a formal inbrief for more than 25 active-duty Airmen recently arrived at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 17, 2014. Current plans call for the this Total Force Integration to remain here at Kingsley Field until the F-15C is retired from the inventory, possibly as far out as 2040. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

Story by
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson
173rd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. -- "Welcome to Kingsley!" A refrain years in the making welcomes active-duty troops to a small base in Southern Oregon.

After more than two years of intense planning and preparation Airmen arrived at Kingsley Field in early November. Now it seems the real work begins, during the last two years planners tried to anticipate their every need, but you can't anticipate everything.

Case-in-point, many Airmen are arriving from warm climates like Las

Vegas and didn't own cold weather gear. Kingsley sits on the high desert and it's not unusual to see snow in September, so it's a fundamental piece of gear for every Airman, especially maintenance troops.

"We have cold weather clothing but as a guard base we can't issue it to active-duty troops," said Maj. Shana Stroh, the 173rd Fighter Wing Comptroller.

She goes on to say that with a concerted effort they were able to quickly craft an agreement with parent unit Luke Air Force Base to reimburse us for the clothing and properly equip arriving Airmen.

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New Wing IG Shop

Commentary by
Lt. Col. Miguel Chabolla,
Director of Complaint Resolution

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.-

During the September UTA, the 173rd Fighter Wing experienced the first Unit Effectiveness



Inspection as part of the new Air Force Inspection System. Among the many changes this AFIS brings are the implementation of the Commander's Inspection Program and a significant reorganization of the Inspector General shop.

Previously the IG was a single Drill Status Guardsman who handled complaint resolution and oversaw the inspections program with some help from other designated Airmen. Now the IG shop consists of the Director of Inspections (IGI), currently Lt. Col. Robert "Scoff" Mitchell and a staff of about 35 Airmen, and the Director of Complaint Resolution (IGQ), myself, Lt. Col. Miguel Chabolla.

The IGI office is located in building 223 (LRS/Comm) room 112-phone 885-2442. The IGQ office remains in building 231 (Public Affairs). The IGQ continues to be a DSG and can be seen during UTA by appointment, and can otherwise be contacted via email at miguel.chabolla@ang.af.mil or by voice mail at 885-6668.

For more information regarding the Inspections and Complaint Resolution Programs contact the IGQ or visit the 173rd Fighter Wing Sharepoint IG tab.

First active-duty arrivals get acquainted with 173rd FW



Top: Lt. Col. Chris "Griz" Clark, the new active-duty detachment commander, conducts a formal inbrief for active-duty troops who recently arrived at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 17, 2014. The brief was significant because assembled in the room are the very first active-duty troops to serve side-by-side with Kingsley Field troops in Oregon Air Guard history. Most of them are on two to three year tours, but this active association will remain at Kingsley as long as the F-15C aircraft is here. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)



Left: Lt. Col. Chris Clark assumes command of Det. 2, 56th Operations Group, Luke AFB, Ariz., a unit recently created in a Total Force Initiative at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 5, 2014. Although the ceremony making it official took place then, Clark arrived on the base in September and has busily pursued getting the active-duty detachment up and running ever since. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

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Climbing over the first hurdle naturally reveals ... more hurdles.

"We belong to 56th Operations Group which is 1,000 miles away, so therefore Beale [Air Force Base,

Calif.] is the closest FSF servicing base, but our leave is worked through McChord AFB, [Wash.]," said Chris "Griz" Clark, the Det. 2, 56th Operations Group commander at Kingsley. "So you've got the 173rd Fighter Wing, Beale, McChord, and Luke

all trying to figure out something as simple as leave for our members."

That is true for the simple things and perhaps more so for the complicated ones. Clark mentions a running list of which issues he and others are working through.

"... WAPS testing, right now Beale is acting as our test control folks," he said, "and how we're going to process and write OPRs and EPRs—we write them here but then they go to the Operations Group at Luke, but they will get processed at the Beale FSF. The financial piece gets real complicated such as how our official phones are going to be reimbursed."

He says the solutions to these growing pains are forthcoming through good communication and teamwork between all parties from National Guard Bureau to Luke Air Force Base, to the 173rd Fighter Wing and that this is laying the groundwork for future operations.

"TFI is the way of the future for the military ... we are not the same size as we were in the early 70s and early 80s by a factor of 50-percent, there were 750,000 people in the Air Force in the late 70s and today there is somewhere between 313,000 to 310,000 give or take, so less than half," says Clark.

In that landscape this partnership between the Air National Guard and the active Air Force helps bridge the gap between smaller budgets and manpower allocations and needed fighter pilot production.

"It's very invigorating, this is the first active association for the F-15C in the Air Force," said Clark. "It's also helpful that everyone is excited about it."

Kingsley Airman conducts special Veterans Day flight

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Master Sgt. Dave Junker provided a highlight to Veteran's Day ceremonies by performing a flyover in his vintage WWII aircraft with a combat veteran of WWII, John Boehm.

The day started with Boehm arriving at Pelican Aviation at the Klamath Falls Airport where he described to Junker his years in WWII. *(A fascinating story that spanned nearly all of the war; for more information see sidebar article on next page ~Ed.)*

Then Boehm and Junker stepped to the 70-year-old aircraft and taxied south in preparation for the flyover. Though 92-years-of-age, the veteran showed little concern for the chilling wind and the somewhat physical climb up onto the wing and into the rear cockpit.

"I've had far younger people struggle a lot more getting into the back seat," said Junker in a testament to the man's physical condition.

The aircraft itself is a Fairchild 1943 PT-19 B, or in layman's terms a WWII trainer aircraft designed to help pilots learn to fly the powerful single wing fighters of the day. The aircraft is named Now or Never and began service at Fort Stockton Army Air Field, Texas which is east of El Paso in remote West Texas.

The name, from the previous owner, is depicted on the aircraft with a sweating duck and refers to the somewhat universal experience Army Air Corps Pilots had climbing into an aircraft for the first time when flight was a young science. In those days crashes were commonplace and not everyone who took off had the same



Top: Master Sgt. Dave Junker, an Airman at the 173rd Fighter Wing, helps John Boehm into a vintage WWII aircraft for a flight over Veteran's Day celebrations in downtown Klamath Falls, Ore., Nov. 11, 2014. Junker owns and pilots the PT-19 trainer aircraft, named "Now or Never", which is more than 70 years-of-age.

Right: The WWII era craft and its cargo lift off for a flyover in near freezing temperatures, made more so by the somewhat open nature of the cockpit. Junker remarked that he was glad to get back on the ground and usually doesn't fly in temperatures under 50-degrees, but was excited to have the opportunity to fly a veteran who had given so much for his country.

number of landings.

Junker bought the aircraft in 2006 and she retains the luster of a new aircraft; a testament to maintenance and T.L.C.

The plane is constructed mainly of wood and fabric—cotton originally. Junker describes how cotton cloth much like t-shirt material was wrapped around wooden wing spars and painted with "dope" which shrinks the cotton and creates an airtight seal. This makes the aircraft light and it requires only a 200-horsepower, 6-cylinder engine to drive it, two passengers, and up to 40-pounds of luggage into the sky.

Junker says aside from his longstanding interest in aviation he bought Now or Never to fly in airshows and more than anything as a way to meet and commiserate with veterans like



Boehm. He's flown more than 10 veterans of WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam conflict.

"Every one of these gentlemen have a story; every one of them are very humble," says Junker. "I'm not sure what it is about the plane that makes them open up to me but even their families have never heard many of their experiences.

"This is to capture their stories and keep them alive and pass them on to the next because their sacrifice made us who we are today, and pro-

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Klamath veteran's service spanned most of WWII



Story by

Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Sitting in an office chair, wearing a veteran of foreign wars hat with small pins denoting the countries he campaigned in to include Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Italy, France, Germany and finally Austria, John Boehm recounts the path that made him a veteran.

It began mere weeks after the United States declared war on Germany, Dec. 7, 1942 when his draft card arrived.

He found himself North Africa chasing Rommel, in what he calls "sandy country with a warm climate ranging between 120-130 degrees with a high of 142." He said they marched slowly and when he began to see black spots swimming in his vision he took shelter under a truck to keep from passing out like many of his fellow Soldiers.

He mentions in passing that his unit was usually in contact with the enemy, but as he talks of his long and treacherous road through the war he chooses certain battles that stick out in his mind.

Boehm remembers trying to capture a small mountain occupied by



Left: John Boehm at 92 years-of-age still retains much of his vigor, Junker remarked after helping him into the cockpit he's seen people of middle age who had a much harder time getting into a space designed for young, athletic pilots in the 1940s. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

Top Right: Boehm describes, without visible emotion, wading between dead bodies upon landing on Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion. In addition to participating in this most famous battle of WWII he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, which many say is nearly as notorious. (Public domain photo courtesy Google Images)

German forces and fighting for three days with little to show for it when a young Arkansas private forced their surrender without firing a shot. He'd located the waterline sustaining the German troops and suggested cutting it off. Within a day the Germans walked off the mountain waving white flags and that private was meritoriously promoted to sergeant, said Boehm.

Next stop: Sicily and Italy, where they traded the arid desert for nearly constant rain—at one point recording 72-days-straight. With heavy equipment mired in mud preventing resupply, he relates that Gen. Patton's

Airman flies WWII vet, honors service

(Continued from previous page)

vided the privileges we get to abuse today," he says the last with a sardonic grin. He elaborates by saying he can't relate to what these men went through.

In Boehm's case it was three major campaigns that included some of the bloodiest battles including the D-Day invasion at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. He flew another veteran of WWII who survived the Bataan Death March in the Philippine Islands, and another who hadn't seen a PT-19 since he flew one as a raw Army Air Corps pilot-in-training.

Junker says he hasn't had an opportunity to compile all the experiences yet, but when he retires he'll fly more and possibly put it all in writing—maybe for publication?

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WWII Vets says it was 'hot, wet and cold'

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orders included scavenging weapons, ammunition, and food from fallen Germans. He laughs and says "he also said that if you find something to drink go ahead and drink it 'because my men can fight better if they're drinkin' than if they're sober...'"

But a sober, wet, cold experience it remained and Boehm remarked that "I slept in haystacks and corn shocks and of course they were all wet," he said. "We were told to stay out of all buildings."

He'd long for those days in the weeks ahead where he and his unit visited the infamous Normandy Beach. "There was boys laying there just as thick as could be; we had to wade between dead men to get to the shore." He survived that famously exposed beach only to suffer a catastrophic explosion in a tank just off Omaha Beach which killed three of his crew and left him and another Soldier critically injured.

He was transported to the nearest field hospital back in North Africa where he describes his back giving him tremendous pain, although again the worst was just around the corner. This time, enormous red fire ants with a taste for plaster of paris invaded his neck-to-waist cast and indiscriminately ate plaster and Boehm. After his screams of pain and anger went unheeded he and a fellow patient cut his cast off with a pocket knife, thereby hastening his road to recovery.

Boehm did recover and went to a unit where Soldiers waited to backfill units in need and here the resourcefulness of the greatest generation resurfaced. He realized he would return to combat with strangers and so he took



Like these Soldiers taking cover in a snowy foxhole during the Battle of the Bulge, Boehm experienced below freezing temperatures for days at a time. This period stands in stark contrast to the heat of North Africa where he experienced a high of 142-degrees. (Public domain photo courtesy Google Images)

matters into his own hands. He went AWOL and stowed away, albeit with plausible deniability on the part of the pilot, on a France-bound aircraft and began hitchhiking across the war-torn country. Three weeks later he arrived back at his unit.

The story continues, but the point Boehm makes here after briefly mentioning fighting at the Battle of the Bulge is that his time in WWII was three things: hot, wet, and finally cold. After moving into Germany and finally Austria his time in the war ended but not without one final adventure. The ship carrying him and his fellow Soldiers home was called a Liberty Ship, one of 2,710 churned out in less than four years between

1941 and 1945, and sporting a reputation in Boehm's words as designed to cross the Atlantic just once and then fall apart. At any rate this ship was destined to make the return journey and after hitting a ferocious storm actually began to break apart after three days of 40-foot waves washed over it. Crews wielding welders worked to keep it together, and they did.

However, when the ship arrived in back in the states, Boehm said he was so relieved to be back on terra firma he walked off the ship and kissed the ground. To hear him tell the story he was more afraid during the trip home than in the three campaigns he fought through.

New Allotment rules protect Guardmembers

Story courtesy
DoD News,
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON -- Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has directed a policy change in new paycheck allotments to prevent unscrupulous commercial lenders from taking advantage of troops and their families, Pentagon officials said today.

According to a Defense Department news release effective Jan. 1, 2015, the change in DoD's Financial Management Regulation will prohibit service members from allotting pay to buy, lease or rent personal property, a senior DoD official said.

According to the release, this policy change will eliminate that aspect of the allotment system most prone to abuse by unscrupulous lenders that prey on service members.

This will significantly improve protections for all service members and their families, while not significantly reducing the flexibility to use allotments for a number of legitimate purposes, the release reported.

DoD officials said that while existing allotments are not affected, service members will no longer be able to make allotments for the following types of purchases:

-- Vehicles, such as automobiles, motorcycles and boats;

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Col Baenen leaves 173rd in good stead



Col. Jeremy "Weed" Baenen welcomes a cold blast of water upon stepping to the tarmac following his last flight in the F-15 Eagle shortly before his retirement ceremony, Nov. 21, 2014. The dousing is part of the traditional *fini flight* for pilots upon their last flight in an aircraft. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

Story by
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. -- 173rd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Jeremy Baenen retired Nov. 21, during a ceremony at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Baenen assumed command Jan. 13, 2013 and guided the wing through a time of tremendous change including the addition of active-duty Airmen to the mission with the Total Force Integration. Under his leadership, Kingsley welcomed 14 more aircraft to the ramp for an historic total-authorized 32 airframes.

He implemented an expanded mission while sequestration slashed budgets across the Department of Defense and the Air National Guard.

"I want to thank you all for allowing me to work for you," said Baenen. "I'm walking out really satisfied with things."

He leaves the 173rd Fighter Wing poised to fly and train more new pilots than ever before but it was not without

numerous hurdles.

"We've had tremendous challenges here in the last few years and you've heard about some of it from sequestration to layoffs to the TFI...new sims and a UEI inspection which you got a 'highly effective' on, and really that's a credit to the entire wing," he said summing up the last two years.

His service spans 26 years including his time at the Air Force Academy.

Baenen notes that over those years he made a point to ask retiring Airmen what the most important things were they would like to pass along to the remaining troops. In his final remarks Baenen passed along what he called the distillation of more than 400 years of military experience.

His points: don't let anyone limit your humor or your happiness, balance family and work, there is no defense for a well-executed barrel roll, and finally—do what you know is right.

His last gesture as commander was to salute the assembled audience with the words, "I'd like to just leave you with a salute to our troops, God bless you all and good luck in the future."

Santa finds a way to visit Kingsley children despite closed hangar

Story by

**Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. -- When Tech. Sgt. Paul Grabke, the Junior Enlisted Council President, learned the annual Children's Christmas Carnival was cancelled this year due to construction on the main hangar he decided to organize an alternative.

"To me it was the right thing to do, we can't necessarily do something for the older kids but for the little kids who look forward to seeing Santa, let's do something for them," Grabke said.

He visited with Skip Fuller, an assistant fire chief, who said the firefighters would love to host Santa so the Kingsley children could visit him.

Santa arrived in a bright red fire

engine, every surface gleaming, and more than 100 children took photos with him.

There was a table of cookies and firefighters hosted a bean bag toss as well. After giving Santa their wish list, the kids could climb into one of the ready engines and see what it feels like to grab the oversized steering wheel under the watchful eye of a firefighter.

Grabke is very happy with the turnout and wanted to extend a thank

you to everyone who helped bring it about.

"Whatever the base needs, there is always a group of people ready to roll their sleeves up and help out," he said. "It's always appreciated."



Firefighters welcomed Santa to their firehouse as an alternative to the Annual Children's Christmas carnival, which was cancelled due to hangar construction for 2014, Dec. 7. Santa arrived via an aptly painted red and white firehouse engine and took photos with each of the children who wanted one. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Condit)

Airman & Family Readiness: Christmas stockings for base children

Thanks to Operation Home Front and generous community support the 173rd Fighter Wing Airmen and Family Readiness Office collected enough toys to fill more than 350 Christmas stockings for military children at Kingsley Field. They sent the stockings home with parents over the December Unit Training Assembly, Dec. 6-7, 2014. Operation Home Front contacted the base in the fall to provide school supplies last summer and in November asked if they could supply Christmas toys for stockings as well. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar)



SEE THE VIDEO STORY! [CLICK HERE](#)

Spaghetti fundraiser helps Kingsley families



Senior Master Sgt. Neil Niesner loads a plate with pasta during a spaghetti fundraiser sponsored by the Airman and Family Readiness Center at Kingsley Field, Ore., Nov. 18, 2014. A soon to retire Col. Jeremy Baenen, the 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, through the end of the week, stands ready to receive the plate after donating to the cause. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

173rd donates to Salvation Army



Airman 1st Class Crystallynn Judkins, Airman and Family Readiness Center, helps load donated gifts from the members of the 173rd Fighter Wing to the Salvation Army of Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 16, 2014. The Salvation Army will distribute the gifts to needy recipients over the Christmas holiday. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

Kingsley supports annual downtown Snowflake Parade



The 173rd Security Forces Squadron drove a float and some more equipment, such as this modified all-terrain vehicle piloted by Senior Airman James Lockrem through the Snowflake Parade, Dec. 4, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

New PII tool arrives to all AF inboxes

Story courtesy
24th Air Force Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas -- The Digital Signature Enforcement Tool is scheduled for Air Force-wide integration Dec. 5, providing Microsoft Outlook email users with an interactive, automated virtual assistant to help ensure the security of personally identifiable information

“I can’t overstate the operational importance of preventing PII breaches,” said Maj. Gen. B. Edwin Wilson, commander of 24th Air Force and Air Forces Cyber.

“It’s not an IT problem, it’s a Total Force problem and DSET is an effective tool the Total Force can use, right now, to help reduce inadvertent PII breaches.”

Beyond potential identity theft, PII breaches can lead to significant compromises in operational security. For example, a well-meaning member working to meet an operational deadline sends an unencrypted email, containing PII on several unit members, to a “non .mil” email account. The sender could be attempting to get ahead on a project or be providing a status update to unit members on pending unit movements. Unknown to the sender, hackers have compromised email transport infrastructure between the sender’s desktop and one of the destination, “non .mil” desktops. Hackers intercepting this unencrypted email traffic can utilize the newly acquired

personal information to form specifically targeted attacks, known as spear phishing, to acquire additional information such as account numbers or passwords. Unfortunately the attack does not stop there. Once an attacker has acquired enough information, he can simulate user accounts or even pass off communications on behalf of the service member, who is likely still unaware that his information has been compromised. Those false communications could be leveraged to gain digital access to Air Force systems, or even physical access to installations and personnel. Obviously, the

use of the tool, and version 1.6.1 is definitely ready for Air Force-wide usage.”

DSET is regarded as a short-term fix to help all Air Force network users protect PII, specifically if that information is to be included in an email communication. DSET 1.6.1 still only scans for PII in the form of social security numbers, leaving overall responsibility on the user to safeguard the sensitive information in all of its forms.

“First, the user should ask him or herself if the PII in the email is truly necessary,” said Pugh. “DSET scans the email draft before transmission. If PII is identified, DSET will notify the user through a series of pop-up windows. This interactivity allows the user to make a conscious decision of how to proceed with the information in question.”

According to

Pugh, if the information must be transmitted, encrypting the PII is all that is necessary to protect the data during transmission. DSET will trigger when it detects potential PII in an email, giving the user the opportunity to delete the information if not necessary to the communication, encrypt the information, or override and transmit the email as originally written.

If the file containing PII is already encrypted – through the Microsoft Office “protect” permission feature or some other software – DSET will not trigger and the email can be sent

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negative implications caused by PII breaches are severe, and equipping the force with tools to mitigate the risk is paramount.

DSET version 1.6.1, an updated version of the DSET 1.6.0 software already in use by the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command, and Air Force Space Command, contains fixes for some previously identified software bugs as well as enhancements to make the digital tool more effective.

“DSET 1.6.0 launched back in July to three major commands,” said Alonzo Pugh, cyber business system analyst for 24th AF. “Feedback has been overwhelmingly favorable for

Allotment rules aim to protect servicemembers

(Continued from page 9)

- Appliances or household goods, such as furniture, washers and dryers;
- Electronics, such as laptops, tablets, cell phones and televisions; and
- Other consumer items that are tangible and moveable.

Allotments still can be used for savings account deposits, investments, dependent support, pay insurance premiums, mortgages, rents, make CFC contributions, and U.S. government debt repayments.

Another line of protection for service members and their families is included when starting new allotments through MyPay and manually on DD Form 2558, officials said. Servicemembers must certify under the Uniform Code of Military Justice that the allotment is not for “the purchase, lease, or rental of personal property or payment toward personal property.”

The secretary directed the change following an interagency review that began in June 2013 in response to a

major enforcement action by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The team comprised DoD representatives from the comptroller, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, personnel and readiness, and general counsel offices in the Joint Staff and secretary’s offices. Non-DoD partici-



pants were from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., CFPB, Federal Reserve Board, Comptroller of the Currency and the National Credit Union Administration.

Defense Officials said a 2012 analysis showed that the top 10 financial

institutions that received allotments from service members processed almost two million allotments totaling \$3.767 billion. Of the top 10 allotment processors, state law enforcement, consumer advocates, and the financial regulators have flagged three particular institutions as suspected abusers of the allotment system. Those institutions received 999,588 allotments totaling \$1.380 billion in fiscal year 2012.

Officials said the 2012 analysis also found that on-average per-capita, warrant officers use 5.73 allotments, commissioned officers use 3.55 and enlisted personnel use 3.49 allotments, respectively. The dollar average per allotment is highest for warrant officers (\$1,679 per allotment), followed by officers (\$1,554 per allotment), and then enlisted personnel (\$1,224 per allotment).

The new allotment rule applies to active-duty members not military retirees or DoD civilians, officials said.

New PII tool helps protect guardmembers info.

(Continued from previous page)

as usual to any recipient’s email address, whether “.mil,” “.com,” etc. However, if the email itself is encrypted through Microsoft Outlook, the communication is only safe to transmit to a recipient’s “.mil” email address. An email encrypted in this fashion cannot be sent to any “non-mil” addresses. If the user attempts to do so, DSET and Microsoft Outlook will

provide pop-up boxes explaining the user’s options.

“I can’t overstate the importance of reading the information in the pop-up box,” said Pugh. “Read the training slides on how to use Microsoft Office features to encrypt various documents; understand how these tools can help you safeguard PII.”

In preparation for the Air Force-wide release of DSET, you can access

training at:

DSET tutorials: <https://afpki.lackland.af.mil/tutorials/dset/>

DSET Quick Reference Guide: https://afpki.lackland.af.mil/assets/files/OE-15-40-064_QRG-DSET_v0001.pdf

Additional training on how to encrypt Microsoft Office documents can be accessed at: <http://www.24af.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-140701-064.pdf>

Users have multiple tools at their disposal to protect PII if encrypting email is not feasible, but if electronic transmission of sensitive PII is operationally required, users can leverage approved Department of Defense file exchange services at: <https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe/>

More information regarding DSET implementation can be found at: <http://www.24af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123417788>



Looking Back at 2014



Left: This distinctive tail flash belongs to an F-15 from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, Calif., which arrived at Kingsley Field Dec. 4, 2013. They integrated into 173rd Fighter Wing operations to meet increased demand for F-15 pilots at the California unit through the summer of 2014.

Right: For two weeks in August F-16s from the 162nd Fighter Wing, Tucson, Arizona flew alongside 173rd Fighter Wing Eagles in Dissimilar Air Combat Training.



Right: Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Education and Training Command, made his return to Kingsley Field, formerly a dependent and now wearing four stars. This was Rand's first official visit to the base as AETC Commander.



Right: Oregon Air National Guard Col. Gregor Leist, 173rd Fighter Wing Vice Wing Commander, and Dr. Roberto Gutierrez, Klamath Community College (KCC) President, sign a Mutual Understanding agreement at KCC in Klamath Falls, Ore., April 16, 2014. The agreement between Kingsley Field and KCC will help members complete their Community College of the Air Force Degrees which in now be madatory for some enlisted promotions.



Left: 173rd Fighter Wing Firefighter Derek Sherrell braces the newest firefighter to join the Kingsley department Brent Hulstrom during a joint "Burn-and-Learn" exercise with Fire District #1 in Klamath Falls, Ore., March 11, 2014. The operation is part of an ongoing program Kingsley Field has undertaken called P-4, the Public-Public, Public-Private partnership program which seeks to foster deeper community relationships.

Below: One of the 173rd Fighter Wing's newest aircraft sports the desert paint scheme having come from the aggressor squadron at Nellis AFB, Nev. Maintainers updated the tail flash and added Air National Guard emblems and the 114th Fighter Squadron will use the airframe for normal operations until it receives the standard paint for an F-15C.



Left: Miles Scott, call sign, "Batkid", reported for duty at the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, Ore., April 10, 2014. Scott is in remission from leukemia and had the opportunity to be a part of the Fighter Pilot for a Day program hosted by the 114th Fighter Squadron.

Left: Pilots from Kingsley Field travelled to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Feb. 25, for the Weapons System Evaluation Program (WSEP) where they fired live munitions at unmanned drones like this one, a rare occasion for fighter pilots.



Left: Members of the Klamath Falls SWAT team catch a ride from a 173rd Security Forces vehicle driven by Master Sgt. Joshua Hilton as they practice their urban assault techniques here at Kingsley Field, March 19, 2014.



VALVE STEM ASSEMBLY



Above: Each of these bi-metal disks slide onto the valve stem assembly with the visible stamped "H" facing out on each disk. The QA shop determined this during an investigation into generator failures. The root of the problem was a technical order, which did not specify the proper configuration. Today the fleet has updated TOs thanks to the efforts of Kingsley Maintainers- most notably the 173rd QA shop.

Announcements

Retiree Corner

Retirees and their families who need information or assistance with a "Retiree Issue" please contact the Oregon National Guard Retiree Service Office. (Air & Army)

**Located at: Room 231,
Anderson Readiness Center
3225 State Street, Salem, OR 97309**

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10 AM to 2 PM Every Thursday

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E-mail: NGOR.J1.RSO@ng.army.mil

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*Movies subject to change or
cancellation without notice.*





The 173rd Operations Group built the "Kingsley Flier" float for the snowflake parade through downtown Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 4, 2014. With but two days to spare they created the replica of the iconic red wagon some may remember from their childhood. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson)

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