

STINGER

Vol. 60, Issue No. 1, December 2023





- 3 **COMMANDER'S COMMENTS**
Stingers set the bar high
- 4 **ACE:**
Stingers embrace multi-capable Airmen concept during exercise
- 8 **JOINT MEDICAL TRAINING:**
U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa
- 12 **180FW TRAINS FOR FUTURE FIGHT**
Airmen participate in Exercise Northern Lightning
- 14 **NDI:**
Seeing the Unseen
- 16 **2023 AIRMEN OF THE YEAR**
- 18 **FROM FLIGHT TO SQUADRON:**
Communications Squadron Increases manning and responsibilities
- 19 **2023 YEAR IN PHOTOS**
- 23 **PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS**



Cover Photo By:
Senior Airman
Sarah Stalder Lundgren

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Stingers set the bar high



"There is nothing that should motivate you more to be ready. You wear the uniform and you're going to be called first."
~ Col. Chad Holesko

2023 has been a very successful year for the 180th Fighter Wing. All of you have contributed to our many tremendous accomplishments.

The 180FW closed out the year by executing more than five thousand flying hours, honing our skills to ensure our worldwide readiness. When compared to other wings throughout the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard, based on assigned aircraft, we are lightyears ahead of the rest. This is a testament to the outstanding work our maintenance personnel perform to provide a healthy fleet of aircraft.

Our maintenance teams and our aircrew work hard, but there is no way they could do their jobs without the dedicated work and support from the rest of the wing. Truly, we are proud of all you have accomplished around the wing and the high-visibility reputation we have built across the Air Force. Because of each of you, we continue to live up to that reputation every day.

Along with our incredibly high operations tempo and our day-to-day mission requirements throughout 2023, we successfully deployed more than 400 of our Stinger Airmen to seven countries around the world in support of combatant commander requirements, joint training initiatives, state partnership programs and high-value training with fourth and fifth generation fighters.

These deployments allowed us to engage and work with personnel, across all services, enhancing our joint capabilities. These skills will be put to the test, you can count on that.

The world is becoming increasingly unstable, there is nothing that should motivate you more to be ready. You wear the uniform and you're going to be called first. I am certain that we are going to be tasked sometime in the future, whether it be in support of combatant commanders around the globe, or here at home in defense of our nation and the state of Ohio.

Our readiness is key. We will continue to focus on that in our daily mission sets and training exercises, and you'll see more training events over the next year as we continue to perfect our skills and capabilities.

In addition to the training we conducted throughout 2023, we have also addressed and navigated significant maintenance

issues affecting the F-16 fleet Air Force-wide, the structural degradation of the canopy sill longeron (CSL).

Over the past year, our maintenance teams have completed four CSL repairs. What is most impressive is we are the first wing in the entire Air Force that has achieved manufacturer certification. We have maintainers that have officially been approved to conduct the necessary repairs in-house, without requiring specialty engineers to be present or requiring our jets to be sent elsewhere for depot-level repair. Our ability to perform this maintenance reduces the demand on over-capacity Depot lines, increases the availability of fighter aircraft across the Air Force, and is a testament to the outstanding work that our Maintenance Group performs. It is the example for other wings to follow. Several other F-16 wings that are experiencing CSL issues are following our lead and working toward their own certification. These wings are trying to figure out how we do what we do and hopefully match our level of execution. Again, outstanding work!

I don't have to advertise the greatness of the 180FW, though I do at every opportunity. Our reputation speaks for itself, and our state and national leaders speak to that on regular basis, at the highest levels.

This is a well-deserved honor! It's a high standard that we have to maintain, and we will continue to do the work needed to preserve it. Our reputation comes with great responsibility, because guess who they are going to look to first when they need a high-speed unit to deploy or when they are looking for a wing to lead a training event or other effort? They are going to come to the 180FW.

An example of that is our Airmen deploying this April. We are the second wing in the entire Air National Guard to do this and one of the first wings identified during the planning stages. We are deploying nearly 100 Stinger Airmen, along with Airmen from 10 other wings aligned with our deployment cycle, but truly, this deployment is being led 100% by the ANG and the 180FW in the Central Command Area of Responsibility.

There is work to be done. I know we are going to be ready when called and we are going to excel, just like we always do.

I look forward to seeing what we can do in 2024. 🇺🇸



Story & photos by: Airman 1st Class Nick Battani

Airmen from the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing conducted an Agile Combat Employment exercise at the 122nd Fighter Wing, Indiana Air National Guard Base in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Nov. 6 and 7, 2023.

"Agile Combat Employment, the idea of that is to be able to recover, reload, refuel, and relaunch the aircraft while defending it, with a small footprint," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jerri Reeder, a munitions systems craftsman assigned to the 180FW.

ACE is the Air Force's operating concept in which Airmen and aircraft disperse from large central bases and operate from smaller, more austere locations, in a "hub-and-spoke" manner, to complicate an adversary's targeting.

The exercise was the culmination of many months of training the Airmen have been conducting and their first time using the ACE concept to successfully land, refuel, rearm, and relaunch F-16 fighter jets from an unfamiliar location.

"Rearm, refuel, and relaunch, that's the point of what we do," said U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Joshua Straka, an avionics specialist assigned to the 180FW. "We're here to catch jets

and turn them quick to get them back in the air."

Airmen from the 180FW have been training under the ACE concept for over a year and will continue to conduct and perfect the ACE concept, enhancing mission readiness; to ensure combat power can be delivered to combatant commanders, anytime, anywhere.

One of the key concepts of ACE is to allow Airmen to gain a better understanding of other career fields.

"What the ACE training does, is it allows Airmen not just to train in their job but to become multi-capable Airmen and train in a different jobs," said Reeder.

Airmen learning other trade skills is integral to the ACE concept, as it allows for better interoperability in the field.

"It allows you to broaden your horizons and you really get a better respect for the different maintenance disciplines that we work with every day," said Straka. "That translates into how we work together and everyday communications and relations."

This year of training has also come with some challenges for the Airmen to overcome.

"The biggest challenge is being able to balance your time," said Reeder. "We have to maintain these new qualifications,

(Continued on p. 7)





“
Being lean, light, and agile, that’s the name of the game.
 ~ Master Sgt. Jerri Reeder
 ”

(from p. 4)

it’s not just a one-time thing.”

Through these challenges, there comes an opportunity for Airmen to grow as leaders.

“With ACE we step into scenarios where we have Airmen leading from the front and teaching you what they know as experts in their field,” said Reeder. “It gives me an opportunity to learn from them.”

Straka also valued the opportunity to get out in the field and put the skills he has been learning during ACE training to the test.

“What ACE does is it gets us out of our everyday training environment and gives us something to work towards,” said Straka. “These are skills that we will potentially be using in a hot conflict if that happened.”

Reeder expressed how vital the ACE concept is for the Air Force as it looks to maintain mission ready for the future fight.

“Being lean, light, and agile, that’s the name of the game,” said Reeder. “The best way to do that is to be able to know and perform multiple tasks outside of your comfort zone and what you’ve typically learned.”

The ACE training highlights the U.S. Air Force’s commitment to honing the skills and training for the future of air combat, where flexibility, readiness, and agility will take center stage.

“Being a multi-capable Airman makes you better equipped to serve and ultimately that’s why we are all here,” said Reeder. “With things changing in the world, you never know what will happen next and we always have to be prepared for it.”

Joint Medical Training U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa

Story by: Senior Airman Brittni Capozzi
Photos by: Senior Master Sgt. Beth Holliker & Senior Airman Brittni Capozzi

Members from the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing, Medical Group, concluded training at Marine Corps Base Camp Foster in Okinawa, Japan as part of Comprehensive Medical Readiness Program (CMRP) training and to assist the permanent party medical team assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa (USNHO), Japan, July 21, 2023. The U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, was a medical treatment facility (MTF) that provided the Medical Group Airmen the opportunity to experience and train on a wider scope than what is available at the 180FW in Toledo, Ohio.

The Airmen were able to complete necessary requirements in regards to the CMRP, performing far above expectations during this annual training.

While the primary goal of the Medical Facility Annual Training was to perform clinical training and complete

necessary CMRP's. There were other objectives such as providing assistance to the hospital by filling staffing gaps during a high Personal Change of Station (PCS) season, working with other military branches in a joint environment and experiencing the Japanese culture.

The 180FW Medical Group was able to come into the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa and provide assistance for the staff where needed. Working alongside the U.S. Navy, Marines and Army, the 36 180FW Airmen were able to demonstrate the capabilities and value the Air National Guard presents for the total force.

"The total force is important in the military these days. Although we all are a part of the military, we all speak different languages and have different goals," said Col. Gary Easterly, 180FW Medical Group Commander, "It's always important, if you're going to learn and work together, to understand the



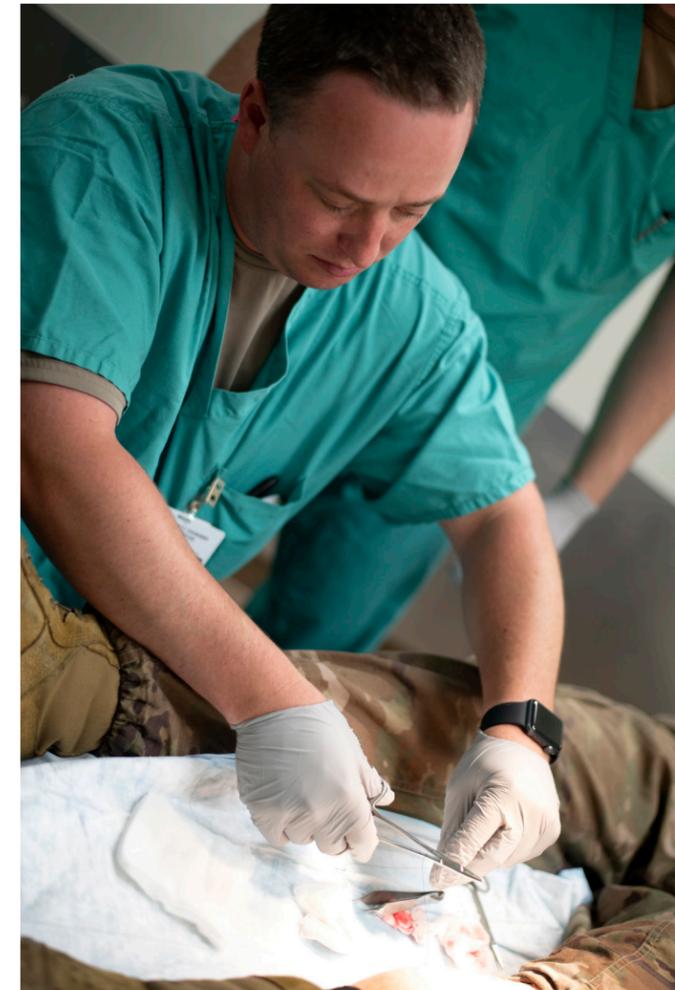
other services, so we know how to get on the same page and produce for our country."

Teamwork is something that is extremely valued. Having many new, and young, Airmen on this trip allowed them to get first-hand experiences working with other branches in a critical Area of Responsibility. These Airmen were able to see a bigger picture and understand the process and its moving parts.

"It was actually really great to see how well we all got along because they were all so nice to us, and willing to teach us," said Senior Airmen Skyler Pachell, 180FW Aerospace Medical Technician.

Being located at a military hospital is important for the Airmen to train on medical treatments and services that they might not be able to do on a drill weekend at the 180FW. Working at the hospital allowed for Airmen to keep up and

(Continued on p. 10)





(from p. 8)
learn skills.

“There’s so many things that we can do as medics that we’re just not able to do a home station, that we were able to exercise in Japan,” said Pachell, “Airmen who worked in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit got to intubate patients, and that’s not something you’d see on our side of the house.”

Another objective that was accomplished by this training was the ability to experience different cultures. It was important for the Airmen to understand that not everyone is going to think like you, speak like you or look like you, and to develop skills needed to accomplish the mission.

“The military is a worldwide organization, it’s important that you understand the culture of the people, understand how they help people, what’s good for other people,” said Easterly, “If you’re going to be in the military, you’re going to have to open your your mind and your eyes to those things.”

By the end of the five days of training, the Airmen provided assistance to staffing at 14 different work centers and two facilities on the island. During their time there the Medical

Group Airmen worked a total of 2,412 clinical hours. There were 453 provider-patient encounters, 287 medical technician-patient encounters and 37 dental-patient encounters. Also, a total of 450 clinical hours were completed in the Intensive Care Unit and the Emergency Room. The Administration team was able to digitize 1,930 documents into patient medical records and cleared a total of 920 patient referrals. The Admin team also coordinated an Air Evacuation transferring five patients to locations with higher levels of care or care not available in the Okinawa area.

The manning assist of the 180FW Medical Group brought in a total cost savings of approximately \$45,100 for the USNHO.

Training at the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan enforced the importance of what the Medical Group brings to the fight. The 180FW MDG is always mission focused and their success is achieved through the drive and passion of these critical Airmen ensuring the highest level of proficiency and readiness for worldwide deployment. 🇺🇸



FUTURE FIGHT

Story by: Airman 1st Class Sarah Stalder Lundgren
Photos by: Staff Sgt. Kregg York & Airman 1st Class Sarah Stalder Lundgren

More than 90 Airmen, 12 pilots and six F-16 Fighting Falcons from the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing deployed to Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Wis., to train with multiple active duty, National Guard, Reserve and Marine units as part of the annual Northern Lightning training exercise in early August, 2023.

Northern Lightning is hosted at The Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, a joint certified Air National Guard facility leveraging an integrated, full spectrum training environment with electronic warfare, anti-access and aerial denial specialization for units to enhance their combat capability and readiness.

During this two-week long exercise, the 180FW had the opportunity to display its ability to integrate with joint and allied forces in an environment replicating today's battle space in order to remain prepared to defend the homeland and for missions abroad.

Integrating the capabilities of the F-16 Fighting Falcon and the F-35 Lightning II units was of particular importance to the training objective during this 4th and 5th gen, air-to-air, air-to-ground capstone style exercise.

"At home, we'll typically train to our specific F-16 tactics. Here, we get to fly with F-35s from the U.S. Marine Corps.

and the U.S. Air Force against a variety of different threats and adversaries," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Tony Zelasko, an F-16 fighter pilot and 180th Detachment Commander. "We get to practice here and play off of each other's strengths and weaknesses."

As a former F-35 Fighter Pilot, Zelasko brings a unique insight on how the F-16 compliments the F-35s capabilities.

"There's a lot of complicated mission sets that we would encounter in the real world that require an F-35s help to be successful," said Zelasko, "but vice versa, there's a lot of things that we bring to the fight that augment the capabilities of an F-35 as well."

Northern Lightning provides 40,000 cubic miles of airspace and live training range to conduct missions and train in a realistic environment under realistic conditions, benefiting all participants.

"From the pilot perspective, the 180th has flown really well," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Mike Cady, an F-16 fighter pilot and Northern Lightning exercise director. "I think they've had to face some really tough problems that even in the F-35, we would consider hard problems. Yet, they've persevered through it."

"From a maintenance perspective," Cady continued, "I think they've done really well for sortie production. We haven't had

"Everyone has their piece of the puzzle. It just takes all of us to meet the mission."

~ Senior Master Sgt. Paul Stutzenstein

any Toledo aircraft have to fall out."

Keeping the F-16s mission-capable is a group effort and every member of the 180FW plays a role, explained U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Paul Stutzenstein, the maintenance project officer.

"We have specialists for each system of the jet," Stutzenstein said. "We have engine specialists, avionics specialists, crew chiefs that handle the day to day inspections, launching and recovery. Everyone has their piece of the puzzle. It just takes all of us to meet the mission."

Exercises like Northern Lightning help enhance readiness and overall ability to perform under pressure, especially for newer airmen.

"The importance of new airmen coming out to training exercises like this is to bond with their brothers and sisters in the unit as well as to practice what we've been trained to do in a combat-like setting," explained Stutzenstein. "When we deploy to a combat zone, they're going to be expected to perform everything they've been trained to do, and here, they get to practice it that way, in that type of setting."

Northern Lightning highlighted the capabilities of the 180FW's pilots, specialists and technicians supporting the mission, making it possible to keep the 180FW's Fighting Falcons in the air and mission ready.

Through the collective efforts of the pilots in the air and the Airmen on the ground, the 180FW was able to fly more than 60 training sorties, with more than 85 flight hours, enhancing the 180FW's capability to execute their mission in a joint, combat-like environment.

"Northern Lightning is the primary venue where the Air National Guard, active duty and our joint partners get this level of counter-air training," said Cady. "If we want to be the best and be ready to win the fight, this is where we need to be."





NDI

Seeing the Unseen

Story & Photos By: Senior Airman Brittni Capozzi

Just as doctors utilize x-rays, MRIs and CT scans to get an internal and closer look at what may be wrong with a patient when it's not visible to the naked eye, the 180th Fighter Wing mimics the same process, but with its equipment. That's where the Nondestructive Inspection (NDI) shop and NDI Specialists step in.

The NDI shop employs noninvasive techniques, on metal objects, to spot possible defects that may be too small for the human eye to see or may be deeper into the layers of the metal. The techniques the shop uses to inspect range from x-rays, ultrasound machines, fluorescent penetrant, magnetic particle, oil analysis, and eddy current. "Some cracks we won't be able to see from the surface, even if you use a magnifying glass, you wouldn't be able to see it because it's underneath everything," said NDI Specialist Airman 1st Class Graham Simpson, "but [the techniques] really help us clearly see what's there instead of trying to decide whether or not there is an issue just off of our own eyes."

When parts need to be looked at more deeply the NDI specialists are who the other maintenance shops turn for support. Having the technical skills to look at these parts in ways that others don't have the ability to, insure that the members of the 180FW stay safe and continue to be mission ready. "It's not just something someone can just pick up and do," said Simpson "say metal shop has a question about a piece of equipment in terms of there looks like there might be a crack or looks like it has a defect, we can scan it and make sure that there's nothing there...instead of just kind of guessing, so we just make sure everything's good to go."

The shop sees a variety of equipment coming in for inspections. "We can do any work from bolts to support equipment," said Simpson, "since I'm Drill Status Guard it changes from time to time, I don't really see the same thing a lot every month so it keeps it interesting."

Airman 1st Class Simpson, who has been an NDI Specialist for two years, is always putting his skills to the test. He never knows what's going to be coming into the shop for an inspection next. With items coming in at any point of the day, his skills are able to stay current and sharp. "I get to use them, all my skills, all the time, so that's kind of my favorite thing about [being an NDI specialist]," said Simpson.

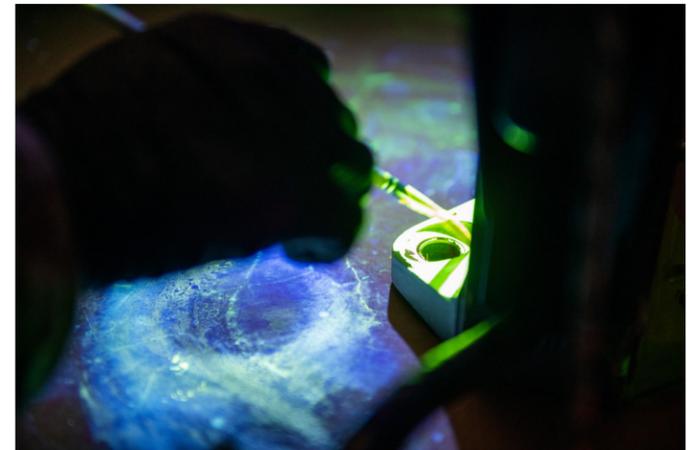
Simpson has always been drawn to science and found those classes the most enjoyable in school. When he saw the job description for the NDI specialist he knew that was what he wanted to do. After learning the techniques while in technical training he was able to find one that really sparked his interest. "I think my favorite was eddy current, which is a surface probe that uses a magnetic field to help find cracks. When you scan it over the crack it gives you an notification on a screen and there's a certain screen height that this indication has to meet to qualify as a crack," said Simpson, "I like the theory behind it, I like all the stuff about how electric and magnetic fields work, it's just interesting to me."

After finding a crack in something it means it's ready for the next steps of replacement or repair. Something like a bolt is easier for replacement, but sometimes larger things need more intensive work or may need a second opinion. NDI specialists will take photos and mark it with a grease pencil to be able to show to the metals technicians. "Depending on what it looks like we may need to get the second opinion from

an engineer, but after that we can send it to their shop to be fixed or we can send it in to depo where they can just overhaul the entire thing and replace the whole part," said Simpson.

As their job is to look for cracks, the best day for NDI specialists is not finding areas of concern. "Even if I don't find something, that's the best day because that means everything is going fine, that means there are no problems and we can put parts back on the jets and that means the jets can go back into the sky, and that's awesome," said Simpson.

The 180FW is always mission focused, and our success is achieved through the Airmen who ensure our forces maintain the highest levels of proficiency and readiness for worldwide deployment. 🇺🇸





We're proud to announce the recipients of our annual Outstanding Airmen of the Year award. The Outstanding Airman of the Year recognizes our outstanding Airmen at each level of leadership from Airman, Noncommissioned Officer, Senior Noncommissioned Officer, and Company Grade Officer. Airmen must maintain the highest levels of personal readiness to meet mission requirements. An Airman must be technically, physically, mentally and spiritually ready to accomplish the mission.

Our 2023 Airman of the Year is Airman 1st Class Nina Van Tassel.

Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing's Operations Group as an Intelligence Operations Analyst, Van Tassel's responsibilities include research, creating intelligence assessments and briefing F-16 pilots on enemy threat systems.

In addition to her assigned duties, Van Tassel was activated to support Operation Northern Lighting, where she effectively led two combat intelligence cells, integrating intelligence assessments across United States Navy, Marines and Air Force platforms. Van Tassel spearheaded joint intelligence processes at Northern lighting and as a junior analyst, she served as the Intel team lead for six intelligence analysts, refining techniques to meet aircrew mission planning requirements.

Van Tassel also serves as the 180FW Intelligence Oversight Program Manager, responsible for ensuring wing personnel granted classified access are performing duties that do not infringe on the constitutional rights of U.S. citizens. In her off-duty time,

Van Tassel serves as an intern for a top aerospace contractor. Van Tassel attends The Ohio State University where she earned a spot on the Dean's List by achieving a 4.0 GPA in her first year in the Security and Intelligence program. Van Tassel is an active member in The Ohio State Equestrian Team, regularly competing at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. Through the team, she has volunteered over 50

hours throughout the state of Ohio.

Our 2023 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is Tech. Sgt. Austin Bly.

Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing's Logistics Readiness Squadron as a logistics plans specialist, Bly is responsible for managing mobility readiness spares packages that support the F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft.

Bly deployed as the lead logistics planner for Operation Noble Eagle, where he mobilized eight F-16 aircraft and 250 personnel, enabling 132 sorties, 732.2 flying hours and an 83.3% mission completion rate. Bly was also activated for Operation Northern Lighting as the senior logistician, where he facilitated the movement of 98 personnel and 23 increments of cargo, totaling 47.4 tons.

Bly spearheaded seven short notice taskings to central command area of responsibility, where his collaboration with multiple key deployment agencies ensured all members were ready, trained and equipped to support Operation Spartan Shield.

Bly also served as the non-commissioned officer in charge for the Medical Group during a trip to U.S. Marine Camp Foster, Japan, where he provided key command and control for 36 passengers on a KC-135 aircraft, enabling the completion of over 2,400 hours of essential mission training.

Bly attended the 2023 Enlisted Leadership Symposium where honed his supervisory and leadership skills amongst his peers.

As a police officer for the city of Toledo, Bly conducted lifesaving CPR on an unresponsive person until a pulse was regained and was awarded the Northwest Ohio Safety Council Hero Award. Bly also donates to multiple charitable organizations.

Our 2023 Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is Master Sgt. Melissa Martin.

Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing's Inspector General's Office as the Inspections Coordinator, Martin planned and led 22 inspections for the 180FW, where her work led to over 200 areas of improvement identified across the wing, ensuring a

positive and direct impact on the 180FW's ability to improve mission readiness.

Martin was a pivotal planner and trainer for the May 2023 Large Scale Readiness Exercise, where she trained and more than 80 evaluators. Her efforts created an environment that tested the wing's capabilities for combat aviation, maintenance and wing support personnel to employ and sustain in a contested degraded operational environment.

Martin provided oversight for a multi-agency active shooter tabletop and live action exercise, where her scenario integrated law enforcement and fire and emergency services, discovering discrepancies that, when fixed, led to quickly neutralizing the shooter while providing medical treatment and saving lives.

Martin revamped Wing Inspection Team training, improving its efficiency, reducing the time in the classroom, enabling the training of 122 internal and 29 external subject matter experts and providing them with skills to thoroughly evaluate all aspects of wing readiness.

Martin oversaw, planned and orchestrated the 2nd annual Stinger 5K run, which included 1,063 participants and over 300 180FW members. In her off-duty time, Martin is an ambassador for Run Toledo and volunteered to help organize and run 12 run events in 2023.

Martin is the 180FW Top Three Council Vice President, where she represents 223 senior non-commissioned officers.

Our 2023 First Sgt. of the Year is Master Sgt. Adam Krouse.

Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing's Mission Support Group as a First Sergeant, Krouse is responsible for the readiness, health, welfare, morale and quality of life for more than 400 Airmen assigned to the group.

His duties include representing the enlisted force as an advisor to commanders on topics including personnel programs, administrative and disciplinary actions and ensuring overall health of the force. Krouse is a critical link between commanders and Airmen, providing advice and mentoring, not only to Airmen assigned to him, but also new first sergeants, by sharing his knowledge and experiences, resulting in increased capabilities and readiness.

Krouse stepped up on less than three weeks' notice to fill the First Sergeant's position for Operation Noble Eagle, where he assisted with numerous situations involving Airmen and sensitive issues. Krouse served as a critical liaison between military personnel and family members, when a member of the 180FW was involved in a serious accident while assigned to Operation Noble Eagle. Krouse assisted the member's family with accessing gas and food cards as they traveled during the hospitalization and treatment for the member, ensuring that the member received all the support necessary to begin to make a successful recovery.

His mentorship, oversight, professionalism and sincerity directly impacted the success of the 180FW and total force missions throughout the three-month Operation Noble Eagle mission. Krouse helped plan and organize two morale events for members of the 180FW, boosting overall morale and promoting support and camaraderie from leadership.

Krouse recently continued his education by completing his senior non-commissioned officer academy and has been selected to commission as a contracting officer.

Our 2023 Company Grade Officer of the Year is Capt.

Matthew Correa.

assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing's 112th Fighter Squadron as an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot and squadron vault duty officer, where he manages \$300,000 in F-16 avionics equipment.

During the three-month Operation Noble Eagle mission, Correa flew a squadron-high 30 hours and volunteered for multiple additional weekend sorties.

Correa was hand-picked to lead two sorties during Operation Northern Lighting in Wis., syncing over 40 jets in the 112th Fighter Squadron's largest exercise of the year, integrating with 5th generation assets and boosting Total Force combat lethality.

As the squadron's cruise missile subject matter expert, Correa developed academies and briefed over 30 pilots on this new and unique mission.

Correa consistently leads the squadron in hours and sorties flown, with 79 sorties and 156 hours flown this year. Correa oversaw 10 operations in the mission planning cell for the 112th Fighter Squadron deployment and multiple exercises, where he enabled the development of all mission products that were vital to 98.5% successful engagements in 64 sorties over a two-day span during the May 2023 Large Scale Readiness exercise.

His dedication to self-improvement garnered him the first ever instructor pilot upgrade for a 112th Fighter Squadron pilot. Correa is the wing motorcycle safety representative, where he organizes and leads annual safety refresher training.

Correa also volunteered to plan and lead a high-visibility alert sortie with general aviation aircraft to showcase the mission to over 150 Civil Air Patrol cadets, boosting recruiting efforts for an important partner organization.

Our 2023 Chief's Award Winner is Staff Sgt. Kailyn Grant. Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing's Mission Support Group as an emergency management specialist, Grant is responsible for ensuring that Airmen are deployable and mission ready in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) operations.

Grant selflessly accepted a short notice deployment, providing for the safety of Airmen and resources within the Central Command area of responsibility. Grant volunteered to support the state COVID-19 response, providing manpower for local hospitals and assisting with the safety and health of Ohioans.

Grant organized joint CBRN training with the Michigan National Guard's 127th Fighter Wing, where she led increased combined response effectiveness by leading a training course for 11 members. Grant also instructed five CBRN defense counter response classes, allowing for 203 Airmen to be world-wide deployable and mission ready.

In her off-duty time, Grant is a mentor for Girls and Running, where she spent over 72 hours supporting young runners. Grant gives back to her community as an active member of Student Veterans of America, at Bowling Green State University, where she is pursuing her bachelor's degree in aviation. Grant maintains a 4.0 GPA and was recognized on the Dean's List for the 3rd time this year for her high academic achievements, setting an example for her fellow Airmen.

Congratulations to each of our 2023 Airmen of the Year! 🎉

From Flight to Squadron:

180th Communications Squadron increases manning and responsibilities

Story & photos by: Airman 1st Class Nick Battani

The 180th Fighter Wing's Communications Flight was re-designated from a flight to a squadron Dec. 3, 2023, during a ceremony held at the 180FW Swanton, Ohio.

During the ceremony, the 180FW Communications flight guidon was furlled during the guidon exchange and the squadron guidon was revealed.

"The change comes as Air National Guard units align with total force models necessary to support the National Defense Strategy and Secretary of Defense top priorities," said Maj. Justin Tucholski, 180FW Communications Squadron Commander. "Communication functions have evolved over the years, from a computer support function, into a mission that requires certified professionals, with duties that

include ensuring secure data integrity, circuit management, vulnerability management and remediation to cyber threats."

"With the redesignation, an increase in manning will support the mission capabilities and function expansion," said 180FW Communication Squadron Director of Operations, Maj. Jeremy Tussing. "Wing communication units will still be required to maintain the expansive and sophisticated infrastructure, in addition to managing and maintaining new and emerging mission sets, both at home-station and in expeditionary environments."

The Communications Squadron continues to support the vital capability for members of the 180FW, ensuring members are connected securely and able to maintain operations that prepare them to conduct missions around the world. 🇺🇸





CONGRATULATIONS

to the following Airmen on their recent promotions

To Airman:

- Erin Castle - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Tyler Ireland - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- John Luther - Operations Support Squadron
- Sean O'Donnell - Operations Support Squadron
- Trinity Paszczykowski - Medical Group
- Cole Pelton - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Parker Schomaeker - Maintenance Squadron
- Andon Szlagowski - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Emilie Wasnich - Medical Group

To Airman First Class:

- Samuel Blanco Pino - Medical Group
- Andres Blanco Pino - Force Support Squadron
- Noah Carter - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Isaac Cherry - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Daniel Cooper - Operations Support Squadron
- Colleen Culp - Force Support Squadron
- Jordan Davis - Force Support Squadron
- Colton Eckert - Maintenance Squadron
- Ian Ford - Communications Squadron
- Ashton Gates - 112th Fighter Squadron
- Chandler Harvey - Communications Squadron
- Alyssa Haynes - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Madelynn Hilt - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Dawson Hoeffel - Force Support Squadron
- Jadin Natividad - Communications Squadron
- Carter Niekamp - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Sierra Pyman - Force Support Squadron
- Nathan Sampsell - Maintenance Squadron
- Joseph Schnipke - Maintenance Squadron
- Trey Tuttamore - Communications Squadron

To Senior Airman:

- Enya Martinez - Medical Group
- Olivia McCullough - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Blake Moran - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Leta Oliver - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Jonathon Perezshinaberry - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Maxwell Phillips - Maintenance Squadron
- Montell Qualls - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Sydney Raab - Force Support Squadron
- Taylor Shephard - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Jarrett Simmons - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Graham Simpson - Maintenance Squadron
- Keaton Smith - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Colton Smith - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Zachary Snyder - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Kathryn Spradlin - Force Support Squadron
- Kody Sprow - Force Support Squadron
- Carson Trombley - Maintenance Squadron

- Rebecca Walters - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Garrett Weldon - Maintenance Squadron
- Cole Whitmore - Maintenance Squadron
- Jacob Woods - Maintenance Squadron

To Staff Sergeant:

- Derrick Angiletta - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Gabriel Barrow - Maintenance Squadron
- Emma Blum - Medical Group
- Joshua Bolander - Maintenance Squadron
- Dominic Bonfiglio - Maintenance Squadron
- Jocelyn Camposano - Medical Group
- Andrew Canterbury - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Brittini Capozzi - Fighter Wing
- Catherine Carene - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Blade Carswell - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Dakota Chambers - Communications Squadron
- Megann Copley - Security Forces Squadron
- Jacob Darr - Maintenance Squadron
- Ava Ersig - Security Forces Squadron
- Conor Evans - Security Forces Squadron
- Michael Falencki - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Ethan Fisher - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Jenna Flanigan - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Kataleena Flores - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Allison Garcia - Maintenance Squadron
- Dylan Gilsdorf - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Hayden Gollnick - Maintenance Squadron
- Kailyn Grant - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Maxwell Guitteau - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Madison Harmon - Security Forces Squadron
- Maxwell Hughes - Maintenance Squadron
- Jordyn Jackson - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Nathan Keller - Maintenance Squadron
- Dominic Kendrioski - Maintenance Squadron
- Cortni Kertesz - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Ian Kress - Maintenance Squadron
- Alexis Lavoy - 112th Fighter Squadron
- Grant Ledyard - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Nicole Lloyd - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Liam McDonald - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Courtney McIntyre - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Brandon Mitchell - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Jordan Mohler - 112th Fighter Squadron
- Bradley Montion - Maintenance Squadron
- Broc Morse - Security Forces Squadron
- Raelynn Navarro - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Javen Newton - Maintenance Squadron
- Craig Nimigean - Operations Support Squadron
- Kyle Ordway - Maintenance Squadron
- Skyler Pachell - Medical Group



- Cameron Pauken - Force Support Squadron
- Nicolas Pitzen - Maintenance Squadron
- Emily Potridge - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Ryan Prill - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Daisha Rigo - Maintenance Squadron
- Cannon Ritzler - Maintenance Squadron
- Drew Rodkey - Security Forces Squadron
- William Schulz - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Payne Sentle - Operations Support Squadron
- Lucas Shaffer - Maintenance Squadron
- Daniel Sommers - Force Support Squadron
- Elliot Urbina - Maintenance Squadron
- Jason Utter - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Max Walters - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Sean Welch - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Rebecca Welker - Operations Support Squadron
- Mitchell Wolfrum - Maintenance Squadron
- Jessica Wright - Maintenance Squadron

To Technical Sergeant:

- Derek Alexander - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Shantel Alexander - Medical Group
- Lily Ames - Maintenance Squadron
- Albert Andujar - Security Forces Squadron
- Peter Barber - Maintenance Squadron
- Joseph Behnfeldt - Maintenance Squadron
- Joseph Bradfield - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Chase Brossia - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Preston Brown - Security Forces Squadron
- Raven Driftmyer - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- William Dunaway - Security Forces Squadron
- Samuel Echstenkamper - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Ashley Fogle - Maintenance Squadron
- Melodie Giddens - Force Support Squadron
- Annamarie Herold - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Ryan Hesterman - Maintenance Squadron
- Gabrielle Hoffman - Force Support Squadron
- Kelsie Honeycutt - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Alex Iannucci - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Kyle Knox - Security Forces Squadron
- Dean Lester - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Erin Luke - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Joshua Masiker - Maintenance Squadron
- Kyle Meyer - Security Forces Squadron
- Jettie Moore - Medical Group
- Benjamin Niese - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Staci Palmer - Operations Group
- Steven Popke - Maintenance Squadron
- Jennifer Price - Maintenance Squadron
- Lynken Price - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Kyle Reed - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Terrence Reynolds - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Brittany Robarge - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Carly Sommers - Medical Group
- Michael Sperry - Security Forces Squadron
- Damon St. John - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Michael Stella - Maintenance Squadron
- Kelly Stevens - Comptroller Flight
- Khalib Stuart - Security Forces Squadron
- Evan Szymanski - Security Forces Squadron

- Dana Thompson - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Daniel Van Horn - Maintenance Squadron
- Cody Walker - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Rashaunda Williamas - Maintenance Squadron
- Jacob Williams - Maintenance Squadron
- Kyle York - Security Forces Squadron
- Kregg York - Fighter Wing

To Master Sergeant:

- James Atchison - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Jason Benschoter - Maintenance Squadron
- Michael Bratton - Maintenance Squadron
- Adam Coe - Communications Squadron
- Cameron Cory - Maintenance Squadron
- Robert Douglass - Maintenance Squadron
- William Dunaway - Security Forces Squadron
- Andrew Everett - Maintenance Squadron
- Nicholas Geiger - Communications Squadron
- Jolan Hardiman - Medical Group
- Brady Harlett - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Alec Herhold - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Courtney Iannucci - Operations Support Squadron
- Jasen Jazwiecki - Security Forces Squadron
- Charles Kaczorowski - Maintenance Squadron
- Timothy Kutz - Fighter Wing
- Jeffrey Lewis - Communications Squadron
- Spencer Maddox - Communications Squadron
- Joshua Masiker - Maintenance Squadron
- Jerry Risner - Maintenance Squadron
- Lyndsey Spaulding - Communications Squadron
- Shawn Spears - Communications Squadron
- Michael Sperry - Security Forces Squadron
- Jordan Spetz - Security Forces Squadron
- Matthew Stahl - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Gabreale Turner - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Charles Verbosky - Civil Engineer Squadron
- Michael Young - Maintenance Squadron

To Senior Master Sergeant:

- Jill Abraham - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Paul Cowdrey - Fighter Wing
- Vincent Fitzgerald - Force Support Squadron
- Misty Goodrick - Fighter Wing
- Shawn Holmes - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Essence Johnson - Medical Group
- Ariel McVicker - Force Support Squadron
- Michael Sims - Fighter Wing
- Joshua Stryker - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Steven Waldron - Security Forces Squadron

To Chief Master Sergeant:

- David Lockert - Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Jack Rasar - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Robin Wiseman - Force Support Squadron

To Second Lieutenant:

- Justin Joseph - Operations Support Squadron
- Danielle Lloyd - Medical Group
- Jordan Sandy - Operations Support Squadron

To First Lieutenant:

- Brent Cartwright - Logistics Readiness Squadron
- Joseph Kuriger - Operations Group

To Captain:

- Ashely Crawford - Medical Group

To Major:

- Alex Anderegg - 112th Fighter Squadron
- Ian Cutting - 112th Fighter Squadron
- Travis Dancer - Operations Support Squadron
- Jeremy Tussing - Communications Squadron

To Lieutenant Colonel:

- Seth Murray - 112th Fighter Squadron

To Colonel:

- Seth Carmody - Maintenance Group Commander

Retirements:

- Lt. Col. Steven Atkinson
- Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Axe
- Col. Gregory Barasch
- Chief Master Sgt. James Brotherton
- Chief Master Sgt. Jaime Brown
- Chief Master Sgt. Robert Calhoon
- Lt. Col. Ricardo Colon
- Col. Michael DiDio
- Master Sgt. Michael Dohrmann
- Lt. Col. Jeremy Ferguson
- Master Sgt. David Ferguson
- Master Sgt. David Gentile
- Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Golden
- Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Gonzales
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Goulette
- Master Sgt. Matthew Haas
- Tech. Sgt. Matthew Hester
- Master Sgt. Richard Hitch
- Chief Master Sgt. Stacie Honan
- Master Sgt. Christian McVicker
- Master Sgt. Todd Metcalf
- Senior Master Sgt. Susan Miller
- Senior Master Sgt. Chris Nihart
- Senior Master Sgt. Steven Parsons
- Tech. Sgt. Latriece Ridgell
- Master Sgt. John Schmidt
- Col. Thomas Sodeman
- Senior Master Sgt. William Sparks
- Master Sgt. Dane Stecovich
- Tech. Sgt. Laura Suntum
- Lt. Col. Garrick Webb

STINGER

Vol. 60, Issue No. 01, December 2023

180th Fighter Wing
2660 South Eber Road
Swanton, Ohio 43558-9645

COMMAND

Wing Commander
 Col. Chad Holesko
Deputy Commander
 Col. Randall Ortiz

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Public Affairs Officer
 Maj. Matthew Eck
Public Affairs Superintendent
 Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Holliker
Editor
 Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Holliker
Public Affairs Specialists
 Tech. Sgt. Kregg York
 Staff Sgt. Brittini Capozzi
 Senior Airman Sarah Stalder-Lundgren
 Airman 1st Class Nick Battani
 Airman Camren Ray

DEADLINE

Deadline for the next Stinger is Nov. 1, at 3 p.m. Hand deliver articles to the Public Affairs Office in Building 114 or e-mail: 180.fw.pa@us.af.mil. For more information call ext. 4072

ABOUT THE STINGER

The Stinger, a funded Air Force newspaper, is an authorized publication for the personnel of the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, 2660 S. Eber Road, Swanton, Ohio 43558. Contents of The Stinger are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, the National Guard Bureau or the Adjutant General of Ohio. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 180th Public Affairs Office.



ALWAYS ON MISSION



180th Fighter Wing

2660 S. Eber Rd.

Swanton, Ohio

(419) 868-4250

<http://www.180fw.ang.af.mil/>

Follow us

 180th Fighter Wing

 @180thFW

 @180fw