

The Outstanding Airmen

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

SSgt. Dennis L. Alexander. Armament Systems Journeyman, 36th Fighter Sq., Osan AB, South Korea (Pacific Air Forces)—Exceptional technical abilities and inspired leadership. ... Impeccable maintenance technician. ... Sustained F-16CG/DG fleet in superb war-ready condition. ... Boosted combat capability. ... Maintained highest aircraft utilization rate of all USAF F-16 units. ... Minimized aircraft downtime. ... Ensured unit's near perfect maintenance schedule effectiveness rate. (Alexander is center in photo.)



MSgt. Maria D. Cornelia. Section Supervisor, 320th Training Sq., Lackland AFB, Tex. (Air Education and Training Command)—No. 1 of 1,500 NCOs in 37th Training Wing. ... Consummate professional. ... Very best section supervisor. ... Unparalleled mentoring abilities—instructors she trains achieve highest ratings. ... Motivates others to surpass standards. ... Masterful performance as unit training manager. ... Remarkable teaching abilities—her trainees consistently scored better on end-of-course test.

TSgt. Myrna L.S. Cornelson. Airborne Cryptologic Linguist, 97th Intelligence Sq., Offutt AFB, Neb. (Air Force Reserve Command)—Volunteered to fill two active duty slots on deployments to Saudi Arabia—88 days. ... Flew 27 combat support missions on Rivet Joint electronic intelligence aircraft. ... Resolved joint interoperability issues with Marine EA-6B squadron. ... Coordinated with Airborne Warning and Control Aircraft to resolve network interference problems. ... Requested by name to develop a formal process for advanced technical training for Rivet Joint reservists. ... Selected as Air Intelligence Agency's IMA NCO of the year.



The Air Force Outstanding Airman award is an annual program that recognizes 12 outstanding enlisted personnel for superior leadership, job performance, community involvement, and personal achievements.

The program was initiated at the Air Force Association's 10th annual National Convention, held in New Orleans in 1956.

The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and the command chief master sergeants from each USAF major command form the selection board. The selections are reviewed by the Air Force Chief of Staff.

The 12 selectees are awarded the Outstanding Airman ribbon with the bronze service star device and wear the Outstanding Airman badge for one year.



SSgt. James J. Delo Jr. Structures Contingency Instructor, Det. 1, 823rd RED HORSE Sq., Tyndall AFB, Fla. (Air Combat Command)—Recognized as one of only nine USAF experts in rapid runway repair. ... Implemented design and construction of a new bare base sheltering system for more realistic training. ... Selected as technical advisor to develop an interactive CD to train civil engineers for the AEF contingency mission. ... Led intense eight-day officer field education course—"best week of training [they've] ever received." ... Repeatedly called to brief senior officers on structural contingency concept of operations for Air University courses.

SSgt. Gregory W. Fry. Cryptologic Linguist, 694th Intelligence Group, Ft. Meade, Md. (Air Intelligence Agency)—Operational leader of a 16-member joint service team. ... Developed intelligence strategies using commercially available software that will apply throughout the Intelligence Community. ... Helped develop new intelligence collection hardware technologies. ... Took analytic lead in the exploitation of worldwide information systems for a large cross section of intelligence customers. ... Integrated new intelligence processing and reporting techniques at two national-level agencies. ... Spearheaded development of a new database, created a model, and implemented a hallmark reporting mechanism.



TSgt. Ronald A. Gisel. Ceremonial Guardsman, USAF Honor Guard, Bolling AFB, D.C. (11th Wing)—Led newly formed element to address training issues, creating model training proficiency roster and standard-setting continuity guide. ... Developed a detailed qualification tracking program for his element. ... On-the-job-training guru. ... Chosen to head the training of local high school JROTC cadets in marching drill procedures. ... Created impressive entrance sequence for the 50th anniversary of the Korean War memorial ceremony, for a live television broadcast. ... No. 1 representative for USAF high profile ceremonies.

TSgt. Monica M. Hill. NCOIC, Clinical Laboratory Services, 7th Medical Support Sq., Dyess AFB, Tex. (Air Combat Command)—Had vital role in lab's full accreditation with the College of American Pathologists. ... Streamlined lab's quality control procedures to save time and money. ... Restructured several chemistry panels, enhancing usefulness of the test data for doctors. ... Designed an enlisted career development course-tracking sheet and implemented pretests—scores skyrocketed. ... Revamped lab proficiency testing program, dramatically improving performance and saving money.



SSgt. Tien N. Ho. Security Craftsman, 92nd Security Forces Sq., Fairchild AFB, Wash. (Air Mobility Command)—Developed and implemented Fairchild's two-week Phoenix Raven apprentice course to support increased requirements—first in AMC to meet goal. ... Established Fairchild's first close combat defense course. ... Picked for wing's tactical operations team and coordinated with civilian law enforcement officials for base open house. ... Provided aircraft and personnel security for FBI special agents in Kosovo studying mass grave sites. ... Selected to provide security for two orientation trips for new general officers. ... Led and supported various Raven teams deployed around the world.

MSgt. D. Dexter Lesieur. Flight Chief, Airman Leadership School, Kelly AFB, Tex. (Air Force Materiel Command)—Lobbied senior commanders to use Kelly Airman Leadership School as an interim training facility for students from Brooks, Kelly, and Lackland—eased Air Force-wide NCO Academy classroom shortage. ... Selected by command to write procedural guidance and information for use by ALS flight chiefs in running their schools. ... Mentored several new intercommand ALS flight chiefs and junior intracommand ALS instructors. ... Despite impending closure of Kelly, arranged to host the command ALS conference—hailed as best to date. (Lesieur is center in photo.)

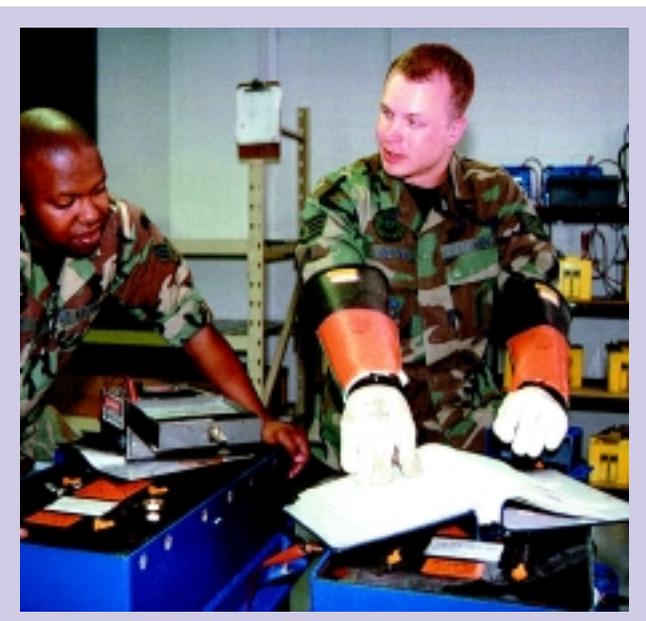




TSgt. John A. Maldonado II. Chief, Ground Radio Maintenance, 603rd Air Control Sq., Aviano AB, Italy (US Air Forces in Europe)—Guided most innovative and fastest deploying work center, improving initial communications setup with each successive deployment. ... During a NATO exercise, supervised installation of special air-to-ground radio and antenna that enabled first-time radio communication for aircraft from 11 countries. ... Handpicked to attend European Command communications satellite work group—broke through service interoperability problems. ... Devised innovative antenna configuration for HF radio signal to enhance range between AWACS aircraft and ground-based units.



SSgt. Brandon R. Pearce. Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Journeyman, 146th Maintenance Sq., Channel Islands ANGS, Calif. (Air National Guard)—Streamlined overhaul procedures for wheel brake assembly for the C-130E. ... Designed improved tool kits for hydraulic shop maintenance staff, preventing tool loss. ... Revised the hydraulic fluid recovery program, limiting loss and enhancing environmental protection. ... Recognized as key member of the fast action response team. ... Demonstrated outstanding technical and organizational skills. ... Superior performance time and again added to unit's top aircraft reliability rate.



SSgt. Jason R. Raether. Missile and Space Facilities Journeyman, 341st Logistic Support Sq., Malmstrom AFB, Mont. (Air Force Space Command)—Key to best alert rate in ICBM history. ... Led replacement of old launch facility emergency storage batteries—first milestone in Air Force 2020 ICBM sustainment program. ... Trained competitors who earned the Best PREL Team award at AFSPC's Guardian Challenge 2000. ... Technical guru, routinely repairing equipment and vehicle problems that vexed more senior technicians. ... Find-and-fix maintenance philosophy produced high in-commission rate on special purpose vehicles needed to transit the wing's 23,500-square-mile "flight line." (Raether is at right in photo.)