

THE official newsletter of the 124th Fighter Wing

BEACON

September 2011 • Idaho Air Guard • Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho • "First Class or Not at All" • www.idaho.ang.af.mil

Gowen Field Firemen compete in demanding Scott challenge

**By Master Sgt. Christopher A. Brearley
124th Civil Engineering Squadron/Asst. Fire Chief**

WALLACE, Idaho. As soon as it was announced that the Scott Firefighter Challenge was heading to Idaho, members of the Gowen Field Fire Department knew they had to give it a go. Billed by ESPN as the "toughest 2 minutes in sports", the Challenge consists of 5 demanding obstacles including a 6 story stair climb with a hose pack, a 6-story hose hoist, forcible entry (moving a 160pound beam five feet with a sledgehammer), a hose advance, and finally a victim rescue which is simply dragging a 175pound dummy 100 feet.

All of this is done while wearing full firefighting gear and breathing through a self-contained breathing apparatus. The challenge has gained an international following and is often featured on ESPN and Versus network.

You honestly couldn't ask for a better way to train and prepare firefighters for the real world, which is why this competition was started in the first place. In the early years of the competition researchers were looking for a way to test the physical fitness of firefighters and see how their bodies would react to actual emergency conditions. When the research began in 1975 it was never intended to be a popular sporting event, but with the competitive nature of firefighters it wasn't long before they started competing against one another

for the top times and the rest is history. Many active duty military fire departments including Travis Air Force Base and the Air Force Academy have competed since the early nineties and actually hold several competition records.

Once we heard it was coming to Silverwood Theme Park in Coeur D'Alene we began putting our team together and training for this tough competition. Not only did the training help us to become better firefighters by practicing actual fireground tasks but it also helped us get in top physical condition for the Air Force PT test which we did at the height of our training.

The team of competitors we sent included MSgt Chris Brearley, SSgt Miguel Sandoval, SSgt Jeffrey Sawmiller, SSgt Jason Rogers, and A1C Shawn

More on this, check
thebeaconlive.com
Video & slideshows



Banks. MSgt Ryan York also went as an alternate and team organizer. Our team chose to wear our traditional Silver Firefighting gear which put us at a large disadvantage due to weight and heat dissipation but it distinguished us as the "National Guard" team which brought several cheers from the crowd when the announcer informed everyone that we were citizen soldiers.

Although we didn't break any records (just about everybody completed the course in under 3 minutes which is considered the "excellent" category) the camaraderie, training, and physical conditioning we gained was absolutely priceless.

Fireman Master Sgt. Christopher Brearley of the Gowen Field Fire Department tugs a 150 foot fire hose for the fourth phase of the nationally televised Scott Firefighter challenge in Wallace Idaho in July. (Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Miguel Sandoval--124th Civil Engineering Squadron)



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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



CALL

“FALL”-in and Prepare to Excel



I can feel change in the air, through my nose, lungs, sights and sounds as summer fades into fall. This is one of my favorite times of the year. Many of you will take advantage of hunting season in Idaho – best of luck, be safe. Many of you will take part in end-of-summer outdoor adventures of biking, hiking, fishing or camping; enjoy the season. To celebrate an end to FY2011 we will have an Airman Appreciation and tribute to 9-11 on Sunday 11 Sep at 1500. You'll get more details from your squadron leadership but I hope to see each of you with your spouse or significant other at the Gowen Mobilization, Conference, and Activity Center (MCAC) for our celebration. Of course, retirees are always welcome.

During September UTA (10-11 Sep) we will have an operational and Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) focus. We are executing the alternate UTA option on 1-2 Oct to focus on ORI requirements and aircraft generation. For most of us, that means we will participate for two weekends this October. All Wing members will be in AT status 11-14 OCT and UTA status 15-16 OCT. ACC IG arrives on Friday 14 OCT and departs Wednesday 19 OCT. This will be a busy Fall for everyone; I'm looking forward to celebrating with an overall grade of OUTSTANDING!

Key to success begins with you – be prepared, be confident, we wouldn't task you if we didn't have faith in your ability. Always, always remember: SAFETY, this is number one. Be pro-active but don't rush. Anticipate without cutting corners, follow T.O.'s and AFI's – know them. Take care of yourself and your wingman, never leave a wingman and don't let them stray from course. Have a plan, execute the plan, anticipate changes, be flexible – THINK, don't just react – be smart and show the Inspector General team what I already know—that you are. Know what FPCON/INFOCON we are in and why. Apply OPSEC in every conversation – the enemy is listening. Attitude is everything – be POSITIVE. Pay attention to DETAILS, remember CUSTOMS and COURTICIES. As for SENSE OF URGENCY, it's Ok to be unsure, ask – this is an open book exam. INTERVINE if it's the right thing to do. Uniform issue? CORRECT it on the spot. Don't be offended, refrain from being offensive, don't argue with the IG, state your case, show the proof, move on; PROFFESIONALISM: all these boil down to personal integrity, excellence in all we do, service before self...LEADERSHIP.

Be a leader, be yourself, and live our motto: First Class or Not At All.

Colonel James R. Compton
124th Fighter Wing Commander
Idaho Air National Guard

Hang up, drive, (and Live)

By Master Sgt. Brian Hobbs
124th Fighter Wing
Weapons Safety

Operating a hand-held cell phone while driving on Gowen Field, or any military installation for that matter, has been banned for more than a year. Hand-held cell phone use is banned in eight states, and 30 states ban text messaging while driving. It seems reasonable to assume that all states will eventually ban operating a hand-held cell phone while driving. Yet, did you know that accidents from distracted driving are increasing?

It is all too common to hear of people on the highways being distracted while driving. These distractions include texting or talking on a cell phone which result in accidents.

More than a million vehicles are on the road at any given daylight moment under the operation of someone using a cell phone. In 2008, nearly 6,000 people died and more than half a million were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver. One out of five injury crashes that year involved distracted driving.

Of all the distractions that we face while driving— such as talking to your kids in the back seat, eating and drinking, and fumbling with the radio, talking—texting or surfing the web while on your phone is the most dangerous. That's because it is much more than a brief distraction. It's not a glance in the back seat or a quick look down. It is something that really

takes your attention away from what you should be focused on.

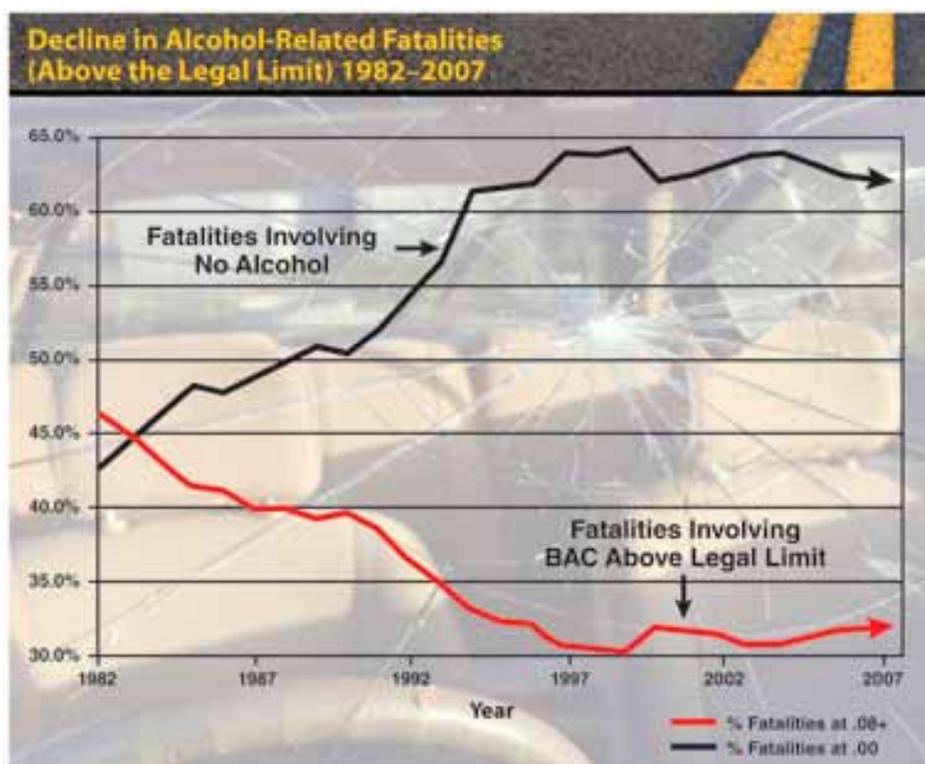
A nationally recognize legal research firm asserts that four out of every five accidents are attributed to distracted drivers. In contrast, drunk drivers account for roughly 1 out of 3 (33%) of all accidents nationally.

Texting while driving is about six times more likely to result in an accident than DUI. The average DUI costs the offender \$8,000 to \$10,000 in fines and legal fees. Some advocate for similar fines while texting because of the dangers the activity poses.

There are some alternatives to using hand-held cell phones that are much safer. Hands-free devices allow the driver to keep the hands on the

wheel and concentrate on driving while still carrying on a conversation. Many of the newer vehicles being produced have a hands-free option already installed that allows the phone calls to be received through the stereo.

Some phones even have the ability to convert your voice into text so that you can send a quick text message without having to type. Another option is to just turn off the cell phone until you reach your destination. I know this is less appealing but it is better than causing an accident. Finally, just pull off the road and have your conversation safely without the possibility of affecting your concentration while driving. These alternatives will be better than a possible life-altering accident.



124 ASOS Annual Training 'Mountain Fury' Train Like You Fight





Photos By Staff Sgt. Robert Barney

IDAHO - Joint Terminal Attack Controllers, Tactical Air Control Party Airmen, Air Liaison Officers and other support personnel from the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron conducted a variety of training exercises during Operation Mountain Fury, the squadron's official annual training exercise in the Idaho Sawtooth National Forest. Training included small unit tactics, mounted patrols with HMWV's, and Close Air Support missions. The 124th ASOS utilized the unique training environment of central Idaho, with help from a variety of outside agencies and units, including the Forest Service, Oregon Army National Guard, the 726th Air Control Squadron from Mountain Home and the 190th Fighter Squadron from Gowen Field. This type of training not only keeps the Airmen of the 124th ASOS current on their required skills training, but also helps those who are preparing to deploy for ongoing operations overseas.



To view SSgt Bob Barney's video documentary about Operation Mountain Fury, point your browser to www.thebeaconlive.com

Idaho leads nation hosting ANG softball tourney

**Photos by Staff Sgt. Robert Barney
124th Wing Public Affairs**

With four of their five teams winning their category and the fifth taking second place, the Idaho Air National Guard enjoyed unprecedented success as it hosted 42 teams at the 46th annual Air National Guard Softball tournament this August 17th-24th at the Willow Lane Athletic Complex in Boise, Idaho.

Senior Master Sgt. Steve Stephanie, 266th Range Squadron Branch Chief and Tech. Sgt. Milo Davis, Joint Force Headquarters Recruiter, led the organization efforts as co-directors. The Idaho Air National Guard last hosted the tourney a decade ago.



Triathlete represents Idaho in World Military Games

By Master Sgt. Tom Gloeckle
124th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

BOISE, IDAHO. One of the newest members of the 124th Fighter Wing had the extraordinary opportunity of participating in an international athletic event. Staff Sgt. Jolene Wilkinson of the 124th Services Flight participated in the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) Military World Games. The mid-July "Peace Games" games, held in Rio de Janero, Brazil, offer sporting events for the armed forces of 133 countries that are members of the CISM.

The games are a venue for military men and women to meet in peaceful competition where they once met in battle. Staff Sgt. Wilkinson recently joined the 124th Forces Support Squadron as a Safety Representative for Services Flight. She previously served with the Air Force Reserve in Utah. "I apply every year to be on the Air Force Triathlon Team", said Sgt. Wilkinson, "we have an event annually out in California. From there you have to qualify to go to the Military Games."

According to Wilkinson this year the top six men and six women were selected from all the branches of the service to compete as triathletes for the US.

With 24 years of experience in competition, Staff Sgt. Wilkinson is no stranger to triathlons. "I've just kind of trained on my own, but I do have a coach in Boise and I do train with a group out of Tri-Town Triathlon Shop in Hyde Park."

Sgt. Wilkinson says her coach, Mr. Harold Frobisher from Tri-Town, provides her with year round training that requires twice a day workouts, and sometimes three times a day.



World Military Games participant, Staff Sgt. Jolene Wilkinson is an accomplished triathlete. She competed on the U.S. team recently in Rio de Janero, Brazil and has recently joined the 124FSS, Services Flight.

"I've trained for this for a long time and this is just one of several races I do every year so I'm constantly preparing."

Unlike the US Olympic team, members of the military team do not go to a central training camp, they must prepare on their own. "We did have a coach for the trip to Brazil, but he was more like an administrator of the team," she said. Unfortunately, Mr. Frobisher could not go to Brazil with her.

The Military Games occur every four years just before the Olympics. This year, there were 111 different countries represented, and according to Sgt. Wilkinson not every country participated in every sport. Sgt. Wilkinson said that 50 women and 100 men from across the world competed in the triathlon. The teams of athletes also used the same venues and stayed in the same villages the Olympians will use when the summer games come to Rio in 2016.

Despite her years of experience as a triathlete, being part of something as extraordinary as this international event was not lost on Sgt. Wilkinson. "It was a really unique, amazing experience," she said "the purpose of the games was to build friendships

through sports with military members from other countries."

An important part of an international event like this is the friendships built, not just with other American teammates, but athletes from other sports and other countries as well.

The opening ceremonies were similar to those of the Olympics, but with a twist. "We were all in our military uniforms, and we marched into the stadium, and it was something else."

Just like the Olympics, there was a torch lighting ceremony and none other than the Brazilian soccer star Pele carried the flame to begin the games. "They put on a big dance production so it was just an amazing thing."

If you are interested in being a part of the World Military Games as a member of the US team, go to <http://armedforcessports.defense.gov/> or <http://www.usafsports.com/>. These websites provide yearly calendars of all the sports and their qualifying procedures. Submit an Air Force Form 303, Request for USAF Specialized Sports Training, and submit it by the deadlines posted on the websites. Keep in mind that each sporting event may have different deadline criteria.



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More stringent identification requirements to update your ID card

Airmen assigned to the 124th Fighter Wing Personnel Flight handle a variety of responsibilities. One of the most visible to those currently in the military, retirees and military dependents is issuing military identification cards. The small staff in Customer Service serves all the branches of the military, both active, guard and reserve, as well as those retired from service and dependents. Tech. Sgt. Connie Rodgers, one of the airmen who helps with the diverse crowd, enjoys seeing the variety of customers, especially talking with retirees who reminisce of their service.

“It’s fun actually, to hear their experiences compared to how ours are now, with the new DoD numbers, they all remember their old service number,” said Sergeant Rodgers “Now with the service number replacing the social

security number; they all remember their old one.”

With some current DOD ID card policy changes though, sometimes it is regrettable to have to turn people back.

“One of the biggest issues we have is not using an expired ID,” said Rodgers. With the current procedures, directed by the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, they are not allowed to use expired ID and are limited in the types of acceptable forms they have to scan into the system. In the past Customer Service was allowed to use the old, expired, ID card as the first form. They still require two forms of ID, at least one with a picture, to issue a replacement DoD ID card. “Unfortunately most people don’t normally carry with them most of the second documents, and when they have had to drive in we feel pretty bad turning them back.” For specific questions call Customer Service at 208-422-6719.

Picture ID’s that are acceptable:

- current military ID
- sponsor DoD card
- drivers license, passport
- valid immigration photo ID
- school ID with photo

Example of secondary ID’:

- original (or certified copy) of birth certificate
- social security card
- certificate of citizenship
- voter registration card
- Native American tribal document
- foreign photo ID.

--SSgt Bob Barney

Congratulations to our newly promoted airman!

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