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
What’s Inside

Services Airmen, pg 2

Tuskegee Airmen, pg 3

Headlines & Highlights, 4

Farewells & Promotions, pg 5

AirScoop

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Col. Tom ‘Sling’ Bladen

Vice Commander
Col. David ‘Moon’ Halasi-Kun

Command Chief
Chief Master Sgt. Paul Barbee

Chief of Public Affairs
1st Lt. Amelia Leonard

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

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2021 Wrapped
by Barnes ANGB

2021 Year in Review

Command Post

EOD protects and serves
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.

“As a team, we are always trying to improve and adapt to what we need to do to stay current with the mission,” said Gallagher. “In sustainment, you acquire skills that will benefit you in and out of the military, so it’s important that we continue to grow and learn.”

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.

“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.”
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 Airmen 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, 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.
New Westfield Mayor Visits 104FW
First Time Home Buyers Briefing

Saint's Legacy at the 104FW

Airman Paints Mural

Mass Command Chief Sullivan's Visit

Holiday Celebrations

104FW War Eagles

New Fitness Assessment

Westfield Veterans Dedicate Flags

First Time Home Buyers Briefing

New Westfield Mayor Visits 104FW
### Farewells & Promotions

#### 104th Public Affairs Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farewells &amp; Promotions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Airman Nathan Black</strong>, 104MXS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Airman 1st Class Ryan Krasnecky</strong>, 104MXS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Airman 1st Class Patrick, Christophfer</strong>, 104CES</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Reese Magni</strong>, 104MXS</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Devon Robbins</strong>, 104AMXS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Senior Airman Jayson Gaudette</strong>, 104AMXS</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Colby Ballou</strong>, 104AMXS</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Miguel Rodriguez</strong>, 104AMXS</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Anthony Larusso</strong>, 104CES</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Stephen Jeffkers</strong>, 104SFS</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Yadira Garcia</strong>, 104SFS</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Felix Muwangzi</strong>, 104CES</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Nicholas Lakata</strong>, 104AMXS</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Mychelle King Coleman</strong>, 104AMXS</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Jesse Nguyen</strong>, 104MXS</td>
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<td><strong>Senior Airman Frankie Rodriguez</strong>, 104MXS</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promotions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff Sgt. Christopher Gloster</strong>, 104MXS</td>
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<td><strong>Staff Sgt. Edward Pintor</strong>, 104MXS</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Tech. Sgt. Theodore Russell</strong>, 104AMXS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tech. Sgt. Hannah Graydon</strong>, 104SFS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Devoie</strong>, 104AMXS</td>
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<td><strong>Tech. Sgt. John Severin</strong>, 104LRS</td>
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<td><strong>Tech. Sgt. Brittany Dalton</strong>, 104AMXS</td>
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<td><strong>Tech. Sgt. Aisha Tosado</strong>, 104OSF</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tech. Sgt. Timothy Clark</strong>, 104MXS</td>
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**Airman 1st Class Kinsey & Staff Sgt. Vesper, 104LRS**

**Tech. Sgt. Armando Tavarez, 104AMXS**

**Tech. Sgt. John Severin, 104LRS**

**Tech. Sgt. Matthew Collier, 104AMXS**

**Tech. Sgt. Austin Lozada, 104AMXS**

**Tech. Sgt. Kathleen Comeau, 104OSF**

**Tech. Sgt. William Soto, 104SFS**

**Tech. Sgt. Matthew Collier, 104AMXS**

**Tech. Sgt. Austin Lozada, 104AMXS**

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**Senior Master Sgt. Peter Bottalico**, 104FW

**Senior Master Sgt. William Greenwood**, 104MXG

**Lt. Col. Andrew Avery**, 131FS

**Master Sgt. Mychelle King Coleman**, 104AMXS

Massachusetts Air National Guard

104th Fighter Wing - 175 Falcon Drive

Westfield, MA 01085

[www.104fwang.af.mil](http://www.104fwang.af.mil)

Phone: 413-568-9151 Ext: 698-1299

Email: usaf.ma.104-fwlist-pa@mail.mil

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