



THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Monthly Newsletter
And Spotlight

Proudly serving the People of Misawa Air Base, Japan

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Air Force Firefighter of the Year 2020

A Misawa Air Base Airman recently won the 2020 Military Firefighter of the Year Award for the Air Force.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Journey Collier, a 35th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, will represent the Air Force in the 2020 Department of Defense Military Firefighter of the Year competition. Collier said she is humbled and recognizes her team for enabling her success.

"It's a huge accomplishment, but it's definitely not something that I did by myself," said Collier. "I've spent all four years of my career at Misawa Air Base. I've had many supervisors and experiences that have definitely helped mold me into who I am now."

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Mass Vaccination

SECAF JOHN P. ROTH

Acting Secretary of the Air Force John P. Roth travelled to Florida April 16, to tour an efficiently-run tent city and COVID-19 mass vaccination operation.

The vaccination facility, which is designed to administer 3,000 shots a day (though it hit 5,636 shots in a single day earlier this month), is under the control of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state of Florida. However, a staff of 139 active duty Airmen from 25 bases across 22 states make up the operational engine providing vaccinations from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

Prevention pg 2

Around the Wing



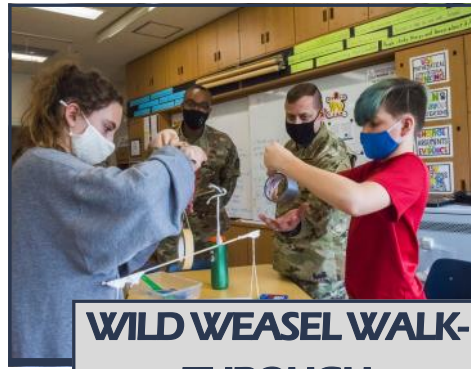
13TH FS PILOT WINS JAAGA AWARD

The Japan-American Air Force Goodwill Association awards happen annually, honoring the top Japan Air Self-Defense Force and U.S. Air Force member who best contributes to building U.S.-Japan partnerships.



JAPAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE VISITS MAB

Japan Minister of Defense, Nobuo Kishi, met with Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider, U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force commander, and Col. Jesse Friedel, the 35th Fighter Wing commander, during a visit at Misawa Air Base on April 3, 2021.



WILD WEASEL WALK-THROUGH

In honor of the Month of the Military Child, join Col. Jesse J. Friedel, the 35th Fighter Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Plez Glenn, the 35th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group superintendent, as they take a tour of Sollars Elementary School.



MORE

Check out the Misawa Air Base Facebook for more information!

Legal Blotter

The following personnel at Misawa AB were punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice in March 2021(UCMJ):

Nonjudicial Punishments (Article 15):

An Airman First Class from the 35th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for negligently failing to adhere to the proper Restriction of Movement (ROM) procedures by allowing non-ROM individuals into his contingency lodging/quarantine space. The member received reduction to the Airman, suspended, forfeitures of \$1,000.00 pay per month for 2 months, suspended, restriction to the limits of Misawa Air Base, Japan for 14 days, 5 days extra duty, and a Reprimand.

A Staff Sergeant from the 35th Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for being derelict in the performances of his duties for failing to follow the rules in a technical order. The member received reduction to Senior Airman, suspended, forfeiture of \$1414.00 pay per month for two months with one month suspended, and a Reprimand.

An Airman First Class from the 35th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for negligently failing to adhere to the proper Restriction of Movement (ROM) procedures by allowing non-ROM individuals into his contingency lodging/quarantine space. The member received reduction to Airman, suspended, forfeitures of \$1,000.00 pay per month for 2 months, suspended, restriction to the limits of Misawa Air Base, Japan for 14 days, 5 days extra duty, and a Reprimand.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for failing to obey a superior and driving under the influence. The member received a reduction to Airman First Class with a suspended reduction to Airman Basic, forfeiture of \$1,000.00 pay per month for 2 months, and a Reprimand.

An Airman First Class from the Operational Medical Readiness Squadron received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty by failing to perform duties and making false official statements. The member received reduction to Airman, suspended, and a Reprimand.

POLICY UPDATES

Air Force Updates Guidance For Name Changes In Official Record



AFI 36-2608, Chapter 4, paragraph 4.4.3, currently states when entering the name change into MiIPDS, do not include hyphens, apostrophes, or spaces between sections of a compound name. Effectively immediately, spaces between compound names are allowed when accomplishing name changes in MiIPDS. There is no change to policy regarding the use of hyphens or apostrophes. This guidance will be incorporated into the revision of AFI 36-2608.



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Achievement

Collier didn't earn this award by rushing into burning buildings and saving cats from trees. She earned it by doing her job with a positive mindset.

"I feel like I'm just doing my job and what's expected of me," said Collier. "My only goal is to try to make sure I'm not making the day harder for anybody else and making our 48-hour shifts a little more enjoyable. I want to be someone that's reliable and dependable for my team."

Collier's accomplishments included streamlining the firefighter certification process for new Airmen, cutting out 135 surplus hours; giving virtual school tours to 300 kids amidst the COVID-19 pandemic; and leading three trainings with her Japan Air Self-Defense Force counterparts ensuring 23 firefighters were able to work together and secure the safety of Misawa's sole joint, bilateral and civilian airfield.

"Collier is an outstanding technician in her craft, excelling in her schooling, personal and professional life," said U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Damean Moore, the 35th CES deputy fire chief. "Not only is she dedicated to her work and this team, but she's also dedicated to give back to the community. When we talk about the whole Airman concept, that's who she is."

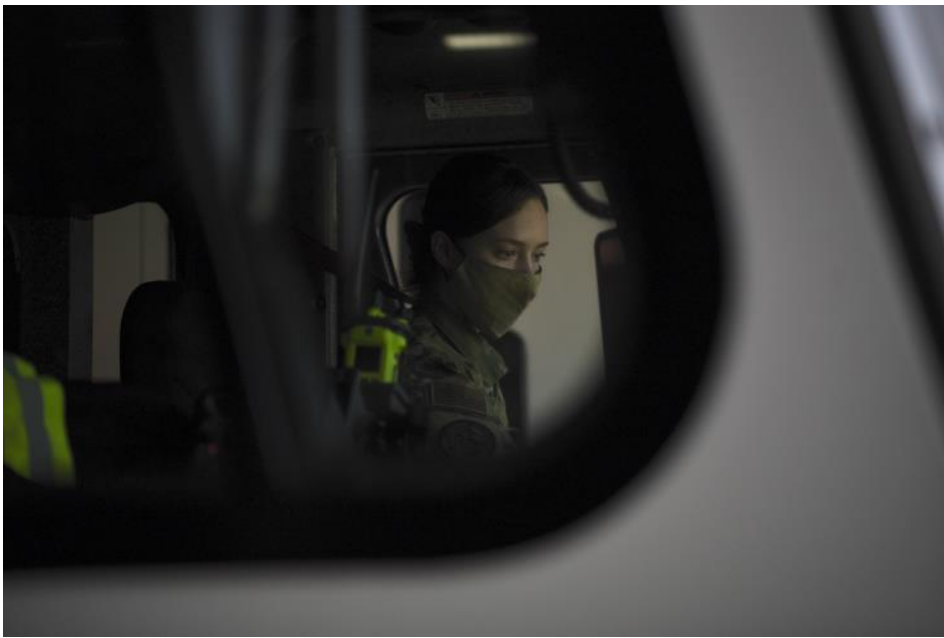
Being a firefighter wasn't something she ever planned to do. Collier decided to become a firefighter to challenge herself.

"I wanted to do something I've never done before and didn't know anything about," said Collier. "You would only see firefighters, from time to time, during emergencies, but you never get to see what their life entails. I chose this life to see for myself."

Collier has decided to continue challenging herself with new opportunities.

She was accepted into the Professional Officer Course-Early Release Program (POC-ERP) commissioning program and will return to the United States to continue college. As she prepares to leave, she continues to train new Airmen, leaving a positive impact as she goes.

The team is sad to see her go, but enjoys knowing she's being used for the betterment of the Air Force.



Prevention

The Tampa facility, which began offering COVID-19 vaccinations March 3, is one of four, large-scale vaccination centers in the state and one of 171 centers nationwide supported by federal personnel. (There are 440 community vaccination centers in all nationwide that receive some mixture of personnel, supplies and funding from the federal government.)

"COVID vaccines are the cornerstone for the nation and for us as the Department of the Air Force to get past this crisis," Roth said during the visit, calling the coronavirus pandemic "the existential crisis to the nation right now."

"I've been a proselytizer as I've gone around to 13 bases the last couple of months, encouraging Airmen and Guardians to get vaccinated. Getting shots in arms is an important step in the right direction," he said.

The same is true for the public and the nation as a whole.

With the number of COVID-19 cases spiking in some parts of the country and with new coronavirus variants becoming more widespread, the White House is pushing hard to vaccinate people as a principle defense against the disease.

In that respect, Roth said it makes sense for the Air Force to "bring to bear capabilities" to help in the effort. In addition to the 139 Airmen deployed to Tampa that includes a physician, pharmacy personnel, nurses and a wide range of other personnel from non-medical fields, more than 1,300 Airmen are serving at other mass vaccination centers nationwide.

"I thought it was important for me to see an example of the support we're providing FEMA and others in the COVID effort. I enjoyed it immensely. I got a lot out of seeing the Airmen and speaking to them," Roth said.

"I was pleased to see how effectively and efficiently the operation was being run and I was particularly taken with the individual Airmen and how enthusiastic they were about trying to help out," he said.

"One of the reasons I leave the Pentagon is for opportunities like this is to visit Airmen and Guardians and see the great work they are doing. To get out and see Airmen and Guardians is always refreshing and I always come back very optimistic with the state of the force, the morale of the force and the talent we have out there."

Along with its state and federal partners, the Air Force, and specifically Airmen operating under the 15th Air Force, have made a considerable contribution. To date, the personnel have given more than 570,000 vaccinations across the eight facilities where they are assigned.

Roth said he was impressed by how well the various government entities meshed to move people from the entrance through the eight tents that have stations for screening people, record keeping, providing information about the vaccines, then to later stations where the vaccines are administered and seats for the after-shot waiting period.

While the mix of participants may be unusual, the concept isn't for Air and Space Forces personnel, Roth said.

"It really is a good example of the idea of 'joint operations' but in a different way. It's very impressive," he said.