

Col Robert (Bud) Payton Public Affairs Officer of Year
Lieutenant Colonel David G. Finley

Socorro Composite Squadron
New Mexico Wing

Lt Col David G. Finley is the Public Affairs Officer for the New Mexico Wing's Socorro Composite Squadron as well as its Deputy Commander. He is also the Southwest Region historian.

He agreed to serve as Public Information Officer for the Wing's COVID-19 mission and participated in Incident Management Team video conferences. He prepared a briefing document for participants on interacting with news media and producing photographs for publicity and historical purposes and also generated a more extensive document for all wing members.

He contacted National Headquarters/Public Affairs personnel to confirm points of contact and clarify procedures and made proactive contacts with the New Mexico National Guard Public Affairs office.

He obtained publicity about flights carrying COVID-19 test samples from a meat packing plant, with news releases appearing in many media outlets, and also did a radio interview. He later publicized the Wing's mission of carrying COVID-19 vaccines to remote areas of New Mexico.

He has provided articles for Wing and Region newsletters and the COVID-19 article for the Wing's annual Legislative Update.

