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Soward Force Support Airman of Year

By Lt. Col. Dale Greer
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A personnelist from the Kentucky Air Guard has been named Force Support Airman of the Year for the Air Reserve Component.

Staff Sgt. Tyler Soward earned the honor as a result of his tremendous dedication and pursuit of excellence, said Brig. Gen. Warren Hurst, the Kentucky National Guard's assistant adjutant general for Air.

"Tyler has done some remarkable things in earning this award, which reflect upon his dedication and commitment to military service," Hurst told an audience of Soward's co-workers during a ceremony held Jan. 6 at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base.

"I'd like to point out that this award is Air Reserve Component-wide, so it's not just for the 89 wings in the Air National Guard," Hurst added. "It also encompasses all the units in the Air Force Reserve.

"That makes it a very competitive honor, and for Tyler to get that level of recognition is quite remarkable. He makes us all proud."

Soward, who is assigned to the 123rd Force Support Squadron, distinguished himself in 2016 by supporting the Florida Air National Guard during hurricane response exercises, seamlessly integrating his unit with the U.S. Coast Guard to prepare and transport 2,400 meals serving more than 80 personnel.

At home station, Soward took charge of the management of more



Brig. Gen. Warren Hurst (left), Kentucky's assistant adjutant general for Air, presents Staff Sgt. Tyler Soward with the 2016 Air Reserve Component Force Support Airman of the Year Award during a ceremony here Jan. 6. (KYANG photos by Lt. Col. Dale Greer)

than 100 Airmen assigned to Student Flight, adding necessary structure to reduce the tardiness rate by 100 percent over three Unit Training Assemblies.

He also was instrumental in proactively managing Student Flight processing issues, improving efficiency and reducing administrative workload by 40 percent.



Airmen collaborate with Djiboutians

By Tech. Sgt. Vicky Spesard
123rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Medical staff from the Kentucky National Guard travelled to Djibouti City, Djibouti, recently to meet with Djiboutian Armed Forces medical leaders, observe procedures at a local hospital and provide collaborative feedback on best practices.

Comprising the medical engagement team were Air Force Maj. Brandi Faudree and Air Force Maj. Tiffany Hubbard with the Kentucky Air National Guard in Louisville; and Army Capt. Aaron Newton with the Kentucky Army National Guard Medical Detachment.

The three Guardsmen embedded with Djiboutian medical staff at Omar Hassan A. Al Bashir Hospital for four days in early March.

The visit was a follow-up to a similar engagement conducted in late 2016, when two medical officers from the Kentucky Guard visited the then-new hospital, which is operated by the Djiboutian military to support its military members and their families, as well as veterans and other eligible patrons.

“It’s a very modern hospital that, every day, sees its patient volume increase,” Faudree said about the facility, which was built last year and offers an emergency department, primary care and specialty surgery, as well as a 24-hour Intensive Care Unit.

Faudree, who specializes in emergency medicine, worked with an emergency room staff that predominantly



Photo courtesy Maj. Brandi Faudree

Maj. Brandi Faudree (second from left), a physician assistant with the 123rd Medical Group, reads electrocardiograms with cardiologists and emergency department physicians at Omar Hassan A. Al Bashir Hospital in Djibouti City, Djibouti, March 11.

treats children with orthopedic injuries and cares for patients affected by diabetes. Diabetes is a growing health issue among the Djiboutian population, according to doctors at the hospital.

“Over the four days, we treated approximately 40 patients, which was really busy considering their resources,” Faudree said about the six-bed emergency department, which sees a host of different injuries and ailments.

“I was immediately impressed with the level of care the doctors and nurses provided and their dedication and pas-

sion to help their patients.”

Hubbard’s efforts were concentrated in the surgical ward of the hospital, where her expertise as a nurse practitioner was put to use. While that clinical experience was rewarding, the mission provided many more intangible benefits, too.

“I had never worked directly with another military before,” explained Hubbard. “Their enthusiasm and drive taught me how to get back to the basics in health care. It was the best experience I have ever had.”

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We welcome your feedback. Please contact the Public Affairs Office directly if you have suggestions for articles or photography. Our office is located in Room 1160 of the Wing Headquarters Building, 1101 Grade Lane, Louisville, KY 40213.

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