



Room Signal

45th Edition



Celebrating Aerial Heroism

My Fellow Boom Operators,

As we close out the year, we reflect on a period of significant transition and progress in the air refueling community. In September of 2024 we marked the official retirement of the last KC-10 Extender, a distinguished aircraft that served with unwavering dedication and played a crucial role in countless operations. We honor its legacy and the contributions of all who operated and maintained it.

Concurrently, we continue to integrate the KC-46 Pegasus into our global operations. We've welcomed additional KC-46s this year, and through ongoing exercises and deployments worldwide, we are validating its capabilities and working towards achieving full operational capability to include strategic nuclear deterrence. We remain committed to overcoming challenges and ensuring the "Pegasus" becomes a reliable and effective asset for the future.

The KC-135 Stratotanker remains the vital backbone of our fleet, providing dependable service and ensuring our global reach. Its continued modernization ensures it remains a relevant and adaptable platform, supporting a wide range of critical missions, including strategic deterrence and global power projection.

This year also witnessed extraordinary acts of aerial heroism. We extend our sincere congratulations to all the boom operators who received the Distinguished Flying Cross. Your bravery, skill, and unwavering dedication under pressure are truly inspiring and exemplify the highest standards of our profession.

We also strengthened our partnerships through joint exercises with allied nations, enhancing our interoperability and ensuring seamless operations in support of global security objectives.

Thank you for your continued hard work, dedication, and resilience as we navigate these transitions and advancements. Your expertise is essential to our mission success. Here's to continued excellence in the year ahead and a steadfast commitment to providing unparalleled air refueling capabilities.

KENNETH HARWOOD, CMSgt, USAF
HQ AMC In-Flight Refueling MAJCOM
Functional Manager

A Legacy of Global Reach

Since its introduction in 1957, the KC-135 Stratotanker has been a linchpin of the U.S. Air Force's ability to project power worldwide. Built by Boeing and derived from the Dash-80 prototype, the KC-135 was the Air Force's first jet-powered aerial refueling aircraft. With the capacity to carry more than 200,000 pounds of fuel and the versatility to refuel bombers, fighters, and transport aircraft, it has served in every major U.S. conflict from the Cold War through modern counterterrorism operations. Continuous upgrades in avionics, engines, and refueling systems have kept it mission-ready for 21st-century warfare.

Middle East Combat Support

During an April 2024 deployment to the Middle East, a KC-135 crew from the 50th and 91st Air Refueling Squadrons was redirected mid-mission toward an escalating combat situation. Maj. Alex Grayson, Capt. John Squatrito, and Senior Airman Ellis Fiscus of the 50th ARS, along with Capt. Andrew Setrin, Capt. Anthony Carella, and Staff Sgt. Alex Diago of the 91st ARS, adjusted their flight path to meet fighter aircraft engaged in an air-to-ground strike.

Flying precise orbit patterns over the combat zone, the tanker crews provided timely aerial refueling that allowed the strike fighters to remain on station and complete their mission. The maneuver required split-second decision-making, flawless coordination, and the ability to operate in a high-risk environment where the margin for error was razor thin.

Operation True Promise

Only weeks earlier, another KC-135 team had faced an equally perilous challenge during Operation *True Promise*—a historic missile and drone assault by Iran on Israel on April 13, 2024. The attack involved more than 300 ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial systems in a single strike. Eleven members of the 134th Air Refueling Wing, deployed to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, launched immediately to support U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles tasked with intercepting the threat.

Operating without defensive countermeasures and in an airspace saturated with hostile projectiles, the tanker crews sustained the fighters with hundreds of thousands of pounds of fuel. This critical support enabled allied aircraft to intercept 99% of incoming threats—preventing mass casualties and averting strategic disasters.

On December 7, 2024, the aircrews were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base. Brig. Gen. Lee Hartley hailed them as “Airmen who exemplify the highest standards of courage and professionalism,” while Col. Ronald Selvidge emphasized their composure and skill under fire. The honorees—Lt. Col. Willis Parker, Maj. Lance Welch, Maj. Stacy Sells, Maj. Cody Gaby, Capt. Andrew Weber, Capt. James Spearman, Capt. Joshua Johnson, Tech. Sgt. Hunter Ricks, Tech. Sgt. Gage Seymour, Tech. Sgt. Joshua Osborne, and Senior Airman Jonah Parham—now stand among the distinguished few tanker crews to have received the nation's highest award for extraordinary aerial achievement.

During the same operation, seven members of the 350th EARS from McConnell AFB were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for their efforts refueling aircraft responsible for the destruction of six ballistic missiles and 80 one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicles during the Iranian attack on Israel. The 350th offloaded more than their minimum recommended fuel level to extend time in the air for fellow aircraft on multiple occasions. Those recognized for their bravery and dedication are Capt Sydney Lesar, Capt Ezra Petersen, Capt Jake Sonzaogni, Lt Tanner Mackall, Lt Alexander Thomas, SrA Joseph Dopart, A1C Eli Wilson.

Enduring Significance

From its Cold War origins to modern combat theaters, the KC-135 Stratotanker has remained a vital enabler of U.S. and allied airpower. The missions in the Middle East and during Operation *True Promise* demonstrate that even in the most technologically advanced era of warfare, mission success often depends on the courage, skill, and adaptability of the airmen behind the aircraft. Their actions ensure that the KC-135's legacy is not only one of engineering achievement, but also of human valor in the face of extraordinary danger.





DISCLAIMER

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The Boom Signal Editor



ALTUS AFB, OK
54TH ARS
“JESTERS”



54 ARS Boom Leadership/Front Office:

SMSgt Jason Mellein: Least approachable, approachable SEL you've ever had. It looks like he's hiding from the squadron, but he's secretly getting shit done. We won't be surprised when he makes Chief, and runs the entire AF. We appreciate all you've done, sorry about Pauleon!

(M)Sgt Jose Fonseca-Cruz: Our favorite squadron shirt (when he's here for once). Decides to follow in Iran's footsteps by bombing the AFOQT, decided he'd like to stick to the Enlisted route and pursue MSgt... furthermore, orders vanilla ice cream with no sprinkles.

(T)Sgt Nick Belmonte: The Foosball Tickle Monster! Nick spends more time on the road than he does in the Front Office, while claiming that his sacrifice is important to the FTU. Abandoned his 54th Brown-Nosing and went up to be a wing exec for a month and a half, just to still never be in the office. Highest line number of all Booms, barely made the fast-burning cutoff.

Operations Flight:

MSgt Derrick Wagner: Last year's signal talked about him becoming the hammer of the squadron, but he didn't realize that requires *ACTUALLY* flying with students. He can be seen prowling around the Front Office looking for the SEL to help him write packages for his airman.

MSgt Jenny "Pittman?" Cook: The master of avoiding work to teach FTEC every month, but she still finds time to make Casey come to work on time. She recently got engaged to Pitty – we're happy for y'all!

TSgt Casey McConnell: If you send him pictures of your food, you better prepared to drop a toe or two in there. Still mourning the loss of our resident SrA of the Air Force, you will often find him crushing Tweas at 2PM in the

Boom Pod. After getting reclassified to 9A300 and losing access to the boom pod, he decided to joint-purchase a bunk-bed and live in there with Jr.

SSgt Matt Baxter: We finally got him back in the sssssquadron, jussst for him to pick up orders to Fairchild. Hopefully he shows up there with a current cargo checkride. Apparently his CFIC look went so well, we finally noticed he picked up a hobby in train-watching.

SSgt Nick McGurk (The Gurkinator): After decades of begging for Zyn points from all the Booms, the Gurk singlehandedly got us a communal Blackstone that nobody uses. Maybe the next point purchase will be a TV, "I told you we are just going to watch a movie." This did not solve his 1000-yard stare, as well. And stuff like that. Absolute crusher of pussy-energy.

SrA Kevin Long: Decides that his honeymoon is more important than his checkride, it's not like he had an 18-month heads up or anything.. His bedframe is only 40 Coors Lights, but we hear he is expanding his cat kingdom.

Student Training Flight:

MSgt Russhope Marcelo: The closer he got to pinning on MSgt, the less he wanted to commit to hanging out with the boys.. He's still stuck writing packages for Wagner, hopefully he figures out how to delegate soon.

TSgt Mark Harnish: Wish we knew more.. He got "superior performer" during the UEI but we still haven't met him. Hope to see him soon?

SSgt Jaden Allen: When he's not 3D Printing stuff as "training aids," he's falling in the boom pod and going DNIF. He's always working, but can never be seen working in STM. On vectors to become CMSAF some day.

SSgt Bryan Weishaar: Lampron 2.0 got tired of being compared to Collin, and was able to get picked up for Pilot Training. Good thing his wife is expecting, we've heard UPT is a great time to raise a baby. Good luck out there, hopefully you can find time to improve your swing!

SSgt Max Smesny: Max is on his 5th(?) kid? We can't tell, he's still on baby leave. He's spent more time growing his beard than flying with students.

Standardization and Evaluations:

MSgt Sam Hunt: Our highest-speed Jester finally ended her tour up at the Wing, and immediately welcomed her daughter into the world. Her firstborn, Tim, is also enjoying parenthood. We're still trying to figure out which desk is hers.

TSgt Terrence "Cook?" Pittman: Call me by my wife's rank! Pitty can be see body-slammng Cam in the Boom Pod, and hiding away in the vacuum of Stan/Eval. Too nice of a guy to rip on – congrats on your engagement!

SSgt Ben Hawley: Got moved into Stan/Eval and immediately went on baby leave. Pulling a move out of Payten's book, we respect it. Too nice to have any dirt on, but we'll keep watching..

(2)Lt/(T)Sgt Thorne Fritts: On his way out to the penguin-world, he decided to swipe a TSgt line-number from a non-deserving SSgt. "Terry" secretly has the vocal chords of Freddy Mercury, you just have to get him to go TDY to experience it.

SSgt Collin Lampron: Weishaar 2.0 got tired of being compared to Bryan, and is also trying to figure out his golf game. Our blonde king was able to escape the wrath of scheduling, and now gets to hide away in the pits of Stan/Eval. On track to make TSgt.

Faculty Training Flight:

TSgt Dave Ballmer: Our exceptionally qualified hero went through the rigorous 6-month AIC program to avoid coming to Altus. How'd that work out? What comes first - He beats Casey's FTC record, or retirement? More to come...

TSgt Casey Lackie: Bald. Brand new to the squadron, uhh, but we await to know more? Uhh that's all I got

TSgt Jameco Edwards: Fryer's open! He finally left the rap game to enter the wing-game. Watch out Birmingham, the booty-hole special is coming to a theater near you. God-tier knowledge finally got the keys to the game, of CFIC.

SSgt Chris Moody: Still mourning the loss of AJ, he's attempting to fill that hole in his heart with helping out the schedulers by flying 9 in 7 days (you're welcome, Casey.) Him and Collin (or is it Bryan?) have become the Make-A-Wish kids of the Windy Trails.

SSgt Payten Olson: Bald. Currently teaching his new son to be the next PGA prodigy. He only works on this goal during the duty hours, though. Occasionally you'll find him arguing with Wagner about tracking CCAF stuff, but don't worry, that's not his job. Also, he's bald.

SSgt Dylan Vu: Goes TDY every weekend (on his own dime) to OKC or Dallas JUST to try new food. Don't worry Casey, he posts toes in every pic. He recently welcomed his daughter into this world, but that doesn't stop him from staying at work until 5:30 every day.

Safety/Support and Readiness Flight:

(T)Sgt Kylie Strawser: Rivaling McConnell's DNIF-ness, she spends her free time telling people to stop flushing wet-wipes in the squadron bathroom. Unlike putting on your oxygen, she decides to help everybody pass the safety inspection, except her own shop.

(T)Sgt Justin Pauleon: When he's not working (which is never), you may find him attempting to perfect the "Wonder Shot." He'll be leaving us soon for Birmingham! Wait, Mildenhall. Hold on, Birmingham. No wait, MacDill.

Attached/On Loan:

SMSgt Anne Engbretson: "Are there any checkrides next Wednesday?" The first person in history to want to stay at the TRS.. Still working on letting go of her AE past.

MSgt Bobby Cash: America's Favorite SEL! After his famed tour leading the 54th, he realized how much he really hates us and moved up to the TRS. He recently sold his motorcycle, so we think he's slowly forgetting what fun looks like. We miss you, Bobby!

(M)Sgt Alex "Bella" Esquibel: What does he flood more, Bealfor Beatty kitchens - or his wife's panties? He's averaging 1 kid per food picture sent in the Boom group chat. Went twinsies with Jose on the AFOQT, but he has 12 months of baby leave in the future to study.

(2)Lt/(M)Sgt Eric Lucio: Twinning with Fritts, Lucio picked up a line number for MSgt, and also an OTS slot. He's been kicking ass, and will be leaving us to become an LT.

TSgt Seth "TOGO" Corliss: Bald. The grass isn't always green-door on the other side. Leaving the desert of Altus for the desert of... Edwards. Good luck out there, enjoy raising two linebackers!

TSgt Cam Miller: Saved himself from the "illustrious" career of an AIC grad, just to come back and continue to dunk on new IBs in Foosball. Got married, got his wife pregnant, living everyone's dream... still in search of Bapples.

TSgt Megan Miller: Got tired of the immense sun in Altus and snagged orders to Mildenhall. Silently grinding away at the thankless void that is the TRS. Best of luck!

SSgt Riley Noel: THE MACHIIIIINE, he quit drinking, moved to the OSS, and acts like he don't know nobody no more. Thinks he can land better than a PIQ (we all have you on Facebook...), he's attempting to pursue OTS to prove it.

(T)Sgt Gage Fontenot (MV): Jaje Fontuero. Frequently orders beers in crew rest, but its okay, he caught himself (it's legal, he didn't drink. Must Promote Now, Seriously. Please. It's been 5 years). Have you tried to pronounce his name? It's like, REALLY hard, apparently. He spends his weekends cosplaying as Michael Vick. Hopefully you don't PCS here with a toddler.

(T)Sgt Arielle Johnson: Finally cleared the grasp of being CMSgt Inmon's (ret.) exec, she decided to "progress" her career by moving to OGT. Got engaged recently. This is probably the first you're hearing of it. Congrats, Arielle! We love you, Anfernee!

SSgt Brooke Belmonte-Griffin: Still performing as the higher-level Belmonte of the family, she recently got picked up to lead Wing Protocol into glory, because they needed help. First ABOA president in history to delay a Symposium, but it's not like the rest of the council helped her at all. Future CSAF.

Det 2:

MSgt Brendan Balko: Students rejoiced when they found out he moved back to AMC, but they didn't realize that extended his time on station. Instilling fear, but cross-MAJCOM.

TSgt Roberto Ayala: Finally doing those things he was promised, he decided to fly as much as he wants, which is once a month - still tripling our Ops Sup's 90-day time. He's a ghost in the squadron.

Det 34:

(M)Sgt Nick "PATR" Sowder: Spent 6 months of his life to earn the ability to become a loadmaster without having to cross-train. He says it's a great job but only talks about how much he wants to sing Nevermind. Something something, Storm Flag. Something something, exercise. I don't know. Tankers!

Recently Departed (We will miss you):

CMSgt Andrea Inmon (ret): She ACTUALLY retired. Seriously. We hope she doesn't sign with the Bucc's and comeback like Brady did. Congrats on a long career, enjoy retirement Chief!

MSgt Michael Garcia (ret): Decided that Altus was the worst that could happen to him and finally hit the button. He ended up staying here anyways, for some reason. He missed the job so much, he decided to recreate the entire experience in Virtual Reality. We appreciate you, Mike! Good luck in retirement!

MSgt Darian Bourque: She forces Kaleb to call her "MSgt Mommy," and we heard he stands at parade rest at home.. We're still figuring out the truth to this. When she's not raising her kids (and Kaleb), she's "flying the line," volunteering, running the CAG/Protocol, and figuring out how to make Senior. Good luck in the -46, have fun with AC on the ground!

(T)Sgt Russel Molina: Who is this guy? Made Tech and jumped over to the -46 (against his will), fulfilling his goal of flying under the radar. Good luck!



ALTTUS

ALTUS AFB, OK

56 ARS – MAD HATTERS

“NOVI AUT PERI”



CMSgt Tara Pipes - Chief is our SEL and latest -46 SEQ graduate. She is figuring out the SEL and boom operator roll one day at a time!

SMSgt Justin Newsom - Senior keeps talking about “Back in my day...” event though he can barely fly by himself. Other than writing awards that have to get vetted by a MSgt, he spends his time pissing off the OG CC with his mustache.

MSgt Zachary Bieber - "Frodo the Hairy" as he is affectionately (and never, ever to his face) known, is a man whose legendary status is built on two pillars: an unyielding spirit and the persistent need for a step stool. At a respectable 5'2" on a good day (and even then, only if his thinning hair is properly swooped), Frodo compensates for his vertical challenges with a voice that can strip paint off a tanker and a formidable presence that makes even towering IBCs feel small. If you can't find him making up things to do as the FTU Ops Supt, he's probably flying or at least that what he'll say he was doing. We all love DaBiebs, and we're glad he's part of the 56th!

MSgt Tiffanie Ellerbe - Bee is disgruntled. Her southern accent and ability to complain about the -46 increases with every sip of henny. She wants to be a downstairs person but she is currently cuffed to the STM flight chief desk.

MSgt Nick Eykamp - Watch out because Nick puts students and instructors on CAP. He loves his day to day life of fixing one particular scheduler's mistakes and writing all the other flights awards. Why is he so angry all the time?

MSgt Blake Landry - How does a -46 boom only have 4.6 hours in the airplane? He is the only person that we know who has been ejected of a slow pitch softball game while not even taking the field. Blake is getting ready for retirement!

TSgt Jason Vance - The man of many hats: Shirt, Stan/Eval hammer, and traditional home body. Jason is always the voice of reason and holds all of our secrets very tight just like his sets in volleyball.

TSgt Lacy Pickett - Lacy is our current vault dweller. When she comes out, we know it's to get a break from the Major that won't stop talking in there.

TSgt Taran Lewis - Taran might get beaten by his wife with a sock and bar of soap, we can see it in his facial expressions but we fear he might like it. As the newest Tech and Command Chiefs personal calendar keeper, he barely gets to do his job in STM or control his problem child's comp day usage.

TSgt Steven Mertens - Who is this guy? Always on leave, never talks in meetings, and it seemed he likes being in the vault. Maybe we should be worried. Sid got off DNIF and finally started flying with students while taking over FTM.

TSgt Austin Wilson - Austin doesn't stop talking shit. Why does he feel so I charge in Stan/Eval? He hasn't found his Ford Broncos suspension limit with the local Altoids.

TSgt Brandon Wright - Brandon doesn't like hanging out with upstairs people and secretly wishes to be down stairs. It seems like he now has an army in resources and keeps a tight budget for the squadron!

(T)Sgt Gregory Cyr - Greg screws up everything he touches in scheduling. He is potentially a serial killer because he keeps his wife's ID/credit cards and has the weirdest CAC photo, we will let you be the judge.

(T)Sgt Bradley Magee - Hats tore his ACL sitting the bench for football. His monopoly over engraved leather will make him the richest person in Altus. He is going to be working his ass off in resources and making up for his lost DNIF time.

SSgt Joshua Gamble - As our 19 year SSgt, Josh has ensured that everyone makes Tech before him, talk about service before self. He kind of works in FTM but is currently on a MTL augmentee kick to ensure our students are scared straight. Ask him about his reverse haircut.

SSgt Tanner Todd - TT is still a golden boy that everyone loves. He is the most competitive all-purpose D1 athlete that joined the Air Force. We put him in Stan/Eval because he wouldn't stop messing with everyone's computer in STM.

SSgt Robert Purnell - Rob has been at the squadron for a while now but is always on leave which makes it seem like he recently got qualified as an FTU instructor. Rob's part time office job is in STM.

SSgt Brandon Minto - Brandon is still going fast and drinking Miller Light. As a dedicated scheduler, he is the happiest person in scheduling. Chico is still our squadron mascot.

SSgt Paul Johnson - Paul is still wearing his backpack. What is actually in there? As a mediocre scheduler he tries to fix the other scheduler's mistakes. Sid always has an excuse for not attending boom events or is sick for his flights. Maybe his backpack is full of excuses.

SSgt Danika Vance - Danika runs the squadron from the shadows. She is taking a break in STM but how will she satisfy her need for power? Find out next year!

SSgt Richard Walker - Dick bought a house, his wife is pregnant, and he's finally learning to become an instructor. When he's not volunteering to fly seven days a week he sits in FTM looking swell.

SrA Brian Rochette - Brian is our only line instructor. He has an office job but he doesn't know what or where he works (FTM). He will hangout with us about four times a year, no more, no less.

SrA Tyler Adkins - Newest guy from McConnell, he won't stop saying "this is how we do it in the real world". He is in resources with every single additional duty.

Attached members:

CMSgt Ryan Mozingo - OG Chief and recent SEQ graduate.

SMSgt Michael Smith - Students scare Smitty for some reason hence why he won't fly with them. His golf game hasn't improved but he yells at students like his old MTI days. He essentially controls the base as the WSA Senior Enlisted Leader.

SMSgt Jason Coffey - Alledigidly he is our MAJCOM Stan/Eval but we never see him. If you have ever been in his presence you can feel his intimidation but in reality he is just a big teddy bear that wears flip flops with jeans.

MSgt Joshua Chrisman - OGV. Is he the cache killer?

MSgt Darian Bourque - Our favorite Bourque, she works at the wing doing all the things for the wing king. We are just glad that she shows up to the squadron more than her husband, imagine if they both had low motivation to work.

(M)Sgt Mark Hurd - Mark is filling our DET position which is usually a retirement position but that's not his case. I doubt we will get him to fly or instruct a student but his beard is always on point!

TSgt Andrew Valence - Our resident Voldemort, is he gonna retire or is he going to kill Harry Potter? Come back next year to find out. He is our go to courseware guy at the TRS!

SSgt Andrew Miller - Andrew is building a 3D printing empire and figuring out every private orgs budget. He works at the TRS as student admin now, dealing with all of the inprocessing and obscure questions from students.

SSgt Braydon Scarborough - A man of god. Scar is growing old of Altus and him Q3ing another instructor is proof of that. He's learning how to fix courseware at the TRS so he is the root cause of all our training issues.

SSgt Kaleb Bourque - Kaleb doesn't show up to work and complains that he's bored at home. Imagine complaining about complaining. He's our newest addition to OGT and OGT doesn't even know it.

SSgt Jon Sanders - Jon likes to argue about everything including whether or not the sky is blue. He is currently at Wing scheduling making the downstairs people take all of the C-17s to show everyone who runs Altus now.

Departures:

CMSgt Justin Brundage - Retirement

MSgt Fritz Thompson - McGuire AFB

TSgt Josh Granados - 730th Altus AFB

TSgt Jesse Barber - OTS

(T)Sgt John Levario - Travis AFB

SSgt James Walker - Travis AFB

SSgt Arturo Gac - Seymour Johnson AFB (WTF is he saying all the time?)

Altus AFB, OK

730 AMTS

“Rebels”



The 730th is made up of some of the most capable and proficient instructors in the KC-135, KC-46, and C-17. Our mission is to supplement the respective formal training units providing continuity and expertise for pilots, boom operators, and load masters. We are the keepers of corporate FTU knowledge for the MAF and a great resource for AFRC.

KC-135 Flight

SMSgt Michael Russell: Stepping down as SEL and stepping into retirement, or at least we thought he was doing that. Mike psyched out all the 730th by going into a TR position. Spends his free time tracking all High School sports in the state of Oklahoma and Texas while providing location updates of Reed Timmer’s activities. Upon leaving his position Mike provided the incumbent with a plethora of notes and printed out emails in a “shred” box in case the new SEL wanted to know what was said at the staff meeting in fiscal year 2018. Mike will leave a legacy of dedication to his people and he will be missed as he moves on to future endeavors.

MSgt Derek Greene: Tall, I mean really tall. DG dodges the ceiling fans at Friday morning breakfast. He has also taken up figure skating that he seems to spend every other weekend doing. Going to the Dark side and becoming a KC-46 Boom in the near future. I think Dalton is buying his motorcycle from him. He has the most groomed mustache this side of the Mason Dixon. Greene is coming off surgery due to an injury he sustained while chasing cheese down a hill in England. Now he spends his time gambling on the point spread in the largest Jai Alai market in West Texas. Good luck on the Pegasus big guy!

MSgt Matt Scott: Matt Scott has been doing a bang-up job as the Ops Sup despite spending almost all business hours at the golf course. Says he shot an 84 but there are no witnesses, and his handicap is still 117. After almost being free from his children he decided it would be a great time to have another child. 3rd times the charm though, he finally got that boy he wanted. Matt is known as the 730th’s most accomplished bard. His stories will wow and delight yet not contain any coherent information except an abundance of euphemisms.

MSgt Mark Fioritto: The ghost of Altus is still here. Sometimes we see him, sometimes we don't. Whenever we do, he makes sure to brief everyone the local VFW has bingo nights on Monday and Friday. He is still counting down the days to when he will finally be tall enough to qualify for U14 soccer. Unfortunately, his diet of Mountain Dew and Dino Nuggets doesn't help his case for actually being an adult.

MSgt Mark Smith: From Security Forces to MTL and then Boom. Mark likes Altus to the point to come back a third time. Set the all-time Altus record for flying without a student then decided to retire without telling anyone. Although there is one lesson Mark loves to teach (ask him about his fuel dump dance). Mark's will be spending his retirement out in Spain ordering food in broken Spanish. Have fun!!

TSgt Carter Russell: Carter is one of the newest hires of the 730th as a TR. Takes an entire cooler with him on every flight with multiple air fresheners and likes to mow his lawn at night when all the mosquitoes are out. Seems like he is ready for a TDY at any moment. Only person who can catch a cold in Altus in the summer. First aircrew member not stationed in Alaska to wear out a hole in his parka. Don't ask him his opinion of the KC-135 QRH.

TSgt Dalton Bray: Dalton is taking over as OPS SUP of KC-135 FTU. With the last 2 OPS SUPS playing enough golf to go pro we'll have to see if he follows in their footsteps. After telling DG that he wanted to buy his motorcycle, Dalton did a 180 and decided to go with a crotch rocket instead. Spends his free time squishing tomatoes and peppers between his toes to build his homemade salsa business. You must try the Blazin Brays flavor. He is still yearning for the day to earn his first dollar.

TSgt Scotti Smith: Scotti's years of Pre-Workout and Monsters finally caught up with him (ask him about his condition). In the meantime, he switched up to drinking only Bush Apple, if he could find any. Had an early midlife crisis and bought a souped up Razr. You can find him in the dunes trying to get the perfect footage for his upcoming YouTube channel. He hopes his channel will be big enough so that he can sponsor Rednecks with Paychecks in the future.

KC-46 Flight

SMSgt Thomas January: Taking the reigns from Mike as Boom SEL. Newley single, he had to get his mid life crisis vehicle purchase out of the way and bought a new Bronco. Decking out his Bronco with all the bells and whistles, even a rooftop tent. He's always ready for a surprise camping trip.

MSgt Donnie Dedon: Does anybody know when Donnie's going to retire? If you do, will you let him know please. In the meantime, he's losing fights to coffee tables and trying to get people over to his house for garage beers. All while taking to most leave in the 730th. How does he still have 60 days of use or lose? Donnie is now the third largest moving contractor in the continental US. You can find him in his shed that he promises is almost done with upgrades.

MSgt Cody Beverly: We get it Cody; you can't make it to breakfast. Still working at flight safety and complaining when on orders because he loses too much money. The resident Viking with more rings on his finger than Tom Brady. That is if the Vikings were 4' 9" and loved sushi. He is a regular real estate mogul, constantly on the lookout for anyone to stay in his house. The big one, his family of 17 lives in the tiny one.

TSgt Joshua Granados: What can I say about Josh. Shows up on the first day to the unit in his Crysler 300, flight suit, and earrings in. You can imagine how that went over with JP. His call sign is Dos although we are not sure he knows what that means. I hear his Spanish isn't so good. Never misses a round of golf without his gold chain and Air Jordan's.

Inbound

MSgt Shawn Foren

Shawn is still trying to get hired into the unit. Apparently, he is the ANG's MVP because they do not want him to leave. They better hurry up though because I think he is soon to die of old age. Shawn will be the newest addition to the 730th on the KC-46.

ALTUS AFB, OK

KC-135 ATS BOOM INSTRUCTORS



Not much has changed here at CAE in Altus as far as the Boom Office goes. Been a little slower on the BIQ side but the instructor candidates have been keeping us pretty busy. Still waiting on the QRH to be implemented and still waiting on DMO for the BIQ students to start. Other than that we are all just getting older. If you're ever in the area stop by and say Hi.

Clay Lifer
Boom Lead

Full-Timers

Clay Lifer – Married his oldest off, and got him to join the Air Force. His daughter graduates this year and is moving to Spain for a year to play soccer! We are all waiting for him to cry.

Israel “Izzy” Hanks – Has a fully functioning whole home generator and back up battery system. We all know where to go for the apocalypse. Still has the best 4th of July Fireworks show and resident egg supplier.

Joe “Hey you’re an instructor, right?” Surovy – The one person that you don’t want bored or do SME work. The questions never stop. Still here but nobody knows how much longer until retirement.

Rodney Ward – Laughed all last season about the OU football woes. Bought a new GMC and waiting on a new motor. Gave Jason a dozen eggs and then forgot, he will be mad forever.

Glen Stallard – CAE Test Boom, this is the person that you need to gripe to about what 5 units of trim feels like in the BOWST. Also pushed a son off to the Air Force.

Jon “Jon Bob” Williams – Sold his Rumble Bee but still has the Barracuda and can tell any 30 second joke in 30 minutes.

Justin Dixon – still the nicest instructor we have, and trimmed his head and the beard down to about a quarter of an inch, we thought he was a new guy for a bit.

David Askins – Got divorced, remarried and should be divorced again by this published date. So if you know anyone that likes to contribute to the fire make a call.

Randy Kay – had a student that called a Chief an Umpalumpa Chief and then blamed Randy. He didn't know about "Red Randy".

Jason Hall – doesn't cry as often now that Samuel has been away to the Air Force Academy for a year but still get choked up while talking about him, takes Rodney's eggs every chance he gets.

Part Timers

Joe Blakley – Don't BS this guy, you will find out very fast how disappointing you are if you didn't study.

Matt Calisi – Moved to Florida but still has all of his vehicles in Altus parked around the base.

Opie Flax – We believe that he works here just so that he has a reason to store a lot of his stuff in OK away from prying eyes.

Paul Frownfelter – he is the Yen to Cleigh's Yang, they are definitely an old married couple when they are both in town together. You can find him most nights eating dinner with Cleigh at the Applebees around 4 nightly.

Shawn Hughes – DO NOT ask to use the restroom during a BOWST, you have to learn to hold your water.

Thomas January – Bought a pretty sweet Bronco, been trimming down and looking good.

Cleigh Robbins – Probably the only instructor that has never been seen at work wearing slacks. Loves the cargo pants, hey dudes/Texas cowboy boots.

Mike Russell – kind of retired from the Reserves and working part time at CAE and waiting for the Call up to the Majors.

Lew Timbrook – This dude is the Energizer Bunny, been known to school students on the pickle ball court and in the sims. He fought in Vietnam, he knows a thing or two because he has seen a thing or two.

Former Boomers

Mitch Malseed – bought Jon Bobs Rumble Bee so you will still see it in the parking lot on occasion.

Chris Massey – Still holds a grudge/dislike of Randy, that smile always makes him look like Ted Bundy or John Wayne Gacy.

ANDERSEN AFB, GUAM

36th CRS

“WE BRING THE AIRBASE”



This Unit did not submit.

ANDREWS AFB, MARYLAND

756 ARS

“Liberators”



This Unit did not submit.

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND

National Guard Bureau



This Unit did not submit.

BANGOR ANGB, MAINE

101 ARW/132 ARS

“THE MAINEiacs”



This Unit did not submit.

**BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN
217th AIR MOBILITY OPERATIONS SQUADRON
AIR REFUELING CONTROL TEAM
“FIRST IN THE FIGHT”**



This Unit did not submit.

BEALE AFB, CA
314 ARS
“BEALE BANDITS”



CMSgt Lindy Campbell – Lindy is our Chief Boom, highest ranking enlisted in the unit and somehow still allergic to being called “Chief.” She fought tooth and nail for that stripe, then acts like you just insulted her ancestors when you say it out loud. She claims she’s “working and available,” even while floating through Disneyland on the Pirates of the Caribbean ride, probably trying to file EPBs between cannon blasts. And don’t even try to have a conversation, Lindy’s voice could trigger avalanche warnings three counties over, yet she’ll still hit you with a “what?” like you whispered it through a pillow. She’ll also casually remind you she flew on the KC-10, because if you haven’t heard it yet, don’t worry... you will.

MSgt Kevin Matthews – Kevin Matthews is the guy who kills every conversation with an “actually,” treats the AFI like gospel, and pitches ideas like he’s blessing us, even though no one asked. When Lindy deployed, he was sure Chief Boom was his... until Larry got it and Kevin folded faster than one of his tailored flight suits in a surprise inspection. Then he didn’t get picked for a TDY, demanded a coin flip, and still lost, proving even fate thinks he’s full of it. Now he’s working remote in sweatpants, dodging accountability with a well-timed “my kid needs me,” while collecting a check and correcting people who stopped listening to him years ago.

MSgt Nick Nugent – Nick Nugent is the guy to go to for good inputs, that’s if you can even find him around the office. If he’s not stumbling in at 11AM, you can bet he’s out on the river with a fishing rod in one hand, and a Coors light in the other. Sure, he redeems himself a bit when he BBQ’s, but his side dishes are sarcastic comments and judgmental faces.

MSgt Shawn McConaghy – Shawn is the self-proclaimed Philadelphia Queen, proudly defending every riot, flipped car, and flaming dumpster his city produces, all under the sacred banner of “culture.” He got so blackout drunk at a squadron basketball morale event that he picked a fight with Davion Mitchell, a literal NBA player, like his 40-year-old dad bod was gonna make it out alive. Then he capped the night off by passing out on top of a table in a bar full of 20-somethings, looking like someone’s weird drunk uncle who wandered in from a Wawa.

TSgt Kix Payne – Kix came straight off a Nebraska family farm and HVAC gigs to bless us with his rare breed of prior active-duty boom energy, think corn-fed, wrench-wielding patriot with jet fuel in his veins. He's one of the few here who actually knows what he's doing, which is both impressive and deeply suspicious.

TSgt Jake McCollum – Jake's a die-hard Vikings fan, which means he's built a life around disappointment, perfect training for Air Force life. He's a former boom who just got hired as a pilot for the 314th and recently got married, so basically he's out here collecting commitments like it's a hobby.

TSgt Allan Perez – Allan's an aspiring DJ with a shaving waiver and a secretly crunchy soul, think house beats meets homemade granola. He's basically one vinyl away from spinning records at a farmer's market in a Patagonia hoodie.

TSgt Sterling Law – Sterling just got to Beale after the training pipeline. We're excited for him to bring his AE experience to our squadron.

SSgt Rocky Ushiro – Our second Hawaiian import, and somehow even more unfiltered than the first. Since Larry retired, she's been openly recruiting a new daddy, requirements include: retired, emotionally unavailable, and just gullible enough to fall for her island charm. Her love language is Green Tea shots, her spirit animal is a shattered debit card, and her legacy is burned into squadron memory like an accidental TDY hookup.

SSgt Cameron Buell – Cameron is our local caveman, of few words and mostly unintelligible. He spends a lot more time on the golf course than in the books. He failed an open book check ride to earn his first Q3, but he's good enough to become a pilot with the squadron now.

SSgt Brendan Ortega – Brendan is our orders guy, spends more time on orders and scheduling. He's newly engaged though his fiancée decided to step on a sea urchin in Hawaii when he was proposing. He was in instructor upgrade but after 5 attempts on his first ride he decided he was done and passed out from the pressure. We love having him around and looks like it'll be for a while unless he knocks his head on the ground for a third time.

SSgt Koi Takeda – Takeda's the kind of guy who'll quote "If I get knocked out, y'all need to leave", like he's handing out party instructions before the ambulance gets there. He talks trash to ex-NFL players like he's got a highlight reel, but the only thing he's ever tackled is an espresso martini... with oat milk. Claims he's a firefighter, but that was two fire seasons and three identities ago. Ask him to help with anything and he'll Houdini his way home faster than you can say "early out at one?" When he flies with another boom operator, he treats it like an UberPool nap session, they work, he recovers. He'll commit to dogs and mortgages, just not to the girl who helped him pick the backslash. And with tattoos? He's a walking doodle pad, if you're a new artist with shaky hands and no vision, Takeda's your canvas.

SSgt Carrie Martinez – The newest Hawaiian Airlines flight attendant, soaring through the skies like a jellyfish that just got stung—let’s just say her golden shower wasn’t quite the refreshing experience she hoped for! When she hits the drinks, it’s like watching a feral cat on a bender; you somehow manage to turn a simple night out into a one-woman demolition derby, injuring herself at every turn.

SSgt Alex Rice – Alex just made SSgt, is gunning for a pilot slot with the 314th, and is this close to proposing to one of our pilots’ Hungarian au pair—because when he shoots his shot, it’s from international waters. It’s giving, my girlfriend goes to a different high school, you wouldn’t know her, vibes. At this rate, he’ll be flying planes and dodging immigration paperwork by next fiscal year.

SrA Cyia Moon – Moon finally got a girlfriend this year—which is huge—because for the longest time, the only thing touching him at night was the glow of his monitor and crushing loneliness. Now he’s in love, and it’s beautiful. Nothing says “relationship goals” like dating someone who openly threatens to end your career and bury your body in a shallow grave. She’s not toxic, she’s radioactive, and Moon’s just lying there like a glow stick, cracking under pressure and still somehow thinking it’s romantic. He games so much that the only sunlight he’s seen this year is the loading screen in Minecraft. Moon’s vitamin D levels are a hate crime against the sun.

SrA Andrew Bartel – Here’s our resident golf course bully, who finds joy in verbally abusing seniors like it’s his life’s mission. Take him overseas, and he’ll be hurling his guts out on the streets next to the homeless, solidifying his title as the ultimate international disgrace.

Departed

Larry Naso –After 36 years in the Air Force, Larry finally retired—though “retired” apparently just means working for the FBI instead of the flightline. Now he’s living his best life with a beard, some CBD oil, and the kind of freedom that only comes after almost four decades of mandatory haircuts and urinalysis tests.

Hadassah McKinley – McKinley curtailed her orders, so she is now in the IRR. She used injuries to get out of deployments, exercises, and the Air Force. She wasn’t around long but she left quite the impression. She got engaged and somehow became unhappier.

Edwards AFB, California

418th Flight Test Squadron

“Tiger Blood, Forever”



SMSgt Joseph “VD” VonDohlen – USAF’s greatest (insert aircraft here) CEA! As the 418th’s new SEL he is usually too busy to fly, but we finally forced him on the schedule enough times to earn himself the honor as a qualified AFMC Evaluator Boom. His dedication to provide endless opportunities to his squadron has left the group chat unresponsive.

MSgt Bryce “SHIBA” Smith – SHIBA is on his way out the door straight North to Trav.... McConnell AFB, Kansas. He’s heard nothing but good things about his future assignment and the only person happier than SHIBA to see his orders change is MOLOTOV. As the OG’s SNCO of the Year he has been doing big things prior to his departure that will be missed, like finding out his pass was revoked and highlighting RVS wash out using his big brain.

MSgt Andrew Keepers – After Keepers gave GOOSE an eviction notice and moved in, Keepers can be found riding his wife’s coattails as she’s busy making bullets for “their” EPB. When he isn’t knocking out arbitrary “last minute” tasks from Senior VD and dodging deployment taskers with LOST, you can find the two shooting +30 at the golf course. ...

MSgt Robert “HAT SWITCH” Fuller AKA “Thick Thumbs,” “SUPRA” – Rob found his way back to Edwards, since he loved it so much the first time he was here. Once he arrived, he quickly found out that the Hat Switch was named after him and his thick thumbs up that he gave the design. He works at OGT killing it, “it” being monsters in monster hunter, he has a great desire to get back on the KC-135 because he’s “bored.” His prior test “experience” has been a “huge help” with the turnover happening at Edwards.

TSgt Jordan “GOOSE” Gese – GOOSE is awaiting the big Air Force’s words on when he will be transitioning from his flight cap to his Air Force Retired hat. Too bad he was on his way to Chief with a fresh divorce and a 2 on his EPB. His knowledge of test is still useful, but no one ever wants to ask him any questions out of fear of being bullied by him. He spends a lot of time in the Squadron “Heritage Room” talking smack and has recently picked up the perfect retirement sport of golf.

TSgt Brandon Tyler “LOST” Williams – LOST got a ride from a blue cube and will never be the same as long as he’s searching that feeling he got. He decided to grow a mustache after moving in with DRAG, so there was a reason for all those hairs in his toothbrush. Right now, he’s saving money to fund his truck projects and golf addiction until his sugar momma can take over. Our “financial SME” has been teaching us all a lot about investing and retirement lately.

TSgt Justin Haughn – DJ Qualls received the honor as Test Boom #76 this year. Between all his “appointments”, and stressful Fridays it’s like pulling teeth to get him on flights, but that’s ok because he doesn’t need flight test training, because he is “good” on it. Even with his strict no “Friday flights” schedule he was able to push an A/R clearance for the Wedgetail with the KC-46.

TSgt Richard “Jimbo” Jimenez – JIMBO has been “selected” to upgraded to evaluator on a mission he’s not even qualified to do himself. After 4 months of flying and not being able to earn a Test Boom Patch, the only way to make him useful was to upgrade him to evaluator. He’s happily working in training shop setting up training days and teaching engineers.

SSgt Colin “PICKLE” Gourd – PICKLE spent so much time playing magic and hanging at the “June Bar” that he earned an opportunity to work at the OG after disappointing his new SEL one too many times. His efforts there opened another opportunity for him to disappoint on a 6-month deployment.

SSgt Richard “DRAG” Hudson – the only way he shows up on time is if there’s beer where he is headed. He has had a big year though, he blew his back out playing with a random guy’s pool stick at the bar. He was re-united with his Dad at 418th smoke pit, I’m guessing he really was out for a pack of cigarettes all those years? His professionalism earned him a 6 month nonerguard stint. On the side he got qualified as a 46 Boom and became Test Boom #74.

SSgt Joshua Lawson – Josh thought if he was a boom and in processed into the 418th he could wear the Test Boom Patch, unfortunately “bad luck Brian” has back issues that have him on his way to medically retire, good thing the doctors took really good care of him by dropping him off the operating table. In the meantime finance was stealing his lunch money and flight pay from 2018. If you are headed to Kadena, you may bump into him bragging about the good ole days.

Birmingham ANGB, AL

117 ARW / 99th ARS

“DIXIE REFUELERS”



MSgt Steven Saunders- Squadron Grandpa. You really have to keep an eye on this guy, he throws his back out every 5 seconds but will report to work at 0630 every day. One of the most reliable SNCOs and okayest Boom we have ever met. SEL in our hearts but not on paper, by the way, can you approve my DTS?

(M)Sgt Tyler Williams- Magnum P.I. mustache, maybe even looks better in the short shorts (jury's still out). Tyler can be found at the local breweries talking to the bartenders about Warhammer 40k when they clearly would rather be dead. If he's not at work, or late on a suspense, just assume he's saving lives (or he had a 'thing') Lucky for the 99th, Tyler truly cares about his people, and due to what can only be an AFPC clerical error, our newest promotee to MSgt! Congratulations!

TSgt Dmitri McIntosh- Newest Dad in the squadron. Meat took 52 weeks of baby leave and somehow looked more depressed coming out of his leave than going in. Y'all ever seen those ASPCA commercials with the sad dogs? That's how we feel when we see Dimitri walking down the hall... Sarah McLachlan plays in your head as he stares into your soul. Lucky for him, and to his inner delight he won the assignment lottery and is headed Altus to be the change he wants to see in the world.

TSgt Ashley Pruitt- An Altus transplant, Ashley is a mom, always ready and prepared like the mom that drives a Subaru with a luggage carrier and carries extra snacks and ibuprofen in her purse. So ready that she brought Bham a bonus ex-boom, her strikingly handsome husband Greg, to work a civ position. If there's something you're worried about, don't, Ashley's probably already worrying about it, has allotted stress towards it, and more than likely, already solved it. P.S. Can you start carrying gummy bears too please?

SSgt Layne Gulledge- Another Altus transplant, Layne will dedicate time from his busy schedule to guide and mentor your Airmen into making career altering, questionable decisions so he can get a laugh. SSgt Gulledge is one of the hardest workers we have, and our leader of scheduling, but he mostly just spends his time scrolling through iFunny. Who even knew that app still existed? Layne finds fulfilment in having to print out an updated schedule 3 times a week in an email that nobody reads...seriously...check your freaking emails... and turn in your bid sheets!

SSgt Paul Rimar- Where do we even start, how about his recurring nightmares of the Camel Crush Camel stealing his cigarettes when he is at the beach...but he doesn't even smoke? Weird. If he is late, it's because he is still talking to the coffee barista from 7 brew or burning through another clutch by racing his Nissan Sentra ('you owe me a 10 second car') against the Center Point locals. He has an extensive list of one liners that are hard to beat. Speaking of beats, call to book now for a great DJ!

SSgt Eric Volstad- Staff Sergeant on paper, Senior Airmen in our hearts. SSgt Volstad channeled his inner Voldemort while trapped in the Vault and never saw the light of day. He emerged with enough empty zyn cans in his office to build a house for some poor soul of Birmingham. He was quick to volunteer for an extended stay in the Deid just to get some sunlight. What a guy, golden like Adam Warlock from Guardians 3, did I mention he won the Levitow?

SrA Daniel Crump- Probably the fittest (old) guy in Bham. If he's not carrying the special Pink Crew Comm bag, you'll find him on the fields... where real men are forged... the Birmingham Intermural Kickball League fields. Did he run a team with an impressive losing streak? Yes!... Did he make a 10-year-old on the opposing team cry? Yes! But was it worth the friends he found along the way? Probably... Anyway, Daniel now works in scheduling but mostly just bids on baseball cards when nobody is looking....maybe that's where the booster club money is going?

SrA Jacob Ellis- If you don't know him, let me paint a picture. Imagine the kind of guy who uses an all-call on current world events with the CMSAF to ask about beards. (he hasn't) but that person you pictured, is Jake. He's hard-working, super tactical, and has been known to some locals as a hero... on more than one occasion (true story). Although when a tree falls on his house, he's conveniently "on the road" or whatever that means, leaving the Boom Mafia to do the cleanup.

SrA Robert Elsea- Are you single? Do you like long walks on the beach? Candlelit dinners? Do you love open and interesting conversation? Give Robbie a call! He was promised the world of "Crew-dogin-it" with a deployment, but didn't read the fine print about "staff duties" and ended up flying the desk and dreading the newest ATO. Now he's back! Working the readiness office and vowed never to let it happen to him again. Go get em' tiger!

SrA Shawn Parzych- Shawn a.k.a. Ol' Reliable, you got a 30 day short notice, followed by a 30 day short notice he's ON IT! He'll show up with bells on ready to hack the mish'. Anything to justify the rescheduling of a education brief or a CLEP. He almost got pushed to the -46 but showed the assignment gods his -135 lower back tattoo and his orders mysteriously were re-directed to Altus which he accepted with open arms. Anyways, he is the 2nd in command for our scheduling shop and leader of our Minecraft realm. Have fun in A-Town buddy!

SrA Gregory Schuetz- 99ths newest IB. Look no further than ol'Greg if your in the market for sage wisdom on finances, goals, personal hobbies or finding your lifes plan. These gems will come to you carefully curated from the deep realms of reddit, (we're talking multiple subs deep), or maybe from dark web discord communities so you know you can trust them. Either way, you will find answers beyond comprehension. Or, if you need something from Current Ops, hit him up. He is the local expert on mission planning regardless of how many times they move him to another bricked computer.

EDWARDS AFB, CA
USAF TEST PILOT SCHOOL

“HOWLIN’ OWLS”



This Unit did not submit.

EDWARDS AFB, CALIFORNIA

370 FLTS

“HOME OF THE FLYIN’ ELVI”



This Unit did not submit.

Eielson AFB, AK

168th ARS



As Alaska's only tanker unit, we've kept busy: from supporting air sovereignty with 24-hour Alpha Alert, to wrangling jet upgrades, to fielding constant AR requests across the state. With two squadrons of F-35s now zipping around Eielson, our airspace isn't getting any quieter—and neither is our ops tempo. As we continue TDYs to Guam, MRA rotations, and everything in between, here's a snapshot of the booms holding it down at home and on the road.

Full Timers:

CMSgt Christian “Willey Cat” Willey – Now serving as the Operations Group Enlisted Leader, the only thing Willey hates more than not being the chief boom is all of the meetings he has to sit through. He's still the gritty, witty type who handles a busy home life.

SMSgt Keith “K-Row” Rowan – Our new Chief Boom. When he's not leading the charge, he is out playing in the Alaskan wilderness (take that to mean what you will). His office still needs decorating but we can't fault the guy for choosing rivers over paint swatches.

SMSgt Pete “Hormel” Gardella – Promoted to senior and aging like one (just kidding, Pete, we all know you win a lot in Ju Jitsu). This Alaskan farmer is aspiring to acquire reindeer when he's not holding down the current operations shop.

MSgt Jonathan “Jonny L” Legan – Juggling leading Stan/Eval, family getaways, and flying is easy when you have about a seven-foot wingspan. Legan makes having a hectic schedule and compressing himself into the boom pod about as easy as sipping whiskey next to a campfire.

MSgt Alex Narveson – Expecting baby #2 yet still finds times to schedule sorties, hunt, golf, and scheme up ambitious plans. Narv may be sarcastic, a little rough around the edges, but he helps keep this place running from behind the curtain.

MSgt Christian “Groot” Armour – Promoted recently and forgetting to include his sister in the ceremony – Groot has been managing the training shop like he was born to do it, and helps out other shops as newer booms roll in and need extra guidance.

TSgt Tyler “Ty” Winterton – A new dad, which means he can finally unleash his full pun potential! Ty’s been instrumental in standing up our tactics section and making RTIC a reality. If you’re passed by a fast and flashy car in the lot, or meet a boom with more SA than your average Copilot – it’s probably Ty.

TSgt Collin “ATIS” Green – New to full-time AGR life and already a staple instructor, Green is the poster child for how an active-duty transplant can become a Guard regular in no-time. When he’s not at work he’s adjusting well to the Alaskan lifestyle, being a busy dad and catching up on hobbies...but he’s probably told you about it already.

DSG’s:

SMSgt Daniel Kaufmann – Recently promoted to Senior and shepherding us DSG’s like a flock of flightline ducklings as our superintendent. He’ll sometimes host events on drill weekend and runs point on the Alert mission.

MSgt Rachel “Ray Ray” Cook – Kind, calm, and totally crushing it. Ray Ray balances alert missions, TDYs, being a full-time mom, and mentoring without skipping a beat. Heroism looks a lot like that.

MSgt Luke Sjoblom – Now a fully certified mission boom, the newest of flight leads, and happy to have a new kiddo, Luke is a busy guy but is a calm figure who is more regularly on the schedule.

TSgt Chatham Holt – Currently at Altus for instructor upgrade, he’ll be coming back eager to help train the rest of us. He’s still our resident ‘got-a-guy’ who can guide you to any contact, but now in more ways than one.

TSgt Jarred Stephens – The man of many faces; photographer, boom operator, pilot type... still operating as blend of high-end dining, low-key chaos who has more time deployed in Guam than any of us.

TSgt Corina Thrasher – Anchorage based, van life enthusiast who drops by to scoop up the coolest TDYs and then vanish into the mist.

TSgt Joshua Frady – Selected for instructor upgrade and prepping to tackle some time at Altus. Competitive, chatty, and always down for orders – there’s no flight he won’t volunteer for.

TSgt Melina “RC” Arciniega – that’s me. Sitting in a temp tech slot as the LUM, trying to finish a master’s program, hoarding sour candy, what else can I say - life is pretty good.

TSgt Devin Farnsworth – the Swiss Army knife on temp AGR orders. He helps Stan/Eval upgrade tablets after enduring a stint in the scheduling shop. He occasionally breaks things he fidgets with but he manages as best as he can.

SSgt Scott Hurn – Fresh off a desert tour with the Arizona crew and the newest boom holding combat hours. A calm demeanor hides the fact that he earned his callsign “HAUK” and parties as hard as he flies.

SSgt Timarra Roth – “T” is engaged now and soon to have the initials “TEA” which is perfect for when she cruises around in her vintage T-bird. One of the sweetest booms with a silent hustle, when she’s not flying she keeps our glasses full at Arctic Harvest.

SSgt Luke Stanley – Now a mission boom helping cover the local scene. Low-profile, high-output.

SrA Gage Frohnappfel – Lives in Anchorage, flies when he can, and silently awaits for people to mispronounce his name.

SrA Hunter Thibodeau – Freshly promoted and knocking out his first solo flight as he crawls, walks, then runs towards his PPL. Also, a low-key mission planner and full-time older brother to Tanner.

SrA Tylar Hoffert – Still in school, occasionally to be found on alert, and chases the fun TDYs, as he can. Persistence and consistence with a bright attitude to match a relaxed disposition.

AIC Tanner Thibodeau – Finally a mission boom (it took forever after all) – he can’t fly when his family does, so he shoots for the sky when he’s not grounded by blood ties.

Retired but not forgotten:

CMSgt James “Wes” Hudnall – Officially retired, as of the end of June. After years of service and constantly being in the sky, he finally told the flight doc *everything* that’s wrong with him and even us DSGs are surprised he’s spry. We salute the king of awkward meetings and Florida-man-type of life stories, and will miss stealing time from his day for conversation.

MSgt Abraham Cook – the bearded sage, man-of-every-AFSC who brings grounded energy into the boom pod is also joining the ranks of the retired. Abe brought with him a background in avionics and the kind of quiet mentorship that never needed a title. Even if the tanker made him queasy, he still showed up as a master of calm, niche wisdom, and we wish him clear skies going forward.

FAIRCHILD AFB, WASHINGTON

92^D ARS

“BLACKHAWKS”



SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

MSgt Brandon Roberts – We poached Brandon from the 97th because they were tired of never being able to understand his accent. Most days you can find him sitting in front of his computer with his head in his hands or telling copilots he was a mission boom when they were in elementary school. We’re lucky to have his experience (old) in the squadron but if he doesn’t make Senior this cycle, he’s threatening to “ride off into that dadgum ol’ sunset, man.”

OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT

MSgt Blake Soule – Blake finally got his wish and was demoted from SEL to Ops Sup, and he completed his MSgt metamorphosis by shaving his head and growing a mustache. He talks about Boom Fridays a lot, but he’d have to make the booms actually be at work for that to take off. He’s having another kid this summer so instead of looking angry at his desk he’ll be at home looking marginally less angry.

A-FLIGHT

TSgt Ryan “Dilly” Dillingham- Another refugee from the 97th, Dilly did a 6 7-month deployment with the Astras but nobody’s exactly sure what he “did” while in the sandbox. He keeps begging us to put him in Stan/Eval and we’re thinking about it, none of the booms trust him yet so lead boom evaluator could be the right move for his career.

TRAINING

SSgt Reinaldo “Code” Brown – Officially dubbed as the strongest boy in Washington, Rei has set his sites on a loftier goal: coming to work at least three days a week. He’s not there yet but it’s important to have goals. When he’s not going on good deal island trips, he can be found doing every single squadron PT test, thankfully he’s too nice to remind us he can bench-press a KC-135 while we barely pass a test.

SSgt Kylie “Boom Killer” Sullivan – The squadron’s resident dog mom! Volunteered (complained) for a 7 month deployment, and after making her way (complaining) through CFIC, Kylie returned to immediately go DNIF and win the Commandant’s Award at ALS. She’s most often spending her time angrily chugging

Diet Cokes and showing baby booms her Air Medals. She's already stressed enough as it is, so **do not** ask about her love life.

SrA Martin "Meme Machine" Ocker – Martin upgraded to IB and walked five feet from Scheduling over to Training, where he spends his time teaching mission booms (and IBs) how electricity works. Mostly he just makes memes designed to hurt MSgt Soule's feelings. Thanks to AFFORGEN, he's currently on single dad duty and can't go on any cool trips, luckily he got some sweet transition shades to hide his tears.

SrA Amanda Garcia – 1/4 of the #BoomGirlGang to deploy for 7+ months, but she came back as chipper as ever. She had the ideal CFIC experience, spending the first month of it in Hawaii and, believe it or not, didn't get much training done. She's holding down Training and praying to every deity imaginable that she'll be on the list for Mobility Guardian Japan, but we hear Diego Garcia is nice this time of year...

SrA Adrian Liendo – He's been here a while now and nobody's sure what he does all day, or if they've ever heard him speak. That said, he's a real workhorse for the squadron, his G2 is always clear, and he doesn't have any pesky children or spouse screwing up his availability. So, we rewarded him by making him an SF augmentee for the last exercise. Gate runners beware; he's got a mean butt-stroke!

TACTICS

SrA(?) Braydon Kapperman – The once and future A1C has forced his way into the Tactics shop so he can do...whatever it is they do in there. Another ~~psycho~~ motivated IB who wants to become a patch, but only because someone told him that WIC will teach him how to evade the police better. Kapp instructs our booms into submission and we're happy to have him, but for the love of God don't ask him his opinion on tipping analysis.

B-FLIGHT

SSgt Jonathan Gates – John came back to flying after a 3-year dalliance as an MTL over at SERE. If he corners you to complain about Airmen these days, just stay in your circle. After roughly 6-9 months he has (finally) finished requal and we immediately sent him out to an island paradise for an undisclosed amount of time. He's interested in becoming a patch, but he's married to one so that's just gotta be Stockholm Syndrome, right? Right?

READINESS

SrA Justan Stanley – After a stint in Honor Guard, Justan is back to vying for the title of Strongest Boom in the squadron. We sent him to an island paradise where he's soaking up the sun, Googling pictures of trucks, and softly weeping to Colter Wall songs like a true Texan. IB upgrade could be on the horizon for him, but nobody's gonna take him seriously with that mustache (or accent).

SrA Santiago "Santi" Duarte – Santi's REALLY bad at doing his TODE on time, but he's VERY good at securing his secrets bag. The safest place to keep those is in your car...at home...overnight. Santi is a workhorse and flies all the time, but nobody knows where he is when he's not flying. Including the WAPS testing people...

SrA Gage “Huck” Huckaby – Huck does a good job balancing his busy flying career with his busy gambling career. We started putting money on pool games in the bar and strangely, he started coming to work more often. He’s planning on getting out at the end of the year, and we’re really hoping one of his 25-leg parlays hits, so it’ll make his transition to the civilian world that much easier.

SrA Lanz Padilla – Padilla spent a lot of time in the Middle East last year, so we rewarded him with an island vacation this year. Don’t worry Lanz, CENTCOM’s always calling. We haven’t convinced him to get rid of the bowl haircut, but that doesn’t mean we’ll ever stop trying.

SCHEDULING

SSgt Noah “COBB” Rutan – We put Noah in Scheduling in the hopes that his special brain would improve some processes. So far all we’ve gotten out of him is a halfway completed puck board and a bunch of unsigned EPBs. Good things take time, I guess. Noah just got orders to the CRW at McGuire and nobody has the heart to tell him it’s a non-flying assignment. Good luck in Jersey, buddy!

SrA Ivan Casey – Ivan had a lot of fun in CFIC! Turns out if you wait until the last three days to do your system briefs, you don’t have to stress about them for the first three months. What a lifehack! He’s got a baby on the way so he’s looking forward to paternity leave and turning that girthy mustache into a mediocre beard.

SrA Allyson Lara – We forced Lara into Scheduling so she’d stop haunting the boom pod every day. She’s the only boom we’ve ever met who wrote the entire Dash 1 out by hand, now we just have to convince her to talk to us so we can see if she learned anything.

SrA Ashlen Johnson – Ashlen spent the majority of the year at PSAB and raked in some Air Medals. She just started CFIC and she’s realizing opening her iPad once or twice in those 7+ months might have helped her out now. Thankfully we put her in Scheduling so she can be stressed out about that too. Although Scheduling is pretty easy when all the Blackhawks are out on the road...

SrA Malachi “Ice Spice” Shipman – Malachi is bringing his fiery ginger temper to the Scheduling shop, once he returns from his island getaway. Consistently battles KJ for AMC’s sleepest boom and was positively horrified to find out that duty hours start before 1100.

STAN/EVAL

SSgt Brennon Lacy – Lacy rules Stan/Eval with an iron fist, but that’s not saying much since he’s the only evaluator that works there now. When he’s not no-noticing people/crushing spirits, he can be found pool sharking in the bar trying to fundraise for his Zyn and sports betting habit, we hope he makes TSgt this year so he can have more money for parlays!

SrA Stephen Gordon – The man with 1,000 questions, Stephen had his third kid and strangely volunteers for every TDY he possibly can. He also managed to swing an entirely free holiday party with

legit prizes, we assume he didn't do anything illegal to get it though. He dreams of one day being an astronaut or physicist or something, nobody has the heart to tell him boom operators aren't supposed to be smart.

Mr. Jeremiah "Doc" Docken/SMSgt Ret. – We dragged Doc back to work when the squadron came back from PSAB and weirdly, more work got done when he was out of the office. Apart from the resident Form 8 expert, Doc keeps busy with being the squadron property manager. If you can beat him in pool, he's got very competitive rates!

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

SrA Mersadie Hudson-Kimmel – One half of our resident boom power couple. Between every TDY/deployment we've sent her on, Sadie has had time to look at about half of one 1206. That being said, the blame for the squadron not winning any awards rests solely on her shoulders and we won't be convinced otherwise. Thankfully she's got an annoyingly peppy attitude all the time, which is why we send her out the door short notice all the time. It's called balance!

SAFETY

SrA Roberto Perales – He has such a passion for vehicle safety, he refuses to own a car. Consistently wins the prize for most horrifying dorm room, but the CDC has reached out to him to see if he can cultivate some new diseases in his free time.

ATTACHED AND ON-LOAN

TSgt Madison Dolata (XP) – Madison got here from Altus excited to fly with some operational booms again, and the OG rewarded that enthusiasm by shoving him in the Vault. Lucky for him, we've got 69 exercises this year, so he has plenty of opportunity to learn his new job. We have rare sightings of him in the squadron, but only when his Vitamin D starts to plummet and talking about a nuclear apocalypse makes him sad enough to go for a walkabout.

SrA James "Scratch" Weale (OGT) – James is tough Dungeon Master and even tougher IB. He's been "working" over in OGT for the last few months, but nobody can actually tell us what he does over there, something about a sunset. So, we took the liberty of sending him to Diego, and then CENTCOM to fill up his dance card a bit. Gives him more time to make some spicy memes!

SrA Don Turner III (OGX) – Turner had a kid recently (congrats!), so we gave him a slower paced office to ~~sleep~~ work in. Joke's on us (and him), OGX allegedly does a lot of work. We just aren't sure what it is yet, and we're too scared to ask.

SrA Shane Gardner (OGV) – The other half of our resident boom power couple, Shane's been getting used and abused by the flying and TDY schedule, but he and Sadie don't mind once those per diem checks get cashed. He just started CFIC and isn't doing too bad so far, but he talks so fast during his briefings that it's hard to tell if they're good or bad.

DEPARTED:

SMSgt Evangeline “Eve” Palmer – Mama Blackhawk flew the coop after spending entirely too much time at PSAB, she now works down at AFPC stalking the cubicle farm and telling them how bad they are at everything, just like she did for us! We’re going to miss her unhinged energy around here, but I am legally obligated to say nice things about her because I am renting her house. Miss you, Eve!

SMSgt Mathew Ohle – Mat put on Senior, came back from PSAB, and immediately left for Kadena to try out his SEL talents over there. While at PSAB he lost a truly mind-boggling amount of weight (major props). He says it was from running, but he was always busy when the DDR list came out so who can say what his secret was? Have fun in Okinawa, don’t be too hard on KJ! (just kidding)

MSgt Patrick Flaherty -- Pat finally had enough of XP and hit that sweet, sweet retirement beard button. Thanks for spending 20 years willing to commit violence for \$3.50 a day, maybe we’ll see you chopping down trees on Mt. Spokane sometime soon. We’ll miss you, Pat!

TSgt Matthew Hurless – We lost Matt to Kadena, after 6 months and 4 RNLTD changes, and we’re gonna miss his sunny demeanor around the squadron. Right before he left, he fist-fought Dilly and Dolata for a MSgt stripe and won. The Young Tigers are lucky to have him and we wish him the best of luck!

SSgt Raphael Duncan – After stiff-arming his 46 orders, Duncan got surprised with another set of orders: this time to TACC! Sometimes you should just take the money and run. Good luck planning those coronets, promise we won’t throw any spears at you!

SSgt Jeremy “BJJ” Hudson – Just when he thought he was getting the hang of being a boom, he got non-vol’d to be an MTI. Silver lining for us though: now instead of hearing him start every sentence with “Y’know, when I was AGE...”, all the Lackland trainees can hear him say “Y’know, when I was a boom...” Good luck with those facing movements, Jay!

SrA Dawson “Bush” LaPolla – LaPolla spent the last year working in Wing Scheduling and for his efforts he was rewarded with a cushy CRW gig at Travis. He almost didn’t make it because the TMO crew said they’d never seen a “biohazard” amount of cat hair before, but that’s nothing a vacuum and a crisp \$100 bill can’t fix. Good luck in Cali!

SrA Jose Retana – After doing his best ghost impression for the last year, Jose was released into the civilian world to chase his wildest dreams, and those led him to working on the SERE side as a contractor. Now he has to balance selling vehicles on Facebook Marketplace with beating up new aircrew members.

SrA Austin Kaiser-Joly – No rest for the wicked, KJ left us for the sunny shores of Okinawa, proving that you only *truly* need two days to out-process for an OCONUS assignment (take notes, Hurless). Good luck at the 909th, KJ!

FAIRCHILD AFB, WA

93rd ARS



SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER

MSgt Serjey “Serge” Ficeli (EB) – Has completely given up on the squadron. Can’t wait to retire and will take any and every opportunity to tell you he has retirement orders. Please don’t ask him about awards, just jump straight to Markham for that. He’s still passionate about correcting Airmen when they’re wrong but they don’t seem to appreciate his passion. GO BLUE!!!

OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT

MSgt Jason Markham (IB) – Jason is a great Ops Sup. He enjoys questioning why Fairchild is the way that it is and reminiscing on how it used to be the first time he was here. He also likes filling his down time with awards packages and EPB’s. I think most booms want to be Ops Sup to avoid those things. He’s next up to fill the SEL slot until we get a replacement. OH-IO!!!

SCHEDULING

SSgt Michael Flathers (MB) – Fastest memes in the Pacific North West. Mike’s able to meme any situation in a flash. Known for doing “shiesty” AR, he created a beloved receiver leaderboard while deployed. Unfortunately, being popular with the fighter bros does not translate into being selected for IB upgrade.

(S)Sgt Gabby Stalling (IB) – Deployment warrior! Gabby extended her enlistment to make the first half of the deployment only to be asked to extend it further to stay for the whole thing. She graciously accepted as long as she could choose her second half crew. We accepted her terms. She plans to leave us as soon as her PDDT expires and we wish her the best of luck!

SrA Joshua Amos (MB) – Has the best goatee in the squadron. Not sure if he shaves it that way or it just grows in like that. Would really prefer to be a civilian law enforcement officer but until then he’ll accept TDY’s and ducking CFIC as long as possible.

SrA Gabriel Bautista (MB) – Gabe always shakes your hand when he sees you which gives him face time with leadership. This leads to conversations about booming and has led us all to put him at the top of the list for upgrade, “I’m cooked”, as he would put it.

SrA Clark Bromley (MB) – After his family’s article in the newspaper CJ decided he wanted to make a name for himself by acquiring enough parts from Depot to start mocking up a -135 in his dorm room. Currently has more knowledge about general aviation than amplified checklist steps. Continues to impress and turn red at every opportunity.

SrA Zachary “Elmo” Maszczak (MB) – About every 3 months Elmo finds himself standing in the Ops Sup or SEL’s office answering for something silly. He takes pride in ensuring everyone knows he has the best volleyball and pickleball serve in the AFCENT AOR. We can’t be too mad at him because his boom skills speak for themselves.

SrA Natalie Bitter (MB) – Finally, a real boom again. It was not her fault as the “cancel bug” decided to bite her. She is excited to be back in the pod for longer than a few months at a time. She continues to excel in our scheduling shop while most of us are deployed.

TRAINING

SSgt Derek “Waves” Stiles (IB) – Waves has been at WIC for the past 6 months. We don’t know the story behind the callsign yet but look forward to figuring it out. Prior to weapons school Stiles took on a bunch of tasks to include planning our deployment cert event. We appreciate his hard work and look forward to having a new patch in the squadron.

SrA Ariel Gobleck (IB) – Moved to OG exec for part of the year. She didn’t mind the job but it took her mind off flying a bit and she ended up in a requal situation. She got through that so she can focus on her wedding to Mr. Trulson.

SrA Shawn Fleming (IB) – His laugh can be heard from offices away. You always know when he’s in the building. He’s currently trying to convince his other half to join the AF so they can become the new Airman power couple.

SrA Jordan Esteem (MB) – If you read last year’s boom signal about Esteem the trend continued. He spent a good amount of time trying to get his eyesight right and when he finally got to Wright-Patt they said there was nothing wrong. He got back on flying status just in time to go on a couple TDY’s and then deploy.

A1C Dlyan Barker (MB) – He continues to quietly impress all of us as he develops his boom skills. He got recognized by the Wing Commander while deployed and that says a lot about him.

STAN/EVAL

SSgt Christian “Rock” Bande (EB) – Rock spent his entire summer as the only tanker weapons patch in the entire AFCENT AOR. He single handedly managed the war and even diverted a carrier strike group. He’s quick to draw you a diagram on a whiteboard but ask him to do NCO things and you’ll hear complaining for sure.

SrA Chloe Mathisen (MB) – She’s our next selection for CFIC although she’s going to go kicking and screaming the whole way (we all do Chloe, don’t worry). She experienced pressure AR during the deployment and all the IB’s were jealous. Has her sights set on a Guard/Reserve slot already so we’ll see where that takes her.

SrA Jared Castro (MB) – He flew all the way to Korea just to spend one night. Turns out that would be his last TDY. Jared has decided flying is not in his future and he’d rather be a cyber technician somewhere. We wish you the best of luck Castro.

READINESS

SrA Carson “Chilli” Childers (IB) – Chilli had a baby girl he’s already making family of 3 reservations. He volunteered for Altus but was told they had too many SrA inbound. He earned the top nod on his EPB so hopefully he can make staff and get to Altus. In the meantime, he’s not sitting idle, he also volunteered to become a recruiter. We think he’d be phenomenal at either assignment and look forward to seeing where the future takes him and his family.

SrA David Trulson (IB) – David’s dance moves finally got to him in the form of vertigo. All those spins and twists didn’t stop when he did. Maybe we need to put him in the chair to clear it all up. We hope that he’s back on flying status soon and able to make it down the aisle and stand up straight while finally marrying Ms. Golbeck.

A1C Armani Jesus-Cristo Royval (MB) – Jesus-Cristo was recently asked what the AF core values were, and he confidently responded with “Spiritual, Mental, Physical”. We hope that wasn’t his answer during his BTZ board. He also needs a sewing lesson after putting his own wings on a 2-piece flight.

A-FLIGHT

TSgt Wesley “LP” Laprairie (EB) – When he was told that he’d be upgrading to evaluator he promptly said he wasn’t ready, so we promptly upgraded him because we know he is. When he was told that he was going to be the Ops Sup on the deployment he promptly said he wasn’t ready for that either, so we promptly told him there was literally no other options and he’d do fine. We actually offered him a tax free TDY to PSAB for some OJT prior to his rotation and he said no because of a girl. You better marry this one.

B-FLIGHT

A1C Isiah Maciel (MB) – He had a baby girl and we haven’t seen him much since. Excited to see him learn on his first deployment. Expecting good things from Maciel.

A1C Justice Casaquit (MB) – Justice is still island vibing but with a different kind of sand in the desert. His pickleball skills are decent but he needs to work on his volleyball serve though.

C-FLIGHT

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Help Wanted

Looking for motivated NCOs who are self-starters, driven, and can take a joke. If interested, call (509) 247-4554

SAFETY

SSgt Layrd Olliff (UB) – What can we say about Layrd, a lot happened over the last year. It ultimately culminated in his boom service being terminated. Throughout the ordeal he did his part to continue to serve the 93rd in any capacity he could. We appreciate that Laryd and we would like to offer you your leather jacket as a parting gift.

SrA Parker “BATMAN” Matrisciano (IB) – Trying to live up to his callsign, Parker embarked on a rogue spirit mission after graduating CFIC at Altus. He forgot Batman isn’t stealth and can still be detected by cameras especially in the middle of the day. Turns out he had to pay double the shipping and handling for his prize. We look forward to seeing Parker grow as an IB.

TACTICS

SrA Aiden “Speagle” Clark (IB) – Clark is the best boom we have in the squadron. He’s so good that he got selected to become an Advanced Instructor. We hope he becomes the tacticoollest boom in the squadron once he graduates. Good luck buddy.

A1C Shane Silver (IB) – Shane has run out of milestones to complete as an A1C but no one can seem to figure out when he is supposed to sew on SrA, again. It will at least happen by the time we write the next boom signal. Keep doing good work Shane.

ATTACHED

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We barely have enough booms to fill squadron positions let alone give them out to other agencies.

DEPARTED/OUTBOUND

SrA Phillip Fowler (MB) – Phil is going to the ugly stepsister Pegasus as well. He made it through training and is heading to McConnell. Best of luck Fowler and thanks for your time in the 93rd.

TSgt James “PABST” Kennedy (EB) – Kennedy decided he didn’t want to deploy so bad that he’d rather be an Air Refueling Operator and give up his boom status. He’s trading the 93 ARS Pegasus for that “other” Pegasus. Good luck on the -46 PABST and thank you for all your contributions to the 93rd.

SrA Cydney Graves (MB) (OGX) – Cyd left us for the greener pastures of Niagara Falls. We appreciate your time at the 93rd and wish you the best of luck.

SrA Brielle “BAMBI” Springer (IB) (OGT) – Springer is off to the Utah guard. We wish you the best of luck with all the Mormons.

MSgt Brandon Harmon (EB) – This was a tough loss for us in the 93rd. Brandon messed up and made Master so we had to send him a few buildings down to the “Square Patchers”. Funny enough, his 93 ARS deployment name tags still showed up at PSAB so they’ll be waiting for him when he arrives.

SrA Keri Williams (MB) – Keri is still the nicest person you will ever meet. She’s heading back to NY to be closer to family. Make sure you eat when you get there Keri.

Fairchild AFB, WA
97th Air Refueling Squadron
PRO POTENTIA INTER ASTRA!



Greetings from the Pacific Northwest, the 97th ARS had a phenomenal year! From leading the first AMC CC Directed Readiness exercise, to surveying airfields in Alaska all the way to leading the charge in Australia for Valiant Shield and Diamond Storm. Our capstone was deploying to Prince Sultan Air Base where we took home the SPAATZ for 2024! #SPAATZ!

Senior Enlisted Leader

SMSgt Christian Villanueva: Even though it took him 5 extensions to get through MCT, he finally made it with just enough time to only deploy for 3 months. You can usually catch him in the squadron 15 minutes after the start of the duty day, he just couldn't pick which car he wanted to drive today.

Operations Superintendent

MSgt Stephen Doswell: Our favorite penguin. Now that he no longer has to focus on the mundane tasks of being current and qualified in the 135, he now has the ability to ask the rest of the booms amplified Washington fish and game laws.

Training

SSgt Andrew Liddane: Much like an unmotivated teenager he hasn't been able to find a job that "vibes" with his personality. He's still complaining that he's a terminal Staff, and believes that showing up to WAPS testing is optional.

SSgt Charlton Hampton: Coming next fall it's Indiana-Hampton and the curse of the dead EFB. Students hate when they see him listed on the GDSS cut, but he's guaranteed to bring his "satchel".

SrA Aziel Alvarado: ABCDE-FU he's going 46.

SrA Harold “Amber” Cheatham: Deployed for 6 months as the CSS for the squadron, he quickly learned the difference between DNIF and Mobility Restrictions. He did an amazing job and wish him the best of luck as he gets ready to start Skillbridge.

SrA Cameron Ping: His interpretations of the -1 are legendary. We all know it’s step 2: deleted in the engine start checklist, we were all shocked that meant Legends of Zelda: Breath of the Wild was approved. Voted most likely to be the reason for a new caution.

SrA Samaria Plummer: No TACAN is safe on her watch.

Readiness

TSgt Alison “BASH” Sowka: She came back from our latest deployment with the hours needed to upgrade, now if only she had the motivation to do a briefing. Voted most likely to have folder extension.

SSgt Brandon Kim: He has gotten a lot better at showing up on time... most days. He’s always on leave to see his (alleged) girlfriend, you wouldn’t know her ~~BECAUSE SHES MADE UP~~ she goes to a different base.

SrA Kyler “JAWS” Rosinsky: The ASTRAs own personal garbage disposal and the only person that would think it’s okay to consume 20 glizzys in front of a flight Doc and then go to his PHA and not understand why his blood pressure spiked.

SrA Claretta Kernlyons: After we came back from deployment, she saw that AFFORGEN was broken and knew what would happen and ... she’s long term DNIF.

Scheduling

TSgt Victoria Turan: Known as the squadrons silent THOR, she’s ready to correct any of the baby booms with a hammer!

SSgt Nathaniel Bartling: Still unsure how you get an Altus assignment as a MB, based on his most recent TAPR that assignment probably isn’t going to happen. Voted most likely to have a nervous breakdown in the Boom Pod.

SrA Nathan Christenson: The only person in the 97th that was able to use all his baby leave #non-essential. Complains about never going TDY, conveniently schedules leave every Wednesday.

SrA Jacques “JAQ-JAQ” Laurie: DAV doesn’t matter if you call a deployment a TDY. Still suffering from PTSD and is now terrified of the Kings Crabs and the Beach.

SrA Anthony “Mario” Maglione: Currently grieving the loss of Cheatham, you can still find him doing Boom yoga in the heritage room.

SrA Kian “Kiki” Saadi: In true Kiki fashion he waited until the day prior to leaving for Altus to start out processing. The 46 community is going to love having him...

SrA Alexis “Feral” Burnside: She earned her callsign by truly being the most feral boom operator the commander had ever encountered. Best of luck to your future 46 unit.

Mission Support

TSgt Bobby “NODE” Kniveton: The first word that comes to mind with NODE is enthusiasm. But not the good enthusiasm, more like a rabid raccoon that found a dumpster full of rotting food behind a Burger King. A vectorless missile blindly firing its thrusters into the empty void of space, NODE finally got bump-steered enough during the 97ths deployment that the CAOC took note of his energy and tasked him with doing their job. When he finally cried enough to his Commander to tell ARCT that he would no longer be “the CAOCs wittle WO” anymore, enough was enough and NODE got an assignment as far away from normal, functioning aircrew as possible. Heading to the KC-30 in Brisbane, Australia, NODE now wonders if there will be enough trains in Australia to satiate his autism.

-Will “Doc” Dowd, 97 ARS/CC, Honorary Boom Operator

SSgt Aaron Salter: Scheduling group training days is hard, bottoms up. Little known fact the 11-2KC Vol3 Add A is really just a list of “suggestions.”

SrA Trae Seithalil: Still learning how paying bills works. He was the Wing’s only Airman of the week that had to be kicked out prior to the rest of the meeting.

Stan/Eval

TSgt Jacob Sarno: Who?

SSgt Andrew Miller: He started off last year with finding love in a hopeless place (Shaw), this is probably why after 6 years he finally decided on what he wanted to do when he grows up. He’s going to be all he can be and sit on the bench with the rest of the Army reserves.

Tactics

SrA Talon Brandel: Finally got off his long term DNIF and crushed his IB-C Upgrade, unfortunately the baby booms also felt crushed any time they were scheduled to sit through a Talon systems brief.

Safety

TSgt Andrew Decrosta: Still somehow in, still somehow more sleepy than ever.

On Loan

MSgt Lauren “Pow Pow” Powell: TALK LOUDER SHE CAN’T HEAR, HER HEARING AIDES DIED.

SrA Christopher Rowland: You can’t get 9A’d if you come off DNIF every other month. Send him a congrats every Apr 23, because he’s probably still working as a secretary when you read this.

Departed but not forgotten

MSgt Brandon “GATM” Roberts: GATM spent a few months filling in as the deployed SEL as the 97th EARS was down range, and he spent the rest of the year planning the Air Force Ball (that’s why he couldn’t ever help download bags). It worked out for him, and he won 92nd ARW SNCO of the year!

TSgt Ryan "Doolittle" Dillingham: As we learned from the deployment, he still dilly dances around all office responsibilities. Good luck at the 92nd ARS.

SSgt Matthew Ronnfeldt: PCS'd to the 906th ARS.

SrA Christopher Neuman: PCS'd to the Center of Excellence

SrA Jayden Shines: Separated

SrA Julie Reavis (McNab): PCS'd to the 1st ACCS flying the E-4.

SrA Sean Ellis: PCS'd to the 9th ARS and never upgraded.

SrA David Harris: PCS'd to the 344th ARS.

SrA Alex Danclar: He attempted an Irish goodbye, forgot his EPB was still closing out with the 97th. PCS'd to 9th ARS.

A1C Qyarrius Gates: Separated

FAIRCHILD AFB, WA

116th ARS

“CAVEAT HOSTIS”



This Unit did not submit.

FAIRCHILD AFB, WASHINGTON

384th ARS

“SQUAREPATCHERS”



Yet another year has passed and the 384th is still chugging along. The Squares started the year with Red Flag exercise and immediately followed up with an Exercise Bamboo Eagle trip where we executed over 50 joint USAF, USN, and USMC sorties totaling nearly 700 hours, which aided in the re-optimization of the Great Power Competition. During all these sorties, the Squares managed a 3rd place finish across the AF in the Mission Execution Excellence Program (R.I.P.), earning \$61K in rebates. The 384th also got the pleasure of deploying before our deployment (looking at you AFFORGEN), flying 384 hours in 38.4 sorties in USINDOPACOM and USCENCOM AORs. Now, the Squares' numbers are dwindling as our people get pulled away to the KC-46. But that's okay! We have high-speed Airmen and NCOs that are doing more than pull their weight. Next time you see a Square Patcher, ask how they're doing... They're probably tired!!!

Senior Enlisted Leader

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Help Wanted

**Looking for motivated SNCO who is a self-starter, driven, and can take a joke.
If interested, call (509) 247-3829**

Operations Superintendent

MSgt Brandon Harmon

Brandon is coming to the Squares bright-eyed and bushy-tailed until he found out he is immediately out the door for a six-month deployment. Now he is ready to lay down the law. He booted A10 out of the Ops Supt seat within the week, marched into scheduling and stated everyone will have their training done three months early! We still don't know what the "or else" will be, but we don't think anyone is willing to find out. Some of us think this is miss

placed aggression since all he wants is to get back to Japan but can't! All jokes aside, we are excited to have you here!

Executive Support

SrA Lillian Hixson

Just moved from Stan/Eval to being a squadron exec. Not sure if she fluffed the right feathers or ruffled the wrong ones for that move. Lily is always willing to fly, hack the mish, and take any TDY. She is a reliable Boom until you try to send her to Instructor Upgrade. She has every excuse in the book not to go...I'm studying for Staff, I need to re-enlist, you sent me to the Indian Ocean short notice without internet or a Pre-CFIC Instructor for three months...

SrA Alex Morales

Alex is one heck of a trooper. Came to the Squares, began flying like a mad man until he got pulled to Honor Guard for six months. Not sure what they did to him, but he came back DNIF...so we stuck him in the Exec Office to cheer him up. The cure apparently was to prepare him for Wing Scheduling and magically, he is off DNIF (keep that trick in your back pocket SELs). Now that he is back in the air, Alex is back to flying like a mad man passing his check ride with flying colors!

Stan Eval

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Help Wanted

**Looking for motivated Airman who is a self-starter, driven, and can take a joke.
If interested, call (509) 247-8758**

Scheduling Flight

SSgt Kyle Henninger

Recently went DNIF for eye surgery. He must be seeing things clearly now, because Kyle tried to escape AMC with a passion and was accepted to the lustrous KC-46 program! However, AMC had other plans and cancelled his class dates so he could deploy with his friends. Have you ever seen a grown man cry?

SrA Anthony Addington

DNIF longer than a penguin, but when he is not on the scheduling desk, you can catch him helping his wife (Maddington) out with one of her thousand projects and programs she volunteers for. Thanks to his shaving waiver, he dodged Honor Guard duty and was able to keep scheduling others to have fun. Anthony plans to separate and return to his job at Handy's Paint...guess he crossed red one too many times and misses the sweet-sweet smell of paint.

SrA Ashley Betancourt

It seems she took the concept of 'cutting ties' with the Air Force a bit too literally. After discovering that extensions weren't on the table, she really started calling it quits. In a dramatic twist, she even sliced her hand open in the gym, proving that when it comes to separating, she's willing to make quite the severed commitment!

SrA Johnny Nevarez

Johnny has more scheduling hours than flight hours. Dude is always DNIF and watching everyone else have fun in the sky. We think he has had enough because Johnny has decided to separate and begin the next chapter of his life. Jokes aside, Johnny has been invaluable in the scheduling office keeping this house of cards together.

SrA Vance Scrape

What can we say about Scrape except REDACTED. He's been great at REDACTED and REDACTED. The REDACTED office runs smooth with him around, but not REDACTED the desk. Hopefully he gets that clearance back soon so we can actually share REDACTED with him!

SrA Alexander Knight

Alex is such a serious and knowledgeable person that he gets mistaken as an NCO. Having earned BTZ, he's on the fast track to instructor upgrade as well. Hopefully he can get back to the east coast so his wife can stop worrying about all the homeless in Spokane and be closer to family.

Training Flight

(S)Sgt Jake Donaldson

If you want to go fishing and *not* catch anything, he's your guy. He got sent on the road immediately after finishing ALS and has been gone ever since. OTS is calling his name, but first he needs to be around long enough to submit his package.

SrA Arianna Jupiter

Show us on the doll where they hurt you at CFIC. It's like she's a completely different person after going to Altus; she's been crushing it ever since. From calling out booms about retracting without the AR Master Switch on, to coordinating retirement ceremonies, Jupe is out there putting in the work!

SrA Ethan Parker

Newest addition to training flight. Ethan is earning his instructor pay leading squadron BERP, GRACC, and trying to keep up with his TAPRs! The real mystery, though, is how he manages to do it all without anyone ever hearing the sound of his voice—he might just be operating on an advanced 'silent mode' that the rest of us have yet to discover.

SrA Aidan Ruehr

Rising Star Ruehr has gotten a fire lit under his boom. Dude woke up one day and decided to crush everything he touches except the boom. Recently tackled multiple exercises as a planner and taught the young lieutenants a thing or two.

Readiness Flight

SSgt Ethan Sudtelgte

They say that surgery is a walk in the park, but after his "successful" operation, he can't feel his leg—or arm—or couch. Now his biggest decision of the day is which Netflix show to binge watch for the 12th time. Here's wishing him a speedy recovery so he can return to the world on two feet and a whole lot of pickleball!

SrA Legea Howard

Known for being sassy, Legea is our newest Instructor that you don't want to mess with! Legea's students learn a lot, but after they finish crying. You can always count on an honest opinion in your TAPR. If you were trash, she's going to describe the type of trash you were.

SrA Shen Yeager

If you find yourself deployed or on an island without internet, Shen is your guy. He can whip up a Dungeon's and Dragon's (D&D) session on the fly. Recently attempted instructor upgrade—he was crushing it until AFFORGEN and taskings had him TDY for over half his training time. Now he's just waiting to get his extension paperwork that was supposedly submitted months ago.

Integration Cell

A1C Cassidy Baker

The Air Force decided to separate her and her spouse but not pay her for it. Even without the financial incentive, and one of the newest Booms in the squadron, she's been doing amazing things in the 384th. Now go get that separation pay!

A1C Diaz Felix

Our newest boom operator is about to be the proud parent of a baby girl! But first, he needs to finish Block Week, MCT, RAT training, LMS CBTs, deployment, etc. etc. etc. Time is of the essence!

A1C Cooper Funk

If Cooper isn't on the road, you can find him in the gym. Dude has gains on gains but is the biggest teddy bear around. He is the new "Steve Hannah". Guess that means he will be heading to the KC-46 once he is eligible.

A1C Tirrell Hollingsworth

Our resident ginger: the quick-witted class clown with a knack for humor that, when challenged, disappears faster than fuel with 4 pumps. Beneath his playful façade lies a caring individual who excels at his work – especially when it comes to unloading cargo with a forklift. Just don't call him out on his jokes unless you want to see him take off like a rocket.

A1C Quenton Miller

Our expert for Airman of the Week at Group Staff Meetings. Quenton found a way to impress the Group Commander with an opening joke that didn't make sense, but still somehow got some laughs and had them talking about it well after he left. He lives 'in a van down by the river!'—he says he is saving so much money. With how many water jugs he hordes in his van after flights, we think he is making his extra cash from a weird water jug side hustle. We don't ask questions, just expect the weekly booster club tribute or we will sick Cooper Funk on him! He is our other boom you don't go fishing with unless all you want to catch is a sunburn... also, don't let him around sports team mascots!

Tactics Flight

SrA Madison "Maddington" Addington

She wears the pants in the family which is why her husband is following her to Indiana. Anthony doesn't seem to mind though. Madison is a big stress ball if things aren't planned out, but luckily Grissom said yes to joining their unit, so that's one less thing to stress about!

SrA Brendan Ohm

We're glad to have another IB! He's the most autistic person in the squadron and has a memory that can recall every detail imaginable. He was the perfect pick for OGV last year, but now we're glad to have him back. If you question his knowledge, be prepared because his anger will flare up faster than gas on a fire.

On-Loan / Attached

CMSgt Brenda Rodriguez

Group CEM

Our first Flight Attendant/Boom Operator! Chief Rodriguez has been given a crash course in our Ops tempo, boom community, and the challenges we face on a daily basis as Tankers. So much that her 20-day Senior Enlisted Qualification (SEQ) Course has taken the better part of the year! At this point, we think Chief would love to just go fly as she is exhausted of hearing how AFFORGEN does not work for tankers and how undermanned we are.

SrA Jamerra Evans

Honor Guard

Jamerra has been crushing it as a boom since she arrived to us! Despite only saying two words in the past year, she still earned BTZ, built up her hours, and was considered for instructor upgrade! You can find her at local sports events and retirement ceremonies as the squadron's tribute for base Honor Guard.

Outbound

CMSgt Michael "Penguin" Russell

After years of coordinating awards boards, trying to bring meat back to the tribe, teaching airmen to control their destiny/careers, coordinating personnel office changes, and influencing our career field's future, Chief has finally decided to bring some of his expertise to the F-16 community! Congrats on the assignment to Germany, be sure to teach those pilots how to properly refuel and respect that NKAWTG...NOBODY!

SMSgt Myron Somero

Always in his office preparing folks for their KC-46 assignments or sending whoever is left to Group Training, Group Stan/Eval, Honor Guard, Wing Scheduling, Group Exec...if you keep sending folks away there won't be a squadron left! When he isn't sending folks away you can find him hitting the pavement across Fairchild getting his miles in! This dude can RUN! Congrats on your first-ever overseas assignment—only took you 19 years! Hopefully you can keep your run times on the cobblestones of England.

MSgt Jacob "A10" Aufderheide

We say Brandon kicked A10 out of the Ops Supt office...but as soon as he got his orders to Altus, he wasn't much fighting it. Always using ten words to say two, talking about crypto, D&D, or how inflation is a hidden tax on our dollars, the 384th hallways will be much quieter after he departs...we might even be able to get some work done! We wish you the best at your sunset assignment!

MSgt Zach Donaraski

If this old crusty SNCO isn't in the office, he is either at Physical Therapy, an appointment, or mentoring the young Booms with his 20 years of salty Boom Operatin'. If we haven't heard "back in my day" in a while, we know Zach is TDY to Hawaii, Japan, or somewhere in Europe...apparently, he was the only one who could go. Congratulations on 20 years and your approved retirement, brother! We wish you the best in the next chapter of your life!

(M)Sgt/2Lt Charisse "Chartreuse, Chorizo, Charcuterie" Laughery

Charisse has been busy this year mentoring our young airmen, preparing us for deployment, was selected for Master Sergeant, and was accepted into OTS! Congratulations on your selections, however, with no class date in sight, Charisse has been our work horse at home and on the road—she was on the hunt for a "fini-TDY" and got more than she bargained for, a short-notice visit to the tropics that, typical for the tanker community, quickly morphed into a deployment. How's that for a final TDY?!

TSgt Tyler Espinoza

Tyler had quite the year starting with NCORP threatening to send him back to Security Forces, then the KC-46 came hunting to recruit our best, finally, this young stallion got married and had his first baby! With a wild year he decided to join the dark side for some stability in his life and will be heading to the KC-46 later this year. But alas, in true AMC fashion, they tried cancelling his class dates so he could deploy as a KC-135 Hero one last time! ...not today, Satan!

SSgt Zach Henderson

Zach became an instructor, earned Staff Sergeant, and has been representing the 384th at Group Training for the past year! He did such an amazing job that Altus is stealing yet another one of our instructors to plus up their non-operational demands. This bearded warrior will show the next generation how to do the job while never losing your cool.

SrA Sage Ledet

If you hang around long enough, they will make anyone an evaluator! Of course, as soon as we upgraded Sage, Altus stole him away. They must have heard about his epic instructor ability from the last boom signal! Sage will teach the young booms how to fly and what to do when getting caught stealing other squadron's 300-pound mascots!

Departed

MSgt Michael Dmytriw

Our Comrade left us for the other cloud covered portion of the world, England. He must have been drawn by the allure of good whiskey and a taste of the finer things. Dmytriw was always hovering around looking for an opportunity to check your pubs when he wasn't hanging out in OGT/OGV.

MSgt Kyler Pierce

Set off into the sunset and cross-flowed to C-130 loadmaster with a sweet next assignment to Ramstein. We think he was a boom for like maybe 12 months at most. Great guy though!

TSgt Steven "Soft Beef" Hannah

Don't interrupt Soft Beef during his gym time or else his whole day will be ruined. He spent his last few months deployed with us trying to convince everyone of the merits of "Irn Bru." Whatever that is...certainly doesn't sound healthy. Soft Beef caught a late-night commercial flight out of the AOR a few weeks early to cross-over to the KC-46. He is probably glad he has air stairs now so he doesn't have to watch his gains to make sure he can still climb up a crew entry chute.

TSgt Ryan Kemp

The workhorse until the end, we're pretty sure Ryan was seen working next week's schedule at the desk AFTER his final out from Fairchild. He probably had G2 open so he could work on the rotator on the way to Kadena...the bonus was he didn't have to talk to anybody that way.

TSgt Zach Reynolds

Although he officially left the Squares on paper last signal, he hung out with us for a few months after his "deployment" running tanker execution in the middle east from South Carolina. ACC must've been impressed with whatever he told them he did there...great job with that STEP promotion from ACC! He stops by every so often to see if he still knows anybody in the unit, but that usually ends with him wandering around looking lost.

(S)Sgt Dakota Griffis

After becoming an instructor, the Group snagged him for an exec position. It must have been an amazing experience working for Chief Russell, because Dakota is now enjoying SkillBridge. Must not be enough to keep him entertained, we heard through the Shirt channels he was shooting for a concurrent full-time civilian job at the 92d Medical Group. Latest rumor is he's going to be a Guard bum if the WA ANG will take him...maybe they will let him sew on SSgt?

(S)Sgt Joey Svobod

Joey's career is shaping up to be like the guy from the State Farm commercials on TV ... he knows a thing or two because he's seen a thing or two. Pretty sure that means he has a leg up on making Chief by the old Air Force rules, but no doubt his wife will have a say in that. Best of luck dodging the CHP in California!

SSgt Karin "KC" Svoboda

In true KC fashion, she used her going away speech to make one last attempt at educating the Squares on...uhh we already forgot what it was about, but we do remember that she tried. No doubt she will bring all that initiative and drive to the Pegasus at Travis.

SSgt Chris Nothstine

He left us for the C-17 at McChord AFB where he is probably resisting reverting to operator mode and trying to follow the Combat Controllers and PJs out the back of his airplane.

SrA Samantha Kurz

Standing at 5'1 weighing 70 pounds soaking wet and seemingly quite innocent, Sam has a mouth that would make sailors cry! She's likely shocking civilians on the outside, where she Skill Bridged to work for some business jet company in the Carolinas, pretty sure it was Gulfstream?

SrA Tyler Jones

The KC-46 tried to take him, but he told them no thanks with his First Term Airman rights. The Air Force had other plans and he is now out as a Mr. to start his next chapter. Best of luck on the east coast!

SrA Gilbert Martinez

We must've scared him with all those stories of how bad going through CFIC at Altus can be...he volunteered for the KC-46 while still enrolled in Pre-CFIC and of course was selected. That's one way to avoid Altus! He's now settled into his first home purchase at McConnell and no doubt continuing to make the tanker mission happen.

SrA Sydnee Neal

Sydnee snuck out of C-130 loadmaster training at Little Rock just to come back to Fairchild because she wanted one last flight on the old war wagon. We know she'll miss it. She's now at Yokota learning how big the Pacific is with four props instead of jet engines.

SrA Grace Yoder

After multiple "not that one" responses, Grace finally selected a KC-46 BTX class of her choosing. She made it through Altus and joined the Svoboda convoy to Travis. Maybe they'll let her keep living her career on her terms.

A1C Glenn Pierce

We would say it's quieter after he left, but he didn't say much while he was here, so... it's pretty much the same on the decibel count. We do miss having a reliable boom to fly, but he elected to separate and head back to Louisiana to go to school. Thank you for your service and good luck with the next career!

FAIRCHILD AFB, WA

509 WPS

“The First in Air Refueling”



Interim SEL- **Jonathan “TALON” Nigl**

Jake “DONUT” Spencer - Proof that you can retire long before you actually retire! This guy used to fly jets... now he barely flies a desk. He's not at work so much, we're starting to think he's on a secret mission called 'Operation: Couch Reconnaissance.' And when he does show up, he keeps the bar nice and low — so the rest of us feel like superstars just for showing up on time. But seriously, we get it — you're already mentally debugging code and dreaming in Python while the rest of us are still here pretending to care about paperwork. We appreciate you, DONUT... you keep things relaxed around here, and honestly, we're going to miss having you make the rest of us look so motivated! Here's to your coding career — may your bugs be minimal and your coffee be strong!

Mitchell “JAB” Lambrecht - You went from boom operator to a future pilot and ended up in Enid, Oklahoma? That's not career advancement, that's geographic punishment. You literally went from the guy who fills up the tank to the guy who empties it and somehow landed in a place where the most exciting thing in the sky is probably a weather balloon. But hey, at least you're still reaching new heights... just really, really low ones.

Jonathan “BANDICOOT” Vermont - Your car insurance company probably has your photo on the wall – not as customer of the month, but as a wanted poster. At this point, your bumper is held together by thoughts and prayers, and the local body shop sends you a Christmas card every year. Maybe it's time to consider walking – the sidewalks will thank you.

Ethen Bowen - Nobody knows your name yet, but don't worry, we'll probably just call you 'New Guy' for the next six months anyway. You walked in here all eager and optimistic – give it a week, you'll fit right in with the rest of us dead-eyed instructors. Right now you're like a blank slate, which is perfect because we're about to write all over you with impossible deadlines and broken coffee machines.

Tristen “Dangle” Lang - Proving that even Fairchild eventually lets you go if you hang around long enough. After almost 8 years here, he's finally packing up and heading to England. Honestly, we were starting to think he had squatters' rights at Fairchild. But now he's off to drink warm beer, complain about the rain, and pretend to understand cricket. Don't worry, Dangle — we'll keep your parking spot open... just in case England realizes what they got themselves into and sends you back!

Zachary “GATOR” Reynolds- The only guy I know who got a STEP promotion for deploying... to South Carolina. That's right — while the rest his squadron was sweating it out overseas, he was bravely defending the Starbucks at Shaw AFB. But credit where it's due — he's been absolutely killing it as a brand-new instructor. You can tell because he hasn't even managed to wreck his face in, what... six months? That's a personal best! Keep it up, GATOR — just don't let the clean face and fancy stripes go to your head... we still remember who you really are!

Megan “Tumbleweed” Gates - You've been DNIF all year but somehow you're still the busiest person here – that's not dedication, that's a cry for help! You're like a broken-down car that keeps trying to tow other vehicles. We keep telling you to take it easy, but you're out here helping everyone like you're training for the Injury Olympics. You're DNIF for a reason, but you act like it stands for 'Do Not Interrupt, Fixing everything. But seriously, we love having you around and your willingness to help means everything to the team.

James “CHAW” Shaffer - Wyoming's newest part-time resident and full-time professional trainee. He's been cross-training for so long, we're starting to think he's earning a PhD in 'How

Not to Come Back.' He traded in our squadron for helicopters, mountains, and cowboy hats — and honestly, we're not even sure he remembers what a real workday looks like anymore. But hey, at least he's keeping Wyoming's coffee shops in business while he figures out how to turn wrenches and ride in circles. We're proud of you, CHAW... just don't forget where you came from when you finally graduate flight engineer kindergarten!

-PATR @Little Rock

-CRACKEN @ A10N

-TOGO @ Edwards test

-BUCK @PACAF

FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

AMC/AOS DET 1



This Unit did not submit.

FORBES FIELD ANG, KS

117 ARS

“KANSAS COYOTES”



Chief Boom

CMSgt Nathan “DOGG” Neidhardt – Ol’ Puppy Dogg has gotten soft over the years but still has a vicious bite when he needs it. Booms under 600 hours and those that say “Seeyuh” beware. Has more combat hours than all the Airmen have total hours combined, he knows a thing or two because he’s seen a thing or two.

Full Timers

SMSgt Wayne “Ol’ PAPA PAPA” Walls (OGV) – Hands out Taco’s to those who are unworthy and is always ready to kick ass at Mancala. Was around for the invention of the 135, and the Vol 3 is just a collection of his techniques. Gets off on making the young booms cry and then uses the tears as coffee creamer, but is always the man to go to when you need a question answered.

MSgt Matthew “POW” Crawford (ARS Superintendent) – Doesn’t teach grease monkeys but sometimes he still wishes he was one. Loves showing the young booms new techniques and challenging them to improve. Always a competitor, don’t get him on the court or he might blow out his knee again!

MSgt Brandon “BOOBOO” Gray (NCOIC of Tactics) – The most tacticool boom in the squadron, he stays tucked away in the vault researching all the scary things that are out to get us. He might be secretly jealous of his pilot brother, but did an awesome job as our chief boom during our deployment to PACOM.

MSgt Chynna “LIZZIE” Tafanelli (OGV) – She might love you or she might hate you, but you’d never know the difference. Her icy expression hides one of the best instructors we have, and rumor has it a smile cracked her face when she finally escaped the training shop. Now her and Ol’ Pap Pap sit back in Stan/Eval and make sure the rest of us don’t mess up too badly.

MSgt Chad “BUCKO” Broome (NCOIC of Off-Station) – After carrying the load (so to speak) of IB duties while in training, BUCKO now spends his time sending us around the world in the Off-Station shop. Don’t let his

calm demeanor in the fishbowl fool you, if you are off-station with him and the ADIDAS tracksuit comes out, the Squatch is sure to follow. Beware the Squatch!

TSgt Steve “PIZZA” Zeckser (NCOIC of Training) – There is always a smile on Pizza’s face, even when the whole squadron is coming to him to ask what beans are coming due. Another of our former maintainers, now that he isn’t fixing the jet he spends his time fixing the MAR/GAR’s for the squadron when he isn’t doing his IB duties and taking young booms on the road. If you need some good advice or someone to tell you to stop being an idiot, PIZZA is your guy.

TSgt Matthew “HUDS” Ferguson (XP) – The units Paul Blart, now that he has left the police life behind you may occasionally catch a glimpse of him as he leaves the vault. On the off chance you catch him out and about, he is likely on his way to grab coffee or head to the BOSS. While doing his job as an IB, he’ll take any chance to get you so far into the books that it’s almost police brutality.

TSgt Jacob “ROD” Fandrich (Training) – After becoming an IB and joining the training shop, ROD spends most of his time teaching the young booms all the best techniques he knows. If you met him you’d think he was a patch, but he decided that he’d rather try to be a pilot instead. Lucky for us he knows more about the tanker than he does about math, but once he figures out how to add 6+8 you’ll probably find him in the right seat rather than at the nav station.

Mr. Jed Clampitt (CMSgt Retired, BOSS COR) – After retiring and becoming a hippie, Jed spends his days sitting in Stan/Eval and talking with Ol’ Pap Pap and Lizzie about his war stories. We’re not really sure what he does other than talk with the HARM/SARM girls and crack jokes in the fishbowl, but he might be secretly part of DOGE.

Traditionals

MSgt Jennifer “J-LO” Velazquez – J-LO still works here? Now that she is a true native of Guam, she has hosted more Superbowl parties than she has flight hours.

MSgt Jason “BUTTERS” Sebring – BUTTERS might live full time at the alert shack, but when he isn’t there he was using his wicked 3D printing skills to create some awesome ruddervators for our boom display.

MSgt Drew Jennings – Our A Flight Lead, Drew makes sure everything runs smooth for the booms under him. During our deployment he got a medal for being an excellent boom, and then promptly snapped one off.

TSgt Gabe “WIND SHEAR” Ramirez – As our new BOSS coordinator when he’s not over at the BOSS facility you can probably hear him talking to tower as he flies his way around the country. Has more war stories and been on more trips than most young booms have flight hours and is always ready to share them.

TSgt Sebastian “LOCAL” Adame – Is he driving WHISKEY or drinking whiskey, nobody knows after Guam. Professional gaslighter, he’s almost good enough to make medical think he’s green.

TSgt Adam Gilfillan – Is a grandfather even if you couldn’t tell from looking at him, when Gilli isn’t sending memes in the signal chat he is probably getting shredded and training for his next marathon.

TSgt Everett Marshall – After getting all the training that America could offer, he wanted more of a challenge so he went to fly with the Saudis for that sweet, sweet oil money. Now he’s back and ready to share his desert secrets with the rest of the squadron.

TSgt Nicole Parks – After moving into a haunted house, we’re pretty sure the ghosts are haunting her career. She was #CSS4LIFE right up until she wasn’t. A professional at keeping the squadron humble through some icy words sprinkled throughout the day, you better not catch her before she has her morning coffee.

TSgt Lindsay “CRASH” Deckinger – The aircraft lavatory hates to see her coming (so to speak). CRASH did a great job filling in as a flight lead, you just have to make sure to keep her far far away from a golf cart.

TSgt Chris Kirk – Finally caught CHIP in flight hours and thinks he’s all that. Got himself a girlfriend, so that 369 hour and 14 trip run he had in 2024 is never going to happen again. Used to be the best Bum you’d ever seen but leadership has been grooming him for Instructor school, and he doesn’t even recognize it. Secretly trying to create a scooter gang in Topeka with CHIP.

TSgt Ryan “CHIP” Ewing – Tried to avoid Instructor school by having a kid. Still having a kid and still going to IB school. When he’s not messing up the WFS, he’s reliving his glory days by talking to young boys on the diamond.

TSgt Olivia Parmentier – You can find Parm in the alert shack knitting, whether it is a beanie or a banana. Co’s making an approach better watch their AOA or you best believe Parm will remind them.

TSgt Chance Kueny – Our gentle giant, Chance is discovering the joys of being a new boom and a new father. His bald head is his own personal weather radar, and he loved being in WX enough that he thought it’d cooler to see it at 30,000 ft.

TSgt Corey Riner – A crew chief that has reached the promised land, Corey took the tried-and-true method of going from MCT straight into maternity leave. You can find him either taking photos or sitting alert to the max extent possible.

TSgt Kortez Kelly – E-6 who still thinks he’s an E-4, all Kortez does is fly and create the WFS. Affectionately known as Dogg’s golden boy or el Twinkie depending on who you ask, Kortez may have a patch in his future if he can learn how to be quiet, SICK!

TSgt Allie Underwood – A Milwaukee stowaway who lives in OKC and works in Topeka, always a happy presence in the squadron. Now we are just waiting to see how long it takes for her to stop calling it a bubbler.

SSgt Joey Caton – KNOBLETS whips him harder than a bat stuck in the landing gear, and if you let him wander off while TDY you might never see him again. That is, if you can see him past the wild mane of hair that he swears is within regs.

SSgt Alexander Herod – Alex has spent more time in the hospital than in the boom pod, he might have gotten a purple heart from the Creed concert he attended. Can’t wait to see him back in action.

SSgt Collin Underwood – One of our booms still in training, Collin came over to us from Comm. Asks about a million questions a minute, so hopefully he gets some of them answered by the time he gets back to the squadron.

SrA Sarah “KNOBLETS” Vargas – The squadron’s professional yapper, KNOBLETS can be found at home with her cat most of the time. If she spent half as much time in the fishbowl as she does preparing to be a pilot we’d have an IB on our hands.

SrA Bryce Farris – Checklists, technique or procedure? Who knows but he’s always here for weather evacs to save not only the day but his career. Always looking to fly or a good time with the boys.

SrA Josiah Eicholtz – You may not see him around the squadron but mention off-station or alert and he’ll appear out of thin air. Thai “Girls” love him, bartenders hate him, and curbs fear him. Likely to buy another project car after we deploy again.

SrA Tanner Sigmund – Former crew chief who made the switch over to the light side, he’s still working through MCT. His taste in ladies is similar to mopeds in that they are both fun, but you probably shouldn’t tell your friends about it.

A1C Tanner Zerger – So young that he probably gets mistaken for one of the ol’ timer’s kids, don’t let his age fool you, he is a master at making contacts even if he does claw grip the stick. Pilot’s need to watch their daughters around Big Z, but he is willing to stop his romantic pursuits in exchange for a pilot slot.

A1C Nate Jaffe – Our newest hire, Nate is just starting his training. He should be back and done with MCT right in time for a nice 6 month vacation.

Honorable Mentions

CMSgt Justin Betterton – Probably 90 percent Command Chief of the base and 10 percent still boom. Though he fly’s a desk all the time it’s a good thing, it’s only us who get to see his wild side.

Incoming

MSgt Clarissa Taylor – One of our newest members, arriving next FY from active duty. Pretty sure she got hired to give Lizzie somebody to talk to during the day. Excited for her to get here and then immediately go to Instructor school.

Recently Departed the Fix

Mr. Mark Sweeney (SMSgt Retired, BOSS Contractor)- Retired again

MSgt Collin “NOT TICE” Vaughn

TSgt Kenny “RAPTOR” Vadakin

SSgt Connor “RAD” Remboldt- 117th ARS pilot hire

SSgt Trevor Dark- 117th ARS pilot hire

SSgt Caleb “SHIPWRECK” Skrzypek

SSgt John Rutheford

SSgt Mathew Sumpter

SSgt Kelsey “KELSO” Warren

Boom Stowed & Latched

CMSgt Joe Breedlove	CMSgt Steve Stucky	SMSgt Ken Griffen
MSgt Ben Hollingworth	MSgt Tom Cox	MSgt John Roth
MSgt Matt Miltz	SMSgt Lowell Seymour	TSgt Dan Herklotz
CMSgt Ron May	TSgt Parker Groves	

General “Billy” Mitchell ANGB, Milwaukee, WI
128ARW/126ARS

Brew City Tankers



Home of the greatest group of booms known to man.
Next time you're in town, swing by and we'll grab a couple two tree beers with ya!
NKAWTG...N!

Fulltime

CMSgt Kurt “Chiggy” Ignasiak- Chief Boom – It was a crisp June 1st morning with dew still on the grass and robins singing their morning songs. Like myself, every single boom at the squadron remembers the day Chiggy took over as Chief. Something about Chiggy taking over as head honcho just felt special. It takes a lot of effort to take care of us whiny and spoiled rotten booms, but Chiggy knows how make everyone feel particularly seen and heard. This has been years in the making and Iggy's hard work and dedication to the enlisted work force does not go unnoticed. Very excited for what's to come with Chiggy in the commander's seat!

SMSgt Peter Gauerke – Training Flight NCOIC – Well well well, turns out it only took 52 years, but Pete finally had his midlife crisis. Came to work one day and found out that he had bought 2 brand new cars, one being the fully electric Ford Mustang...and I thought Senior Airmen made poor choices when it came to vehicles! But hey, at least it wasn't a Tesla! No big stints in Poland for Pete this year, but he did go over to Germany with his kiddos for an exchange program...which I found interesting. So, he goes to Germany with his kids, but sends them to stay with another family while Pete and his wife get to drink around Germany for 2 weeks?? Classic good deal Pete! Keep kicking ass Pete and thank you for keeping the squadron spirit alive with everything you do for the booster club. We all know Brandyn ain't gonna do sh*t!

SMSgt Brad Love – Stan-Eval – Brad got DOGE'd harder than I think any branch in government. After getting offered to go sit at home, drink beer, and watch the Bachelor all while getting paid, Steve Schweiss said SEE YA to the base. So, who took on all those additional sim duties? Brad did. That just goes to show that the loudest guy at the squadron is also the most humble. Next time you see Brad give him a thank you and a hug because he probably needs one... I also think Brad and a couple other guys officially “broke in” the new squadron building setting a new time record for “just gonna have a beer at the squadron” of 2 a.m.! Gonna be a tough one to beat! Oh and he's still bald in case you were wondering.

MSgt Bryan Storbeck – Training Flight – Getting his flying legs back under him and officially out of tactics! Bryan crawled out of the vault and discovered that life on the outside ain't that bad! Bryan has been going on and on about how excited he is to plan this year's Christmas party! Every time it gets brought up, he gets all giddy! But like anything else Bryan does it'll be done right. Keep fighting the good fight and good luck finding instructors to fly with any of these newbies coming down the pipe! Oh, and bought another Tesla, so he probably understands this next joke very well, “My heart goes out you” Bryan!

MSgt Troy “Fly-Boy” Johnson – Stan-Eval – One second...he has to put his old person bifocals on...okay now he needs to place his finger on the paper to help guide his reading. Okay, now he’s ready, lock-in Troy. This ole flyboy really knows how to pull one over on us...one second, he’s planning on living in Germany for a year thus retiring early/opening a AGR backfill, the next second he’s staying and getting sent over to stan-eval to enact his revenge for all the “trauma” we’ve given him. I guess that’s why they call him the “*Master of pulling out last second.*” Anyways, thank you Troy for always being a good sport and the old smelly fart that you are. Even though some stuff you say is borderline racist and crazy...we still love you like that old dog that just won’t die... Doesn’t need to be stated but you and Tracey can always come to us booms in case you need anything, just don’t post photos of us on Facebook when we ding dong ditch y’all next time! Just trying to have a little fun old man!

MSgt Karley Holtz – MPC – Writing the yearly update for Karley is always a little bit difficult and I think its because she works behind the scenes for a lot of things around the squadron and never gets the recognition she deserves. From groups planning an event to organizing gifts/cards for people, Karley probably played some type of role in all of it. I know Dana and I picked her brain a bunch for last year’s boom Christmas party, and it wouldn’t have gone well at all without her help. Thank you for being the ultimate mom of the squadron and for all the thoughtful gifts throughout the year! Trust me, it does not go in unnoticed by everyone, just the guys with very small smooth brains.

MSgt “Good Deal” Luke Ellis - MPC – Not an official award, but it should be: “most days hungover during record breaking heat in Wisconsin.” If Guinness World Records hasn’t heard about it then someone needs to get them on the phone because this man right here is raising the bar for every middle-aged white dad out there. They better do it quick too because the EAA organizer crown may be getting passed onto a new generation of coordinators. Like all legends, at some point they know when enough is enough, and this year may have been Luke’s best year yet. So grab a Miller, raise it high, and cheers to you Luke! Thank you for always going the extra mile and ensuring that everyone’s family gets taken care of!

TSgt Lavontae Harper-Tactics/Coach’s – Tae’s favorite part about his new office in tactics is that it’s actually his bar! It’s hard to have two jobs, but when you don’t come in for one, it makes the other pretty manageable. Now...some spears were thrown there...but guess what Tae don’t care because Tae has a big ole wrinkly brain and owns a fricken bar and still manages to casually read the AFMAN 13-520 in his spare time! *Psst Tae - the 13-520 is XP AFI for everything XP related, just in case anyone asks.* Anyways, congrats on your 1-year anniversary at Coach’s, Tae! It’s awesome having such a great place to go celebrate stuff or just swing by for a beer. You’re the man and keep killing it! Oh, and seeing you bought a Tesla this year, “My heart goes out to you”!

TSgt Carla Villarreal - Scheduling – I would have really liked to write Carla’s stuff in brail, but it’s unfortunately not in the budget. Carla really likes to take things head on, including an iPad and a steering wheel...she will do anything to get out of work, typical AGR member! In case you didn’t hear, Carla pushed an MCT student to the point that they “accidentally dropped” their iPad on Carla’s face...apparently they don’t teach you how to dodge an iPad in instructor school. A few weeks later she decided to get rear ended at a green light or something and banged her face off the steering wheel. It all worked out though because in the end Carla emerged driving the most American vehicle out there, a Tesla...Carla if you were going to support stuff like that you could have at least gone with a Volkswagen! Hahah all jokes aside, Carla has been killing it and continues to be a major influence around base and at the squadron. Keep being amazing Carla and watch out for falling iPads. PS: Good luck with the ole smooth brain marine...intel has a pointee-talkie that you can use to communicate with him. BTW “My heart goes out to you”!

TSgt Zachary Pulido – Carla’s Paper B*h** — When the interview board saw that Zach ate 32 perioges in one sitting while he was TDY to Poland, they knew they had found their man. Zach is the newest full-timer technician at the squadron, and it just goes to show that you don’t need brawn, intelligence, experience, a great head of hair, chiseled jawline, years of experience in intel, or more years of service, all you need is a mustache. I saw Carla teaching Zach how to schedule the other day, and it literally looked like someone teaching their dog a trick. That’s fitting though as we all know Zach is one hell of a devil dog, though he has a body of a slipperybaby seal. We all got to see Zach’s chest at the last Christmas party and I gotta say I don’t think I have ever seen something so smooth. First, I was amazed and enamored by it, but after a while I felt physically ill and sickened. Anyways, lets keep the shirt on this year Zach...though we all know it’s coming off eventually... Congrats on the full-time spot buddy, keep killing it and being yourself, you’re truly the heart of the squadron and keep everything fun. Oh also...LECH POZNAN, LECH POZNAN!!! JANKE! PS: F***K you and Will for cutting me in line. I will not forget that. Revenge will be soon.

Traditional

MSgt Mat Gryzb - Fireman – Found out firsthand that that being Chief boom isn't as fun as it may sound. That being said I'm sure there were plenty of frightened new booms that found comfort when they saw the chiseled Mr. Clean at the bottom of the air stairs ready to embrace them to the Deid. In typical Air Force fashion, Mat has been fighting the medical gods and waiting for a waiver so he can fly again. The waiver is for "being in too good of shape" or something similar but he's had to start an OnlyFans to supplement his income. Check him out at Big_Boom_Energy...it's exclusively feet pics while in contact, the views are stunning to be honest. Keep up the good work Mat and let us know when you want to go beat some medical nerd a**!

MSgt Jordan Jungwirth – Retired State Trooper/mediocre airborne trooper – "Aircrew still argue to this day why Jungwirth jumped. Maybe it was the pride, having survived so many brushes with death. Maybe his ego pushed him off. I don't know, but that shit was crazy". Like the absolute legend Jordan is, he added another "remember that one time Jordan did this thing" to his story. From EUCOM to PACOM, Jordan has been traveling around the world this past year. That being said, he doesn't travel via train anymore and for good reason...I won't go over what happened because by the time Jordan stood up after falling off a train, everyone knew about what happened. I was sitting in my room watching a respectable Polish program with a glass of wine when Drew called me frantically that Jordan "just fell really bad"...all was good though. Jordan got stitched up and was trying to fly the very next day... The only serious thing I will say in this boom signal: Jordan, we are all truly happy that you're ok. Back to being sarcastic. Jordan is slowly approaching retirement and that makes me sad as hell. Jordan is a legend here at the unit and is the only boom here who has their own groupies. If you haven't seen Jordan work up at EAA, you gotta make it up there some day. He has signed so many old airplane nerd's chests its crazy. Love ya Jordan!

MSgt Justin Jung – Guardsman – Justin is our newest IB and I heard that he did quite well down in Altus! That is no surprise seeing that Justin is way smarter than most booms around. Justin has been killing it as MPA ADO and leader of other odd jobs around the squadron. Somehow lost out to Zach for the recent boom technician job?? I heard he ran in there, flashed his abs and yelled "sex sells"! Probably not the best idea, but I love the effort. It goes without saying that Justin did not do that...but maybe should have? I can say this stuff too Justin because I am 0-2 getting a full-time slot so I feel your pain. BTW, I also shaved my mustache for both interviews... Anyways, Justin is an incredible asset to have within the boom group and will crush any and all future things that are thrown his way. We just need some more of these q-tip heads to retire before it's our time Justin...soon my beautiful prince, soon.

MSgt Lynda Daley- Guardsman – Lynda is our newest Mom IB, and we are here for it! If you didn't know, Lynda went to IB upgrade a few years back but unfortunately returned before graduating due to some medical stuff. Most would have just thrown in the towel and never gotten back in the ring, not Lynda though. Lynda had to repeat the whole process and go back to Altus, but this time LYNDIA was victorious! Some say I take it way too easy on Lynda in these boom signals *cough cough Paul*...but it's because she truly is such a great person and always here for people at the squadron. That all being said.... she did buy a Tesla so we all know what that means...but hey, those types of people can be nice too! "My heart goes out to you"!

TSgt Kurtis Strasser – Guardsman – Currently hating life down at Altus for instructor upgrade. My favorite quote from Kurtis while he was in training here was "I have learned a lot more in the past few days than I ever learned at instructor upgrade for loadmaster" Uh yeah Kurtis! Loadmasters don't know sh*t... that's why booms are the best and we have our own patch! Anyways, Kurtis is in the works of moving out to Spokane and we are all saddened, but excited for him at the same time! He will obviously still be around for drills and stuff but won't be around as much as he has been this past year, which sucks because he's a great personality to have around the office. Keep digging Kurtis and always know us booms have your back!

TSgt Bryan Groshek – Assistant to the regional Principal – Been a pretty quiet year for Bryan. Dude has been working his tail off at school and being a dad, but we really need to get him out on the road so we can get some more stories with him. He's been doing the lord's work though and flies night lines/does night sims for guys & gals that do their best to avoid coming into the squadron during regular hours. It's also probably because he doesn't want to shave his beautiful beard every time he comes in and we don't blame you Bryan! Keep up the good work you beautiful man!

TSgt Donovan Cole - *Guardzman* – Quiet professional is the best way to describe Donovan’s past year. He deployed last year like a badass and has been around the squadron a little bit more than in years past. He got to help command post out a little bit and did a stint on MPA. Thanks for all your hard work over the past year Donovan and we look forward to what’s to come next year!

TSgt Nick “L-12” Lichtenwalner – *Guardzman/SSR* – Nick knows the meaning “Persistence is Key”. After years and years of begging for a trailer, Nick finally got what he has dreamt about since he was a wee-lad. We just need convince Nick to let us take the camper out for Animals at some point! The lowest flying hour jacket is starting to fit Nick pretty well nowadays. I’m honestly not sure if he will have any completion this year...Keep doing you Nick and thanks for always keeping our computers up to date and for being one of our iPad nerds.

TSgt Alyssa Degner – *Guardsmen* – Alyssa is back on flying status whoop whoop! Alyssa had a little break to raise a family but she’s back and knocked out some requal stuff quicker than anyone before. The squadron missed Alyssa’s friendly and happy personality so much while she was out that they decided to bring in her sister! Alyssa has been crushing the schedule since she got back on flying status and has really been helping with the passenger flights we have. Rumor has it she now tests the sit down toilet in the latrine....I’ll let her tell you about the experience haha!

TSgt Nate Walters – *Waukesha Airport Airplane Technician* – Nate is the perfect example of a DSG boom operator. Flies when he needs to, stays current on training items, and gets the job done every time, which can’t be said for most of the AGR members... Heard that he recently went to a Nickelback concert and cried during “Photograph”. Keep up the good work dude and I hope to see you around the squadron more over the next year!

TSgt Jake Dunsmore - *Guardzman* – Marked 2025 as the best year he has ever had and married his best friend. Sends up a thank you every day for what the tanker and squadrons he’s been apart of have done for him. Doesn’t take being a boom for granted for one second. Also, still the funniest boom at the unit by far. Great ass as well.

TSgt Dana Polzin – *Fire Extinguisher Person??* – Haha just kidding, Dana works at Ahern and absolutely LOVES it there... Dana’s real job this past year has been planning her and Allen’s weddings. Yes, plural. Dana is the richest poor enlisted boom I have ever met. Not sure what kind of Fire Extinguishers they’re selling over at Ahern, but apparently, they’re very profitable. Just kidding, we are all very excited for you and Allen. Y’all have so many opportunities ahead of you and just know that everyone at the squadron has your back. In a way to get back at me for last year’s boom signal, Dana has completely stolen Hailey away from me. Now all Hailey talks about is drinking wine and fairy smut, so thank you Dana you’ve taken everything from me. Keep crushing it and please please please lay off the fairy smut...its not good for your brain. Oh, and congrats on making TSgt!

SSgt Austin Berns – *UPS HVAC Mechanic* – It’s been an oddly quiet year for Austin...a little too quiet. Austin crushed a 3-month deployment to the Deid this past summer and I heard nothing but great things from his pilots. I also heard that he’s quite the conspiracist! This guy never stops working, but hopefully someday it’ll slow down enough for him to join us at more boom events. Keep up the good work Austin!

SSgt Samantha Cardarelle – *SLUM* – Aka the 2nd coolest person at the squadron, Sam is the current unit Squadron Link Unit Manager. If you don’t know what that means...read a book. Sam has been absolutely killing it at the unit. From deploying, MPA, MRAs, EAA, locals, etc. Sam has been doing the lords work at the squadron and making everyone else look like a bunch of chumps. She’s also been doing all this while planning the most epic wedding anyone has ever seen! It’s literally at the EAA museum and her wedding invite was a fricken plane ticket! How dope is that?!? Congrats on everything Sam! Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we are all excited to see what you do in the future!

SSgt Jared Nyland – *Guardzman* – Still known around the squadron as one of the new guys, Jared has been quietly putting in work on MPA and some MRA lines. Don’t really have anything crazy to say about Jared besides, he looks like an off-brand version of Morgan Wallen... Now I can say that because I look like a real-world version of Mclovin so don’t get all butt hurt Jared, at least you look like a rich pandering country artist! Keep up the good work and please come help us at volleyball. I haven’t attended a game yet, but I’ve heard that without you we look like an abysmal version of the volleyball scene from Top Gun. Like not only are we bad at volleyball, but the sweat, body rolls, and smell cannot be described.

A1C Cadon “Baby Hardesty” Hardesty – Guardsman/Future College dropout – You know what...this year I was gonna be nice to Cadon and say some nice stuff, such as “Cadon is the definition of a Hardesty - kind, naturally talented when it comes to flying-related stuff, and respectful to everyone he comes into contact with” but then he went ahead and asked me a dumb ass question. Wanna know what it was? “How fast is 400 mph”?... and that pissed me off. It’s questions like this that make me wonder if he was dropped and dribbled on the ground as a kid...I then look at his dad and go yup, definitely dropped. It’s a good thing your skin is so thick Cadon because if we picked on anyone else as much as we pick on you, they would have quit a long time ago. That being said you probably don’t truly understand most the jokes because we talk to fast. Keep up the hard work both at the squadron and in school. I could go on but the more I think about all the dumb questions you’ve asked the more my brain hurts.

SrA Jess “Air Drop” Rohleder -Guardsman- Okay...I have to be a little careful here because if I say the wrong things I might just end up dead in a ditch somewhere. Jess is the best new boom we’ve had in a long time...she is hard working and motivated to learn...unlike tater brain who just went through MCT before her. She will also try to kill you if you try to instruct her... Oh damn, I didn’t mean to type that. I’m sorry Alyssa, oh shit I mean Jess! Oh, double damn, I’m definitely dead now. I have never seen someone actually shoot lasers out of their eyes until I witnessed someone call Jess, Alyssa... Which is crazy because the two of them couldn’t be more different. Jess is like a cooler version of Alyssa. Oh, shit now Alyssa is gonna kill me! Jess has been a great addition to the booms and has been killing the flying schedule. She is also getting married this summer and we are all stoked for the party! Congrats Jess and we are excited for you to join the boom family!

Incoming

Recently Selected or At School Somewhere:

SSgt Colton Greenhill – Guardsman – Currently loving life down in Altus... Colt 45 is a prior crewchief and will make an excellent boomer. Looking forward to getting him back and hoping his thighs have healed from the last Brewer’s outing!

A1C Christian Gollop – Guardsman – Christian is also down in Altus but he’s getting close to knocking out his checkride! He will then have some fun up in Spokane before heading home. We are stoked to get him home and to get to know Christian!

Sloan Zsohar - Guardsman – Not sure what nickname we will go with, Zohan or Zoltan. Zoltan heads off to basic training soon and will then start his legendary boom operator career. Good luck Zohan! Keep us in the loop and don’t cry in front of the MTI, they’ll eat you alive...I would know.

Outgoing

CMSgt Pat Sosinski – Retired Boom – After a 37-year career, Chief Sosinski has officially retired. Everyone had a great time at his retirement party and made it a night to remember. Congratulations Chief! If you wanna find him, you better grab your clubs because I’m sure he is out on the golf course somewhere. Keep in touch Pat!

Defectors

SSgt Conner Reynolds – Pilot wannabe – Couldn’t handle what it takes to be a boom so decided to take the easy way out. Conner headed out to start his officer career and we haven’t heard much on how he’s doing. Like everyone else this year, Conner got married and everyone had a blast at his party! Keep up the hard work Conner. I want to state this now, I will charge you every time I correct you on an approach...I prefer Venmo or cold beer.

Lt. Col. Paul Matthews – 128th AMXS Commander in Chief – Still rocking the commanders gig over with MX. Nothing too new going on with Paul, just waiting to pin on Colonel at some point.

Maj. Niko Ilich – FedEx Pilot Model – Crushed a bunch of trips early in the year but unfortunately headed back to FedEx for a little while. Niko and Lindi have taken over the pilot hiring duties and have been crushing it. They have picked up some great people and are helping shape the unit for generations to come. Thanks for all the hard work!

Maj. Andrew Kueffler – Mission Planning – Drew has been absolutely killing it in Mission Planning. We are on track to fly over 2000 hours this year and a huge part of that is due to Drew and his leadership in Mission Planning! We are excited to see where Drew ends up in the coming years but wherever it is you know he will crush it. Thanks for putting in the extra time and effort that is required from leading mission planning.

Capt. William Pelkofer – Technician/Mission Planning – Somehow this guy not only made Captain but is also an AC... Will has been putting in the work in the jet and it has paid off. Soon his nerves will be tested when all these new copilots start rolling in. He's gonna need that vape more than ever!

SMSgt Anthony Walter – LRS – Continues to crush it over in Vehicle Operations. Hopefully, he can make it to the boom Christmas party this year. Strickland has even started showing face at parties and to be honest, it's starting to lose its charm. I think if we can get Anthony to come out, it would make parties much more enjoyable. Don't be a stranger Anthony!

MSgt Benjamin Casper- FSS – We will finally have someone who cares about ops during a NORI! Ben took over at the FSS recently and we are already seeing changes. Keep killing it Ben!

TSgt Elvis Alvarado – Recruiting aka Air Force Influencer – Well Elvis's twerking on TikTok has finally paid off and the unit met recruiting numbers for the first time in a while! These zoomers saw Elvis's raw talent and couldn't resist signing that dotted line. Nah it probably wasn't the twerking, it may have been the recruiting team as a whole. Elvis has been putting together an A-team of recruiters, and we're excited to see what they can do in the future! Keep crushing it, Elvis!

Boom Stowed and Latched for the final time.

The list here can get pretty long and I'm sure I've missed a few so I apologize in advance. A few of these last names may look familiar, gotta love legacies.

To our new Retirees! Thank you for your service.

Amanda Look	Julie Van Eart	Robert Kowalski
Tom Orosco	Dave Eddy	Tom Sroka
Laurie Hrovatin	Floyd Polzin	Dan Schmidt
Dick Harvey	Bruce Rintlemann	Jerome "Penguin" Schiessl
Earl Gauerke	George Snamiske	Steven Schweiss
William 'Eche' Evhevarria	George Sweet	Mike "Werm" Weimer
Don Harvey	Chris "Pops" Johnson	John Magnus
Dean Dachenbach	Ron Puzia	Tony White
Herb Kiefendorf	Ray Fassett	Marlin Mosley
Lee Cornell	Dave Eddy	Don Strickland
Teckla Thorn	Jenny Wieland	William Mattert
Robert Derrick	Ray Bazen	Patrick Sosinski*
Gerry Nelson	Tom Breier	
John Famularo	Ralph Ellis	

Honorary Booms and retired FE's (KC-97 Flight Engineers)

Yes, we have been in the tanker business a long time. Here are our distinguished honorees...

Lt Col Lucas Daley (Current Pilot)	Lt Col Carson Hardesty (Retired Pilot)
SMSgt Jeffrey Lampe (Retired HARM/SARM)	Col Shawn Gaffney (Retired Pilot)
Lt Col Peter Hoffmann (Retired Pilot)	Lt Col Gary Tenney (Retired pilot)
SMSgt Balinda Kostuch (Retired Finance)	Don Paddock (Retired Pilot)
Lt Col George Bacik (Retired Pilot)	Moe Storbeck (Retired CMD Post)
Norm Poberezny (Retired FE)	Allen Hobbs (Retired FE)
Col. Murry Mitten (Retired Pilot)	Lon Hansen (Retired NAV)
Rod Langford (Retired NAV)	John Lessila (Retired FE)
Dan Pagel (Retired pilot)	Jane Timm (Retired HARM/SARM)

*Respectfully,
Jake and Hailey Dunsmore*

ARIZONA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

**161st ARW
Goldwater Air National Guard Base**

***“THE COPPERHEADS”
197th Air Refueling Squadron***



This Unit did not submit.

GRISSOM ARB, IN

72 ARS

“The Dark Side”



This Unit did not submit.

GRISSOM ARB, INDIANA

74th ARS

“Fighting Red Tags”



This Unit did not Submit.

HURLBURT FIELD, FLORIDA
435 TRS OL-A (fka USAF EOS DET 1)



This Unit did not submit

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NJ

2nd Air Refueling Squadron

“Second to None”



Senior Enlisted Leader:

SMSGt Andy “Ricky” Keiser- Senior has mastered the art of leading from afar — TDYs, leave, alternate dimensions, you name it. He's done more miles than an AMC tanker without actually stepping foot in one. He's led the squadron with the same number of appearances as a solar eclipse. Inspiring... from a distance.

Operations Superintendent:

MSgt Andrew Abney- Always the SEL and never the Senior. The man who's done more time as SEL than any actual SEL, without ever getting the title... or the rank. He's like the Walmart version of leadership; does the job, gets zero recognition, and still ends up doing all the SrA EPBs.

Stan/Eval:

(M)Sgt AJ “Horus” Velasquez- AJ has served as SEL more times than we can count — and somehow survived every exercise, every deployment, and at least one Det Commander who thought “micromanagement” was a leadership style. Honestly, if the SEL position were a PCS, he'd be getting short tour credit by now. Through all this suffering there is a silver lining in the fact that he made MSgt!

TSgt David Simpler- The only person to receive five sets of Altus orders without ever actually getting there. At this point, the 56th ARS is just emotionally attached. Honestly, we're starting to think AFPC is just trolling him now, one RIP at a time. But hey! Dave could use some AETC training if it'll help him submit TAPRs on time. Apparently a 3-week turn around is fast for him.

SrA Christopher “Jett” Miller- Proving that the most dangerous part of flying is... recreational softball. Took a pop fly to the dome and got grounded for two months. Wild how he’s got the hand-eye coordination to refuel jets at high speeds mid-air... but not to catch a slow-moving softball gently floating toward his face. They say he’s a SELE, but he hasn’t been seen in the office since Mr. Hughes was still a Flight Engineer, honestly if you’re looking for an excuse to get out of something, talk to Chris, I’m pretty sure he has an entire book of excuses to use.

Training:

MSgt Fritz Thompson- First Sergeant of the whole Operations Group despite never asking for the job, and somehow the only instructor the 32d ARS can locate in a crisis. The Ops Group acts like they physically can’t function without him — and honestly, they might be right. The Air Force calls it “Multi-Capable Airman” — Fritz just calls it Tuesday.

SSgt Justin Draffen- Recently selected for SLEP-O, proving the Air Force will commission anyone if you apply often enough. Caught mid-“research” on his laptop during a flight when he should’ve been instructing a student. Nothing says future leader like getting pulled aside by the SEL for watching content that wasn’t exactly in the syllabus.

(T)Sgt Mike Aherne- As one of the newest IBs to the squadron Mike decided to flex his instructor muscles by doing a BOT with the SEL. Rumor has it that Mike made him cry and contemplate retirement. Constantly on the road where he likes to show off his MMA skills with other IBs (sober of course), a true asset to have. We’re super proud of Mike for making Tech this cycle!!!

SrA Branden Hieber- Has a commercial pilot’s license, which makes him the most overqualified person to be sitting in the back of a jet watching someone else land it. At this point, we’re pretty sure he’s just here for the snacks and sarcastic crew commentary.

SrA Austin Cowan- The man, the myth, the nonstop passenger handler. He handled passengers once... and never stopped. Not because he loved the job, but because one of them became his girlfriend. He nearly gave the SEL a stroke by casually announcing he was in the ER only to reveal it was for a *pimple*. Heroic work, truly.

Amn Deron Ricker- New Mission Boom and a man who took cold showers for three straight months like it was part of SERE training. Never complained. Never asked for help. Probably thought it was just an Air Force rite of passage. Ricker also has a knack for digging himself into a hole, whether it be dumb questions on an IBs check ride or asking a loaded political question during a very awkward car ride, this guy just doesn’t know when to stop talking. He gives Zero from “Holes” a run for his money...Hey that’s a good callsign.

Operations:

TSgt Daquane “DQ” Spikes- Headed to OTS to fly RPAs, which makes sense, because after planning an airshow he knows he’ll never have to do that again since no one goes to airshows to watch drone’s fly. He "loved" being an airshow planner the way we all "love" staff meetings: with quiet suffering and suppressed rage.

(T)Sgt Charles Moore- The man who can do anything (well, except run restraint), so naturally, we make him do *everything*. He’s been voluntold so many times, he probably flinches when someone just says “Hey real quick...” He’ll do it faster than whoever was actually assigned the task. The only thing he *hasn’t* done is complain... which is starting to feel suspicious. It all paid off for him because the dude made Tech!!!!

SrA Joshua Lovelace- Runs scheduling like he owns the time-space continuum. People with rank on their shoulders still come crawling to him like, “Uh, Josh... how do I do my job again?” He’s also the squadron’s only UCC, because apparently, we trust one SrA more than an entire room full of officers.

SrA Jackson Massey- Jackson appears to have other worldly powers beyond human comprehension. He not only mastered the Art of telekinesis by conducting AR without the use of his hands, but he also seems to be able to slip in and out of alternate dimensions. Jackson picked up his flight frames, then entered a new dimension where he *didn't* pick them up and forgot all about it the very next day. Still in training, but already preparing for a future of lost CACs, forgotten passwords, and walking into a room saying, "Wait, why am I here?"

SrA Emma Norton- Finally freed from the dungeon known as OGV, where dreams go to die and inboxes never empty. She's out now, but still trapped in her own mind, overthinking every career move like she's trying to unlock the Air Force's secret ending. Just take a breath, Emma — it's okay if your 20-year plan doesn't include a flowchart.

SrA Blake Lewis- finally back on the jet after breaking his wrist doing something so suspiciously vague. Then he celebrates his return with a mission to Denmark where he singlehandedly took out a gas rental car by feeding it diesel fuel. Tactical sabotage at its finest.

A1C Alex Meraz- Alex is the newest airman in scheduling and is doing his due diligence to find any reason to not be there. Meraz is a close 2nd to Griener as the quietest boom in the squadron, if you ever do get him talking, he typically has no idea what is going on around him and just kind of exists. I'm convinced he may be some sort of data collection asset.

Readiness:

TSgt Javier Garcia- If you ask Javi right now if he's staying in, he'll say "Yes!". Wait 5 minutes and ask him again...you might be shocked by his answer. When he's not mentoring the airmen in readiness, you can usually find him on the road or more likely than not on leave.

SSgt Jesse Hill- Selected for OTS to go fly RPAs (his number one choice), which is a bold move considering no one's ever stood at an airshow and said, "*Wow, I hope they bring out the drones next.*" the undisputed king of good deal trips. Avoids the office like it's radioactive, and if you *do* see him at his desk, it's probably because his leave got denied.

SrA Nicolas Yoshida- Now that he's approaching his DOS, Nic is having one of those quarter life crisis. Much like Javi, he also changes his mind on the future, maybe readiness breeds indecision. Always eager to get on the road and do stuff, he has the potential to be a reliable boom... as long as he remembers the correct time for his official appointments.

SrA Dominic Just- In a move that sent shockwaves through the music industry, Dominic has taken a hiatus on his music career, he said he just couldn't take the fame anymore, He even scrapped his Instagram handle off his car. Now he spends his time going TDY and locking himself out of hotel rooms (clothing optional). We can't wait to see what he does next.

SrA Noah Greiner- If you ever want advice on Stocks, Bonds, or any other finance question, Noah is your guy. With a direct feed from Wall Street, Noah has turned Readiness into a mini stock exchange. He knows more about stocks than he does about anything related to being a boom operator. He is reliable at the end of the day, a true quiet professional.

Tactics:

SSgt James Balsler- When he's not trying to swindle Airmen into painting his house in exchange for meats, you can find Balsler in Tactics as the NCOIC or as a new addition to the KC-46 IB force. Legend has it, if you stand in the lav, stare at the mirror, and say Sean's Room 3 times, Balsler will appear to tell you that he was a KC-10 instructor.

SrA Ryan “Kink” Kinkead- If you ever see Kinkead with a butter knife DO NOT ask him where it’s been, trust me you don’t want to know. Constantly TDY with a full year’s supply of baked Ziti, Ryan is always ready to go to war. When he’s not on the road you can usually find him in tactics where he quietly mumbles something about Central Jersey not being a real place.

Safety:

SrA Duante Batiz- If there was an award for the “Worlds Okayest Boom Operator” here is your guy. Always the guy to do last minute TDYs, alerts, etc. No more no less. Batiz is known for his preference for older...*things*. You can usually find him at antique shops or the local Bingo Hall. If you see him talking to your mom, spray him with water and he’ll go away.

Commander’s Support:

A1C Daniel Whitham- Whitham came to the squadron with a chip on his shoulder, leaving Altus with a Commendable. Daniel was quickly humbled on his first No-Notice where he received an EQ, don’t believe me? Stand next to him for more than 5 seconds and I’m sure he’ll find a way to bring it up. Somebody needs to tell him that even if he does the co-pilot’s job he still gets paid the same.

Attached/On-Loan:

CMSgt Christopher “Bam Bam” Joyce- Chief set a record over his many years as an evaluator on the KC-46... 0.0 hours. Though technically attached to us, he always seems to be flying with our baby sister squadron. Probably because we set the bar high and he’d rather have the kid glove treatment. Speaking of gloves, he needs to wear them during dodgeball because they probably would have saved him from breaking a finger. That didn’t keep him from the golf course though, which proves one thing; he’s dedicated... just not to the AROS. Best wishes as you aim for Command Chief! We’ll save you a seat if you ever decide to fly with us.

SrA Austin Ouellette- Austin loved scheduling so much he decided to take his talent to the big leagues and move on up to Current Ops where he apparently enjoys it!?! Although he’s only attached to the squadron, he still enjoys flying locals and going TDY (if he can find someone to watch his dog).

Recently Departed:

TSgt Richard “Jimbo” Jimenez- The only person brave enough to put “MB” as one of his Future Roles on his EPB. I’m convinced Jimbo has a genie in a bottle in his house somewhere. Over a few months he got a big fat reenlistment bonus right before Daddy Airforce took bonus’ away, got his dream assignment to Edwards, and married an officer so he can finally pursue his dream of being a Stay-at-Home husband. He will truly be missed.

TSgt Ethan Bowen-Ethan is a prime example of how life comes at you fast. In a span of a few months he was selected for weapons school, selected for MSgt, and introduced a new family member into the world. Always upbeat, we wish him the best as he moves on from the Duce.

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NJ

32 Air Refueling Squadron

“PASSING GAS & KICKIN’ ASS”



Senior Enlisted Leader:

SMSgt Charles “Chuck” Taylor – Chuck completed his instructor upgrade this year and immediately upgraded himself to evaluator again. Somehow, he has memorized every aspect of the KC-46. Whenever he’s not flying the line, he’s usually fighting with the MPF because they messed up someone’s re-enlistment paperwork...AGAIN!!!

Operations Superintendent:

MSgt Tim Lowman – He loves talking about how much he didn’t like his time in the CR. We all know he’s lying and that he loved it since that’s all he ever talks about. If you need a tent built for an exercise or a GO’s base visit, he’s your guy. He just completed in-house instructor upgrade and is ready to start teaching his future replacements.

Stan/Eval:

(T)Sgt Tyler “TK” Kelly – One of our new TSgt selects. He’s our sole EB in CCV and holding down the fort the best he can. He loves flying and being in the BOT. But, when he’s not working, he’s getting ready for his future as a state senator.

SrA Brandon Rivas – Brandon moved on from strat plans and is now a new IB and SELE. He’d much rather be in the jet than sitting at his computer in CCV.

Training:

MSgt Jake “Nemo” Nenneman – Immediately upon his PCS from Altus, he had his truck totaled by the base housing mechanics. He’s holding down the fort as the Flight Chief of Training and cleaning up all of the training profiles. He still terrifies his BIP candidates in the BOT or on flights. But he’s one of the best in the game when it comes to preparing our instructor upgrade candidates for Altus. Helps he was stationed there for most of his career.

Flt Lt Chase Rundle – Chase is our resident Aussie boom. He finished IB upgrade earlier this year and hit the ground running with our new MQT inbounds. When he’s not flying, he’s teaching everyone in the unit about the ins and outs of cricket.

(S)Sgt Lauren Hotaling – Finished IB upgrade this year. She still has to give Chief a reporting statement and recite the Airman’s Creed every time she goes home on leave. She’ll be heading to ALS after she returns from deployment and we’re still working to have her dad be the keynote speaker when she graduates.

SrA Elliot “Mac” Macintosh – Mac completed IB upgrade and was quickly upgraded to EB. He’s currently the EOGV rep down range. If you want/need a TERPS brief, he’s your guy.

Ops/Scheduling:

(M)Sgt Keifer Bowes – One of the two newest master selects in the unit. When he’s not following around the SEL looking for mentorship, you can find him in training or scheduling cracking jokes. Never a dull moment when Keifer enters the room.

(T)Sgt Nathaniel “Dona” Cardona – Returned to the unit from current ops earlier this year. We think he’s happy to be fielding phone calls from AC’s about how the G2 cut is wrong for their locals.

SSgt Tsering Dadul – One of our newest IB’s and SSgt’s. Still a quiet guy but we’re getting him to come out of his shell day-by-day.

SSgt Kyle Agnor – Our scheduling NCOIC. He’s got his hands full and is crushing it.

SrA Jake Mueller – You need someone to make announcements or speak at events? Jake is your guy. Completed IB upgrade and is now teaching the MQT students how to project and be louder when they talk on the jet.

SrA Thomas “T-Rob” Robinson – One of the unit’s schedulers. He’s not afraid to call you and say, “boy do I have a great deal flight for you.” They usually turn out to be Sunday super locals.

Readiness/Mobility:

TSgt Taylor Lucas – Our readiness and deployment SME. When he’s not telling people to complete their RAT requirements, he’s on the jet racking up the hours.

SrA Jonathan Fehrman – Our quiet professional. Emphasis on QUIET. One of our hardest workers and loves being in the air.

SrA Kevin Caceres – Hard worker and is starting to thrive in mobility. He’s starting his re-qual to get back up and flying again.

SrA Nicholas Petruzzi – Does anyone know where he’s at? Anyone? ANYONE? Working hard down in mobility to make the mission happen.

Tactics:

(M)Sgt Robert Shedd – Our second new master select. He lives for anything and everything tactics and connectivity.

SrA Bryson Lexow – Going to IB this fall. His mustache has become a thing of legend. When he’s not flying, he’s out snowboarding in the Northeast.

Support:

SSgt Jorge Hurtadorochal – One of the most professional men in the squadron. Dedicated not only to the mission, but making sure his Airmen are taken care of as well.

SSgt Alexys Gomez – Always available for a good deal trip. Somehow when a not so good deal comes down, he has too much on his plate in the exec shop.

(S)Sgt Keegan Salas – Just came to the unit from MacDill -135’s. She just completed MQT and is trying to rack up her hours.

(S)Sgt Jake Distant – Another of our newer IB’s. When he’s not “working” as an exec he’s in the air with our MQT students getting them trained.

SrA Heather Price – Hard worker in the unit. She couldn't fly for a bit so she became the in-processing guru. Now that she can fly again, she'll be getting spun back up and is ready to hit the road.

A1C Bailen "Big Lew" Lewis – Just completed MQT and immediately went out the door. Great attitude and awesome in the air.

A1C Noah Sites – Just completed MQT. You can find him in the air, checking e-mail or playing darts in the boom room.

A1C Kelby Therrien – Just completed MQT. Has a great attitude and is getting after the mission whenever he can.

Safety:

SSgt Jarad "Monty" Montgomery – Monty is crushing it in safety. He loves verifying the squadrons fire extinguishers are current and that you don't have too many plugs being used on the power strip in the office.

Attached/On-Loan:

MSgt Joe Del Toro – When he's not in his office (which is quite often), he's hanging out at the 32d. He has orders for Altus this fall. He claims to be excited, we'll see if that excitement stays once he gets there.

TSgt Aaron Hall – Recently got attached to the 32d. He's currently at Test/Eval. You can blame him for any future forklift cargo loading procedures that come down in any -9 Rev's.

TSgt Nick Gidaly – Holding down the fort at OGV (still don't know where his office actually is). With the 32d deployment, he's been our primary EB and we've been keeping him busy.

TSgt Jeremy Becnel – He's been at Wing XP for awhile now. I think he enjoys planning our local exercises that make us miserable.

Recently Departed:

MSgt Kevin Simon – Recently retired but you can still find him at the BX with his "Air Force Retired" hat on or swinging for the fences but barely hitting the ball out of the infield on the squadron's softball team. Thank you for your service!!!

MSgt Garrett "Keith" Machon – Recently retired out of Test/Eval. He was DNIF when he retired so he avoided one last final flight and getting drenched in water. Thank you for your service!!!

TSgt Mike Buchanan – Got picked up for OTS and left us earlier this year to go do bigger and better things. The 32d salutes you...mainly because we have to now.

TSgt Steven "Big Mert" Mertens – Big Mert moved onto Altus earlier this year. Now he's taking his knowledge and expertise as a tactician to teach the next generation of KC-46 boom operators.

TSgt Josiah Harris – Currently finishing his terminal leave for his separation. Good luck in the civilian sector.

SSgt Justin Wood – Justin got pushed back to the comm career field, good luck. Now we know who to call when the internet goes down.

SSgt Giovanni "Gio" Castillo – Recently PCS'd to Travis after he made SSgt. Good luck on the west coast.

SrA Jonathon Soo – Recently separated and is off to do bigger and better things in the civilian sector.

SrA Benjamin Gauspohl – PCS'd to Travis. Rumor mill is whispering he's gone to IB upgrade. Good luck at Travis.

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NJ

76 ARS

FREEDOM'S SPIRIT



This Unit did not submit.

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ
108th Wing:

It's been an interesting few years for the 108th Wing, from the sunseting of the KC-135, to the onboarding of booms from the 76th ARS and 78th ARS as they close their doors, to a TFI with our Active-Duty counter parts, and finally standing up the 170th ARS. There has been no shortage of challenges as we continue to learn the KC-46, work toward IOC, and define a future for the 108th's flying mission.

141 ARS
"Tiger, Tiger, Tiger"



CMSgt Aaron Hendrick – 141st SEL - Chief Hendrick jumped ship while he could and headed over to the 141st. He made his start in the training shop and eventually took his throne as the SEL of the 141st. Chief Hendrick continues to share his wisdom from his vast careers; he'll always make sure to compare your youth to his age and remind you that he was a flight attendant for 24 years.

SMSgt Robert "Rob" Rodriquez - Rob is a master of having an open folder. Recently, Rob has finally become recurrent; however, he keeps his old school tendencies.

MSgt Phillip "Phil" Cullota - Phil has become a top donor for the Heritage Room, and he's always one for a good party. Phil manages a cop lifestyle while being an EB for the unit.

MSgt John 'JD' Darby - John lives and breathes for the guard. With both a cushy contractor job waiting for him and enough points to retire multiple times over, he refuses to get out. He either loves us or wants us to suffer; we don't really know.

MSgt Christopher “Chris” Howe - After a workplace accident, Chris has spent the past year DNIF. He has now been cleared to fly and is working to get back up to speed.

MSgt Kyle Klinger - With thousands of hours as a flight engineer, Kyle still got the BIQ treatment in Altus. Kyle has become a super sharp boom, with hundreds of bizarre experiences.

MSgt Matthew “Matt” Yockey - Matt lives a confusing life, but what we do know is that he’s a great boom, he loves to party, and don’t follow him unless you want to go on a death march to nowhere, especially if he tells you there’s free BBQ.

TSgt Gregory “Greg” Coburn - Greg has moved into DONO and works quietly out of sight... Rumor has it, they won’t let him back into the Deid.

TSgt Timothy “Tim” Harman – He’s so smooth not many know he made it over from AFRC. Between Captain upgrade and the wedding, he’s stretched pretty thin. We’re confident he’ll get current and of the lists soon!

SSgt Nate Miller - If he’s not lifting, he’s either in the bathroom or getting chewed out by Chief. Nate will be heading out to Altus soon for IB upgrade. Good luck Nate, and to his poor students.

SSgt Sean Callaghan - After the threat of his brother promoting before him, Sean finally decided to do his PME. Sean has been hired to be a pilot in the unit and continues to wait for his training dates.

SSgt Seth Philips – He’s the newbie of the bunch... once a high speed, low drag AD KC-10 instructor he’s come out of retirement to give this boom thing one more try. He’s made it over the hurdle of swearing in, but is playing the waiting game of getting a training slot.

SrA Jonathan “Jon” Sheehan - Jon will often tell you he’s coming to work, but you’ll never see him. Jon has become a master of getting on orders, and he puts in the work to deserve it.

170 ARS



SMSgt Jennifer “Jen” Bowen - After a full year of being out of the Stan Eval office, Jen has gotten into the groove of being the 170th SEL. Jen has been kept busy over the past year dealing with all the paperwork associated with being an SEL.

SMSgt Markos Moraitakis - A Greek god and a man of many deuces. Markos has taken up extra responsibility around the squadron and continues to work as a maintainer for American.

SMSgt Victor “Vic” Torres - If the 90’s had a spirit animal, it is definitely Vic. Vic continues to be a very active member of the unit while also being a stereotypical NYPD detective.

MSgt Alvaro “Al” Fable - You won’t be able to hear him talk, but get him in the club, and the ladies go running to him. Al has finally regained currency, and plans to keep it that way.

MSgt Dana Granteed - If you have ever wondered what Mr. Clean would look like as a firefighter, that's Dana. After converting (to the -46), Dana had to rack up additional hours to be eligible for IB upgrade. Good news for him is that he's almost there.

MSgt Brian “No “e” Kelly - Brian has become a supervisor and has been kept busy with all sorts of unusual work. Brian continues to work as a cop while making time for some LTMPA orders and pissing off Chiefs at NGB.

TSgt William “Bill” Vigilante - Bill can usually be found in the office laughing... At someone else's expense. Bill is still put to work in the training shop, seems he's gotten fond of his spot.

TSgt Derek Bates - When he’s not driving trains, he’s flying as a boom... Mostly the train thing though.

TSgt Angel Gonzalez - Angel loves his job so much, he got a cushy contractor job as a boom on the outside. Angel has made a living as a boom and shows no signs of changing that.

TSgt Matthew “Matt” Darabant - Being the only redhead in the unit, naturally we locked him in the MPC. Matt crushes it in the MPC and keeps the snacks well stocked.

TSgt Carla Luna - When she escapes the MPC, you can probably find her choking out Nate. Carla continues to own it in the MPC, she enjoys her time away from her teenage children.

TSgt Darel Matthews - He’s on orders, we think? Darel continues his work in the MPC, Darel doesn’t seem to mind the vault life.

SSgt Nicole Garced - Nicole is likely the one boom that doesn't need a headset to talk to the receiver pilots. After being freed from crew comm, Nicole can now be seen smiling and laughing throughout the office, mostly laughing.

SSgt Anas Sohail - His parents live with him, not the other way around. Anas has recently taken up some orders to be put to work in the MPC.

SSgt Mohammed “Mo” Sulley - Mo has continued the hard work he put into learning the KC-135 to learning the KC-46. Recently, Mo has become our first Boom to deploy on the -46.

SSgt Matt “Z” Zielinski - Some say he's built like an Avatar, others say he's built like a sexy Avatar... You get the point... Stolen from the 32nd, Z continues to work on his ecology degree, and we sometimes wonder if he should've joined the Peace Corps.

SrA Anthony “Mouth” Scozzari - Mouth is our Adam Sandler; he loves a good time, and he takes pride in the work he does. His only issues are that he knows more about the KC-10 than the two tankers he’s actually been on, and he’ll try to convince you he grew a “5 O’clock” shadow 2 hours into drill weekend. I also heard he’ll go ANYwhere if you tell him there’s BBQ.

SrA James Callaghan- Younger half of the Callaghan brothers. James is one of our creative minds and has helped design patches for our squadron. He is mostly quiet but when he does speak it’s usually pretty witty.

A1C Mike Gray - Mike is our newest boom; unfortunately, he has been DNIF for most of his time here...

108 OSS



MSgt Brian Kelley - Brian has grown out his beard and is embracing his leprechaun heritage. Brian has been kicked out of the training shop and banished to the MPC. He has become well accustomed and is now killing it.

TSgt Bradley “Brad” Caruso - Brad has set our record for the shortest time between signing an AGR order and going DNIF. Brad has put his police job on the back burner for the guard.... Surely they won't have problems with that this time... Right?

TSgt Kyle Breitenbach - Kyle has moved out from the MPC, and into the training shop. Kyle has become well-versed in “getting learnt” and remains a big family kind of guy.

108 OG



MSgt Jason Craig - If a boom operator could walk on water, then it's Jason. Jason has made himself know as a DONO god, Cargo Jesus, and now our Stan Eval guy. We don't understand how he does it, but he knows almost all there is to know about the KC-46.

On Loan:

MSgt Vincent "Vince" Stokes - Vince is departing Stan Eval and moved on to NGB. Vince will be missed in the unit, and we'll be waiting for him to return. Finance, on the other hand, will be happy not to hear him quote the JTR.

Recent separations and retirements:

MSgt Robert "Bob" Slocum - After all those years of collecting points, he became reluctant to convert and so he punched out. Goodluck on your future endeavors and live it up in the retired life Bob!

TSgt Kim Moncayo - The other half of the flying Moncayo's, Kim is departing the Guard with her eyes set on being a commercial pilot.

SSgt Lenny Mota - Lenny has brought a personality to the unit and has always been happy with any card he's dealt. Lenny will be sliding over to another career within the guard; we're sure he'll crush it.

SSgt Brandon Moncayo - One half of the flying Moncayo's, along with his sister Kim. Brandon has recently decided to move on from the Guard, just as his wife did.

SrA Brian “Baby Killer” Kilpatrick - Brian has finally decided that the KC-46 isn't for him. We're unsure what the future holds for him, but one thing is for sure: stay away from bicycles; you don't need another broken bone.

A1C Antoni Castaldi - Antoni hasn't been with us for too long, but he has gone through initial qual on two airframes and managed a TON of paperwork in his time. Antoni has recently been accepted into the Air Force Academy. Good luck at the Zoo and bring the Guard spirit with you!

And here's to our former booms who have moved on to other jobs or retired:

Dave “Good Deal” Falkowski
Mike “Sly” Sylvester
Tom “Tron” Miller
Patrick “O Canada” Ogle
Steve Wemple
C.J. “Dexter” Smith
Edward Acosta
Michael Orcutt
Jason Nunez
Brian “Killer” Kilpatrick
Ray ‘Otto’ Petersen
Marshall “the Land Baron” Rice
Carl ‘I’m Baaaaack’ Heinert
Don “I can’t find my glasses” Smith
LeighAnn (Schuster) Bauer
Jose “I’m NOT heeere!” Rodriguez
Miguel “Billy” Badillo
Brandon Kehr
Jeff “SMART” Prskac
Ken “This IS my Good Side!” Stoddard
Marvin “The Great and Powerful Oz” Nichols
Samantha “Curly” Gerofsky
“Downtown” Scotty Brown
Marilia (Larry) Rodriguez
Joe “Lambchop” Lamantia
Ed “King of the Midgets” Montalvo
Augustin “Gus Gus” Alvarado
Curtis ‘Where did the time go’ Palmer
Fontain ‘Orbit’ Maurice Morris McCleary
John “Frustrated” Connor
Leyland “Not-so” Fast
Greg “Gucci” White
Alicia Judd

Frank “Biggest Feet in the Unit” Nucera
Steve “Gonzo” Gonzalez

John Holland
Paul “Joker, It Wasn’t Me” Matlack
Jim “DONT CALL ME CHIEF” Monaco
George “Of the New Jersey Grands” Grand
Glenn “Hoot” Houthuysen
Frank “Don’t Call Me Francis” McCarthy
Nick “Nicky” Bulko
Robert Louis Butler III “RB3
Mike “Grasshopper” Martin
Kevin Stoddard
Darrell “D-Man” Delle Site
Michael “G-Lover” Glover
Andy “I Like Rocks (Not the Music), Just Rocks” Kohlbecker
Tony “The Lip” Niwore
Marcie “The Gun” Montalvo
Andy “Stanley” Robinson
Steve “MOTHER” Falker
Gemini “GB” Bey
James “JR” Feigenbutz
Jason “Claymation” Roskam
Rob “STEM” Edelschein
Steve “The Grump” Gonzalez
Ken “Dutch” Schultz
Angie Chantre
Mike Martin
Jim “Swimmy” Simmons
Rich “Dog Balls” Emley
Stevee “Stinky” DeSanto
Kauriee “Cooter” Wood
Marlon Chantre
Heather “Sheetrock” Schoenrock

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY

321 CRS



This Unit did not submit.

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY

621 CRW EAST



This Unit did not submit.

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY

621 CRS



This Unit did not submit.

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY

621 CRSS



This Unit did not submit.

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY

621 AMOS



This Unit did not submit.

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY

78th ARS

“FIRST AND FINEST!”



This Unit did not submit.

KEY FIELD ANGB, MISSISSIPPI

153 ARS / 186 ARW

“MAGNOLIA MILITIA”



This Unit did not submit.

LINCOLN ANG, NEBRASKA

173 ARS / 155th ARW

“Hustlin’ Huskers”



CMSgt Matt “Eli” Ellison: Our fearless Shepherd, and brother there’s some lost sheep, he'd rather be flying his Yak or his newfound love, the Vampire than anywhere near the rest of us degenerates. Next time you see him, be sure to address him as CMSgt Ellison or Sir. Customs and Courtesies are essential to a man of his stature.

SMSgt Adam Krotz: Funny how quick he remembered he was in the military when he couldn't sit at home and “telework” his way through the year anymore. THANKS DOGE

SMSgt Isaac Cepek: Our resident cross between Sasquatch and Bruce Willis, he spends his days putting lesser men to shame and singlehandedly eating enough meat to offset every vegan's attempt to save the planet. He leads Stan/Eval when he isn't throwing tractor tires across the ramp and building tree houses.

MSgt Josh “Sugar Bear” Butts: "Shug" has finally given up on being a drain on the taxpayer system and has committed to retiring next year. It should be noted however that he has resolved to spend his last year as a government stooge to milk every cent he can by disappearing for extended periods of time during the workday with vague and unconvincing excuses, usually concerning RTIC, for his absence

MSgt Riki Foos: More of her time and energy is spent wrangling the rest of us ne're-do-wells and goofballs than flying. Which is good because we count ourselves lucky to have such a fierce advocate for lowly enlisted types, such as ourselves. We love you mama Foos

MSgt Brett Schutte: A veteran of real deployments, Schutte once proudly boasted that he would return from Guam with a six pack. Little did he know that the closest he would get to achieving his goals was a six pack for breakfast on the beach. Now he runs a tech start-up company inspecting powerlines, which seems odd because Kearney, NE has only had power and running water for 3 years. Never change, Schutte.

MSgt Jordan Wright: The unit's newest MSgt, Jordan went from almost Hulk Smashing his iPad on the first day of CAE classroom to being one of the finest booms to ever fly. He's a true leader and no one has a bad thing to say about him (mostly because they're terrified of him).

MSgt Brad "Boucs and Hoes" Bouc: Bad Brad promoted and with it, sold his soul and got thrown in XP for a few years. Don't feel too bad for him though, he has his own personal minion back there whenever Christie does decide to show up to work.

TSgt Chad Johnson: Still the fastest gun in the state, we think. We aren't sure because he is now "Daddy Chad" and hasn't been in the office for what feels like 6 months. We have heard unconfirmed reports that his prodigy is already a "B Class" USPSA shooter.

TSgt Ian Christie: The absolute master of guard bumming. This guy hasn't had a real job in nearly a decade. Despite the loss of LTMPA, Ian continues to beg, borrow, and steal enough pay days to fund his life doing whatever ridiculousness that Ian does in Downtown Omaha.

TSgt Colin "Nancy" Kerrigan: The life of every party, the undeniable wild card in any room. Lives part time in Chile because American women were unable to keep up with this legend. The Lord Almighty was kind enough to give us "Nance," but we thank God every day that he only gave us one.

TSgt Michael "Pizza Mike" Lynn: Pizza Mike is slinging deals in current ops and recently welcomed another child. A Jack of all trades and master of none.

TSgt Audrey Levey: Probably the only reason we ever get fighters on the schedule, receiver pilots have a tendency to get really excited when they hear her voice on the radio. Always a ray of sunshine, we really just keep her around for the snacks and Advil she always has in her purse.

TSgt Ben Wisnieski: FREE AT LAST Ben finally got out of the dirt lab and joined us full time. He thanks the big man up stairs for it every day. All great boom ideas run through Ben and he is the Bonified leader of the degenerate boom population. P-Dales newest homeowner, This man lives by 4 simple words. Pump Gas, Aquire Currancy.

TSgt Dalton Vettel: Has since moved back to his home state after tiring of working for TACC, which is a shame because he was the only person there that knew how to flight plan a tanker mission. The true loss however was that we will no longer be able to get NBA game updates in the jet without him.

SSgt Grant "Boss Baby" Albrecht: "Kettlebell Head" moved out west to pursue his dream of spending his days in the great outdoors and preserving wildlife. However, he spends most of his days wrestling drunk college kids at Lake McConaughy, which we all suspect he enjoys just as much. Can't wait for his wedding, which he so graciously invited all of Ops to. Enjoy the bar tab!

SSgt Steve "Call Me" Mabie: Our resident mascot, we originally brought "Potentially" on as a Make-A-Wish kid type situation, but it's been a couple years and he's still here so we aren't exactly sure what to do with him. Be sure to ask him about his shark encounter. Don't bother to ask him about that time he dropped a motorcycle on himself, however. That isn't as cool of a story as it sounds.

SSgt Nick Pollett: Holds down the local schedule and is basically an honorary RC-135 pilot for all the time and dedication he has devoted to training the Offutt Schoolhouse. Now that he has figured out you can squeeze in a little fishing on trips, he may finally get enough hours to upgrade to IB.

SSgt Sam "The Swizzler" Wisnieski: He's big, loud, and proud to be a boom operator. This man embodies the stereotype of a degenerate enlisted aviator, having once bought out an entire liquor store of Hamm's, and having the title to a moped in Guam that is probably in the bottom of the ocean. We aren't even sure that he actually likes Hamm's. Shooters

and Cowboy Killers have an odd habit of turning up in his presence only to disappear shortly after. Somehow, he is also a nurse.

SSgt Ethan “Griethan” Jasinski: Don’t let the last name Jasinski fool you, this man is a pureblood American. Entertain me, if you will, and recall the adrenaline pumping, 1776 inducing fight between Don Frye vs. Yoshihiro Takayama. Two giants, going blow for blow while standing toe-to-toe. Now, as you picture this culturally iconic crossover moment in history, think once again of our own Ethan Jasinski. A chiseled jawline that slices through his ops harder than any ribbon cutting ceremony. A man standing at a staggering six foot doesn’t matter, with perhaps no knowledge of a kilometer, a handlebar mustache waxed and prepped for you to hold onto, and a don’t stop won’t stop attitude. May God have mercy on your soul if you are to meet this man out for a drink. You are not Yoshihiro Takayama, and you will not last. He is the machine, the engineer, the sponsor, and the driver. Tony Stark could not build this man in a cave with any box of scraps. Now that you are ready.... DRIVERS, START YOUR ENGINESSSS!!!!

SSgt Eric Kobza: Another maintainer turned boom joined the ranks and were glad he did. Kobza is a great addition When/If he shows up to work during the week.

SrA Mitch “Banana Man” Albrecht: Turned 21 at Porky’s, Mitch could not get enough of Guam. Luckily for him he came home with all his teeth unlike his old landlord. His Monte Carlo still runs like a top, outlasting his brother Grants BMW winning him a fancy 20 dollars. He might be the only person ever to give 5 BIG BOOMS in the back seat of an F-16 after almost pissing his pants. The youngest, tallest, and Albrecht brother with most hair, AND STILL... THE UNDISTPUTED, BANANA CHAMPION OF THE WORLD.

SrA Hunter “Toothless” Horne: Once left home for deployment with 32 teeth, only to arrive at the deployed location with 31. The gracious host of Boom Gatherings, he is continuously perusing Facebook Marketplace to purchase other people's trash to convert to useful amenities for his fellow Booms.

Jackson Duncan: Our newest baby boom comes in at the ripe age of 19 and you can tell. He still loves telling his Altus story and for some reason his mom forgot to wake him up in time for his first flight with the squadron commander and chief boom.

RETIRED / MOVED ON\

Brad Musick: There's not a bad thing you can say about Brad, Nicest guy you will ever meet. Recently retired and is working for the state. We sure miss seeing him around everyday.

Lang Anderson: When not posting amazingly detailed explanations of the finer points of geopolitical issues, Lang is often seen roaming the world with his wife Anne, doing well and showing his face at as many unit functions as possible. Lang is a true American treasure.

Mary Baker: Mary is living in Lincoln with her husband.

Cassie Balzer (Sabatka): Cassie recently retired and accepted a full-time teaching gig down by Wichita

Kevin Block: Kevin still works full time as an outage dispatcher for Nebraska Public Power District in Kearney Nebraska

Gary Bornemeier: Gary is living his best life on Beaver Lake by Omaha, still kicking and still cleaning the Casey's out of Silver Bullets on a nightly basis.

Everett Bottass "Bubbles": recently finished TFOT and is waiting to go to UPT, when not waiting around he works for Collins aerospace and is directly responsible for all Block 45 issues, so blame him.

Bob Buck: Whereabouts unknown, if anyone has had a Bob Buck sighting, please let us know, (Bob set the record for the shortest Boom career in the ANG)

Dmitri Davila: Dmitri got tired of the cold, so he moved South all the way to Topeka. He is working in their Scheduling shop while waiting to go to UPT, Meat is missed here every day.

Randy Douglas: Hold onto our hats for this one, but Snowman is the 173rd ARS Commander, I know, none of us ever thought we would see the day. He spends most of his days threatening to retire, but we won't let him.

Gene Ernst: Gene finally retired from Boomin' after he ran out of people to tell "he was an instructor at Altus". Still living in Lincoln running the BOSS for us.

Mark Forster: Mark left flying in 2012 to take a full-time job as the State Command Chief and retired fully in 2016. After that Mark left for the VA, the State of Nebraska, then Scheel's All Sports in Lincoln. In 2020 he left Scheels to focus on volunteer work with Project Healing Waters, a non-profit that supports disabled veterans with recreational therapy centered around fly fishing.

Mark Fusco: Mark is living in Lincoln and working for Lincoln Electric system. After decades his wife and him finally figured out what was causing all the babies to appear in their house.

Shawn Gallagher: Shawn moved to the front seat a few years ago and recently set the Nebraska ANG record for number of times being hired for the same job, if you are curious that number is 5. Shawn is currently our SELO and resident bartender which gives us a great place to have retirement and promotion parties.

Bryan Gayer: Last we heard Bryan was living in Omaha and working for FedEx as a delivery driver.

Robert Glantz: Bobby got tired of the warm weather, so he moved North to Sioux City where he sits and waits for UPT dates. Bobby is also missed here everyday

John Gleisberg: Whereabouts unknown

Peter Gross Rhode: Pete is working as an Electrician in CE, after taking a job as a heavy equipment operator and official airshow ramp hole driller. Him and Cait have 2 kids now and are living on his family farm near North Bend Nebraska. I keep trying to get him to come back to flying, but CE is more his speed.

Mike Hamernik: Hammy is living the jet captain life. When he is not cheating death by spraying deadly chemicals on our food from the air he is flying various corporate aircraft for rich people who honestly made better life choices than any of us.

Chris Hatley: Chris was last seen deep in the woods of Northern Idaho, not sure if he is writing his manifesto or just living a life of quiet solitude.

Mark Heithoff: Mark recently retired from Lincoln Fire & Rescue.

Mike Hommen: Whereabouts unknown

Kodi Steckelberg: Kodi went to the dark side and received her commission as a nurse in the South Dakota Air National Guard. She lives near Sioux Falls with her 1 daughter.

Mel Kauk: Dancin' Mel splits his time between his farm by York, Nebraska and trailer house living on the Gulf of Mexico. We are convinced Mel is a vampire, as he refuses to age.

Mike Mayfield: Mike is still gouging the American Taxpayers on 2 fronts, first as a Lincoln Firefighter and second as a flight test boom at Tinker. I guess running towards burning things is just his style. Mike is retiring from the Reserves on December 1st, so if you are anywhere near Lincoln Nebraska come have a drink and run up his bar tab.

Leighton Michaelson: Layto claims the secret to his soft hands is to moisturize, but we know the secret is to never work. After a short stint working for Sladky electric Russ had to let him go because Layto insisted on wearing gloves so not to damage his hands. Him and Sherri are enjoying their new house after a fire caused by a lightning strike to the fireplace gas line.

Randy Millwood: Randy is living the dream, spends his days thinking of ways to annoy Katy, then spends his nights executing his plans. Randy is the retired boom we see the most, since his wife is our Group Commander, she drags him to all the parties.

Mike Minnick: Last anyone saw of Mike he was working at a bike shop in Lincoln, luckily he stopped wearing biking shorts 24/7

Steve Minnick: Steve finally retired last year from being our computer support contractor. Now that he is no longer a contractor we can actually invite him to squadron events without risking running afoul of his contract.

Dwight Morehead: Dwight is still living on his lake in Southeast Nebraska, he makes yearly appearances at the base, usually whenever there is a free meal to be eaten.

Matthew Parker: Matt left us for Sioux City where he is now a pilot and Altus slumlord. If you need a crash pad in Altus, he's your man.

Erica Perrey (Wilson): Erica left flying a couple of years ago and now lives in Decatur Illinois with her hubby Cody.

Trevor Piening: Trevor is an Aircraft Commander and newly minted Sun Country Airlines first officer. Never heard of Sun Country Airlines? Don't worry neither had any of us. Trevor is married with 2 daughters and a son. He recently built a new house on some family land with a sweet pond and sand volleyball court.

Jamie Policky: Jamie is a high school shop teacher in Lincoln Nebraska, he was only with us for 18 months, but he legacy lives on, mostly because we are still using his Hulu account in the alert facility.

Caleb Ramsey: Caleb retired this year from the Iowa ANG where he was flying their RC-26 out of Des Moines, after he left Madison where he flew their RC-26. His specialty is going to various guard units and causing them to lose their aircraft, probably best that he retired and is back flying at Delta.

Kelly Reese: Whereabouts unknown

Joe Remmenga: Joe retired a couple years ago and is a Fed Ex 767 FO, He is married with a son and a daughter. He recently came to the yearly retirees breakfast and lowered the median age by a full 10 years.

Joe Rodriguez: Whereabouts unknown

Bryan Schuka: Schuka retired in 2023 and is still an Omaha Fire Fighter, but mainly he picks fat drunk people off the pavement in downtown Omaha for a living.

Matt Siemsen: Matt is an Instructor Pilot and in case you haven't spent more than 10 seconds with him, he is working in the IG office at USSTRATCOM. He is also retiring this summer

Russ Sladky: Russ is living the life of an electrical contractor

Mark Stocking: Mark works fulltime for the immigration service

Andrew Thimgan: Last we heard Andy retired from the South Dakota Army guard and is teaching elementary school in Sturgis South Dakota.

Jeff Tlamka: Jeff is still in the unit working as a chaplain's assistant.

Jeff Van Nortwick: Jeff retired in October of 2022 and just couldn't stay away, so he came back as our BOSS COR, but really, he spends 99 percent of his time working in Aircrew Training, which sounds like the world's worst retirement job.

Nate Vasquez: Did you know he deployed to Turkey for 8 months? If not he will bring it up anytime he can. Nate pulls graveyard over at the Duncan aviation FBO occasionally putting his marshaling skills to good use. It's all in the elbows right pal?

Luci Vasa (Jarzinka): Lucy left flying and went back to LRS for a few years, but retired last year, she is married to one of our crew chiefs and they just adopted a baby.

Christian Weeks: Christian separated in September 2023 to focus more on building his plumbing empire. Don't be surprised someday when he is hiring Hamernik to fly his private jet.

Brian Wood: Brian is working as an insurance inspector and is getting married this Summer. He found a woman with as many kids as him, so he is living a real-life Brady Bunch scenario

Gordon Anderson: Gordon left this world in May 2001, but for those of us who were lucky enough to know him, he is still in our hearts. We still gather every May to have a cigar and tell war stories at Gordo's gravesite.





KADENA AB, OKINAWA, JAPAN

909th ARS

“YOUNG TIGERS”



Konichiwa from Japan's southernmost prefecture! Another great year for the 909th, maneuvering throughout the Pacific and its many austere locations. Anyone is always welcome to fly with us and to come enjoy Okinawa, which boasts a rich cultural tapestry shaped by its unique history and geographical location. Renowned for its pristine beaches, vibrant coral reefs, and subtropical climate, a true fusion of Southeast Asia.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

SMSgt Mathew Ohle – Purposely picked living 30 minutes away from base so he can run to work and brag about it, but we all know he would win the award for being the softest spoken and sweatiest, yet fit, SEL in the AF. Arrived on island and started work the very next day to figure out the complexity of the 909th. He has great ideas for the unit and is upholding the workhorse mentality by working during PME and TDY, the squadron is happy to have him, and like he loves to chant, “ALWAYS THERE!”

MSgt Jason Duckett – Cherry picks flights according to what works best with his dog's very busy schedule but absolutely kills it during whatever fitness challenge he does each month and can write one hell of an awards package. Gets selected to cover interim SEL duties, just to take leave or go TDY for the whole duration. He has learned the admin piece quickly and does awesome work as the superintendent...when he is here!

MSgt Katherine Dickey – Thrown right into the thrash upon returning to the squadron from the OG. We are actively working on being more positive with her delivery of the boom mission, but

she has set the most chill vibes in her office for all the booms to come in and complain about their workload. Kat is killing it while juggling “the SNCO role of the week” and as our coveted Chief Boom.

OPERATIONS FLIGHT

(M)Sgt Hurless - In typical AF fashion, the Elmer Fudd looking new guy is thrown to the wolves (aka the squadron's busiest flight) to tackle as flight chief. He is adjusting to the 909th quite well, we are happy to have him join in on the Wild Wild West reindeer games.

Training (DOT)

SSgt Kelsi Steadman – Was thrown all the “What If, Airman” scenarios they present in PME the day after she put on SSgt and it hasn’t slowed down since. She is also 10 for 10 with real crappy flight/scheduling situations, no pun intended for her having the latrine catch fire in Korea. If her humor doesn’t hit right with you, maybe her work ethic will but don’t rely on her CATM skills, she is not getting close to any mark--we’re just glad receptacles are larger than paper targets.

SSgt Dimagio Carey – The assistant to the assistant NCOIC. Wants to save the world with an OORAH mindset but is reminded that he is still only a HUA boom operator, but that won’t hold him back from volunteering for every TDY that pops up. Was “re-blued” for a short period after completing ALS, but has decided the active-duty lifestyle just isn’t for him.

(S)Sgt Dave Gabriel - Just know, if you give him a task, it’ll take him 72 hours to leave it unfinished, but you cannot rush greatness or attention to detail. Gabe is the one of the most positive people in the squadron & never hesitates to lend a helping hand; we will miss him when he leaves us for tanker scheduling!

SrA Audrey Wilemon - Audrey spent more time DNIF than on the schedule for the first year here but magically since her boyfriend PCS’d, you can’t keep her off these Korea TDYs. The things we do for love huh? If you need an intermural sports rep, she’s totally your gal. If you need an actual player...STEER CLEAR!!

(S)Sgt Ariaiah Berhow - Best known for talking about her cats or complaining when she doesn’t get what she wants at work. Could you imagine living on a tropical island but complaining that you weren’t selected for a deployment to the desert? Ariaiah can, she’s lived it. Also, she recently got married, congrats! Not congrats if you’re Lawhorn though, he was then forced into a DEROS extension causing all sorts of APFC headaches and more thrash.

A1C Harmony Wheeler - Upon crushing MCT & despite our best efforts to steer her in the right direction, Harmony ended up married to a Marine & rescuing a cat off the sidewalk which she named Tit. You can find her flying 3 times a week with a Redbull and ZYN in hand and a smile on her face.

Scheduling (DOS)

(T)Sgt Aristides Soto - We should call him DOJO to represent his softspoken demeanor and belt promotions in BJJ, he is “practically a black belt.” Told everyone he needed a reliable family car and ended up with a two-seater Mazda Miata, he must go by Stuart Little because that car can’t fit more than a mouse in it.

SSgt Christian Lawhorn - Incorporated PT into his daily routine and has complained less after coming back from ALS, double win!

SrA Tre Martin - Probably the most considerate scheduler we have, to his own detriment..maybe that’s why the CRW wants him? He represented Kadena in the E-Sports Championships, came in 4th but left a good enough impression to be invited back in attempts to have something to actually brag about. The squadron will miss him and his ability to be the butt of all jokes, xoxo Tre!

(S)Sgt Rachel Ransier - An awesome boom operator..when she isn't DNIF—even won Operator OTY, but cannot catch a commercial flight to save her life. She is 2 for 2 with “missing flights” trying to get back to the island from the states and in turn, getting more days off work. I guess this supports how her and her husband conveniently align their Bravo schedules so they are always Out of the Office every other day at the same time. She is singlehandedly holding down the scheduling shop but leaving us this fall, a good MB lost to a staff gig.

SrA Brennan Rodriguez – Caught more commercial flights this year than tanker sorties, so we had to send him on deployment so he could remember how to be a boom vs holding down the scheduling desk.

SrA Grant Rudolph – Returned from deployment and received an Air Force level award, all in the same week, what a true war hero. TYFYS.

READINESS FLIGHT

TSgt Kalif Richardson – Says he wants something different than “token island boy” written in this year’s signal, it’s not our fault that after a few adult beverages, your accent comes out?? Jack of all trades and a peer-voted Pro at “keeping head above water” while juggling flying, evaluating, dad-ing, 1st shirting, flight chief-ing, and being a poster child for the gym.

Mobility (DORM)

SSgt Jordan Barker- Well, if you’re looking for your local plug for cheesecake and toilet mead, he’s your guy. If you need him to be in the office because ... he’s the NCOIC of two sections, you are better off finding a black cat in a coal cellar.

(S)Sgt Jacob Morrison - Hates being corrected by leadership and he lets all his peers know it; you’d think he would just wear his hat correctly? Besides that, he has really matured since the

last signal and is next for IB school--he will be an asset to the instructor core. As a bonus, if you need someone to impersonate the President, this is your guy!

SrA Jayden DeBlieck - Well, pretty much all we got that is PG is...Thrift store connoisseur, enjoys driving around Oki in his baby blue Miata, and can't be bothered by all too much, especially Leaveweb and boom checklists.

SrA Austin Kaiser Jolly - Will he ever go to Instructor Upgrade, the world may never know. Possibly only when it is convenient for him...

SrA Jose Rodriguez Roman - His dog is in the office more than he is. What do you say you do here???

A1C Kaden James - Kaden graduated MCT and immediately told scheduling he needs a break from the flying schedule...he then proceeded to volunteer for a deployment??? Yeah, we're confused too. Lives in a secluded part of base housing where only he knows and sleeps like a bear in hibernation which resulted in a three-hour search and rescue operation after he failed to respond to his flight notification.

A1C Kaylin Davis - If you see her around, make sure to ask about her "deployment" to Alaska & more importantly, thank her for her service but when a "real" deployment pops up, she is hesitant to go because she claims she came to Kadena because it was "safer" and no chance of the desert. She is best known for pet sitting basically every animal in the 909th & bragging about being a Boom Operator to other Boom Operators.

A1C Edrik Gaisoa - Its pronounced "Sə'mou.ə" not "Samoa" ... alright Eddy. He just recently turned 20!!! This is like a really really big deal! While waiting for his security clearance, Edrik is our resident Samoan who became the resident pretend student for all IB check rides. Us & our Q1's truly thank him for his service.

Aircrew Development (DOAD)

SrA Seth Amriott - Selected for the unit's first deployment in eons and complained he was selected to lead the young booms and then complained that he was no longer going..it is impossible to make this guy happy but turns out he wanted to extend his time in the desert, must not be as bad as he thought? At the end of the day, we are convinced he has spent more days away from this island than on it; Sasquatch has more sightings than Seth.

STAN/EVAL

(T)Sgt Zachery Yamagishi – One of the biggest hammers in the squadron but that couldn't stop him from foolishly deciding to run his first (and last) marathon. Maybe the marathon training will help him try to escape from his dreaded orders to Fairchild.

SrA Tyler Acord – Was completely jaded and couldn't wait to get out of AD, all up until he went to IB school and was inspired by the Altus gods, where he begged and received orders to the FTU. Maybe he can tell a story or three about how he got some of his very...nice tattoos.

SrA Landren Dela Cruz – Prefers wearing bloused OCPs over a flight suit but in typical boom conduct, he completely decked them out with unauthorized patches. Quietest but most pleasant boom in our squadron and super reliable minus keeping track of his ITS currencies.

SUPPORT FLIGHT

Tanker Scheduling (OSS/OSOT)

TSgt Spencer Balcom – Tells everyone around how his new orders back to Altus will only have him gainfully employed for 3 months out of his whole 12-month assignment due to retirement and leave plans. Best of luck inspiring the next generation of booms for the 90 days you have, try to hide your excitement!

SrA Zachary Priest – Great asset to Tanker Scheduling and infamous for taking gigs that best benefitted him...until they didn't. Has the nicest beard in the squadron, I guess long-term DNIF does that to a person. Best of luck with your future Mr. endeavors!

Awards & Decorations (AAD)

SrA Lahjahniek Ramdene – One of the best booms to go TDY with if you aspire to become a cleaning lady; she travels with her crockpot to make meals while sitting alert in Alaska but only shares her food with the hotel cleaners.

SrA Andrew Jimenez-Guzman – Is he in our unit anymore or....? Between traveling back to the states to be with his wife to being on the Bravo schedule 3 times a week, we forget what his luscious hair looks like these days.

Safety (SE)

A1C Margaret Seeber - Smarter than 75% of the instructors in the squadron, Margaret is never scared to point out how wrong you are. The only thing better than her bubbly personality is all the baked goods she brings in every week to fatten us all up.

Combat Support (RA)

SrA Arick Duffey – Our token “I am going to get out and stay in Japan forever” boom who accepted retraining orders for the -46 to be on the US coast. He is one of the only people in the squadron where there isn't anything bad or mean to say about; well-liked, 5-star guy!

TACTICS FLIGHT

(M)Sgt Amanda Skidmore – The most recognized boom and can be heard quoting DJ Kaled, “another one.” After sweeping PACAF awards, she shot for the stars and found a Command Chief to exec for. Best of luck up at the Wing.

(T)Sgt Connor Wilkins – Was selected for promotion and was instantly thrown into the lion’s den to take over tactics flight, bless his heart, but he did it with a good attitude and a “willingness to learn,” as found in star boom TAPRs. Only humble brags slightly about his great successes from the ACE office before having to come back to be a peasant like the rest of us at the squadron.

Tactics (DOW)

SSgt McKenna Monnolly - She has taken a real tactical 180 turn since coming back from AIC and now can actually answer RTIC related questions without delegating to another boom in typical SSgt fashion. With how many exercises she has planned, you’d think she was in a second 6-month weapons school because she is never in the office. She is either flying the line 3 times a week, volunteering for every good gig that pops up, or off-island planning something...avoiding all NCO duties.

***(S)Sgt Jesus Delgado** - The first datalink operator in PACAF to “link” with a tanker squadron and fit into the unit like he is an actual boom. You can always count on him to provide hourly updates on each task he is doing, even if that involves walking around the squadron, sending texts to maintenance, or dropping off lunch to his wife. He is doing great things for the squadron and is helping create the training plan for future 1A1X4’s AF-wide....and even earned Operator of the Quarter among a squadron of Boom Operators

ON LOAN/ATTACHED

(Lt)TSgt Jayson Swift - One of our biggest hearted and selfless NCOs to be part of the 909th, he devoted so much time and effort to the squadron that he couldn’t wait to branch out to the Wing’s ACE office. He was out of the jet for months which allowed him time to submit a rated application for OTS and got accepted for a slot without an age waiver...an incredible feat being that he is going to retire from the military at a ripe age of 70 years old after his never-ending pilot ADSC.

TSgt Ryan Kemp – Moved to OGV and has been spotted in the squadron or on the flying schedule more than he is at the group. Recently found out that the BOWST annual requirement on his ITS does actually apply to him and makes everyone else scramble trying to get him scheduled before the end of the FY.

SSgt Josephus Straka – We asked him to listen to a few Pre-CFIC system briefings while TDY and when we followed up, all he sent was a news article of current world events instead of using his words. As a new dad, he will definitely have to work on that, but his other strengths make up for it, especially with him developing tactics flight and the other booms in the unit.

OUTBOUND/INBOUND

MSgt Anthonie Owens - He stepped in as the unit's SEL without any parental supervision, claiming he was underqualified for the position but it's hard to believe when his Airmen racked in over 12 awards and PACAF wins. He did so well he moved out of the 909th and became the Wing Tactics SEL, finally being able to supervise real adults..but also could be because no one wants to fly with him. He is PCSing to Scott for a staff gig later this year and we all know he won't be looking back.

MSgt Matthew Henry – Hit is goal of making MSgt and says he is going to coast but at this rate, is in the running for the next CMSAF, being as he is the most reliable SNCO to deep dive into Air Force news and political controversies. He was hoping for a DSD but volunteered for the -46 for some silly reason. The real tanker workhorse community will miss you and your ... optimism

(T)Sgt Abigail Stiles – Our longest running boom operator on island but finally received orders to Fairchild. She was the most reliable NCO to show face each day but after becoming the NCOIC of scheduling while simultaneously opening a retraining folder, we haven't seen her in months...just to find out that she gave the squadron an Irish Goodbye. Best of luck with actually having seasons!

SSgt Alex Workman - Looking forward to roaming the mountains of West Virginia as he transitions back into the civilian world. Enjoy the freedom.

A1C Tanner Quintana - shima heya yokoso 島へようこそ

MACDILL AFB, FL

50TH ARS

“RED DEVILS”



SEL:

SMSGt Kenneth Cook – aka "Cookie Monsta" is our new SEL and a world-class powerlifter. Just don't forget his handshake. It's part greeting, part workout, and 100% confusing if you haven't trained for it.

Ops Sup:

MSgt Jeffrey Jaskela – our resident Boom expert & self-proclaimed best mustache in the 1A community. Just a heads up, every conversation ends in an E-pubs question, so your safest bet is to avoid eye contact and long hallways.

A-Flight:

SSgt Ryan Macadam – Has a voice that could compete with a jet engine and a personality just as loud. But he's the guy you call when you need anything done. Jack of all trades, master of making sure you hear him coming from a mile away.

SrA Dakota Lanpher – Former firefighter and our Sq's TCCC Mr. Miyagi. He'll teach you to "Clot on, Clot off." He can pack a wound, crack a joke, and judge your poor life decisions all in the same breath.

SrA Nicholas Moser – Funny rumor has it SrA Moser's never seen without his better half SrA KN. Word is if you want to brief him, you better schedule it as a couple's session.

SrA Alexa Tracy – If you dim the lights, turn off the AC, and silence all phones, you might have the pleasure of hearing Tracy speak. Super quiet but super productive.

B-Flight:

SSgt Juan Ramirez – RC is our mobility Guru with a heart of gold and enough Air Force pride to reenlist you by accident. His mustache? It looks like it's been collecting TLA and per diem since '03; I'm pretty sure it outranks most of us.

(S)Sgt Zyrie Gravis Palmer – Gp's about to pin on SSgt, finally, thanks to some fashionably late decorations catching up. He's all about back pay and forward momentum...because nothing says motivation like retroactive stripes and a bigger paycheck.

SrA Elijah Welch – Eli is so dedicated to the 801X mission that he doesn't walk; he dives into action - usually face-first. If there's an alert, you can count on him to be the first one there, just not always upright when he arrives!

SrA Justice Ryan – Justice was in the Honor Guard for so long that we thought he'd PCS'd there. Now that he's back, his schedule is simple: gym, eat (in the gym), then more gym. At this point, he's just one protein shake away from submitting an AF Form 594 to claim BAH at the gym.

A1C Aaron Shurette – Aaron is Mr. Mysterious of the squadron- doesn't say much on the job but nails every task like a pro. He comes off duty, trades the checklist for a cocktail, and turns into the life of the party.

SrA Caden Weinberg – Caden got bit by a cat and has been DNIF for weeks. He's convinced he's turning into Catman and refuses to waste any of his nine lives on work. The 50th now has a worker order for litter boxes in the Sq.

SrA Chance Egnor – Egnor is your classic Texan, Straight shooter, hard worker, and as grounded as they come. He runs on 50% protein shakes, 50% Coors Light, and 100% Mustache Excellence.

C-Flight:

TSgt Joshua Foreman – Has worked in every shop I'm the Sq. He's basically the 50th's walking, limping historian. Nobody really knows how old he is, but rumor has it he refueled Noah's Ark on its final sortie.

SSgt Chad Jones – Has all the makings of an IB-sharp, dependable, and patient. But he traded in the boom pod for a cockpit and is now busy chasing his private pilot's license instead of chasing receivers. He'll be missed!!

A1C Nicholaus Castellones – Nick is our newest Boom, voice like a subwoofer, height like a radio tower. Family man by day, KC-135 roof cleaner by default.

SrA Ellis Fiscus – Mr. "Distinguished Flying Cross" himself. Please don't ask him how he earned it, or he'll have to act—one of our premier booms with a great head on his shoulders.

SrA Ayden Geilinger – He's an IB but somehow can't instruct himself to use sunscreen. The man was so burned we had to file a damage government property report. He's also dropped over \$500 on pickleball gear, making him the most financially committed amateur in Air Force history.

Awards & Decs:

SrA Orlando Rodriguez – Our awards and decs savior by day, and a Tall Boy-fueled enigma by night. Calm and collected until the beers hit, then it's chaos in cargo shorts. He drinks beers like he makes contacts: confusing, fast, and somehow still gets the job done.

A1C Grady Mackey – Mackey may have nearly passed out mid-flight and taken a surprise trip to urgent care, but that's not what defines him. He crushed it as the narrator for the boss's Change of Command ceremony. It might be time to trade his Boom checklist for a script.

Stan Eval:

A1C Logan Spengler – Logan refuses to update his pubs out of pure protest. Not because he forgot but because he disagrees with them. At this point, his pubs qualify for veteran benefits.

Resource Advisor:

SSgt Frederick Hajjii – Mr. Continuity and go-to guy. He just got married, which probably explains why he's been walking around with that "permanently annoyed but Committed" look lately. All jokes aside, he's all smiles daily.

SrA Wyatt Shackelford – The only thing more consistent than his good vibes and laid-back personality are his medical appointments. I'm pretty sure he's had more surgeries than contacts this quarter.

Safety:

SrA Joseph Carrillo – He may be the Sq's newest IB, but between alerts, tasks, and showtimes, he's still perfecting the art of arriving fashionably late...to everything.

XP:

TSgt Travis Nelson – "Prime," our newest Weapons school grad, looks like a mini 50 Cent. He's the Final Boss of enlisted excellence. At this point, we're not sure if he's gunning for CMSAF or headlining Coachella.

SSgt Blake Adler – A very hard worker and prior HG, but don't let that discipline fool you. He carries a fanny pack like Indiana Jones on a secret mission. Except his man purse is filled with hair gel and protein powder.

Current Ops:

SrA Martin Garner – Our gentle giant and man of few words just returned from Current Ops to bless the Sq with his towering presence. Just make sure you run a tipping analysis when he walks on the jet.

SrA Dillan Stewart – The Sq's mystery man, no one really knows who he is, but he magically appears out of the darkness like Batman. Some say he lives in the vault..., while others aren't sure he's even real.

Tactics:

SSgt Casey Janusz – The lovable tactics nerd, he speaks fluent acronyms, dreams in PowerPoint, and probably has a CONOP for his morning routine. He just got picked up for a secret squirrel job, so don't ask questions... assume he's out there somewhere weaponizing Excel sheets for the CIA.

Training:

SrA Mathew Bosnjak – The last surviving member of the of the Sh*t house, a legend in name, rarely seen in the Sq. He's like a Boom operator Big Foot: elusive, mysterious, and somehow still known by everyone everywhere.

Outbound:

SMSgt Charles Adams – the old dog is hanging up his hat after almost 30 years of service to our country and local bars. Retirement is calling his name, but he'll be greatly missed in the 50th.

TSgt Kadrick Barnes – Clearly missed his calling as a stand-up comedian, mostly because he's never at the office unless he's flying. He is rarely around, but when he does show up for work, morale goes up, and productivity goes out the window.

SSgt Zachary Caldwell is heading to the KC-46, but the real transition he's avoiding is accepting that hairline retreat. He says it's a "low fade," but we all know the top's been on terminal leave for a while now.

SSgt Darryl Penman – Darryl is a former Army tank crew member, part-time Canadian, and full-time Squadron elder. He's the nicest guy you'll ever meet unless you come for his maple syrup. He's off to the KC-46 now; he'll be missed in the Sq.

SrA Mark Moore – Prior KC-10 boom turned KC-135 pro, basically fluent in all things refueling. Now, he's separating from the AF to attend college and trade jet noise for lecture halls. We're still not sure if he's ready for a group project without a headset.

SrA Jaylen Joseph – Jaylen is more elusive than a unicorn on leave, Online Status (Busy).....

MACDILL AFB, FL
63rd ARS
“Pirates”



63 ARS Boom Leadership:

CMSgt Phillip Costine (SEL): The Superintendent, lives off quality whiskey, shopette lunches, and 25 hour workdays. Phil is always available when you need help.

(S)MSgt Matthew Janson (Chief Boom): Matt hates the commute so much, you'd think we forced him to come here just to stare at the walls. He shows up out of habit, not purpose-he also just accepted a position at headquarters. We will miss you, Stroke.

AGRs/ARTs:

SMSgt Vincent “Stu’y” Stulginski: Stan/Eval guy, WIT member, Father of Tyler. Stu’y was coined by Pete Hegseth and Pete looked at Stu’y and said, “That’s a fine damn airman.”

MSgt James Kyper: Kyper complains about being understaffed like he’s leading Seal Team 6 into battle- meanwhile, past members did more with fewer people and less whining. If he put half as much effort into mission planning as he does Googling “qualifying VA conditions,” there would be Peace in the Middle East.

MSgt Joshua “Taco” Ortega: Work is secondary to hanging around Bucs players and coaching high school athletes. Taco’s best years are behind him, yet we don’t want to tell him. In the off chance he does go TDY, he requires a week of Pre-mission Crew Rest to get all his affairs in order.

TSgt Jake Coll: Additional Duties Boom turned professional complainer. Depending on what typer of hair he has, you'll get Cool Guy Jake, he won't admit to it because Cool Guy Jake doesn't care about your opinions. His brain is broken currently, quite possibly forever, not surprising with Gen Z.

SSgt Teresa "Nard-Dawg" Hoffman: Teresa just had a healthy baby girl, but somehow, she's more sleep-deprived from waiting on squadron tea than from midnight feedings. She's on maternity leave, but still tuned in like the boom group chat is her favorite reality show.

TRs:

SMSgt Nate Hooper: Glorious Mustache. Senior TR boom. He is about to retire and continue being an aerospace engineer. Yes, he is smarter than all the pilots combined.

MSgt Wayne Reid: TR Boom who helps out all the time with travel vouchers and DTS. Not sure what's riskier, working/flying for Active Duty or driving the almost 2 hours to work everyday.

MSgt Joel Hildebrand: Hildebrand has turned over a new leaf, just kidding. He spends more time working for anyone else other than the 63d. On the off chance he does come to town, he likes to spend money on "Daiza" which I believe is some fancy food or booze... or both?

TSgt Megan Hatch: She's an RN in Jacksonville. TR Boom Instructor that flies regularly and stays green. That's rare these days.

TSgt Tyler Berthelot: In instructor upgrade. Works for an airline doing dispatch prove you can work in that industry and not discuss green slips and contract negotiations every second of everyday.

TSgt Jackie Brown: Married to Sean, also had a child. Finishing up a tour as a First Sgt for Mx. Sounds..... terri....fying

TSgt Jeff Urbaniak: Neckbeard moved to Ohio to be with his Ol' Lady Hanna. Wanting to get hired with Rickenbacker. They apparently haven't figured out he's a good dude and was a bike cop. So many Reno 911 jokes they are missing out on.

TSgt Jacob Zahn: Jake is living his best life, single dude ready to mingle, just got himself an RV and is moving to the FamCamp on base. Perfect place to find true love.

TSgt Rob Huesgen: Ranger Rob made Tech. Congrats to being in long enough to make rank. Tells war stories about his tour to the Deid. In his spare time he rents out his home and car.

TSgt Demian Solis: Demian is marrying or married or is the wife of Lillian. Demian is a great addition and also is doing his 2 years of orders. He's hoping to get a full-timer spot at the end of it.

SSgt Rodolfo "Rudy" Mirabal: Rudy is a master of memes with a dark sense of humor-dropping viral gold while waiting to find out where he'll be calling home the next 25 to life. Call it content creation under extreme pressure.

SSgt Mackenzie Macklin: She is an airline pilot in Hawaii. Thank goodness she was wearing her uniform(airline) when she was coming to Florida so she could jump seat. Just be the boom you can be! "MacMac!"

SSgt Mike McGurie: He arrived without warning, and with much disdain we accepted him. And honestly hes a cool dude and we could have done so much worse. Flies the schedule and hopes to be an airline pilot or something someday. Weird Trend around here.

SSgt Lillian Oliver: Lillian is the scheduler and she does landscaping. She also has a pinterest store or an etsy shop? Regardless when her two years of orders are up she has big plans. Demian will have a sugar mama.

SSgt Aaron Kempster: Gonna be completely honest, he was added to the signal after seeing him in the squadron the day before it was due. He will always be current and qualified, that's about it.

SrA Derek Zona: Zona Lost the battle of big boys sprint against Kyper. Guy was cooking it though before the earth took him down. Derek is living his best life. His roommate is a lady of the night and that.... is cool.

SrA Kolby Spurlock: Kolby is aspiring to be an airline pilot so much that he moved up to Michigan because they have a great aeronautical program...He doesn't realize you can have any bachelor degree to be a pilot.

Newbies:

SrA Eli Amriott: Amriott comes from a long line of boom operators. Pretty neat it runs in their blood. Too bad none of them are that great at it? Or are they?

SSgt Cam "Smiley" Braunig: New Guy, Biggest stache I've ever seen. He smiles so much. Does he doze off in traffic getting to the base? HOW ARE YOU SO HAPPY.

Dearly Departed:

TSgt Luke Yates: Luke currently is in pilot training. He is no longer on Zyns and Vodka and is most likely going to fail out and be a chaplain? Challenged Taco to one lap around the track and lost, a little bit of foreshadowing for the rest of his life.

TSgt Clayton Shiver: Also going to pilot training. He is a man. Once disappeared for a week on a hunt and just brought hundreds of pound of meat back to his wife.

SSgt Tyler "Peter" North: Pete left the Reserves and joined the Guard up in Michigan just in time to be mobilized and leave his young family to an undisclosed location for an undisclosed amount of time.

SSgt Haley Stevens: Haley had to go to Australia with her sugar daddy who is also older than her real dad. She shall be missed.

MACDILL AFB, FL

91 ARS

“BOLTS ⚡”

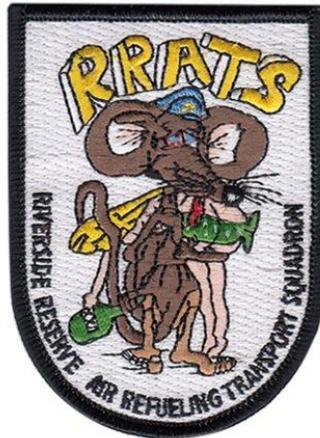


This Unit did not submit.

MARCH ARB, CALIFORNIA

336th ARS

“RRATS”



CMSgt Brian Sammons- Chief must be a Chucky Cheese expert on “whack-a-mole” with the number of things that pop up in a day. I guess the sweet prize at the end is knowing others are in a better position because of your determination to make things work. Whether you agree or not, one must take into consideration that he genuinely gives a damn and he does his best. Thanks for holding down the squadron!

SMSgt Chris “Shady” Shadday- our Puff Penguin maintains Training with the fortitude of an eagle. Our squadron would crumble without him maintaining that shop. I suggest this year, we pitch in for an eye patch for his good eye, so that it doesn’t blow out of his head when he sees the same folks behind on beans. You know who you are, get you scheisse done and help save an eyeball. It’s cheaper than a GoFundMe page.

SMSgt Jenn Ventress- The definition of a crew dog and the heart of this squadron. Sadly, she’s retiring next year. While her ribbon rack might look slim, don’t be fooled—Jen’s been on sixteen deployments and lived to tell the tale. If ribbons told the whole story, she’d look like a Mexican general. But that’s not who she is. Jen has always prioritized her crew over recognition. She’s fearless in the jet, and just as strong on the ground—someone we can all turn to, even our Chief. When she leaves, it’ll feel like we’re losing a piece of the squadron’s soul. Retirement won’t slow her down, though—Jen’s off to travel to all the places the mighty KC-135 never took her.

SMSgt Joe Parker- Well, Papa Joe extended his family by another two. Him and his wife, Blaire, welcomed twin boys earlier this year, so they are definitely busy. We’d imagine Papa Joe will be having a lotta cup of joes.

MSgt Charles “Salt” Salter- The brightest diamond on the base, Salt built and mended bridges with the FSS and now he’s trying his hand, down at maintenance. Salt honestly manifests the ideal role of First Shirt. He’s levelheaded, firm, yet kind and will hear you out. He’s a living Buddha without the belly. Let’s just say, he’d make the David blush.

MSgt Jeff Kemp- his new callsign is going to be Maestro. With the amount of coordination he does in a day, between shops, you’d think he was formally ATC. His passion and determination as a SNCO is admirable and is developing into one of our best. Jeff, it’s never easy, but it’s worth it and you’re killing it.

MSgt Johnathan “JGar” Garcia- has increasingly been spotted more in PT gear than in a flight suit. One cannot blame him for being saltier and slightly more like a curmudgeon. As per March finance MO, this poor man is still behind on pay. No pay, no flight suit! However, he still shows up and is a solid reference while working in Stan/Eval, with his work being top notch. I hope when you finally get your backpay, they deliver it to you in one of those big ass home sweepstakes checks.

MSgt Lisa Smith- maybe next year.

MSgt Sonny Madrid- has recently grown a mustache and walks around looking like Magnum P.I., sans Hawaiian shirt. He’s our newest evaluator and is active in developing our booms. We appreciate having him in our squadron and is the quiet force in the back, ensuring everyone is good to go.

MSgt Mark “Lucky” Luckinbill- our senior, senior NCO, has made it to where he can hang his hat. This next UTA will be his last and I must say, it’ll be hard to see him go. He’s been a solid boom and SNCO during his tenure here. We were so lucky to have a Lucky! Enjoy retirement and all the freedom that it brings you.

MSgt Buddy Bewick- well, we’ve determined why we haven’t seen much of Buddy. While working in Safety, he was quietly putting together his retirement paperwork and will be departing us here, next UTA. Buddy, you’re gonna be missed, but we know you are happy working with Metrea and are making a big difference over there. God speed!

MSgt Jose Prado- the man with the ultimate poker face, is now in OG Stan/Eval and maintains his status as “the Hammer.” He does about 75% of the evaluations for the squadron, but I think it’s due to his eagerness to come out of the office in order to see people squirm when they are around him.

MSgt Yulia Yambarsheva- может быть, в следующем году

(M)TSgt Catherine Zepeda- Our squadron mom and nighttime boom badass. Cat traded in her firefighting gear for diapers and checklist binders, and now holding it down full-time at home and crushing it in the jet. If you don’t see her flying, she’s probably walking around venting, wondering why we still don’t have a single functioning computer for a TR. No flight is complete without Cat mysteriously opening the first aid kit, it’s basically part of her checklist now. But real talk, Cat’s been with the 336 for over 12 years and remains one of the most reliable and seasoned booms in the unit.

TSgt Tatiana “Tati” Castillo- “coming off the line when the light turns green, she blows them out the water like you never seen.” Tati in her little GTi, cruised in and out of Altus like a little deuce coupe! She recently graduated from CFIC with honors, and we are so proud of her. Welcome back home!

TSgt Debra “Nikki” Mendez- our one-of-a-kind joint-service boom operator! By day, she serves full-time in the Navy; by night, she’s fueling the mission as a boom operator. Nikki’s one of the OGs in the squadron and brings a bold, unforgettable personality to the team. She’s got opportunities lined up in both the Navy and Air Force, and we can’t wait to see where she will be in the next couple of years.

TSgt Andrew “Andy” Robinson- Are you still in the Philippines? Haven’t seen you in a minute.

TSgt Jonathan “JP” Pettway- JP is the ultimate crew dog: an encyclopedia of boom knowledge with the attitude of a guy who’s done it all... because he basically has. He’ll teach you anything, but don’t expect a syllabus...if you want to learn, you’d better ask directly, or he’ll be locked into his phone chasing a new high score. He’s always available for Locals, TDYs, or alerts, mostly because he proudly claims he’ll never have a wife or kids... and after 12+ years, he’s still undefeated. Whether you’re brand new or old school, flying with JP means you’re in good hands. That’s assuming you can get him to look up from his very patriotic screensaver.

TSgt Victoria “Vika” Johnson- Vika must be taking notes from Salt, because this woman has made herself practically irreplaceable in the squadron. She is one of our new ARTs, but is also a fitness monitor, party planner, and under shirt. What is most impressive is that she does all of this with grace and efficiency. Any time you come into the office, she welcomes you with a smile and an assortment of Russian goodies. Plus, she brings nice scents to help overcast the smell of a predominantly male office.

TSgt Matt “OD” O’Daniel- The one and only Stan/Eval boom who woke up one day and said, “let’s move to Arkansas.” OD’s one of the smartest in the shop, with pubs practically downloaded into his brain. He’ll hit you with a question, while giving you that conniving smile of his. If you have a flight with him, expect smooth checklists, clean refuels, and at least three memes you’ll be thinking about for days. Some of which you cannot unsee.

TSgt Alex Vaughn- tucked away in Plans, he’s been a huge help with the shop and preparing our new booms with the joys of 801x. It’s not the most glorious of jobs, but we’re seriously grateful for his assistance.

SSgt Abel Vital- if you’re wondering where the cool hang out is after drill, it’s at Abel’s casa. However, don’t ask his DJ if he can play any Backstreet Boys songs, because it is limited to Cumbria. A true TR, he arrives to work with a smile and an eagerness to help wherever he can. He’s still learning to balance his job as a sheriff, a boom, and a father/spouse, but his attitude is remarkable. Abel, you are a joy to have around in the squadron.

SSgt Ian Tamayo- Frequently mistaken for every other Asian in the squadron—good news is, they're all pilots. Maybe that's why Ian's hanging around the next hiring board, waiting to make his move. He's been a cornerstone of the 336th ARS for years, and the awards speak for themselves. But let's be real—he might be a little too comfortable on orders these days, still holding off on taking the AFOQT. If pilot's not the path, Ian, CFIC's got your name written all over it.

SSgt Isaiah Green- When Green isn't busy writing 3 pages in each email about RAT training, or sending yet another plea for people to get their passports done, he gets to enjoy time with his beautiful daughter and support his amazing wife as she preps for nursing school. Don't worry Green, I did my passport already. Only about...30 more people to go? Sure, they'll make the deadline. Also, word on the street is, you figured out other ways to use the suction cups meant for the EFBs. We're not even mad, we're impressed!

SSgt Caryl Amour- the life of the party and a woman of many talents. When she's not going TDY, traveling with her pet spider (yes, you read that correctly), and making new friends, she volunteers with TAPS as a mentor and has made such an impact with that organization. I can see why you stand at 6 feet tall; it's to house that big ole heart of yours.

SSgt Andres "Panda" Galura- move aside, Treasure and Candie, here comes Panda! Recent IG videos have circulated with Panda trying his skills on the vertical pole. (Let's just say, it wasn't pretty.) We understand living in So Cal is a challenge, but we urge you to continue working on becoming a pilot. It pays more and is a bit more respectable. However, one may argue, not by much.

SrA Cooper Strople- Another day, another country for Coop. This baby bird has definitely found his wings and left the nest, exploring the world as he should as a young aviator. One question remains though. Was he actually tying things down in the back of the jet, or taking a nap? He'll never tell. Xoxo Gossip Girl

MARCH ARB, CALIFORNIA

912 ARS

“Vipers...Fear the Venom”



This Unit did not submit.

McConnell AFB, KS

344 ARS -The Ravens

“ANYTIME – ANYWHERE”



SMSgt Derik Melson - Derik has gone from MSgt to SMSgt. From Chief Boom to SEL. From our favorite SNCO to... our favorite SNCO. In 2024 he led our BTF to Okinawa doing his best to keep the ornery airman in check (it didn't work). But those are stories best kept for his retirement in about 25 years because there's no way this guy isn't doing 30. Rumor has it he got a papercut once...and all that came out was a drop of blue.

MSgt Bryce Smith - On one sunny day, the world went white. As we all scrambled for cover from what we thought was a very realistic exercise, we were introduced to Bryce. As the clouds covered the sun, we finally gazed at him. Tall, imposing... Bald. All words we can use to describe our newest boom. He's finally ready to "get operational" after his stint as a test boom. We are happy to have you and remember....everywhere is a hat zone for Bryce.

TSgt Daniel Hernandez - Chief Boom! Dan has been blessed with being responsible for all of our Boom Operators. If only we had responsible Booms. When he's not doing back-to-back BOTs getting everyone spun up, you can find him... doing back-to-back FUTs. Thank God I made IB before he took over. Keep on keeping on, these young cats need a little suck in their lives.

TSgt Challis "Chall Pal" Lansberg - The Mom of the Squadron has been away spending more time at Scott AFB than at McConnell. She's probably enhancing her power to provide love and prosperity to our younglings.

TSgt Nicholas Snyder - Ah Nick. No matter what we say he still comes to work. On leave, sick with covid, the birth of his child. Dude just loves his job. He's been the Dad of the Squadron. Not because people look up to him or seek him out in time of need. It's because someone thought it was a good idea to make a TSgt who's never had airman before, NCOIC of the biggest Flight. Godspeed Snyder. And stop getting people sick.

TSgt Killian Stone - Killian Waitforit Stone. No, that's not a typo, that's her middle name. She's mastered the art of being everywhere and nowhere all at once. Never overdue or red or NMR, and never in the office. Unless you say something negative about RAT CBTs, then she'll fire a quick lined insult from a room down the hall. Rumor has it she's getting out. But at this point I'm not even sure she was ever in. Best of luck in retirement!

SSgt Devin "Catfish" Battle - One of the Ravens latest editions, Battle really embodies his last name. From, battles to get his 5 airmen to show up for work, unsuccessfully battles the local Wichita singles, battles your global warming efforts with his "sweet" Dodge Charger, but most importantly, Devin goes to battle for his airmen and strives to make the 46 community better.

SSgt Dalton Degeneffe - As the Ether erupted and a vortex swept across the United States, Dege, legendary Crap House alumni, landed in the quaint fields of Wichita Kansas. In this new quiet land, he assembled the tools, and the people required to momentarily fix the tear the Ether created. He's now working directly to acquire the infinity gem of morale and start anew here at McConnell. (He also does tattoos).

SSgt Cornelius Frazier - Frazier, or as the younger airman refer to him as "Fray Fray," makes it his mission to ruin everyone's lives as our sole resident EB. He continues to lead from the front, teaching everyone that they can be so much smarter than they currently are. Seriously, this new Air Force is getting soft. He's given a lot to and for this Squadron. Ask him how much he gave in Italy! Congrats on making TSgt!

SSgt Rodel Ubungen - Rodel, The man, the myth, the legend. Mostly legend because no one knows anything about him. He's a man of few words. When he's not on baby leave, he's flying to get recurrent before taking more...you guessed it, baby leave. If you're quick you can catch a glimpse of him as a car passes before he disappears.

SrA Thomas "NOTSO" Bright - Since being dubbed "NOTSO", Thomas has really leaned into it. From spending \$700 on leather jackets to channel his inner Elvis, to starting briefings to the wing commander, with "Ay Yo, I'm Thomas." Despite his constant misuse of his last braincell he somehow managed to impress us enough to head off to instructor upgrade. We know he'll crush it and add on to the NOTSO legacy.

SrA Carson Delano - Carson is one of our crushers. Mostly because he'll embarrass you in front of whoever is standing next to him. One of our newest IBs, he has led real world AE missions and prioritizes making our IB candidates and new FBs become the best they can be. Hasn't had any funny stories lately. Mostly because he stopped drinking long islands.

SrA David Harris - Harris has taken his PCS to the 344th in stride. I swear he walks with the swagger of Michael Jackson. He showed up, took over our Safety Office and is on a path straight to the top as the Group's Chief exec. So, we'll stay on his good side to avoid any write-ups. Welcome to the Ravens. Your go-getter attitude will land you on the moon.

SrA Nicole "DRAKO" Kleymenov - DRAKO is surpassing her peers in her Pre-IB folder. She hasn't done anything embarrassing in a while, so we have no ammo to unload here. When she's not taking three-hour breaks or rolling her eyes, she's delivering top notch instruction in the form of briefs, BOTs, and FuTs. Ask her about those eight-hour FuTs...

SrA Brandon "McNugget" McDowell - McNugget is our very own bad boy. He's our recipient of the Squadrons sole Promote Now. The self-proclaimed (S)Sgt spends his time studying and playing pool... mostly playing pool. Time to put your feet to the fire and see if you can pull off this promotion. You'll make the Ravens proud. Hopefully.

SrA Trinidad Reyes - As we constantly hear, Reyes used to fly on the KC-10. He's tall, he's goofy, he slobbers when he's awake. No wonder his wife got a job in the squadron to never miss a second with him. When he can separate the 2, he works on finishing up his Pre-IB folder. Welcome to the team big man. Make us proud.

SrA Bayden "S10" Stoltenburg-Wills - Our newest (S)SSgt, the first to open a bottle and the last to take responsibility for his actions. Our premium instructor boom at least on paper, don't ask him any 46 related questions because there's no chance he knows it. Looking to become an EB, for those that can't teach they sure can evaluate. He's the life of the party...no matter the consequences.

SrA Orion Tyra - Trya has biceps the size of baseballs. That's pretty impressive considering he's the size of an Ipad...mini. One of our newer instructors constantly being an "Inspiration" to us all. He knows he destined for greatness. We all just hope he remembers us when he's rolling in his millions, and we're stuck in the Air Force.

SrA Jacob Witt - One of the nicest guys in the squadron, he truly makes friends all around. He and the commander must be on great terms seeing how many times he has closed door conversations with him, and Witt dresses for the occasion. Everybody loves this guy, well mostly everyone, for some reason his supervisors can't get along with him; surely it can't be his work effort. They're probably just jealous with how many meetings he has with higher leadership, that's gotta be it....Right?

A1C Allen Knight - Oh Allen. He's found love for the second... third... I'm not sure which time he's on. But he's found it! Not sure what we have in store for the reigning MB. Rumor has it he's the next Chief's Enlisted Exec position. We couldn't imagine a better place for someone who loves dragging his feet!

A1C Melissa Pardo - We don't get to see much of Pardo, since she's always TDY, but when we do see her she always wears a smile and is willing to help with any task. Constantly asking for trips to Europe, says she'll go west once she turns 21.

Amn Max Johnson - Max is our newest shining penny. He's living the Air Force dream. First, he's a Boom. Second, he married his High School Sweetheart! He beat the odds, and I have a feeling he'll continue to do so. Welcome to the 344th.

Attached/On-Loan

SSgt Carlos Lampon-Torres – Carlos recently made the move to the OSS to work in Tactics. You'll need NVGs to find him if he's ever around. He'll be sticking around Kansas since he decided to use his Base Of Preference to stay put.

SSgt Dan “Duke” Collier – After a long-term stint of non-flying Dan is back to flying the friendly skies around the world. He's slated to head off to Travis this fall. Best of luck Dan!

SrA James “TROUSERS” Mejchar - He has, over the year, started to mold himself into society. Although his car is filled with the last 6 years of his life, he now owns his very own boots! No longer will he rock the BMT 'Sir Trainees' TDY. He also was chastised for wearing jeans to the beach in Waikiki. I don't think the Commander has permitted him to go OCONUS since.

Moved on to Greener Pastures

SMSgt Bruce Berglund - The SMSgt previously known as our Senior Enlisted Leader but professionally known as “Juicy Brucey” has now left the squadron and group for retirement. Ask him about the ink he got in Greece...he'll be missed. Best of luck Bruce!

SrA Conner “Apache” Achzten - We recently gave a Ravens goodbye to Apache! Conner spent the last four years becoming the IB the Squadron could always count on... never showing up to work. When he was present, he was saving lives over CENTCOM and being a real crew dawg. Needless to say, he lived up to the title of Boom Operator. You will be missed. Now go save lives in the streets of Wichita as an EMT!

SrA Peyton Moeggenberg – We’re sad to say we’re losing another good one. As Seniors Exec, he’s the insider that the airman needed. He hasn’t helped anyone’s career, but man does he have some juicy gossip. You’ve given us TDYs to remember and you’ve told stories none of us can ever repeat. Thank you, Moe. You’ll be missed.

SrA Cord Nakaahiki - He’s leaving too, but he has absolutely ZERO stories. All those TDYs and nothing to laugh about. Maybe if you left the hotel room, we could’ve shared a laugh! You’ll go on and do great things. Go get your degree and move back to Hawaii. We’re sure your mother wants you back. Make sure she leaves seat for us at the dinner table.

MCCONNELL AFB, KS

349 ARS

“Bandits”



SEL- MSgt Andrew “Lav” Lavender

Lav has been running the show as the SEL for a while now. Most of the time you won't find him in the office. If he isn't busy experimenting with the newest supplement, he's probably trying to re-live his glory days at a local skate park somewhere.

Operations Superintendent- MSgt Jon “Chuckles” Lauterbach

Although our so called “Ops Sup” is a fountain of knowledge and knows every pub word for word by memory, he essentially is just scheduling's yes man. He mostly just earns his money by denying everyone's DTS Vouchers

Squadron Exec- SSgt Ben “DITCH” Varnell

Ben is a recent addition to the squadron coming from McGuire as a fully qualified IB. Most of the instruction he provides though is out of the AFMAN 36-2903 from his full-color printed copy that always stays on his desk. He loves “educating” higher ranking individuals that their zippers are too low while wearing black socks.

Scheduling

SSgt Donatello Donati

There's not too much this guy is proud about, except for his recent vasectomy that he mentions every 5 minutes. Although his head is nowhere to be found most days, his heart is usually in the right place.

SrA Vincent Massie

Massie is so checked out as a boom and scheduler due to his efforts on his "coffee" business. The funny thing is no ones ever seen him with a single ounce of coffee. Maybe OSI should check this guy out...

Tactics

SrA Caleb Heisterman

Caleb is a pretty quiet dude and practices EMCON 4 even when not in the airplane. Because of this, we thought that tactics would be the perfect fit and even sent him to CATS-MECOC to perfect his radio silent skills.

Training

SrA Ryan "IRIS" Terry

Ryan somehow managed to weasel his way through IB upgrade. Although some think he never does his job as an instructor, he really is doing the Air Force a service by never teaching a single topic. Thank God there's a civilian in training to pick up his slack.

SrA Karla "Good Deal" Biehl

Karla is separating soon to start her journey into nursing school. This monumental shift opens the door for leaderships to find their next favorite person to groom. Let's just say the pickings are slim.

Stan Eval

SSgt Andrew "DAWG" Dawes

Dawes is the newest EB in the squadron. No one quite knows how he got the sign off on that though, but we do know that it helped his ego get bigger. We did re-name him this year from his self-proclaimed “DAWG” to officially “CATO” which hopefully put him more in place.

Safety

SrA Andrew “Who?” Hare

Andrew is one of the nicest guys around, but he’s the boom who can never fly because he is always DNIF. However, his ability to pump out kids left and right proves he’s not 100% broken yet.

Readiness

SSgt Devante Wells

The newest SSgt who just PCS’d from March. We’re excited to have an NCO with so much experience, seeing it seems like he’s been a SSgt longer than the KC46 has even existed.

SrA Amarri Austin

Super nice, never here. Rumor has it if you tell him to get a haircut he’ll just go spend the rest of the day at pumphouse.

A1C Luke Kim

Luke is now known as a “High Speed Boom,” but it’s certainly not from his AR skills, but from his ability to zone out and get the GOV to 100 MPH without realizing it. He is soon separating and starting his real-estate empire. Watch out North Carolina.

Awards and Decs

Brandon “Amish” Van Dyke

With the beard he’s managed to grow out, “Amish” should be more like “Viking warrior,” at least that’s what he probably calls himself in the mirror.

Bandit Flight

SrA Gilbert Martinez

Gilbert came to us this year from Fairchild. Shortly after completing MQT, we sent him out the door to deploy. Some would say that they see him about the same these days though. The beer fridge seems to be consistently fuller since he left though.

Attached/On loan

MSgt Justin Miller

Shortly after getting presented the “Low Time Flyer” award for the year, he got picked up to head up to AMC/A3V to be the next “JT.” FYI – now is a good time to start buying him beers so that you don’t Q-3 your next no-notice!

TSgt Ian “NAPS” Sweaney

Living his best life in OGV usually studying ancient Viking lore (Watching the Netflix show). If you need a check ride, he’s the guy, especially because he’ll be asleep 90% of the eval living up to his name.

TSgt Jeremy Robinson

Jeremy is literally the nicest guy that you will ever meet. He works up at the OG planning all our exercises and inspections – which everyone is very appreciative for. Anyways, he is heading down to Altus later this year... by choice.

TSgt Jessica Harrell

Our newest MSgt Select! She did such a good job flying 10 hours a year as a squadron exec that she earned herself a promotion to wing exec! Even with such a high demanding job, she always seems to find her way onto the Paris Air Show.

TSgt Nathaniel “Nat” Forrider

Nat has been rocking a phone with a broken screen that has tape holding it together for WAAY too long. Because of this, we are sending him over to SOAR to make friends with the comm folks over there to ensure he has all the tech support needed to keep his phone alive 24/7.

TSgt Bruce Freed

Bruce is still hiding over in Current Ops. He is likely the biggest video gamer that you will ever meet and we are told that he holds some records for “speed running” some game. Time will tell if his video game prowess pays off for boom operating.

SSgt Jesse Adams

Just selected for TSgt, Jesse is holding it down in XP. Speaking of holding it down, don’t give him a ride after drinking, because he can’t “hold it down” in the car... Ask Jon Lauterbach.

SrA Tyler Adkins

Tyler got what you call a double-edged sword. On the one hand he’s leaving the Group exec life, however that’s due to his orders to Altus. His attitude and subpar mustache will be missed by some as he grows the baby booms down at the schoolhouse.

MCCONNELL AFB, KS

350th Air Refueling Squadron

“RED FALCONS”



Squadron Senior Enlisted Leader:

SMSgt Anthony Montani – Our glorious leader has finally retired. His farts will not be missed. Before retiring, he made it his mission to argue with the ADOs about not doing his ISOPREP. It's not that big of a deal. Just do your ISOPREP, bruh.

Operations Superintendent:

MSgt Antoine Nguyen – Dual hatting SEL and Ops Sup while SMSgt Montani is out-processing for 6-9 months. It can be hard to understand what he's saying with his accent, just know it's something mean and he doesn't like you.

STAN/EVAL

TSgt Zacharia Austin – Our designated seeing eye dog for one of our ADOs. Well, he failed to do his job, as the ADO still received a commander-directed Q3. That's why we sent him to the 46. He wasn't cutting it as an instructor in the 135.

(T)Sgt Anthony Feist - If he tells you to bet on Black, don't listen to that bald head. He will lose you HUNDREDS of dollars! Just put it on red... And he has stupid-looking hair.

SrA Alex Bengel – Pretty simple, crushes beers and crushes golf balls... do more work!

Training Flight

TSgt Nasia Tollinchi – Avoided upgrade by taking a 6-month staff gig. Then avoided it again by “tearing her ACL”. Now she’s off DNIF there’s no more excuses. When is your next brief?

SSgt Gabriella Martinez – Poor Gabby got hit with Altus orders. She’s now trying to figure out how to get out of them.

SrA Jacob Denker - Denker just received his dream assignment! Altus, OK!... or was it your dream to do spec ops... or be a C130 load?... I guess it doesn’t matter now.

SrA Cade Stinson – Cade tried to slow roll his MCT because he was afraid to get “abused” on the schedule... until Montani told him he was sending him to Sec Fo as an augmentee. Magically, his MCT training got done very quickly.

SrA Kaleb Brewer – Kaleb will tell you that he does the job of an NCO... yet he decided to show up late for his WAPS testing. Better luck next year, dumb dumb.

SrA Caleb Schoen - Caleb comes to us from Kadena. His first impression wasn’t good. However, he has bounced back nicely and is a workhorse for the unit!

Scheduling

SSgt Erik Gutierrez - One of our newest instructors. Only candidate in history to get multiple downgrades for instructing too much on the ELT. No one cares about the ELT, buddy.

SrA Stephanie Peraza – Steph sent the love (her doggie) of her life away to live with her dad because she was on the road too much. Sorry to break it to you. She’s now your dad’s dog and doesn’t even remember you.

A1C Eli Wilson – Have you ever received a customized NSFW air freshener? Wilson got one from a Wichita local. Supposably, it smelled like... yep... He also decided to buy a \$50 thousand boat... in Kansas... where there are sooooo many lakes/body of water...

Readiness

SSgt Corey Marion - Marion PCS’d to us from McGuire. Poor guy had shit luck since being here. He’s been dealing with all the troublemakers. Sorry, bud! You’re doing great!

SrA Charles Cornett - He is soon to be divorced and cannot wait to kick his soon-to-be ex-wife to the curb. I have never seen a man happier than Charles right now.

SrA Martin Hekking – Was a great addition to our instructor corps but then decided to pursue another path behind closed doors. He won't even tell us what base he's going to.

A1C Kelsey Collins formerly known as Winters - She spends most of her time in the scheduling shop, hoping to get a good deal TDY. Then, she gets visibly upset when she doesn't get one. I'm sorry that St Croix isn't up to your standards!

Tactics

SSgt Austin Buresh – Not 100% sure who this is because he is never at work.

SrA Maxwell Richards - Max came to us from Mildenhall. So far, he hasn't done anything stupid. Keep it up, Maximus!

Safety

SrA Kyle Stumphauzer - Stump showed up and quickly went DNIF as soon as he completed MCT for his "teeth" to avoid doing the NORE. Homeboy has a weak jaw.

Awards and Decs

A1C Sidney Ferguson - After her first reenlistment, her plan was to move to Vegas with her boyfriend and attend school full-time. Then, she realized what a bad idea it was to upend your life for a boy. Glad to keep you on the team!

A-Flight

TSgt Tanner Niggli - Tanner did the bare min and didn't want to go to IBC, so he volunteered for the 46. Quitter.

SSgt Jesse Lee - After 3 long years of being DNIF, Jesse is now back up and flying! The 135 missed you. Can't wait to abuse you on the flying schedule.

(T)Sgt Benjamin Fedrick – Super chill boom. He never made an instructor use their checklist on a flight while in Pre-CFIC. "U" are the man.

Ann Thomas Gauna – Still in MCT. It did not take him long for him to become Garl's first victim. Gauna, you don't have to do what Garl says. A staff select is still a senior airman.

Amn Cody Rommes – Another brand-new airman who didn't take long to make a wrong impression. Being a smart ass to the civilian RA who's trying to help you get paid more money is wild behavior.

A1C Connor Aversa - He is just happy to be here. I tried giving him some bad news, and he smiled at me and said, "Thank you, sir, for this awesome opportunity!" I hope the AMC machine doesn't break this boy.

B-Flight

SSgt Devin Olmedo – So excited to come home from a last minute TDY he couldn't wait for engine shut down before opening the cargo door. Have fun in Altus!

A1C Alex Garcia - Garcia just finished MCT. He is very excited to go on the road. Oh! You'll be on the road, alright.

A1C Tyler Ferrera – Ferrera was in the TACP pipeline and almost made it through training until they introduced a new height requirement. Sorry, buddy. I'm sure traveling the world as a boom will be a lot better.

A1C Hayes - Kid has gotten used to being a boom too much. So much so that he thought it would be a good idea to show up late on his first day of FTEC. You live in the dorms... You have no excuse for being late!

C-Flight

SSgt Joseph Kastendieck – One of our newer instructors... finally after all that "baby leave". Now he is smart enough to stand up to his bully deployment AC and not request permission to board the aircraft at the position of attention.

SrA Duell Arnold – Arnold loves using his GTC. So much so that he decided to Uber-eat 80 bucks worth of Chick fil-a and charge it on his GTC.

A1C Ryan Parks - Kid's been here for like 3 minutes and somehow already weaseled himself into a good deal trip. Freaking went to Guam for 3 weeks and flew once... I'm not mad. I'm impressed.

A1C Christian Pumphrey – Anddd another new boom. Deep voice, looks like a marine, loves to fish... we'll see how he turns out.

On-Loan

SSgt Hector Agosto – Hector was recently moved to XP. He was so nervous about it that he cried in Montani's office for about an hour. You're just fine, bud! It's only a NORI at the end of the year.

TSgt Neil Patras – Guy will bitch and whine as soon as the scheduling shop puts him on the schedule. They started calling him "C-Section" because he's so afraid of labor.

SrA James Plourde – Was really starting to bloom as an instructor before he got sucked into the black hole of current ops. Hopefully you can get out of there and make it back to the boom pod couch soon.

Moved on to Greener Pastures

MSgt Russhope Marcelo – Russ has moved on to Altus. Now he won't stop bitching and whining about how stressed out he is about work, but he will never say no when "leadership" ask him to do something. Lady boy, it's ok to say no occasionally.

TSgt Casey Lackie – Lackie has also PCS'd to Altus. Before PCSing, he thought he would make Master by just being in Altus... until the Altus guys burst his make-believe bubble and told him he needed to do more than fly with students.

TSgt Nicole Lodermeier – Asked the CFM to go back to her old career field... but then was shocked she got orders to her old career field. Make up your mind.

SrA Trissa Bennett – Trissa has moved on to March ARB. The girl is so lazy that she won't claim the full amount on her DTS and will pay her GTC with her own money to get it done as quickly as possible. Girl, stop.

SSgt Remington Garl – Garl is now in Altus. He'll corrupt all his students before they show to their first operational base. Good luck to all SELs who will have to deal with Garl's products.

MCCONNELL AFB, KS

18 ARS

“CAN DO!”



Greetings from the FRG of the 18th ARS!

If you are around McConnell, stop by! The coffee's on in the mornings, the "daycare" and boom pod is open in the afternoon, and the fridge is cold and stocked. We finally finished our heritage room that was home-grown with money out of our own pockets, and it turned out beautifully through the combined work of our boom operators and pilots.

CMSgt James "Jay" Guldjard – Jay "Master Chief" Guldjard recently traded in his F-150 to join the Ford Maverick gang. He claims it was a more convenient vehicle, but we all know it's because he's had a hard time stepping onto the running boards with his old age and short stature (he has a better run time than me).

CMSgt Michael Stahl – CMSgt Stahl was our Group Chief for about 3 days, but his tyranny was cut short due to AFRC failing to fund his position permanently. Chief Stahl did manage to complete his kit plane in the last year so he has taken the bold step to commute by private plane to give finance a migraine. He's been absorbed by the 18th, so now he randomly comes around like that one distant uncle who brings his own Tupperware at Thanksgiving.

SMSgt Benjamin Rausch – SMSgt Rausch was brought over from the 924th ARS since we had an open SMSgt slot and Chief needed an "enforcer". NCOIC of the yellow ribbon program no one cares about. Rausch is a newer SMSgt which means he focuses on the real issues that win wars, mustache length. despite his claims on wanting to improve morale. TYFYS

SMSgt Giani "GiGi" Dossman – Giani is an attached flyer and holds the reigns as the Group Lawyer in OGV. Between living in his ivory palace at OGV and TDYs to AFRC HQ, CMSgt Select Dossman is one more course away from becoming a "Bob" whether he likes it or not. But when he isn't preaching career development to Airmen he's most likely being harassed by Mike Adams in the FUT.

MSgt Eileen Ahlers – We were lucky enough to get Eileen from the 924th and she took over a flight of Airmen. Ahlers is one of our TRs who claims "the computer hates her" but chances are she isn't connected to the internet. But when she isn't sending emails to the wrong people, she's probably at the scheduling desk complaining about not flying (spoiler alert none of us are).

MSgt Alissa “Anderzyn” Andersyn – Alissa was a victim of the sudden Reserve BRAC that befell JBMDL, but luckily she found a home with us and has been a Flight Chief since she got here. MSgt Andersyn does not tolerate silliness or wasted time. She is a very direct person, does not hesitate to call you out regardless of the setting. She manages to stay more current than most people who live local. Please don't hurt me.

MSgt James “Jim” Yokom – MSgt Yokom is an attached flyer who is our NCOIC of Operations Group Training. Yokom has been a MSgt since Moby Dick was a guppy, that hasn't stopped him from harassing young airmen with shaving waivers. But he recently messed up his knee in a bar fight (getting out of bed) so maybe after all these years the unstoppable force has met the immovable object... Medical.

MSgt Waino “Y+9” Yrjanainen – MSgt Yrjanainen is our Squadron hammer as the NCOIC of Stan/Eval who has probably submitted more 847's to the FCOM and QRH than AMC/A3V. Waino is the squadrons hipster landscaper. DM him on MySpace that you want to build a French drain and he'll be by before the sun rises. It will take him a few trips because like his short brim hat, he had the Maverick before the rest of these posers. He's a big fan of the Irish goodbye but it doesn't really work when you're 7ft tall Finn that shakes the ground with every step.

SSgt Aiden Allenbach – Aiden “okay” Allenbach is the 18th “UDM” or at least he claims to be, he's been duped most of the year into thinking he will go to IB school. Since that fell through he's been coping by turning his body into an ornithological encyclopedia, or scaling the largest crevice's in hopes he meets his demise.

SSgt Zachary Ayala – Zach came to us via another unfortunate BRAC from the E-3NCOIC of hurt feelings and conveniently timed medical appointments. When he isn't disappointing flight safety instructors on a quarterly basis, SSgt Ayala can probably be found on the side of the road due to letting his tires get as smooth as the top of Chief's head. Voted most likely to volunteer to be a Security Forces augmentee.

TSgt Ezra Castillo – Ezra is the squadron's equivalent of a hypebeast sporting his rebuilt Tesla and fake designer watch, he will never squander the opportunity to flex on his haters. If D&I was still around it's a safe bet he wouldn't be. If you need to find him just follow the trail of Ayala's tears.

TSgt Madison Doherty – Madison's role in the training shop dealing with a bunch of childish MCT booms has prepared her for motherhood. She will return as the scheduler, which means tears will fall, egos will shatter, flights will still cancel. No one is safe if she becomes an evaluator.

TSgt Robert Richey - TSgt Richey was the NCOIC of Scheduling and managed to fail up to NCOIC of Training. Richey is the squadron's Make-a-Wish bodybuilder. He recently finished a bodybuilding competition, which is surprising because how do you flex a sternum? All jokes aside he's the closest thing we have to a Derick Zoolander.

SSgt Spencer Vick – Despite our many attempts to keep him in the 905th he's joined the winning team and has experienced what morale actually feels like, when he isn't disappointing Larson in scheduling, he'd be disappointing his GA instructors (if he didn't drop out) other than that, he's now a new father so that's neat.

SSgt Conner Wedel – SSgt Wedel is another of our traditional reserve boom operators who has a “real job” in town at Sprit. Wedel was who we got from the 924th ARS in exchange for Dark, so you could only imagine our disappointment. Like his role model Justin Walsh, he crashed his Audi racing someone's mom in a Sienna and somehow had enough money to buy another Audi. It doesn't make any sense to me either. Don't look at his Instagram likes...

SrA Thomas Craft – SrA Craft is a newer traditional reserve boom who went back to college as soon as his tech school and initial orders were completed. Craft is a special boy for reasons we can't begin to articulate. On paper he's a qualified MB but flying with him you'd be convinced he's MCT ride 2. Craft is currently attending a film school due to his love for indie movies, so picture Quentin Tarantino but minus the vision.

SrA Luke “Lucious” Gibbs – Gibbs is one of our trouging MBs with pilot aspirations (how original) yet still can’t seem to figure out UTAPS. He can be found at the local plasma donation centers trying to make back his money from driving his Russian mail order bride to Hesston and back in his new Ford Maverick.

SrA Michael “KB” Knickerbocker – SrA Knickerbocker is another new boom operator fresh off MCT orders. Overland Parks’ newest German Youth Army recruit who thinks doing your laundry is first base, somehow manages to survive on a diet of 3 honeybuns and little league pickup games. All jokes aside he probably has a kid in Japan.

SrA Stephen “Zach” Perry – Zach is a traditional reserve boom who was another off the street hire. After talking to him, it makes sense he studied Geology. If his performance at Spirit was how he was in scheduling, it makes sense why he didn’t get a callback. He’ll be a dad any day now, so you’re telling me this thing always cries?

SrA Dakota Post – Who? We aren’t even sure if he’s in the unit anymore because Craft is somehow more current than him. As a retired TikTok sensation he’s earned the name T-100 because of his rusty bionic legs and his ability to absolutely Terminate F-16 receptacles as if it’s his sole mission on this earth. Boom. Roasted.

DEPARTED THE FIX

SSgt Isaiah Dark – He had been voluntarily traded to the 924th for a fresh start as if that was the problem. But no sooner than that, he got hired by Forbes to fly the F(KC)-135, just remember to leave your phone outside of classified areas, leave CSELs in classified areas. Now he’s just waiting for his son to get older so he can tell him how cool he is. Boom. Roasted.

MCCONNELL AFB, KS

905 ARS

“Rhinos, REVEL IN CHAOS”



SEL

CMSgt Chris Norris: When Chief Norris isn't out there "laying gold," you can find him on a golf course. Chief is still recovering from being picked second to Sam as the smoothest squadron contacts but still claims the title belt. When not mentoring Airman, he will be adamantly defending his butterfly contacts asking, "who wants a shot at the belt?" All in all, Chief protects the brand, and ensures the next generation is prepared.

Training

MSgt Sarajo "ALF" Danis: Sarajo has once been nominated "friendliest" Training NCOIC, however she received 0 votes... Sarajo brings the perfect mix of accountability and perfection, 781's have never looked better. You can find Sarajo out there trying to hop on & off flights & fighting millennials. When she isn't out there making Airman cry you can find her working on multiple of her additional duties, trust me... she'll let you know about it.

STAN/EVAL

MSgt Samuel Aguirre: Boom SME, head of Stan/Eval, and the only aviator bringing "Christmas Hams" to every flight. Sam has been picked up as a pilot, and claims he's going to stay at McConnell, but we all know Forbes is home. Sam is pretty much a ghost on 8 years of leave, but when you do find him at work... he's probably pushing someone's buttons.

MSgt Nicholas “2-Fighter” Snyder: Nick is back after being a trash truck driver. As the new head honcho of Stan/Eval he is eager to Q3 his next victim. Have no fear, if you’re AD he will give you a Fighter Cert after a folder review

Scheduling

TSgt Tanner “Parlay” Clovis: When Tanner’s not talking shit, starting conflicts with training, or bullying the new LT’s he is running the schedule to make sure you’re paid, hacking the mish, or writing your award. He will make a great instructor if he slows down enough for students to understand him.

Booms:

MSgt Nicholas “2-Fighter” Snyder: Nick is back after being a trash truck driver. As the new head honcho of Stan/Eval he is eager to Q3 his next victim. Have no fear, if you’re AD he will give you a Fighter Cert after a folder review

MSgt Patrick “Ceviche” Bartosavage: Ole Barto... still confused on where he got the call sign “ceviche,” but honestly afraid to ask. Barto took a cush nonner-job with the hopes of staying paid and a boom, however, he forgot what currencies and flying are. Barto might be the only boom to reach the instructor-hour requirement and still is not one. When Barto is not in the squadron you can find him fixing airplanes and new trainees, God help them both.

MSgt Dustin Sheldon: Sheldon brought the “Mono” instructor approach from Altus (who needs 3D). When he’s not over communicating, he’s correcting his techniques learned at Altus. Sheldon is training and scheduling’s dream, and if by dream you mean nightmare you would be correct. As the newly appointed UDM he is good at scheduling people for courses, the issue is he’s the only that knows they’re scheduled. Sheldon is and looks like he’s from Nebraska but don’t let the corn diet fool you. Sheldon is trying to learn the reserve way and is close to obtaining the coveted FRG tab.

MSgt Justin Walsh: Walsh finds himself posted up in MPC most days, diligently focusing on tactically employing the KC-46. Our tactical employment is second only to our tail availability. All jokes aside Justin is instructing the future of the 905th on the daily and judging all the new booms, respectfully so.

MSgt Leiland Knight: As a newly appointed Boom & flight chief he’s eager to flash his authority and knowledge. This guy should be named Wyatt Earp always shooting from the hip. Prior AWACS back seater who seeks out tactics training, who does that? We get it Mr. Link 16 guy. Leiland is a great addition to the 905th and will be a good mentor to the new boomies.

TSgt Chris Newkirk: A new hire from Oklahoma Newkirk is by God a good ole boy. This man looks like a TEMU Elvis impersonator with a country accent to fit the bill.

TSgt Levi “Window” Helman: Helman was the first Boom (self-appointed) NCOIC of an AE. Helman and K-loaders have a love hate relationship, and somehow the K-loader always wins. Helman hobbies include staring out airplane windows for long durations, asking about the Air bus, solving the jig saw puzzle of loading a pallet (not in a good way), and saying “dude.” Helman is starting to lose his FSS stink and becoming a crew dog more and more each day.

TSgt Corey Spillman: Mr. It’s not my fault. Spillman came to us after his stint as a SMA and just finished BIQ. Don’t worry, he already has all the knowledge and doesn’t need guidance. Spillman’s strengths are getting speeding tickets and processing bad vouchers. Hopefully his aviator skills are better than his ability to take responsibility. Spillman’s sense of humor should fit in well and he is becoming a better Boom every day.

SSgt Jesus Payes: Payes is in a gym 10x more than his EFB. When he’s not promoting his virtual personal fitness company you can find him asking the same question 20 times. Payes came from AD and transitioned nicely to the reserve lifestyle and is destined for great things... specifically as a “dependa.”

SSgt Bryce Koelsch: Bryce is waiting for his school start date. As prior service reservist hopefully, school will go better than his knowledge with DTS and orders. Bryce seems like a good fit, but the jury is still out. When he’s not preparing for school, you can find him sending direct emails to the OG, don’t worry, they would have found out his voucher was wrong anyways.

SrA Colten “SLIM” McKeown: Colten would love to tell you his call sign is “Himmy”, but what SrA thinks they can pick their name? Colten recently won Boom operator of the year for the 931st ARW... good thing professionalism wasn’t a graded category. When he isn’t hiding from tasks you can find him TDY hacking the mish or showing of his “drip,” no “cap.”

SrA Heath “IPAD” Overmyer: Heath was temporarily selected as a test boom and led the charge on cutting edge boom testing. Heath refuses to use a computer but has mastered using the EFB for everything, even if it doesn’t work correctly. Anymore you’ll find Heath troughing or substitute teaching and sharing wisdom to the next generation.

SrA Kaden Hauck: Kaden, once a promising boom has slipped to the battle of currency. We see Kaden as often as we see yearly budgets passed the first time. Kaden is a great young man with real estate ambitions certified with a YouTube degree.

SrA Angela Cooper: Inbound from SARM

McCONNELL AFB, KS

924th ARS

“Where it Counts”



CMSgt John “WOKE” Wallman (ART): Chief is actively seeking to out-serve the KC-135 and will probably be forced into retirement. He still refuses to learn sheets and prefers the classic letter by pigeon, AKA his airman dropping off his printed weekly schedule. Chief still hates beards and is currently working to blacklist pilots from airlines for not shaving. He might consider growing one so people will stop asking why his daughter's grandpa shows up to all her events.

SMSgt Bryan Fehrenbach (ART): Bach has finally accepted that scheduling isn't his strong suit, but we have also accepted that he will be too dangerous to put anywhere else. Our last pilot scheduler has recently retired with 100% disability due to hearing loss, she regularly thanks Bach via email! We still think he is the best Boom we have because his IPD setting allows him to see receivers in the 3D camera and on the wing... at the same time! He is next in the lineup for Chief, so he spends a lot of time shadowing Wallman thus leading to a large amount of whiskey consumption, we think he's nervous.

SMSgt Warren “Bear” Bearup (TR): Bear is the squadron's triple threat. Even though he is mainly seen as a flight safety guru he is still a frequent flyer in the 924th (he only flies Tuesdays (sometimes)) and he's a great TDY driver due to previous employment history. The 1990s balcony diving champion is no teddy bear and can regularly be seen terrifying rushees and students in the BOTS, now that I think about it he might have something to do with the 924th's manning issues...not too sure though.

MSgt Ben Sedlacek (ART): Ben is still holding down the fort in Stan Eval and has become the go to guy for all cargo questions. The only thing he enjoys more than reading is lunch time, so do not be the reason his lunch push gets delayed. Ben loves all his airmen or as he likes to call them ‘Spare Parts’ and we are actively working on finding the person he claims to be “drinking all of his beer.”

MSgt Alex Mark (AGR): Alex is our training and DTS boss man. Even better he doubles as a sleeper agent, his wake-up term is “retain as PDF.” His training technique often leaves you rattled and sweating profusely but has been proven to be very effective. We are concerned for national security though as he may be a potential insider threat. He taps in the squadron's Wi-Fi regularly and has multiple HF radios stashed around the building. We are not sure what his end goal is, but we are keeping an eye on him.

MSgt Aaron Cuadra (TR): Aaron is our squadron equivalent to batman. During the day he is working civilian life at Spirit, by night he is going non-current for contacts (he’s local...). Aaron loves to harass the young airman on their poor financial decisions and always has an argument for any positive comment you have. His love for the 46 is almost as strong as his love of poorly written awards packages.

MSgt Dan McCrillis (TR): Dan is a rare breed, a boom in the military and a 737 pilot on the outside. Thus, leading to his love of shaming the pilots for their use of speed brakes and terrible landings. He is the first man to win over a girl by playing meatloaf on repeat in a bar, don't know how you did that Dan but congrats on the engagement. We have been hearing rumors of retirement for a couple of years now, so we are just waiting for him to stop showing up.

SSgt Bryce (STUD) Forrest (TR): Did the sun explode, nope that’s the light bouncing off Forrest's new set of studs! His ability to keep everyone feeling young is something we just can’t hate. He recently told us about his time at K-State is almost up so he will be around the squadron more often! We are all excited to have him back but for some reason Chief has locked himself in his office and hasn’t spoken to anyone in days... Great news though he has been dethroned as worst 781 writer, thanks Oliver!

SSgt Blake Menrath (TR): He’s a bright one but you wouldn’t know it by looking at him. He is often seen pulling together the squadron’s loose ends while leaving a few of his own. He is next in line for IB upgrade, but we think he is hiding out for a pilot slot. Blake is responsible for keeping scheduling in check when Bach needs one of his brain breaks which has slowly become more of a recurring issue. If you’ve never seen the guy just look for the mustache, seriously we don’t know what he’s feeding that thing.

SSgt Andy Anderson (ART): MER shows overdue, that must be a computer issue. Andy has recently just completed IB upgrade and is now one of the most feared instructors. Andy’s flying hours contradict our complaints on not having working airplanes to fly. Her transfer to OSS hurts the hearts of the squadron and her presence around the squadron is missed, but hey at least she stops by to hop on every flight.

SrA Davis Cragun (TR): When it comes to picturing a world of “normal” TR’s he’s your guy. A common UTA warrior but a bit timid for a future senator (Alex will fix that). We are still wondering what his life is like outside of one weekend a month, but hey we know the banking treats him well!

SrA Logan Grindstaff (TR): Logan is usually out flying on TACC lines, but we make sure the Angry Orchard is stocked for when he gets back. We recently found out his favorite color is red, more specifically fire extinguisher red. He somehow managed to log 9 cargo loads on a local sortie, without opening the cargo door, and is a runner up for making the most mistakes on a 781. Logan’s a decent Boom but still puts too much energy into growing a mustache comparable to his hero Blake (we didn’t know he had a stache until he was 3 months into growing it).

SrA Oliver Hughes (TR): Youngest boom of the bunch his availability is complicated when it comes to flying but is completely open to TDY’s involving England (just don’t let him talk to customs). When he’s not at work he is often seen with his top off racing his Miata on the highway, but we think his time might be better used training how to fill out 781s.

FNGs:

TSgt Mae Murch (ART): Murch is one of new additions, formerly a C-130 FE; we aren't sure why her application was even considered. So far, she's done well in OSS so sending her back to her old unit wouldn't be a reasonable option. We are consistently using google translate to decipher her German text messages. She's currently in Altus learning how to be a 46 Boom so I guess we'll see her in a couple of years. We will see how long she sticks around with her desire for the 46 to take her back to the fatherland.

TSgt Liaiga "ROOBI" Avemaoc (TR): Roobi is known for her aggressive nature but quiet personality. She is the most DNIF prone as she tries to determine whether to be a pro rugby player or boom operator. As of now ROOBI works in the MPC and does very well with mission planning and is learning to help backfill scheduling, Bach needs all the help he can get. So far, she looks like a promising pick up from the active-duty side.

SSgt Joey Dopart "Special Joey" (TR): Our most recently acquired body from the double dark side (Active Duty & KC-135) has just left the nest. He is off testing his retention skills while trying to master the art of a multi-capable, face of the future, technological masterpiece (He is in Altus learning to be a 46 boom). We will see how he likes the new side of things when he gets his feet back in the unit.

SrA Germod Arthur (TR): A stolen soul from finance turned boom. He now works the double life trying to fix people's financial issues while they try to fix his ability to be a better boom. Finance decided to crumble when he left so we had to get him rights back or else the rest of us wouldn't get paid. Still managed to make himself useful faster than Grindstaff has.

SrA Jacob Mariano (TR): Jacob just finished the pipeline and is currently in SERE. Hopefully he learns to leave his circle by the time he gets back here.

DEPARTED THE FIX:

SMSgt Ben Rausch (ART): Rausch had to leave us for the 18th because Bach felt inferior since Rausch had done more as a senior in two weeks than Bach had in a year. Don't worry Bach still has one up because it didn't take him two years to finish SNCOA.

TSgt Eileen Ahlers (TR): Eileen is another lost soul to the 18th, ex gunner turned ex squadron member but at least we don't have to deal with that attitude anymore good luck to the 18th (Jk we will miss you)!

TSgt Corey Targos (TR): Corey left us for the officer route thinking he will get more respect, but he will just be getting a bill for the beer fund. Just know we are saluting for your excellent use of spreadsheets not because you're an officer.

SrA Connor Wedel (TR): We lost Connor to a trade he is over in the 18th now and will be missed. Stop mixing your squadron patches!

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, New York

914th ARW / 328th ARS



This Unit did not submit

OSAN AB, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

607 Air Operations Center

SABRES

“Fight Tonight”



This Unit did not submit

MCGHEE TYSON ANGB, TN

134th ARW / 151st ARS
“Sylvester’s Squad”

“Home of the Tennessee Volunteers”

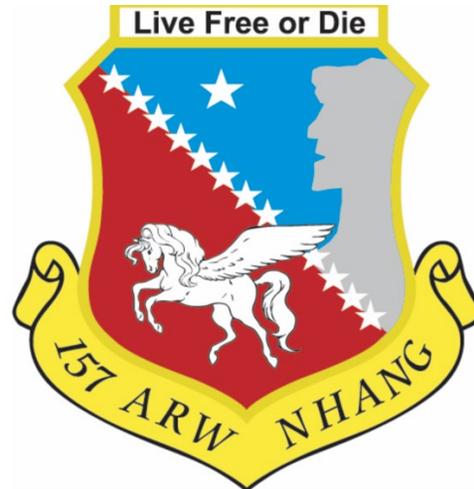


This Unit did not submit

PEASE ANGB, NEW HAMPSHIRE

133 ARS / 157 ARW

SABERCATS



The Full-Time Force

CMSgt Mike “G-Rod” Girouard – Somehow simultaneously served a deployment and ran daily culinary tours out of Doha. He barely broke even out there, but hey - a hungry Chief will make it happen, no matter the cost. If you hear him say “The girls have been busy!”, it’s not an innuendo; it’s his chickens laying eggs. Definitely has a lipstick list and you’re on it. Yells at the homeless.

SMSgt Al “Precious” Beaulieu – Finally got his dream job as a wounded Veteran, and boy is he absolutely killing it. Spends his days at Flight Safety with his best bud patiently discussing strategies for growing a healthy working relationship with the ATS and cultivating the next generation of booms. World renowned elevator critic. Slowly becoming a cyborg.

SMSgt Brett “Blue Steel” Peterson – Currently on his farewell tour while fielding applications for his replacement as the “Face of the NHANG.” It’s a failing endeavor though because he’s too...damn...handsome. And mustachey. He cannot be replaced. Seriously, it’ll cost way too much to reprint all those ads, and we still have to rewire the building. East Coast Demo Team OG – nobody deploys the boom and refuels nothing quite like Brett!

SMSgt Keith “Kieth” Prochaska – The man has multiple addictions. We know of some, we speculate on others. Will argue in favor of a technique and then get it published in the reg so that it becomes procedure to make you even more wrong. He has a smile that says “I definitely killed a guy while ice fishing”, and a handshake that says “You’re going to help me bury the body.” Also, he is a literal ice cream cone thief.

MSgt Natalie “Whatever It Takes” Belongie – Publicly referred to as “The Hammer” of Stan/Eval, secretly feared as the hatchet-wielding “Blue Ridge Ripper”. Probably makes Pack eat her victims, which is why he never finishes his kibble. Occasional psychopath behavior like running 50 miles without training. Has a stalker who leaves gifts on her desk. Delicious gifts. Ask the stalker for a refill please. Does not know how to drive.

MSgt Diana “Sweet D” Carr – Probably the most resourceful (yet ridiculous) person we know. She has a broad range of hobbies including forestry, mycology, zoology, and buffoonery. A midnight timber harvester, she proudly engages in the gathering of logs in an effort to burn down her camp, and her friends. Proud inventor of games like Clam Toss and Nut-in-a-Cup. Pets rabid animals. Probably is one herself. Knows how to drive...but is terrible at it.

MSgt Jay “Jayvid Goggins” Inglis – Jay runs in the sun. Jay runs in the rain. Jay runs like a bus. He takes off like a plane. He runs through the street. He runs past the bay. Nobody runs everywhere, quite like our Jay!

MSgt Kevin “KJ” Johnson – An aspiring German, KJ is a full-time bread baker, bug boiler, bar builder, and part-time mission planner. Loves flying in the fall, and only the fall. Likely a closet leaf-gawker. The only time we’ve seen him wearing pants is when he’s in a flight suit.

MSgt Mike “Mud Junkie” Windy – Doesn’t really have a way with words...but he sure knows his way around the -46. Inside of it too. Especially in the sensitive bits. Anyway...loves pour-over coffee, and loves offering it to his friends like it’s black-tar heroin. Once saw him spit some back into the carafe just so the pilots could have some. Nice guy,..kinda creepy, but nice.

TSgt Alex “If Found, Return to Paula” Bettcher – We gotta talk about Alex. Absolute madman. A complete animal on the road, a buffalo in the office, on the jet...a bull in a glass warehouse. We can’t take him anywhere. His incessant yelling is starting to rub people the wrong way. My dude, shut your mouth for once.

TSgt Daren “You New?” Hayes – Resident standard enforcer, occasional standard follower, low center of gravity. Likes to relive his glory days in “The Corps” by yelling at new (and old) airmen about things he forgot to do...which is almost everything. Runs a sweatshop of frightened airmen out of the squadron yard. Sometimes he even flies.

TSgt Kendrick “Blink Twice if in Danger” Guerrier – A quiet guy who really doesn’t like to talk on the phone. Thinks he’s being watched (he probably is). Lurks within the UDM cave like a bat, but does none of the cool bat things.

TSgt Jordan “Fire is Hot, I Am Not” Moore – Smells bad, knows everything about TDL, knows nothing about women, terrible mustache. Speaking of which, where’d the middle of your mustache go? Wicked smart, but wicked abrasive. Always picking fights with everyone. Sports a killer comb-over. At least, it’s killing us.

TSgt Matt “Rain Delay” Rogers – Supplements his diet with a steady flow of yesterday’s coffee and Marb darts. Can often be found haunting the squadron picnic tables, where he accumulates more hours inhaling sweet sweet arsenic and asking questions that he already has the answers to than he does flying the airplane. Drives a big Jeep, doesn’t do big Jeep things.

TSgt Dan “Bestest Boy” Taylor – Hide your kids and your chihuahuas, Dan’s lost Croc is on the loose. Largest singular contributor to the great Croc infestation of the New England watershed. Exclusively sleeps standing up or simultaneously curled in a ball. Some people get stress fractures by running – Dan gets them trying to catch flying beers with his shins.

The Full-Time Part-Time Force

SMSgt Jimmy “This Is Why I Stay In!” Doyle – Has a version of our operations manuals memorized but it’s a mix of two different Dash 1’s and a VCR troubleshooting guide. Loves showing the kids the ropes, but sometimes

those ropes are tied to Miller Lites. If you smell something like burning clutch with a touch of rotting corpse, run...although it's already too late. He's an absolute staple – 60 is just a number, Jimmy!

SMSgt Chris “Stormy” Storm – Likes to tell everyone they're going to get butthole cancer from energy drinks but that carbs never killed anyone. Often transitions between his flight suit and Statey suit to scare the Wing on drill weekends. Recently into Hyrox, a likely excuse to eat more cookies. Known to occasionally fire his service weapon at LARPer.

SMSgt Rick “BRE” Taylor – Preferred pronoun is “Rich”. Eater of sweet treats. Insert cookie or pie into mouthhole if you ever get tired of listening to him flapping his gums (or making random incoherent noises). Rich is making a name for himself only because he's tall. A nervous talker, sometimes a nervous farter. We're still trying to forgive him for getting a little too friendly with the 64th. And for taking out Al's hip and kneecap.

MSgt Sean “Milk Farts” Avery – Received a complementary PhD in sarcasm and has zero concern for the emotional survivability of his audience. Easily defeated by anything that comes out of a nipple. He's always advocating for the interests of our struggling booms, but the favor is rarely returned...not that he's into that type of thing. Walks around with a crappy look on his face then asks everyone else what their problem is. Sometimes we sneak cheese into his food.

MSgt Nate “Hey Natalie!” Bahr – Smartest guy we know – at least that's what he tells us. Aspiring SMSgt, lives like a Senior Airman. Judging by the pile of Monster cans jostling around the floor of his Hyundai (the same ones from last year), he's definitely getting butthole cancer. Known to spontaneously become Lord of the Underworld after knocking back Natty Ices for 36 straight hours. Still telling Dad jokes nobody wants to hear. Shut up, Nate.

MSgt Nick “Huggy Bear” Bertell – Sweet Nicholas. Gentle Nicholas. Friendly Nicholas. Dude could make friends with a highway overpass. Known to wander the countryside, walking stick in-hand, gathering a merry band of homely woodland companions. Occasionally needs to be burped, but will still spit up just a little bit under picnic tables if left unattended. Strongest boy in the world.

MSgt Mary “Mrs. Jim” Lux – Ah yes, Mahway. Mahway is wot bwings us togevuh, today. The literal life of the party, she ensures all are included and nobody is offended...because she'll get offended for them. This lady will take any program you hand her and make it do all the things you wanted and a few you didn't. Got into a kickboxing match with a frozen tree and won. Give a wide berth, she dances aggressively.

MSgt Nate “Sock Muppet” Tarleton – Easily the most humble guy in the building, he once went a whole day without comparing flight hours or bragging about one of his 42 trips to Croatia. Watch out for his wandering eyes; you might catch him peeping your rack...of ribbons that is. (Comparison is the thief of joy, Nate.) ALSO - My dude, get your filthy boots off the furniture!

TSgt Matt “Dude Bro” Dawley – I don't know where he is right at this moment, but he's definitely sweating and studying profusely so Nate Bahr doesn't yell at him again. He has two modes: borderline incoherent muttering and spontaneous outburst. Both are offensive. But somehow, he still ends up being the most offended.

TSgt Evan “Daddy Evan” Delhay – Still trying to find something that bothers this man. Always so unwavering, even after being rudely awakened in the middle of the night by gremlins on the banks of the Saco. Something doesn't add up...former Marine and just the nicest guy. All signs point to serial killer. Those were people you were cooking out of the back of your truck weren't they, Evan??

TSgt Brandon “Silk Specter” Derry – We think he's a principal...or something? Definitely reminds us of one, anyway. Great hair. Could also be a robot.

TSgt Fred “Hell's Angel” Horne – Not one for small talk...or big talk. He's either got a bike to ride or money to be made. We're glad he has use of his hands again, to bid on literally everything in Puckboard.

TSgt Sam “Orders, Please” Katchen – We don’t really know this guy yet. Only that he was a crusty FE. Came to us from Active Duty and wanted to know when he would get paid after making the switch. Ahh Sam – welcome to the Guard.

TSgt Ravi “Thorny” Madahar – A self-proclaimed Disney adult, multiple park characters have active restraining orders against him. Something about aggressively pushing mustache rides at the meet-and-greets. My god Ravi, it’s a kid’s park. Also, the dude’s volume is permanently set to “megaphone”.

TSgt Kayla “Not a Crew Chief Anymore” Orner – No, you’re not. Don’t you dare touch that circuit breaker. And put the damn wrench down. And stop yelling. We’re civilized here.

TSgt Sam Rutter – A shining star of humanity’s selfless nature, chronically DNIF, will definitely tell you everything about her you don’t want to know.

TSgt Ricky “O’Shag Hennessy” Shaughnessy – This guy is too nice, he flies too much, he’s too proactive, and he is always doing exactly what he’s supposed to do. It pisses me off and I hate him.

TSgt Dave “I May Have Overcommitted” White – We always want to hang out with Dave, and he agrees to plans so fast that you’d never guess he has a wife and kids...mostly because *he* forgets he has a wife and kids. One of these days you’re gonna have to tell them about all of us, Dave – I think they’re catching on.

SSgt Robert “Love Ladder” Alcocer – A real ladies’ man and big fan of the Wall Street Journal. Only human we’ve ever seen to proudly sport a Piggly Wiggly t-shirt in public. Keeps finding creative ways to embarrass himself in front of the fairer sex. If only we had checklists and regulations for all this stuff, Rob!

SSgt Josh “Space Marine” Allen – Brings his Marine friends out to the airplane to show them how the big gray crayon in the sky flies so high. Points and grunts a lot.

SSgt Jake “Got a Sec?” Cabana – No Jake, whatever it is, I don’t want anything to do with it. Ok, I’ll give you 30 seconds. What’s that? Yeah, my ears always bleed like this.

SSgt Leah “All The Pretty People” Gosselin – Only flies with hand models. Dresses nice. Might also smell nice. Not sure since she won’t fly with us.

SSgt Will “Masshole” Gribauskas – Genuinely a nice guy, but he lives in Mass and we can’t forgive him for that.

SSgt Shenna “Wait, What?” Londoff – In exhibitions of counterintuitive locomotion wrought by fermented bravado, she is known to allegedly approach rotaries in a manner most geometrically antithetical to its intention.

SSgt Bryce “Is Nice” Parker – Somewhere fighting fires, and occasional golf course worker. That’s all we got. Nice guy...we think.

SSgt Abby “Wednesday” Stroup – How many booms does it take to turn on the lights? Just one...unless it’s Abby. Won a big award one time, and will not shut up about it. Probably going to be a Lieutenant one day. When she smiles, it looks like it hurts.

SSgt Eddie “Shreddy” Taveras – Literally always looks like he’s up to something, but we really couldn’t tell you what or why. The mustache doesn’t help his case...but it does make his face more punchable.

SrA Addison “Clobberin’ Time” DesRosiers – She can easily kick any of your booms’ asses. She does have a gentle side though, as demonstrated when we all watched, or rather heard, a real-life love story unfold between her and the Deid command post. And they say romance is dead.

SrA Keith “Clear Eyes” Reid – He’s circling some random airstrip in the Maine wilderness, smiling the entire time. Even when he’s frowning...he’s still smiling.

SrA Ethan “Nobody Specifically Told Me I Couldn’t Do That” Satow – Still needs to get slapped around once in a while. Sometimes resembles ol’ Leo DiCaprio in “What’s Eating Gilbert Grape?”. Would rather shave his head than comb his hair.

SrA Emma “Not Running on Empty” Schmidt – Ironically, she was tasked with accounting for the entire squadron’s fuel trackers. Currently sleeping with the buffaloes somewhere in Wyoming. At least she doesn’t have to worry about running out of gas in the wilderness.

A1C Tom “Son of Jason” Denton – Referred to us by his recently-retired father. Drives an old VW camper van he was probably conceived in. Gross.

A1C Zach “Flying Fish” Marcoux – We have 2 rules on the airplane, Zach violated one of them. We now have a “Tuna Evacuation Checklist” in the QRH. Once heard him crying “Please don’t let Daren make me build another pagoda” in his sleep.

Boom Stowed, Leaving Position

CMSgt Dan “The Brain” Luter – Had enough of ROD99 and decided to hang up the flight suit in the summer of 2024. We still get to see him occasionally as his retirement gig allows him to come back periodically and brief us on how we keep breaking shit. We miss you Chief, and we thank you for all you taught us!

SMSgt Daryl “Merryum-Webbstur” McPhee – Retired this past spring and legitly left a huge vacancy in our hearts and manning document. While Daryl’s presence is sorely missed, the squadron’s overall quality of email communication has drastically improved – sirs and mamas all over the Air Force are thankful for that. Miss you Daryl!

See Yuh!

TSgt Hector “I’m the Problem, It’s Me” Acevedo – Stopped flying because it became inconvenient. Ran out of excuses and found the door.

TSgt Shantelle “Soylent Mean” Berry – Hates hunting but loves taking shots at everyone around her. Plants are people too...and they don’t like her either.

SrA Willem “Are We Hiring the Same Boom?” Shattuck – [REDACTED]

A1C Kyle “Who is Kyle Castrigno?” Castrigno – Really liked sleeping on the jet. Hope he’s doing well.

PEASE ANGB, NEW HAMPSHIRE

64 ARS / 157 ARW

PHOENIXES



MSgt Erica Lawson – Just showed up and couldn't wait to start whipping everyone into shape! A few years doing staff work would make anyone want to kick some butts. First, she should probably figure out who everyone is.

(M)Sgt Amy "Bubbles" James – Amy couldn't hold back her excitement for being given the opportunity to do the Ops Sup job (after whatever his name is). As she is the darling of the squadron, you can be forgiven for assuming Amy works in PA cause she's constantly smiling and interacting with strangers.

TSgt Dan Childress – The epitome of a salty Tech, Dan can't wait to retire (and reminds us every day).

TSgt Ryan "Lives with his Mom" Edsall – Can't pass a CLEP to save his life. One of the worst karaoke singers of all time. You guessed it, still lives with his mom. We heard a few rumors and are now all booking spots in her hot yoga class.

TSgt Lyndon Nguyen – Lyndon came to Pease to camp and enjoy fancy New England IPAs. Little did he know that "camp" meant a surprise visit to the Deid chicken coops. At least he had the scheduling desk to look forward to upon his return.

(T)Sgt Austin Blodgett – Another go-getter! If he isn't hunting, talking about hunting, fixing his house, learning what a turkey sounds like or working on mysterious tactical things, he's figuring out how to be a new dad. We're not sure he has really grasped the monumental change about to happen in his life...but we're along for the ride

SSgt Natalia Berry – Continues to be a go-getter (to nobody's surprise), immediately laying down the law and writing spicy ATPR's for students the moment she put on SSgt. At least now she doesn't have to break airplanes to fill up her EPBs. They practically write themselves!

SSgt Brenton "The Juice is Loose!" Collins – When making contact with an unwilling F-16, he likes to break EMCON to whisper "The juice is loose!" Nobody asks for it...nobody likes it, yet he keeps doing it. If he wasn't a

boom, he'd make a great comedian, a career path that doesn't require schooling. Which is great news, since he can't spell worth a damn.

SSgt Shaina Cox – If you can't find her, she's probably in the UDM office for some reason. Or getting Starbucks. Doesn't talk much, but sure is sassy when she does! Must be the caffeine.

SSgt Jaime Lozoya – Always seems to be in the right place at the right time! Recently adorned SSgt and was gifted the job of Sq Exec and proceeded to delight the Commander with smiles, even though he rarely knows what the hell is going on. Jaime is proof that "smile-and-wave boys!" is a legitimate career path.

SSgt Austin Savage – Learning how to be an instructor while unintentionally challenging the existing IBs. On his way to the glorious motherland of Altus as we speak!

SrA Tyler Freetly – Great boom, but hasn't had much luck operating vehicles. While recklessly driving his one-wheeled wonder, he cut off a guard Chief on base, which is like poking a hornet's nest. He still shows up to scheduling with a smile on his face...somehow.

SrA Jakob Rafferty – Got a KC-10 tattoo after his transition to the KC-46. He may not speak, but regret is permanent.

SrA Aaron Rasmussen – Takes mysterious long vacations to Japan. We're not sure if he has an alternate life over there or he's really, REALLY into anime.

SrA RJ Ripley – Fairly new here, we don't know much about him yet. Other than when it comes to college basketball, you can consider him Rainman. Spent his first TDY to Hawaii locked up in his room watching college basketball.

SrA Amalia Rosa – More likely to find her in the Pacific than the office.

SrA Jovani Zavala – Continues to bless and confuse us with his endearing awkwardness. Evidently has never participated in Thanksgiving or even heard of turkey. At least we hope he knows what a potluck is now.

Inbound Phabulous Phoenixes

(S)MSgt Kevin Calloway – Never heard of him. Why? He's looking forward to becoming a boom, so we'll keep his intro to the Boom Signal mildly spicy. First time we've heard of a Senior going through BTX, but here we are! We're excited to have him and hear all the war stories from his C-130 days.

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR, HICKAM, HAWAII

203RD ARS

“ 'A'OLE MAMA O LOA ”



This Unit did not submit.

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR, HICKAM, HAWAII

613TH AOC

“NOT GONNA SUBMIT-O ”



This Unit did not submit.

PENTAGON, VA

HAF A5/7

“THE VOICE OF TOMORROW’S AIRMEN”



Mobility Capability Development Team

CMSgt Jamie Almquist: As the sole boom operator on the HAF Staff, CMSgt Almquist spent the last year advocating for NGAS, KC-135 Replacement Aircraft, and program updates/upgrades for the KC-46. Earlier this year he was detailed to stand-up the Integrated Capabilities Command. There his team is building out the functional modernization plan as well as the integrated modernization plan across the DAF. He finds solace in an article published by the Air Force Times titled, “Top 9 places to cry inside the Pentagon.” This summer he is PCSing to Moody AFB to be the SEL for the 41st Rescue Squadron.

RAMSTEIN AB, GERMANY

HQ USAFE-AFAFRICA A3TV / A3/10 / A34

MAJCOM Functional Manager/Operations Directorate/Air Mobility Division



The Operations Directorate oversees the organization, training, and equips activities to ensure USAFE-AFAFRICA assigned Wings have the equipment and training support to execute assigned missions in two combatant command theater of operations.

The Air Mobility Division is the operational level command and control organization responsible for turning USEUCOM & USAFRICOM combatant commander's intent into air power effects. Uniquely positioned, their operating area confronts strategic competition between Russia and NATO, dynamic counterterrorism missions in Africa, and acts as a vital bridge between CONUS and USCENTCOM.

Career Enlisted Aviator, MAJCOM Functional Manager:

CMSgt Kenneth Harwood – Was recently serving as the MFM at Scott AFB, where he oversaw all assignments for Boom Operators, and surprisingly he got an assignment to arguably the best base in all of Europe, Ramstein AB. The Chief is already getting after it and met with all CEAs at Ramstein's AOC, dishing out words of wisdom, Air Force stories, CEA news, and a few F-bombs carefully sprinkled in. We're all excited to have a Boom Operator running the show up here for a while and look forward to sharing a beer with him at the next Thirsty Thursday.

Operations Directorate:

MSgt Jeremy "Radio" Hall, Command Evaluator – Getting ready to PCS back to the CR. Was told he needs to move because it is a "Highly Desired position" but having to advertise the position 3 times proved otherwise. He still misses his son terribly.

Air Mobility Division, Air Refueling Control Team:

MSgt Shon "Temple" Shirley, Flight Chief – You'll find him circling the parking lot trying to find a European sized parking spot big enough to fit his unnecessary American sized truck. Is always at his busiest when complex missions need planning "guys I'd love to help, but I've got these awards packages to review" (proceeds to browse reddit). Has been here a full year and can almost say 4 words in German.

TSgt Shane "Tschüss" Kinslow, Strategic Tanker Planner – Hogs the office TV, forcing us all to watch amateur women's basketball (dude their families aren't even watching). Carries around a flask of cheap tequila everywhere he goes and is always trying to get us to drink the devil's hooch with him. Was told there was a uniform inspection the next day and still wore white socks, "I can't believe they checked my socks" smh. All that said, he is the sole Instructor/Evaluator in ARCT and is doing a great job keeping us trained and current.

SSgt Stephon "DIP" Sharief, Strategic Tanker Planner – We love him so much we sent him to Wing Training for a year for "career development". As the office hermit we never see him after work and literally no one has ever seen this "family" he claims to have. Told everyone he had a bachelor's degree then acted confused when we proved he didn't "huh? Oh, I thought I did". Didn't realize until 13 years in that he had never received any Flight Pay (enjoy that back pay, don't spend it all on Dr. Peppers and ZYN). Is constantly winning awards and got a second strat (if you don't make Tech this year, you're getting paperwork!)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND AFB, TEXAS

344 TRS/CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

“SPARTANS”



This Unit did not submit.

AETC A3/6



SMSgt Evangeline Palmer- Eve got here to boost our numbers from 2 booms to a magical number of 3, uneven as our crew. Rumor on the street is that she had to fight AFPC to get joint orders here... ANYTHING more than 12 months drives a joint spouse assignment for those reading that are dual mil... When we heard Eve was coming down to Randolph on a joint assignment the rumor was she was married to a Chief but turns out she has a sugar daddy... Well continuing on, Eve works as the CEA pipeline manager coordinating with a bunch of outside agencies controlling the CEA from the moment they graduate BMT till they report to their unit, upon arrival she found out that her office was handling officer stuff and immediately told AFPC to do their job since her office deals with C E A's not officers, this move decreased her office workload (her office is super busy, probably the busiest of all of the other offices in the A-staff). The MSgts in her office are happy that she made that happen.

MSgt Jan "Janimal" Perez-Fontanez- Jan showed up in January to a spot that had been empty for more than a year. Like always Jan got to work and started talking to people. Within the first 2 days at work his branch chief told him he was the second person in the division that talks the most... OUCH... but you know Jan he likes to talk and get to know people. In the time Jan has been in AETC/A3V Jan has argued with Altus like 3 times... Did you know if you are a previous Altus IB you don't need to do FTC? Did you know if you are assigned to Altus and you crossflowed and had to go through BIQ you are a MB at the end of it? Also, you don't have to do MQT!? Read Chapter 3 DOT... All jokes aside, Jan is a great addition to staff and has learned a lot since his arrival here at Randolph. If he is not working, he is socializing and talking a lot... probably knows half of the base at this point.

Flying Training Center of Excellence



SMSgt Jason Coffey- Jason was the lone boom for a while down at Randolph until Jan got here in January. He has been trying so hard to convince Jan and Eve to go to the KC-46 but they love their window too much. Jason used to be the MAF training program manager and dual hatted as the KC-46 Command EB but got moved to be the SEL of the new Flying Training COE. He took his UMD position number with him before AETC pulled all of the A3 positions back to the MAJCOM level. Lost his 'Q' code due to "being far removed from A3V"... at least this was the excuse the Chief of AETC A3V used. Somehow he is still in a flying billet without needing to be in one... Give Val your API code so that she can start flying. All jokes aside, Jason is the go-to for anything KC-46 on staff and has the career field best interest at heart.

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HQ AETC/A3FH



This Unit did not submit.

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HQ AETC/A3VM



This Unit did not submit.

PITTSBURGH IAP, PENNSYLVANIA

171st ARW



This unit did not submit

ROLAND R. WRIGHT ANG BASE, SLC, UTAH

191 ARS

Home of SLARCO



This Unit did not submit.

RAF MILDENHALL, UNITED KINGDOM

USAFE A3, 100 ARW, 100 OG, 351 ARS, 100 OSS

“Bloody Hundredth, HELL YEAH, BROTHER!”



USAFE A3/AV:

MSgt Jeremy "Radio" Hall, MAJCOM Evaluator- Uncle "Radio" will be missed as he is on his farewell tour. He came back to do requal but mostly ended up sharing his many stories and lessons to our younger members as world events had other plans. The flying world will not be the same as Radio has recently completed his TANKER FINI, as he now heads out to a non-flying assignment where his only checklist will be outlook calendar invites as he figures out where to hide from team calls. Enjoy the CRW!

351 ARS Leadership:

MSgt Fernando "Bromie" Brome, SEL- IS BROME THE CHIEF BOOM OR THE SEL? NOBODY CAN REALLY TELL. IF HE'S NOT IN UNIFORM, THE GOLD TEETH ARE IN AND SHINING. HE RUNS A TIGHT SHIP JUST LIKE HIS SHOELACES, EVEN IF HE GETS SIDETRACKED EVERY FIVE MINUTES. HE HOLDS THE HIGHLY PRESTIGIOUS TITLE OF THE FIRST OFFICIAL TALL MIDGET. YOU MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S YELLING HALF THE TIME, BUT TRUST US, IT'S IMPORTANT. MUMBLE YELLING, LEADERSHIP, AND CHRONIC DISTRACTION, THAT'S BROME.

MSgt Michael Dmytriw, Operations Superintendent- Nothing says stable leadership like a man powered entirely by caffeine, nicotine, and unresolved anxiety. No matter the size of the problem, it's the world's biggest problem — everything is *immediately* DEFCON 1. *Comrade* is absolutely crushing it in the Ops Sup seat and has successfully reinstalled fear of the Chief Boom into the mission booms, one panicked checklist at a time. Keep doing whatever it is you're doing, Dmytriw — no one's relaxed, but everything's getting done.

MSgt Nate "VANDAL" Perry, ARS First Shirt - Perry is living proof that your head shape can shape your career. With a dome that shines like a freshly waxed big toe and a mustache that operates completely independently, he fully embraced Patch Tactics before realizing... yeah, this isn't it. So, he did what any bald, frustrated tactician would do and traded in his pickle suit for a ground OCP, officially claiming his spot as the squadron's undershirt. Now he spends his days policing Airmen on proper patch wear while boosting morale with his down-to-earth vibe and painfully accurate bald jokes. Patch, patch, bald, tactics, bald... welcome to the Perry experience.

B Flt:

TSgt Kadrick “K-Dot” Barnes, Flight Chief - Barnes is officially back at Mildenhall after his two-year TDY escape to MacDill, proving he just can't resist round two of European adventures. Freshly single and ready to enjoy the freedoms of the UK once again, Barnes has technically been back for two months but somehow only managed to show up to work for two weeks. Apparently, house hunting leave isn't just 10 days anymore if you play your cards right. Between questionable relationship decisions and an inability to update his dream sheet, Barnes is already off to a strong start. Good luck out here Barnes and maybe see if someone can show you how to log into myVector this time.

Training:

SSgt Kevin “Sat” Satherry – Sat is the walking definition of gym-rat energy with a side of salty staff sergeant, known for his relentless lifting regimen, open disdain for nonsense, and quarterly sabbaticals to Thailand for the culture... love you long time. He's completely turned around the Orientation Flight Program, making it something first-term Airmen actually care about. It's impressive work from a guy who seems equally motivated by mentorship and spite.

SSgt Miles Humphries – Miles, the squadron's part-time boom and full-time mystery, has built a legacy of showing up just enough to remind you he still technically works here. A dedicated gamer and rumored crypto millionaire, he attempted to crossflow to the KC-46 purely for the reenlistment bonus only to find out, in classic Humphries fashion, that the Air Force pulled the plug right before he could cash in. Whether he's leveling up in some obscure online game, trying to decode KC-46 procedures, or quietly vacationing in Thailand with Satherry, no one really knows. One thing's for sure, now that he's gone the CFIC candidates might finally get some structure or at least a syllabus.

SrA Jonathan “Lil Jon” Ross- Ross, aka Lil' Jon, has miraculously broken free from the scheduling shop and found his way to the training shop. After spending most of his Air Force career DNIF, everyone just assumed he was a personnelist in a flight suit. Quiet, sneaky, and always just out of sight, Ross has re-entered the game and is now passing on knowledge like he's been flying this whole time. Whether he's actually teaching or just quietly judging you from the corner, one thing's clear, Lil' Jon is finally back in business... just don't expect him to yell YEAH.

SrA Alex Robinson – Alex has been busy, fresh out of CFIC as the 3-5-1's newest instructor, proud new dad and husband. He's known for his talent with public speaking and whiteboard spelling, quick wit, and complete inability to avoid talking back to UK cops. Robinson now gets to juggle checkrides, dirty diapers, and traffic stops all in the same week. We're pretty sure there's no AFI covering this combo, but if there is, Alex will find a way to argue with it. Congrats on the new baby, wife, and the instructor badge, Robinson. Tampa is in for some entertainment and probably a few more tickets.

SrA Edgar Lopez – Lopez, better known as Eddie Money, recently survived his memorable first deployment, an experience made even more special thanks to a one-of-a-kind crew that left him questioning his life choices. Back home, Eddie continues his reign as the squadron's most stubborn tax evader, famously refusing to pay British vehicle taxes and coming dangerously close to becoming a courtroom regular. When he's not dodging the UK government, he's skillfully avoiding homework of any kind, proving that paperwork, much like taxes, just isn't in his vocabulary. Keep living the dream, Eddie, but maybe check your mail for court summons.

Scheduling:

SrA Jeff “NOMAD” Mayfield- Jeff NOMAD Mayfield has built a reputation both as a commendable instructor and as an international man of mystery, mostly because no one ever knows what country he's in or what party he just threw up at. Whether he's disappearing mid-party, passing out naked on a toilet, or hopping a flight to his next adventure, Mayfield brings the same chaotic energy to life as he does to the boom pod. His mentorship in the air is solid, his passport's more worn than his liver, and his party survival rate? Debatable. Keep leading from the front, NOMAD, just maybe invest in a GPS tracker and a bathrobe.

A1C Reece Carman – Reece was clearly born in the wrong era, with his Ron Jeremy-tier mustache, rose-colored glasses, and old-school swagger, he'd fit right in at a 1970s car meet or possibly a questionable music video. Unfortunately, those same glasses have landed him in hot water with the Shirt more than once, proving optimism isn't always mission-ready. When he's not dodging leadership or explaining his fashion choices, Reece runs a full-blown Harbor Freight-powered auto shop thanks to the KC-135's convenient free shipping. He might be stuck in the wrong decade, but at least he's got the best mustache and the loosest tool set in the squadron.

A1C Danny Fragoso- Fragoso might be the nicest guy in the squadron, but behind that friendly smile and daily 10K routine lies a man with a dark, mildly unsanitary secret, he once peed on Marissa Tooze's couch. Fueled by caffeine and pure cardio, Fragoso somehow has the stamina to outrun most of us but never quite outruns his own exhaustion, permanently carrying a coffee in hand and the look of someone who hasn't slept in years. Whether he's logging miles, dodging rest, or accidentally redecorating furniture, Fragoso keeps things interesting. Keep running, buddy, just maybe stay away from the living room next time.

C Flt:

TSgt Eric "Stroke" Severs, Flt Chief- Severs, better known as STROKE, is easy to spot, just look for the bright red hair, cartoon-blue glasses, and pink unicorn socks violating uniform standards across the squadron. As everyone's favorite weapons instructor and the missing Unit Command Center NCO during the wing inspection, Severs has perfected the art of disappearing when the higher-ups roll in. But don't worry, he's been busy, namely rushing his marriage paperwork faster than a 1C4 loads a pub, all to ensure his wife gets that coveted U.S. visa. And to top it all off, despite his best efforts to dodge it, he's now headed to the 509th WPS. Congrats STROKE, your socks, your new wife, and your sparkling record of strategic absences are headed to Fairchild.

Tactics:

A1C Aidan Hilty – Hilty's resume reads like a fever dream, owner of the most elite deployed booty short collection challenging any Navy SEAL, mastermind behind the KC-135's underground free shipping operation, and proud driver of what's likely the most unregistered fleet of vehicles in the tri-base area. Despite all that, the real shocker is his diet, the man's never eaten a burger and only recently experienced his first taco in Las Vegas. Add in his IPCOT DEROS extension, and he's got a little extra time to figure life out or at least finally find a suitor before the clock runs out. Once he finishes Advanced Instructor Course, Hilty plans to commission as a pilot and return to Weapons Instructor Course purely for the meme. Between the shorts, the unregistered cars, and the questionable diet, Hilty might be the most confusing success story the squadron has ever seen.

Safety:

SSgt Jesse Santiago – Santiago gave OSI a shot but quickly realized he's better suited for air refueling than undercover work, which is probably for the best considering his storytelling skills tend to give away the plot. After deciding the KC-135 boom life wasn't exactly his vibe, he made the jump to the Pegasus where things are newer, shinier, and maybe just a little less chaotic. With more tattoos than an Ink Masters finalist and writing skills that could still use a little polish, Santiago's carving out his next chapter. Good luck on the 46 man, and maybe hit up Grammarly on the way.

XP:

SSgt Cory "Emer" Drummond- Drummond, better known as EMER, has once again found a new argument to keep the squadron entertained, this time, it's his groundbreaking discovery that we've all been doing crew rest wrong for the past 69 years. After crunching the numbers (because of course he did), he's convinced the Air Force owes him at least a minute of sleep for every mission in his 12-year career. Somebody get a calculator and let the man reclaim his time. In between rewriting

regulations and explaining the crew rest loophole to leadership, EMER somehow got accepted into a PhD program, not that he's mentioned it more than, say, every conversation. Now if only he could figure out the math to make TSgt, but hey, at least academia appreciates his logic.

Stan/Eval:

TSgt Madison Sibinski, Flt Chief- Sibinski narrowly escaped a fate worse than paperwork, serving as George Oakes' assistant in the security office, and instead took charge of the Stan Eval shop where she now keeps the entire squadron on their toes. Married to a maintainer and running Stan Eval with the efficiency of a safety brief gone wrong, Sibinski has perfected the art of ensuring Airmen are just the right amount of afraid of her. A devoted dog mom and self-declared espresso martini connoisseur, Sibinski somehow balances terrifying efficiency, squadron morale, and a healthy caffeine buzz all while making sure nobody forgets a Form 8 or underestimates her.

SSgt Gabriel "Husky" Padilla – Padilla has managed to build an impressive reputation as the squadron's resident source of completely useless knowledge from obscure movie quotes to random historical facts no one asked for. Despite his constant denial, it's becoming increasingly obvious that he's got a soft spot for tactics and is next in line for Advanced Instructor Course whether he likes it or not. Soon, he'll be joining the rest of the McConnell exodus heading to Fairchild where his trivia, tactical reluctance, and questionable humility will no doubt follow. Good luck Padilla, Fairchild isn't ready for the random facts or you.

SrA Zachary "G-LOC" Donato- Before Donato hanging up the flight suit, he was already making waves in more ways than one. Known for rolling up to work in his tiny Smart Car and somehow turning every flight into an inflight emergency, Donato kept life interesting for everyone around him. His off-duty hobbies included jumping into the river outside the local pub not once but twice for a cool \$200, proving questionable decisions were his specialty. Now out of the military and cruising toward civilian life, Donato is launching his latest business ventures, including a line of dictator-named food products you'll probably see in stores soon. Good luck out there Donato, and good luck on your pilot venture.

SrA Katelynn Paller- Paller matches Ron Jeremy's weirdness almost too perfectly. You could call her the Cher to his Sonny, minus the hit records and with way more rum and coke. Between her constant banter and love for organized chaos, she's somehow found herself volunteering to take on more NCO responsibility as the squadron's DDR representative...as a SrA... When she's not promoting good decisions with questionable enthusiasm, Paller holds it down as Stan/Eval's go-to SELO, keeping the checklist police in business. But with Sawaya and Hand no longer her usual pilot team, what's next is anyone's guess. Either way, expect it to be loud & entertaining with a great attitude.

A1C Jordan Page- In a bold move no one quite saw coming, Page broke up with his girlfriend to prepare for a deployment that... never actually happened. Now single with nothing but time, he somehow moved out of the dorms almost immediately after moving in — a maneuver so fast even Finance blinked. On top of that, he's completed Level 3 BERP in under a year and is now trying to speed run CFIC like it's a side quest. We see you, Jordan... slow down before you accidentally get promoted.

Awards & Decs:

SSgt Tyler Young – Young might be one of the quietest guys in the squadron, but don't let that fool you. Behind the scenes, he's one of the main members of the McConnell mafia and the ring leader behind the great Fairchild migration. On top of plotting career moves, he's also a new dad and somehow single-handedly keeps the awards and decs shop afloat. Silent, strategic, and constantly working in the background, Young proves you don't have to be loud to run the show.

A1C Maya Posada- It took some time, but Posada has finally mastered the phonetic alphabet, proving that persistence pays off. Unfortunately, her life skills outside the aircraft are still a work in progress. From burning microwaveable dumplings and setting off fire alarms, she's got a unique talent for turning snack time into a safety incident. If you ever need someone to watch your animals, vacuum, or run a washer, you might want to look elsewhere. When she's not confusing basic chores or testing

the smoke detectors, Posada is constantly traveling, making brief appearances just long enough to remind everyone she still works here.

A-Flight:

TSgt Tyler “Ghost” Loeslein, Flt Chief- Loeslein, aka GHOST, somehow found a way to make the KC-135 boom nozzle as stealthy as an F-35, fueled entirely by her love for soy sauce, salsa, and questionable life choices. She managed to lose not one but two cell phones to rivers and toilets while almost becoming a missing person report herself all in the same day. To top it off, she nearly halted an entire exercise over some missing batteries and a red-hatched border paper but somehow, against all odds, the jet still took off. When she’s not imparting wisdom on A-Flight Airmen, she’s contemplating actually cleaning her car or reminding everyone she’s the reason one of our booms made it off DNIF by fostering his two cats. Now she’s headed to Altus to impart all that wisdom, chaos, and soy sauce-fueled energy on the next generation of booms. Good luck, Altus.

SSgt Daniel Zopfi- Zopfi might be the squadron’s longest standing staff sergeant... though Sat probably still holds that title if you check the paperwork. With fatherhood right around the corner, Zopfi’s got one thing figured out for sure — the baby’s sleeping arrangements remain a mystery, but the game room is absolutely staying untouched. As the only tactician to somehow work in tactics and accomplish absolutely nothing, he still manages to carry knowledge and experience that far outweigh the forever staff stripes on his chest. Everyone fears him as an evaluator, but behind the clipboard is the biggest teddy bear in the squadron who refuses to downgrade anyone. Good luck figuring out the crib situation, Zopfi... the game room’s safe but your sleep schedule isn’t.

SSgt Mendeleev Lahens- Lahens might be the nicest person in the squadron, but sometimes that kindness backfires. Case in point, the time he picked up an AWOL member and ended up getting pulled out of his car at gunpoint for the effort. Meanwhile, Command Post still holds entire meetings trying to decipher his Haitian accent on the radio, and after all this time, it’s still anybody’s guess. Even with the luxury of air conditioning downrange, Lahens remains firmly against deployed tent life. With a heart of gold, questionable decision-making, and radio calls that sound like a linguistic puzzle, Lahens keeps the squadron entertained and perpetually confused.

A1C Sebastian Moran- Moran’s been a walking question mark since day one, especially after it took over a year for his security clearance to come through. The running joke still stands that he might be a carefully placed spy. Clearance or not, there’s still some mystery when it comes to basic cockpit knowledge like the location of the APU switch. That said, Moran makes up for it with his unexpected sass and ability to keep the squadron on their toes, whether anyone’s ready for it or not.

A1C Theo Hind- Hind is the newest boom to join the squadron, but one question still remains unanswered. Is he American or Swiss? Nobody really knows, and honestly, we’ve stopped asking. What we do know is he’s here, ready to learn, and officially part of the team. Welcome to the squadron.

100 OSS:

Wing Execution:

(D)Sgt Katlin Hubbard- Hubbard holds the distinct honor of being the only boom in the squadron to actually make TSgt, but even stripes couldn’t protect her from the harsh realities of the internet. In an unfortunate plot twist, she managed to get scammed out of 1000 GBP by none other than Taylor Swift. But every cloud has a silver lining because she now officially outranks her boyfriend again. Oh, and as for the BBOA... let’s be honest, who actually runs it? Congrats on the promotion Hubbard, and maybe double-check the next celebrity DM.

SSgt Jacob Bitter – Bitter might be able to hold down the flight chief and flight commander roles for almost a year, but apparently, jumping higher than six inches on a softball field is asking too much. After a legendary shortstop injury that left him sidelined, Bitter kept the squadron running without the title, the promotion statement, or the recognition he deserves. Now he's headed to Birmingham where hopefully his hard work finally gets noticed and his ankles stay intact. Good luck out there Bitter, it's about time.

SrA Morrigan "MO MO" Denman – Denman has been keeping the squadron in line for a while now, constantly babysitting NCOs who should probably know better and somehow still finding the energy to hit CrossFit like it's a second job. She finally got her first deployment under her belt and checked that milestone off the list. Outside of work, she's recently found a new love... maybe this one will stick. Now stepping into her role as a new instructor, Denman's ready to pass on her knowledge to the next generation of booms. Of course, none of it feels quite the same without her partner in crime, Emily, by her side. Also, her cat Bruce might still be the cutest part of the whole package.

Wing Tactics:

SSgt Dan "BARON" Demma- BARON... formally known as "STANKY, has officially returned from Advanced Instructor Course and is ready to spread the gospel of Slide and Scram to anyone within earshot, preferably while devouring a Red Baron pizza mid-flight. Known for his ability to party harder than most people's livers can handle, BARON regularly shows up the next morning smelling like he spent the night marinating in a whiskey barrel because he probably did. But don't let the pizza grease and bourbon fumes fool you, the man knows his tactics, and the squadron's in for plenty of late-night hangovers and perfectly timed ARs thanks to him.

100 OG:

SMSgt Chad Holloway, OG Chief- Holloway keeps the squadron guessing. Are you the squadron SEL, the group SEL, or do you even work here? With his love for Goal Oriented Leadership Functions, the real question is... what would you say you actually do here? Known for his quiet demeanor and strong preference for avoiding people, especially Airmen, Holloway operates in the background, staying out of the spotlight and out of everyone's business. That is, unless you happen to be the MXG SEL, watching him rip past at 75 MPH on his motorcycle wearing his Blackjack leather jacket. Whether he's leading from the shadows or just quietly refusing to intervene, one thing's for sure, Holloway keeps us all wondering.

Exec:

SSgt Chance "Gunny" Hackenburg- Hackenburg has been holding it down as the resident OG exec, wanting to leave but somehow having nowhere to go. Whether it's fate or just bad timing, he's still here, small legs and all. Maybe it's genetics, maybe it's the occasional skipped leg day, no one knows for sure. Despite it all, you'll never catch him without a smile on his face. One of the most positive people in the squadron, Hackenburg keeps morale high even when the inbox is overflowing. Just don't rely on him to send an email to the right people, because no matter how important it is, you can bet the most critical person got left off the distro. Another key player in the McConnell mafia and soon-to-be husband, congrats to the future Mrs Hackenburg, he's hoping to be the next member to jump on the Fairchild train.

OGT:

SSgt Jamar Campbell- Swizzy, has officially taken over where Germer left off, proudly carrying on the squadron's finest nurse (man purse) collection. He's also earned his place as the old man of the E-5 mafia, proving you can have seniority, style, and slightly questionable life choices all at once. When he's not at the gym adding to his gains, Campbell is holding down OGT and making sure training doesn't fall apart. When it comes to spending habits, his wife gets chips, he gets Jordans... fair trade, right? Either way, Campbell's settling into the role with snacks, sneakers, and enough experience to keep the younger E-5s in line.

OGV:

TSgt Randy Miller- Randy Miller finally made it, living proof that if you wait long enough, you too can make MSgt. Arguably the most overdue promotion known to man, Randy has been the squadron's quiet workhorse for years, doing all the little things without being asked and without making a sound. The exact opposite of Brome, you could barely hear him talk before, but something about that new stripe changed everything. Now that he's a Master Sergeant, Randy suddenly has plenty to say. Congrats on the promotion Randy, it's been a long time coming... now someone turn the volume down.

100 ARW:

MSgt Cheyenne White, CAG (Commanders Action Group)- White is without a doubt the biggest Swifty in the universe. If something needs to get done and Cheyenne's missing, odds are she's at yet another Taylor Swift concert. At this point, we're not even sure these are public shows... Taylor might have a 180-day visa just to keep Cheyenne entertained and somehow hasn't been blacklisted yet... unlike her mom... Not shy about voicing her thoughts on British hospitality, she's been counting down the days until her grand exit. One thing's for sure—she won't be crying in her tea when she leaves. See You Next Tuesday England!

SSgt Jeff Michal, SPARK Cell/Innovation- His name is Jeff... the most genuine person you'll ever meet and, sorry Sat, the *actual* oldest staff sergeant in the squadron. Off duty, he's a hockey warrior, and on duty, he's quietly fixing all of the squadron's scheduling headaches from behind the scenes in the wing innovation cell. Whether it's sorting ice time or untangling the calendar, Michal keeps the mission running.

PCS'd/Separated/Retired:

(S)MSgt Marcus Hudson- Marcus peaced out of the 351 on a high note—literally—by snagging that well-earned promotion to Senior Master Sergeant! Now he's off blessing Scott AFB with his expertise in... well, basically everything. Since his departure, the 3-5-1's been back to the grind, even jumping into a little CENTCOM chaos here and there. You *know* Marcus is over there licking his chops, just itching to get back into the mix. He might be gone, but the void he left behind is very real—Enjoy A10N!

MSgt Terrell “Digger” Fridger – Terrell will definitely be missed by the 351—though we only had him for a short time, he *made* an impact... literally. Nothing says “Goodbye to the UK” like totaling your truck at a roundabout and earning yourself an extended stay courtesy of British traffic laws. Fridge was always easy to find—unless, of course, you were looking for him at his desk. Seriously, man was everywhere *but* there. Maybe AMC/A3V will have better luck pinning him down... or at least hiding the keys. See ya, Fridge—uh, *Fridger*—safe travels, and red light means STOP!

MSgt Nelson “Heavy G” Germer – So it's official—no need to check Instagram for Heavy G's location anymore... unless you're tracking in-flight drink service at 30,000 feet. Man, really said “sweat and grind? Nah G, give me complimentary peanuts, air condition, and a neck pillow.” As for fashion, Europe's still recovering from Germ's departure—rumor is, it dropped three style points the day he left. Luckily, Jamar's been doing his best to keep the flair alive, though with his man purse, it's unclear if he's setting trends or scaring them off. Either way, G's legacy lives on!

(M)Sgt Kaylene Garcia – Never one to hold back her thoughts (even when we *maybe* didn't ask for them), Kaylene brought a fiery mix of honesty, accountability, and just the right amount of chaos to every room she entered. While she was always quick to get spun up, she was just as quick to step up—never backing down from a challenge. Now, she's swapped her hard-earned Enlisted chevrons for shiny new Officer bars (because apparently, she wanted more meetings and PowerPoints). We'll miss your energy, your bluntness, and yes, even your rants. Best of luck on this next adventure—but don't forget where you came from...we certainly won't!

TSgt Justin Elliott – Justin finally came to terms with reality—those hands just weren't booming anymore—so he jumped at the chance to cross-train as a C-130 Loadmaster. But surprise! His new unit had other plans and said, “Nah, lil buddy... back to the exec desk life for 3–5 business months.” Classic Herc energy—takes forever to get where it's supposed to go. Now he's back home in Little Rock, living that slow-roll lifestyle. Enjoy the ride, lil' buddy... eventually, they'll let you touch an airplane again. Maybe!

SSgt Alex Garcia – In the ultimate tactical maneuver, Alex secured the ultimate PCS upgrade—a bona fide Suga Mama in 2Lt K. Garcia. Now proudly carrying her bags (and maybe her CAC) from base to base, he's living the dream as her number-one ride-or-die. Must be something about secure rooms that gets him going, because he's now tucked away at the AOC at Scott, planning missions like it's Call of Duty: Spreadsheet Ops. Quiet by nature but always dependable, Alex was the kind of guy who'd jump in wherever needed—or just let Kaylene take over and host half the squadron in their living room. We miss them both and wish them the best!

SSgt Marissa “FABEN” “NMBR” Tooze-Johnson – We couldn't be prouder of Marissa as she crosses over to the *dark side*—that's right, she's off to the world of Reserve life (and eventually, pilot wings)! Known for her infectious smile and boundless energy, Marissa has always brought a spark to every room—some might even say she's a walking, talking case study in undiagnosed ADHD (in the *best* way possible, of course). She's left a lasting impact on everyone lucky enough to serve alongside her. Good luck, Tooze! Go crush it as a Reservist at Scott and future pilot—we'll miss the energy, the stories, and the endless side quests mid-conversation!

SrA Kacey Dickey – In another shining example of how the Air Force always knows where to find you—and how to get the best out of you, Kacey has traded the grey, rainy skies of England for the sunny skies of California! He's gone to Travis AFB, where he'll get to continue working with his favorite part of being a boom: CARGO in the CRW. Best of luck, Kacey—enjoy that California sunshine!

SrA Max Richards – Maxwell is gone, and the squadron is quiet. Sometimes his obnoxious chuckle echoes through the hallways. McConnell is getting a great boom, person, and party planner. He is still searching for his future wife Madelyn Cline, but I think she's still busy filming The Outer Banks episodes. Maybe one day. If not, he'll probably be wherever the party is and making everyone smile. Love ya Mad Max.

SrA Kyle “TAPAS” Stumphauzer – Kyle left the 351 and is now at McConnell AFB. I would say we miss him at the 351, but I honestly don't think he ever came into work for the 3 years he was here. Interesting, but hey that guy is the best. He also gave up his addiction to whole milk and we're so proud of him. Still fighting his addiction to baby bell cheese but we get it. One dairy product at a time.

RICKENBACKER ANGB, OH

166 ARS / 121 ARW

“ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES”



This unit did not submit.

SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS

HQ AMC A3T

(A3TK/A3TO/A3TW)

Aircrew Training and Tactics

“Low Hanging Fruit.”



SMSgt Kenny Arcibal – A3TK (KC-135): Kenny PCSd here from sunny Tampa last summer as the new Tanker training program manager, and in true Air Force fashion, he was tagged to not manage the training program but manage the Boom Operator portfolio as the interim MFM. So, for you folks out there with any complaints, stop calling Chief Harwood and call Kenny directly on his cell, and don't use your chain of command...He loves that! As the MFM, he has tagged all his old friends for an assignment to HQ AMC so he can say he has friends here on staff (debatable)! He usually cries himself to sleep and cries in the shower with a Zyn in his lip while thinking about all the manning issues we have in the community. Kenny is doing great things for the community, and we are excited to have him advocating for the Booms to the other CEA MFM Chiefs/CFM/AFPC. Kenny just got rid of his toy car (a Prius) and upgraded to a fancier Tesla toy car! Congrats!

SMSgt Keith McLaughlin – A3TK (KC-46): Keith has been holding it down as the KC-46 SME in tanker training. He recently sewed on senior, had a baby, graduated from SNCOA, and is now expecting another baby in a few months! Keith loves the Air Force and what it has done to him and his hair... rumor is, he is trying to go the long haul and try for 30. What an over achiever. With the new baby, SNCOA, and leave, we haven't seen Keith in the office for the last 6 months, leaving Bobby and Kenny to field all the fantastic KC-46 questions. Everything is

fine! With JT moving on to greener pastures, Keith will be filling the vectored senior position in A3V in the near future!

SMSgt Derrell Vann – A3TK (KC-10): DJ has had a banner year! Sewed on SMSgt, selected for OTS, and just had a baby! He is our Branch's waiver pusher and other miscellaneous tasks guru since the AF officially retired big sexy! RIP! DJ is currently attending OTS and will do great things as an acquisitions officer real soon! Thank you for all the hard work, DJ!... Yes, he is the KC-10 boom in the "Be a man" reel circulating on social media that has highlights of a crushed ice shield. And no, he has never crushed an ice shield. You should start collecting your royalties from that clip bro!

MSgt Bobby Jones – A3TK (KC-135): Bobby has really stepped up his game this year. Idk if it was because of Senior PCSing in or because he was forced to do so since our Branch Chief just retired and we have zero rated officer manning in the office. He has held it down managing the DRRS reports for the units, RTM/Vol 1 updates, and led this year's RTRB! He loves staff work and fielding questions from the units so much, it drove Bobby to volunteer for the FTU at Altus! Bobby will conclude his time here at HQ AMC and will take the short drive with his family to Oklahoma in October! Thank you for the hard work and efforts Bobby!

MSgt Matteo Piruzza - A3TO (KC-10): Another boom whose wife is having a baby! He used to be an accomplished KC-10 Boom, now this aircraft-less refueler is DNIF'd to the thrilling world of ASAP reports @ groundspeed zero. He's always yelling (mostly about soccer), but he swears that he's not yelling, he's "just Italian." With fatherhood on final approach, Papa Piruzza traded his flight bag for a diaper bag and will now be offloading bottles and performing emergency procedures for baby's aft body tank leaks.

(M)Sgt Byron Patrick - A3TO (KC-135): Byron came to Scott from Tampa...kicking and screaming. Still kicking, but whining rather than screaming nowadays. This prior port dawg fits in nicely on staff and can often be found reviewing ASAP reports, doing homework, or augmenting A10N on exercises and NSAVs. Byron has taken up running and has lost 70 pounds since getting here... I knew the Midwest and staff were good for him! Eager to get back to flying, but the only thing he will be flying the next 2 years is a commercial plane back to Hawaii or Pittsburgh to visit family, and his desk! Byron is a great asset to the team and is willing to do the work that no one wants to do.

MSgt Andy "SHRIMP" Piggott - A3TW (KC-135): We moved Andy from the AOC to work in the Tactics Branch. Andy can still talk your ear off, so whenever you see him, keep it short or be prepared for a minimum 30 min conversation. Shrimp recently applied for the 509th WPS, got selected, and big AF decided that it was not the right time. Andy will be taking his talents to good ole Wichita, Kansas next year. On his off time, which is often, Andy likes to sip on mai tais, IPAs, and work on his antique VW bus. Some would argue it is a perfect vehicle to match his mustache! Still not cleared to come within 50 ft of any schools... because of his mustache.

MSgt Mikey “Dog Hat” Perez - A3TW (KC-135): Another Boom from Tampa and another Boom who thought was going to the 509th... THOUGHT! Since graduating from AIC, Mikey’s nerdery on turn radius equations or whatever they do in the vault comes up whether you asked for it or not...No whiteboard is safe. Now he’s up here at Scott on his 5th (maybe 6th) set of orders in a year due to some...changes lol (ask him about his code 39). "Dog Hat" researched every BBQ place in St Louis before he even started house hunting. Hit him up if you need any food recommendations and the tactical directions to get there as quickly as possible. Currently going through the PCS from Satan’s insides. So far, he has counted 20 missing boxes out of 200 packed, 3 broken bookshelves, 2 missing mattresses, and A LOT of missing parts to multiple furniture pieces. We’ll probably see pictures from his PCS on AMN/NCO/SNCO Facebook page or Reddit.

SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS

HQ AMC A3VK

Standards and Evaluations

“We are here to help”



CMSgt Christopher “Chris” Staton – KC-135: Chief has been settling into that new stripe extremely well. As the A3V SEL, Chris is using that new stripe to make sure the golf tournaments go off without a hitch, ensuring everyone is up to date on their flu vaccine and piggybacking on the things that the branch chief just said. If he is not in the office, you can probably find him at a Cardinals home game, sitting in his truck parked in the AMC award winner’s spot while daydreaming of the UK or in the woods hunting Illinois tigers or something like that. Chief has been crushing it up here on AMC Staff. He has been crushing it so hard that he has been trying to get this innovative idea pushed to turn his job into some “AMC Road Show” position where he can go TDY once a month and showcase what the staff is doing. We all know that he just wants to travel the world again and drink with his buddies. Nice try Chief! We are on to you.

SMSgt Justin “JT” Thompson – KC-46: JT has been crushing it as the sole KC-46 boom operator in A3V for a long time now. He even shoved his new inbound off to A5/8 because he wanted all the glory. Filling a long vacant role, JT hit the ground running by starting the small task of developing a -9 for the KC-46. You know that he is in the office when you can hear things like “I love this airplane” and “We don’t need new cameras....operators just need to stop being

punks!” JT has recently got orders to McConnell AFB. We suggested that he might want to seven-day opt and just retire, but he keeps saying that he is not ready to hang up the hat yet. So much so that he had a lapse in judgement and submitted for retirement, only to turn around and beg AFPC to cancel that application. JT, whether you are retiring or PCSing (because we really don’t know), good luck with your future endeavors. It will be tough finding someone else that can level those bubbles and give us our time back.



SMSgt Matt “CHAPS” Giles – KC-46: See A5/8....Thanks a lot JT.

MSgt Greg Albers – KC-135: In true boom fashion, Greg finally cracked... his *back*, that is. After surviving an endless barrage of staff work, boom evaluations, and enough PowerPoint slides to qualify for a doctorate in bullet points, he’s decided it’s time to hang up the flight suit, and find a chiropractor with a military discount. Happy retirement Greg!

MSgt Matthew Nelson – KC-135: Matt loves staff work so much, he just couldn’t stay away. After doing hard time at the AOC five years ago, he decided it was time for round two. Tired of solving Airmen problems out at Fairchild, Matt figured he’d trade in personnel drama for email chains that never die. Meanwhile, Albers practically did cartwheels when he saw Matt in process as he was finally able to go DNIF and chase his lifelong dream of becoming the world’s most aggressively average medical profile. To top it all off, Matt bought a new house this year just in time for a Midwest hailstorm to redecorate it free of charge. Welcome back to the Midwest, Matt. You’re doing great work in A3V.

MSgt Terrell Fridgeger – KC-135: Fridge joins us from across the pond, the land of tea, “cheers,” and driving on the wrong side of the road. His exit from Mildenhall wasn’t exactly subtle; local authorities still whisper about “The Incident,” and a few traffic cones may never recover. Apparently, charm and confidence aren’t valid driving credentials. Since joining the team, Fridge has demonstrated a rare gift: writing emails that read like they were dictated by a dizzy voice assistant mid-thunderstorm. Thankfully, he's committed to at least three rounds of emergency proofreading before hitting "send." We're working on getting him up to speed with Chat GPT. Fingers crossed AI can keep up with the chaos. In all seriousness, Terrell brings a ton to AMC staff, and we’re thrilled to have him... and his cats!

SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS

HQ AMC A5/8

Directorate of Strategy, Plans, Requirements, and Programs



SMSgt Matthew “CHAPS” Giles: You ever have one of those people you just can’t get rid of? That’s CHAPS. Since coming onto the Staff a year ago, he’s been bounced back and forth between A3V and A5/8. We still aren’t sure if everyone wants him or nobody wants him. Probably the latter. Good news for him though, he’s got a side hustle as a TikTok Foodie where everyone admires his meat....it’s smoked. Get your minds out of the gutter! For real though, the Staff is lucky to have CHAPS and we know he will continue to do good things for the KC-46 enterprise wherever he ends up working at!

SMSgt James “JUMPER” Cain: After years of dedicated work, Cain has officially traded acquisitions for sunshine, retiring from our team and heading off to the golden coast of California. We’re excited for him, but also a little suspicious. His parting gift to the group? A suspiciously budget-friendly bottle of Crown Royale Peach, despite the top-shelf bourbon he *definitely* kept stashed in his desk. Was it a joke? A test? One final mystery from a man who kept A5QT afloat.

SMSgt Justin “HAN” Yow: Han seems to be playing a real-life Carmen Sandiego. We never know where he is at in the world. His TDY history is so extensive, we think that he has earned a long tour medal because he is gone so much. We also think that he is trying to become an Eagle Scout because he keeps just collecting patches. Han already had his Weapons School patch and

thought he needed to pick up a C2WAC (*sounds kinky*) school patch. Whether Han is galivanting around the world, collecting school graduation certificates or briefing Generals (total of 16 stars), he is doing awesome things up here on staff. He has said that this has been his favorite assignment yet!

TSgt Carrie “STARBUCK” McLaughlin: As our resident KC-46 SME, Carrie somehow swindled her way into the KC-135 requirements position. You can frequently find her in some KC-135 wingleet meeting talking about how “God’s tanker is so great”. She is always telling stories about how amazing the old war wagon is and how nothing can ever replace it! Carrie has picked up a few new hobbies while up here on staff. She has gotten in the sport of pumping children out as fast as humanly possible. She mentioned something along the lines of “if you keep having children, you never have to deploy or take a PT test”. Maybe she is onto something. Looking forward to meeting little Eóghain when he arrives.....Carrie will give you \$1 if you can pronounce is correctly.

SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS

HQ AMC A10N

“NUCLEAR OPERATIONS DIVISION”

“We are not IGN...”



Boom 19: MSgt Christopher “CRACKEN” Shelton: CRACKEN showed up to A10N kicking and screaming since his SECAF/SEL dream vanished but is seeing how nice staff life can be. He is coming from the 509WPS with limited nuke experience (how did that happen), but we got him spun up and is easing his way into the mission set. Look out for new policy!

Boom 18: SMSgt Marcus Hudson: Senior still hasn't accepted he is no longer part of the operational world. Living vicariously through GDSS while tracking current events has kept him from losing his mind just long enough to get PCA'd to IGN, where he is primed to inspect nuclear operations, wielding both a mustache comb and brush at all times to assert his dominance over unsuspecting Airmen. Always welcome back to this end of the office, just ensure the other buzzards hold short.

Boom 17: MSgt Victor Boyd: What doesn't Vic Do. He is the A10N GO-TO guy! “Vics got it” is a common phrase around these parts. For someone who hates staff life, he sure is good at it. As the resident KC46 SME, METs guru, RTM hammer, so-on-so-forth, he will be leaving a lasting

stamp on the 801X enterprise for years to come. With all his wining, he got what he wanted and is now in a flying position, but as yet to put it to use...

Boom 16: MSgt Nathan Scheffel: Nate “The Hammer” Schef knows his stuff. Coming up as a younger crosstrain boom he had big shoes to fill but has quickly outgrown them with his expert policy writing and steel trap big brain. He is a silent professional that gets stuff done, or maybe he is quiet because he won’t take his eyes off sports or on the phone with his wife in the office. If need to a parlay tip, he is your guy.

Boom 11: SMSgt (ret) Bartek “Bach” Bachleda: Bach...what is it you say you do here. While he now lives in the NOC, he doesn’t really work for A10N but the AFNWC. He spends his time working the beeps and squeaks in the details of stuff...careful not to get caught in his story time or a dissertation about something you don’t or care to understand.

Boom 8: MSgt(ret) Marcus “Ocho” Barnes: Mr. Marcus loved the 801X mission so much he elected to come back as a GS and man the NOC full time. He enjoys ragging on the changing CEA world while also not giving a rip about it...He has found his home as the local nuclear mission expert and is involved in just about everything A10N has to offer while also being on leave most of the time...likely at the local lodge.

Boom 7: MSgt (ret) Lamar Daniel: Lamar is a 2.2x A10N professional. After retiring from his second Nuke tour, he didn’t have enough and was hired as a GS in A10N to teach “the young bucks the old way” but DOGE put a stop to that. While he is “technically” hired, he won’t start until the DOGE dust settles and hiring freeze is over. He is currently enjoying his current employment outside the DAF and bussing his football team around.

Nuke Booms that have departed from the Alert Facility:

Boom 15: CMSgt Jerome “JJ” Jefferson: JJ made Chief (congrats?), decided to accept the stripe, then the AF made him and his wife move to Offutt and lead a RS as a backender...the loss of his experience in the Boom career field will be missed...but he is still on the hook for IGN.

Boom 12: MSgt Nathan Bahr: Nate recently got out and joined the Pease ANG...guess he liked the lobster rolls and his roommates enough to grab an AGR gig to round out his AD time until retirement. He still joins us on the road, but mainly is focused on bringing the KC-46 on line while in XP (cant get away from the mission)...don’t get into an argument with him...he will win out of sheer willingness to not shut up and beat you into exhaustion.

Boom 14: MSgt (ret) Christopher Pederson

Boom 13: MSgt (ret) Dave Toreson

Boom 10: MSgt (ret) Dave Drain

Boom 9: SMSgt (ret) Jeramiah “Doc” Love

Boom 6: MSgt (ret) Anthony Erdeclac

Boom 5: MSgt (ret) Robert Hansen

Boom 4: MSgt (ret) Warren “.Com” Weldon

Boom 3: CMSgt (ret) Derek “DROCK” Grant

Boom 2: MSgt (ret) Mike OcConner*

Boom 1: MSgt (ret) Lance Quengha

Robert “Tanker Bob” Peifer – The token Nav that has been in A10N since its inception. Since the start, there have been Boom Operators in the division and the ol’ A-Model Nav couldn’t keep their names straight, so he reverted to numerical tracking (easier for the Nav brain I guess). Thus “Boom #” was born in the small “Nuke Boom” community. When graduated A10N booms meet in the wild the first question is always “What Boom # are you?” We are grateful for TB’s leadership, astute financial guidance, and ever presence. *If you ever go to Planners and Controllers he is the “Bob” of “Bob-a-palooza”

SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS

HQ AMC IGN

“NUCLEAR INSPECTOR GENERAL”



(C)MSgt Matthew Machala: After making Master Chief, he found out the cabal at the Pentagon decided he needed to go back to Oklahoma, but this time it won't be to Oklahoma City, instead A-town will be the city he claims, (RIP 2 Throw'd). He's taking all of his nuclear experience from AMC/IGN down to the schoolhouse, where students can barely tell you which hand moves the ruddevator controls, let alone understand how decode documents work. Ask him how his most recent camping trip went, and he'll put you in a lethal headlock and yell while at attention that "chiefs are still warfighters dammit!" Fortunately, there will be less rainy days down at Altus, and even fewer turns, so he should be safe on his Harley. We wish him the best, and know he'll do great things at the 54th.

MSgt Derek "Knows a Guy" Lyles: Derek came to us from McConnell and immediately began complaining about having to actually work. As the resident KC-46 "expert" on the nuclear staff, he has effectively provided zero inputs into policy or inspection criteria to bring the KC-46 into the 801X mission. It's not all doom and gloom though, if you want an expensive watch, a bottle of bourbon, want to talk about breaking any traffic laws, or which lawyers to call, Derek is your guy. All jokes aside, Derek has been a great addition to the team and is doing well.

SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS

HQ AMC A3



MSgt Alex “Not a Whiskey” Orr - A358 (KC-135): Another Tampa transplant... told you Kenny Arcibal recruited all of his friends to come to Scott! If you're wondering what happened to Alex, don't worry - Yes, he's alive and well. He's just currently living in a vault inside another vault ever since Israel/Iran kicked off. I don't think he's seen his phone since then because I offered him free tickets to a baseball game months ago....still waiting for a response. With his big brain and what he's read into now, I'm sure he's not allowed to mingle with us common folk anymore. Heard he had a 27 hour day, stayed in a hotel with no change of underwear and went right back to work after a nap...Godspeed Alex wherever you are 🙏

TSgt Michael Marquez - A383 (KC-10): Mike spent a year as the AOS exec doing all great things not deployment manager related. He went back to A38 and does a great job managing volunteers for gate guard duty. His job is like a talent scout for unpaid gigs — hunting down warm bodies willing to say yes before they know what they're agreeing to. If charm were a currency, they'd be rich... but instead, they get a thank-you mug and the eternal side-eye of the recently volunteered. Since we retired the KC-10, this aircraft-less boom volunteered for the KC-46 and will be headed to Travis whenever his Code 50 is up.

SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS

108th ARS

HOME OF THE MID-AMERICA MILITIA



This unit did not submit

SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS
906th ARS
“SPARTANS, COME TAKE!”



This unit did not submit

SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS
618 AIR AND SPACE OPERATIONS CENTER (AOC)



This unit did not submit

SCOTT AFB, ILLINOIS

USTC/J3-WR



This unit did not submit

SELFRIDGE ANGB, MI

127 Wg / 171 ARS

“SIX PACK”



GREETINGS FROM MOTOR CITY! Between all the deployments and inspections, we have filled our bench with many new faces who are now successful MBs.

FULL-TIMERS

CMSgt Johnny “Super Boom” White (Chief Boom, EB) - Our Chief Boom is doing a great job of taking care of the section, he recently just finished with a hiring spree of almost exclusively high schoolers, he is not as weird as he sounds though. His wife is a GS-27 and it shows in the quality of his golf bag, not his game though.

MSgt Shane Cannon (Mini Me Chief Boom, EB) - Recently earning the title as mini me to the chief. His overachieving lifestyle is fueled by ZYN for breakfast and lunch then dry scoops protein powder for dinner, possibly some secret sauce mixed in there.

MSgt Matthew “Hufflepuff” Huff (Current Plans, EB) - Ole Hufflepuff recently started working in the Plans office before our last inspection but he hates working in the vault, you can catch him hiding in an empty office playing League of Legends. Matt is our resident politician.

MSgt Robert “Akes” Akers (Current Ops, EB) - STILL in current ops (I think) when he’s not on leave, constantly talking about how he can’t wait to retire, still has 10 years left... Recently retired from coaching youth sports, decided that wasn’t for him and now coaches 3 more teams. Leader of MCA, thanks a lot Rob.

MSgt Jordan “Grub” Kaminski (Stan Eval, EB) - Kaminski is killing it in Stan eval, although I hope it’s not negatively impacting his health. His deep sigh with a vocal exhale is an early indicator of high blood pressure.

TSgt Amanda Smith (Training, MB) – 3 years ago Amanda got selected to go to instructor school, still waiting on dates. Recently got moved out of plans before the inspection and replaced by Horne who piggybacked off of all her work and got all the credit after a successful outcome.

TSgt Chris Skiles (DTS, MB) - Chris is a prior marine, a weird guy but not like a typical marine. He enjoys listening to One Direction with Heather while going to lunch at the local Starbucks or tropical smoothie. Chris knows a lot about how to get things done as far as paperwork and technology goes, so he gets abused by leadership a lot. He recently decided to join the dark side and got hired as a pilot in the unit, although he is waiting on an age waiver since he is pretty old.

TSgt Keegan “Low T” Beaver (Current Ops, MB) - Recently went DNIF after choking on a peanut while flying. He is leading the way in the current ops shop and earning his pay while he is waiting to get back in the air.

TSgt Braden “Fat” Cook (Current Ops, MB) - Betrayed us getting hired as a pilot, recently bought a house close to base here, which has earned the name ‘Hotel Cook’. Snacks and booze are free, unless you’re Kavanaugh because he overstates his welcome.

SSgt Joshua Bishop (Current Ops, MB) - Bishop is our most photogenic boom, looks like Zach Efron... but with a hair line on the north pole of his head. Bishop can never go on trips because his dad leaves him home alone to watch the family dogs.

SSgt Devein “Sparky” Kavanaugh (DTS, MB) - Sparky earned his callsign after causing a power outage throughout the trailer park at the Deid after plugging in the wrong cord into the outlet. After years of embracing the E-4 lifestyle he got hired as a pilot, he’s dead to us now.

SSgt Maddy Amara (DTS, MB) - High school to Flight school. Not saying she got the job because her cousin is going to be the next group commander... but... anyways. Maddy is a great addition to the boom team and does great work in the DTS office, we just wish her toilet of choice wasn’t on the jet.

SSgt Matthew “MISO” AKA “Dirty Bulk” AKA “Fanboy” Horne (Plans, MB) - High school to Flight school. Squadron teacher for gen Z slang. If you ever go TDY with Horne you are automatically voluntold as his adult supervision. After the inspection you can catch Horne ‘boolin’ (whatever that means) in current ops with the bois.

SSgt Heather Stalnaker (Scheduler, MB) - High school to Flight school. Ever heard of the saying “absolute power corrupts absolutely” that’s what you get with the boom scheduler. If you’re trying to catch her, she’s probably flying during mandatory meeting days or studying for her private pilot’s license so she can be a pilot like the others. GROSS.

PART-TIMERS

MSgt Colin Roberts (MB) - Roberts is the captain of our hockey beer league, has a picture perfect dad body after recently having his second daughter. Scary guy on the ice. CafDex denier, frequently pulls rank on Horne when he tells him to input his 791s.

TSgt Alex “Narc” Roth (Instructor MB) – When he’s not busting people crossing the Canadian border for a little bit of weed, you can catch him marching in step down the halls of the squadron or stealing the best trips. See him on the Discovery Channel, Contraband. Season 6 Episode 1 “The Flint Stoners” <https://youtube.com/shorts/bfHrFh7PRvg?feature=shared>

TSgt Joe Bird (MB) – Bird is one of our favorite DSGs, responsible, well-spoken, very knowledgeable, and likes to disrespect Horne. Only problem is he has like all of his pilots certificates, so he would be a prime suspect to turn to the dark side. We have to watch him closely.

TSgt Tyler North (MB) - Finally seeing this guy after months of being a bum and stealing our popcorn on drill weekends... Guess he’s an okay boom.

TSgt Mark Solo (MB) - Mark is a prior security forces guy. You can tell by the way he gazes at you when you’re talking to him. You always know when Solo has been in the squadron recently because all the weird food that nobody touches or expired food in the aircrew kitchen has been cleared out. His snack of choice is sardines and crackers. You can always count on him to make the jet smell like a Japanese fishing dock, perfect for a hot day doing a pattern only.

SSgt Cael Brennen (MB) - Still rocking the creepy mustache, although he did get hired as a pilot, he’s dead to us. Gold status at Hotel Cooks where he and the other pilot hires get together to digest propaganda.

SSgt Mazen Sayegh (MB) - Sayegh came to us from the Army. He is a MMA know it all and is not the guy to pick a fight with. Recently he went DNIF from his job as a cop on the outside, we’re looking forward to getting him back. The seagull won’t let him, and MISO go TDY together because it would probably end up with a stack of paperwork for the chief to do.

SSgt Dawson “Cook 2.0” Cook - Braden’s younger brother, the better cook. Cook 2.0 just got dates for boom school after joining us from the army, excited to have him on the team.

SrA Hank “Stanky Hanky” Vander Sys (MB) - Willing to fly any line he shows up. Hank is a palace chaser, guess we’re stuck with him for now... Thanks McConnell. All jokes aside Hank is always looking out for the team, recently took a bullet for us and volunteered for the staff position on our Deid deployment, his E-4 career is looking long and bright.

AIC Mia Hammer- High school to Flight school. Mia is waiting to leave for BMT and boom school enjoying her time in student flight, she is possibly the last high schooler that the seagull will hire.

SrA House - House is a new boom that we stole from active duty avionics. We have broken so many times for avionics issues, we figured we would just hire our own to fly with.

SrA Fenner - Coming in at 6'9, Fenner is a former firefighter, full-time border patrol agent, and career bully on all playgrounds growing up. He will more than likely be strictly promoted based on altitude. Man had to of walked in at level to a KC-135 from birth. Ain't no reason for him to have all that height, while the rest of us sitting here with a 5 in front of ours.

DEPARTED THE FIX

Capt Aaron Balk- Aaron a couple year ago decided to go to the dark side and become an officer. He currently serves as a Intel officer down the street with the A-10's.

CMSgt Mike Gay- Left the boom career field and became a Custom Officer only to come back as an AGR. Serves as the superintendent for Airfield Operations. He can be found wondering our halls from time to time.

SMSgt Mick "Butters" Stahl- Mike left us and now serves in Kansas as a boom operator. He got promoted to SMSgt out of the deal. He will always be missed.

SSgt Donna "Momma" Mills- Donna left us for the guard unit at Fairchild, she earned her nickname Momma when she got hired in with a bunch of high schoolers and was the only new hire that was competent at the time. Recently she earned Airmen of the Year out in Fairchild, great work Donna.

SSgt Alex VanBuren- Alex decided he wanted to fly helicopters and joined the Army. Good luck with that.

SrA Lars Pyrzynski- Decided to leave us to be a sensor operator at Battle Creek. I have never met him but all the old timers say he's a pretty boy, after stalking his social media I can confirm. Also heard he runs a farm, some people like his (cows) meat.

SrA Chadwick Doran- Let the unit and went to Battle Creek years ago. Nobody has heard from him since.

RETIREEES

CMSgt Tony Liggins- Tony just recently retired. During the last couple of years he served in the IG office. Prior to that he was our Chief Boom.

CMSgt Hector Martinez- Enjoying military retirement but still works for the FAA.

CMSgt Dickie Burl- Our beloved Chief Boom for years long gone can be found on his farm craving away making walking sticks.

SMSgt George Hall (Stan Eval)- George is the fitness guru . I believe he is scheduled to be on the cover of a fitness magazine in the near future. Looking forward to retirement next March.

MSgt Joe "Smokin Joe" LaPinta- Prior Green Beret, Smokin Joe just retired last year. You could always count on Joe to say what's on his mind regardless if he is going to piss some people off, rumor has it he got an LOR every time he spoke to a General Officer, with several article 15s spread in the mix. If you ever need to find him look at the blacklisted establishments and start there. The humble originator of the GFY patch, we are so proud of his accomplishments.

MSgt Max "Maxie Poo" Langford- Max has been retired now a couple years, now all we have left is the trauma he gave his students. Maxie Poo's preferred method of instructing was negative reinforcement. Whether it be throwing stuff at you during a preflight or screaming at you as the receiver is in pre contact. For a fellow adrenalin junky myself it sounds like a good time.

MSgt Andrew "MAHA" Depew- Depew was the greatest boom no one has ever seen. Recently retired, the local E-4 mafia raided his locker shortly after the announcement.

MSgt Mike Weir- Stowed the boom one final time and went on to have a successful Karate business. Owns multiple schools now. On the side he serves as a ring announcer for a local wrestling promotion.

MSgt John Karns- A more recent retiree, John still loves fixing things. Owns nearly every tool out there. If he needs to be fixed call John.

MSgt Gary Wojichowski- Finally got a job at TACOM fulling his lifelong goal of having to wear casual clothes to work.

MSgt Jeff Sudberry- Jeff left us a while ago and went to Battle Creek. Since then you can see him at an occasional basketball game.

MSgt William “Bubba” Hyde- Enjoys working as a Customs Officer.

TSgt Toby Snay- We see Toby every now and then when we clear customs at the jet.

TSgt Dan Rineer- Dan the man! If you need any information Dan is the person you go to. He serves as our BOSS contractor down the street.

TSgt Dominic Orlando- Enjoys being able to spend more time with the family. Also another member of the Customs mafia.

TSgt David Beyer- Dave lives in the North Pole and comes down to visit us now and then. Great guy who is also part of the custom mafia. He is known for having the worst fantasy football team.

SSgt Johnnie Ricks- Separated from the Air Force sooner than he wanted to.

SSgt Ken “Big Country” Zidell- Seems like he spends most of his time hiking in the woods in upper New York. He was a 13 year E-4, truly an inspiration for all. His non existing give a sh!t level was truly contagious and refreshing. If you want to find him after his retirement, go to a Bills Mafia table breaking party and look for the shirtless, beer belly guy drinking a Guinness.

SSgt Kenny Miller- Kenny just had his fini flight in April, he will be missed. Every drill weekend he would lead a group to catch a game at whatever sports team was playing that weekend followed by the casino. Every time you talk to him he has a story about his recent big win.

SSgt Denad Wade- Denad had the sweetest ride, a car wrapped in suede.

SSgt Misty Bice- Let the Air Force and enjoys spending time with her dog.

SrA Andre McClain- Andre was doing so well, but several years ago he got trampled by an angry mob during a fast response. Haven't heard from him since.

SrA Jake Crantas- Crantas got out about 2 years ago, he loved the pattern only flights especially when it was hot out, you could always catch him yacking in the back of the plane.

SrA Christopher Faith- Chris recently got out, once in a while you will run into him at moral events taking advantage of the free food and beverages. Trophy husband to Lt Faith soon to be back from UPT.

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB, NC

911th Air Refueling Squadron

“Red Eagles”



Senior Enlisted Leader:

Not a Boom Operator – The squadron is a maintenance unit with an ops problem...

Operations Superintendent:

MSgt Brian Mould - Ops Supt and local fire chief. Always putting out fires in the squadron and in the city. We need to find something he isn't handy in, also if you need a lawnmower, he is the man.

Operations Flight Chief:

TSgt Steven Hannah - Continues to overly stress and work late. Thinks he is special by losing 30 days of leave. He says he goes to the gym, but we think he is just sweaty from the sauna. Made MSgt and is still motivated.

Operations Assistant Flight Chief:

TSgt Darian Edwards – Our local laid back assistant flight chief, he continues to dodge wing plans, even though he's our 801X SME and gets along with that section very well. He likes his golf set better than his cats, we recommend a lint roller.

Stan/Eval:

SSgt Dustin Curran – Finally made SSgt, already ready for TSgt. He is the go-to for all booms in squadron, still trying to figure out if he is human or not.

Scheduling:

SSgt Ethan Ellis – Stepped in as scheduling NCOIC, tries to change the world, but no one listens. He is a great boom and always ready for anything.

SrA Jaylyn West –We found his niche, he continues to beat up on all the pilots in chess. Jaylyn is always struggling to find booms for aircraft reconfigurations; seriously can we get a boom.

Training:

SSgt Conner Brode – NCOIC of training and will probably be there forever. Likes to add stress to his flight chief. Loves the Go/ No Go process and wouldn't change it for the world. Expect big things from him.

SSgt Ralph Fluerant – Qual'd on the KC46 and was immediately put in MX. 1 year later and he finally will become a MB again. He is a fashionista, pushing the limits on the color of his boots.

SrA Sedajah Rembert - Our only baby boom, we are sure she loves everyone telling her how to be a boom. Doing great things in training.

Operations Support:

TSgt Pat Reynolds - Our all-American tanker bro, he has been on all 3 tankers and is jaded as ever. We put him in OGT because he is that good, but we think he secretly hates us. Still in MQT and doesn't want to leave the program.

Operations Support Section Chief:

TSgt Andrew Chance - Our local cop turned to boom, still stuck in MQT, afraid to fly by himself. Hard to stop him from mirandizing all the copilots after their landings. Looking forward to his leadership skills as the section chief of Current Ops/MPC.

SSgt Matthew Howe – Our NCOIC of MPC and our local giant. New pilots are afraid of him, but he is just a big teddy bear. He is still searching for a soul to the point that he changed his name.

SrA Jeremy Pritchard - Definition of E4 Mafia, we contest to that by his smooth brain patch and his license plate that says "E4 Gang" with an Air Medal. Congrats on his first born. Doing well in MPC.

Mobility:

SSgt Hannah Pinchefskey - Became NCOIC of Mobility and made IB all in one year. Everyone loves her because she gives them Leatherman multi tools and uniforms. Will probably outlift most booms in the squadron.

SrA Austin Parker - Must be a new boom, still haven't met him yet, he is a legend for being available for all TDYs and local flying. Soon to be our newest IB in July. He survives on protein powder and TikTok.

Tactics:

SSgt Brent Collins - He is our broken tactician, stuck with all the ground training, 1 year in and still hasn't been to CATS. Was in hot water for being too proactive with the booster club.

Attached/On-Loan:

SMSgt Pat Martin - Was once our fearless Ops Supt, but he got sick of us and moved to be the 916th OSS SEL. Some think this was career motivated, others might think he was wanting to be a reservist a little too much. Still needs permission to go TDY.

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB, NC

77th ARS

"Home of the Totin' Tigers"



This Unit did not submit

SIOUX CITY ANGB, IOWA

174th ARS / 185th ARW

“THE BATS”



This Unit did not submit.

TINKER AFB, OK
10TH FLTS BOOM SIGNAL
SABRES



This Unit did not submit

TINKER AFB, OK
465 ARS
“SHIT HOT OKIES”



This Unit did not submit

TRAVIS AFB, CALIFORNIA

6 ARS

“VIS EXTENSA”



COMMAND SECTION

SMSgt Paul McIntyre

The one we have all been waiting for. Paul is our sincere fearless leader. He makes the rounds, concise when addressing groups, and rumor has it might still be accepted into the E-4 mafia. He has been sensor operator, CFIC instructor, USSOCOM executive, and now KC-46 squadron senior enlisted leader. What's next for this guy?

MSgt Clay Wonders

Uh-oh, make sure you follow your checklist (pilots included), otherwise you might be the fool to call this guy at 0300 and get schooled as to why you can't follow simple instructions and nearly cause a formation of fighters to RTB. Somehow this guy has an encyclopedic knowledge of the flight manuals and still finds the time to pull antics on unsuspecting individuals around the squadron.

SrA Taylor Adams

Taylor, our resident Pink Red Bull sponsor, proving that caffeine and chaos make a perfectly balanced diet. An unpredictable whirlwind with more twists than a fighter jet in a dogfight, she keeps us guessing at every turn—will she bite my head off today or bring champagne for Mimosa Friday? Married to another boom operator in a different unit yet somehow prefers life on the road over quality time at home—commitment to the mission at its finest! Now, as she heads into instructor upgrade, we can only hope she brings the same intensity to teaching—though ideally, with a little less caffeine and turbulence along the way!

COMMAND SUPPORT FLIGHT

SSgt Alfred "Bobby" Bonilla

"Bobby Shakes" shows up to every party, says exactly three words, then disappears like a ghost. The quietest boom in the squadron—might actually be a legend, or a hologram. Leadership believed him to be a mute for the first 4 months.

SrA Alexander ""Danny Dandandan" Danclar

Pour one out for SrA Danclar, who thought he was going to see beaches, boomerangs, and kangaroos—because our boy thought he was going to be on one of the coolest Australia TDYs. Where did he actually end up? ALTUS. Welcome to the KC-46. To

his credit, Danclar kept a good attitude even when asked to see "Australia beach photos" and he shows photos of Trader Tom's Tavern.

MISSION SUPPORT FLIGHT

TSgt Uriel Escamilla

Uri (is?) the mission support flight chief, however after willfully ignoring his responsibilities, correction, DUTY, to the esteemed Boom Signal publication he has been placed in the penalty box. Please no admittance to any Boom Pods across the force until behavior has been rehabilitated. He is pinning on MSgt soon, so we are optimistic he will be better soon.

SSgt Jeremiah Guinto

If you enjoy delicious cocktails, positive attitudes, and technical competence be sure to turn him away from your inbound list, because you will be sorely disappointed with him around...seriously he's not going anywhere...there is no way we would send this guy away and risk the esteemed reputation of the 6 ARS...you can't have him, we will bear the burden for the rest of you.

SrA Austin "Colors/Colours?" Cullers

Had KC-135 IB orders locked in... then the Air Force said, "plot twist" and dumped him in the KC-46 pipeline instead. He's still mourning the boom pod.

SrA Benjamin Gauspohl

What can't Ben do? He will mop up all your less-than-ideal taskings without a second thought. Reliable and dependable, and a very welcome member of our team. Looking forward to the newest addition to our IB cadre.

SrA Victor Menchaca

"Chac, Big Chac." Shake him or stir him and you still don't stand a chance against this guy in a gun fight. After outshooting the entire base in a marksmanship competition...without practicing, he has been promoted to our very own air marshal for all TACC missions.

OPERATIONS FLIGHT

MSgt Philip Stacey

The scheduling menace you never saw coming. Hide your GTIMS folder, lock in your availability, and—most importantly—stay out of his line of sight, because once he spots an open schedule... well, it won't be open for long. He does his job a little *too* well, making sure no free moment goes to waste. If you thought you had a chance to breathe, think again—Stacey's got a plan, and you're already in it!

SSgt Karin "KC" Svoboda

The prophetic savior of all Boom Operators. Her birth name is Karin Casey Boerboom, or simply KC Boom. With a name like that you are destined for Boom Operator greatness. She was born in the Stratotanker and as a blessing to cure the plague riddled KC-46. We promptly sent her to Everett to consecrate the Boom Shop where all flying booms are still built by hand. Ever aware of man kind's nature to sin, she unsuccessfully tried to Q3 herself in the sim. With the spirit of KC, all our futures are bright.

SrA Tristan Shannon

All hail the Meme God... the DNIF Lord... the SRAIC saving grace! The undisputed Master of Office operations—no logistical challenge is too big, no schedule too complicated. But when it comes to diagnosing car problems? Let's just say that even if divine intervention spelled it out for him, that engine still wouldn't turn over. He's technically capable of passing a PT test, but knowing the minimums? That's optional. And as for battle scars, he didn't earn them in honorable fashion — he earned them going a little too hard at the neighborhood Chili's. A true legend in his own right.

SrA Marvin Casillas

Fresh out of BTX and back in action, Casillas wasted no time making an impression—but not exactly the one he planned. Within 24 hours of returning to work, he was already racking up achievements... like a crisp speeding ticket for doing 53 in a 30 on base. Apparently, he mastered the art of creasing the boom—but when it comes to the gas pedal.

SrA Grace Yoder

Meet Grace, our most efficient boom yet. She arrived, assessed the situation, and immediately made the executive decision to clock out for the next few months—talk about strategic planning! She's a true pioneer in work-life balance, achieving perfection before even figuring out where the flightline is! We eagerly await her triumphant return, at which point she will learn that everything she learned at Altus months ago is irrelevant! Enjoy starting from the beginning miss ma'am!

TRAINING FLIGHT

TSgt Curtis Clawson

We sometimes wonder if AFPC lost this guy's line number. Do they not realize he has been performing as a competent SNCO for a while now? Curt knows all the rules and enforces them with genius. He loves all things related to the Stratotanker and KC-46 and reminds everyone how he has moved on from the KC-10.

SrA Tyler McPhearson

Tyler arrived at the 6th late last year and immediately was used and abused as our only line flying IB. He claims to be burnt out but if it's a good deal, Tyler's your guy! He tolerates Travis but really misses McConnell... it's literally all he ever talks about. Let's hope he doesn't waste this strat...again. He's our shiny penny in the office; the Squadron is lucky to have him.

SrA Conner Myers

Often mistaken for Tyler, Connor is another recent addition to our instructor cadre. He's the definition of "all thrust no vector". Recently, he's attempted to shed some baggage that's followed him from McConnell... that baggage is Tyler. We're all very jealous of his out of regs mustache and proud of his hatred for SARM. Keep grinding, you're almost there. #stratseason

SrA Zachary Ubben

As the fearless leader of the E-4 Mafia, Zach made an immediate impact once he became qualified in the -46. He's our hip pocket Boom when it comes to all things Tactical. If a General needs an aircraft tour, he's the first choice. With HYT around the corner, Zach wants more leadership opportunities. First, he needs to learn how to sign into his laptop to check his email. We're proud of you Zach, you've come a long way. Thanks for taking that Deid deployment, keep crushing it!

STANDARDS AND EVALUATION

TSgt Padric Condon

What can we say about Paddy? He came to us from the contingency response group and took nearly six months to complete his re-qual training folder. His contributions as an IB are just what the squadron needs right now.

ON LOAN

SrA Darcy Coulter

Darcy was our old crusty Boom scheduler before departing for -46 training. She mentioned in passing that the "tactics stuff is kind of cool" so we immediately sent to Wg Tactics after completing BTX. We're eyeing her for Instructor Upgrade but she's never around. You can usually find her scuba diving with sharks or fighting off the homeless in San Francisco.

SrA Daniel Franey

Danny works in the OSS, he completed ALS this year, he volunteers for every single flight. We look forward to getting to know him when once released from on loan purgatory.

INSPIRIT

SMSgt Mike Thomas

Our middle-term, interim SEL. Take a blink and he has a new job but bring a snack if you need to chat with him. Much revered and always welcome in the 6 ARS.

TRAVIS AFB, CALIFORNIA

9 ARS

“GUCCI PRIDE, WORLDWIDE”



CMSgt Waldell ‘Doc’ Graves: Chief just moved from the Group over to the 9th as the SEL and this is his first signal entry. His SEQ boom requirement? One BOT every six months. Challenge accepted? Not quite. It's been a year, and his BOT counter is still at a solid zero. So yeah, he has been a cool C-5 guy to hang out with.

SMSgt Michael Thomas: The man is a pro at turning a sentence into a motivational novel. Piggyback king of the tanker community, he makes up for it by always going above and beyond for his Airman. He left the 9th and is currently working as the 60 OSS Squadron Superintendent.

MSgt Shawna Wise: Señorita, just got to the 9th and is already getting stripes. She became the Chief Boom, just to get fired for trying to make Block Week a thing. Then became the SEL, just to get demoted to Squadron Superintendent (I thought the Air Force got rid of that position). Either way, she is here flying and herding cats.

MSgt Danielle Repp: A very carefully written signal for her as she is now the Superintendent of OGV and we don't want to get no-noticed right after this signal. Her sarcasm keeps our Booms on their toes. Is she serious? Is she for real? We can't tell.

MSgt Jessie Eagles: Jessie, our resident KC-46 OST guru, with a whopping 3 hours in the KC-46A, is apparently destined for greater things. He's slated to take over as Ops Supt at the 9th. Don't worry, we're just as shocked as you are.

TSgt Lucas Balcarce: Our interim Ops Supt that can't get picked up for OTS even with having Missileer as his #1 choice. He won't stop talking about Kadena. We get it, you think AMC is trash, get in line.

TSgt Ezrick Whaley: High speed boom, standard speed bike in the 9 ARS motorcycle posse. EZ was the sole KC-46 IB for 6 months and is now constantly on leave or at physical therapy for his bum knee.

TSgt Calvin Kim: Fresh back from Altus after finishing his CRW gig at Travis. A mid ping pong opponent, this MITO enthusiast's counting skills, however, peak at 8. Don't get him on the topic of magic cards, he'll go on for hours.

SSgt James Walker: Certified Capper. Bought a \$1000 helmet for it to collect dust while he talks trash on everyone else's motorcycle. James decided to get an apartment 45 minutes away in Sac, blame it on someone else, and is surprised every day when he sits in stand-still traffic on the way home.

SSgt Joshua Shopp: PCS'd to us not too long ago. Expert at 3D printing, so he created a child and started paternity leave... Congrats buddy!

SSgt Cameron Carl: Cam (yes, *that* Cam, the one with two first names) is back! After a brief flirtation with fitness and dreams of joining the elite ranks of *those* guys, he's returned to the boom, wiser, and perhaps thirstier, for the experience. Two months of sweat, no beer, and underwater struggles with his buddies apparently couldn't quite eclipse the allure of Hawaiian TDYs. Fresh from the Altus crucible, he's ready to get back to the real mission.

SSgt Giovanni Castillo: Somebody get this man a bigger flight suit. Don't get this guy in a tight spot, he'll dime you out in a heartbeat. Stacking awards for other people's work is one of his hobbies. If you like to read quotes about him stop by the 9th scheduling desk.

SSgt Joey Svoboda: Owns 2 of the fastest motorcycles out there but they're both blown up. Spent 4 days in prison but somehow has no paperwork from big blue. Only man out there still living that gets 3 hot meals a day prepared by his wife.

SSgt Cameron Andrews: Cami Miami is the king of Busch Apples. He likes to pretend to be a big party animal but seems to always turn down hanging out with the boys to play video games and drink by himself. Don't let this guy go downtown on any holidays, he might gain strike two on his probation.

SrA Sean Ellis: Still the leader of the E4 mafia, becoming one of the few SrA to have a star on his wings... without losing rank. Best safety briefer in the squadron! Always talks about his BMW moped and how cool it is. Most likely has an adult sized train set in his garage. Duty hours include 9-10am, 2-hour lunch, then clocking out before 2pm.

SrA Rosendo Garcia: Hangs out with everyone outside of work but doesn't but doesn't speak. Hot Cheetos hate to see this guy coming. He plays 2 out of the 4 positions in a mariachi band as a karaoke superstar and classically trained trumpeter.

SrA Jude Springer: Our newest IB, well... months ago. Only person in the squadron that has tried fentanyl, who knew easter egg dodgeball could be a high-risk activity. Somehow is always asking "what's for lunch" when he has a stay-at-home wife.

SrA Joshua Grabe: Is half fluent in Japanese, ready to settle down, punch out, and skillbridge to being an electrician. He is one of the most mature booms in the force, which is why we think he is getting out as soon as possible.

SrA Connor Schummer: Oh word? Still can't believe Connor made it home after the squadron ski day. Always down to rip a cig, rear end a car or leave work early to play some golf.

SrA Pono Norris: Pono is next up for instructor upgrade despite not knowing how to do a DTS voucher on time. Don't send this guy TDY anywhere that doesn't have a Raising Canes.

SrA Benjamin Crisp: This guy is always on PMCR or flying... Since he is typically MIA, we don't have much to write about him on this signal.

A1C Robert Trillet: "BOBBY T". Had to be rescued by a ski patrol on his first TDY to Misawa because he got lost on the bunny slope. He is a big fan of horse uterus. He gets a little confused on how to tie down crew bags, but he does his best!

A1C Benjamin Firman: Another straight out of Altus BIQ. Tallest Boom at the 9th! Some call him "Big Fir". While others caught him sniffing around and labeled him "Benjamin SNIFFirman".

A1C Nathaniel Aguiar: Highly motivated boom! It's a miracle if there is a single day that he doesn't ask to be on a TDY.... Don't you worry... We rolled the dice and trips to the casino to feed your gambling habit are in your future.

A1C Romio Zamora-Carmona: Straight out of Altus. Excited to have him apart of the 9th, as long as he quits asking for rides across the state.

A1C Brecken Morrison: Will the real "Slim Shady" please stand up? Did Foster the People once sing a song about this guy?

Amn Colby Simons: Fresh out of MQT and still doesn't know what a beer tastes like. He helped with a squadron camp trip while he got silly off a case of capri-sons. He said he can ride a dirt bike but has yet to ride it without breaking something or blaming his bike for the issue. Solid guitar player but even better door dasher; has helped deliver many meals to senior leaders.

TRAVIS AFB, CA

70TH ARS

“HOME OF THE ORCA’S”



This Unit did not submit

Travis AFB, CA

79th ARS



CMSgt Matthew Fisher: Sq SEL, acting OG/CCC and acting WG crisis prevention counselor. A man who serves as a beacon to all: for most, an inspiration for advocating for his people, leading from the front and taking the bad deals. To many: a warning of what happens to you if you're too good at your job: you turn into a pizza and everyone wants a slice. Even the next morning. His family has hung a POW/MIA flag outside their house in Davis. Unfortunately, their hippie, vegan neighbors don't know what it means. Currently filling out applications form In-N-Out Burger, as he's got the secret sauce.

MSgt Christy Jeffreys: Christy is counting down the days to retirement as she nears the finish line. As the days shorten so does her temper, she brings the sass we don't ask for but need. She is the glue that holds our stan eval shop together. She's the Ipad guru and more than happy to help with any issues, but beware of her wrath. With the look of a disappointed parent, she will gladly wipe your Ipad and get you ready to fly.

MSgt Bethany "Benny" Marrero: She has a big white board to fill (or erase) even though a white board seems plain, she loves the arts whether is painting or photography. If you are PA, make sure to give her the right equipment or you will never hear the end of it. Congrats from going to AGR to ART, we will still make sure to bug you with questions that we already know the answers to and pretty sure she is the one using all of Chiefs coffee, she means business.

MSgt Steve Garbett (assigned to 349th OSS): Steve Garbett just landed another AGR spot at the 349th OSS – proof the Air Force still hasn't caught on. He proudly watched his stepson graduate, holding back tears like a champ (or not). Between cheering at his stepkids' Polynesian dance events and planning epic tequila nights with his wife, Steve somehow found time to take his whole family to Cabo. He's part dad, hype man, and full-time legend!

SMSgt Jeremy Rigg (assigned to 349th AMOS): Jeremy got sick of the nonner life and finally came back to being a boom on the 46 after returning from Altus. He left a lasting mark on the town. He must be a buffalo Bills fan after diving onto the beer pong table at trader toms. Or maybe he just got sick of losing and having to buy more beers. We are glad to have him back and flying with us!

MSgt Arriel Bromley (assigned to 349th OGV): While she lacks the red hair, her Disney counterpart wonders “how a world that makes such wonderful things could be bad” the same way she wonders about the KC-46 STAN/EVAL program. You can ask her how she is, and she will always respond “it’s fine, everything’s fine” reminiscent of a particular dog in a burning house. You’ll always be able to answer your question about the RTM with, “you can’t log that” with her. Through all the fires around her, MSgt Arriel Bromley is quick to put them out without losing her cool. It’s definitely an Alaskan thing!

SMSgt Michael Parks: Is a wicked-smart nurse by trade, historian by obsession, and kleptomaniac by tradition—though he prefers the term “liberator of neglected government property.” Known for his encyclopedic knowledge of everything from the Peloponnesian War to the SR-71 (which he still insists he’d fly if only the Air Force had installed an AROS), Parks can deliver a devastating pun while simultaneously relieving a TDY location of its most iconic signage. His politics lean left—way left—which makes him the only person who can debate New Deal economics in the AROS and still win you over with a well-timed joke. Equal parts prankster, professor, and rogue logistics officer, he’s the guy who raises morale, eyebrows, and inventory shrinkage wherever he goes.

MSgt Glenn Brakel: Freshly minted boom operator. Glenn took a break from his dream job at SFPD and is also apparently the squadron's unofficial San Francisco PD recruiter. He's got a Pendleton and a pitch for everyone. “Become a plainclothes cop in under a year!” Who needs a recruiter when you've got Glenn praising enthusiastically the virtues of law enforcement between sips of whiskey and coke zero. This guy is a true asset, in more ways than one.

MSgt Justin Hughes: From crayons to kilowatts, this Marine turned grid operator is a true transformation story. Who knew managing the state's power supply was so lucrative? Seriously, a former Marine in a Mercedes? Next, he'll be trading in his combat boots for Gucci loafers. We're just impressed.

MSgt Vince Montojo: He's still a cop in Fremont, so watch your speed through that town if you don't want to fund his next vacation! A man of the people. Lives in Livermore, probably to escape the Fremont traffic he creates. It has been said that he flies a drone for the police force program. I bet he uses it to search for expired registration tags from the sky. He has questionable grooming decisions, it’s rumored that he keeps a set of clippers in his flight bag, just in case.

MSgt Ryan Gregory: His hobbies include long walks on the beach and hiding in the MPC. As the night goes on, his charisma improves or your inhibition lowers, and you find yourself taking Jaeger bombs you denied earlier in the night. If that’s not impressive his dip intake is, it would take out a small medieval village.

MSgt Terry Faulkner: The phantom of the 79th, racking up flight hours and always maintaining currency even though we don’t always see him. When we do, he materializes just long enough to snag some lunch before vanishing back into thin air. At least he's finally enjoying those backseat naps during touch and goes. Good for him.

TSgt Erick Martinez: Erick? You mean Oscar? TSgt Martinez is one of the many bums of the 79th that don’t work outside the military saying that they “are just a student.” He claims he is working towards a business analysis degree, but everyone else knows that he switched from a STEM major because it was harder than connecting the dots on an FE panel.

TSgt Oscar Sanchez: Oscar? You mean Erick? When he’s not getting bitten by inmates or fighting them in the bathhouse, Oscar is continuing to build his skills as a Boom Operator. Instead of leaving his hat to let you know

he is in the office, you can tell he's been around by the pool of sweat he leaves on the couch from the walk up the stairs. He is currently preparing to live his life as a sugar baby after marrying his fiancé later this year! Congrats on marrying up!

TSgt Paul “Pauly” Perez: The most confidently incorrect individual possibly in the entirety of the Americas if not the world. Arguing with him is equivalent to quicksand, fighting it will only drag you deeper and destroy your sense of reality. Thankfully he will eventually call his sister who will set him straight and for that we thank her for her service. Paul genuinely gives us the most laughs out of anyone in the squadron and came back from Altus looking the best out of all of us. He should definitely bring the stache back.

TSgt Mike Goirl: That Oakland commute? Don't even get me started. He got his truck stolen AND his Tesla t-boned? The universe is clearly trying to tell him something. Probably that he should invest in a heavily armored Hummer. I hope he learns from this experience. Despite all his obstacles, I believe he is the best tech. He probably sees Oakland as a giant training ground for his future career as a PA. After all, where else can you gain so much experience dealing with trauma, theft, and crippling traffic?

TSgt Steve Zorro: This war-hardened veteran has the voice of an angel... which he uses to lure unsuspecting victims into karaoke bars. Just when you're captivated by his dulcet tones, BAM! 9 PM text: "Hey buddy, can you fly tomorrow?" It's a trap! (But a beautiful one.)

TSgt Zachary Ruff: Big morale guy, Ruff has been actively reviving the squadron swag with hats, sweaters, and some killer baseball jerseys. An avid reader, if he's not deep in the pubs you'll most likely find him lost in a good romantasy series. Maybe he's secretly hoping for a deployment to a land of fae and high lords. He really puts the pride and joy into his duty. If you need morale or someone to talk to about steamy fantasy novels, Ruff is your guy.

TSgt Matt Johnson: I bet he greases his hair with JP8 just to go faster. If he's not out hunting, fishing, or crafting artisanal meat snacks, he's probably plotting his ascension to the officer corps... probably so he can personally lead the squadron into high-speed, low-altitude maneuvers.

TSgt Abigail “Abby” Chuckerel: Vinson, Chuckerel, same same. Though she got married a year ago, the process of switching every document that has her maiden name is long and tedious, so she keeps Vinson and swears “she's working on changing it”. Squadron poster? Check. Veneers that can blind? Double-check. Abby's got it all. With the new poster on its way, Morale is boosted 100%. Now there's no hiding her art skills for our next project. Her future is bright, and we're all basking in the reflected glory.

SSgt Sam Nolan: Alert Alert! Automatic and Alert' isn't just a phrase; it's a lifestyle. His transportation of choice is a minivan “El Vano” once based in Casa de Nolando, that minivan isn't just transportation; it's a mobile command center for future bachelor parties, soiree and impromptu wingman missions.

SSgt Andrew Lanthier: We have unsubstantiated, unconfirmed, and possibly falsified reports that Andy has a new date every weekend. Like his car allegedly being a transformer we are just going to take his word for it. He wishes to transform into a country boy, but the boots, hat, and going to a country music festival will never wipe away his city boy sheen. Despite receiving the most ribbings for what he says and does he will always show up with a smile on his face and a can-do attitude.

SSgt Kevin Muerle: We don't know what's more interesting, all the bumper stickers on his car or that he listens to Ninja Sex Party (It's a real band, we checked). One thing is for sure he is a great Boom and eager to help. Oh! Don't forget to ask him about his credit card stickers and favorite Pokémon.

SrA Abdulai Turay: An Academic wrapped in a CHP uniform. You'd think a master's degree would be enough to satisfy his hunger for education. An associate's in criminal justice and Spanish is in the horizon. Rumor has it he's just trying to learn enough Spanish to understand what the detainees are *really* saying about his driving. And that Tesla? Don't be fooled by the eco-friendly facade. It's just so he can silently sneak up on those expired registration tags in the squadron parking lot.

SrA William Keedy: Our newest baby boom. He has recently switched over from active duty and continues to think he's going to be late for formation. Keedy lives for a good game of beer dye on a Thursday night and continues to live his life like the frat president of the boom house. He is fresh out of altus and ready to hit the flightline and end his night at Cheers! Welcome to the family, Keedy!



TYNDALL AFB, FLORIDA

601 AOC / 101 AOG

“AMERICA’S AIR OPERATIONS CENTER”



Florida Air National Guard

MSgt Austin “Rude” Arnold (AGR): *c. 2005*, Another year in the books and Austin is still holding down ARCT with 19 years in service, and for those hoping, no, he has no retirement plan in sight. This year, he has earned himself an unofficial call sign of the “Mayor”, since he knows everything about everything, especially when it comes to being a handyman. If something is broken, he’s your man... unless it’s a well pump. Don’t even ask.

As any good SNCO does, he submitted multiple award packages for his subordinate, but somehow landed 0/4. Yet the one time he submitted for himself he was an instant winner. Coincidence? We don’t think so. His remarkable interpersonal skills did not go unnoticed either. They are so refined he managed to have his boss relocate to an entirely different building, and then just to be safe, retire. Always living up to being “Rude”.

Also remember the boat that took him 3 years to find? He has used it only a handful of times, maybe. His most recent outing wound up with his pastor in the hospital for broken ribs. A pontoon may be more Austin’s speed instead of a jet boat.

Even though he may be pointed with his thoughts and actions (crusty), we wouldn’t want to have him any other way. His depth of knowledge and willingness to lend a hand (as long as it’s not a well pump!) make him an indispensable part of the team.

MSgt Derek “Rogue” Peifer (AGR): *c. 2015*, Let's hear it for Rogue, the man, the myth, the legend! It's hard to believe how much he has packed into a single year.

First off, Derek got himself promoted, which, let's be honest, we all saw coming. Who else could be so “painfully average” their way to the top while simultaneously convincing everyone he's barely trying?

Then came the big news: engagement and marriage! Now, we're not bitter (much), but it seems a certain dynamic duo, Austin and Jimmy, might have been "accidentally" left off the guest list. We're still debating whether it was an oversight or a strategic move to avoid our legendary alligator outfits from stealing the show. Either way,

congratulations, Derek! We're sure it was a beautiful ceremony, even if we had to hear about it secondhand (or maybe we were in the bushes).

Speaking of new attachments, Derek has seemingly fallen head over heels for Birmingham. We're not entirely sure what magical spell that unit has cast on him. Perhaps it's the charm of a traditional guard unit or how bad he wants to become a pilot on the KC-135!

Of course, life with Derek wouldn't be complete without a bit of vehicular drama. He managed to wreck his car, which, to be fair, is a trend for him...at least one per assignment. But in true Derek fashion, he rebounded by purchasing his dream "classic" 1992 F-250 that is the perfect "bed to cab" ratio that avoids the truck culture vibe!

And then there's the highly suspicious "private pilot's license" endeavor. We're all pretty convinced this was just an elaborate, year-long cover to take an entire year off and avoid adult responsibilities. We picture him reclining in a hammock somewhere, occasionally glancing at a flight manual, while we're all slaving away.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Derek has found a new purpose for his good friend Austin: personal plumber. Forget calling a professional; if your well doesn't work, Austin's on speed dial. We're not sure if Austin received any formal training after cutting 50 holes into the walls to never find the pipe, but hey, when duty calls, you answer, right? Forgot to mention the leak was actually from the window!

So, here's to Derek! May your promotions continue, your marriage flourish, your Birmingham love affair never fade, your rusty F-250 defy all odds, your "pilot's license" continues to provide ample leisure time, and your personal plumber remain on call. We wouldn't have you any other way!

Colonel John "Boom Boom" Erickson (AGR): *c. 1992*, He is the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) for the 601 AOC.





The History of the iconic Esso Tiger

“Put A Tiger In Your Tank!” Pictured is an Original Esso Tiger Globe Head made from plastic, which would originally have a metal base that would fix to the top of a gas pump, mostly seen in the 1960’s in the UK.

Do you remember or still have one of those fake tiger tails from the early 60’s? Motorists all over the world were tying them to the caps of their gas tanks and sporting bumper stickers that declared: “I’ve got a tiger in my tank. ”Some 2.5 million tails were sold in the US alone – and that they’re still in demand – is testimony to the durability of the campaign that convinced drivers that Esso fuel was so powerful that it was the equivalent of having a huge beast in their gas tanks.

“Put a tiger in your tank” was a slogan created in 1959 by Emery Smith, a young Chicago copywriter who had been given the task to produce a newspaper ad to boost sales of Esso Extra. The tiger wasn’t Smith’s invention. He’d first appeared as a mascot for Esso in Norway around the turn of the 20th century. But it wasn’t until the end of the Second World War – and the resumption of petrol advertising – that the tiger made his US debut. ”He was a very different character back then. Cute, amiable and in cartoon form, he closely resembled Tigger in Winnie-the-Pooh and was intended to represent a new post-war optimism after years of shortages. He also gave an identifiable face to Esso in a market where brand differentiation has never been easy” It was in 1964 that the character really hit his stride with a campaign developed by McCann Erickson. As Esso sales soared and the advertising became the talk of gasoline advertising, Time magazine declared 1964 to be “The Year of the Tiger along Madison Avenue” The oil crisis of the early 1970’s put a stop to any conspicuous petrol consumption and, with little advertising activity taking place, Esso switched its efforts to promoting its pioneering role in North Sea oil exploration. The task of reflecting this change of emphasis in advertising terms fell to the long-serving McCann senior creative Chester Posey. He chose to represent the new global reality for the newly named Exxon Mobil by swapping the cartoon tiger for a real one and the line: “We’re changing our name, but not our stripes.”

Interesting Facts–

In 1996, Kellogg took legal action against Exxon Mobil, claiming its use of the Exxon tiger to sell food at TigerMart convenience stores infringed its Tony the Tiger trademark created by Leo Burnett. The case went to the US Supreme Court before an undisclosed settlement was reached.

I’ve Got A Tiger By The Tail, the 1964 hit by the US country music band Buck Owens and the Buckaroos, was inspired when Owens saw the “Put a tiger in your tank” slogan at a petrol station.

Heritage –

It could be assumed that the Young Tiger missions, which took the tanker combat support capability to whole new level by bring refueling closer to the fight, may have simply grown its roots from the ESSO Tiger. Adding the legacy of the Bristol Bulldog representing the agile fighters and “BUFFs” requiring a top off to sustain flight, our aviation heritage can find deeper roots with the Royal Airforce.

Hence, the Tiger with the Boom and Bulldog with the jerry can. “Put A Tiger In Your Tank!”

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT ALBERT L. EVANS



SMSgt Evans was born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Evans on 16 September 1933, in Eastely, Nevada. He grew up in Longview, Washington.

SMSgt Evans was truly a legend in his own time within Strategic Air Command due to his skill and expertise as a boom operator. He began his military career as an airborne radio operator on KC-97 aircraft. In 1952 he retrained as a boom operator. He held command and base levels positions as an instructor, evaluator, program manager, as well as a CCTS instructor and CEVG evaluator. SMSgt Evans, or 'Spike,' as he was often called, distinguished himself in dedicated and unselfish service to his fellow boom operator. Described by his comrades as a "Professional NCO," he was a friend to the young boom operator, and was never too busy to lend a hand or provide his much-revered advice. He was gentle when called for, but tough when required, and he always wore a smile.

A devoted family man, he married his wife Irene while serving at Turner AFB, Georgia in 1955. His assignments included Turner AFB, Georgia; MacDill AFB, Florida; Kindey AFB, Bermuda; Loring AFB, Maine; Castle AFB, California; K.I. Sawyer AFB, Michigan and Barksdale AFB, Louisiana.

SMSgt Evans' decorations include the Air Medal, AF Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Army Good Conduct Medal with one oak leaf cluster; AF Good Conduct Medal with five oak leaf clusters; Combat Readiness Medal, AF Longevity Award with five oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Vietnam Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; AF Outstanding Unit Citation Ribbon.

SMSgt Evans was fatally injured in a KC-135 mishap at Castle AFB, CA in September, 1979. He was survived by his daughters Pat Fanconi (deceased), Dawn Kinney of Merced, CA, Laurie Evans Smith and Cathy Evans-Jantz of Ceres, CA. Also surviving was his father, Mr. Carl Evans (deceased) of Longview, WA, his brothers Paul Evans from Sacramento, CA, and Richard Evans (deceased) from Longview, WA his eight grandchildren Jamie and Jason Fanconi, Christopher Kinney, Ryan and Tyler Smith, Joshua, Jordan and Chad Evans-Jantz, nine great grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Albert L. Evans award was originally established in 1980 in memory of SMSgt Albert L. Evans, a pioneer in the history of SAC's air refueling operations. The purpose of the award was to annually recognize, on a rotational basis, the most outstanding boom operator section within the Strategic Air Command based on the collective accomplishments and professional qualities, sustained excellence, contributions, improvements, air refueling safety record, and problems overcome throughout the rating period of 1 January through 31 December each year. When the Air Force re-organized in the early 1990's, many SAC-era awards were discontinued, including the Al Evans award.

In early 2000, the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force received an e-mail from Mr. Dick Evans, Al's brother. He inquired about the status of the award, and wondered if it was still awarded annually. Sadly, the Al Evans award was no longer being awarded and the Evans family asked if the trophy could be returned to the family, unfortunately the trophy was never located. Boom Operators on the AMC staff understood our rich history and traditions in the boom operator community. The importance of the award was not lost on them so they discussed re-establishing this prestigious award, with the AMC Boom Operator Career Field Manager CMSgt Dan Mongeon leading the charge. After a twelve year absence, the SMSgt Albert L. Evans Award was reinstated in 2001. The SMSgt Albert L. Evans trophy is awarded annually at the Boom Operators Symposium in his honor.

SMSGT ALBERT L. EVANS AWARD RECIPIENTS

1980 -- 920 ARS, 379 BW, Wurtsmith AFB, MI
1981 -- 46 ARS, 410 BW, K.I. Sawyer AFB, MI
1982 -- 906 ARS, 5 BW, Minot AFB, ND
1983 -- 71 ARS, 2 BW, Barksdale AFB, LA
1984 -- 906 ARS, 5 BW, Minot AFB, ND
1985 -- 41 ARS, 416 BW, Griffiss AFB, NY
1986 -- 43 ARS, 92 BW, Fairchild AFB, WA
1987 -- 32 ARS, 2 BW, Barksdale AFB, LA
1988 -- 909 ARS, Kadena AB, Japan
1989 -- 6 ARS, 22 ARW, March AFB, CA
1990 -- 305 ARS, 305 ARW, Grissom AFB, IN
1991 - 2000 -- Award Idle, No Recipients
2001 -- 384 ARS, 22 ARW, McConnell AFB, KS
2002 -- 6 ARS, 60 AMW, Travis AFB, CA
2003 -- 9 ARS, 60 AMW, Travis AFB, CA
2004 -- 99 ARS, 19 ARG, Robins AFB, GA
2005 -- 6 ARS, 60 AMW, Travis AFB, CA
2006 -- 9 ARS, 60 AMW, Travis AFB, CA
2007 -- 99 ARS, 19 ARW, Robbins AFB, GA
2008 -- 6 ARS, 60 AMW, Travis AFB, CA
2009 -- 384 ARS, 22 ARW, McConnell AFB, KS
2010 -- 54 ARS, 97 AMW, Altus AFB, OK
2011 -- 344 ARS, 22 ARW, McConnell AFB, KS
2012 -- 351 ARS, 100 ARW, RAF Mildenhall, UK
2013 -- 6 ARS, 60 AMW, Travis AFB, CA
2014 -- 9 ARS, 60 AMW, Travis AFB, CA
2015 -- 351 ARS, 100 ARW, RAF Mildenhall, UK
2016 -- 418 FLTS & 370 FLTS, Edwards AFB, CA
2017 -- 6 ARS, 60 AMW, Travis AFB, CA
2018 -- 349 ARS, 22 ARW, McConnell AFB, KS
2019 -- 344 ARS, 22 ARW, McConnell AFB, KS
2020 -- 50 ARS, 6 ARW, MacDill AFB, FL
2021 -- 93 ARS, 92 ARW, Fairchild AFB, WA
2022 -- 909 ARS, 18 WG, Kadena AB, Japan



Boom Memorial Names

KB-29 SUPERFORTRESS

7-Jul-51 TSGT HENRY H. HILL
7-Jul-51 1LT JACK W. KERN
7-Jul-51 CPL REGINALD F. RUSSELL
7-Jul-51 SSGT SCOTT L. WALLACE
10-Jul-53 SGT WALTER F. OLSEN
26-Dec-56 TSGT THURMAN RANIER
10-Jan-57 TSGT EDWARD C. CLEMONS
10-Jan-57 SSGT MICHAEL B. MCINTOSH
2-Feb-57 MSGT LAWRENCE M. GRIGORY
2-Feb-57 A2C ARTHUR B. KOSIER
2-Feb-57 A3C FRANKLIN D. SCHWEIGERT

KB-50 SUPERFORTRESS

13-Mar-57 A2C ROBERT E. CRAIG
13-Mar-57 A2C BILLY B. ROSE
8-May-57 SSGT THOMAS E. O'CONNOR
8-May-57 A3C DONALD E. COSPER
13-Aug-58 A2C FRANCIS C. HERMANCENCE, JR.
13-Aug-58 SSGT NORBERT T. KNULTY
22-Jan-59 A2C IGNACIO W. SANCHEZ
22-Jan-59 TSGT WAYNE M. SOUDER
4-Aug-59 A2C THOMAS M. PAYTON
18-Oct-60 SSGT HARDIN A. BAILEY
18-Oct-60 A2C THOMAS J. LANE
18-Oct-60 A3C MICHAEL W. MILLER
5-Mar-61 SSGT HAROLD D. MEEUSEN
5-Mar-61 A2C CLIFTON C. TABOR
8-Jan-62 A2C PAUL M. CLAWSON
8-Jan-62 A2C CARLTON A. LINK
8-Jan-62 SSGT BILLIE D. MOORE
9-Feb-62 A1C GUY L. POWELL
9-Feb-62 A2C RALPH E. REUTZEL
20-Dec-62 SSGT ROBERT T. CRAIG
20-Dec-62 SSGT JAMES R. HAYES
13-Aug-64 SSGT WALTER B. HICKMAN, JR.
13-Aug-64 SSGT CAREY A. LIVINGSTON

KC-97 STRATOFREIGHTER

9-Nov-51 SGT JAMES A. MAINS
27-Jun-54 A1C DAVID ARAMBULA
27-Jun-54 SSGT ROBERT O. GONZALES
27-Jun-54 SSGT VINCENT PROVENZANO
23-Feb-55 SSGT ROBERT E. ROSENCRANCE
23-Feb-55 A2C CHARLES J. SITFA
4-May-55 A1C MARVIN R. DEVRIES
4-May-55 A1C JOSEPH L. PRIDGEN
13-Jul-55 SSGT GEORGE R. MIGNOSA
13-Jul-55 SSGT MARVIN F. RUSK
25-Apr-56 SSGT DONALD S. DELPRIORE
25-Apr-56 A2C JURI E. JOONAS

25-Apr-56	SSGT KENNETH E. VANPATTON
26-Jun-56	TSGT BARDEL A. CRUM
26-Jun-56	SSGT ROBERT L. WALLACE
6-Jul-56	A2C WILLIAM L. FALCONER
22-Jan-57	SSGT JOEL V. BLACKWELL
22-Jan-57	SSGT RAYMOND E. NOAH
18-Jul-57	SSGT JACKIE J. JAMERSON
29-Oct-57	TSGT RONALD E. RUBLE
12-Nov-58	MSGT CURTIS W. KING
12-Nov-58	A2C JOHN M. SCSEBBAK
22-Jul-59	TSGT JAKE SCHMIDT
30-Mar-60	SSGT SHIRLEY D. RENNER
27-Jun-60	TSGT ROBERT P. COSTELLO
28-Feb-61	SSGT ERNEST J. LEMOINE
5-Nov-64	SSGT GERALD W. SHULTZ
19-Dec-64	TSGT JAMES R. BILL

KC-135 SRATOTANKER

27-Jun-58	MSGT DONALD H. GABBARD
25-Nov-58	TSGT RONALD L. CHAMPION
31-Mar-59	TSGT HERMAN A. CLARK
15-Oct-59	SSGT PAUL R. THOMASSON
3-Feb-60	SSGT GEORGE W. SHORT
9-May-62	SSGT WALLACE R. ADAMS
10-Sep-62	TSGT JOHN L. DUNCAN
10-Sep-62	TSGT KENNETH A. QUINN
27-Feb-63	TSGT DANIEL C. CAMERON
21-Jun-63	MSGT DANIEL F. DONAHUE
28-Aug-63	MSGT CARL H. BURRIS
28-Aug-63	TSGT RAY L. FISH
8-Jul-64	SSGT ROBERT L. GRAVES
4-Jan-65	SSGT JIMMY TARDIE
16-Jan-65	SSGT REGINALD R. WENT
26-Feb-65	MSGT CAREY W. ADDISON JR.
3-Jun-65	TSGT LESTER M. ALLSOP
17-Jan-66	MSGT LLOYD POTOLICCHIO
17-May-66	TSGT HARRY L. ALEXANDER
19-May-66	SSGT CHARLES E. STUART
19-Jan-67	MSGT ORVILLE MONTGOMERY
17-Jan-68	TSGT CHARLES C. CHAPLIN
30-Jul-68	SGT CHARLES A. OLVIS JR.
30-Jul-68	SSGT HURSCHEL D. PRIDDY
2-Oct-68	TSGT EARL B. ESTEP JR.
22-Oct-68	SMSGT HOWARD B. BENGE
19-Dec-69	SMSGT HOWARD G. BENFORD
3-Jun-71	SSGT RICHARD D. ROUSHER
13-Jun-71	TSGT HUBERT MILES JR.
13-Mar-72	SGT BRUCE J. KLAVERKAMP
25-Mar-75	SMSGT JACKIE V. EGBERT
7-Dec-75	SGT DAVID M. WANDEL
6-Feb-76	SSGT LLOYD D. BAKER
26-Sep-76	TSGT GARY L. CARLSON
19-Sep-79	SMSGT ALBERT L. EVANS
13-Mar-82	TSGT DONALD J. PLOUGH
19-Mar-82	MSGT RICHARD A. CROME

27-Aug-85	TSGT CLAUDE F. ARDEN
27-Aug-85	SSGT DESIREE LOY
17-Jun-86	SSGT QUINN L. DEWITT
13-Mar-87	SSGT RODNEY S. ERKS
13-Mar-87	SMSGT PAUL W. HAMILTON
11-Oct-88	A1C ROBERT L. PARHAM
20-Nov-88	MSGT JAMES L. BORLAND
31-Jan-89	CAPT ROBERT LEWELLYN
31-Jan-89	SSGT DAVID VICKERS
20-Sep-89	MSGT CHERYL HELGERMAN
20-Sep-89	MSGT WILLIAM J. MALICO
4-Oct-89	A1C JACK D. CUPP
19-Nov-97	MSGT ROBERT "TUG" MCGRAW
13-Jan-99	TSGT RICHARD D. VISINTAINER
3-May-13	TSGT HERMAN "TRE" MACKKEY

ADDED SINCE BOOM MEMORIAL DEDICATION
KC-97 STRATOFREIGHTER

27-Aug-56	A1C WILLIAM R. DENNIE Jr.
27-Aug-56	A3C RICHARD A. RIDLON

ADDED SINCE BOOM MEMORIAL DEDICATION
KB-29 SUPERFORTRESS

8-Apr-54	A2C FREDERICK L. MARSHALL
8-Apr-54	A2C WAYNE D. WHITSELL

THE BOOMER'S PRAYER

MAY THE WEATHER BE SMOOTH AND THE BOW WAVE SLIGHT, MAY THE
RECEPTACLE BE LARGE AND HAVE A PLETHORA OF LIGHTS.
MAY CARGO AND PAX BE NOT ABOARD,
MAY WE NEVER HAVE TO USE THE PARACHUTE RIPCORDER. THIS WE ASK FROM
THE POWER ABOVE,
JUST LET US DO WHAT ALL BOOMER'S LOVE.
TO DIRECT THE BOOM WITH PRECISION, AND A TOUCH THAT IS SLIGHT, TO GET
THE CUSTOMER ENOUGH GAS TO FINISH THEIR FLIGHT.
OR TO SIMPLY PUT IT,
SO WE CAN JUST ILLUMINATE THE "BOOM ENGAGED LIGHT".

PATRICK QUAID, MSGT, 1997, ILANG RETIRED