

2023 Patriot Award Recipients



**UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE
SPACE OPERATIONS COMMAND
Senior Master Sergeant Abner J. Borrero
Senior Enlisted Leader, Religious Affairs
Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado**

Senior Master Sergeant Abner J. Borrero served with distinction as Senior Enlisted Leader, Religious Affairs, Space Operations Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado, from 01 August 2022 to 30 July 2023.

In his role as Senior Enlisted Leader for Religious Affairs, Senior Master Sergeant Borrero led all three Field Commands ensuring synchronization across the Space Force. His unwavering leadership was critical in supporting Space Operations Command's strategic vision. Additionally, he developed policy directives for 124 Chaplain Corps personnel in support their 18.5 million dollar Space Force mission.

Lastly, he was instrumental in creating integrated and comprehensive Religious Support Teams standing ready to provide holistic health and spiritual support for warfighter readiness in Space Operations Command's mission-critical areas.



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
Senior Airman Seiya C. Arca
10th Medical Support Squadron
United States Air Force Academy, Colorado

Senior Airman Seiya C. Arca distinguished himself by outstanding achievement as a Medical Materiel Technician, 378th Expeditionary Medical Squadron, 378th Air Expeditionary Wing, Prince Sultan Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During this period, while deployed in support of Operations SPARTAN SHIELD and INHERENT RESOLVE, Senior Airman Arca was directly responsible for enabling two forward deployer missions by liaising with the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. His efforts cleared Area of Operation travel requirements in less than 72 hours resulting in meeting a critical U.S. Central Command tasking.

His keen attention to detail allowed him to successfully fill a vacant Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge position managing 32 accounts with an \$884,000 budget. His leadership and attention to detail earned his section “Team of the Month.”

Additionally, Senior Airman Arca leveraged his expertise to structure a medical waste disposal program supporting 11 Department of Defense units. His program safely eliminating 3,000 pounds of biohazardous waste with zero mishaps.

He spearheaded a wing-wide flu vaccine program by securing 206 vaccine vials and coordinated 11 vaccination events for 14 joint personnel units. These efforts strengthened theater wartime readiness for the United States and partner nations, and resulted in an unprecedented 99 percent immunization rate. His leadership lauded his selfless efforts and selected him for the Wing Star Performer award.



**UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE
SPACE TRAINING AND READINESS COMMAND**

Sergeant Grant A. Milner

**Missile Warning Crew Chief and Assistant Project
Officer**

**1st Test and Evaluation Squadron, Detachment 2
Schriever Space Force Base, Colorado**

Sergeant Grant A. Milner distinguished himself as Missile Warning Crew Chief and Assistant Project Officer for the 1st Test and Evaluation Squadron, Detachment 2, Schriever Space Force Base, Colorado from 01 August 2022 to 30 July 2023.

During this time, Sergeant Milner tracked over 23,000 orbiting objects, and characterized more than 1,800 satellites critical to the Commander, United States Space Command's operational perception. He oversaw test campaigns to expand the United States Space Command's critical space catalog and address emerging threats.

Finally, he began rigorous and challenging training programs to earn mission-ready certifications in two Missile Warning Center operational positions critical for delivering real-time launch data to North American Aerospace Defense Command/Northern Command and Combatant Commanders.



**UNITED STATES ARMY
SPACE AND MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND
Staff Sergeant Jonathan Ian Bloss
1ST Space Brigade
Space and Missile Defense Command
Fort Carson, Colorado**

In late December 2022, Staff Sergeant Jonathan Bloss came to the aid of a fellow service member whose child experienced a medical emergency and became unresponsive. Knowing time was critical, Staff Sergeant Bloss took charge of the scene, directed his spouse to contact emergency medical services, and administered cardio-pulmonary resuscitation to ensure the child's airway was clear. His quick and composed assessment skills soon revealed that the child was experiencing a seizure, prompting him to gently cradle the child in a safe recovery position and shielding him from further harm. His heroic actions ensured that the child's life was safeguarded until consciousness was restored and medical assistance arrived.

Staff Sergeant Bloss's courage and selflessness didn't end there. As first responders arrived and took charge of the medical emergency, Staff Sergeant Bloss turned his attention to the airman and his family offering to take care of the children while the parents traveled to the Urgent Care Center.

Staff Sergeant Bloss's unwavering commitment to the welfare of others and his exemplary display of leadership and skill make him a true hero.



**NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE
COMMAND**

Captain Justin Medige

Joint Operations Center Cyber Operations

Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Base, Colorado

In his role as Cyber Operations Domain Initial Qualification Training Instructor, Captain Medige provided instruction crucial to the training and certification of 59 new NORAD and USNORTHCOM Joint Operations Center watch standers. His efforts increased manning critical to the defense of the U.S. and Canadian Homelands by 33%.

As a Joint Operations Center watch stander, he supervised 292 authorized service disruptions and expertly guided 488 outages while maintaining an astonishing 99.9% uptime for 165 critical sensors.

While attending Cyberspace 200, the intermediate Professional Continuing Education course designed for the development of cyberspace professionals, Captain Medige excelled above his peers. He led 8 classmates on 5 training defensive cyber operations and joint planning missions, validating USCYBERCOM's operational guidance.

Lastly, Captain Medige was hand-selected to reshape the J6 current operations branch resulting in gained efficiencies in risk assessment, impact, and strategic decision space for NORAD and USNORTHCOM Senior Leadership.



FORT CARSON
Specialist Claybourne L. Pilgreen
2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment,
1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry
Division
Fort Carson, Colorado

Specialist Claybourne Pilgreen serves as an Ammunition Team Chief (a position assigned to a Non-Commissioned Officer) for 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment. He is responsible for preparing M777A2 Howitzer artillery shells, fuses, and charges in support of 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team operations.

Specialist Pilgreen is a talented young leader and consummate professional who leads with distinction and embodies the Army Values and Warrior Ethos at his core. His engaged leadership, disciplined initiative, and dedication to perfecting his craft are evident through his realistic training and regular mentoring of fellow Soldiers as he prepares the next generation to assume positions of greater responsibility.

Specialist Pilgreen's leadership quickly recognized his contributions to the US Army. He was nominated to compete against his fellow soldiers for the coveted title of Soldier of the Month. His proven record was hard to beat as he claimed Soldier of the Month at the Battery-level, up to the 4th Infantry Division's board, where he displayed the excellence of a Raider Soldier and earned recognition as the Division's top Soldier.

Specialist Pilgreen's next competition will be the 4th Infantry Division's Soldier of the Year Board, and he has his sights on winning the III Corps Soldier of the Month Board.



UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND
Staff Sergeant Wyatt Wolfe
Executive Assistant to the Command Senior Enlisted Leader
Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado

During his tenure as the Executive Assistant to the NORAD/NORTHCOM Command Senior Enlisted Leader, Staff Sergeant Wyatt Wolfe was responsible for executive-level planning, resourcing, and coordination, to include enlisted perspectives on planning and execution of 29 visits in 19 locations across the globe.

Staff Sergeant Wolfe coordinated and executed several first-time events to include the first-ever Combatant Command Senior Enlisted Leader Integrated Deterrence roundtable, encompassing leaders across five combatant commands and the NORAD/NORTHCOM Command Senior Enlisted Leader and Royal Bahamian Defense Force Non-Commissioned Officer Corps meetings aimed at strengthening partnerships.

As the Homeland Threats Branch Senior Enlisted Leader, he provided critical leadership to the largest and most diverse branch in the Intelligence Analysis Division, where he led 18 joint, bi-national, and civilian analysts across five analytic portfolios encompassing North Korea, Iran, Cyber, Terrorism, and Weapons of Mass Destruction in support of Homeland Defense.

Lastly, Staff Sergeant Wolfe volunteered as the Joint Color Guard Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge. In this position, he led 10 joint and bi-national members dedicating over 20 hours per week for training, mentorship, learning movements, and rendering honors. He supported eight color guard events in the local Colorado Springs area honoring fallen service members, key leader retirements, and military award banquets.



UNITED STATES SPACE COMMAND

Captain Jacob Suss

Legislative Liaison

Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado

Capt Suss was a lead planner for the Commander, U.S. Space Command's preparation for annual posture hearings before two Congressional Armed Services committees. He led compilation, editing, and staffing of written statements, securing three rounds of review from experts in U.S. Space Command, the Department of Defense, and inter-agencies.

Additionally, Capt Suss led the development of formal Congressional reports including the first ever Special Access Program-level report. He developed and coordinated answers to 16 Congressional requests for information, earning praise for his thorough and timely responses.

Furthermore, he supported 12 Congressional delegation visits, 13 Commander or Deputy Commander engagements with Congress, and 41 general officer-level Congressional engagements concerning top budget priorities. He also prepared the Deputy Commander for two additional Congressional hearings, developed 286 pages of material and a formal written statement, and facilitated U.S. Space Command's Special Access Program-level space policy briefing to Congress.

Finally, Capt Suss's outstanding performance led to his selection as the Aide-de-Camp for the Deputy Commander, U.S. Space Command. In this role, he is the direct assistant responsible for planning events, assisting the Deputy Commander in personal matters, planning travel, and completing special tasks.