



OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR 2009



NCO OF THE YEAR

MASTER SERGEANT BRIAN W. OWENS

Master Sergeant Brian W. Owens is an Aircraft Mechanic assigned to the 179th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Mansfield Lahm Airport, Ohio.

Upon high school graduation, Owens attended The Ohio State University, Mansfield for one year in pursuit of a double major in Secondary Education and Political Science. He is currently completing his Federal Aviation Administration Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic General requirements thru Air University online. This course is designed to bridge the gap between military and civilian aircraft maintenance training and education. This specialized certification is the equivalent of an associate's degree thru a civilian college. His combined credit from Ohio State University, Air University and CCAF is currently under review with Mount Vernon Nazarene University for application with their accelerated Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration degree requirements.



In January of 1995, he joined the Ohio Air National Guard. Upon completion of Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Owens began technical training as an Aircraft Mechanic at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, where he was an honor graduate. Immediately he was placed on orders to backfill for a deployed work force for nearly two years, accelerating his training and experience. Owens has quickly completed his military PME and is currently enrolled in SNCOA within months of becoming eligible. Owens progressed quickly in the crew chief career field by supporting many unit and contingency deployments such as: Joint Forge (1999-01), Southern Watch (1999), Oman (1999), Coronet Oak (2000), Husky 2000 (2000), Noble Eagle (2004), Iraqi Freedom (2004-2005), Enduring Freedom (2005-09). With these deployments, Owens earned two Air Force Accommodation Medals, the ISAF Campaign Medal, and most recently a letter of appreciation for his leadership in 2009 CONOPS.

Owens is active within his community supporting youth sports. His extraordinary participation amounts to significant off season fund raising and fundamentals coaching, and during season the equivalent of full time 30+ hours night and weekend interacting directly with Galion, Ohio youth.