



## The Official Newsletter Of The Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association (AACA)

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### President's Message

#### Honorary Member

#### *Ms. Beverly Fisher*

It is an honor to announce Ms. Beverly Fisher as a new member of our association.

Ms. Fisher dedicated her service to the 2W1/462 career field as the 2W1 Armament School House Training manager. She was responsible for all aircraft armament training and during her tenure she was responsible for multiple new initiatives that advance the United States Air Force Mission. New munitions, F-22 training and facility infrastructure, and she established the first unmanned initial skills training center in the Air Force. She spent many days working with Career Field Managers and field level representatives ensuring our training was developed, delivered, and administered to meet the established requirements.

Beverly was able to attend our conferences and provide the 2W1/462 community the training performance data that allowed 2W1/462 senior leaders to make the necessary decisions ensuring aircraft armament training was meaningful and met the required skill sets to develop the weapons technician needed for various USAF roles and missions.

Please reach out and welcome Beverly to the

Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association.

*Mike*

### **Editor's Comments**

Thanks to everyone that took the time to send in articles for this addition of the Loader Letter!

In addition to Mike's article announcing Beverly as an honorary member of our association, you will be treated to: an article from our career field manager (Jason Davis) on deployed weapons troops; an article from Joel Paxton about being deployed as a Wing Weapons Manager; an interview with Dick Vancil; an update on our association's Strategic Plan from Darell Brewer; a rundown of annual awards earned by our amazing weapons troops from Mike Cannon; and some comments from Mike Lucchesi on attending a graduation ceremony at the schoolhouse. I've also included a touching article by Charlsy Panzino (Air Force Times) about the passing of Staff Sgt. Alexandria Morrow (a load crew member) in Southwest Asia. Evan Godwin will close out the newsletter with some merchandise available from the AACA store.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter! I sincerely appreciate everyone's inputs. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please send me your articles. As I always say, this is YOUR newsletter. I just assemble what I receive from the members.

Thanks!!

*Keith*

**"Cluster bombing from B-52s are very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground."**

*USAF ammo troop*

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**FROM THE CAREER FIELD MANAGER**

**JASON DAVIS**

In this newsletter I would like to dedicate my CFM space to the 2W1's that are currently deployed. CMSgt's John Lang, Chuck Jenkins, Lee Robbins, and John Jordan are deployed throughout the AOR have provided the following information on their current events. The overall theme is that weapons loaders are very busy in the AOR and this is something we need to be reminded of as often as possible. Thanks for what you all do!

*Jason*  
**379<sup>TH</sup> WEAPONS!**



The mighty BUFF still defines Global Reach Global Power even if our youngest tail here is a spry 57 years old. Global Strike has done an amazing job training and equipping their units for the demands of the ever evolving mission here. We have entered our 3<sup>rd</sup> B-52 rotation and each of them continues to outpace the previous by building on the successes of those they replace and openly communicating

regularly. Minot faced an undue challenge coming in behind the incredibly high mark Barksdale set but the challenge was accepted and they are tackling it like they born for just that purpose. Spring is over and we are quickly approaching last summer's high of 135 degrees but the asphalt is the only thing getting soft here. The Weapons team here takes on every challenge with legitimate expertise and excitement; they fight for every sortie and every release.



Our management focus has been on taking advantage of deployment time by continuing to strengthen and embolden 7-levels so they can be ready to replace us and in-turn train their replacements and mentorship throughout on how to grow Weapons experts. The 5 & 3 levels have enjoyed a significant trickle down effect and

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demonstrate a real hunger for knowledge and challenges. Additionally, we initiated a crosspollination project here that pairs each 7-level with a Radar Navigator (Bombadier) to foster an information sharing and collaboration environment. What results is the entire aircrew and load crew end up adopting each other. Aircrews come out and watch loads, suspension equipment replacements, checkouts, troubleshooting and Armament Shop inspections to better learn the equipment and processes we use. 2W1s are able to join preflight mission briefs, sit in the cockpit during preflight ground checks, shadow muns builds with their aircrew in the bomb dump and attend aircrew kinetic debriefs after the maintenance debrief. By better understanding what each utilize, operate and interface the system the system our 2W1s are really able to understand how the weapons system integrates and its processes. Understanding the methods 2W1s use and test limitations helps the aircrew understand what information is needed to accurately diagnose PRDs. While they spend a lot of time talking about the Weapons system, we also encourage them to discuss the lifecycle, milestones and PD process for officer and enlisted careers to bolster the benefit



and collaborative atmosphere.



The 42 Weapons Warriors here from Minot came in with amazing attitudes and expertise; even better, they haven't let it drop off for even a moment. The munitions release and effective rates are extraordinarily high as is the respect for our Weapons community and what they do every day without fail. Our folks pride themselves in embodying their "everyone is a sensor and solver - not a witness" motto. They watch each other load and legitimately give & accept peer feedback. Of their own doing they evaluate and collaborate on tasks and processes and involve the youngest members to make sure solutions fit everyone. Where do we find these people? The Armament Shop hit a homerun during the IG inspection earning a flawless report and 2 Outstanding Performer nods in the outbrief barely 1 month after arriving. The enemy doesn't stand a chance with these 2W1s in our stockpile! Our lethal Load Toads are crushin' it at the tip of the spear via some good ole' fashioned JDAM diplomacy. We are flying the Weapons flag high and with great pride here at the Deid.

*John*

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## 380th EMXG Weapons!



The 380th Air Expeditionary Wing currently integrates 67 Active Duty, Air Force Reserves, and Air National Guard 2W1's from two separate F-22 units. This dynamic team has been instrumental in the fight against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq (ISIS) along with top cover escort for our international partners transiting the Straits of Hormuz to and from the Arabian Gulf. Currently, our F-22 units are in surge operations providing Defensive Counter Air (DCA), Close Air Support (CAS), and Deliberate Strike missions. During the previous rotation, 35 2W1's epitomized our core values and set the tone for future deployments by dropping 405 munitions setting multiple F-22 combat records. During the recent strike in Syria, both units teamed together to generate Raptors from cross-country configuration to fully loaded combat ready assets in less than 24 hours without missing an Air Tasking Order (ATO). The 380th weapons community also managed to complete over 153

college credit hours, two EOC's over 90%, two CCAF's along with four PME, four SEJPME, and one PMC complete. Extraordinary Airmen focused on the mission and personal development!

*Chuck*

## 332d EMXG Red Tail Weapons!



The 332d Air Expeditionary Wing retains the proud heritage and lineage of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, as a group we are also known as the "Red Tails". Our Weapons troops are spread across 5 geographically separated units within the AOR, and consistently take the fight to the enemy every day. This group of 198 Airmen and contractors do a phenomenal job of executing loading and maintenance operations in support of a multitude of aircraft that include F-15Es, F-16s, A-10s, MQ-1/9s, and HH -60s. Hell, I know what you are thinking, why not the kitchen sink too? Well, we also have 2 contractor units that fly RPAs which I attempt to manage at two other locations within the AOR.

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So far this remarkable team has maintained armament systems and executed weapons loading operations with high degrees of precision and reliability in support of strike and personnel recovery operations. In fact, since 1 October 2016 their hard work has paid off to the tune of 10,790 bomb and missile



expenditures to include 231,536 rounds of ammunition with a combined 98.7% reliability rate. Wow, this monumental effort accounts for 75% of all munitions expenditures in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. In other words, lots of ISIS scumbags have descended to the depths of hell... Hey fellas, tell Bin Laden hello, courtesy of Red Tail Weapons! Damn, it's a great time in our Air Force to be a weapons troop! You want to know another amazing fact; at least 25-30 percent of each unit has folks in upgrade training. Not optimal, but a reflection of the state of our Air Force. Our NCOs are dealing with more than most of than any of us pre-9/11 folks ever dealt with at the same rank. A great testament to the quality of our Airmen, and illustrates the challenges we as a community need to get after in order to grow the next generation of loaders and armament warriors.



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In closing, it would be amiss if I did not mention that we lost an Airman during a loading operation, SSgt Alexandria “Mom” Morrow... Time will reveal the cause to this tragedy and we all continue to miss her greatly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and teammates. SSgt Tyler Dimock and team painted an amazing T-wall which memorializes her dedication to our job and service to our nation. This T-wall memorial was unveiled on the flightline during a small ceremony that included the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff. We miss you Alex!

*Lee*

## 455TH EMXG WEAPONS!



The 455<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing, Bagram Air Base, encompasses eighty nine active duty, reserves and contract 2W1’s at two locations supporting the HH-60’s, F-16’s and MQ-9’s. During this rotation they have successfully overcome the high ops tempo that comes from combat operations and considering the limited amount of iron and manpower, our Weapons team has enabled aircrew to drop/fire over 700 bombs and rockets and expend over 52 thousand rounds of ammunition. While turn times have remained fairly consistent, our folks on the line are humping and we should all be proud of the enthusiasm I see day in and day out. Through all of this, they still are able to maintain these legacy aircraft and our AME with the expertise that ensured no lines were lost, at either location, due to weapons throughout their tour. It is also important to point out that even with all the work they are doing, I have been amazed at how much PME, CCAF, and personal self-improvement opportunities they have accomplished.

*John*

**“Our warriors are no longer limited to the people who fly the airplanes...Our entire force is a warrior force. Being a warrior is not an AFSC, ...it's a condition of the heart.”**

*John P. Jumper*

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## Tour of Duty

### Joel Paxton

Most of us don't enjoy being separated from our families, however we all knew when we signed on the dotted line that the day to deploy would eventually come. Being away from family, quite frankly sucks but knowing that you're significantly contributing to your AOR's mission makes it a little easier to handle. I recently had the opportunity to deploy to Afghanistan. I'd deployed several times in the past, but this one the first time as a Chief and a Wing Weapon Manager (WWM). Deploying in a leadership position and being able to see the "bigger picture" of how the "war machine" worked was an amazing experience. But on a personal level, some of my lasting memories will be witnessing the professionalism of our reserve brethren and seeing the pride resulting from a sense of accomplishment in our junior Airmen from getting to do the job they have been trained to do.

One of the great things about deploying as a WWM is (in most cases) you're part of the core tasking and you're integrating into whatever unit(s) are currently tasked to that AOR. In my case, I was the WWM for four units: two AFRC led Total Force Integration (TFI) units, a traditional AFRC unit, and one AD unit. I've worked in traditional AD led TFI units before, but never with a reverse TFI unit. I am not going to lie, I entered the deployment with some apprehension on how to lead such

a diverse group of load loads! The majority of the crews and the armament flight personnel were composed of individuals that were full time college students, business owners, night club bouncers, and everything in between. That apprehension was quickly erased. Seeing the proficiency of these "weekend warriors" solidified to me how our career field's rigid standards, focus on combat readiness, and communication differentiates us from the other maintenance career fields. Since we don't get the opportunity to exercise our war time mission during normal training sorties, it's up to us to ensure our crews are combat ready and can seamlessly transition into combat operations. It doesn't matter whether it's a unit is AD, ANG, AFRC or TFI unit, we do it better than anyone...that's my opinion, but I think we'd all agree, it's a FACT!

It was amazing to witness our junior Airmen's feeling of accomplishment when they had their first experience to apply their skill-set in support of our ongoing missions. The enthusiasm and pride in which they approached each load was impressive. Even after several months when things began to get monotonous, they went into action as if it was the first jet loaded when taking over the ATO. There's simply nothing better than generating aircraft and catching them empty knowing they took out targets or kept our guys on the ground safe. It makes all the MRPLs and pre-deployment training worth it.

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If it's been awhile since your last deployment or if you haven't had the chance to deploy as a WWM and you get the opportunity, take it! Having the chance to integrate with different units and airframes is a great experience and being able to see the excitement our Airmen have in do what they're trained to do will be an experience that you won't forget or regret.

*Joel*



## Weapons Chief Interview

### Mike Lucchesi

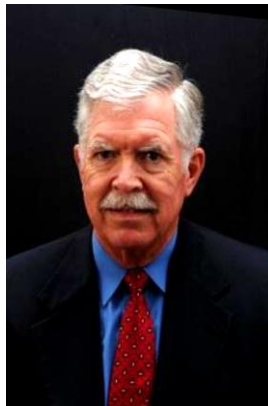
A new edition to the AACA Newsletter is the Weapons Chief Interview. A peek into an AACA Chief's reflections on their career and a bit of wit and wisdom. The chief will be asked eleven questions and their responses will posted as stated.

We started out with one of our long standing AACA members (Ret) CMSGT Dick Vancil. Enjoy!!!

*Mike*

1. Current Occupation/Specialty?

*I am a Senior Vice President of a Small Service Disabled Veteran-owned Manufacturer, J&P Khamken*



*Industries, Inc., of Montgomery, Alabama. We specialize in the manufacture of Aircraft Weapons and Munitions Support Equipment (much of which are legacy items that I used or watched being used in the AF). I have worked from my home in Niceville, Florida since 2008 and do mostly Government Contracts and management-type efforts at this time.*

2. What set you apart during your Air Force Career as a Chief?

*I received the last line number in the Chief cycle when I had 15 years and 3 months in the service. I was fortunate to serve on the HQ MAJCOM Staffs at TAC, USAFE, and PACAF w/ four years on the PACAF IG and four years as the "school marm" in the weapons Schoolhouse at Sheppard AFB, TX.*

3. Best Advice received?

*On leaving HQ TAC for HQ USAFE, Chief Tom Glavin, dear friend and mentor, told me to "Subvert from within ..." - meaning get intimately involved and work to bring all of the Tactical Air Forces Weapons personnel together policy and mission-wise. I tried to do this at every location and Command thereafter.*

4. Biggest challenge in the Air Force?

*Some of my biggest challenges were being accepted by those who I had worked for previously whose roles were now reversed. I surrounded myself with good people and I took care of them - they inturn, took good care of me.*

5. Who inspires you the most?

*Self-motivated, humble, hard-working Airmen of all ranks without respect to gender, ethnicity, or sexual preference - I especially like hungry MSgts and SMSgts who just want their chance to excel.*

6. Personal Philosophy (one that you often shared...possibly)?

*"Don't let the bastards grind you down!" Again, a favorite of my mentor and friend, Tom Glavin. Another: Don't waste your time on the "dirtbags" ... do your part to separate and remove*

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*them from the core team otherwise it is not fair to your good folks.*

7. What is your #1 work standard above all?

*Professionalism ... meaning do your very best to get it right everytime. "Re-work" will kill you, or in some cases get you or others killed.*

8. A community outreach or involvement you are or were proud of being part of?

*We had a Community program called "Christmas in April" in Wichita Falls, Texas (and elsewhere, I presume) where I was extremely proud of all the Weapons and AMMO students and instructors at the Schoolhouse for freely giving of their time and effort to better the lives and homes of selected Community needy personnel. All labor and materials were donated and the improvement projects were significant. It was a pleasure to watch and participate in them all.*

9. One thing about you someone may not know?

*My father was an Aircraft Maintenance CMSgt and my Father-in-Law is an Aircraft Weapons Chief (I married the boss' daughter).*

10. Hardest thing as a Chief you had to do?

*Separate friendship from duty requirements, both up and down the chain.*

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## **Strategic Plan Update**

**Darell Brewer**

This article serves to provide information as we as an organization move forward in achieving our Mid-Term Goals. There are two mid-term goals, the first of which is to further expand our Aircraft Armament career field heritage. Our objective is to collect

historical information related to the aircraft armament career field and preserve that information in a stand-alone document. I would like to encourage all to submit any information, photos, etc. to Steve Lebron or any of the officers that depict our many contributions to the best career field in the Air Force. Additionally, we will engage with the Air Armament Museum at Eglin, the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute at Gunter, and the National Museum of the USAF at Wright-Patterson to place a commemorative plaque/memorial at these locations.

Our second goal is to evaluate AACA status as a charitable non-profit/not-for-profit organization. This has been an ongoing topic and we are looking to identify the requirements to obtain this status. Once we collect information on the requirements a decision will be made on how to proceed with achieving this status.

Ultimately, these collective goals serve to strengthen and to show the continuing value of this organization. Value is often difficult to express, however by preserving our career field history it can only enhance one of the many values that this organization tries to provide to current/future Aircraft Armament Chiefs and those we come in contact with.

Take Care and have fun,

*Darell*

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## AACA Recognition Program

### Mike Cannon

The AACA Recognition Program continues to thrive. MAJCOMs and HAF are announcing their Annual Award Winners, highlighted by a 2W1-Sweep of the 2016 Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Munitions and Missile Maintenance Awards!!! The AACA continues to recognize these Outstanding Performers with a Recognition Coin and Certificate. The Wing Weapons Managers are presenting these to the award winners on behalf of the AACA during weapons all-calls.

#### ***United States Air Force Annual Award Winners***

Congratulations to the United States Air Force annual Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Munitions and Missile Maintenance Award winners: TECHNICIAN of the Year SrA Connor M. Borah (Lakenheath AB, UK), SUPERVISOR of the Year SSgt Dwight D. Hunter (Kunsan AB, ROK), and MANAGER of the Year SMSgt Matthew G. Regevig (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK).

SMSgt Regevig oversaw 36 person ADVON team and then led deployment of 88 personnel/7 load crews through 3K mx/loading operations in support of 90FS combat strikes. He led Operation Inherent Resolve taskings---439 sorties/340 munitions expended with a 100% release rate. SMSgt Regevig drove a \$5M LAU-141 TCCTO/3.2 upgrade, becoming first F-22 unit with AIM-9X capability. He led his team through 500+ QA/WS inspections; and 2K+ WS load evals with a 98% pass rate. SMSgt Regevig coordinated an AOR HD/LD equipment replenishment, R2ing COLT/LAU-142s/TPS kits---86K tons of munitions expended against enemy forces. He led a short-notice 4-ship tasking, generating 5 Raptors <6 hours for first F-22 strike in Syria---7 GBU-32s on ISIS HQ. SMSgt Regevig answered CFACCs tasking, generating 5 acft for Defense Counter Air missions that provided 32 hrs of air supremacy with 2 SU-24 intercepts. He also facilitated the first F-22 GB U-39 A/B combat releases by validating loading operations/training new requirements---6 ISIS communication hubs annihilated.

SSgt Hunter led his team through 85 flawless WSS evals, earning 7AF LCoY honors. He loaded 40K lbs of munitions for Ex VIGILANT ACE; facilitated 82 sorties for Ex WOODY CLOUD; generated 6 acft for Ex MAX THUNDER, produced 12 acft for Ex BEVERLY MIDNIGHT, repaired 12 AGM-65 video lines for Ex DISTANT FRONTIER, and supported Ex BUDDY WING--partnered with ROKAF/ catapulted future Joint CONOPS/ bolstered 7AF theater ops. SSgt Hunter

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executed a short notice HHQ order, reconfiguring 3 acft/loading 8K lbs munitions to ensure 8FS ATO mission ready <2 hours. He drove 815 mx actions and repaired 12 PRDs; and he led a 15-day effort that repaired 3 gun seals/4 pylon brackets---armament DD backlog eliminated/79% reduction! SSgt Hunter oversaw 10 F-16 gun installs resulting in 100% QA pass rate, ensuring 15K rounds expended with a 97% fire rate. He also directed 1K inspections for 13 programs and checklists---PACAF IG noted "zero defects"!

SrA Borah executed 24 QA inspections with a 96% pass rate/90 flawless WSS evals and was awarded SrA BTZ! He mastered 25 UGT tasks and completed CDCs/EOCs 10 months early with a 97% average. He executed a weapons load for POTUS-direct strikes against enemy forces---ISIS training camp destroyed. SrA Borah deployed in support of 4 TDYs, loading 27 munitions/16K rounds---99% release/fire rate and 260 sorties. He led 87 mx events/462 loading operations/621 post loads/496 EOR inspections that drove 3.1K sorties/6.1K flying hours/79.1% MC rate. SrA Borah spearheaded 7x live GBU-24 loads/2.5K rounds that supported 164 sorties with international coalition LFE. His AFTO-22 submission added vital bomb strap inspection criteria to the T.O.---WS TTPs adopted AF-wide. SrA Borah also inspected 716 SPRAM account items and reclaimed \$433K in repair costs, while finding time to complete 5 college and 2 FTD courses for 15 credit hours!

### ***AFSOC Annual Armament Award Winners***

Congratulations to AFSOC annual Armament Award winners: ARMAMENT TECHNICIAN of the Year SrA Caleb M. Stephens (Cannon AFB, NM), ARMAMENT SUPERVISOR of the Year SSgt Richard J. Jorgensen (Hurlburt Field, FL), and ARMAMENT MANAGER of the Year MSgt Michael R. Amado (Cannon AFB, NM).

MSgt Amado guided his weapons flight through 18 Overseas Contingency Operations/TDYs with an impressive 22K weapons operations/79K munitions against enemy forces. He was hand-selected for a CSAF tasker, deploying to the AOR to train 18 foreign nationals on 2W1 TTPs. He also tackled AOR critical equipment shortages, coordinating w/ A4MS on - 103 tester shipment that enabled 10K armed ISR flying hours against enemy forces. MSgt Amado guided a \$4M LSDB test resulting in a 50% increase in target engagement and 580 square miles reclaimed from ISIL. He rectified 105mm parts shortage that put the USSOCOM \$52M Block 20 Precision Strike Package back on track. MSgt Amado also led the 105mm/Hellfire T.O. revision, pushing 128 changes that supported Block 20 capabilities in the AOR—an AFSOC/CC priority.

SSgt Jorgensen deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, leading weapons operations through 104 inspections and 8K munitions expended on 402 combat missions---255 enemy detained and 14 High Value Targets eliminated. As a Weapons Expediter, he drove his section through 347 maintenance and loading operations, resulting in 1K+ missions and a 92% pass rate on 113 QA

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inspections with 0 DSVs. He was hand selected to lead Multi-Lateral exercises, guiding 9 personnel/3K rounds on target that enabled 58 joint missions and training of 600 SOF commandos. SSgt Jorgensen armed AC-130U UTC, completing 9 pre-deployment gun inspections that keyed on-time iron swap with the AOR, supporting operations against enemy forces. He also authored 105mm/40mm Fault Isolation changes, training his section on 17 new maintenance processes that cut Code 2/3 and Repeat/Recur rates by 16%.

SrA Stephens deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, contributing to 4K rounds expended with a 99% fire rate---crucial to 256 combat missions against enemy forces with 64 buildings destroyed. SrA Stephens excelled through WSS with a 100% pass rate and completed 18 QA tasks with 0 errors--- resulting in his selection to a Team Chief position! He forward deployed for AC-130W ISIL strikes, this reduced time-to-target 30% and increased loiter time >2 hours---5 High Value Targets destroyed. SrA Stephens was cross-utilized on 2 MDS, performing 48 GAU-21/M240 tasks and 12 EOF inspections that cemented 67K rounds expended with a 99% fire rate. He also organized Ramp Mounted Weapon System familiarization training with 20ners, enabling ground certifications for 17 Flight Engineers---earning him a BTZ selection!

### ***PACAF Annual Armament Award Winners***

Congratulations to PACAF annual Armament Award winners: OUTSTANDING ARMAMENT TECHNICIAN of the Year SrA Isamar Perez (Kunsan AB, ROK), OUTSTANDING ARMAMENT SUPERVISOR of the Year SSgt Jesse C. Peterson, Jr (Kunsan AB, ROK), and OUTSTANDING ARMAMENT MANAGER of the Year MSgt Eric J. Sisson (Kadena AB, JA).

MSgt Sisson led 42 airmen on a Combined Joint Task Force-Horn Of Africa deployment, generating 172 missions/supporting 4 medevacs and 187 covert JTF operations against enemy forces. He managed 318 deployed APG/Avionics/Weapons inspections against the flying schedule--- 317K rounds fired and 100% fire rate. He oversaw 8 gun installations in support of 1<sup>st</sup> Air Contingent, generating 41 sorties with a 92.4% MC rate that secured South China Sea trade routes. He managed 2.5K repairs/1K scheduled mx actions for 1.8K flight hours in 3 AORs. MSgt Sisson planned a “plus-up” force bed down of 7 F-16s/211 personnel in support of S. Sudan crisis response---100 embassy personnel evacuated. He also drove a re-org of 12 JSTs for 218 equipment items, eliminating 269 man-hours/1.2K inspections annually; and amended equipment transit ops that cut gun installs by 2 hours---critical to 2.9K unimpeded alert hours.

SSgt Peterson led his crew through an incredible 253 WS evaluations while maintaining a 100% pass rate, earning 8FW Load Crew of the Year honors. He completed 315 maintenance tasks and 3 QVIs with a

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100% QA pass rate, resulting in 255 Bombs On Target and the highest Flying Hour Program in 5 years. SSgt Peterson scrutinized ALE-50 shortfalls and sourced LME cover plates that saved 520 man hours annually. As an AIM-9 SME, he directed repairs of 6 diamond rotation degrades contributing to a 2.5% Repeat/Recur rate. SSgt Peterson trained 10 airmen on 6 scheduled maintenance actions, and qualified 8 personnel on Fault Isolation procedures—2 technicians upgraded 3 months early. SSgt Peterson also employed a new gun maintenance plan that reduced NMC time and saved 144 maintenance hours--- resulting in a 99.7% gun fire rate and 23K rounds expended.

SrA Perez crushed 59 load training evaluations with a 99% pass rate, while executing 300 maintenance tasks/7 QA evaluations with a 100% pass rate. He halted systemic ALE-50 failures by analyzing 12 malfunctions and making 9 repairs, increasing system availability 33%. He identified launcher controller bolt holes that were out-of-limits and processed local repairs that averted \$197K asset turn-ins. SrA Perez devised the ALE-50 no-handle options and coordinated Item Manager authorization, preventing NRTS actions/\$808K repair costs. As a Fault Isolation SME, he troubleshot 35 weapons PRDs, ensuring 255 Bombs On Target and highest Flying Hour Program in 5 years. SrA Perez also reversed a negative gun system trend, rectifying 2 voltage malfunctions in less than 24 hours, directly contributing to 23K rounds expended with a 99.7% gun fire rate.

## Aircraft Armament School House graduation

### Mike Lucchesi

In February, I made a trip to Sheppard AFB, TX to attend an Aircraft Armament school house graduation. As usual, the school house graduations operate with style and dedication. Chief Fountain, 2W1 School House Chief, has continued the tradition in running a smooth and outstanding training operation.

The occasion was a unique in the matter that the 2W1 Career Field Manager,



CMSgt Jason Davis, and Retired CMSgt Larry Brown, a previous 2W1 Squadron Chief were present and shared in the reflection of careers and teamwork with the recent graduates.

The graduation consisted of a Bomber and Fighter class each with Top Grad representatives. It was truly a pleasure to be part of the graduation and having the time to walk around and observing 2W1 faculty trainers instructing their courses.

This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday for the Air Force, as looking out at the hangar bay, I recalled the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was conducted in the 2W1 hangar and the 2W1's at that time put on one hell of a party.

Long live the Loader...

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## Airmen honor 'mom of the flightline' killed in non-combat incident in Southwest Asia



By: [Charlsy Panzino](#), March 27, 2017 (Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. Ebony Reams/Air Force)

Airmen from the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron in Southwest Asia gathered to mourn one of their own who died March 21.

Staff Sgt. Alexandria Morrow, a weapons loader, was killed during non-combat operations while performing maintenance duties, the Air Force said.

According to WHEC in New York, Morrow died in Jordan when she was loading a bomb onto a plane. Something broke, causing the bomb to slip and hit her in the head. She is survived by her husband and two daughters.

Morrow, who served in the Air Force for seven years, was assigned to the 366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. However, she worked for the 322nd overseas, according to a spokesman at the Idaho base.

During the memorial, members from Morrow's

deployed unit shared stories about "Mother Alex," a nickname she earned for her caring personality, according to an Air Forces Central Command news release.

"We mourn for Alexandria Mae Morrow because she was one of the kindest people many of us have ever known," Lt. Col. Paul Tower, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron commander, said in the release. "She was a loving wife to her husband, an amazing mother to her children, and our fellow warrior and friend — a friend who could be trusted in the toughest of times."

The 25-year-old from Dansville, New York, earned respect for her professionalism and proficiency. According to the news release, Morrow was chosen to brief the commander of U.S. Central Command on weapons loading operations when he visited the undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

"How do we measure the impact someone's love has on others?" Capt. Wesley Sheppard, expeditionary aircraft maintenance unit officer in charge, said in the release. "I realized the best measure was in the amount of love our team felt for her. We can see how much she loved others by the emotions, the looks on everyone's faces as we processed that we lost the mom of the flightline. We could see it by the tears that rolled down our faces and by the tight hugs we gave each other."

Morrow's family created a GoFundMe page on Thursday with a goal of raising \$15,000. Four days later, it had exceeded \$38,500. The money will help her family with any expenses, according to the fundraising page.

The Air Force Forum Facebook page posted a photo



with a tribute to Morrow. It showed a bomb with the following message:

“To: ISIS  
From: Alexandria Morrow  
‘Here’s a toast’”



Currently deployed and saw this on our inbound shipment. If anyone knows of a Weapons page please share.



Hello everyone, I hope you had a wonderful Easter Holiday.

I’m writing to pass on a couple bits of news for your immediate consideration...

1) Sadly, we’ve lost 3 members of our Weapons family in the past few weeks, one while serving in the AOR, SSgt Alexandria Morrow (Mt Home—see link below), and two others in vehicle accidents: SrA Sara Toy (Moody) and SrA (SSgt-select) Austin Terrell (Shaw). As in the past, the AACA will be sending our condolences and a small donation to the families of the deceased and invite our members to consider making a personal donation for the same cause if desired.

Bob and Joel have set up donation buttons (Fallen Airman Donation \$10 and \$20) on the [armamentchiefs.org](http://armamentchiefs.org) website to facilitate contributions via paypal, or you may contact Joel Paxton (Treasurer) via email at [ejpaxton15@gmail.com](mailto:ejpaxton15@gmail.com) to arrange a mail-in contribution if you prefer. Unless you stipulate otherwise, all money donated will be split evenly among the surviving families of our fallen comrades. *Thank you!*



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<http://www.afcent.af.mil/News/tabid/4768/Article/1128750/fallen-airman-remembered-by-comrades.aspx>

2) The second order of business is regarding our on-going Gold-trimmed Whiskey Decanter Set raffle fund-raiser. As of 16 April, we've sold 42 tickets to 8 Chiefs for a total of \$280.00. Since the proceeds of this go to help fund our on-going initiatives (Kebil Scholarship Award, Coins for MAJCOM Award Winners, etc.), I'm going to sweeten the pot to see if I can lure some more participants...instead of raffling the gold-trimmed set, the winner will have his/her choice of which decanter set they want ... gold, platinum, or pineapple cut!! How about it...who's in now?

Ticket cost is \$10 for 1 ticket, \$20.00 for 3 available on the paypal link or on our [armamentchiefs.org](http://armamentchiefs.org) site. Raffle ends **7 June 2017**. Joel (Treasurer) will let us know who purchased tickets and how many. Tickets will be placed in a bowl and tickets will be pulled using a young 2W1 troop. The drawing will be recorded.

Let me know if you have questions. Please don't reply to the email being sent from; rather, please use: [aacageneralstore@gmail.com](mailto:aacageneralstore@gmail.com) or [evangodwin1@hotmail.com](mailto:evangodwin1@hotmail.com)  
Cell phone: 808-561-4048.

Take Care!

*Evan*



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