

The Phoenix Guardian



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SECDEF visits cyber team

By 1st Lt. Hans Zeiger

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD – Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter highlighted the importance of cyber-security by spending part of the morning at the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron here during a visit on March 4. Cyber operations experts from the 252nd Cyber Operations Group, which includes the 262nd, briefed Carter on their work to protect the nation’s nuclear assets, and Carter held a press conference in the 262nd conference room. He praised Airmen of the 252nd for their commitment to service, their talent, and

their connections to the high-tech industry.

“This building where we’re sitting, and the mission represented by these guys standing with me, is famous throughout the country because of what it stands for,” said Carter.

Carter discussed the role of cyber operations in protecting military communications networks and critical public infrastructure. He noted the importance of National Guard cyber operations teams as partners with the governor and state officials in securing Washington State from cyber threats. And cyber units like

the units of the 252nd could take on offensive missions in the future, particularly as the U.S. military seeks to “accelerate” its involvement in offensive cyber operations “to secure the prompt defeat of ISIL,” said Carter.

It is valuable to have cyber operations teams made partly of service members who also work in civilian technology jobs, said Carter. “They bring to the mission of national security that tremendous talent from outside that we otherwise would have to try to recruit and retain within the full-

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Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter shakes hands with airmen during a visit to the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron at Joint Base Lewis-McChord on March 4. Carter highlighted the role of cyber operations in national defense. (Washington National Guard Photo/Capt. Joseph Siemandel/Released)

Airmen and families prepare for deployment with Yellow Ribbon program

By Maj. Chyteira Dues

BELLEVUE, Wash. – Members from various units within the 194th Wing participated in the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue over a three-day weekend in February. According to Joint Services Support (JSS), the YRRP is “a legislatively mandated program that helps Service Members and their Families in the National Guard connect with their local support community before, during, and after deployments.”

During the program, deployers and their family members had the opportunity to connect with one another, receive pertinent information from a variety of resource providers, and get a better understanding of the various services that will be available to them before, during, and after a deployment.

Some members, such as Master Sgt. Joseph Koenig, will be deploying stateside and will be working within a unit from the 194th Wing. Koenig is a member of the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron and lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife and two young children, all three of whom accompanied him to the YRRP last month. Koenig’s wife Vanessa was a Marine Corps Sergeant for 8 years and understood the effects of a deployment from her active duty military perspective. Now as a spouse, she has a greater appreciation of the various challenges that families face when preparing for and getting through the deploy-



Staff Sgt. Nick Lawlor from the 194th Security Forces Squadron speaks with a representative from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, one of approximately 15 resource providers in attendance at the YRRP in February. (ANG Photo/Maj. Chyteira Dues/Released)

ment of their military family member.

One important take away that Vanessa Koenig had from the first night of the YRRP was the comfort that she found in knowing that she would not be alone while her husband is deployed away from home. She referred to the words spoken after dinner by Col. Jeremy Horn, commander of the 194th Wing, as he expressed his appreciation for the work and the sacrifice of the family members while also ensuring that family members knew that they have someone in the wing who will be there to support them throughout the deployment of their military family members.

“I was just so happy to hear him say that,” said Koenig, “to know that we won’t be alone during my husband’s deployment was just so comforting to me.”

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194th Wing Public Affairs
109 Engineer Drive
Camp Murray, WA 98430-5035
DSN: 370.3485/Comm: 253.512.3485
Comm Fax: 253-512-3485

We welcome your ideas and submissions.
Contact 1st Lt. Hans Zeiger at
hans.a.zeiger.mil@mail.mil

Building Airmen

Building Units

Building Capability



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time, active component, which would be very difficult,” he said.

Guard cyber operations teams “give our country and our fighting forces access to amazing talent and,



of course, amazing dedication and amazing patriotism and amazing service on their part,” he said.

Carter’s itinerary at JBLM included visits with several Army and Air Force units. Carter also spent time discussing cybersecurity with executives from Microsoft, Amazon, and Boeing during his stop in the Pacific Northwest, which followed meetings in Silicon Valley, California earlier in the week.

Carter’s visit to JBLM was the first by a Secretary of Defense since Secretary Robert Gates visited in 2008.

“It was heartwarming to have his level of attention and awareness,” said Lt. Col. Robert Siau, commander of the 262nd, following Carter’s visit. “It meant a lot to our Airmen and squadron.”



ABOVE: Lt. Col. Robert Siau, commander of the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron, talks with Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter at Joint Base Lewis-McChord on March 5, as Brig. Gen. John Tuohy, Assistant Adjutant General for Air of the Washington National Guard, looks on. LEFT: Maj. Gen. Bret D. Daugherty greets Secretary of Defense Carter at JBLM. BELOW: Secretary of Defense Carter speaks during a press conference at the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron, with members of the Washington National Guard standing behind him. (Washington National Guard Photos/Capt. Joseph Siemandel/Released)



“This building where we're sitting, and the mission represented by these guys standing with me, is famous throughout the country because of what it stands for.”

– Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, speaking at the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron, March 4, 2016

Peer to Peer program training a big success

By Lynn McKinnon, Director of Psychological Health

CAMP MURRAY—Thirty members of the Washington National Guard took part in a Peer to Peer Training program in January. The training program was a collaboration between Fairchild Director of Psychological Health Marcia Richard, Chaplain Howard, and 194th Wing DPH Lynn MacKinnon. A special welcome and thank you was provided by Maj. Gen. Timothy Lowenberg, retired adjutant general of the Washington National Guard, Brig. Gen. John Tuohy, assistant adjutant general for Air of the Washington National Guard, and Chief Master Sgt. Trish Almond. The purpose of this program is to provide military members with a colleague who is trained in basic counseling skills.

Many of our personnel have problems related to the stress at their jobs and in their relationships that can be dealt with through the use of these trained co-workers. The new Peer to Peer counselors have been trained to assist their colleagues in helping with problems and strengthen the resiliency of the WA Air National Guard. The training will be repeated at the Fairchild base in approximately six months.

Feedback from the trainees indicated that the quality of the training was excellent. Training Topics included Communication skills, Addictive Behaviors, Suicide, Stress Management and Self Care, Conflict Resolution, Career/family survival, and Team Building with 4 lenses.

The trained Peer Counselors will

meet quarterly with Lynn MacKinnon for ongoing training and consultation. A big thank you to the trainees, trainers, and the leadership who contributed to the success.



ABOVE AND BELOW: Participants in the Peer to Peer Training program meet for training in January (Photo courtesy of Lynn McKinnon/Released)



Former CMSAF addresses Airmen on core values

By 1st Lt. Hans Zeiger

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD—Eric Benken, who served as the 12th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force from 1996 to 1999, addressed an audience of Air Guard members at French Theater as part of a professional development seminar on January 31. The retired top Air Force noncommissioned officer spoke on the subject of “Core Values: Integrity, Service, Excellence.” “A lot of time we take the values we have for granted,” said Benken.

Benken described four instances between 1994 and 1996 when failure to practice the core values ended in disgrace or tragedy: a 1994 friendly fire incident in



Former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Eric Benken addresses Airmen at French Theater on January 31 (ANG Photo/ Staff Sgt. David Dunlap/Released)



Former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Eric Benken signs copies of “The Little Blue Book” for Chief Master Sgt. Steven Durrance of the 141st Air Refueling Wing and Senior Master Sgt. Denise Avery of the 194th Wing (ANG Photo/ Staff Sgt. David Dunlap/Released)

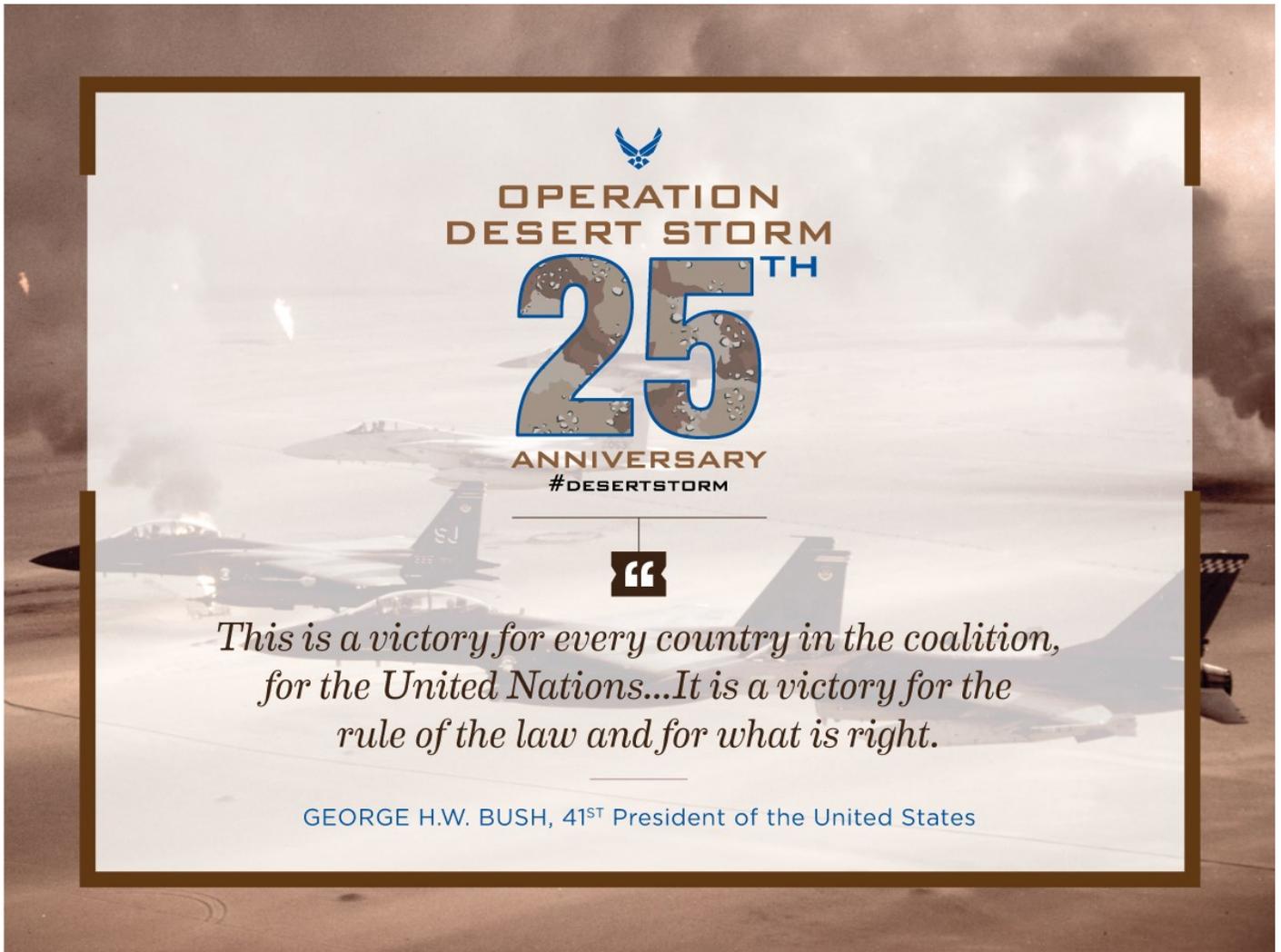
which an Air Force F-15 shot down two Army Black Hawk helicopters over northern Iraq, a 1994 B-52 crash at Fairchild Air Force Base, the 1996 crash of the Air Force plane carrying U.S. Secretary of State Ron Brown in Croatia, and an ethics scandal involving the Air Force’s first female B-52 pilot.

Benken said Air Force leaders came to realize the need for a renewed focus on the core values of integrity, service, and excellence. “A really great leader recognizes when things are off center,” he said. It was while Benken was CMSAF in 1997 that Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman began to publish “The Little Blue Book” to raise awareness of the Air Force core values.

Benken also related experiences working with members of Congress and trying to provide a senior enlisted perspective in the midst of contentious policy issues of the 1990s.

During an audience question time, Benken discussed the enlisted performance review system and women in military service.

Benken retired from the Air Force in 1999 after 29 years of service. He works for USAA in San Antonio, Texas.



Secretary of Defense visits the 262nd

“This is a place that is incredibly important to our military, and I want everybody from the Washington area to know how grateful we are as a country to have partners like this. We need a close bond between our military and our communities as a whole, and we have it here in the Seattle area, and in Washington in general.”

- Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, speaking at the 262nd Network Warfare Squadron, March 5, 2016 (read more about the SECDEF visit at www.defense.gov)