

# ON FIVE

JAN/FEB/MAR 2014



**SERVICE  
BEFORE  
SELF**



**The only thing constant is change.**

I'm not sure who has ownership of that saying but it sure seems to be true this year.

When I took over the Operations Group from Col. Gerry Ostern in February, he assured me of continued success by stating, "Things are pretty squared away." Then came sequestration, technician furlough, a "tailored" Phase II Readiness Inspection (RI), Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) ending, a cancelled but then rescheduled Aircrew Stan/Eval Inspection (ASEV), and a government shutdown. I don't think I've enjoyed more than two weeks of what I would call a normal routine. I'm sure Col. Ostern is having a good chuckle as he herds buffalo.

Is this the new "normal?" Seems like it could be.

At the end of all this turmoil I find one word best sums up our wing and all the individuals in it: RESILIENT. Hmmmm. Resilient? What exactly does that mean?

*Resilient: recovering readily from illness, depression, adversity, or the like; buoyant.*

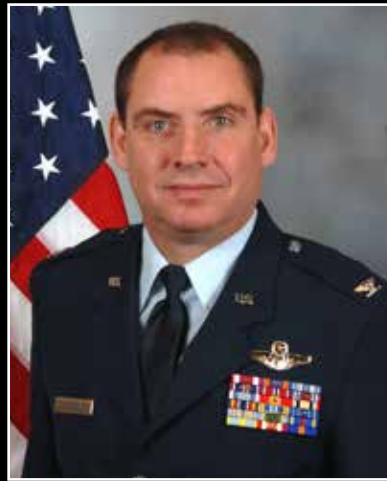
During the sequestration our technician workforce experienced at least a 20% pay cut and our wing experienced a workforce present only 80% of the normal time. The wing's ACA mission was also in jeopardy with plans to move it to Fresno, Calif. around 1 October. During that whole time we were preparing for the last of its kind Phase II RI. Something our wing takes very seriously. The RI was also in a state of flux as to the scope and intensity of the inspection. Just a Phase II right? Sure, along with

maintenance generation and transition day exercises and some other mission creep like Red Air as the planning moved closer to August UTA. That spells great adversity and some depression all rolled up together.

And we recovered very nicely. After experiencing at least seven ORIs personally, in my opinion it was the most "outstanding" Excellent I have ever seen. That's resilient.

Running in the background in the Operations Group during all of this was a looming ASEV inspection. Probably the biggest inspection that the group receives individually. The Staff Assistance Visit which prepares us for the inspection was cancelled in March and moved to September. Only one month after the RI and only one month before the ASEV. Almost too little time to be of any "assistance" at all really. Then the ASEV was cancelled in October and moved to November due to the government shutdown. That would give us more time to prepare right? Sure, except no one could come to work for a period of time in October, plus the stress of not getting a paycheck for some time. I will tell you, it was adversity, stress, and uncertainty all wrapped up into one very high strung bundle. ASEV results: Outstanding. That's resilient.

During this future of the new "normal" it's going to take much greater resiliency to face the bigger changes and challenges that are coming our way. I know the 148th readily from adversity. I challenge you to increase our resiliency as a wing by increasing YOUR resiliency as an individual Airman. And that will take our wing to the next level and help ensure our future as a wing to be reckoned with.



**Col. Bradley A. Jackson**  
Operations Group Commander



**ON THE COVER...** Staff Sgt. Andrew Walker, poses for a photo after being presented the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Air Force Combat Action Medal during the 148th Fighter Wing Awards Ceremony Dec. 8, 2013 at the DECC. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Donald L. Acton, Illustration by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington.)

**About the On Five**

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Year 2014 Unit Training Assembly (UTA) and other training schedules for the 148th Fighter Wing and all subordinate units:

UTA	SUTA	UTA (cont.)	SUTA (cont.)
09-12 Jan	25-26 Jan	None July	19-20 July
08-09 Feb	22-23 Feb	16-17 Aug	02-03 Aug
01-02 Mar	15-16 Mar	13-14 Sept	None Sept
12-13 Apr	26-27 Apr	04-05 Oct	18-19 Oct
17-18 May	03-04 May	01-02 Nov	15-16 Nov
28-29 June	07-08 June	06-07 Dec	None Dec



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*Members of the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn. pose for a group photo on Dec. 16, 2013. More than \$3,000 was raised in cash and toy donations for local kids in the Duluth-Superior community. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)*

"It was Wood's thing. He heard of it and was all about helping these kids out." stated Master Sgt. Ryan Gigliotti, friend and former crew chief co-worker. "Hey let's do something cool! He wanted to start it as a challenge to other squadrons." reflected Master Sgt. Wayne "Willy" Teachworth, a friend and fellow crew chief co-worker. "He was big on helping others. It was his thing to do."

The Ryan Ewald Memorial Toy Drive is dedicated to efforts by the late Tech. Sgt. Ryan G. Ewald. He died as a result of an ATV accident in Northeastern Minnesota Sept. 28, 2013.

Ewald, also known as "Wood," first served as a fuel cell technician and most recently as an F-16 C Fighting Falcon crew chief at the 148th Fighter Wing with the Minnesota Air National Guard in Duluth. He was a member of the unit from 1998-2013.

While a crew chief, Ewald started a children's bike drive in 2010 with the majority of donations coming from fellow 148th crew chiefs. Master Sgt. Ryan Gigliotti reflected back upon the initial conversation, "We heard about it on the radio. It sounded

like a great idea. Let's do it." By the end of the December 2010 drill weekend they, "Had about \$600 and we bought about eight to 10 bikes," Gigliotti commented. The bikes were donated to a local radio station as part of a larger bike drive.

In 2012 alone, the crew chiefs raised between \$800 - \$900, allowing Ewald and Gigliotti to purchase three shopping carts full of toys. These toys were then donated to the Toys for Tots Foundation.

The sudden death of Ewald this fall spurred the idea to continue and expand upon their previous bike and toy drives. Thus was born the Ryan Ewald Memorial Toy Drive in 2013.

When asked about Ewald's reason for the bike and toy drives, Gigliotti replied, "It was something he was big about, and would have liked us to continue."

At present, the 148th crew chief bike drive has been expanded into a 148th Fighter Wing-wide toy drive.



# The Best of the Best:

## Airman of the Year

SrA Aaron M. Couch

### Egress Technician

- Served as a key member during 2013 RI Inspection; selected as a Superior Performer by ACC/IG team
- Recovered FOD from 15 aircraft between flights without raising or removing seat and canopy; directly lead to increased aircraft fully mission capable rates--prevented possible damage and/or serious injury
- Deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; provided excellent knowledge/experience needed during deployment to ensure integrity of aircraft egress systems remained flawless
- Actively pursuing BA degree in Technical Business Management; completed 44 credits; earned 4.0 GPA
- Actively pursuing CCAF degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology; completed 49 credits--18 credits applied to BA
- Scored Excellent (95%) during annual wing fitness test
- Effortlessly completed Airmen Leadership School CDC course; completed six months ahead of given schedule
- Completed Junior NCO development course in preparation for NCO Academy; self motivated
- Provides coverage to the areas general aviation community;
- A key member of the team rated a "Best Practice" during the 2013 RI inspection in August



## NCO of the Year

Tech. Sgt. Zachary Graves

### Assistant Chief of Training

- Assistant Chief of Fire Training; ensured completion of AFSC training classes & 17 career development courses
- Backbone of Barrier Engagement team; received ACC/IG Superior Performer recognition for August 2013 RI
- Fire Dept Unit Training Manager; coordinated 13 members' formal schools in 2013, enhancing firefighter skillset
- Oversees inspection & maintenance of 40 halon fire extinguishers valued at \$40K; protecting mission assets
- Sharp NCO - epitomizes dress and appearance standards, praised by all for setting the bar for military bearing
- Leads by example - sets the bar high and enhances work center morale by inspiring others to achieve their goals
- Facilitator; as acting station captain ensured that all training & appointments were in 100% compliance
- Selflessly assisted other base agencies in the AFTR implementation ensuring that training is done correctly
- Saved life of 21-yr old male who overdosed on heroin in March 2013; provided airway management to patient for 15 minutes via bag-valve-mask until medics arrived & provided medications; excellent under stress!



# 2013 Airmen of the Year

## Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Cynthia Wahl

### Knowledge Operations Manager

- Hand-picked as Senior Enlisted Advisory Council committee facilitator for Minnesota State Senior Enlisted Advisor; supporting Minnesota Adjutant General's priority to "Diversify the Force"
- Co-authored State's Mentorship standard operating procedure; creating benchmark for Minnesota's officer program
- Founding member of 148th Diversity Council; starting the conversation that will help diversify 148th's force
- Overhauled Crisis Action Team (CAT) file plan; two inspectable items earned top marks contributing to wing's Excellent August RI rating
- One of two E-7s certified as mentors for Minnesota National Guard Mentoring Program; Wing mentor & state steering committee member
- Awarded national certification as Victim Advocate (VA) for ANG SAPR program; One of two VAs certified at wing
- As a Victim Advocate, coordinated community speakers for Stand Down on Sexual Assault Prevention events
- Worked with wing SARC, local law enforcement, and local rape crisis organization to provide the best possible training for all 148th Airmen



## First Sgt. of the Year

Senior. Master Sgt. Scott Twining

### First Sergeant

- Selected to be multi-group SMSgt First Sergeant by 148 HQ/OPS CCs - filled three essential First Sergeant positions (MXG/HQ/OPS) for over six months until previously held MXG position was filled
- Tasked as First Sergeant for Red Flag deployment (RF12-3)--coordinated lodging/vehicles for 200+ personnel
- Coined by Wing CC for outstanding service during Red Flag--Lauded "Best seen to date!"
- Enrolled in CCAF Human Resources program--over 80% completed
- Scored 80.5 on annual wing fitness test, improved to 89 during Shirt Academy--upper tier among peers
- Member of Minnesota National Guard Enlisted Association (MNGEA); providing strength/leadership through membership
- MNGEA State Conference Registration Chair - ensured information flow to 250+ local chapter members
- Leader among peers; member of Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
- Member of 148th All Ranks Club; supports/promotes base events-helping rejuvenate membership/participation





# Service before self

BY CAPT. JODI L. KIMINSKI

PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. DONALD L. ACTON,

ILLUSTRATION BY TECH. SGT. SCOT G. HERRINGTON

Bravery, heroism and dedication were three words that rang out during the 148th Fighter Wing Awards Ceremony that took place at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center on Dec. 8, 2013. These were the words used to describe Staff Sgt. Andrew Walker, who was honored with a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

“This is just such an honor,” said Staff Sgt. Walker, 148th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal Specialist. “I just got back from my honeymoon with the most beautiful woman, and now to be recognized like this...life couldn’t be better.”

While deployed to Afghanistan in 2012, Walker successfully executed 90 combat missions, completing 28 route clearance patrols. His tactical driving was vital to the safe movement of his team and his knowledge of the vehicle’s capabilities and limitations ensured the safe removal of 200 pounds of explosives. On June 28, 2012, the final day of the mission, the vehicle carrying Walker and his team was struck by an IED containing approximately 80 pounds of homemade explosives less than 200 meters from their destination. The explosion tossed the 20 ton vehicle into the air, eventually landing 15 feet from their original position. Everyone in the vehicle was conscious and was safely able to dismount the vehicle in order to be MEDEVAC’ed back to base. It was later diagnosed that Walker suffered two Traumatic Brain Injuries that month. The blast also tore cartilage in his shoulder, requiring surgery. While he continues to struggle with headaches, he stays focused on the future.

“It was a lot of pain,” said Walker. “But you survive. We all survived.”



## CHIEF’S CORNER

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. WENDY L. GUNDERSON

I was one of three Chiefs, who recently attended the Chief’s Executive Course held at the Air National Guard Readiness Center in October. Chief Hotaling, our 11th Command Chief for the Air National Guard, spoke to our class and shared his outlook on our Airman. Chief Hotaling defined three Key Areas of Focus and in this edition of Chief’s Corner, I will emphasize the first key area – Renewing Our Commitment to the Profession of Arms.

What does it mean to “Renew Our Commitment to the Profession of Arms?” We all took an oath to serve our country through devotion of service and willingness of sacrifice. We define ourselves through the Airman’s Creed and demonstrating core values. Core Values are the framework within which military activities take place and are the basis for Air Force policies, guidance, and focus. All Airmen and officers should become familiar with the enlisted force structure. Air Force Instruction 36-2618 “Little Brown Book” is your basic guide for each tier in your enlisted career. The purpose of the enlisted force structure provides a common, stable career structure for all enlisted Airman, the opportunity for professional growth and defines roles, responsibilities, and expectations for each enlisted rank. The enlisted force is a diverse group of specialized Airmen. There is a compelling need for a deliberate and common approach to enlisted force. We must have a consistent, well-defined set of expectations, standards and opportunities for growth for all Airmen, regardless of specialty.

We are one of three unique components of the Air Force. Our status is different but our standards are the same. We are shaped by education, training and our experiences. Chief Hotaling states, “We have to do professional development, we have to deliberately develop ourselves, we have to go to the right schools, we have to educate ourselves. It is imperative that we all pay attention to our individual development and as supervisors/mentors/leaders, we deliberately develop those who will lead in the future. All of those factors are what we will focus

on because we are a profession of arms.” Hotaling has made it a goal to dig down into the details of issues such as changes with Enlisted Performance Reports (EPR) and how having a Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) degree may impact an Airman’s future. He said he would frame EPR and CCAF decisions on the profession of arms.

Education programs will help prepare you to successfully do your job and to be able to anticipate and meet challenges across the range of military operations. Look to the Air Force Continuum of Learning and work with your leadership to plan and execute how to capitalize on the educational opportunities available to you. The tactical level of education development is designed to ensure you are qualified to perform primary duties and begin the process of developing leadership skills. The operational level of development is designed to increase occupational qualifications and mature individual leadership skills. The strategic level of development also increases occupational qualifications and targets improvement and growth in the highest level of leadership. Air Force training includes ancillary, computer-based and on-line, and career field training. Training can be linked directly to the job, required by law or governance, or is needed to boost a skill set or deployment activity.

Experience is the active participation or involvement in positions, events or activities leading to the accumulation of knowledge or skill which can be utilized to meet mission requirements. Experience at all levels includes development gained through an appropriate series of job assignments, understanding the appraisal, awards and IT systems. Use the Continuum of Learning as the guide to understand what experiences are needed to grow personally and enrich your career experience. Team up with your organizational leadership to plan your career progression. Take pride in your service and take pride in your profession.



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing pose for a photo in front of an F-16 Fighting Falcon June 11, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Peterson)



# SHORT SHOTS



148th Fighter Wing Chief Master Sergeants pose for a photo while serving lunch at the Great Lakes Inn during drill weekend Nov. 17, 2013. (U. S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott G. Herrington)



148th Fighter Wing Retirees are recognized for their many years of service during a 2013 Awards Ceremony held in Duluth, Minn., Dec. 8, 2013. The ceremony was held at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC) and recognized award winners, hometown heroes and retirees from the 148th Fighter Wing. (U. S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Don Acton)



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing march in the Christmas City of the North Parade, held in Duluth, Minn., Nov. 22, 2013. (U. S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)



Master Sgt. Tom Walden and Staff Sgt. Tyler Stodola, members of the 148th Fighter Wing Communications Flight, take part in the 24th Annual Thanksgiving Buffet at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC) Nov. 28, 2013. (U. S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)



Chaplain Thomas Foster swears in 2nd Lt. Benjamin Buchanan, a prior enlisted member with the Fargo Air National Guard who was commissioned in the Air Force Reserve Chaplain Officer Corps Dec. 7, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Megan Shaner)



Members of the 148th Fighter Wing Honor Guard perform a flag folding ceremony during the 2013 Awards Ceremony held in Duluth, Minn., Dec. 8, 2013 at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC). (U. S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Don Acton)



# 148TH FIGHTER WING EARNS STORMREADY RE-CERTIFICATION

BY MASTER SGT. RALPH J. KAPUSTKA, PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Carol Christenson and Michael Stewart from the National Weather Service present Col. Frank H. Stokes, 148th Fighter Wing Commander and Senior Master Sgt. Kelvin R. McCuskey, Installation Emergency Manager with a StormReady sign and certificate at the 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn., Nov. 13, 2013. The sign and certificate recognized the Wing for being a StormReady community for another three years. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Ralph J. Kapustka)

The National Weather Service recognized the 148th Fighter Wing with StormReady re-certification on Nov. 13, 2013 during a brief ceremony held at the wing. The 148th was the first Air National Guard (ANG) unit to achieve StormReady certification in 2010 and the first ANG unit to be re-certified in 2013.

StormReady is a nationwide program that helps communities better protect their citizens during severe weather. The program encourages communities to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and gives clear-cut guidelines on how to improve your overall approach when it comes to dealing with hazardous weather.

To obtain certification, communities must meet guidelines established by the National Weather Service in partnership with federal, state, and local emergency management professionals.

To be a certified StormReady community the 148th conducts annual

hazardous weather and natural disaster exercises, train personnel to be skywarn spotters for the National Weather Service and have formal hazardous weather plans in place to guide them should there be a weather emergency.

“We are by no means storm proof but by being StormReady means we are better prepared to save lives and protect property from the onslaught of severe weather through advance planning, education and awareness,” said Senior Master Sgt. Kelvin McCuskey, 148th Fighter Wing Installation Emergency Manager. “At the 148th Fighter Wing, we are fortunate to live in an area that has few severe weather events but also realize we certainly are not immune from them and our installation personnel are more likely now to recognize potentially threatening weather situations and act appropriately.”

The 148th will be up for StormReady re-certification in 2016.

## PROMOTIONS

### OCTOBER

ERDAHL, PETER, MXS, SRA  
HALL, ZACHARY, FSS, SRA  
KIRKLAND, DAVID, CF, SRA  
PETERSON, BRETT, AMXS, SRA  
SAMUELSON, CURTIS, OSS, SRA  
SEGUIN, EMILY, MDG, SRA  
SPAETH, JESSICA, LRS, SRA  
ANDERSON, PERRY, AMXS, SSGT  
DESROCHERS, JOSEPH, AMXS, SSGT  
HAVRON, BROOKE, LRS, SSGT  
AULT, ETHAN, AMXS, TSGT  
CADOTTE, MICHAEL, MXG, TSGT  
CHARTIER, MARTHA, 179TH FS, TSGT  
JOHNSON, MATTHEW, MXS, TSGT  
SANDA, AARON, AMXS, TSGT  
TAYLOR, NICHOLAS, AMXS, TSGT  
BEHM, KEVIN, MXS, TSGT  
CORNELISON, RICK, MXS, TSGT

### NOVEMBER

BOURGEAULT, ZACHERY, MXS, AMN  
CAVALLIN, CODY, FSS, A1C  
DEGEBERG, LAUREN, SFS, A1C  
HORNGREN, JESSE, FSS, SRA  
JONES, KELLY, SFS, SRA  
LACROIX, ASHLEY, SFS, SRA  
PALMSTEIN, CORY, MXS, SRA  
PUFALL, CRAIG, SFS, SSGT  
ROEN, AMANDA, MDG, TSGT  
BAILEY, PATRICK, AMXS, MSGT  
ERICKSON, KEITH, AMXS, MSGT  
PAWLOVICH, BRIAN, AMXS, MSGT

### DECEMBER

LADZINSKI, ANDREW, CES, SRA  
MYRE, NOLAN, CF, SRA  
ST JOHN, MICHAEL, AMXS, SSGT  
BLACK, BRIAN, CES, TSGT  
BOUCHER, JUSTIN, SFS, TSGT  
EBERLE, MARK, SFS, TSGT  
OLSON, CHRISTOPHER, MXS, TSGT  
PARKS, HEATH, SFS, TSGT  
BROWN, JODI, CPFT, MSGT  
GRAVES, ZACHARY, CES, MSGT  
LACOURSIERE, MITCHELE, MXG, MSGT  
PARASK, CHACE, MDG, MSGT  
PINGER, JEFFREY, MXS, MSGT  
RONNING, SANDRA, CES, MSGT  
SANDA, LUKE, MSG, MSGT  
WASSERBAUER, MARK, OSS, SMSGT

## “FAMILY FIRST! HONORING THE ONES LEFT BEHIND”

SATURDAY, FEB. 22, 2014

GREYSOLON BALLROOM  
231 EAST SUPERIOR ST. DULUTH, MN.

BEFORE JAN. 22, 2014

OFFICERS: \$40

E7-E9: \$35

E5-E6: \$30

E1-E4: \$20

RETIREE: THE RANK YOU RETIRED WITH

GUEST: EQUIVALENT TO MILITARY MEMBER

AFTER JAN. 22, 2014

OFFICERS: \$45

E7-E9: \$40

E5-E6: \$35

E1-E4: \$25

RETIREE: THE RANK YOU RETIRED WITH

GUEST: EQUIVALENT TO MILITARY MEMBER

5:30 P.M. REGISTRATION BEGINS

6:00 P.M. SOCIAL HOUR

7:00 P.M. FORMAL PROGRAM & DINNER

8:30 P.M. MUSIC AND DANCING

10:00 P.M. END OF PROGRAM

HOTEL ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SHERATON (218) 733-5660.

ASK FOR THE 148TH MILITARY BALL ROOM RATE WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS.

SEE FACEBOOK.COM/148THFIGHTERWING FOR FULL DETAILS.

## THE INFLUENZA VACCINE

BY LT. COL. KEVIN T. STEPHAN, MEDICAL SQUADRON

Imagine a disease that causes millions of people to become ill every year in the U.S. and 40,000 deaths. Imagine that we know what time of year it will strike, and can track when it is spreading through each community, region, and state. Imagine that those who become sick with it can spread it to many others, and can even cause other people to die, especially infants and elderly people. Imagine that the average person who gets sick with it loses five days – of work, school, or vacation – and victims feel like they were run over by a truck with sudden onset of high fevers, chills, diffuse body aches, cough, headache, weakness and can feel poorly for a week or more after this. Now imagine that there was a highly effective, safe, and convenient way to prevent this illness. Who would be crazy enough not to take advantage of this protective measure?

Well, the illness I’m talking about is seasonal influenza, and the protection is the annual influenza vaccine. The flu vaccine is safe, and is highly effective. It comes in a typical injectable form (a “shot”), or a nasal spray for those under the age of 50. It does not cause the flu. Sure, some people get a sore arm for a day or two, and people who have received the vaccine can still become ill. This



can be because they were exposed to influenza or some other respiratory infection just before or just after getting the vaccine, and before the protection from the vaccine has developed, or rarely because the vaccine didn’t protect them as expected. However, this is rare. You also should not get the flu vaccine if you have a serious egg allergy. I encourage each and every Bulldog to get the flu shot this year. It prevents a miserable illness that can sometimes be fatal. It is quick and easy to take. Side effects other than brief arm soreness are very rare. Best of all, if you are in the Air National Guard, the vaccine is free. I have already received mine to protect myself, my family, and my Wingmen.



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## ***Bulldog Bits***



By Col. Penny J. Dieryck

Well, another year has flown by, literally. We began 2013 with the anticipation of the full Operational Readiness Inspection. We negotiated inspection requirements with the Air Combat Command Inspector General (IG) team. We developed the plan of attack for a Phase I rolling into a Phase II week long assessment. Then the utter words of terror struck; Sequestration and furlough. This limited out RI requirements, and we completed all the facets of the test in an "Excellent" manner.

We thought we had dodged a bullet by only being furloughed for six weeks during the summer months (these were eloquently referred to as fishing furlough Fridays). As the new fiscal year loomed, so did the government shutdown. In my 33+ career, I never thought I'd have to address a stoppage in work by the federal and state (2011) governments. At least as this date (Dec. 12, 2013), it appears the Ryan- Murray Congressional agreement will preclude another government shutdown in January. Only God knows what's types of changes will occur in the future based on striving to balance the federal government budget.

As I'm reflecting on this balancing, I thought about some of the funny things which have taken place here at the wing. A couple of them surround the Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2903, Dress and Appearance of the Air Force Personnel. I had to get the instruction out and double check the male grooming standards on page 19. It came to my attention that one of the wing's NCO's misread the guidelines and found himself out of balance when he inadvertently dropped the razor guard off his personal grooming device while trimming his eyebrows. Needless to say the unibrow individual spent a few days with a Band-Aid over his eye. I picked him up an eye brow pencil so he could color one in for himself until the real thing grew back.

Another story about male grooming standards and a clipper guard quickly followed. Another member was attempting to give himself a haircut. He was unaware that the number on the razor guard was zero. He applied the clipper to his head and three inches into his hair he yelled, "OMG, I did not want to shave myself bald." His solution to the situation for the short term was a "Sharpie!" I thought women had hair issues.

My final grooming story was a member on the way to an Honor Airman interview. As he was walking through building 250, the heels of his shiny, patent leather dress shoes began to disintegrate. He was walking and falling apart at the same time. I saw huge chunks of rubber all the way down the hall. I thought maybe he was leaving a crumble of rubber strewn behind him so he could find his way back to his squadron after the board. As his interview ended, I stepped into the room and gave him my hiking boots to wear with his service dress so we could salvage his footwear. All these small male grooming lessons for our readers.

As 2014 comes rolling in, it will be a year of deployments, assessments, and fun. Our Security Force and Civil Engineer Squadrons are scheduled to send members to Southwest Asia; our aviation package may deploy to Europe for a summer solstice, the Norwegian Exchange will take place north of the Arctic Circle in June thus the participants will benefit from 24 hour day light, and we continue to move forward in our operation of the Fresno Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) mission. Never a dull day at the 148th; which continues to expand its "Legacy of Excellence!"

To connect to the 148th Fighter Wing  
website, scan this tag with your smart  
phone or visit [www.148fw.ang.af.mil](http://www.148fw.ang.af.mil)

