

A Word from Willie—APRIL Update

Society of Wild Weasels



CINCWW's Corner

Fellow Weasels,

In this update we salute some of our family members and volunteers and the great work they do in promoting our Society, our culture and keeping the Wild Weasel ethos alive and well. Nicole Prevender talks to us about the family culture she has built in the 79th Fighter Squadron in ensuring families are taken care of during their hectic schedule of deployments. It has been a pleasure to work with Knight and Nikki Prevander over the last two years and I was very moved by her honest words!

We will be having another Most Memorable Mission Podcast on June 14 at 1500 Mountain Time. For the link on the previous one go to [Wild Weasel Videos – Society of Wild Weasels](#).

We will have a full edition in June but we will be doing a NOTAM in early May asking for help on the MACH Coalition cancer study with Congress. The bill is moving through Congress and each step requires some effort to ensure we let Congress know how important this is for military aviators. See the MACH section in our Society Medical section on the Wild Weasel Webpage and the links for the MACH Coalition are there.

Respectfully

Budman Redmond

Society of Wild Weasels Chief in Charge

YGBSM

FILO

Recognizing some of the Wild Weasel families and Volunteers that help the Society

David Melton—Dave works tirelessly to conduct our interviews and present these to the Word from Willie to capture our history. In September he will take over our quarterly Podcasts on your Most Memorable Mission.



A big Word from Willie thank you to Dave for all you do!

Gaile Connolly for her great work in setting up the Photo lab after the reunion and her continuing support on our cybersecurity and her jack of all trades support.



Gaile with George Connolly before he flew West.

Word from Willie salutes Gaile for all her hardwork and support!

Donna White has attended several Luke Wild Weasel Society briefings at Luke AFB and her briefings on the early Wild Weasel family has been well-received. Her support of Luke AFB and its young Weasel families is first rate. Donna thanks for your great work with the Luke Weasels!!

Mike “Kad” Kadlubowsk (on the far right) who is a great AF Academy Weasel liaison, Bob “Muskrat” McNeese who is a our great Luke liaison (along with Uke) (holding the plaque) and on the left side Julie Kadlubowski (the best combat intelligence officer the F-4G had). Hugging Kad is his son John the class leader of the recent F-35 graduation.



Word from Willie Hats off to Kad, Muskrat and Julie and one of our newest Wild Weasels John Kadlubowski.



Interview with Nikki Prevander

Love Big Always

In a world splintered by division, where cynicism is often mistaken for strength, Nicole Prevendar offers a revolutionary alternative: Love.

Not soft love. Not sentimental love. But a wild, battle-tested, soul-defining love. A love that survives war, loss, fear, distance, and despair and still chooses to show up again tomorrow.

Training: From War to Love

There are stories that move you. And then there are stories that break you open, leave you breathless, and demand that you live differently. Nicole Prevendar's story is the second kind. By the time she was seven years old, Nicole understood fear the way most people never will. Her biological father, a man ruled by addiction and violence, turned their home into a battlefield. Every door creak, every unexpected sound, every breath held too long could mean danger. When her mother found the courage to flee, it wasn't the end of her nightmare. It was only the beginning of another kind of terror: the terror of being hunted. "He stalked us for years," Nicole says, her voice steady but heavy with the weight of memory. "Until the day he went to prison, every night ended with my mom locking windows, checking doors, sleeping with one eye open. Every morning began with a question: Are we still safe?"

"I was 18 the day he was sentenced to prison, I was 23 the day I finally felt safe. That was also the day he died," Nicole confesses.

But in the cracks of 18 years of terror, something extraordinary also grew:

Love.

Not grand gestures but small mercies that changed her life. A neighbor who listened to the truths Nicole was too young to name. A teacher who stayed after school just so she wouldn't have to walk home alone. First responders who kicked down doors because someone decided her life was worth the call. A judge who heard a terrified little girl's voice and chose to believe her. These fierce, stubborn mercies stitched Nicole's soul back together one trembling thread at a time. "They didn't just save my life," she says. "They taught me how to live it." And she made a vow to herself, one that would become the center of everything she is:

Love Big. Always.

Going through the Upgrade

Being in love with someone in the military is life changing. Love always sounds easy until it costs you and Nicole knows that better than anyone. She lived every heartbreak military life handed her:

- Giving birth alone in a new city while Alex was trapped in training.
- Packing up lives and starting over, strangers again and again.
- Raising babies across oceans, explaining why grandparents were voices on a screen.
- Grieving miscarriages.
- Grieving friends.
- Standing graveside, heart shattered beyond recognition.
- Raising a family alone through an 18 month remote tour.

And still, she chose love. Not naïve love. Not easy love. The kind of love that stands in the wreckage and says:

"I'm not leaving. We're not done."

Through deployments where others came home and hers stayed longer. Through dreams abandoned and new dreams painfully rebuilt. Through the endless cycle of hope, heartbreak, and hope again. "Love isn't what you feel when it's easy," Nicole says. "It's what you choose when it breaks you, what you choose when you're already broken."

Briefing the Mission: Family

When Alex took command of the 79th Fighter Squadron (Tigers) Nicole saw a crossroads. They could have done what was expected: first Fridays, Fini flights, and polished formalities. Or they could do something harder: build a family.

Together, they chose the harder way. "Belonging isn't a slogan," Nicole says. "It's the daily fight to show someone: You are not invisible. You are not replaceable. You are seen."

For Nicole, the most important part of building a family culture in a Fighter Squadron wasn't about ceremonies or social events it was about the moments nobody sees: The text message at midnight because someone's spouse didn't come home on schedule. The meal left on a porch with no expectation of a thank-you. The whispered "I get it" when a new spouse says they're struggling to find their place.

"You build a family not through grand gestures," Nicole says, "but through relentless, unglamorous, everyday love. Through consistency. Through showing up when it's boring, when it's hard, when it's inconvenient. You build it by seeing people before they have to ask to be seen."

Together they built a squadron where no one was a role to be filled. Where pilots weren't just pilots. Where there wasn't separation because you were intel, medical, life support, contractor, pilot, civilian, enlisted, officer, attached or assigned. Where significant others weren't just nameless faces at welcomes and farewells. Where children were more than a line in a bio. They were human. They were Tigers. They were loved. They were family.



A salute to the Prevander Family for a Command well-done! Knight and Nikki, hats off the Wild Wesel Society.

Col Ed White's internment at Arlington Cemetery is on 29 Sept at 0900 AM.



Next Full Issue in June

Hollywood Hanton interview by Dave Melton and his career and POW experience
Mach 1 Coalition Update on Cancer Study
Gameplan for the 2025 Reunion and the start of voting

We have moved the zoom call to June 14 at 3PM MST (5PM EST) with our Wild Weasels Member 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. If you want to see the recording of the last one go to Wild Weasel Videos in the Society Website.

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