

STAFF SERGEANT NICHOLAS MERSINGER

Staff Sergeant Nicholas Mersinger is the United States F-35A Lightning II Heritage Flight Team member, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. As an F-35A Heritage Flight team member, he is responsible for representing Air Education and Training Command, Air Combat Command, United States Air Force, Department of Defense, and the United States of America at 16 air shows annually. He is one of nine enlisted members of the F-35A Heritage Flight Team and performs maintenance actions on the Lockheed Martin-produced F-35. By doing so, he ensures Heritage Flight pilots are equipped with a safe and effective jet to execute their mission of showcasing the Air Force's premier fifth-generation aircraft for millions of spectators each year.

SSgt Mersinger was born in Alton, Illinois. He attended Althoff Catholic High School in Belleville, Illinois, graduating in 2006. He enlisted into the United States Air Force September 2008. After basic training and his technical school, he was assigned to maintain the F-15E Strike Eagle at RAF Lakenheath. He was then assigned to Luke AFB to maintain the F-35A Lightning II where he is a Dedicated Crew Chief. SSgt Mersinger has deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Odyssey Dawn.

EDUCATION

2006 Althoff Catholic High School, Belleville, Illinois

2012 Airman Leadership School, RAF Lakenheath, England

ASSIGNMENTS

2009 – 2014, 48th AMXS – Dedicated Crew Chief, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom

2014 – Present, 56th AMXS – Dedicated Crew Chief, Luke AFB, AZ

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster

AF Good Conduct Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Air & Space Campaign Medal

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

AF Overseas Ribbon Long

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

Basic Military Training Honor Graduate

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Rifle)

NATO Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Airman 1st Class: 31 Oct 2008

Senior Airman: 31 Aug 2010

Staff Sergeant: 1 Jun 2012

(Current as of January 2016)

