



THE BEACON

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 124TH FIGHTER WING

2020 Quarter 4

COMBAT EXCELLENCE-ALWAYS ON MISSION

From the WING COMMANDER

124th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Shannon Smith

What are you willing to do for a fellow Airman?

This is a question that each of us answers every day that we report for duty, whether in garrison or deployed. It is a question that is asked both in a formal setting as part of the official duties of your position, and it is a question that is asked in an informal setting as you interact with your fellow Airman. So, what are you willing to do?

Are you willing to bring your best effort every day?

Are you willing to challenge your teammates to bring their very best every day?

Are you willing to commit to continuous improvement not only in your assigned skill, but also in broadening your understanding of the skillsets of others?

Are you willing to share your knowledge and experience with others so that they might gain the independence and validation of having mastered a skill?

Are you willing to lead in service to others?

Are you willing to follow other's lead for the betterment of the organization and mission?

Are you willing to take the time to connect with your fellow Airman - to be present when you greet each other, actively listening to their response? Are you

willing to pause when you hear distress?

Are you willing to reach out a helping hand when an Airman falters? Are you willing to "pull" more when others are unable?

Are you willing to reach out when you falter? Are you willing to allow others to "pull" more so that you can recover?

Are you willing to uphold the standards of conduct and our core values of integrity, service, and excellence?

Are you willing to hold others to account?

Are you willing to recognize and reward hard work and contribution?

Are you willing to serve alongside your fellow Airman, answering your nation's call?

Are you willing to give your life in service to your nation, and to your fellow Airman?

Are you willing to stand up to intolerance so we don't risk losing a fellow Airman because he or she does not feel accepted based on their race, gender, sexual orientation, or belief system?

...

Does your willingness have caveats? Do your answers change depending on the



Airman?

In the 124th Fighter Wing, your willingness to do all these things must transcend your personal race, gender, sexual orientation and belief system. We are all oath and honor bound to our service, and we must be fully committed to the Airman on our left and right.

We accomplish amazing things in this organization. Time and again, we answer our nation's and our state's call. We do this knowing that often, it requires sacrifice. There is honor in our service and we must make every effort to ensure that no Airman is left behind. That no Airman is excluded.

Despite our accomplishments, we lose Airmen because they do not believe that we, as an organization, have the capacity to accept their differences.

If every Airman believes that they are a valued member of a high-performing team, accomplishing amazing things, then there is nothing we cannot overcome.

I am willing ... are you?

Col Smith

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPERINTENDENT

Senior Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Senior Airman Joseph Morgan

Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds

Senior Airman Taylor Walker

Mr. Ryan White*

*Beacon Editor







ON THE COVER



2020 Outstanding Airman of the Year Master Sgt. Douglas Brock from the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron trains with A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, assigned to the 190th Fighter Squadron, during a night close air support training mission at the Saylor Creek Range near Bruneau, Idaho, on Sept. 25, 2018. The training started right before sunset and went well into the night, providing essential training to both the pilots and ASOS special warfare tactical air control party Airmen. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Joshua C. Allmaras)

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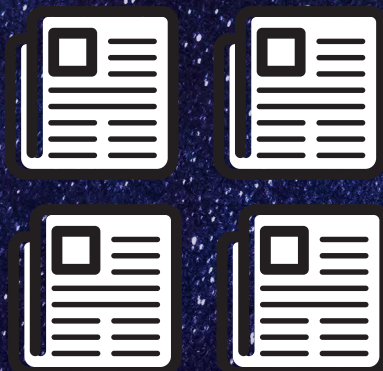
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IT'S TIME TO
LEVEL UP



MONTHLY BEACONS

ARE NOW...



QUARTERLY
BEACONS



124TH IN
124



VIRTUAL
CC CALLS



MSGT DOUGLAS BROCK

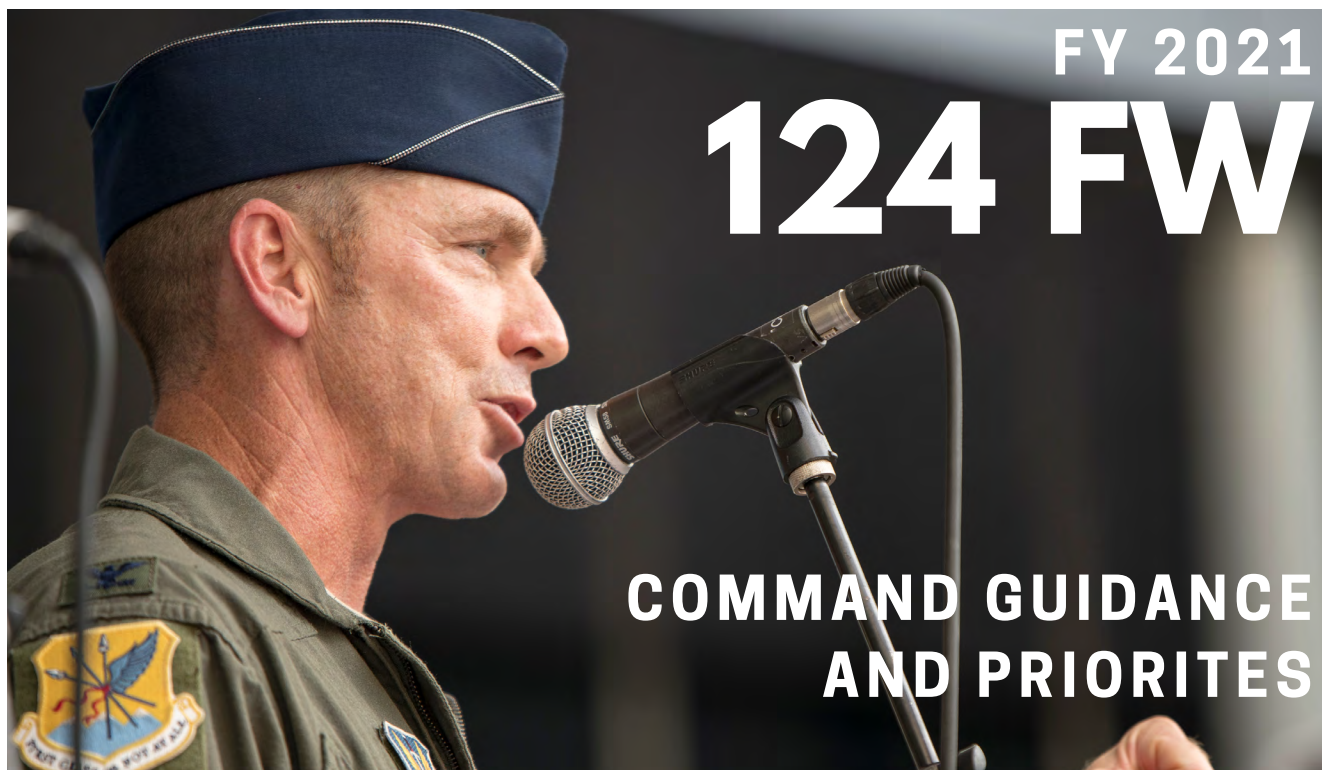


OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR



U.S. AIR FORCE

**2020 USAF OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR
2020 ANG OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR
2020 IDANG OUTSTANDING SNCO OF THE YEAR**



FY 2021

124 FW

COMMAND GUIDANCE AND PRIORITIES

People, Future, Mission

This fiscal year will be a year focused on our people first and foremost. Our priorities will rightly emphasize returning our deployed Airmen, and the reconstitution of the entire fighter wing post-deployment cycle.

Mission readiness is our enduring goal. Our priorities of People, Future, and Mission are listed in order of importance to reflect the realities of the deployment operations tempo experienced in FY20. It is a strategic imperative that post-deployment, we reconstitute our force and our equipment in order to meet our next deployment challenge. Success in FY21 is defined by returning, rebuilding, and retaining our fighter wing for the future.

Our Vision Statement:

MISSION READY – nothing less! ... Every Airman a deployable, agile, and innovative leader

Our Mission Statement:

ALWAYS ON MISSION – providing world-class warfighters for our nation and guardians for our state



AIRMEN

PEOPLE

Every Airman, a deployable, agile, innovative leader.

To focus on our Airmen means to see our Airmen for who they are. We must acknowledge and embrace our diversity. We must recruit, train, develop, empower, and promote based on the principles of merit. We must create an environment of audacious trust-based empowerment where Airmen at every level see only possibilities borne from hard-work, tenacity, and integrity.

In a year of returning our forces and rebuilding, families must be central to our efforts. We must over communicate the services available to our Airmen. We must be vigilant for the signs of struggle. We must all be involved and present, or an Airman will most certainly fall through the cracks. Our focus on families is reflected in our approach to the CY21 UTA schedule-giving time back. We are deliberately exploring three-day drills in pursuit of placing higher value on the time we ask of our Airmen.

FAMILY



PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY

As Guardsmen we are a direct reflection of our local community. The ties to our community must be continuously fostered and strengthened through engagement and education. We are guardians for our state; and as Idahoans, we are a direct reflection of the best of Idaho when we mobilize in service to our state and country.



INFRASTRUCTURE FUTURE

Our 2019 Area Development Plan continues to guide our long-term efforts to keep Gowen Field relevant for future force projection. FY21 will see construction on East Ramp sun shades and renovation to buildings 1529 and 1530 as we continue to pursue our goal to move Operations and Maintenance Groups to the East Campus.

Commanders and senior enlisted leaders will make extraordinary efforts to inform, and encourage development opportunities for Airmen at every level. Command-directed development tours will be actively explored to provide local opportunity. We must provide the opportunity and reward courageous Airmen, who accept the challenge and successfully execute, with further opportunity for advancement.

DEVELOPMENT



COLLABORATION

Our fighter wing must commit to solving problems at the lowest level. This form of empowerment creates responsible and innovative leaders at the earliest stages. FY21 will be a year to focus on our NCOs and CGOs. We must focus the efforts of SNCOs and FGOs on making tangible impacts on the direction and welfare of the fighter wing and IDANG.



Our CY21 calendar reflects a progression of events that allow an incremental return to full readiness, and provides the predictability and mission space to design unit-specific training objectives. Your annual training plans will define the "how" of reconstitution and refocus on core fundamentals. Our fighter wing will remain committed to assembling and training together to the maximum extent.

FY21 will focus on back-to-basics, discipline-first operations. Dwell readiness takes us away from preparing for a specific deployment and redirects us to the greater readiness challenge identified in the 2018 National Defense Strategy. Your training plans should reflect a building block approach to readdress the wide-ranging requirements of your designed operational capability statements. These building blocks are the foundational skills that allow us to pivot to the future fight.

FUNDAMENTALS AND DWELL READINESS



There is rarely a month when this fighter wing doesn't have an Airman deployed. The pandemic will most certainly persist in FY21. Execution of your annual training plans is the purest form of validation that we truly are ALWAYS ON MISSION – providing world-class warfighters for our nation and guardians for our state.

Welcome Home!

Idaho Air National Guard Airmen returned home to Gowen Field Aug. 8 and 16. They were deployed to various locations throughout Southwest Asia amid the COVID-19 pandemic in support of Operations FREEDOM'S SENTINEL and INHERENT RESOLVE.

Photos by Mr. Ryan White











266th RANS Deploys to Scotland

Special request comes from U.K.'s Royal Air Force

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Several Airmen from the Idaho Air National Guard's 266th Range Squadron and their specialized joint threat emitter equipment deployed in September to Scotland, United Kingdom, after being specifically requested by the No. 11 Group Royal Air Force to support them in numerous joint exercises for the next couple months during the unit's carrier strike group deployment.

"This is just another example of the capability and flexibility of today's Idaho National Guard Airmen," said Brig. Gen. Tim Donnellan, commander, Idaho Air National Guard. "The expertise of what these Airmen are able to provide with their knowledge of the emitter equipment is directly in line with our national defense strategy in preparing for future conflicts, and truly shows their commitment and professionalism."

Idaho's 266th RANS possesses highly sought-after electronic warfare training capabilities due to the specialized threat emitter

units. The IDANG sent two, four-person teams with two joint threat emitters to the U.K. on a Royal Air Force C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft.

"We are one of the only military units that has the joint threat emitter equipment," said Tech. Sgt. Phillip Mason from

the 266th RANS. "We have the most experience operating and maintaining this equipment, therefore, we get a lot of requests to bring the emitters to a number of exercises around the world."

The equipment emits radar signals, acting as opposing forces, to pilots flying aircraft in the sky





above. The equipment provides scenarios in which pilots can react to threats they may face in real-world situations.

"That's what makes this training great for pilots," said Mason. "In the real-world they will be able to recognize that signal after training with this equipment and avoid being shot down."

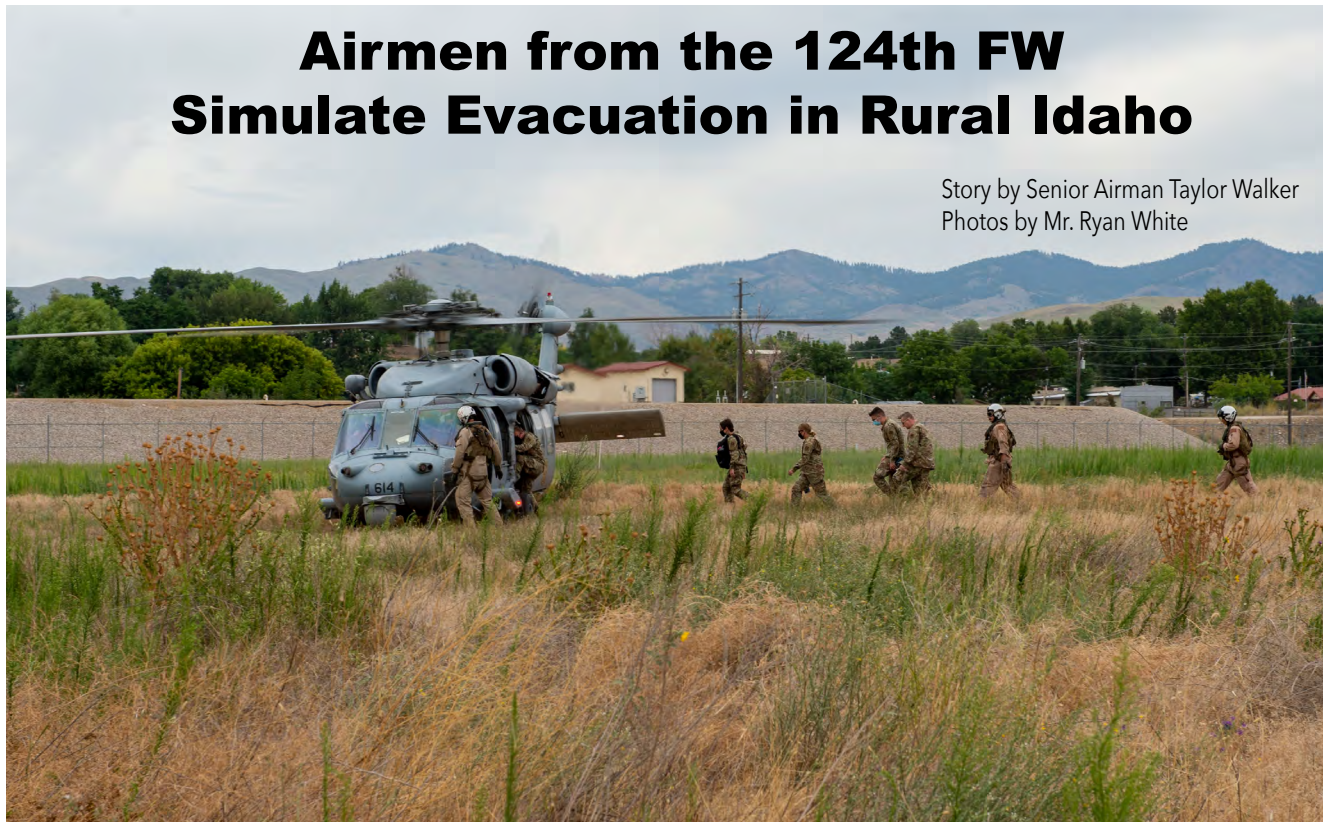
This training will help U.K. pilots achieve high-end collective training objectives during the carrier strike group exercises. Additionally, U.S. Marine Corps ground troops are participating in the deployment and will provide a joint capability training opportunity.

"I am incredibly proud to serve with the Airmen of the IDANG," said Donnellan. "They always answer the call, even if it takes them near the top of the world to Scotland, our Airmen are ready to go. It's humbling and awe inspiring."



Airmen from the 124th FW Simulate Evacuation in Rural Idaho

Story by Senior Airman Taylor Walker
Photos by Mr. Ryan White



Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing partnered with the U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Four to complete a non-combatant evacuation operation training, August 6 and 12, in Emmett and Horseshoe Bend, Idaho.

NEOs are conducted when civilians must be evacuated from a dangerous environment, typically during civil unrest, war or a natural disaster. In the past decade, NEOs have notably been utilized to evacuate populations during Hurricane Irma and the Libyan Civil War.

According to 124th Air Support Operations Squadron Chief Enlisted Manager Chief Master Sgt. Mike Furman, this type of high-visibility federal mission is easily transferrable to smaller, domestic situations, particularly within the state of Idaho.

"Picture a small, rural town

in Idaho surrounded by wildfire or floods," he said. "In those situations, we need to get people and their belongings out quickly, and just sending a few helicopters in alone won't work. There's logistically much more that comes into play."

Multiple units from the 124th FW participated in the exercise to emulate this rural evacuation scenario, including special warfare tactical air control party Airmen from the 124th ASOS, and members of the 124th Security Forces Squadron and 124th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

"Security forces essentially helped with crowd control to keep people and the aircraft safe, and LRS was there to create manifests of civilians and their baggage to ensure the assisting aircraft could accommodate the weight," Furman said.

Additional Airmen throughout the 124th FW volunteered their

time to play the roles of evacuees during the exercise.

"I was surprised to see how much planning goes into effectively getting people out of a dire situation," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Poncia, an exercise volunteer and crew chief in the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. "It takes an extreme amount of thought and organization."

Part of successfully organizing a training of this caliber is gaining buy-in from the small communities where exercises like NEOs take place. Furman said Idaho's cities are overwhelmingly supportive when it comes to hosting a training in their backyard.

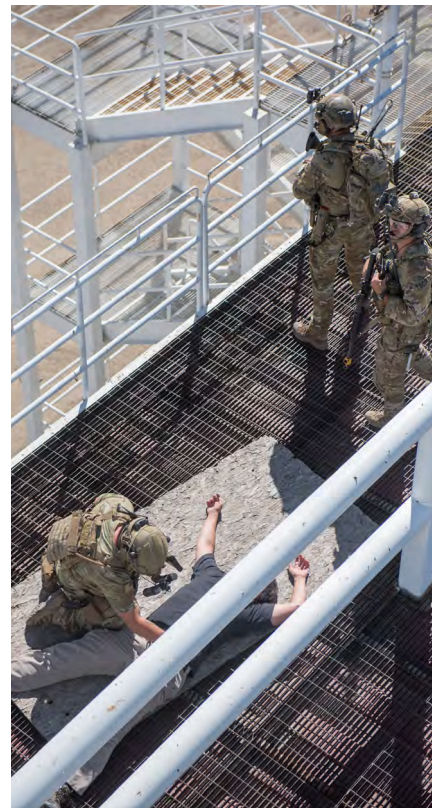
"It gives these towns a chance to look at us and realize that if they're ever in danger or in need of assistance, we can help," Furman said. "It builds the confidence of Idahoans and they understand that the National Guard is here to support them."



Search and Rescue

Photos by Senior Airman Joseph Morgan

Special warfare tactical air control party Airmen with the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron conducted an integrated search and rescue mission hand-in-hand with both the 366th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight from Mountain Home Air Force Base and aviators from the U.S. Navy's Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Four from North Island Naval Air Station, California, at the Caldwell Police and Fire training complex in Caldwell, August 7. The training included teams infiltrating from the HSC-4's MH-60S Seahawk, room clearing with the EOD Airmen, hostage rescues, and a subsequent helicopter evacuation.





124th ASOS Ascends New Heights During Rescue Training



Story by Senior Airman Taylor Walker
Photos by Senior Airman Joseph Morgan



Special warfare tactical air control party Airmen from the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron, 124th Fighter Wing, participated in high angle rescue training, August 13, near Payette Lake, Idaho.

High angle is a broad field of rescue that includes extricating a person or equipment through vertical terrain they are unable to navigate themselves because of load or injury.

"It can be a vertical tower, a cliff or a steep section of hillside," said Staff Sgt. Matt Phillips, a joint terminal attack controller in the 124th ASOS. "It can also include extricating someone from a high angle rooftop or grain silo. You'll even see us use these tactics for livestock stuck in a sinkhole or ravine."

Phillips said most people are surprised that a high angle rescue can be accomplished with very little equipment.

"Sometimes it's as simple as having a single rope and tying it around a person's waist with

a team on the other end to pull them up a hill," he said. "It can also get very technical and include specialized equipment and systems, but if you have critical thinking and problem-solving skills, you can come up with a solution no matter what the situation or what you have at your disposal."

When it comes to training, Idaho provides an incomparable variety of terrain for high angle rescue scenarios.

"It's a great place to learn because you get exposure to so many different environments and weather patterns," said Phillips. "There are an infinite number of problems you can solve within just an hour drive of Boise."

Not only does Idaho's landscape provide optimal training grounds, but Chief Master Sgt. Mike Furman, chief enlisted manager of the 124th ASOS, said training in Idaho's rural communities helps Airmen improve their skills and

learn new techniques outside of their traditional training plans that are particularly valuable during search and rescue scenarios across the state.

"If any of (the civilian organizations) have an issue, no matter the time of day, it's pretty awesome that the 124th ASOS can raise our hand to help with that," Phillips said. "We're always there, and as Guardsmen we're always ready to help the state of Idaho when it needs us."



124th ASOS Builds Personnel Recovery Skills for State, Global Use



Story by Senior Airman Taylor Walker
Photos by Senior Airman Joseph Morgan
and Senior Airman Mercedee Wilds

Special warfare tactical air control party Airmen from the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron, 124th Fighter Wing, participated in personnel recovery training, August 11-12, in Cascade, Idaho.

Typically performed alongside Air Force special warfare

pararescue teams, personnel recovery is a mission assigned to highly trained individuals in the event a military member becomes isolated while in a foreign or hostile country.

"People usually think the mission is just a personnel recovery team going in to find a pilot or team

that's down, but it's more than that," said Staff Sgt. Brandon Wells, a joint terminal attack controller in the 124th ASOS. "We're utilizing all the resources available, from people in higher echelons and medical, to personnel recovery command control and air assets. It's important to have all of these groups in sync and working together to be efficient in location and recovery."

In the field, the role of a JTAC in personnel recovery lies primarily in coordination of aircraft that are able to inspect last known locations and attempt to make radio contact with the isolated personnel.

"As a member of the personnel recovery team, we have to be familiar with a whole range of skills from operating out of a helo, to hoisting and fast-roping," said Tech. Sgt. Dylan Isaman, a





JTAC with the 124th ASOS. “But most importantly, we apply our skills in airspace coordination, deconfliction and sensor management to support the pararescue mission. We take that burden off of them.”

Personnel recovery skills are vital in hostile circumstances overseas, but this skillset also plays an important role in the relationship between the Idaho Air National Guard and the state of Idaho.

“There are major local benefits to JTACs having this skillset under their belt,” said Wells. “We can utilize what we know and effectively assist a hunter who’s fallen down a hill and broken his leg in rough, backwoods terrain, and we can partner with local civilian search and rescue teams to get someone out of a potentially fatal situation.”

Often training together with ski patrol organizations, local law enforcement and avalanche rescue teams, the 124th ASOS continues to create successful partnerships to support state missions.

“We’re an asset to the state of Idaho and it’s our job to keep showcasing that,” said Isaman.



STATE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

BENEFITS

- \$4,000 per year towards tuition and fees (does not cover books or other materials)
- Can be used in conjunction with GI Bill, grants, loans, etc.
- Funds are distributed on the State FY which runs from July 1-June 30

ELIGIBILITY

- DSG, Technician, or AGR (exhausted Fed TA) with 2 years retainability
- In good standing (no control roster/UIF) and no unexcused absences
- Passing PT test at start and graduation
- Must be an Idaho State School and achieve a grade of C or better

HOW TO USE

1. Obtain a packet from your unit training manager or force development office (FDO)
2. Review and complete State Tuition Assistance Checklist (TA briefing and PART I)
3. Submit packet in digital format to the FDO at 124.FW.FSS.FSD.BETM@us.af.mil
4. Once approved, begin courses and remember to submit a State Tuition Checklist (PART II) in digital form to the FDO within 30 days of course completion
5. Completed packets are forwarded to the State Finance Office for review and confirmation
6. The State physically mails a check to the member at the address indicated on the W-9

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE FORCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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