

APRIL 2020



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As I type this, the smell of hand sanitizer radiates from my key board and my eyes are red from the fumes of the bleach solution used to wipe down all surfaces. Welcome to the new COVID-19 normal, I tell myself. It wasn't even a month ago I looked at our long term schedule and told the maintenance group that this summer, which is free of any deployment or other major obligation, should be spent resting and recuperating. It will be a welcomed break from a very aggressive operations tempo of the past several years. I had no idea that that recuperation would be in the form of sheltering in place, social distancing and extreme hand washing. Definitely a new normal!

As I walk around base watching people from different sections do their jobs, I'm humbled to see how people can come together and adapt to this new normal. I see people social distancing, doors propped open and hand sanitizer everywhere. Meetings are being held via teleconference. I walk into Aircrew Flight Equipment and see people from multiple groups sewing masks. It's a good reminder at how resilient our wing is. Was it the same right after September 11th? That was a clear act of terrorism and an act of war. COVID-19 is not, although I think we are reacting to it much like any other threat we face. We come together as a group, we work through the problems, and we will, I have no doubt, come out successful and stronger on the other side. So it doesn't matter if it's COVID-19, generating aircraft after an attack to our country, or even repairing five damaged aircraft. The actions are the same; Bulldogs coming together to work hard towards a common goal.

This new normal has seen its share of frustrations. Whether it's being given guidance one day only to have that guidance walked back the next, or having to wear uncomfortable PPE where maintaining six feet of social distancing is impossible, it's ever present. It's no different than an Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) deployment, however, I would argue that we're much better at adapting to frustrations caused by an AEF. That's a slow moving ball game compared to the COVID-19 response. We're learning new things every day in this new normal. Again I see resiliency in our members. I see crew chiefs and weapons loaders making long walks to the end of the runway in order to social distance. I see members putting their primary jobs on hold while they fulfil the additional duty of tending to Emergency Operation Center needs. Overcoming frustrations is something we've gotten really good at.

So as I lather my hands with sanitizer and try not to touch my face, I want to say thank you Bulldogs for the professional manner in which you're handling this new normal. It's a scary time, but I know the risk can be low if we all adhere to CDC guidelines. Judging from how you've handled yourselves in past crises, I know that won't be a problem.

PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE BY: WENDY GUNDERSON-SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATOR

April is a month when Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention (SAAPM) is recognized by both civilian and military communities. The DoD observes SAAPM by focusing on creating the appropriate culture to eliminate sexual assault and requiring a personal commitment from all Service members. The current SAAPM theme is "Protecting Our People Protects Our Mission".

It is important that our members continue to understand existing procedures. One might complain about how much training or attention is focused on Sexual Assault Prevention but I would ask them what if a loved one close to you was to become a victim of sexual assault? Would it matter to you then? Sexual Assault is a horrendous crime that inflicts unimaginable pain on its victims. Preventing perpetration is the only guarantee to stop sexual assault before it occurs. Prevention must be part of a comprehensive approach like participating in Bystander Training and creating a culture where sexual assault and other negative behaviors are not tolerated, condoned, or ignored, and alleged offenders are held appropriately accountable.

As individuals we can all make a difference, but think of the power we could have if we all come together as a community mobilized behind the call to action! Protecting our people, protects our mission.

Wendy Gunderson, 148th FW SARC 24/7 cell 218.343.1266 office 218.788.7584

MSgt Chris McLeod, 148th FW Victim Advocate, LRS

MSgt Jill Haapala, 148th FW Victim Advocate, OPS

DoD Safe Helpline: (977) 995-5247

148TH AIRMAN PERFORMS CRITICAL ROLE BY: SGT SEBASTIAN NEMEC-MN JHHQ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In 2011, an Airmen ten years into his career saw a new opportunity where he could serve in a position that would help protect fellow service members from harm every day. He'd be able to help individuals one-on-one and train his unit at the same time. "As a service member, my job is to protect my fellow service members from harm," Senior Master Sgt. Christopher McLeod said. "And I saw a need, my heart got pulled toward it, and almost a decade after my decision to become a victim advocate, I have zero regrets."

McLeod is the fuels management superintendent at the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minnesota, and serves as a victim advocate.

"Being a victim advocate to me means that I'm protecting the people who protect America," he said.

A victim advocate provides non-clinical crisis intervention, referral, and ongoing non-clinical support to sexual assault survivors. Victim advocates provide liaison assistance on behalf of the sexual assault survivor, with other organizations and agencies on victim care matters and report directly to the sexual assault response coordinator when performing victim advocacy duties.

While working in the finance section at the 148th FW in 2011, McLeod worked in the same building as the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program office. He noticed that the unit didn't have any men as victim advocates at the time. He believed he could fill that need and help survivors. So, he asked to become one.

McLeod joined the Air National Guard in July 2001. About half of his military career has been in victim advocacy. People can come and go from the position for various reasons, but McLeod has been a constant at the 148th FW.

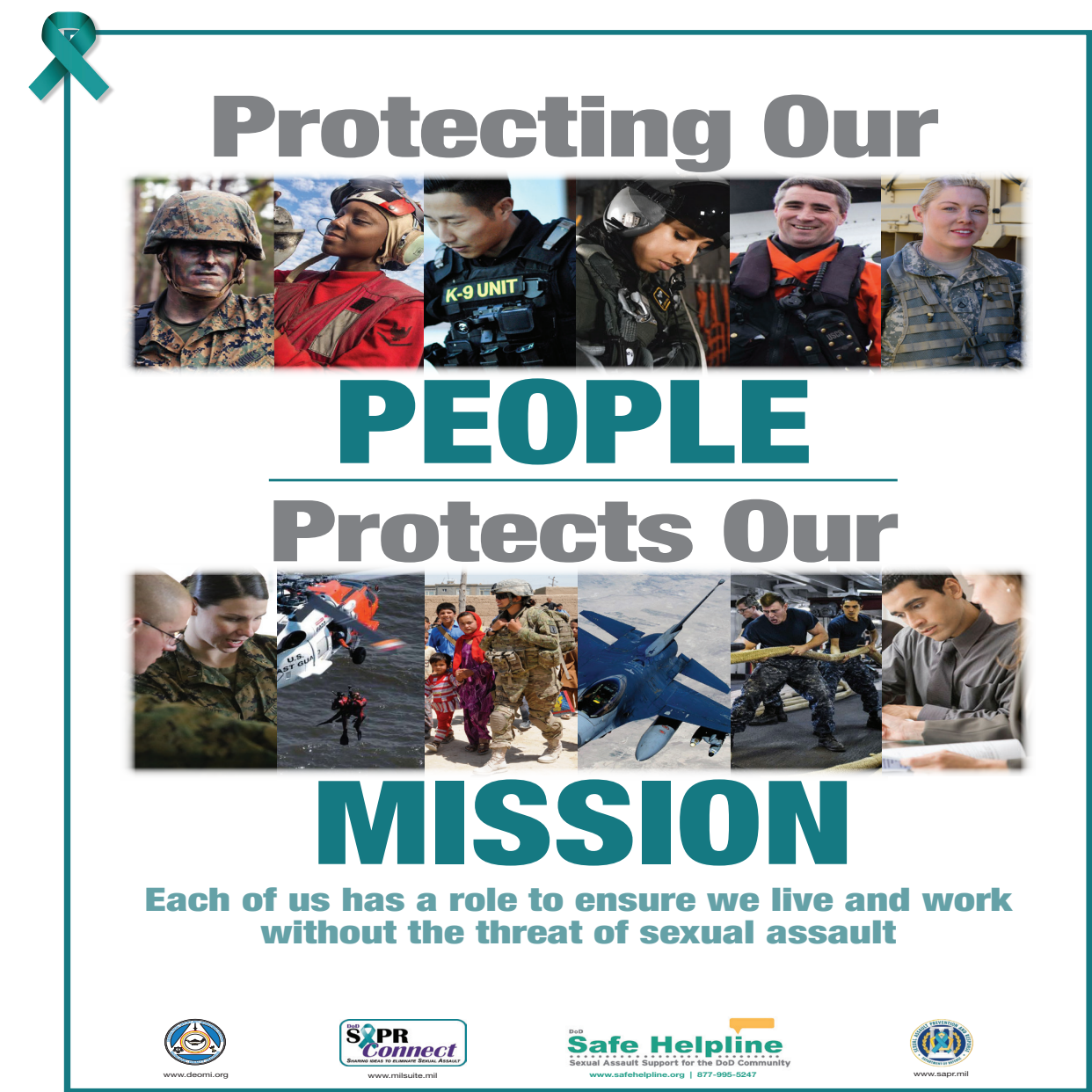
"I want to be the change, and I want people to be the change. I don't want to just watch it," McLeod said.

He strives to help create an environment of dignity and respect, which means that there is no room for sexual harassment, assault, or anything that doesn't build a person up. In and out of uniform, McLeod sets an example of what it means to care for service members. In 2021, he will mark 20 years of service and plans to retire soon after. He hopes to continue to serve others after he earns his Ph.D. in higher education as a college professor.

The Minnesota National Guard has three dedicated full-time staff members in



Col Rob Troy, 148th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group Commander



the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program office. They ensure the victim advocates at the units across the state, like McLeod, are up to date on training and policy in addition to maintaining the overall SAPR program.

To learn more about the MNNG SAPR program, visit <https://minnesotanational-guard.ng.mil/sharp/>.

If you would like to talk to someone about a sexual assault, visit www.SafeHelpline.org to receive live, one-on-one confidential help with a trained professional through a secure instant-messaging format. You can also call the telephone hotline (877-995-5247) to speak with Safe Helpline staff for personalized advice and support. Safe Helpline staff can also transfer callers to installation or base Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs)/On-call Victim Advocates (VAs), civilian rape crisis centers or the Suicide Prevention Lifeline.



THE ONLINE ON FIVE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 148TH FIGHTER WING,
DULUTH, MINNESOTA
APRIL 2020, VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

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148TH FIGHTER WING CELEBRATES 30 YEARS IN THE F-16

BY: AUDRA FLANAGAN 148FW/PA (MAR 12)

On a 51-degree, sunny Saturday in March 1990, 148th Fighter Interceptor Group (FIG) Commander, Col. Raymond T. Klosowski, flew the first F-16 onto the Duluth Air National Guard Base from Kingsley Field Air National Guard Base, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

During the flight, Klosowski rendezvoused with two 148th F-4s, flown by Maj. Gen. Wayne Gatlin and Lt. Col. Thomas Palkie, for a short photo session of past and present aircraft over northern Minnesota. Upon landing F-16B aircraft #1041, Klosowski was greeted by his family, unit members, and local media.

“The F-16 brought significantly more technology and capability, said Klosowski in a recent interview. The computer and radar technology of the F-16 basically replaced the need for the Weapons System Officer.” Weapons System Officers, or WSOs, were responsible for detecting, targeting and engaging air-to-air or ground targets in the F-4. The F-16 eliminated the need for the complex, mental computation that WSOs accomplished.

“The F-16 has transformed throughout the three decades we’ve been flying it, said Col. Chris Blomquist, 148th Fighter Wing Commander. “We began primarily as an air defense fighter in the 1990s. Our only mission was to protect American interests against airborne threats. Then we transitioned to an F-16 capable of performing multiple air-to-ground mission sets. Now we fly a fighter that performs multiple roles, executing the combined missions of every fighter type and fighter mission in the U.S. Air Force inventory; all in one platform.”

Fast forward 30 years, Brig. Gen. Raymond T. Klosowski (ret) joined 148th Fighter Wing personnel for the historic 30th Anniversary of that flight.

Blomquist, led four aircraft on a routine training mission. After landing, Blomquist brought Klosowski to an F-16 that maintenance personnel had painted his name on. “It struck me how important our history and former Bulldogs are to this incredible Wing” said Blomquist.

Klosowski, clearly touched, said “thank you, this is fantastic”. He added that he has been impressed on how the Wing has “continued to carry on a great tradition”.

“Every day for the last 30-years we’ve had the ability to fly F-16s in our back yard. Sometimes we forget to stop and smell the roses and realize how incredibly blessed we are to have that opportunity and that freedom. None of it comes without sacrifice or hard work by our members and the community who supports us,” added Blomquist.

Photos and a video package from this event can be found on the 148th Fighter Wing facebook page: www.facebook.com/148thFighterWing



148FW EOD CHIEF RECOGNIZED

BY: SMSGT RALPH KAPUSTKA 148FW/PA

Chief Master Sgt. Damon Walker, 148th Fighter Wing, Duluth, Minn., was named the Air National Guard recipient of the 2019 Major General Joseph A. Ahearn Enlisted Leadership Award. The award was established in Ahearn's honor to recognize the excellent leadership qualities of a Chief Master Sgt. in the Civil Engineering career field.

Walker's many accomplishments during the award period included a ten-month tenure as the Air National Guard Explosive Ordnance Disposal Functional Area Manager. In this position, he was responsible for planning, organizing and executing activities to ensure the success of the EOD program across the Air National Guard. At the state level, he was president of the 148FW Chief's Counsel ensuring that both wing and state enlisted issues are being addressed.

"It is always nice to be recognized for going above and beyond but one of the things that is ironic in the military is the higher rank you achieve, your mission success is based on the Airmen you lead, said Walker. This award was and is a team effort."

All jobs and processes keep evolving and there are many qualities a leader should have according to Walker to be successful. "I feel a leader is a lead by example person, stated Walker. If you want to succeed in leading people and being productive yourself, you have to have an open mind, listen to the people you work with and always look for ways to improve yourself, the people around you and the tasks that you are responsible for."

Walker's leadership has had a tremendous impact on the EOD and Civil Engineer community. "Chief Walker's award is based on enlisted leadership and contributions to the enhancement of the enlisted force, he is the epitome of what it means to be a leader at all levels, stated Lt. Col. Ryan Kaspari, 148th Fighter Wing Civil Engineer. "He is not only active throughout the Civil Engineer Squadron, but also throughout the Mission Support Group, the Wing, the National Guard and his local community. The Civil Engineer Squadron's motto "We're The Finest" is exemplified by people like Chief Walker and his forthright honesty, innate leadership and heuristic thinking."

The Air National Guard EOD community is relatively small, only 17 units but they often act as a single, cohesive team. A person would be hard pressed to find a group of technical professionals who keep in better contact across great geographical distances and alternating schedules to support each other. Their very lives, and the lives of others, are dependent on having the most current information and knowledge possible. "It's fitting that the Major General Joseph A. Ahearn leadership award would go to a leader who can best support and enable that highly effective network, said Col. Scott Chambers, Air National Guard Civil Engineer Deputy Director of Installations. Chief Walker was selected for the award from a panel of his peers from the field and that speaks volumes."



We don't have an official deputy for the EOD career field, but he is it...uncontested, said Capt. Robert Pukay-Martin, Air National Guard EOD Functional Area Manager. His grit and intellect are the driving force behind countless initiatives across the EOD program."

As a former member of the 148th Fighter Wing and Civil Engineer Squadron commander, I've always known Damon to be dedicated to others and to something greater than himself...I'm extremely proud of him and the 148th Civil Engineering Squadron," stated Chambers.



BULLDOGS GRADUATE BMT WEARING MASKS DUE TO COVID-19

BY AUDRA FLANAGAN, 148FW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

On April 9, 2020, 1400 trainees graduated from Air Force Basic Military Training (BMT) at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas; all wearing masks amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the 1400, five were Bulldogs of the 148th Fighter Wing.

Airman 1st Class David Cornelius, Airman 1st Class Ivy Grochowski, and Airman 1st Class Sebastian Haugen all graduated without the fanfare we’ve grown accustomed to. Instead of celebrating with an airmen’s run, coining ceremony and a full graduation ceremony with a parade, Airmen now experience a simpler ceremony at least six-feet away from fellow graduates. Family and guests were able to view the ceremony via USAF BMT’s Facebook live stream or USAF BMT’s YouTube channel.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic commenced, Air Force BMT has changed many of its processes. On Mar. 10, the Air Force stated it would no longer allow family members and guests attend BMT graduation ceremonies as an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Trainees arriving after March 19 were placed in a 14-day “restriction of movement” phase as another mitigation process to slow the spread of COVID-19. On March 9, the Air Force announced it was temporarily shortening BMT to seven-weeks and reducing the number of trainees who report for duty from 800 to 460.

Shannon Cornelius, mother of Airmen 1st Class David Cornelius, proudly watched her son from her business, Yellow Bike Coffee in Hermantown, Minnesota, with her other four kids via the Facebook live stream option. Cornelius, her parents, and kids had just purchased plane tickets and secured lodging to see their Airmen graduate when they had been notified that family members and guests were no longer allowed to attend graduation events.

Cornelius was thankful for the private Facebook group created and moderated specifically for the families of basic trainees. As the COVID-19 pandemic began to spread, the 37th Training Wing provided important and timely information about mitigation procedures, not allowing family members and guests on base for graduation and the ability to view graduation ceremonies. “They provided an effective front-line communications tool for the masses,” said Cornelius. “The military is creating systems, re-evaluating systems, pivoting and redirecting as needed.”

Airman 1st Class Cornelius has moved to his next duty station where he’ll receive technical training as an Aircrew Egress Systems specialist. Eight 148th airmen have completed BMT since mid-March and 27 airmen are currently attending technical training courses.

“These are challenging times in all our lives” said Mission Support Group commander, Lt. Col. Curt Grayson. “In the military we must continue to train for the next challenge. These airmen have started that journey and will be ready to defend our country against this current threat as well as future threats. It is impressive to see these airmen stepping up and continuing their commitment during these times. I am confident the future of our military is in good hands.”



U.S Air Force basic military training was held April 9, 2020, at the 321st Training Squadron's Airmen Training Complex on Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Due to the current world events, the graduation ceremonies will be closed to the public until further notice for safety and security of the newly accessioned Airmen and their family members due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). (Photos by Johnny Saldiva, 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs)

MINNESOTA STATE AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

The Outstanding Airmen of the Year awards ceremony held at the 148th Fighter Wing Duluth, Minn. acknowledged exemplary Air Guardsmen statewide on Friday, Jan.11, 2020. Members of the 133rd Airlift Wing and 148th Fighter Wing gathered in support of their Outstanding Airman of Year nominees. Each Wing selected candidates to compete at the state level. The awards honor the airmen’s accomplishments as well as highlight their dedication and devotion to duty.

“The Outstanding Airmen of the Year Program is a chance to recognize the achievements of our airmen and show gratitude for what they have done to lead, train, and support our fellow airmen and communities,” stated Minn. State Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Rukavina “It is for those individuals that go above and beyond their primary duties to become future leaders within our organization.”

Minn. Joint Force Headquarters Director of Staff, Col. Brian Mandt and Minn. State Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Rukavina announced the state winners in the following 5 categories:

1. Company Grade Officer of the Year- 1st Lt. Kevin M. Vanes,133rd Airlift Wing Operations Support Squadron
2. First Sergeant of the Year- Tech. Sgt. Christopher J. Armstrong,148th Fighter Wing Logistic Readiness Squadron
3. Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year- Master Sgt. Richard R. Kaufman,148th Fighter Wing Communications Flight
4. Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year- Tech. Sgt. George M. Wexler,133rd Airlift Wing Security Forces Squadron
5. Airman of the Year- Senior Airman Jeffery K. Fouts, 133rd Airlift Wing Security Forces Squadron



MEET OUR NEW YELLOW RIBBON SUPPORT SPECIALIST

The 148th Fighter Wing hired a new Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist in January. Marlaina Peterson is now full-time at the Wing to help connect Airmen and their families with resources they need to prepare for deployments and reintegration.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration program requires Service Members to attend pre-deployment and post-deployment events. Pre-deployment events are focused on preparation for deployments, such as legal information, medical resources, and other local resources that are available. Post events are geared towards reintegrating back into society. “My position for the 148th allows me to connect with our Airmen and determine who qualifies for events, create travel requests, connect them with resources, and any other assistance needed to support our Service Members,” said Peterson.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) is a Department of Defense wide effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle.

Peterson’s mother served with the 148FW allowing her to become familiar with the Wing at an early age. She grew up immersed in the 148th culture and has many friends and family at the Wing. “Thanks to Bulldog Family Day, Oktoberfest and the Driftwood Estates campground, I have always felt like I was part of the Wing, stated Peterson. When the opportunity arose to support those same Airmen and their families, I jumped at the chance. I am honored to support those who serve the 148th as their Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist.”

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program website: <https://www.yellowribbon.mil/> has a specific section for the Air National Guard, where Airmen can find specific events, articles, online courses, resources and more. Peterson’s presence at the Wing serves as an outlet to connect Airmen with events that require attendance, resources, answer questions and overall support when it comes to the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. She can also connect Airmen and families in regards to other Wing resources at their request. “I personally work closely with our community resources such as the Yellow Ribbon Network, Yellow Ribbon Regional Outreach, Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee and the Military Affairs Committee. I have an open door policy and want to be known that I’m dedicated to assisting Airmen with any resources they are seeking,” said Peterson.



148TH FW RETURNS FROM NOBLE EAGLE DEPLOYMENT

BY: AUDRA FLANAGAN 148FW/PA

Airmen from the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, returned home last week after completing a 60-day NORAD-tasks Operation NOBLE EAGLE mission servicing the continental United States.

“The 148th provided robust air-defense capabilities,” said Canadian Maj. Gen. Derek Joyce, deputy commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Region. “NORAD has a 24-7 no-fail mission of protecting the skies over North America and the 148th demonstrated their professionalism and excellence once again.”

In January, United States Airmen and F-16s deployed to a location within the homeland to enforce Federal Aviation Administration-established Temporary Flight Restrictions, or TFRs. A TFR is a regulatory action that temporarily restricts certain aircraft from operating within a defined area.

“It was an honor to step-up to support a NORAD mission,” said Lt. Col. Paul Thornton, 179th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron Commander.

NORAD, conducts aerospace warning, aerospace control and maritime warning in the defense of North America. NORAD is a bi-national command focused on the defense of both the United States and Canada. NORAD collaborates with homeland defense and law enforcement partners to prevent air attacks against North American airspaces by responding to unknown or unauthorized air activity approaching and operating within sovereign airspaces.

The 148th has a long history of supporting NORAD missions, performing 24/7 Aerospace Control Alert at a fixed location from 1990 to 2013.

“This is not the first time the Bulldogs of the 148th supported Operation NOBLE EAGLE in a deployed location,” said Col. Chris Blomquist, 148th Fighter Wing commander. “The wing and the Minnesota National Guard take pride in providing America with mission-ready Airmen.”

Shortly after the September 11th attacks, the 148th flew 24/7 combat air patrols over the entire Midwest while temporarily based out of Minneapolis, Minnesota. By December of 2001, the 148th simultaneously deployed jets and Airmen to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia where they flew 24/7 combat air patrols over the National Capital Region.

“Our number one priority is to support our state and federal missions in order to safeguard U.S. national interests, especially in time of great need,” said Blomquist.

In 2007, when the Air Force fleet of F-15s were grounded due to structural issues, the 148th deployed jets and Airmen to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii to perform 24-hour aerospace control alert for three-months. Later, in February 2008, the 148th deployed jets and Airmen to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska for six-weeks where they performed 24-hour alert. While there, the Bulldogs were the first F-16 unit to intercept a Russian Bear Bomber off the coast of Alaska.

The 148th has trained and exercised to be an Aerospace Control Alert-training flying wing. In February of 2018 the Bulldog’s once again supported NORAD operations by securing the skies over U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis during Super Bowl LII. In July and August of 2019, the wing partnered with NORAD, FAA and the Civil Air Patrol to conduct realistic training in a controlled airspace.

“The Bulldogs performed all NORAD taskings with 100 percent mission effectiveness despite experiencing obstacles, like a pandemic disease striking the world’s populations,” said Thornton.

Once the COVID-19 outbreak accelerated, the unit restricted personnel to the base to reduce risk of exposure. When confirmed COVID-19 cases appeared in the local area, the team split Airmen into two shifts to better enable social-distancing and assigned specifying times to use the on-base dining facility, he said.

Teamwork prevailed.

“The Bulldogs used a multi-layered air defense approach to protect the skies that included Active Duty, Army and Air National Guard, Department of Homeland Security, along with a host of several interagency partners,” said Joyce. “They performed their duties to a very high professional standard. We’re very appreciative of their mission dedication and exceptional people, aircraft, equipment and capabilities.”



LAST F-4 FLIGHT WAS 30 YEARS AGO

BY: AUDRA FLANAGAN 148FW/PA

April 17, 1990 marked the last flight of a special F-4D at the 148th Fighter Wing, a Duluth-based Minnesota Air National Guard unit. An F-4D bearing the tail number 608 flew for one last time then landed to stay in Duluth.

608, built in 1965, carried the special red star that marked it as an aircraft that had shot down a Soviet-made MIG-21 fighter in combat.

According to the 148th Fighter Wing base newspaper, the On-Five, February 1989-edition, aircraft 608 was flying an escort for a flight of twelve F-4Ds loaded with smart bombs destined for the railroad yards at Yen Bai in North Vietnam on September 12, 1972.

Capt. Michael J. Mahaffey was piloting 608; 1st. Lt. George Shields was the weapons system officer. Their call sign was Robin Two in a four-ship escort flight out of Korat, Thailand. They had lost contact with Robin Three and Four and later found they had engaged MIGs and turned back because they were low on fuel.

At the time, the tactics used by the MIG-flying North Vietnamese were fairly standard. Their goal was to harass bombing missions in order to break them up or force the aircraft to jettison bombs and fuel tanks. Even though the MIGs possessed great maneuverability, they rarely engaged in dogfights.

On that day, at approximately 10:00 a.m., Mahaffey was flying at 16,000-feet with scattered clouds and the green hills of North Vietnam below him. Mahaffey’s flight lead, Robin One made a sharp left turn. Mahaffey followed, initially unaware of the MIG-21 that was flying on his right side. The MIG was so close, he doubted it was a MIG because it looked so much bigger than he thought it should.

The MIG was too close and turned almost directly in front of Robin Two. Mahaffey completed a quick 40-degree right turn and got an immediate radar lock on the MIG’s tail and fired an AIM-9 Sidewinder missile. His next step was to fire a second missile as quickly as possible, but there was no time. The first missile blew pieces off the MIG’s tail and popped the drag chute out causing an uncontrollable spin. Robin Two watched the pilot attempt to control the MIG, but the kill was confirmed.

Mahaffey, a 1967 graduate of the Air Force Academy, spent 11-years in the Air Force. Shields remained in the Air Force and later became an instructor at the Air Force Academy.

Aircraft 608 is now displayed at the entrance of the Duluth International Airport.

“It is amazing to realize some of the men and women of the 148th who worked on aircraft 608 and flew the mighty F-4 Phantom are still working on the Duluth base today, said Col. Chris Blomquist, 148th Fighter Wing Commander. It’s humbling to know what a workhorse we had in the F-4 and how that history and our great people put us on a path to such incredible success in the F-16 we fly today.”

The 148th Fighter Wing flew the F-4D from 1983 to 1990 and now flies the Block 50, F-16. The 148th Fighter Wing’s mission is to protect America’s global interests and defend the homeland with exceptional people, aircraft, equipment and capabilities.

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HOCKEY AND FAMILY FUN



148th Fighter Wing members came together for a hockey challenge during January Drill. It was the Maintenance Group versus the World (all the other units on base). There were JV and Varsity contests in which the World came out on top in both games. The varsity game was close with the World scoring 2 quick goals in the final three minutes to take the win. After the hockey games, a free skate was held so family members could enjoy some time together on the ice. (Photos by SMSgt Ralph Kapustka-148FW Public Affairs)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DELIVERS SHELTER

The 148th Fighter Wing Emergency Management team delivered a fold out rigid temporary shelter (FORTS) to St. Louis County Emergency Management on April 7, 2020, to aid in COVID-19 preparation. The shelter is capable of providing an additional 272 sq. feet of sheltered space that can be used for a variety of purposes.

Once all local resources are expended by a state, the State Duty Officer will contact the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) to process the request. HSEM will then coordinate with the National Guard and the Governor who either approves or disapproves the request. Once a decision is made the National Guard will contact the requester to coordinate mission requirements.

Upon delivery, three members of the 148FW Emergency Management team set up the FORTS shelter so it could be utilized immediately. The FORTS shelter is portable, rapidly deployable and capable of running off a generator or shore power allowing it to be used almost anywhere.

“We are currently using the FORTS building for extra space, said Dewey Johnson, St. Louis County Emergency Management Coordinator. It is being used for office space, phone conference calls and video conferences that don’t include the entire EOC.”

For the COVID response, 148FW Emergency Management is a participant in teleconferences with Minnesota HSEM Region two, three times a week and St. Louis County Emergency Management weekly.



148FW/SFS RECEIVES NEW VEHICLES

BY: SSGT CORY KUCZA 148FW/SFS

The 148th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron recently received three new 2019 Ford F-150 trucks, funded by the National Guard Bureau. Since their arrival Communications and Motor Pool have installed emergency lights, sirens, radar and radios in the vehicles; Security Forces put the finishing touches on by adding seat covers for longevity and weapon racks for proper storage.

The aging vehicles in inventory were starting to have mechanical issues and would be in the Motor Pool for various reasons causing Security Forces not to have enough mission ready vehicles to respond to incidents. The new trucks will help the squadron efficiently respond to alarms and incidents around the base and properly accomplish the tasks associated with their jobs.

The patrol trucks are mobile offices for the defenders at work. They spend many hours in the trucks throughout their shifts and having a new vehicle to use has been a bright spot and a morale boost for all.



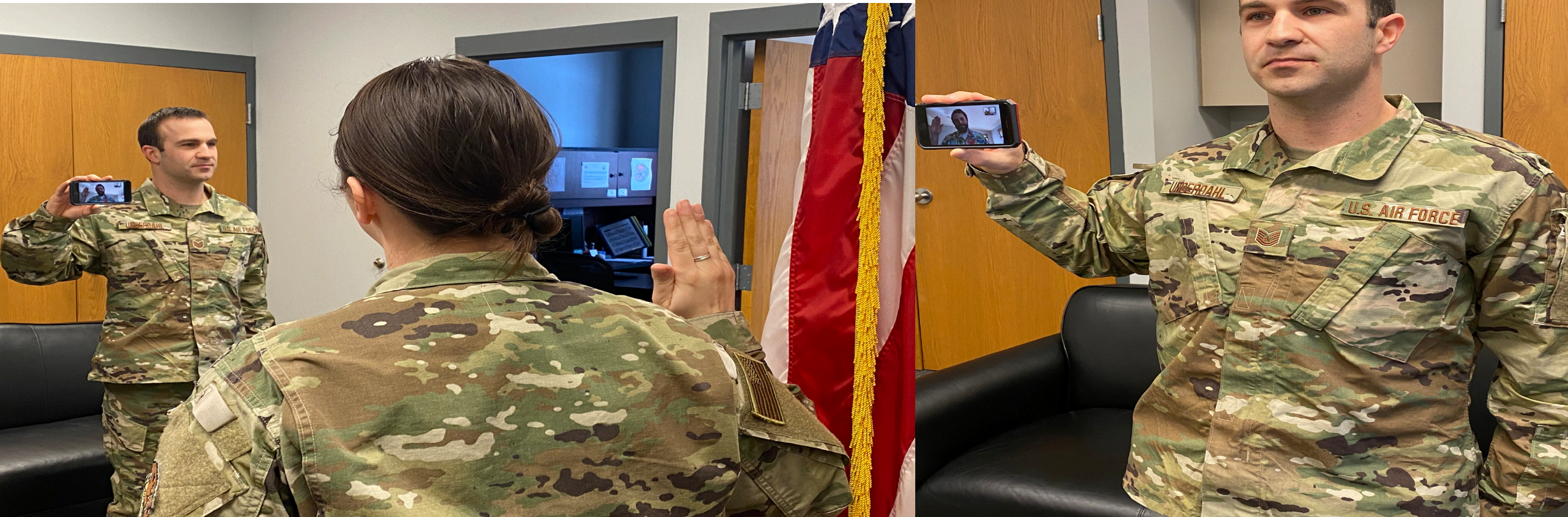
CONGRESSMAN STAUBER RECEIVES ORIENTATION FLIGHT



Congressman Pete Stauber received an orientation flight in December. The visit and orientation flight allowed him to gain first hand knowledge of the mission and capabilities of the 148th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Audra Flanagan)

VIRTUAL ENLISTMENTS DUE TO COVID-19

On April 9th, the 148th did its first virtual enlistment due to the COVID19 pandemic.



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COVID-19: CHANGING THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS



***Congratulations MSgt Lynette Hoke on earning 2nd place in the 2019 ANG media contest information story category for your story on Frisian Flag 19**