

A Word from Willie—February Update

Society of Wild Weasels



CINCWW's Corner

Fellow Weasels,

In this update we salute Lt Col Knight Prevendar who is the Commander of the 79 Fighter Squadron Tigers! Knight is wrapping up a 2 year Command tour and has done an exceptional job. Hats off to the two Arlington flybys he and the Tigers conducted for Wild Weasels that have flown west in 2024. A big hats off to the great people of the 20th OG and what they do for America everyday! A great update from Sleet our Secretary for the Society! We are asking for your help in sending emails to key staffers the next two weeks supporting House Resoultion 530 which asks for a Cancer Study for Aviators (info below) and we have added two podcasts that update everyone on both Aviation Cancer and High G RSI work from our own Quack Bear and Aztec!

A big Society “great job” to our Society Vice Chief in Charge one of the Air Force’s newest Major General Abu Gandhi whose wisdom and thoughts I rely on at least weekly! Well Done General!

Respectfully

Budman Redmond
Society of Wild Weasels Chief in Charge
YGBSM
FILO



Interview with Lt Col Knight Prevendar

Alex “Knight” Prevendar: The Fighter Pilot Who Leads from the Front

Inside the Mind of a Commander Who Puts Mission, People, and Purpose First

Alex “Knight” Prevendar doesn’t just fly jets. He commands them, bends them to his will, and pushes the limits of what’s possible in the unforgiving world of high-speed, high-stakes combat aviation.

Born in a small Minnesota town, he grew up in an environment that fostered discipline, hard work, and a curiosity about how things function. His father, an electrical engineer, and his mother, a meticulous accountant, instilled in him a mindset built on precision, an instinct that would one day serve him well at

30,000 feet. But it wasn't until his family moved to California in his ninth-grade year that his world truly expanded. The shift wasn't just geographic; it was a catalyst. Suddenly, horizons stretched farther, and the idea of staying grounded became less of a certainty.

Fast forward to today, and Knight is a battle-hardened pilot with over 2,000 hours in the F-16, an aircraft that demands every ounce of focus, skill, and nerve its pilots can muster. He started his military flying career as a First Assignment Instructor Pilot (FAIP) in the T-38 at Vance, a role reserved for the elite few trusted to train the next generation, and garnered over 1,000 hours. From there, he transitioned into the F-16, taking his talents into real-world combat zones. In 2017, he deployed to Bagram, navigating the intense and unpredictable airspace in support of Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL. From October 2021 to May 2022, he was back in the fight, this time in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE and Operation SPARTAN SHIELD, where every sortie carried the weight of geopolitics and national security.

But Prevedar isn't just a warrior in the air, he's a leader on the ground. The best fighter pilots aren't just measured by their ability to pull Gs or execute flawless strafing runs; they're defined by how they shape the culture of their squadron. And by all accounts, Knight is the kind of pilot others gravitate toward: calm under pressure, sharp-witted, and always ready to mentor those coming up behind him.

At home, leadership takes a different form. His wife, Nikki, runs a successful embroidery business (though those who know them like to joke that he "married above himself" a common theme among the Wild Weasels). Their daughter, a 15-year-old gymnast, is already training with the same relentless discipline her father honed in the cockpit and spends every day in the gym. Their two sons, 13 and 11, are equally competitive, whether on the soccer field or battling it out in video games.

Through it all, he remains exactly what his callsign suggests, a Knight, not just in the air, but in the way he leads, mentors, and inspires. He represents the best of the fighter pilot ethos: the ability to balance aggression with precision, leadership with humility, and duty with the relentless pursuit of excellence.

Because at the end of the day, great pilots don't just fly. They set the standard, and Knight Prevedar is proof of that.

Command Philosophy: The Sharp Edge of Leadership

For Knight, leadership isn't about titles or authority it's about people. His command philosophy is rooted in three fundamental principles: Mission, Family, and Relationships.

- **The Mission Comes First.** Fighter pilots don't exist for personal glory. They exist to execute the mission, to be ready at all times. "We support the President and the Secretary of Defense," Knight says. "We must always be ready for the American people. 'First In, Last Out'—that saves lives."

- **Family Isn't Just Blood—It's the Squadron.** In Knight's eyes, family isn't just spouses and kids, it's everyone in the unit. "Boyfriends, girlfriends, teammates, it's all-inclusive. If you're here, you're family."
- **Relationships Build Trust.** Knight prioritizes real connections not surface-level interactions, but deep, meaningful bonds. "I sit down with every new person who comes into the squadron and explain this. If you don't understand the people you lead, if you don't know them beyond the call sign, you won't get their best."

His leadership is sharp intent based and servant focused; honed like a weapon, always ready to strike when necessary. "Sharp means being the tip of the spear. It means we are precise in everything we do." In the world of combat aviation, where seconds determine survival, there is no room for hesitation. "Mission-type orders are exactly what we need. We fight as squadrons. We are always serving others—it's not about you; it's about the team."

The Responsibility of Command: Mentoring the Next Generation

To Knight, leadership is not about standing above it's about coaching, teaching, and mentoring from within. "A commander has to be the ultimate mentor. The best thing you can do as a leader is understand how your people learn and tailor your instruction to them." He knows that everyone absorbs information differently, so he works to adapt his approach, because when the light bulb clicks, when a pilot suddenly surpasses their peers, that's when leadership matters most.

He also fights against cynicism and complacency—two silent killers in any high-performing organization. "It is always open season for sport bitching," he admits with a grin. "It's healthy to vent, to release pressure. But we also have to recognize when to revector the conversation, to push past negativity and focus on solutions. Complaining is toxic, it spreads like wild fire, and is not good for people or the culture." In his mind, a great commander makes people feel valued—because when people feel valued, they perform at their absolute best.

"Every day, I ask myself: Am I transmitting the right attitude and effort to my team?" The two things a person can control: Attitude and Effort. "That's how I self-check. If I'm not inspiring others, I need to recalibrate."

Weaseling: The Elite Warrior Ethos

To Knight, the Wild Weasel mission isn't just a job, it's a higher calling. "First In, Last Out. It's a warrior ethos, something you can always be proud of." The job of the Weasel is to ensure the Protected Entity gets to the target and returns home, a mission that requires critical thinking, problem-solving, and resilience.

"We build warriors who can adapt and overcome. We don't just train to meet the standard we excel past it." The mentality is simple: Elite is being the best version of yourself, every single day. That's the foundation of Elite Weaseling: it's about evolving, meeting new threats, and constantly refining tactics. "We don't just want to win," he says, "we have the desire to dominate."

And in an era where warfare is shifting, where the challenges are unpredictable, that mindset is everything.

What's Next?

Knight doesn't dwell too much on the future, because in his world, mission focus is always in the present. But when asked what's next, he gives a knowing smile. "I should know in 7.9 TIGER TIGER weeks," he says. "There are a few options on the table, and my family and I are ready for them."

That's the mindset of a fighter pilot. Adapt. Overcome. Stay ready.

Because whether in the cockpit, the squadron, or wherever his next mission takes him, Alex "Knight" Prevendar will be leading from the front: sharp, precise, and always pushing for excellence.

Editor's Note: Great command philosophy and thanks Knight for what you do everyday!
Word from Willie salutes you, the men and women of the Tigers

Comments from your General Secretary

I had the honor to attend Charlie Coogan's funeral on 26 Jan. Charles Coogan, Col. USAF (Ret.) and WW#543 was a pilot and an engineer at WPAFB, worked AGM-78/F-105 integration and magnetic tape recorder system, and was an SoWW Honorary member. Some of you old timers may have meet him at Taklhi in '66-'68. Appears he was living in Worthington OH on the north side of Columbus, but don't think he attended any of our reunions in Dayton. His son, Joe "Steamer" Coogan, was an F-15 driver, 67th FS/CC, had noted our WfW publications on his dad's computer and contacted Victor. It was good

getting to meet his family and hear some of his and his dad's stories. I also let them know a family member would be eligible to assume his number (Steamer, his 1Lt. son or another).

Steamer also passed on some guidance he offered his young pilots – when you're in the [O-Club] bar and see some gray-haired guy sitting in the corner, usually with his wife, with a remenicient look in his eye – go up and introduce yourself, buy him/them a drink and engage in conversation. You'll be surprised at the stories you'll hear! How would you feel if you were the one with the gray hair (hint: carry your coin!)?

I would encourage all of you, when you see an obituary announcement and the funeral is nearby, to attend and represent our Society. The Coogans were most appreciative and I think impressed when I introduced some background to "Throw a Nickle on the Grass..."! – and take some extra nickles!

Cave Putorium!

John "Sleet" Sletten

Need everyone who can to send a note to the Congressional Aide on behalf of House Resolution 530 which asks for the Veteran's Cancer Study

MACH Coalition - we need your help today. We made progress with our engagement with the DAMA Senior Professional Staffer. Now we are asking you to send 8 emails.

This is our next move, the tool we need for ACES Act advocacy to lawmakers and staffers. The attachment (see more below) tells a straightforward story: Why the ACES Act? And, how the ACES Act and the PACT Act are *different* things. Below, we have provided the names and email addresses for the legislative aides of the Representatives who work on the House Disability Affairs & Mortuary Assistance (DAMA) subcommittee of the House Veterans Affairs Committee(HVAC).

You will see we are asking you to send an attachment and not a full email. **Why a 1 page attachment and not just an email with 1 or 2 sentences?** The arguments developed against H.R. 530 ACES Act are so elaborate, the only way to beat those arguments is with our 1-page paper. Next, if lawmakers never see our 1-pager, "Case For ACES Act".pdf, they will rely on the second-hand opinions of others. When we

succeed in getting out of the DAMA, we will repeat this advocacy tactic at the HVAC level.

Here is how you can help.

1. Start by clicking on one of the email addresses (in blue) below. This should pull up an email pre-loaded with the subject line "**The Case For H.R. 530-The ACES Act.**" If both of these things don't happen automatically upon click, simply open an email to compose, copy the email address and type the subject line "**The Case for H.R. 530 - The ACES Act.**"

2. In the body of the email, simply type your name or:

"I am writing to respectfully ask you to support H.R. 530, the Aviation Cancer Examination Study Act. Please see the attached Case for ACES Act." Sincerely, (Your Name). Any other identifiers, such as organizations you represent or relationship with cancer and aviation are at your discretion.

3. Attach the document "**Case for ACES Act**" which can be downloaded [HERE](#) or by right clicking on it below and saving to your desktop.



Case For ACES Act
CAO 25 Feb 2025.pd

4. Send email.

5. Repeat steps 1 - 4 with each of the email addresses listed.

Thank you for your help!

- DAMA Chairman Congressman Morgan Luttrell: Leg. Aide Charles Truxal charlie.truxal@mail.house.gov

- Ranking Member Congressman Morgan McGarvey: Leg. Aide Trevor O'Connor
Supports the ACES Act, no email is necessary

- Congresswoman Amata Radewagen: Leg. Aide Jared Christel
jared.christel@mail.house.gov

- Congressman Jack Bergman: Leg. Aide Benjamin Monticello
ben.monticello@mail.house.gov
- Congresswoman Nancy Mace: Leg. Aide Jonathan Maslyn
jon.maslyn@mail.house.gov
- Congressman Keith Self: Leg. Aide Brad Decker
brad.decker@mail.house.gov
- Congressman Chris Pappas: Leg. Aide Jacob Friedman
jake.friedman@mail.house.gov
- Congresswoman Maxine Dexter; No Leg Aide, send to Legislative Director Grace Banfield
grace.banfield@mail.house.gov
- Congresswoman Kelly Morrison: Leg. Aide Griffin Wong
griffin.wong@mail.house.gov

High G RSI Study Link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oq_sLBV15w&authuser=0

Aviation Cancer Study Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVsnipARKRo&authuser=0>

Next Full Issue in March

Hollywood Hanton interview by Dave Melton and his career and POW experience
Maj Gen Abu Ghandi interview by Dave Melton and his career and his recent experience
Commanding a deployed Wing
Mach 1 Coalition Update on Cancer Study
Gameplan for the 2025 Reunion

Next Update in April

Salute and interview with families and their great contributions to the Air Force

We have moved the zoom call to March 16 at 3PM MST (5PM EST) with our Wild Weasels Members taking 10 minutes to recount their “Most Memorable Mission” and record those. If you have one you would like to sign up to tell us your mission please let us know at WildWeaselReports@gmail.co

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