

February 2022

AirScoop

104th FIGHTER WING WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL

2021 Outstanding Airmen of the Year State Level Winners

Airman - Airman 1st Class Hannah L. Jones-Trudeau, 104th Medical Group

NCO - Tech. Sgt. Daniel R. Bowles, 104th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

SNCO - Senior Master Sgt. Victoria A. Kenny, 102nd Logistics Readiness Flight

First Sergeant - Master Sgt. Michael P. Callahan, 104th Security Forces Squadron

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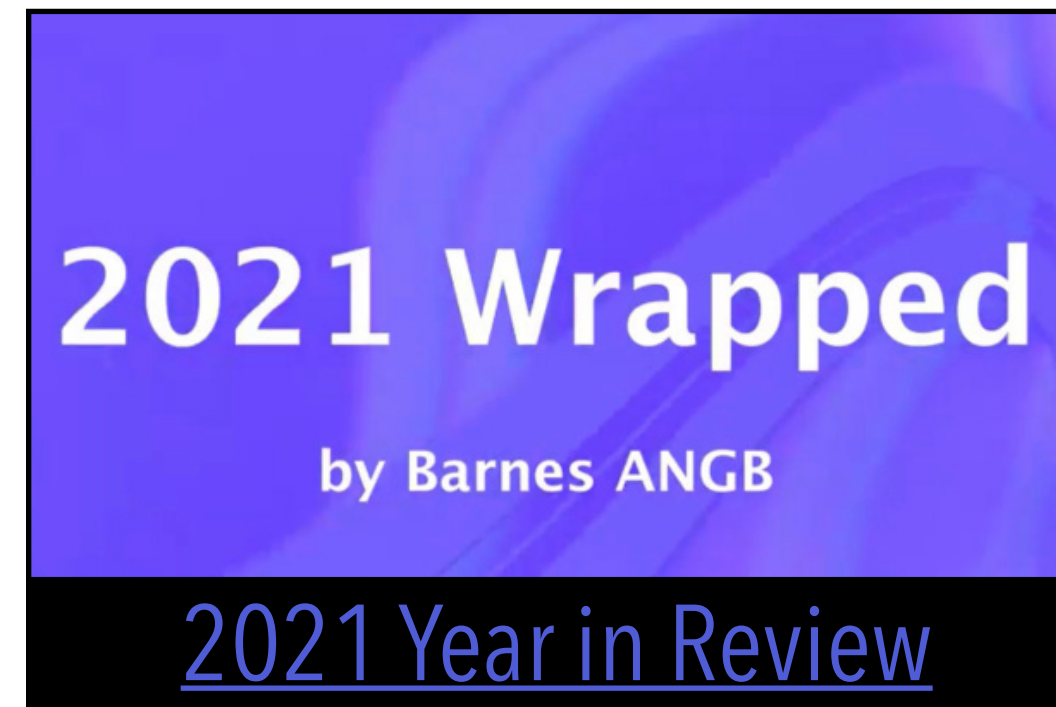
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Master Sgt. Lindsey Watson
Mr. Randy Burlingame
Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith
Staff Sgt. Sara Kolinski
Senior Airman Camille Lienau



Command Post

Services Airmen recall accomplishments from 2021, 2020

By Randy Burlingame

Sustainment services Airmen in the 104th Force Support Squadron spent the last two years honing their skills and providing members of the 104th Fighter Wing with a wide array of capabilities.

The Airmen provide the wing with culinary services, lodging operations, outdoor recreational activities, fitness programs, mortuary affairs, readiness, and the fatality search and recovery team.

Master Sgt. Lauren Gallagher, 104th Force Support Squadron services specialist, said that all of these capabilities were flexed over the two-year span and many of them are utilized on a regular basis. She said 2021 was especially productive for them.

“The Fatality Search and Recovery Team became 100% manned, which significantly increased our domestic operational capability,” said Gallagher. “Our deployed readiness training, to include mortuary and culinary downrange operations were greatly utilized in exercises and in real-world missions. All events that occurred during the year went above and beyond our expectations.”

Gallagher said one of the training highlights for 2021 was when FSRT received hands-on, instrumental training at the University of Tennessee Forensic Anthropology Center. While at the Anthropologic Research Facility, also known as “the body farm”, Airmen learned about the identification of bones of burn

victims, were exposed to donors, and trained in a controlled setting on how to identify stages of decomposition, biometrics, and moving of bodies.

“The body farm helped improve my capabilities as an Airman by allowing me to experience different scenarios that I may encounter in the real world- both military and civilian,” said Airman 1st Class Farah Pagnoni, 104th FSS base services specialist. “It allowed me to have that experience in a controlled environment and make errors, while also learning through the errors.”

FSRT also underwent a five-day, home station training exercise operating in contaminated/non-contaminated environments this year.

Fitness, recreational morale, and providing meals are three of the capabilities that are applied monthly by the services Airmen. Gallagher said COVID-19 and other unforeseen events kept them on their toes throughout the year and taught them how to adapt and overcome.

In order to stay concurrent with the state protocols, services had to provide alternate feeding locations and options to accommodate base personnel and apply aggressive modifications in fitness assessment policy to ensure leadership stays up to date with the most current changes.

“Being open to change, and not being afraid to take risks that will benefit the base community

has to be continued in the future for mission success,” said Gallagher. “Repetitious training has confirmed its value throughout the year.”

Some of the repetitious training mentioned by Gallagher was performed by the culinary team.

“Twice this year, our culinary team assembled and operated their Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen, to provide real-world feeding to members of the 104th Fighter Wing,” said Gallagher. “The SPEK is a feeding platform that can support up to 1,000 personnel in a deployed setting.”

Pagnoni said the work the services team regularly puts in has shown her how much she is capable of.

“I enjoy what I do because it allows me to constantly push myself past what I thought I was/am capable of doing,” said Pagnoni. “The best part of my job is being provided the opportunity to constantly grow and learn, and having other members who guide me through any challenges I face.”

Gallagher said the services team has a lot planned for 2022, including Airmen preparing for their first deployment, joint training exercises, and working with the Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Taskforce to increase readiness performance. Gallagher said she finds the career field and work to be rewarding.



Members of the 104th Force Support Squadron fatality search and recovery team perform training during an exercise May 2021, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. The FSRT trains to respond to various Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or non-CBRN incidents. (U.S. Air National Guard courtesy photos)

“In sustainment, you acquire skills that will benefit you in and out of the military,” said Gallagher. “Sustainment services works hard but the members make the work fun. We have a proud, diverse workforce, and we are always growing and learning from each other.”

Honoring Black History – General Charles McGee, Tuskegee Airman

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Cyr, Equal Opportunity Specialist

The Tuskegee Airmen occupy a special place within Black History, as well as our own military heritage. We all learned about their accomplishments during our time at Basic Military Training, but only in a general sense –without exploring their individual stories. One of the most exemplary Tuskegee Airman is General Charles McGee, who is known both for his extraordinary prowess as a fighter pilot as well as his sense of humility and gratitude toward his time in service.

Born the grandson to a former slave, and the son to a WWI army chaplain, his childhood forced him to grow up quickly, and instilled in him a sense of responsibility towards his family and community. It was during his sophomore year at the University of Illinois, spurred by world events and his sense of duty, that he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He received his pilot's wings on June 30, 1943 and went on to join the now historic Tuskegee Airmen.

During his time in WWII, he flew 137 combat missions; ranging from “search and destroy” of specific targets to the

protection of larger bomber units.

Speaking on a particular dogfight that occurred in August of 1944, he recalled escorting a bomber unit when an enemy fighter emerged. Rushing forward to meet the threat, the battle was startlingly quick. Within those fleeting moments his training seemingly took over and the plane appeared to move without conscious thought. Within the first few maneuvers his bullets struck their target and he recalled watching the FW-190 plummet towards the earth, hoping the pilot would be able to eject – but in that instance the enemy pilot went down with his aircraft. While that sentiment might seem unexpected, Capt. McGee made the distinction very clear after the fight– the mission was not to add to the number of dead, but instead to ultimately destroy the enemy's war fighting capability.

After WWII, he returned to Tuskegee Air Field as an instructor until the base closed in 1946. Continuing his service with the newly commissioned U.S. Air Force, he would later go on to serve again as a fighter pilot in both the Korean and Vietnam wars before finally retiring as a Colonel on Jan 31, 1973,



In December 2019, Tuskegee Airman Charles McGee was given an honorary promotion from Colonel to Brigadier General. Gen McGee was a special guest at the 2020 State of the Union Address on February 4, and the president pinned his stars in the oval office earlier that day. Here is his story. (Video by Juan Femath, Staff Sgt. Ashley Powell and Anthony Young, Air Force Television Pentagon (SAF/PAI))

[Promotion Tribute Video](#)

having flown 409 combat missions and with 6,308 flying hours.

After retiring from armed service, Col. McGee went on to finally finish his degree from Columbia University, a life long dream of his. Having received multiple awards and accolades for his service, he has served as director of the Kansas City Airport and a member of the Aviation Advisory Commission. In

2020, prior to the State of the Union address, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General with his stars pinned to his uniform by President Donald Trump. He most recently celebrated his 102nd birthday last December and continues to serve as a Tuskegee ambassador to this day.

Headlines and Highlights

104th Public Affairs Office



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[104FW War Eagles](#)



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[New Westfield Mayor Visits 104FW](#)

Farewells & Promotions

104th Public Affairs Office

Promotions

Airman Nathan Black, 104MXS	Rodriguez, 104MXS	Staff Sgt. Christopher Gloster, 104MXS	
Airman 1st Class Ryan Krasnecky, 104MXS	Senior Airman Hannah Jones-Trudeau, 104MDG	Staff Sgt. Edward Pintor, 104MXS	Master Sgt. Emery McClinton, 104LRS
Airman 1st Class Patrick, Christopher 104CES	Senior Airman Kyle Condino, 104AMXS	Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Sicard, 104OSF	Master Sgt. Chadd Hammond, 104FSS
Senior Airman Reese Magni, 104MXS	Senior Airman Michael Destefano, 104AMXS	Tech. Sgt. Theodore Russell, 104AMXS	Master Sgt. Steven Larocco, 104LRS
Senior Airman Devon Robbins, 104AMXS	Senior Airman Victor Zanardi, 104AMXS	Tech. Sgt. Hannah Graydon, 104SFS	Master Sgt. Brian Connaughton, 104MDG
Senior Airman Jayson Gaudette, 104AMXS	Senior Airman Christopher Acevedo, 104MXS	Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Devoie, 104AMXS	Senior Master Sgt. Ryan Hart, 104CES
Senior Airman Colby Ballou, 104AMXS	Senior Airman Diamond Rodriguez, 131FS	Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Charles, 104AMXS	Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Renna, 104LRS
Senior Airman Miguel Rordriguez, 104AMXS	Senior Airman Alexander Laine, 131FS	Tech. Sgt. John Severin, 104LRS	Chief Master Sgt. James Kelley, 104MXG
Senior Airman Anthony Larusso, 104CES	Staff Sgt. Troy Chauvin, 104MSG	Tech. Sgt. Brittany Dalton, 104AMXS	
Senior Airman Stephen Jefffers, 104SFS	Staff Sgt. Krishna Patel, 104MSG	Tech. Sgt. Aisha Tosado, 104OSF	
Senior Airman Dylan Reardon, 104AMXS	Staff Sgt. Kathleen Comeau, 104OSF	Tech. Sgt. Timothy Clark, 104MXS	
Senior Airman Yadira Garcia, 104SFS	Staff Sgt. William Soto, 104SFS		
Senior Airman Patrick Brown, 104AMXS	Staff Sgt. Matthew Collier, 104AMXS		
Senior Airman Felix Muwangzi, 104CES	Staff Sgt. Austin Lozada, 104AMXS		
Senior Airman Nicholas Lakata, 104AMXS	Staff Sgt. Savannah Scott, 104AMXS		
Senior Airman Mychelle King Coleman, 104AMXS	Staff Sgt. Malvin Mwangi, 104MXS		
Senior Airman Jesse Nguyen, 104MXS	Staff Sgt. Emma Tanner, 104MXS		
Senior Airman Frankie	Staff Sgt. Dylan Kretchmar, 104SFS		
	Staff Sgt. Brandon Ewing, 104LRS		
	Staff Sgt. Bradford Thompson, 104AMXS		
	Staff Sgt. Zachary Archambault, 104MXS		

Farewells

Master Sgt. Joan Germain, 104MXG	Master Sgt. Gregory Liptak, 104MXS
Master Sgt. Jason Hartwig, 104FSS	Senior Master Sgt. Peter Bottalico, 104FW
Master Sgt. Thomas Baillargeon, 104MXS	Senior Master Sgt. William Greenwood, 104MXG
Master Sgt. Lisa Robbins, 104MOF	Lt. Col. Andrew Avery, 131FS
Master Sgt. Howard Smith, 104MXS	
Master Sgt. Karla Belliveau, 104MDG	

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