

May 2021

# AirScoop

104th FIGHTER WING [WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL](http://WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL)

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# AirScoop

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\*Emailing your cell number is confidential, and will not be distributed to anyone at Barnes that doesn't already have it!\*



# Get to know 2020's ANG Region One OAY: Senior Airman Sara Kolinski

By Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith

Out of eight states Senior Airman Sara Kolinski from the 104th Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, was chosen as the Air National Guard Region One Outstanding Airman of the Year for 2020.

“I’m very honored and humbled by being selected as the Region One OAY 2020 but I couldn’t have done it without all the amazing women and men that I serve with,” said Senior Airman Sara Kolinski, 104FW public affairs specialist. “Every single achievement I had for the year couldn’t have been accomplished without a group of others who were supporting me, or helping me, or mentoring me. It really is all about working together as a team to ensure the mission succeeds.”

Kolinski is a Massachusetts native and joined the Massachusetts Air National Guard as a public affairs specialist right after graduating high school in July 2017.

“I wanted to do something that would give me a different experience and perspective on things than that of my peers, and I wanted to challenge myself,” said Kolinski. “The Air National Guard seemed like the perfect choice that would be challenging, would give me the chance to do something

different, provide me with a multitude of opportunities, and would still give me the time to go to college and achieve my dreams outside of the military while encouraging them and helping me excel.”

As a public affairs specialist, Kolinski and other Airmen like her, are responsible for being the professional communicators for the Air Force. Several aspects go into being a full-fledged communicator which can include: capturing and creating both still and motion imagery products, writing a variety of journalistic pieces, managing and updating the official website and social media platforms, and being a media liaison, among a variety of other functions.

“My favorite part of being in public affairs has been the opportunities to see a little bit of everything the Air Force has to offer and having met so many unique people who each have their own story that I can help them share,” said Kolinski. “As an Airman, I have gotten to spend time with the Fire Department during live fire training, with the explosive ordnance disposal team on the range, and with leadership at important events.”

When Kolinski is not on duty as a public affairs specialist, she works as a patient



Senior Airman Sara Kolinski, 104th Fighter Wing public affairs specialist, poses for a photo next to a sign on Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts, March 13, 2021. Kolinski was named the Air National Guard Region One Outstanding Airman of the Year for 2020. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith)

care technician in the Baystate Noble Hospital emergency room and is working hard toward her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science at Westfield State University. Upon graduation this spring, she strives to get into physician assistant school.

“I keep a legitimate list of goals I am striving to achieve to ensure that every day I am becoming a better version of myself,” said Kolinski. “Currently my biggest goal

I am striving toward after graduating from Westfield State University is getting into Physician Assistant School. Some other goals I am working toward include doing something worthy of a TED talk, stepping foot on all seven continents by the time I’m 35, learning sign language, and volunteering in a third world country, among many others.”



## 2020's ANG Region One OAY Winner Continued

*By Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith*

Kolinski credits being who she is today to her experience in the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

“The Air Force core values are integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do,” said Kolinski. “So many Airmen exemplify those attributes and being surrounded by people who strive to be their best, has motivated me as an individual to strive to be better. Apart from that, the opportunities I’ve had since enlisting have helped shape me as a leader, a communicator, and a team member. They have made me more resilient, courageous, and accepting, which are all traits that help me not only in public affairs, but in all aspects of my life.”

If there is one thing that Kolinski could pass on to others it would be to learn from your experience in any component of the Air Force.

“The truth is that the things that help you excel as an Airman, help you excel as a student, an employee, a boss, and as a civilian in general,” said Kolinski. “The military provides you with so many opportunities that everyone should take advantage of to help them be a better version of themselves.”

## Asian American & Pacific Islander Veterans

*Tech. Sgt. Robert Cyr, Equal Opportunity NCOIC*

This May is Asian American and Pacific Islander cultural heritage month, chosen to commemorate the first Japanese immigrants to arrive on May 7, 1843 as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 (where Chinese immigrants made up the vast majority of the workforce who laid the tracks). All of us here at Barnes come from different backgrounds - but what binds us to each other is our commitment to our shared military heritage. As such, it seems appropriate to explore some of the AAPI contributions to our shared military history.

AAPI have been serving in the United States military since the War of 1812, but it was Private Jose Nisperos of the Philippine Scouts Unit who was the first AAPI to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1911. Private Nisperos had sustained a broken arm and multiple spear stab wounds, yet was able to fire his rifle one armed to repel the enemy forces and save the rest of his unit. It was in World War II that the first AAPI general was promoted - Brigadier General Albert Lyman, who later led the 32nd Army Division in the Leyte campaigns in the Philippines. Throughout World War II, 21 of the 24 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor were Japanese Americans working in the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimented Combat Team.

In the modern day – Asian Americans, East Indian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders make up 4.7 percent of our total active duty officers, and 3.7 percent of our active duty enlisted. Included in this population is Capt. Suni Williams (of South Indian descent) who began her career as a Navy officer before becoming an astronaut; and who currently holds the record for total number of spacewalks, and for longest women’s spaceflight and spacewalk time. Also included in this list are Lt. Col. Tammy Duckworth, Maj. Tulsi Gabbard, and Capt. Eni Faleomavaega – all of whom are combat veterans and all of whom served in the United States Congress.

These folks, among so many others, have stood alongside us as we fight to protect our country and our freedoms – let us take a brief moment to acknowledge and celebrate their contribution to our great story.



# 104th Air Guard members go 'down on the farm' for forensic search-and-rescue training

By Master Sgt. Lindsey S. Watson

They train the FBI and now the Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Wing in Westfield.

The 104th Fighter Wing has a wide range of deployed and domestic operations that we support, and we often train with partners. Recently, we traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee, to learn from the experts at Forensic Anthropology Center at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Explains Dawnie Steadman, director of the center, "It takes a great deal of planning and work to set up a course such as this and (our assistant director) Mary Davis' creativity and MacGyver-like skills really made the course especially relevant to the 104th Fighter Wing." Steadman says it's the mission of the center "to deliver training to our students as well as to professionals around the world, conduct research that helps answer question relevant to forensic science and advance the field, and provide outreach to convey to the public what we do and the importance of the work to the criminal justice system and beyond."

"The experience at the University of Tennessee Forensic Anthropology Center, AKA the Body Farm, provided valuable and interactive training to the sustainment

team," said Master Sgt. Lauren Gallagher, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 104's Fatality Search and Recovery Team. "We were able to practice real-world scenarios and deep dive into the principles of forensic-biological anthropology."

The team and other members of the 104th received hands-on training and lectures about the ever evolving science to which the professionals at the Forensic Anthropology Center are constantly contributing. This training will increase our team's ability to perform their job and contribute to domestic-response missions. The public affairs team also attended the training and increased our skills in alert and forensic documentation.

"Senior Master Sgt. Sandra Woodin and her team have been working on this training for over a year," said 2nd Lt. Heather Dragon, personnel director for the Force Support Squadron. "With COVID-19, there was of course delays, but her ability to create meaningful relationships with agencies such as the team at the Forensic Anthropology Center, proved to be hugely beneficial. There was so much behind the scenes, but all her hard work paid off."



104th Fighter Wing Force Support Squadron Airmen with mortuary affairs and fatality search and recovery missions attend a training course at the Forensic Anthropology Center April 22 and 23, 2021, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Tennessee. At the Anthropological Research Facility, Airmen were exposed to donors and trained in a controlled setting on how to identify stages of decomposition, bimoetrics, and moving of bodies. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Sara Kolinski)

The training provided more than 35 unit members important real-world skills to help prepare them to contribute to domestic operations professionally. The 104th's commander, Col. William "Sling" Bladen, and Chief Master Sgt. Brett Barbee, the 104's command chief master sergeant, also attended the training to support the team and gain better understanding for their missions and the demands those missions place on

them.

"Having Colonel Bladen and Chief Barbee attend the training was awesome," said Dragon. "Our team always takes pride in what they do, but you could see just how proud they were when the colonel and the chief were around. It was also great to have them around off hours, allowing our airmen to connect with them and learn



# 104th Air Guard members go 'down on the farm' for forensic search-and-rescue training, continued

By Master Sgt. Lindsey S. Watson



Tech. Sgt. Carlos Vazquez, Tech. Sgt. Jeff Eddy, and Tech. Sgt. Jack Quigley, 104th Fighter Wing Force Support Squadron fatality search and recovery team Airmen, practice moving human remains in body bags at a training course at the Forensic Anthropology Center April 22, 2021, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Tennessee. At the Anthropological Research Facility, Airmen were exposed to donors and trained in a controlled setting on how to identify stages of decomposition, biometrics, and moving of bodies. (U.S. ANG photo by SrA Sara Kolinski)

about each other outside the normal hustle and bustle of work.”

In addition to the mission training and skills development, training trips also provide time for airmen to get to know each other so they can be better able to support one another and build team working skills that

they can then apply in the field.

“We were lucky enough to bring a team of 35-plus airmen, and the best part of this was how well our team looked out for each other,” said Dragon. “There are so many individuals that impressed me personally, and that’s the best part about these trips.

Learning something new about people I don’t get to spend valuable time with over drill or during the work days.”

The participants included young airmen on their first training trip since joining the 104th. This was their opportunity to put into action the skills they learned during their initial technical training and push themselves to excel.

“The instructors were very informative, approachable, and willing to share knowledge and experiences as well as being patient and a dash of humor when needed,” said Airman Farah Pagnoni, a services airman. “My team was amazing. Senior Airman Keven Colon-Rivera and Airman 1st Class Brittany Kamyk were very helpful, patient and offered immense support during the transport of the bodies and supportive afterwards.”

Airman Pagnoni and her peers were able to show their squadron leadership and wing leadership what they are made of and what they can achieve together.

“I was extremely impressed with our airmen’s performance throughout this phenomenal training,” said command Chief

Master Sgt. Barbee. “Their loyalty to each other, their competence, perseverance and courage culminated into a truly remarkable team building experience for all. The team’s performance and Leadership provided yet another example of how our wing continues to drive innovative approaches to ensure we’re prepared to defend our nation.”

The 104th leadership is committed to continuing to provide and support training that amplifies members’ skills, contributions to domestic mission readiness to respond to federal missions, and expanding partnerships.

“I was so fortunate to have the opportunity to witness our Barnestormers in action during this training,” said commander Bladen. “It was amazing to see the level of commitment to each other and to the task at hand. While the training was mentally and emotionally taxing, it was important our airmen experienced this in a controlled environment before a real world tasking occurs. Our team got through it by leaning on one another, their leadership, their first sergeant, and our wing’s director of psychological health. I couldn’t be prouder of all who participated.”



# Headlines and Highlights

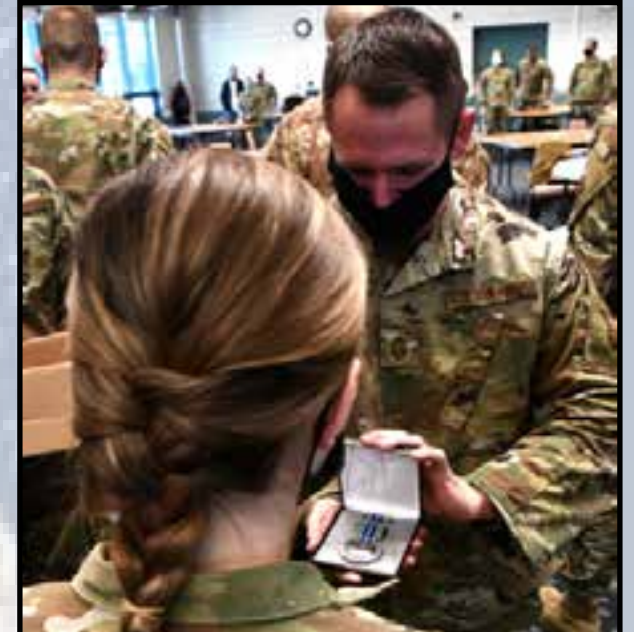
104th Public Affairs Office



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[DC Deployers  
Recognized](#)



[Hrovatin Promotion to Colonel](#)



[Family & Community Key to 104FW Success](#)



[FRG Hosts Morale Event](#)



[Change of Command](#)



# Welcomes, Farewells, Promotions and Points of Contact

104th Public Affairs Office

## Welcomes

Airman Basic Elizabeth Gates, COMTF  
Airman Basic Alexandre Becker, AMXS  
Airman Basic William Powell, MXS  
Airman Basic Ryan Bungay, SFS  
Airman Basic Blake Dufresne, MDG

Airman 1st Class Zachary Coderre, CES  
Airman 1st Class Zachary Dubreuil, SFS  
Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Lance, CES  
Tech. Sgt. Kevin Haley, MG

## Farewells

Tech. Sgt. Todd Phillips, MXS  
Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Orifice, MSG

Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Swana, MSG

## Promotions

Airman Christopher Patrick, CES  
Airman 1st Class Kyanda Wilson, FSS  
Airman 1st Class Samuel Mooreflowers, SFS  
Senior Airman Jeffrey Alicea, FSS  
Senior Airman Alexandra Eady, FSS  
Senior Airman Cody Fongemie, SFS

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Laplume, SFS  
Staff Sgt. Logan Haldopoulos, AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Randall Burlingame, CES  
Tech. Sgt. Cian Oconnor, SFS  
Tech. Sgt. Joshua Lamb, SFS  
Col. Sherri Hrovatin, MSG

Are you looking for a new drill status guardsman opportunity at the 104th Fighter Wing? Take a look at our 104FW DSG career opportunities page on our SharePoint Page.

[DSG Careers on SharePoint](#)

Yes, your CAC is required to access SharePoint.

## Wellness Center Points of Contact

Our professionals in the Wellness Center can help you with a wide range of issues.

**Capt. Tra’Vorus Weaver, Chaplain, [tra\\_vorus.weaver@us.af.mil](mailto:tra_vorus.weaver@us.af.mil)**  
**Lisa Potito, Airman & Family Readiness Program Manager, [lisa.potito@us.af.mil](mailto:lisa.potito@us.af.mil)**  
**Amanda Winslow, Airman & Family Readiness Specialist, [amanda.winslow@us.af.mil](mailto:amanda.winslow@us.af.mil)**  
**Michelle Pennington, Director of Psychological Health, [michelle.pennington.1@us.af.mil](mailto:michelle.pennington.1@us.af.mil)**  
**Mary Keeler, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, [mary.keeler.2@us.af.mil](mailto:mary.keeler.2@us.af.mil)**  
**Melanie Casineau, Yellow Ribbon Coordinator, [melanie.casineau.1.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:melanie.casineau.1.ctr@us.af.mil)**  
**Roger Greenwood, Personal Financial Counselor, [pfc.westover.usafr@zeiders.com](mailto:pfc.westover.usafr@zeiders.com)**

## Recruiters

If you want to learn about a career with the 104th Fighter Wing call one of our recruiters to learn more about serving in the Air National Guard, and the benefits you can receive, including 100% tuition and fee waiver.

**Recruiting Office Supervisor, Master Sgt. Glendaennis Schuster (413) 237-0427**  
**Retention Office Manager, Tech. Sgt. Bento Fernandes, (413) 636-2291**  
**Worcester Area Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Brian Whitman, (413) 237-4525**  
**Western Mass Recruiter, Tech. Sgt. Ernest Smith (413) 237-0982**  
**Western Mass Recruiter, Tech Sgt. Kayla Gallagher (413) 207-5186**

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