

Meet Jill Westeyn - Manager, Awards and Scholarships



Have you noticed a different name on some of our web pages? AFA recently hired Air Force veteran Jill Westeyn as the manager of AFA's Awards and Scholarship Program. While AFA may be new to her, the love of the Air Force is not.

As part of the Airmen and Family Programs department, Jill manages the National Aerospace Awards, which includes the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, and Team of the Year awards; scholarship submissions; Air Force Junior ROTC grants; and AFA's Cadet of the Year recognition program, which honors one selected cadet of Civil Air Patrol, AFJROTC, and AFROTC units across the country with AFA's prestigious medal, ribbon and certificate. In addition to awards, Jill is helping to give back to our Airmen by assisting with AFA's Wounded Airman Program.

A native of South Florida, Jill Westeyn enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in June 2000, as a member of The U.S. Air Force Band. During her tenure, Jill appeared as soloist on two national tours, provided White House musical support, and performed for both the WWII Memorial and the Pentagon Memorial dedication ceremonies. Additionally, she reached 25 million deployed troops during the 2009 Emmy-nominated, Grand Ole Opry broadcast, "Holiday Notes from Home."

Jill's administrative roles include strategic messaging, and performance report program management. Her most recent position involved overseeing strategic planning, proving operational and protocol guidance, and supporting public affairs initiatives for three squadrons in more than 2,500 annual missions. Additionally, Jill led strategic planning for 1,280 higher

headquarter missions, and designed fiscal year and operational briefings. Jill retired from the Air Force at the rank of Master Sergeant in December 2013.

Jill is currently pursuing a second Master's degree in Public Relations and Corporate Communications from Georgetown University. In addition to her studies, Jill is a member of Georgetown University's Student Veterans Association, and a Deacon and Sunday School teacher at Christ Presbyterian Church in Fairfax. She is married to former Air Force Bandsman, trombonist Senior Master Sergeant (Ret.) Lindsey Smith, and is a mother to her four stepsons Ryan, Dustin, Lucas and Trevor.