



The Official Newsletter Of The Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association (AACCA)

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ISSUE #6

Editor's Comments

Finally, Issue #6 of OUR Official Newsletter! Thanks to everyone that sent in articles, links, etc. In this newsletter you will see the accomplishments of our young troops as well as retirements of the career field's leadership. We also honor several friends that have passed away. Additionally, we highlight some of the generous donations from our membership. I wrap up the newsletter with some great historic photos from the early atomic age.

Sorry it has been so long since the last newsletter. As I'm sure everyone knows, life can get really crazy. I recently wrapped up the program I had been working for the last eight years and began supporting a new program in the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office. The program was supported by two people in the past and they seemed to be able to keep up. Now that I have come aboard, we can't seem to catch up. I wonder what that says about me? With the travel and long hours I have barely found time to even sleep.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter! As always, I appreciate inputs anytime.

Keith

Quotable Quotes

"You can retire from a job, but don't ever retire from making extremely meaningful contributions in life."

Stephen Covey

"Before deciding to retire, stay home for a week and watch the daytime TV shows."

Bill Copeland

Retirements

From
CMSgt Rick Barbee
2W1 Career Field Manager



This year we are expecting nine Chiefs to retire. I would like to thank each of them for their outstanding support to the weapons community. God Speed and best wishes to you and your family!

Rick

- MICHAEL LEE STIREWALT**
- DAVE NEUMAN**
- EDWARD RUNKLE**
- CHRISTOPHER WILBER**
- JAMES LAMARCHE**
- DAVID DORSETT**
- BRADLEY COON**
- MARK GONZALES**
- BEN HOOVER**



Photo courtesy of Chief James C. Conn

Lee Stirewalt retired on in April 2014.

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



WPMS Gurus!

Retirement time is closing in and I wanted to say what an honor and privilege it has been to serve with you all. From Brian Fitzgibbons & Roger Schwenneker teaching me F-4 troubleshooting & how to prepare lawnmower rabbit, having Correctional Custody reservations with Bob Cisneros (I went, he escaped), to shoe box turd stories with Jimmy McMahon (give him hell Pete), it has always been fun being a 462! I thank you all for the mentorship, friendship and fellowship over the past 30 years!

Deb and I plan to stay in the Mountain Home area, so if you ever make it to Idaho, please look us up!

Lee

Speaking of retirement, I received this from a friend (Chip Carrell) many years ago. I thought we could all relate to it.

Keith

WHEN VETERANS RETIRE

When a good Veteran leaves the "job" and retires to a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased and yet others, who may have already retired, wonder. We wonder if he knows what they are leaving behind, because we already know. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times. We know in the Military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing. Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the "job" and merely being allowed to leave "active" duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called children of God," and you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

Civilian Friends vs. Veteran Friends

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have cried with you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will kick the crowds' ass that left you behind.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences...

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have shared a lifetime of experiences no citizen could ever dream of...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, "You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!!" Then carry you home safely and put you to bed...



CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will talk crap to the person who talks crap about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will knock the hell out OF THEM..... for using your name in vain.

AACA Recognition Program Annual Award Winners

Mike Cannon

The AACA Recognition Program was approved by member vote during the annual AACA Membership Meeting last fall, during our reunion. Since then, the AACA membership has voted on a recognition coin design. The BOD has approved the purchase of 150 coins from *All About Coins*, and Evan Godwin is helping out with purchasing those coins. The AACA will recognize the 2W1 Annual Award Winners with a certificate and coin.

Front Side



Note: replace 462 with USAF



Back

The AACA Recognition Program Committee consists of Dave Kerr (Pentagon), Eric McGowan (ACC), Ed Runkle (AFGSC), Jeff Hulme (AFMC), and Mike Cannon (PACAF, USAF, ANG, AFRC, AFSOC). If you would like to help by heading up the PACAF, USAF, ANG, AFRC or AFSOC area, please let me, you can contact me (COMM 816-566-0505 or email mscannon001@hotmail.com). Thanks!

Mike



Annual 2W1 Award Winners were recently announced by ACC, AFMC, PACAF and USAF. All of the winners will be recognized by our AACA with an AACA recognition coin and a certificate of recognition.

Here is a summary of the accomplishments of each of the winners:

ACC Outstanding Armament Professional of the Year award winners.

Amn Category: SrA Jorge L. Galvez, Weapons Load Crew Member, 455 EAMXS/MXACW, Bagram Airfield
SrA Galvez completed live loads that leveled OEF targets with 14K rounds/23 GBU/8 AGM/81 rockets resulting in 37 prisoners detained/52 EKIA. He earned an amazing 100% pass rate on 46 WS evaluations and on 26 QA evaluations. He repaired an elusive JDAM PRD by ID/R2'ing a bad actor CICU that enabled TIC mission that smoked 2 HVTs. SrA Galvez trained 12 armament personnel on JDAM cable checks, 14 2W1s on 1760 cable PATS loop tests, teamed with Spec HMCS on boresight fix, and conducted 246 EOR inspections that ensured 100% release rate/99.9% gun fire rate, PRD reductions/1.3K combat missions.

NCO Category: SSgt Michelle K. Greene, F-22 Lead Crew Team Chief, 325 MXG/MXWS, Tyndall AFB, FL
SSgt Greene executed 612 WS and 360 weapons flight line

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evaluations that propelled 90% pass rate and supported 2.7K sorties/graduated 44 CAF pilots. She conducted AIM-9 missile/acft symmetry validation with Raytheon, and AVEL form/fit test for LM engineers that enhanced safety/ lethality. She managed 7 flight programs----a \$200K/592 asset munitions account, flight ancillary training program, 50 item T.O. account that achieved zero defects during LCAP. SSgt Greene ID'd missile launcher retract anomaly that prompted an AF level investigation/pin check requirement, and fulfilled her CCAF degree requirements.

SNCO Category: MSgt Frank D. Espinoza, Section Chief, 366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Mountain Home AFB, ID. MSgt Espinoza led 65 2W1s thru sequestration/AEF; directing a load training program that produced 32 certified crews, 100% release rate/87 sequestered aircrew upgrades. He readied 21 2W1s for RED FLAG-12 acft/144 sorties/ 100% release rate; and he organized 250 AEF spin-up mx actions- \$7M/1K flights/38 aircrew/3K events. He managed TCTO completions, tracking 47 gun systems/282 breech blocks, averted system damage on \$1.6M assets; and he executed a \$1.6M acft tester upgrade that ensured 47 F-15E weapons system reliability. He ID'd faulty T-198 cable design/manufacture flaw/pulled assets from CAF supply. MSgt Espinoza worked with ACC on a new 9405 program that ensured real time critical updates to HHQ.

ACC Weapons Load Crew of the Year: SSgt Watson, SrA Hernandez, SrA Barker, 325 AMXS/43 AMU/MXACS, Tyndall AFB, FL. This crew attained an amazing 100% pass rate on 60 WS evaluations and 25 QA assessments, winning LCoQ/LQoY competitions and Hot Shot Load award. They conducted 2K mx tasks/500 CATM-9/2K C/F loads resulting in 3K sorties/3.4K flying hours--graduating 44 pilots. They maintained 6 COLT testers; repairing 15 bent pins/4 wires to return \$350 NCE to service. The crew loaded 19 missiles/ 2.3K 20mm rounds for WSEP Live Fire Ex--92 sorties/100% release rate. The crew mobilized for Ex CROWN ROYAL, and generated 10 acft for Ex COPE EMPIRE with zero wpns deviations. This crew created a PQDR lesson plan, and trained 60 2W1s on IMDS documentation and on Fault isolation procedures that reduced DD rate to 7.3.

AFMC Outstanding Weapons Professional of the Year award winners.

Amn Category: SrA Devon L. Carroll, Bomber LSC Crew Member, 412 MXG/MXL , Edwards AFB, CA. SrA Carroll is certified on B-1, B-2 and B-52 munitions, to include certification on 14 B-1 munitions. He created a bomber hung store instruction, creating procedures for all 3 bombers that standardized responses. He participated in the validation/verification of B-2 and B-52 T.O.s, identifying over 210 discrepancies that clarified fleet wide procedures. SrA Carroll uploaded the X-51A Scramjet on the B-52 for the longest hypersonic flight to date, supported the B-1 TDS display upgrade by loading 10 modified ALE-50s, and recovered a diverted B-2 by safing and reconfiguring loaded munitions for the RTB mission. SrA Carroll completed his final 3 courses and earned a CCAF degree in Armament Systems Technologies.

NCO Category: NCO: TSgt Anthony M. Bagent, LSC Crew Member, 96 MXG/MXWL, Eglin AFB, FL. TSgt Bagent has built a superior WLT program that is vital to \$8B in test programs. He briefed CSAF on WS test mission, and catapulted F-35 load ops by authoring JSF GBU-12/31 procedures. TSgt Bagent was trusted with the AC-130W SDB program, loading live GBU-39s; and also loaded C-130s 1st AGM-114 load --- the munition fit validated/test on-target, catapulting the gunship toward forward firing missiles. He tackled NATO/UAI compatibility by coordinating a \$278K French AASM integration test, and a \$175K Turkish JDAM integration that proved NATO compatibility. TSgt Bagent also guided a \$21.3M Triple Target Terminator program fit checks; and led 8 Maritime Strike test mission that met AF #4 priority.

SNCO Category: SNCO: SMSgt Scott A. Chord, WSS Superintendent, 96 MXG/MXWL, Eglin AFB, FL. SMSgt Chord directed test AMU operations, leading 220 personnel. He was selected to fill the WWM position, leading 15 WS through 5.1K load evaluations/test missions resulting in 3.9K F-15/16/A-10 sorties. He enabled 44 SDB I/II loads that fortified 2 QRTs/15 sorties and catalyzed the \$1.6M program to an AOR-utilized configuration. SMSgt Chord authored ALE-50 ops MOA by defining EW/mx tasks and responsibilities. He guided A-10 laser guided rocket missions ensuring the \$597K



CAS enhancement is OT ready; and oversaw F-15E JASSM fit checks by guiding modified pylon adapter installation/munitions loads. SMSgt Chord coordinated B61-12 EJ tests for 4 platforms, and delivered SOCOM test priority with the first BRU-61/SDB C-130J fit.

Pacific Air Forces Armament and Load Crew of the Year Winners:

Technician Category: SrA Andrew J. Messinger, Weapons Load Crew Member, 3 AMXS/MXARW, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

SrA Messinger was selected as only 1 of 3 checklist qualified Airmen! He deployed to CENTCOM, completing 120 loading operations in support of 528 flight hours. He uploaded the first ever F-22 SDB SCL, generated four F-22s for exercise NEPTUNE FALCON, and executed an error free A/G SCL loadout that put GBU-32s on target for the 1st AFCENT Raptor JDAM release. SrA Messinger accomplished a perfect load against an F-15E unit capturing the first ever Raptor LCQ win. He configured four F-22s for CENTCOM JLFE, fused 31 aircraft/6 units/4 nations resulting in 15 DCA sorties. He spearheaded MMHE pylon stand operational testing that enabled AME pre-staging and slashed aircraft generation time. SrA Messinger achieved a stellar 100% pass rate on 52 WSA evals, and earned 21 credit CCAF credit hours.

Supervisor Category: SSgt Philip T. Bennett, Weapons Load Crew Chief, 3 AMXS/MXAGW, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

SSgt Bennett deployed 130 days where he led 100+ loading operations that enabled 421 GRF sorties. He readied 5 aircraft for AFCENT alert tasking that solidified F-22's first ever combat mission. SSgt Bennett performed tester cable repairs that saved \$160K and enabled F-22 operations at 2 locations; and diagnosed elusive AVEL nitrogen depletions that saved \$190K. He corrected a GBU-39 map data glitch that drove AF-wide F-22 SDB mission planning changes; and spearheaded the COLT/Accessory Kit ITCTO by completing it 84 days ahead of schedule. SSgt Bennett sustained a 100% QA pass rate, a 98% loading evaluation pass rate, completed his 7-Level Upgrade, and was earned the Squadron Leo Marquez Award.

Manager Category: SMSgt Lee T. Robbins, Armament Flight

Chief, 35 MXS/MXMR, Misawa AB, Japan.

SMSgt Robbins led 32 personnel maintaining \$61M in equipment at a 99% MC rate---resulting in 1.9K munitions/61K rounds expended with a 99% reliability rate. He directed 4K mx actions and armed 6.1K sorties despite 50% personnel in UGT. He directed 43 gun refurbishments eliminating 2K acft NMC hours and maximizing act availability despite AF-wide gun parts LIMFAC. SMSgt Robbins ID'd 3 acft gun jam root causes and shared solutions to 6 MAJCOMs which drove a DoD level TCTO. He led BRU-57 Ex integration that raised JDAM carriage 50% for ATO missions; and led his flight to a 100% LCAT/95% QA pass rates. SMSgt Robbins earned his BS degree and graduated the Advanced Armament Superintendent course.

PACAF Weapons Load Crew of the Year: SSgt Ryan Garrett/SrA Jordan Leach/SrA Dylan Haddock, 51 AMXS/MXABW, Osan AB, ROK

This crew attained a remarkable 100% pass rate on 306 WS evaluations and won the LCoQ competition and Hot Shot Crew award. They loaded 32 acft/107 munitions during two PENOREs, and generated 13/14 acft during Ex BB13-03 that resulted in 214 sorties. This crew spearheaded 110 PRD repairs that solidified AMU 85.9% 8-hour fix rate---best in 2 years/highest in CAF 7-of-12 months. They maintained a \$6.7M SPRAM account, tested new 51FW generation plan, trained personnel on ALE-50 reprogramming, and were ORE Tiger Team members. This crew performed 200 postload inspections, fixed 30 grounding faults that drove 4.6K sorties/7K sorties; and led weapons harness refurbishment with AFREP that saved \$450K depot level repair costs.

USAF Air Forces Armament and Load Crew of the Year Winners:

Technician Category: SrA Luke A. Jarvis, Weapons Load Crew Member, 52AMXS/MXAAGW, Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

SrA Jarvis maintained an exemplary 100% pass rate on 39 WSS evaluations, and a 100% QA pass rate on 217 maintenance actions. He deployed to Kandahar supporting OEF---141 bombs on target/12K rounds fired/224 enemy Taliban KIA. He validated ACCs BRU-57 cable test by loading 16 GBU-38s/100% release rate; and performed 156 EOR inspections aiding 1.7K combat sorties that protected 166 patrols/112 troops in contact/200 convoys. He completed AFETS schematics refresher and launcher/pylon/ gun FTD courses. SrA Jarvis



expert troubleshooting skills isolated numerous faulty BRUs, matrixes, JRIUs, cables, gun firing leads; consistently returning acft FMC in <3 hours for critical “toughest AOR no-fail missions”.

Supervisor Category: SSgt Jose C. Cervates, Load Monitor, 701 MUNSS/MXW, Klein Brogel AB, Belgium.
 SSgt Cervates was pivotal in the 2013 NSI prep, earning his flight 2 Outstanding/4 Excellent/5 Strengths, earning IG “Superior Performer”. He co-authored certification/generation training plan for US/host load crews, supervised 109 PL-1 loads, certified 8 US/45BAF members, and instituted new standardized NATO weapon custody program that was adopted across 5 units. He built deployable squadron CTKs, crafted a cross-servicing SOP guidance/continuity book, and tested a new NCE electronic forklift that enhanced surety. SSgt Cervates aided 8 wing level EET events that evaluated joint training/executed emergency actions, and was lead convoy driver for the wing’s 2 largest PL-1 moves in 20 years, moving \$6B in assets.

Manager Category: SMSgt Eric C. Markel, Weapons Superintendent, 31 AMXS/MXAAW, Aviano AB, Italy.
 SMSgt Markel mentored 16 weapons load crews that achieved a 96.3% pass rate on 3.8K WS evaluations. He oversaw 3K maintenance actions resulting in wing’s 85.4% MC rate---CAF’s #1 Block 40 unit. He was the FW enlisted/mx lead for a 4-ship/60 member Spain TDY; he orchestrated the Poland WTD prep that resulted in 100% release rate on 66 sorties; and expertly managed Croatian live-fire EX by configuring 20 acft. He generated 4 alert acft to 100% weapons ready in < 5 hours in support of AFRICOM tasking for unrest in Middle East. SMSgt Markel authored nuclear generation guides; achieved 99% MSE on 2,000 inspections; and scrutinized 172 PRDs with a 1st time fix mentality that led CAF with a 1.55% repeat rate.

USAFE Weapons Load Crew of the Year: SSgt John D. Jefferson/SrA Thomas W. Kisiday/A1C Caitlyn A. Nolin, 31 AMXS/MXABW, Aviano AB, Italy.
 This crew attained an incredible 99% pass rate on 118 evaluations and won LCoQ, LCoY, and Hot Shot awards. USAFE #1 Surety load crew, they executed 12 perfect loads earning cross-servicing Outstanding Performer. This crew briefed surety program/enlisted concerns to a Congressional

delegation, revealed 4 BRU-57 ops check deficiencies, developed gun install refresher training that cut UGT backlog 25%, and implemented a 5 nation/15 acft bed-down plan. The crew loaded 79 munitions/9.2K rounds 20mm that bolstered 100% weapons release/gun fire rates and enabled 5.6K sorties/7.5K flying hours. This crew achieved a 100% QA pass rate and loaded 39 bombs/44K rounds/100% release rates during Red Flag deployment.

Quotable Quotes

“Of course there is risk. But without risk there is no honor, no glory, no adventure.”

Winston Churchill

7 January 1944 during planning for Anzio landings.

THE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

By Chief Craig Brandenburg

(Submitted by Chief JASON R. DAVIS)

I’ve always loved competitive weapons loading venues. Loading’s elite events, like Gun Smoke, William Tell, Bomb/NAV comps, Turkey Shoots, Giant Sword and Lancer Joust are what come to mind. As a young A1C, earning an unexpected Load Crew of the Month for an error free B-1B launcher load, sparked within me, an ember of fierce competition. It wasn’t long before I had the privilege of being selected for 1991 Giant Sword Team for SAC and then, winning events quarterly until capping it off with the 1993 Load Crew of the Year for the 52 FW. The awards ceremony for the event was conducted in runner-up fashion making the announcement an incredibly suspenseful way to find out who out-loaded who!

Such events are the underpinnings of an entire career of leading younger loaders under our tutelage to be recognized for their accuracy and excellence. Within our 2W1/462 career fields, we have always made efforts to maintain these competitions with many SNCOs bragging to the youngsters on their past successes, and of course, the “what-if” scenario of putting



together a SNCO crew. I'm happy to say we've now been there and done that.

As part of this year's annual load competition festivities, the 52 MXG threw in a twist. We assembled three 462 Chief's and challenged a lead crew to a head-to-head load off! Chief Steve Poole, 702 MUNSS/CEM at Buechel, Germany hadn't actually *EVER* loaded an F-16 and hadn't loaded a fighter since the first



Desert Storm, in 1991. Chief Brad Plante, 701 MUNSS/CEM at Kleine-Brogel, Belgium, had also been away from loading for some 17 years. His last AIM-9 load was back in 1997. I rounded out the crew and nervously accepted the #1 role as the WWM at Spangdahlem. Collectively, our team possessed 78 years of solid expertise to see if we could match a Lead Crew with *possibly* 12 years amongst them.

The tool kit and uniform inspections were underway, a timed jammer driving course (accuracy based, not high speeds) to fill the downtime was open to all challengers. Our OIC's, Inspectors and visiting Chief's took turns at the wheel, in a "training" scenario, of course! Then, we held an Air Force first: the Chief's vs. SLC, AIM-9M load from break. Forms, carts, muns and aircraft prep, load, *everything*. With only a single afternoon of rust-busting (walk-throughs) prior to the load, we Chief's put up a ZD load that day....but so did our competition. I'll give them their credit, they were faster by about 90 seconds

to take the win; however, it was anything but a loss for us. We had an absolute blast!

You may recall that being a Load Crew Chief on fighters carries the complexity of a single checklist filled with 101 options and 10 varieties of weapons configurations to decipher and you must tick the boxes of only those that apply to your aircraft's load out. I gained a freshened respect for just how easy it is to make a simple error, make or break it for your crew. I regularly critique failed loads for errors exactly like the errors I had just made while practicing. I was successful in an office setting while marking the checklist and having the time to think it through logically. Now, imagine a scenario where your thought processes and checklist entries are being interrupted 8 times in 8 minutes to inspect, reject, and physically load before returning to a coherent continuous postload. Practicing at the aircraft, under actual loading conditions was enough to derail me on every walk-through. To all the #1 crew peeps out there, I feel your pain and have but one word for you, *respect*.

The reconnection to our roots: \$50. The fun of competition:



\$150. Loading a jet with a tail number easily photo-shopped to "462" was simply priceless!

If we have three Chief's without profiles, this will be an annual event, and I'd not be a bit surprised to see some SNCOs take that "what-if" thought and put it into action! It's the



competitive advantage, and a pure win-win for weapons leadership. Congratulations again to SSgt Denny, SrA Hughes and SrA Alcalá. Your hard work and efforts made a difference and will influence others in the most positive of ways.

For more coverage see SSgt Chad Schultz's you tube video at <http://youtu.be/ez2ma20Jx2g> or the AFN coverage at:

<http://spangdahlem.afneurope.net/Home/ArticleDisplayDD/tabid/1590/aid/29631/Default.aspx>

Quotable Quotes

"I can make more generals, but horses cost money."
Abraham Lincoln

Load crews compete for top award

by Airman 1st Class Ryan Conroy
 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

(Submitted by Dick Vancil)

1/27/2014 - **AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy** -- The best load crews from the 510th and 555th Fighter Squadrons competed for the base's top weapons loading honors in the annual weapons load crew competition, Jan. 23. Load crew competitions ensure Airmen maintain their skills while also promoting competition and camaraderie among the squadrons. The crews are graded on a written test, dress and appearance, their composite tool kit and the load. The winners will be announced at the Maintenance Professional of the Year Banquet.



(From left) Staff Sgt. Steven James, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons load crew chief, and Senior Airman Bryan Ednave, 31st AMXS weapons load crew member, secure a munition to the wing of an F-16 Fighting Falcon during a weapons load competition, Jan. 23, 2014, at Aviano Air Base, Italy. Load crew competitions ensure Airmen maintain their skills while also promoting competition and camaraderie among the squadrons. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ryan Conroy)



Senior Airman Bryan Ednave, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons load crew member, adjusts the fins on munition during an annual weapons load crew competition, Jan. 23, 2014, at Aviano Air Base, Italy. Load crew competitions are held four times a year in addition to an annual competition to determine the best load crew of the year. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Ryan Conroy)



(From left) Staff Sgt. Brandon Ramos, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons load crew chief, and Airman 1st Class Jonathan Picher, 31st AMXS weapons load crew member, guides a munition to the wing of an F-16 Fighting Falcon during an annual weapons load crew competition Jan. 23, 2014, at Aviano Air Base, Italy. The winning team will be announced during the Maintenance Professional of the Year Banquet. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Deana Heitzman)

Quotable Quotes

"Airplanes suffers from so many technical faults that it is only a matter of time before any reasonable man realizes that they are useless!"

Scientific American (1910)

From: "Inside Edwards"

445th AMU claims quarterly weapons load competition title

(Contributed by Nathan M. Dixon Jr.)

by Jet Fabara
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

1/8/2014 - EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. -- The 412th Maintenance Group held their Fourth Quarter

Fighter Weapons Load Competition Jan. 6 to select the best fighter weapons load team for the final quarter of 2013.

Of the three teams that competed - the 411th, 445th, 461st Aircraft Maintenance Units - the team that took the distinct honor in this quarter's competition consisted of Staff Sgt. Dustin Jones, Airman 1st Class Maurice Appleton and Airman 1st Class Briano Molinaro from the 445th AMU.

"Weapons load competitions are held on a quarterly basis culminating in the finale of the annual weapons load competition," said Master Sgt. Joseph Ordway, 412th MXG weapons standardization superintendent. "Aircraft armament systems technicians have been competing in weapons load competitions dating back before the Korean War. These load competitions foster camaraderie by allowing the maintainers to showcase their unique skillset. The entire crew must function precisely as one entity in order to come out on top."

Prior to the quarterly competition, each unit selects its representatives by reviewing load barn and flightline evaluation results throughout the quarter, according to Ordway.

"The competition consists of a uniform inspection for Dress and Appearance followed by a written examination testing the participant's basic knowledge of loading weapons onto their respective aircraft," Ordway said. "Additionally, the crews present a Composite Tool Kit and a thorough inspection of their tools and technical data is conducted. Finally, the load crew completes a weapons upload, usually consisting of a bomb and missile. The timed upload is evaluated for safety and reliability."

Of all the AMUs that were invited to participate, the 411th AMU had to load an F-22 Raptor, the 445th AMU had to load an F-16 Falcon and the 461st AMU loaded an F-35 Lightning II.

"The experience level of this quarter's participants ranged from one to 10 years," added Ordway.

The winning load crew received a certificate, a one-day ass, as well as custody of the traveling Load Competition



Championship Belt until the next quarterly competition. All of the quarterly winners will compete for the Load Crew of the Year Competition trophy which will take place Feb. 3, 2014.



Weapons load crew members with the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Unit load an F-16 Falcon during the Fourth Quarter Fighter Weapons Load Competition Jan. 6, 2014. Weapons load crew members from the 445th, 411th and 461st AMU competed in the friendly competition to showcase each crew member's talent. Of the three units, the 445th AMU claimed the fourth quarter trophy. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jet Fabara)



Staff Sgt. Toby Hernandez ensures the MJ-1B munitions loader driver secures a GBU-32 before loading it to an F-22 Raptor during the Fourth Quarter Fighter Weapons Load Competition Jan. 6, 2014 behind Hangar

1600. Sergeant Hernandez is the 411th Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons team chief. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jet Fabara)



Airman 1st Class Briano Molinaro drives his MJ-1B munitions loader past inspectors in order to pick up his team's next munition during the Fourth Quarter Fighter Weapons Load Competition Jan. 6, 2014, behind Hangar 1600. Airman Molinaro is a 412th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron weapons load crew member who represented the 445th Aircraft Maintenance Unit during the competition. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jet Fabara)

412th MXG Annual Weapons Professional Awards

SNCO – MSgt Joseph Ordway III, 412 MXW

NCO – TSgt Anthony Higuera, 412 MXW

Amn – SrA Devon Carroll, 412 MXW

From Joseph Gassler

The 462s at Edwards AFB have made a WEAPONS coin. They are charging \$15. They are trying to raise money for a long overdue Weapons Fest. Contact Anthony Higuera on Facebook or email mrraider14@hotmail.com.



If you have trouble getting in contact let me know.

Joseph P. Gassler
jokerchief462@aol.com



**Chief Master Sergeant
 Gregory A. Kebil
 Memorial Scholarship
 Fund**

Larry Brown

The Aircraft Armament Chief's Association (AACCA) present a \$1302.32 donation to the Chief Master Sgt. Gregory A. Kebil Memorial Scholarship Fund February 7. The Load Toad

Organization of 363 TRS is matching the AACCA donation for a total of \$2,604.64 to be added to the fund. The fund annually provides scholarship money for children of retired or active duty Armament Specialists.



Back row, left to right, AACCA members Lenny Krombel and Larry Brown, Chief Master Sgt. Mark Gonzales and Load Toad Secretary, Staff Sgt. Lidiana Carter. Front row, left to right is Treasurer, Staff Sgt. Thomas Schugg; Ways and Means, Technical Sgt Michael Nuckols and Flight Chief, Master Sgt. Derrick Morris.

2014 Chief Master Sergeant Gregory A. Kebil Memorial Scholarship Fund Winner

The board has chosen Ms Heather Purdy as the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship award. Heather is the daughter or retired SMSgt Jeffrey S. Purdy, who served 26 years in our career field---you probably remember him.

LinkedIn  **LinkedIn Account**

Rick Barbee created the LinkedIn account: "Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association." You can join by searching and requesting to become a member. Rick is currently the owner of the account.



Quotable Quotes

“It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.”

George S. Patton

In Memorial

Jeff Gray



The Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association recently had the honor of making a donation to "Callaway Youth Baseball" in fond memory of SMSgt (ret) Jeff Gray.

Jeff went to be with the Lord on Thursday, January 9th, 2014 after a short battle with cancer,



SMSgt Jeff Gray retired out of the 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Florida after proudly serving his country as an Aircraft Armament Systems Specialist. He was working in the Telemetry Flight as a civilian.

There was a service for Jeff at the Callaway Ball Park/Sports Complex on Saturday, 11 Jan 2014. Jeff loved baseball, and was heavily involved with local youth baseball. He was a huge influence to many young children. Many of Jeff's current and past baseball players attended his service, in addition to family, friends and co-workers. The professional men and women of the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group, Eglin AFB, Florida also attended Jeff's service; and executed a formation behind the home plate fence in Jeff's honor. The Mayor of Callaway spoke at Jeff's service, and announced that he would put forth a motion at the next City Council meeting to re-name the Callaway Sports Complex in Jeff's honor.

SMSgt (ret) Jeff Gray lived his life to the fullest, would help anyone in need, and he will always be remembered as a patriot who served his country with honor.



Kent "Doc" Salvage

From Bob Sherrill

Many might've heard that a true 462/2W1 icon has passed away, Mr. Kent "Doc" Salvage. In the words of our fellow 462/2W1 associations:

"If there was ever a Weapons Troop we'd want to work with, it was Doc. He was an instructor to some of us, a co-worker to others, but of all things he was a friend. After he left Lansing, IL he started his career in 1971 at Luke AFB, AZ and went on to various other assignments including Thailand, MacDill, Nellis and finally Sheppard where he retired from active duty as a Technical Sergeant in 1999. Afterwards, He was a Civil Service instructor in multiple Armament courses, finally retiring in 2013. He was a veteran of Vietnam, Desert Shield and Desert Storm and wouldn't mind telling stories about the "good old days."

Although Doc did not retire a 462/2W1 Chief, he was the "cornerstone" to many of our troops starting a Weapons Loader career. We owe him and his family a world of thanks for the contributions Doc gave to our troops.

The AACA BoD donated \$25 dollars to the Salvage Family to help offset funeral expenses in the name of the AACA.

Taking Care Of Our Own

From Mike Cannon

Thanks to the generous contributions from many of our members, the Aircraft Armament Chiefs Association recently mailed a donation of \$500 to the family of CMSgt (ret) Darren Walker. Other AACA members have also made additional generous donations directly to Chief Walker's family, or through a donation fund raising website.



Sadly, Zach Walker, the son of Darren and Terri Walker, was in a terrible car accident last fall, 2013. Zach has been battling to regain his health and parts of his life that have been left at a standstill.

Zach's family has set a goal to raise \$15,000 in order to help out with the expenses that result in these types of accidents, and our AACA donation will be greatly appreciated by Darren and his family.

For those who would like to make any additional donations, Mike Cannon has Darren Walker's address and phone number. You can also donate through the following website: <http://www.gofundme.com/4rk8bw>

Thanks,

Mike



Quotable Quotes

"To throw bombs from an airplane will do as much damage as throwing bags of flour. It will be my pleasure to stand on the bridge of any ship while it is attacked by airplanes."

Newton Baker, US minister of defense (1921)

History

DECLASSIFIED ATOMIC BOMB PHOTOS

Contributed by Dick Vancil

Norm Evans says: "When I was in SAC, I Loaded a lot of those weapons. Mark 6, 15, 17, 28, 36, 39 and 53. The Mark 17 was a monster. When I won Bomb Comp in '61, we were loading MK39 MOD2. That was a long time ago, but I remember it just like it was yesterday." *Norm*

http://www.alternatewars.com/Bomb_Loading/Bomb_Guide.htm

NOTES: A large number of these photos were assembled from the RG-77-BT collection in the Still Photo collection of the National Archives II building in College Park, MD.



Alignment of the device with the aircraft's bomb bay proceeded with a lot of 'hands on' from fairly high ranking personnel.

Without Weapons.....Just Another Airline



Hydraulic lift has raised the device about halfway into the bomb bay.



Once the device was aligned up, the security/protective shroud was removed in anticipation of loading.