



Staff Sergeant Carlos Paonessa

Crew Chief



Staff Sergeant Carlos Paonessa is a Dedicated Crew Chief on the F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team and a member of the 27th Aircraft Maintenance Unit. As a Crew Chief, he is responsible for performing detailed inspections, diagnosing malfunctions, replacing components, looking over aircraft maintenance documentation, and ensuring the aircraft is safe for the aircrew to fly.

He represents Air Combat Command, the United States Air Force, and the Department of Defense at more than 20 air shows annually. His mission is to ensure the demonstration team has a quality aircraft available to perform a safe demonstration so that millions of spectators are able to see the F-22's air superiority.

Paonessa enlisted in the Air Force on May 3, 2016. He is from San Juan, Puerto Rico and graduated from the Puerto Rico Baseball Academy & High School, in 2011. He goes by the nickname "PAO",

and during his free time, he enjoys watching football and traveling around the world to explore new locations.

Education

- 2018-Present: Pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautics through Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Assignments

- 2017-2019: Assistant Dedicated Crew Chief, 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, Tyndall AFB, FL
- 2019-Present: Dedicated Crew Chief, 27th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, JBLE, VA