

official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

# THE BEACON



June 2011 • Idaho Air Guard • Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho • "First Class or Not at All" • [www.idaho.ang.af.mil](http://www.idaho.ang.af.mil)

## 124th Communications Flight 'gig-upgrade' brings speedy new network

By Tech. Sgt. Sarah Pokorney  
Public Affairs

04/30/2011 - GOWEN FIELD, Boise, Idaho – For the last several months you may have seen contractors pulling network cable in various Air Guard buildings on Gowen Field. The base also experienced a planned network outage that affected many on April 30. Both are visible evidence of the growing pains involved in a major telecommunications network upgrade to bring a faster and more robust one-gigabit connection to the wing.

"The upgrade, a result of a new standard passed down from the Guard Bureau, allows the base to run a gigabit of network traffic--a ten-fold increase in network speed for faster connections and greater volume," said Tech. Sgt. Dale Hager of the 124th Communications Flight.

The overall system enhancement, known as the "gig upgrade" to Gowen Field's Air Guard network, is made up of several projects that the 124th COMM Flight will complete in various phases. It began in August 2010 with the inside plant project to upgrade the network cabling from telecom industry 'Cat five' cable to 'Cat six' inside the buildings. The inside plant project was recently completed and followed by the gig upgrade project, that caused the May UTA outage.

The gig upgrade is complete, from a customer standpoint, but the COMM flight continued their work on the project through May. COMM Flight will follow with an outside project that will upgrade



Tech. Sgt. Jason Swensen, Staff Sgt. Joe Allen and Staff Sgt. Harvey Williams configure an Information Transfer Node (ITN) during a network upgrade by members of the 124th Communications Flight (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather Walsh)

the fiber optic cable running from building to building across Gowen field.

"We all use the network, and at times we know how slow it can be. This upgrade will allow ten times the traffic on a day to day basis," said Hager.

"The gig upgrade is made up of several projects with the ultimate goal to increase connection speeds, make the network more robust, and ensure reliability," said Master Sgt. Brad Shaul, 124th Communications Flight Quality Assurance, "These are all pieces of the puzzle that need to get done."

As part of the gig upgrade, four ITNs (Information Transfer Node) placed strategically around base, were upgraded April 30, causing the planned outage. Even after the net-

work was back up, COMM personnel worked late into the evening to wrap up the internal plant project.

"The ITNs are the backbone of the network infrastructure and are a critical hardware component of the upgrade," said Hager.

Over the next few weeks COMM will start on the Network Control Center Reconstructed (NCCR) project to replace aging servers and implement some virtual servers for the cross-over to the new gigabit connection.

"The NCCR project will increase our

**Continued on Page 4**

Information Transfer Node (ITN) configuration challenges Tech. Sgt. Jason Swenson during the 'gig upgrade' to network telecom equipment at Gowen Field. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather Walsh)



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**DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?**

We welcome articles and captioned photos relevant to members of the 124th Fighter Wing. Submissions must be accurate in fact, and will be edited for clarity and length. Articles will be published as space permits. They are due on Sunday of the UTA prior to the month the article will be published. Submit articles as e-mail attachments on Microsoft Word. Photographs must be non-copyrighted prints of 300 dpi or higher TIF or JPG images. Articles and images can be sent to:

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COMMANDER'S

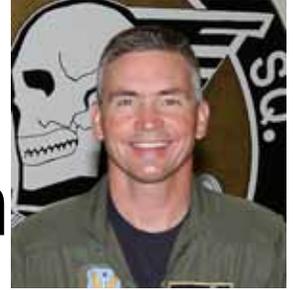


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**Guest Editorial**

**124th Fighter Wing**

**ORI Preparation**



By Lt. Col. David "Trim" Trimble  
124th Fighter Wing "Warlord"

During the June 2011 UTA we will conduct the 124th Fighter Wing's fourth Phase I Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE), in preparation for our October, 2011 Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). HQ/ACC/IG will inspect the 124FW capability to "transition from peacetime readiness to a wartime posture," and will evaluate all areas of our "Initial Response" to include Command and Control, Deployment Processing, Employment Readiness, Information Operations, and Force Protection. In laymen terms they will inspect and grade us on how we prepare our people and equipment to deploy to a combat area of operation.

We've accomplished much training and gained experience in our three previous ORE's, held in Nov 2010, Jan 2011 and Mar 2011; but we still have work to do in order to obtain an OUTSTANDING! From the Prepare to Deploy Order (PTDO) received on Saturday, 30 April for our June ORE, to the arrival of the IG team and subsequent Deployment Order on Saturday, 15 October, the men and women of the 124th FW will be working diligently on fine-tuning all processes and procedures. The "Countdown Clock," which appears on your computer screen each time you log-on, is the time remaining until Reference Start Time (RST) on 15 October, 2011. As of today, Sunday, 1 May, the time remaining is: 165 days, 19 hours, and 29 minutes...

Weekly meetings are held with representatives from each group and the wing staff to iron out all issues and come up with a "plan for success." That success plan includes dedication and hard work by all members of the 124th FW; having a positive *Attitude* and paying great *attention to Detail*; *Buy-in* from everyone and showing a *sense of Urgency* at all times; *Standardization* and being *Knowledgeable* in all processes; and having clear *Communication* at all levels. As long as everyone believes in and follows these tenets...we will succeed!

Many of us have heard people say, "Why do we need to be inspected on how to deploy? We've done this a million times!" Correct. We do know how to deploy. We just need to show the IG how good we really are! Remember, the tenets above will pay dividends when we really pack up and head east for our AEF deployment next year!

## New 124th Safety Chief: “the rules are written in blood”

New chief of 124th Fighter Wing Safety, Lt. Col. Tony “Sumo” Brown is enjoying the change that his new job has forced him into. “I’m still amazed at all the people and places that safety touches on this base,” he said, “and I wouldn’t be learning this if I remained in my position at the (190th) squadron.

In his new position, the 10-year Idaho Guardsman and his staff must coordinate with Army National Guard safety agencies, Idaho State Headquarters, and the Boise Airport as they monitor, train, and advise the 124th Wing Commander as well as investigate incidents as required.

Though he comes to his new position with over 1250 instructor hours and 3250 overall hours in the A-10 (not to mention a logbook of over 4500 total hours) he has an intense training schedule over the next several months which includes the US Air Force Safety School and the Air National Guard Chief of Safety School. Somehow he’ll have just enough time to maintain flying currency in the 190th Fighter Squadron to continue serving as an instructor pilot there.

He is quick to point out that his office is deep in talent and that their experience level is a plus to the wing, especially as we approach another Operational Readiness Inspection. “If we all follow AFI job guides and checklists—which imply that we don’t take shortcuts—and do what we’re each trained to do,” he said, “the IG (Inspector General) will

recognize that.

“Our rules are written in blood, and I take them very seriously,” he said.

Lt. Col. Brown lives in Meridian with his wife Jenifer, daughter Regan, and son Tyler.



Lt. Col. Tony Brown

## Diversity is Everyone’s Business

**By Chief Master Sgt. Susan Gramkow  
Idaho Air National Guard  
State Human Resource Advisor**

The National Guard Bureau recently released its Policy on Diversity. It identifies Diversity as differences in characteristics, background, attributes and experiences. It further expands these traits as respect, inclusion, engagement and management of talents, confidence in equal opportunities, diversity of thought, and an interdependent mindset where collaboration is the standard. Retired Air Force General Lester Lyles, Chairman of the Military Leadership Diversity Commission said, “Diversity is more than simply representing the American population – it is about gaining a more effective military capability through inclusion – recognizing and fully utilizing the wide range of talents, skills and abilities of our Servicemembers.”

So what does all of this mean to the members of the Idaho Air National Guard? It is everyone’s responsibility to build a culture free from barriers and one that fosters inclusion and mentorship ensuring

a solid future for our new generation of Airmen. Airmen, who work in an environment where diversity is embraced, learn to maximize their individual strengths and to combine abilities and perspectives for the good of the mission.

We leave you with these questions: How are you going to “Raise the Bar” in your commitment to champion Diversity in your unit? How are you going to ensure you include, engage and empower all Airmen? How will you maximize individual strengths, abilities and perspectives to reach mission goals?

We are interested in hearing about the efforts you are currently making in these areas and the impact is has on your area of influence. Email us at [debra.borley@ang.af.mil](mailto:debra.borley@ang.af.mil) or [susan.gramkow@ang.af.mil](mailto:susan.gramkow@ang.af.mil).

If you would like more information on Diversity initiatives visit the Military Leadership Diversity Commissions website at <http://mldc.whs.mil>. While you are there take a moment to read the United States *Air Force Diversity Strategic Plan: A Journey to Excellence* which is found under the Resources tab in the Reading section.

### **GIG UPGRADE (Continued from Page 1)**

backup capabilities and make maintenance seamless; the customers won't even know we're doing it," said Shaul.

In conjunction with the NCCR, COMM Flight will also start the outside plant project that provides new conduit and fiber from building-to-building. You will likely see the backhoes digging around base for the next few weeks.

"The upgrades are really a win-win for the end users and the specialists who work on the network in COMM. The users will see a performance increase in network traffic and it will make the equipment more user-friendly and easier to manage for the COMM Flight," said Hagar. "It also gives COMM more options to streamline the maintenance of the network."

Shaul explained that COMM Flight gains many trouble shooting tools built into the new equipment. This will assist them in identifying issues quickly and preventing down time.

"From this point forward we will experience no downtime due to performance upgrades and maintenance. We no longer have to bring the customer's (service) down which is painful for us," said Shaul.

The increased reliability can minimize

downtime to as little as a few seconds a year. The techies refer to this as "five nines" availability which means the network is up 99.999% of the time.

When asked about the challenges of the upgrade Shaul said, "The scheduling of the inside plan project was very challenging and telling customers we are turning them off, that is always painful."

While in the midst of the gig upgrade project COMM Flight recently completed a wireless project that provided ten wireless access points around base according to Master Sgt. James Lindholm of the 124th Communications Flight Plans and Implementation.

One of the next big projects COMM Flight will tackle is a new phone switch in preparation for a voice-over-IP (VOIP) system. With the VOIP upgrade, the phones will run on the base fiber connection instead of the old copper telephone line infrastructure. The phone upgrade is planned to start mid-August. Customers will get new handsets with new capabilities.

"Technology is moving toward VOIP systems all around the world. It's faster, clearer and provides some major savings in long distance charges," said Master Sgt. Lindholm.



Left to right, Tech. Sgt. John Steele, Tech. Sgt. Dale Hager, Senior Airman William O'Brien, Staff Sgt. Robert Kolenic and Tech. Sgt. Steve Fortune of the 124th COMM Flight train with a communications "fly away kit." This deployable asset enables secure and unsecure voice, data and video from any location. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather Walsh).

## Government Travel Card Update

*By Staff Sgt. Joshua Williams*

### *124th Comptroller Flight/Financial Management*

**So by now I'm sure you have heard or read (some facts and rumors) about a new Government Travel Card (GTC) Rest assured that this new blue card is completely legitimate. The new GTC card is called the Controlled Spend Account (CSA) and will be the future of the Travel Card program. This new CSA card will streamline many processes and make traveling on orders a much less difficult experience.**

### *What has changed from the old GTC???*

**Most notably: Whenever a travel order is generated, the computed per diem and travel expenses will be pre-loaded onto the CSA card, ready to be spent (for official uses mind you). If the amount loaded is not sufficient you may call the number on the back of your card to request a spending increase. You are allowed two increases, and then the third has to be authorized by the 124th Comptroller Flight Representative.**

**Like the GTC, CSA card holders still must file accrual vouchers and make payments to the sponsoring bank every 30 days. All expenditures made on the card still have to be accounted for by both the DoD and Citibank. Once your card is paid off you should have a "Residual Amount" left over (from Per Diem, reimbursable, etc). The Air Force considers this amount as your personal funds and you may use them at your discretion (to include personal expenses). You may obtain this by ATM withdrawal, using the amount on the card like a gift card or contacting Citibank for an electronic transfer. The new card allows military members to directly contact Citibank for all their travel card questions or issues.**

By John Spurny,  
Idaho ANG Family Program

The Air National Guard Family Support Program has the potential to span many of life's bridges for our members and their loved ones. The program's effectiveness varies by each unit and with the emphasis placed on the various facets of the program by unit leadership. The Idaho ANG family program goal is: Informed, self sufficient families assisting, supporting and contributing to their National Guard unit's readiness, sustainment, and mission accomplishment. No small goal for the many contributors impacting this unit's mission success.

Recently a policy letter from the National Guard Bureau revised some core competencies for the ANG family program. These include but are not limited to:

- Deployment cycle preparation and support
- Family readiness education
- Information / resources and referral
- Collaborative efforts with like agencies and community partnerships
- Family Program management

The ANG family program has been guided by two additional factors to provide service. They are: "folks don't know what they don't know" and "nothing is important until it's important to me". These two quotes relate directly to deployment and extended temporary duties. These are applicable not only for our uniformed members but also for their family unit...including relatives. We in the service delivery role have made some fantastic community partners. The Vet Center, Department of Commerce and Labor, the Veteran's Administration, VFW, American Legion, and many others are either directly or indirectly supporting the Idaho ANG, our people, and the mission. They are there to assist and provide vital services for our members and to monopolize on collaborative opportunities that

often times mutually benefit all parties.

Our ANG Yellow Ribbon Program contractor, Mr. Joe Hall and Tech. Sgt. April Normand, who is serving on ADOS days, does a tremendous job further enhancing programmatic service delivery outreach and options with our community partners throughout the deployment continuum.

In the past 10 years the Air Guard, its members and families have accomplished much and given our state and nation a lot to be proud of. The journey for family support is far from over. The terminologies and levels of support may vary from service to service, but the culture of a viable, flexible family program is necessary in every uniformed military organization.

While the family support program belongs to each respective Commander, the responsibility for establishing a solid family support network ultimately belongs to the uniformed service member. Family readiness issues should be a priority for your planning and execution while supporting the great state of Idaho and our nation.

Please: Develop a family plan... discuss your family plan...and review your family plan at least annually. The next time you may need your family plan could be just around the corner. Are you really ready? Questions, ideas and plan information can be obtained by contacting John Spurny at 208-422-5374 or at [John.Spurny2@ang.af.mil](mailto:John.Spurny2@ang.af.mil).

## RESOURCE CONNECTIONS: KEY PHONE NUMBERS

**YOUR First Sergeant/Commander:**

**Chaplain: Office: 208-422-6406**

**Cell: 208-841-9723**

**ANG Family Support Program:**

**Office: 208-422-5374**

**Cell: 208-599-4758**

**ANG Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist**

**Office: 208-422-6788**

**Cell: 208-360-1487**

**ANG Director of Psychological Health**

**Office: 208-422-5377**

**Cell: 208-863-3015**

**ANG Finance Office 208-422-6121**

**Human Resource Office (HRO)**

**208-272-4206**

**ANG LEGAL (drill periods)**

**208-272-5474**

**ARMY LEGAL ( Fulltime)**

**208-272-5474**

**American Red Cross/Service to the Armed Forces CTR:**

**1-877-272-7337**

**TRICARE (TRIWEST is the program administrator)**

**1-888-TRIWEST**

**(1-888-874-9378)**

**ANG IG:**

**208-272-5917**

**Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR):**

**208-272-3743**

**State Youth Coordinator**

**Office: 208-272-8397**

**Cell: 208-890-5268**

**Office of the Secretary Defense**

**Military One Source**

**1-800-342-9647**

**www.militaryonesource.com**

**Transition Assistant Advisor:**

**208-272-4408 / Cell: 208-794-5870**

**Director of Psychological Health**

**Office: 208-272-3182**

**Toll Free: 800-543-0887**

**Military Family Life Consultant**

**Office: 208-272-8398**

**Cell: 208-577-1025**

**Personal Finance Counselor**

**W: 208-272-8332**

**Cell: 208-577-1180**

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# 'Hands-on' Wildlife Management at Airfield Ops

By Lt. Col. Gary A. Daniel

124th Wing Public Affairs

"Pyrotechnics, which sound like gunfire, may be used during this time to harass wildlife." (From a recent base-wide operations message). And it is for their own good. The Joint Force Headquarters at Gowen Field has approved the occasional use of noise and visual means to encourage birds to fly, nest, and live away from the flight paths and aircraft traffic patterns around Gowen Field and the Boise Air Terminal.

The 124th Airfield Management Office ensures the safety of air crews operating from Gowen Field by monitoring all airfield conditions. They are now authorized to use some additional measures that their counterparts across the runway at the Boise Airport have found successful.

"This is a prime time of the year to pursue this as many species are looking for places to nest," said Staff Sgt. Chase Newman. "It is much better for the birds to find a home off base where they can successfully raise young," he said.

Gowen Field and its immediate surrounding base properties are especially appealing to birds in the springtime. The base offers water ponds, manicured lawns, and a

virtual lack of predators. The birds need a bit of help from Airfield Management to steer clear of the airfield environment which means certain death for them, and potential injury to air crew, and damage to aircraft.

"The threat is real," said Master Sgt. Michael Deasy, who manages this enhanced seasonal activity of the Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) program. "Just the other day, a single pilot experienced two bird strikes in the same day. He flew a different aircraft on each of two separate sorties, and he suffered a bird strike on each."

Currently, Deasy, Newman, and others managing Gowen airfield operations employ "bangers" (that sound like a shotgun), and "screamers" (that sound like a large eagle or hawk swooping in for a kill), to startle birds who are making poor habitat choices that are detrimental to both the wildlife and to air operations. Their small pistol-like device fires both types of extremely loud rounds that motivate birds to leave the area of Gowen flying operations.

"Birds love the running track and the ponds on base," said Deasy, "and they are fond of some areas near our third runway."

"We have to assess the airfield conditions daily and report this to the



**P**reparing to deploy their "banger" (yellow round) and "screamer" (red round) to encourage some wildlife to relocate away from Gowen Field are **MSgt Michael Deasy** and **SSgt Chase Newman** of the 124th Airfield Operations office. The rounds scare, but do no harm to the birds who endanger themselves and Idaho Air and Army aviation assets when they live and fly too close to the airfield.

supervisor of flying. This time of year we find an increased need to implement the harassment of birds that pose a bird strike threat" said Newman.

The Airfield Operations staff has been keeping its eyes on waterfowl such as ducks, geese and cranes, on smaller birds that present danger when in large flocks, and even on birds of prey such as eagles and hawks. They have special permission to harass, but not kill the eagles.

# Guardsmen of the Quarter, Q2 FY 2011



Senior Airman Amber Osborne  
124th Maintenance Squadron



Tech. Sgt. Jacob Daddabbo  
124th Intelligence Formal  
Training Unit



Master Sgt. Paul Cotner  
124th Security Forces  
Squadron

## Promotions

*SSgt Daniel Brennan*  
124 FSS

*SSgt Christopher Wirshing*  
124 AMXS

*TSgt Michael Clement*  
124 AMXS

*TSgt Randall Lewis*  
124 LRS

*TSgt Andrew Reneau*  
124 AMXS

*TSgt Karl King*  
124 CES

*MSgt Ronnie Pruitt*  
266 RANS

*MSgt Steven Lewis*  
124 MXS

*SMSgt Craig Newman*  
124 AMXS

*SMSgt William Abela*  
124 LRS



**Anchor man—Senior Master Sgt. Mark Nelson** anchors a Mobile Aircraft Arresting System as part of advanced training by 124th Civil Engineering Squadron personnel at the Regional Training Site, March ARB, last month. During the four-day intensive training TDY, thirty-seven 124th Civil Engineers trained from sunrise to sunset. "This is great hands-on training from a knowledgeable cadre at March who teach this full time," said Lt. Col. James Herring, 124th Civil Engineering Commander.



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US. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Joshua Brecken

## Memorial Park Ceremonies



Photos by Staff Sgt. Cody Earl



# Museum Gains Aircraft



*Staff Report  
 by Master Sgt.  
 Thomas Gloeckle*



## *PT-23 taxis into Gowen Field Military Museum with help from 124th FW volunteers*

Gowen Military Museum directors pulled up their sleeves to assist the final taxi of a Fairchild PT-23 trainer. The board members carefully moved the 1940's vintage aircraft from the Gowen flight line, along the streets of Gowen Field and to its new home at the Idaho Military Historical Museum. A truck driven by retired Col. William Miller and guided from the plane's cockpit by Mr. Gary Donnelly, the Museum's treasurer, towed the vintage aircraft. Mr. Ken Swansen, Director of the museum, and Mr. Russell Trebby, President of the Board of Directors for the museum, both walked along with hands on to insure that the plane cleared any obstacles. Members of the 124th Civil Engineer Squadron assisted the museum in the final hurdle through the gate to the museum. They included Senior Master Sgt. Isaac Reese, Master Sgt. Karl King, Senior Airman Christopher Dayton and Senior Airman Danny Hammock. The aircraft was most recently part of the collection of the Idaho Aviation Hall of Fame.

*To view Master Sgt. Gloeckle's video about the memorial park or for more complete information about anything you read here, point your internet browser to [www.thebeaconlive.com](http://www.thebeaconlive.com). You'll also find more information and multimedia resources about every item in this month's BEACON.*



SCAN THIS  
 AND LEARN  
 MORE NOW!