

STINGER

180th Fighter Wing 2660 South Eber Road Swanton, Ohio 43558-9645

COMMAND

Wing Commander Col. Kevin Doyle Vice Commander Col. William Giezie

Public Affairs Staff

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Jordyn Sadowski
Capt. Matthew Eck
Public Affairs Superintendent
Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Holliker
Editor
Staff Sgt. Shane Hughes
Photojournalist
Staff Sgt. John Wilkes

DEADLINE

Senior Airman Hope Geiger Broadcast Journalist Airman 1st Class Kregg York

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ABOUT THE STINGER

The Stinger, a funded Air Force newspaper, is an authorized publication for the personnel of the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, 2660 S. Eber Road, Swanton, Ohio 43558. Contents of The Stinger are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, the National Guard Bureau or the Adjutant General of Ohio. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 180th Public Affairs Office.



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Editorial by Col. Kevin Doyle

hope everybody had a fantastic Thanksgiving and that you enjoyed a great December drill weekend and the time to hang out with your co-workers and families.Lori and I want to thank you and your family for the fantastic work you have done over the last year. The Stingers continued to do a great job, successfully completing a very important deployment to Estonia and we got everybody and the jets back safely. We deployed other Stingers from across the base and still have some of those Airmen, including our 180th Fighter Wing security forces, down range. As we head into the Christmas season and look forward to the year ahead, it is vitally important to our readiness that you focus on your resiliency. It is essential that you take some time for yourself, and spend some time with your families and friends. Take some leave. It's imperative to you and your families and the Ohio Air National Guard that you start 2019 refreshed, recharged and ready to go. We have a busy year ahead. With more people deploying, planning and executing exercises, temporary duty assignments and specifically completing the Air Combat Command Capstone Unit Effectiveness Inspection in October, the wing will be pulled in many directions. I need every Stinger working together, moving in the same direction with the same goal, to be the best prepared and combat ready unit in the Ohio National Guard, the Air National Guard and the United States Air Force. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year and on behalf of Lori and me, thank you for everything you have done and we look forward to serving with you in 2019.



irefighters at the Rickenbacker
Air National Guard Base Fire
Station were going about their
normal workday on a late summer afternoon, when the relative quiet was
suddenly interrupted. A computer-generated
voice from the Columbus Fire Department
echoes through the station's speaker system
to dispatch medical assistance at a nearby
Columbus-area residence. A crew jumped
into the fire engine and sped off base to
respond to the call.

Ohio Air National Guard fire and emerwere nearly 500 mutual aid calls between

gency services (FES), such as the one at the 121st Air Refueling Wing at Rickenbacker, are ready to assist civilian fire departments with medical and fire emergency support through mutual aid agreements at no cost to the local communities.

Between the FES at the 121st ARW and those at the 180th Fighter Wing located at the Toledo Express Air National Guard Base in Swanton and the 179th Airlift Wing Fire Department at the Mansfield-Lahm Air National Guard Base in Mansfield, there were nearly 500 mutual aid calls between

the period of Oct. 1, 2016, to Sept. 30, 2017.

"It is important we respond to emergencies in the community to establish working relationships and common ground with our mutual aid partners personnel and emergency operations," said Chief Master Sgt. Mark White, fire chief of the FES at Rickenbacker.

Ohio Air National Guard FES teams, staffed by both Guard members and their full-time civilian counterparts, train to similar standards as those of the local community fire departments. The difference is their specialized training to handle unique

hazards that come with aircraft and military munitions.

At the 179th Airlift Wing Fire Department, Senior Master Sgt. Brad Brammer, deputy fire chief, said a majority of their firefighters have completed apprentice firefighter training at the Department of Defense Fire Academy at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas.

"Our firefighters are called on not only for daily emergencies in our community but also for humanitarian missions and contingency operations. Because of this, our training has to be of the utmost quality and continue through the entirety of our careers," according to Brammer.

Firefighting capabilities at each FES include water trucks, called tenders, capable of hauling several thousand gallons of water, which can be essential for fire emergencies in rural areas without fire hydrants.

"Several years ago we responded to a mutual aid call with a local fire department for an outdoor fire that was out of control. The fire had spread to about four acres of woods," recalled Chief Master Sgt. Bri-

an Rozick, fire chief of the 180th Fighter Wing FES. "We provided much needed manpower, an engine and a water tender. Our assets helped stop the spread of fire from continuing through the wooded area and adjacent structures."

While the 178th Wing at the Springfield-Beckley Air National Guard Base in Springfield does not currently have a full-time fire mission, it does have search and rescue capabilities that can be activated for natural disasters and large-scale emergencies.

"Ohio Air National Guard firefighters are some of the most qualified and trained firefighters you will find in any department worldwide," said Tech Sgt. Kevin McNamara, a traditional Guard member and firefighter at the 178th Wing for 17 years. "Additional training such as rope rescue, trench rescue, and hazmat technician allows us to be a Swiss-army knife of the fire service, filling in many roles."

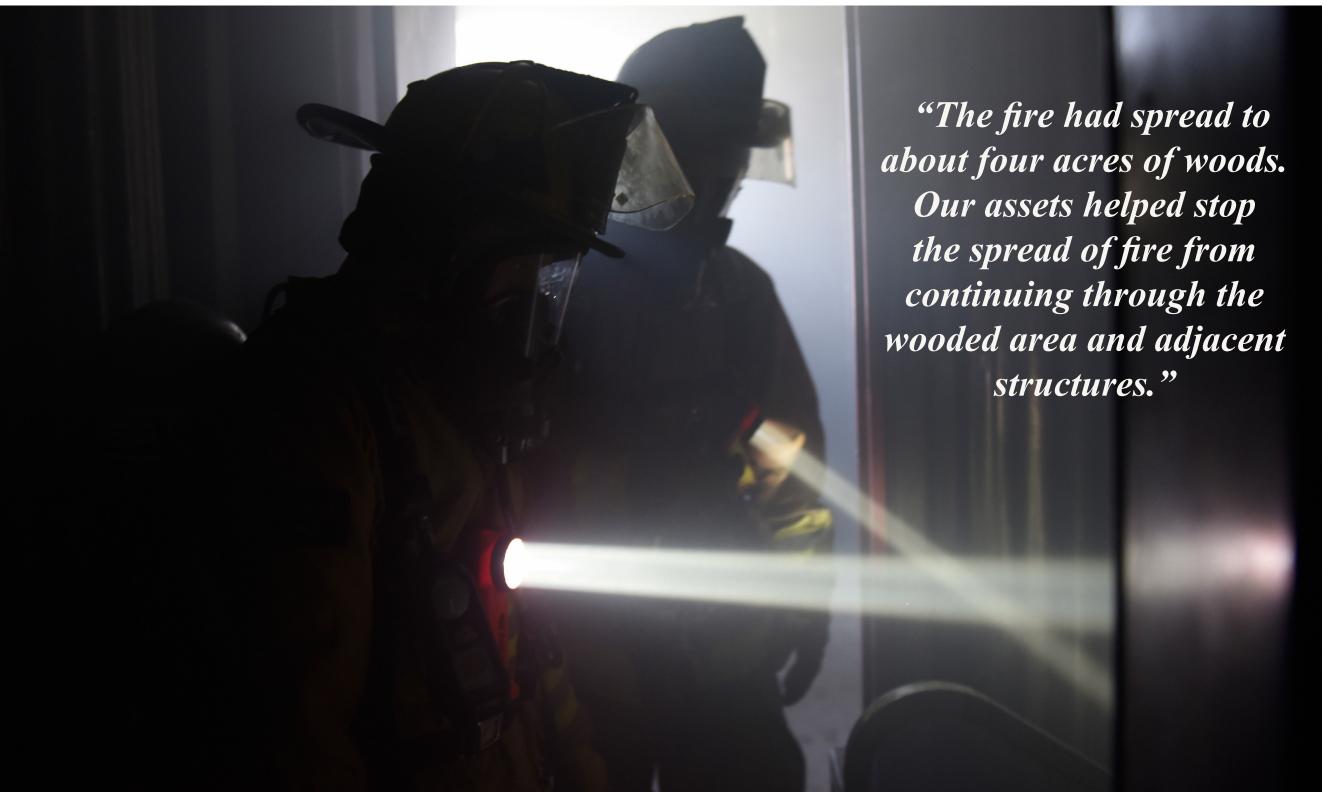
Mansfield Fire Department Chief Steve Strickling has been impressed with the National Guard's willingness to help in any situation.

"Partnering with the Ohio Air National Guard fire emergency services allows us to use our resources more appropriately in our geographical regions of coverage," Strickling said. "The airport and the industrial complexes that surround it are able to be served in a mutual aid arrangement with the Air National Guard acting as first responders to that region of the city. This takes much of the stress off the municipal fire stations within the city that are responding to this area from remote locations."

Chief Joshua Hartbarger has been with the Whitehouse Fire Department in Lucas County for 17 years, and has found the partnership with the 180th Fighter Wing FES to be beneficial.

"The Air Guard contributes a depth in specialized training (that) smaller communities are unable to provide. For instance, the technical rescue and hazmat knowledge by their department is second to none. Having that resource less than 10 minutes away from us is invaluable," Hartbarger said.

The total number of mutual-aid assistance calls by Guard FES units for this year had topped more than 300 as of early August. As residents of the community in which they serve, Ohio Air National Guard fire and emergency services units are ready to respond when the next call for emergency aid comes in from local fire departments.





he men and women of the U.S. military frequently travel to distant locations, far from home, for a variety of reasons, whether to train alongside their military counterparts in partner nations or to support military operations, but when Airman 1st Class Lydia

Delmonico, an information technology specialist assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing, traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, she was there to represent her country in a different way. She was there to compete in the International Taekwondo Federation World Championships from July 31 through Aug.

5 as a member of Team USA.

She and her teammates arrived a week prior to the start of the event to train and acclimate to the environment. They followed a strict schedule to prepare themselves. They ensured they woke every morning at the same time they would for the competition and trained for several hours each day in any location they could find. They trained at a local gym, city parks and even used the hotel ballroom when it was available.

"People would give us funny, sideways looks occasionally, but we were there to train and that's what we did," Delmonico said.

In the days leading up to the competition, Delmonico met numerous competitors and judges from all over the world. In the same way that military pilots will exchange patches with pilots from allied and partner nations, Delmonico and her teammates would exchange jackets, hats, gear bags and other items as souvenirs, building comradery and friendship across nations.

"You meet people there and make these friendships, and you might not see them again until the next world championships, but you're really excited for the next time you'll see them," Delmonico said. "It's a unique kind of friendship."

The competition began with individual pattern routines, choreographed movements characterized by the strength and precision of the movements. In her first round of patterns competition, Delmonico faced a second degree black belt who'd competed in the six previous ITF World Championships. This was Delmonico's first time competing at the World Championship level. Unfortunately, Delmonico lost.

"That was a little bit of a letdown, but my instructor was pleased with my performance," Delmonico said.

Her next competition was sparring, a scored and judged fight. A sparring match starts with a two-minute round of fighting, followed by a one-minute break, and then another two-minute round of fighting. Delmonico's first opponent was an Argentinian.

"This is a big competition, and, in Argentina, it's their national sport," said Carol Van Zile, a seventh-degree black belt and the owner of Great Lakes Global Taekwondo, where Delmonico trains.

"They (Argentinians) spend all their time training for the sparring, and they are very good at it," Delmonico said.

Delmonico won the first round, but her opponent won the second round to tie the match, sending the match into sudden death, an additional one-minute round. Delmonico was the only American to take an Argentinian into sudden death, but she wasn't able to defeat her opponent.

"I'm proud of my performance," Delmonico said. "It was a good sparring match. I did my best, and the girl I sparred against came in with so many bruises the next day that she said the win almost wasn't worth it. I gave her Hell."

Coming off of two straight losses, the next competition was team patterns. She and her teammates received second place, beginning a change in the competition for her.

Team sparring was next, but Delmonico wasn't on the roster for that event. But just before the competition started, one of her coaches told her to get her gear on for the team sparring event. Her coaches had been so impressed by her performance during individual sparring that they changed their minds

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(Top)Vice President Mike Pence waves as he exits the plane Aug. 14, 2018 at the Toledo Express Airport in Toledo, Ohio. Photo by Airman 1st Class Hope Geiger. (Bottom) U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard pose with Vice Preseident Mike Pence during his visit to Toledo, Ohio on Aug. 14, 2018. Photo provided.







An F-16 Fighting Falcon, assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Gaurd, soars behind an American flag June 6, 2018 in Swanton Ohio. Photo by Airman 1st Class Hope Geiger









COMPANY GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

1st Lt. Kaitlyn N. Newkirk

Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing Medical Group as a clinical nurse, 1st Lt. Kaitlyn Newkirk manages the duties and training of 15 personnel in support of monthly Preventative Health Assessments in accordance with Air Force Surgeon General directives and policies. She serves as the Officer in Charge of the 180FW Self Aid and Buddy Care Program, ensuring non-medical Airmen possess the basic life and limb saving techniques required for Expeditionary Readiness.

Newkirk enlisted in the Air National Guard in 2006 and successfully completed Medical Laboratory Technician training in 2008. In 2009, she enrolled in nursing school at the University of Toledo. Simultaneously, she became a member of the Ohio Homeland Response Force, participating in several joint force disaster response exercises to include Volk Field, Wisconsin and Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Indiana. In 2012, she graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Toledo and was employed as a critical care registered nurse in the surgical intensive care units at Toledo Hospital and Columbia University Medical Center.

Newkirk has been selected to fill the 180FW Medical Group Public Health Officer Position and has volunteered to serve as the 180th FW junior officer representative for the Ohio National Guard Association. She is currently enrolled in a Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia program at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio and will become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist upon graduation in spring of 2019.



FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR Master Sgt. William C. Lowinski

Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing Communications, Master Sgt. William Lowinski serves as the First Sergeant for the Logistics Readiness Squadron and is responsible for supporting the mission through direct interaction, support and management of Airmen and their families.

Lowinski entered into service in October 1997 and attended Tactical Aircraft Maintenance Apprentice training, graduating January 1999. Lowinski deployed numerous times in support of Operation Northern Watch, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2018, Lowinski oversaw the welfare and morale of 270 Airmen deployed to Ämari Air Base, Estonia and assisted coordination efforts with Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany to successfully absorb a full retrograde of all deployed Airmen. He assisted in the coordination of a multi-national luncheon that fed over 300 Soldiers and Airmen from four countries, and recognized the efforts of 14 key players, bolstering relations within Europe. In his civilian career, Lowinski serves as the Inspection Section Work Leader, Air Guard Technician at the 180th FW for the past three years and accumulated more than 21 years of experience in the aircraft maintenance field. He is responsible for the planning and implementation of all maintenance on aircraft undergoing phase inspections. He has led multiple phase maintenance projects and implemented significant changes to phase inspections; focused on streamlining team efforts and reducing aircraft downtime.



SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Master Sgt. Kevin M. Ziehr

Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing Fire and Emergency Services Flight, Master Sgt. Kevin Ziehr is a Fire Protection Supervisor serving as Assistant Chief of Operations. Ziehr is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the fire department when on duty. His responsibilities include on-scene incident command during emergency responses, ensuring that all required training is completed in an efficient and timely manner, and overall safety of the fire department personnel.

Ziehr's responsibilities within the Fire Department include vehicle control officer, flight line friving program manager, and the fire department's government drivers' licensing program manager.

In Ziehr's full time capacity, he is a Lieutenant Firefighter, with the State of Ohio. Ziehr served as an interim Fire Station Captain before becoming a fulltime Firefighter/EMT for the Toledo Fire and Rescue Department in 2017. Ziehr is an Ohio Certified Basic EMT, providing first aid and basic life support during all emergency responses. Ziehr frequently functions as the Senior Fire Office and Incident Commander for emergencies the 180th OHANG.

Master Sgt. Ziehr is actively involved in his community. He volunteers at the Toledo Chery Street Mission, helping out with regular food service and delivery of holiday meals to the needy. Ziehr coaches various youth football programs. He regularly participates in various fire prevention activities throughout the community, helping to educate school-aged children about fire safety.



NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Tech. Sgt. Ashley Zuchowski

Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing, Tech. Sgt Ashley Zuchowski oversees, coordinates and documents health, training and deployment requirements for 85 Airmen. Additionally, Zuchowski serves as a Materiel Management Specialist.

Zuchowski enlisted in 2006 and completed Materiel Management technical school. Selected as the Logistics Readiness Squadron Readiness Manager in 2016, she enabled the squadron to achieve an overall 84.7 percent medical readiness rating, exceeding the wing average. Her efforts helped Airmen to support Reserve Component Period Deployments, one Theater Support Package and five aviation exercises. Zuchowski also served as the Squadron Organization Defense Travel Administrator, coordinating and validating authorizations and travel vouchers for 85 Airmen.

In 2017, she deployed as the Supply NCO-in-Charge to Kecskemét Air Base, Hungary in support of the State Partnership Program, where ensured expedited parts availability. Her efforts facilitated 131 sorties flown and a 97.9 percent Mission Capable Rate. In 2018, Tech. Sgt. Zuchowski deployed to Ämari Air Base, Estonia in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. While deployed she served as the night shift Maintenance Supply Liaison and assisted in procuring six million dollars in aircraft issue requests. She also maintained the Mobility Readiness Spares Package which provided expedited parts availability for aircraft maintenance. Her efforts enabled a 79.4 percent fully mission capable rate and execution of 297 sorties.



AIRMAN OF THE YEAR Senior Airman Abbie R. McGuire

Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing Operations group as an Aircrew Flight Equipment specialist, Senior Airman Abbie McGuire oversaw \$12 million worth of equipment, participated in three F-16 training deployments and supported 150 sorties, making 36 pilots fully mission-ready. She has also aided local survival instruction; processing 35 aircrew through life saving scenario's and guaranteeing aircrew survivability. She has a superior vision of the future; forecasting shop supplies for 48 parachutes and kits, 43 sets of gear; keeping aircrew flight equipment at 100 percent mission capability rate. She registered for Airman Leadership and her five-level Career Development Course, finishing the CDC ahead of schedule; while consistently being prepared. McGuire recently participated in Operation Atlantic Resolve, then forward deployed to Spangdahlem, Germany. McGuire was an integral part of the aviation package, providing technical expertise on vital aircrew equipment.

Upon her return, McGuire started her temporary technician position, and simultaneously enrolled into Airman Leadership School. McGuire continues to work towards her Community College of the Air Force degree in Aircrew Safety Systems Technology, while also pursuing a Health and Information Management degree from the University of Toledo. McGuire's long-term goals include the AFE Superintendent position, and eventually the Operations Group Superintendent position. She is a goal-oriented Airman; maintaining the highest skill set among her peers; always performing her duties, in an exemplary manner.



HONOR GUARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Staff Sgt. Valerie L. Thigpen

Assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing Force Support Squadron as a services specialist, Staff Sgt. Valerie Thigpen administers and assists the wing level fitness program to ensure 100 percent compliance with Air Force and local commander guidance, as well as coordinating the Wing Fitness Improvement Program. She tests over 1,000 members annually with a 96 percent wing pass rate.

Thigpen, is a third year member of the 180FW Honor Guard team which is dedicated to fostering patriotism and honoring the fallen. Throughout the past three years, she has participated in numerous color guard and honor guard events to include: presenting the flag to a loved one at a funeral, representing the Air Force during a Veteran's appreciation night at a Toledo Walleye's game, displaying flag folding techniques to over 1,000 Boy Scouts of America members, and participating in a Women of the Military event at a Toledo Mudhen's game.

In addition to the honor guard and fitness programs, she has also aided in cooking and preparing food according to the Air Force Corporate Food Service Recipe System while incorporating DoD mandated Go for Green initiatives. She provided over 600 meals during the drill weekends.



Chief's Award Airman 1st Class Brandon Gore

Airman 1st Class Brandon Gore distinguished himself as a Fire Protection Apprentice serving with the 180th Fire and Emergency Services Flight. Airman Gore completed more than 120 hours of instruction earning three national certifications needed to complete his five-level upgrade to Journeyman well ahead of schedule. During a response to a large multiple vehicle fire, his selfless actions limited the fire spread to 11 vehicles, protecting over \$120 million dollars of other vehicles. Airmen Gore was part of an engine crew that responded to a call for dropped munitions. Airmen Gore entered the danger area and identified the hazard to the Incident Commander, protecting more than 350 base personnel from potential harm. During responses to multiple F-16 in flight emergencies, Airman Gore demonstrated expertise, safeing the aircraft for pilot removal and safeguarding over \$40 million dollars in assets. Airmen Gore is a mentor to his peers, and is volunteering to educate new personnel on department policies and procedures increasing the overall capabilities of the 180FW Fire Department. Airmen First Class Gore provided fire safety education to the public instructing over 50 youths on fire and life safety, and helping to positively promote the 180th Fighter Wing.

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GOLD Continued

and asked her to compete in the team event.

"I fought against a woman from the U.K. who was a bruiser," Delmonico said. "She was a boxing champion, a fifth-degree black belt, and she'd competed in three world championships before."

Delmonico and her teammates won third place in sparring.

Next, she competed in individual power breaking, an event where competitors use straightforward techniques to break as many stacked boards as possible, followed by

specialty breaking, an event where competitors use jumping techniques to attain greater height or to clear obstacles while breaking fewer boards. One of the specialty breaking events requires competitors to kick a board suspended 7 feet, 2 inches above the ground.

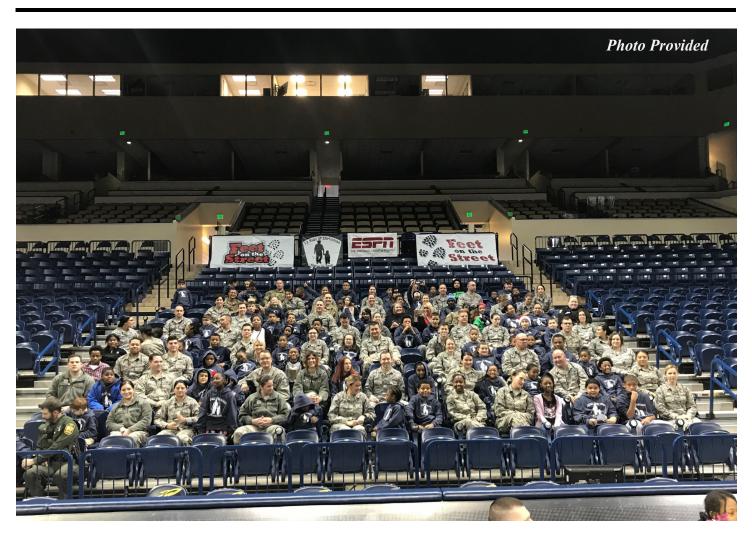
Delmonico took third place in power breaking and first place in specialty breaking, beating a field of twelve other competitors.

The final events of the competition for Delmonico were team breaking. Her team took second place in specialty breaking. She was always a part of the specialty breaking

team, but she was added to the power breaking event late, because her coaches were impressed by her performance during the individual competition. It was the second time she'd been added to an event at the last minute, and the decision paid off, because her team won first place for power breaking.

Altogether, Delmonico brought home six medals.

"I like winning, but for me, the best part was just experiencing my first world championship," Delmonico said. "It was an honor just to compete." 📡



The 12 Kids of Christmas

Fifty-eight Airmen assigned to the 180th volunteered to support 12 Kids of Christmas on Mon., Dec. 17th, nearly doubling our number of volunteers over last year.

A big thank you to: Dayna Ellis, Ashley Zuchowski, Tara Zuber, Nickolas Whiteman, Zachary Westrick, Chastity Morgan, Brian Best, Richard Jagodzinski, Kelly Pohlman, Ben Pohlman, Darlene Anderson, Michael Sperry, Daniel Taylor, Robert Reagan, Bradley Haas, Macie Miller, Jordan Gonzales, Lindsey Carroll, Lyndsey, Skala, David Harrison, Joelle Hughes, Arika Hoffman, Norman Drzewiecki, Jesse Ellis, Anthony Garver, Alyssa Douglas, Raven Driftmyer, Joy Chittum, Jessica Holtzscher, Robert Guthrie, Shane Hughes, Kaethi Strzelczyk, Sherri Davis, Marisa Shipman, Jeffery Axe, Kevin Barrett, William Boyer, Stephen Boehme, Andrea Villegas, Abbie Bengela, Kristen Cramer, Catrina Odenweller Haas, Michael Stella, Crystal Carper, Kaitlyn Cramer, Juliana Cessna, Megan Ortiz, Grace Owens, Amy Kendrioski, Valerie Thigpen, Alexus Jenkins, Kayla Pokornik, Amber Young, Corey Eubank, Jeff Snyder, Andrew Noble, Kristin Weeman!

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ALWAYS ON MISSION



180th Fighter Wing

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