

Winter 2017. Volume 66. Issue 2.

The
MOHAWK

442d Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo.



Sam Lane's formula
for success

442d Maintenance Squadron
closes Centralized Repair Facility

Borgen selected for
Brigadier General

Winter 2017

ON THE COVER

Tech Sgt. Samantha Lane, a crew chief with the 442d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, has developed a formula for success. Lane has travelled extensively, from Nepal to Guatemala, conquering challenges and working with children everywhere she goes. She has ascended to Everest's base camp, and plans this year to climb to the top of Kilimanjaro. But more importantly, she wants everyone to volunteer to help out with Wright Flight, a program for at-risk kids.

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Meet the new 442d Fighter Wing Command Chief

Happy New Year! I cannot begin to tell you how happy I am to start my new year with such an amazing unit performing the best job in the Air Force. A little bit about myself, I am married with 4 children who are all teenagers, we have four dogs, nine chickens, a bunch of fish and a pet snake named Jake. It's a busy household for sure! My husband, Chris, is a firefighter and we have been married nine years the 20th of this month. Previously, I was the Senior Enlisted Leader of the 954th Joint Transportation Reserve Unit, a part of USTRANSCOM, at Scott AFB, IL. Interesting unit with an equally interesting mission. Ask me about it sometime.

When I was asked to write this piece, I asked what I should write about. The answer was a bit about myself, which I did above, and then talk about my priorities while in this position. So, here goes my



top three (see inset):

As you can see, you, the people, are my top priority. If you all are happy and fulfilled in your jobs, that will make this unit even 'more-better' than it already is today.

If you see me out and about, please stop me, introduce yourself, and tell me a little about you. I can't wait to meet everyone!

1. Assist every member of the unit, in every way that I can, to achieve your personal and professional goals
2. Ensure that the Commander has a trained and ready force to do what he and the Air Force needs
3. Push you, the members of this unit, to be the absolute best Airmen out there

Tattoo regulations have been lightened to increase recruitment opportunities. See opposite page. (U.S. Air Force graphic)

NEW TATTOO POLICY

25% COVERAGE RULE ELIMINATED

UNAUTHORIZED AREAS
NECK/FACE
HEAD/TONGUE
LIPS/SCALP

RESTRICTED AREAS
HANDS
*AIRMEN WITH SMALL HAND TATTOOS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE OLD POLICY WILL BE GRANDFATHERED

ONE SINGLE-BAND RING ON ONE FINGER ON ONE HAND

UNAUTHORIZED CONTENT
RELATED TO GANGS/EXTREMIST & SUPREMACISTS ORGANIZATIONS ADVOCATING SEXUAL/RACIAL/ETHNIC/RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

Senate confirms 442d Fighter Wing commander to be Brigadier General

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. -- The U.S. Senate confirmed Col. Brian K. Borgen for the rank of Brigadier General December 7, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

Borgen is currently serving as the commander of the 442d Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo.

Borgen is a veteran of numerous operations and contingencies in support of national objectives. He deployed numerous times to Aviano Airbase, Italy, to fly in support of Operation Deny Flight; Al Jaber AB, Kuwait, flying combat missions for Operation Southern Watch; Bagram AB, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; Tallil AB, Iraq, in support

by: Tech. Sgt. Bob Jennings and Senior Airman Missy Sterling

of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and Incirlik AB, Turkey, in support of Operation Northern Watch. Colonel Borgen has earned numerous medals and awards for his achievements, including the Afghanistan and Iraq campaign medals for his achievements while deployed. He is a command pilot with more than 3,800 combined hours in the A-10 and T-38.

As commander of the 442d FW, Borgen is responsible for more than 1,300 Air Force Reservists and more than 100 active duty members with the 358th Fighter Squadron.

Borgen was one of 12 colonels confirmed by the Senate for promotion.



Col. Brian K. Borgen, commander of the 442d Fighter Wing, will ascend to the rank of Brigadier General this summer. Borgen has been commander of the 442d since November 2015.

New tattoo regulations ease restrictions

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. -- The Air Force announced new policies on dress and appearance with regard to tattoos January 9, resulting from a review of Air Force accession policies directed by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James in 2016.

“Recruiting’s scope will open to a broader range of highly skilled future Airmen,” said Master Sgt. Anthony Jones, 442d Fighter Wing Recruiting Squadron flight chief. “This is a tremendous step for the Air Force and keeps us competitive with other sister services that have similar tattoo policies.”

Authorized tattoos on the chest, back, arms and legs will no longer be restricted by the “25 percent” rule, while tattoos, brands or body markings on the head, neck, face, tongue, lips and scalp remain

prohibited. Hand tattoos will be limited to one single-band ring tattoo, on one finger, on one hand. Current Airmen with existing hand tattoos that were authorized under the previous policy will be grandfathered in under the old policy standards.

A recent review of Air Force field recruiters revealed almost half of contacts, applicants and recruits had tattoos. Of these, one of every five were found to have tattoos requiring review or that may be considered disqualifying; the top disqualifier was the 25 percent rule on “excessive” tattoos. The new policy lifts the 25 percent restriction on authorized tattoos to the chest, back, arms and legs, opening up this population for recruitment into the Air Force.

“I know many people with friends

and family who would have previously been turned away, but now have a chance to make an impact in the Air Force Reserve,” said Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Franklin, 442d FW recruiter.

Tattoos, brands and body markings anywhere on the body that are obscene, commonly associated with gangs, extremist and/or supremacist organizations, or that advocate sexual, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination remain prohibited in and out of uniform.

Commanders will retain the authority to be more restrictive for tattoos based on legal, moral, safety, sanitary, and/or foreign country cultural reasons.

The new tattoo policy is effective February 1, 2017. Further implementation guidance will be released in an addendum to the policy.

CRF's down

by: Tech. Sgt. Bob Jennings

442d Fighter Wing's Centralized Repair Facility at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. has officially ceased operations.

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. – The General Electric TF34 is a 9,000-pound-thrust-class, high-bypass military turbofan engine. It has a high thrust-to-weight ratio and low specific fuel consumption.

To most people, that paragraph might as well be Greek. Most people couldn't tell you that it takes two TF34s to keep an A-10 Thunderbolt II in the air. They know nothing of the 21:1 pressure ratio, or the 13 million flight hours the engine has accumulated since entering into service in 1970.

Bill George is not most people.

George is the TF34 section supervisor at the 442d Fighter Wing's Centralized Repair Facility at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. He's spent more than two decades building and repairing TF34 engines as part of the 917th Maintenance Squadron and, after the 917th stood down, the 442d Maintenance Squadron.

The CRF itself has been in operation since 1983, building engines for Air Force Reserve Command's full complement of A-10s. But as of September 2016, its operations have officially ceased.

"We basically did everything there was to do to the TF34 engine," George said. a turbine section,"

he said, "or a complete tear down, which could mean compressor, compressor blades, gearboxes, low pressure turbines, etc."

After rebuilding the engine, the CRF would do numerous performance checks and spend at least a week combing the engine meticulously for any minor issues before handing it off to quality assurance for a final once-over.

"We really went the extra mile just to be sure we put out a good product," said George.

Their hard work did not go unnoticed. The CRF was named the Air Force Reserve Command Maintenance Section of the Year for 2015.

But they didn't stop at just building engines. The CRF was also the frontrunner in testing a number of new programs and maintenance procedures, George said. They tested the use of JP-8 jet fuel mixed with alcohol on the TF34 and numerous turbine engine monitoring systems.

In addition, they were trusted to maintain the "Gold TF34 Engine," the engine used as a benchmark for calibration of all other TF34 test cells worldwide.

After the announcement of the closure, most of the maintainers at the shop moved to the 707th or



the 307th Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons, connected to the B-52 bomber units at Barksdale AFB.

Despite the attrition, the CRF still produced an average two engines per month, keeping pace with other units who boasted triple the number of technicians, George said.

Now the CFR is down to two individuals, George and one other Air Reserve Technician, who will be staying with the shop to oversee equipment turn-in in advance of the doors officially closing in September 2017.

Once the shop is closed, those two technicians, who have nearly 50 combined years of experience as engine mechanics, plan to retire.

Though the 442d's CFR is closing, the TF34 engine is nowhere near retiring.

The CRF's engines and their functionality have been moved to Davis Monthan AFB, Arizona, where they will now fall under the supervision of the 924th Fighter Group.

The knowledge accumulated by George and his team won't be lost, though. They provided assistance and training to many of the technicians in the 944th and other CRFs around the Air Force.

While this particular shop may be closing, the mission must continue. After all, somebody has to know what a 21:1 pressure ratio means.



Members of the CRF pose with a TF34 engine at Barksdale AFB, La.

A legacy of valor: 442d father and son deploy at the same time

by: Tech. Sgt. Bob Jennings

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. -- I am an American Airman. Faithful to a proud heritage, a tradition of honor, and a legacy of valor. Those words, part of the Airman's Creed, are the mantra that Airmen live by. For some, though, they hit a little closer to home than others. For Senior Master Sgt. William Cullen Bryant II, it hits right on the mark.

Bryant is the superintendent of infrastructures at the 442d Civil Engineer Squadron here, and he just deployed to Kuwait. This was just days after his son, William Cullen Bryant III, a fueler with the 442d Logistics Readiness Squadron here, got on a jet headed for Qatar. When Cullen realized he and his son would be deploying together,

he felt a mix of emotions. "Proud, a bit concerned for our family at home, a bit concerned for him and his first deployment, back to proud."

This is Bryant's third deployment, and it just happened to coincide with his son's first.

"He told me that he was happy that we will not be going to the same location," Cullen, the older Bryant, said. "He wants to experience this without his dad checking up on him all the time."

That didn't stop Cullen from dishing out some advice.

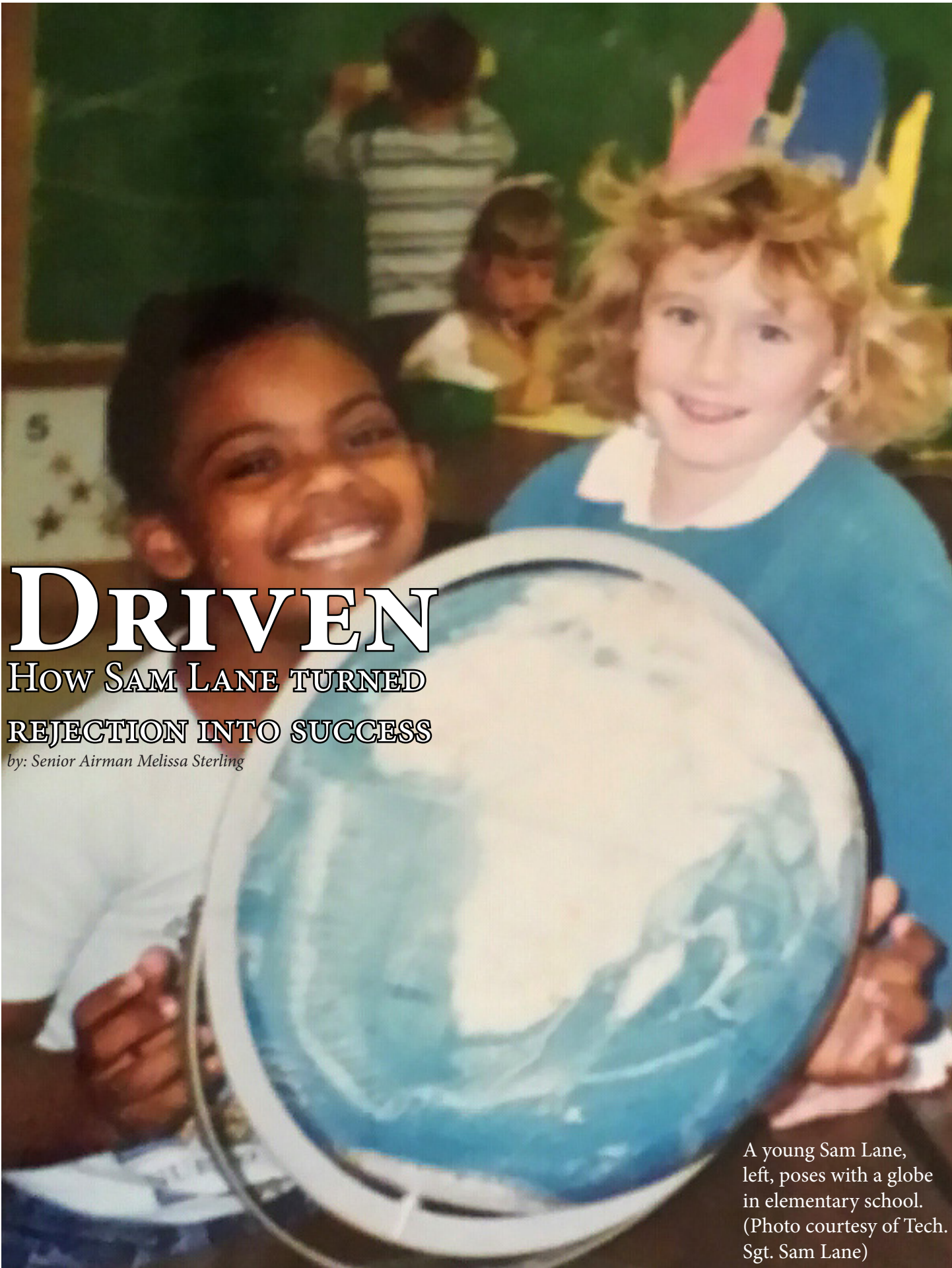
"My advice was all fatherly," he said, "and probably a bit mushy, not senior NCO to NCO. The most important advice I gave him was to make sure he wore his shower shoes in the Cadillacs!" Cadillac is the colloquial name given to the show-

er facilities in deployed locations. The legacy of the 442d Fighter Wing is one that the Bryants are honored to pass on.

"Whiteman Air Force Base and the 442d have been a topic of discussion at the dinner table for years," Cullen said. "I asked my wife, Senior Master Sgt. Angela Bryant, to marry me at a dining out. My kids love to brag to their friends about coming from a military family." The heritage of the 442d FW runs through a lot of families in the Whiteman AFB area. The Bryants are just one of many multi-generational Reserve families in the wing. The younger Bryant summed it all up when he said to his father, "Generations make traditions." If that's the case, the 442d has traditions in spades.

Father and son pose together, highlighting their Air Force legacy. (Photo Courtesy Senior Master Sgt. Angela Bryant)





DRIVEN

HOW SAM LANE TURNED
REJECTION INTO SUCCESS

by: Senior Airman Melissa Sterling

A young Sam Lane, left, poses with a globe in elementary school. (Photo courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Sam Lane)

O h honey, not everyone is meant to be a pilot. Have you thought about being a flight attendant?”

That was the response Sam Lane got from a local businessman and private pilot when she went to him for help.

Lane, an aspiring pilot at the time, asked the man if she could, at the very least, sweep the floors of his business to earn money to pay for her flight hours. Instead, she was turned away empty-handed.

That wasn't the first time she was told to rethink her aspirations.

She printed those words “not everyone is meant to be a pilot” and placed it on her corkboard. She wouldn't follow that advice. Rather, she used it as motivation to prove she could be a pilot.

With her goal of becoming a private pilot still intact, she went a different route to earn money.

“I went to the Missouri Veteran's home to become a certified nurse assistant,” Lane said. “So I was working man-days here, going to

school and working at the Veteran's home just to pay for flight time.”

Lane is currently an Air Reserve Technician crew chief, but at the time she was a traditional reservist working full-time on orders.

She knew she wanted a better education since her teens when

“At times where I feel weak, I find ways to prove that I'm not.”

she would help her mom at the dry cleaners after school. Her mom never finished high school, so when Lane joined her mom in pressing and starching the stacks of clothes that towered over their heads in the midst of the Texas heat, she thought to herself ‘there's got to be something different for me.’

She decided to enlist in the Air

Force Reserve to help her accomplish her goals. The Air Force would open up opportunities by providing her an education and benefits to pursue more education.

Flight school was put on hold in 2010 to deploy to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, said Lane.

About three weeks after arriving, Lane said she was life-flighted to Germany—she needed medical attention for a prior medical issue that had not been properly treated.

“I knew I didn't want to go home,” Lane said. “I sort of had to convince the flight doctor that going home wasn't what I needed. I went there to accomplish a mission, so I felt like I needed to stay in the AOR (area of responsibility).”

“Six weeks later, I ran my first half-marathon,” said Lane about one of her prouder moments in Qatar. “At times where I feel weak, I find ways to prove that I'm not. I seek out a way to challenge myself, so it makes the last thing that just happened seem like water under the bridge.”

Some time after her deployment,

Guatemalan students express confusion as Lane tries to explain where Texas and Missouri are. (Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Sam Lane)





A group of children walk to school in their village in the Himalayas. (Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Sam Lane)

she earned her bachelor's degree and obtained her private pilot's license.

"She's very driven and knowledgeable," said Master Sgt. Darryl Menchion, 442d Maintenance Squadron A-10C Support Section flight chief, about Lane. "I'm proud of her to earn her pilot's license; it's a big step to work on aircraft and be able to fly them too. I think she's on the right path to accomplish anything she wants."

Lane believes education and her supervisors have made it possible to accomplish her dreams.

"Education teaches you to be a life learner," Lane said. "So when I wanted to challenge myself in a new way by trekking to base camp at Mt. Everest, I just researched organizations that provided the best way to do that."

Her supervisors worked with her on making that dream possible and stood by her decision to go.

"A number of members in supervision have taught me that I want to be what they were for me," Lane said.

Even people outside of her

supervision cared enough to see how she was doing and cared to know she was progressing in her goals, she said.

"What I learned going to Everest, is the company hires a local guide called a Sherpa, he knows the route and acclimatizes us and guides us from point A to point B," Lane said. "The same thing happens within the unit. There were times had I not had a Sherpa with me or guiding me, I feel like my story would be different."

Now, Lane looks forward to her

next trip to Kilimanjaro and she is currently working on her master's degree in business administration.

At the moment she is setting her sights on becoming a certified flight instructor.

"One day I might start a flight school and make it affordable for kids to go," said Lane.

Then maybe one day an aspiring pilot will approach her, a businesswoman and private pilot, for help, and she will assure them they were meant to be a pilot.



A group of Nepalese girls make their way along a mountain path to school during Lane's trip to Nepal. (Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Sam Lane)

The Formula: The Distributive Property of Achievement

by: Tech Sgt. Samantha Lane, 442d Maintenance Squadron

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. -- I have tested a formula...motivation plus education multiplied by consistency and capital equals achievement, period.

Regardless of your socioeconomic status, if you are motivated enough to accomplish your targets and take the time to acquire the necessary skill set you can do anything.

Recently, while in Nepal I took in some of the most surreal views of amber sunrises reflecting off the beautifully snow capped mountains of Nuptse, Everest and Lhotse as well as mesmerizing nights under densely filled starry skies. The

Nepal this year, I can tell you that in stark contrast to the landscape, the disparaging poverty levels and lack of access to public education in these regions is difficult to look at. The Nepalese students pictured below walk 45 minutes and 75 meters up daily to attend school in their village. Still they are fortunate, the earthquake in 2015 destroyed 31000 classrooms negatively impacting over one million children.

Did you know the average years of schooling for a Nepalese child in the Himalayan region is 1.9 and 4.1 for Guatemalan children? Data provided by UNICEF this year

to public education it is equally important that someone along the way encourage them to seek all possibilities.

This will be my third year volunteering with Wright Flight and if you have the time, we could use your help. I am challenging you to rock your comfort zone a bit, whether it be for an organization like this one or another pursuit to entice the human spirit.

Next up is a safari in the Serengeti and Kilimanjaro the first of my seven targeted summits. I am ecstatic about increasing my knowledge on education issues in the surrounding



Children sit at their desks in a crowded Guatemalan classroom with no insulation on the bare, cinder-block walls. (Courtesy photo by Tech Sgt Sam Lane)

sights were unparalleled to anything I had ever seen before and I felt extremely blessed to witness it all first hand.

I was immediately moved to tears because the concept of “someday” was today.

I had cultivated a desire into fruition. The only other thing I wanted to do in that moment was shout from the depths of my heart to kids everywhere that what I was experiencing was even better than I thought it would be and that they should try it too!

Having spent time with children in Guatemala last year and in

reflects 29 percent of Guatemalan and 37 percent of Nepalese children are engaged in child labor. These statistics are unacceptable.

In the United States we have been afforded with exceptional opportunities, however; there are still students that could use a little motivation. Wright Flight is a wonderful organization that teams at risk children with people who are interested in making a positive impact.

These same children will be charged with the disruptive innovations for our country’s industries even if they don’t quite realize it yet. As important as it is to have access

area in addition to testing what I am made of to inspire kids to do the same. It is my hope that children everywhere have the courage to continuously push the boundaries of their own physical, mental, and spiritual capabilities.

Author Clayton Christensen in his best seller “How will you measure your life?” asks us to examine our units of measurement for a life well lived. I can attest that supporting organizations like Wright Flight, Habitat for Humanity, and time spent as a camp counselor in Texas has made my cup runneth over.

Take a moment to consider teaming with Wright Flight this year. Together we can and will make an impact.

Around the wing

The best shots of the quarter, compiled for your enjoyment!









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The 442d Fighter Wing command staff attended the farewell party for Chief Master Sgt. James Nudd dressed as the crew of the *S.S. Minnow*. Chief Nudd (Gilligan), has moved on to be the interim command chief at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

