

The Outstanding Airmen

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

TSgt. (now MSgt.) Stephanie D. Clark. Air Freight Supervisor, 88th Aerial Port Squadron (Air Force Reserve Command), McGuire AFB, N.J.—Deployed to Charleston AFB, S.C., to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. ... Directed movement of thousands of tons of war materiel in record time. ... Deployed to Baghdad as passenger service supervisor. ... Oversaw transit of nearly 18,000 passengers. ... Selected as noncommissioned officer in charge of managing all air logistics operations for Coalition Provisional Authority personnel. ▶



SSgt. Aaron D. Davenport. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Equipment Technician, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron (Air Education Training Command), Luke AFB, Ariz.—Named as 19th Air Force NCO of the Year. ... Deployed to Afghanistan, then Iraq. ... Destroyed weapons caches. ... Coordinated joint service disposal operations. ... Uncovered and disposed of several suspect terrorist devices endangering coalition personnel in Saudi Arabia. ... Trained Saudi Arabian explosive ordnance disposal team. ... Located crashed Saudi Arabian F-15 and disposed of damaged missiles.

SMSgt. Michael W. David. Missions Systems Flight Superintendent, 437th Communications Squadron (Air Mobility Command), Charleston AFB, S.C.—Spearheaded basewide installation of fiber-optic cable. ... Led deployment of mobile navigation equipment to Southwest Asia. ... Ensured airfield equipment fully operational upon setup at austere locations. ... Fixed poor base cellular telecommunications at home base. ... Engineered a fail-safe wireless network to provide secure command and control communications in event of commercial communications breakdown. ▶



The Air Force Outstanding Airman award is an annual program that recognizes 12 outstanding enlisted members 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.



SMSgt. Trace L. Edinborough. Supply Management Superintendent, Defense Supply Center, Philadelphia—Led Defense Logistics Agency team in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. ... Revamped DLA's combat zone sustainment plan. ... Expedited shipment of crucial construction supplies from Bahrain to Iraq. ... Negotiated emergency contracts for 900 tactical vehicles. ... Managed parts delivery for rotary aircraft, cutting downtime. ... Helped resolve problems with contracts and purchase requests, reducing shortages of vehicle parts, uniforms, and other essential materiel.



SMSgt. Valise L. Godley. Superintendent, Transmission Systems Section, 735th Communications Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany (US Air Forces in Europe)—Spearheaded installation of priority circuits for Operation Iraqi Freedom, ensuring zero delays in sending air tasking orders to bare base sites. ... Managed installation of high-priority joint agency attack sensing, warning, and response program, providing wide-area network security. ... Led design of inaugural high-speed circuit for USAFE support of National Airborne Operations Center missions.



MSgt. John W. Knipe. Chief, Special Operations Forces Tactical Air Control Party, 1st Air Support Operations Group (Air Combat Command), Ft. Lewis, Wash.—Jumped with Special Forces team into northern Iraq. ... Planned and controlled coalition air strikes against Iraqi forces near Kirkuk, decimating two Iraqi divisions. ... Provided support for continuous air operations while exposed to heavy enemy fire, enabling his team to move into Kirkuk. ... Helped establish secure operations, working with Iraqi civil leaders and freedom fighters. ... Found and destroyed al Qaeda and Taliban weapons in mountainous caves in Afghanistan. ... Taught mountaineering combat skills to Southwest Asia-bound troops.

A1C (now SrA.) Kurt C. Marunick. Fuel Systems Apprentice, 347th Maintenance Squadron (Air Force Special Operations Command), Moody AFB, Ga.—Performed maintenance and inspection duties with the precision of a staff sergeant. ... Devised way to replace the HC-130P in-flight refueling hose in half the normal time, helping to raise mission capable rates. ... Led team installing upgraded HH-60 fuel lines, completing work two months ahead of schedule. ... Contributed greatly to unit's improved first-time fix rate. ... Devised numerous innovative repairs for broken equipment, saving time and money.



SrA. (now SSgt.) William D. Moore (right). Pararescue Journeyman, 31st Rescue Squadron (Pacific Air Forces), Kadena AB, Japan—Performed heroic acts, including rescue of a diver and emergency medical treatment of a victim of a snowmobile accident. ... Flew 30 combat sorties in Afghanistan. ... Served as the only medical provider at forward firebases. ... Augmented Special Forces reconnaissance team, providing air-to-ground link during enemy engagements. ... Wrote new instruction for high-angle rescues. ... Instructed Japan Air Self-Defense Force pararescuemen in triage techniques.

SSgt. (now TSgt.) Teresa A. Mossoni (left). Services Craftsman, 90th Operations Group (Air Force Space Command), F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.—Led her team of chefs to an “outstanding” rating in combat capability assessment. ... Selected to manage end of year food inventory. ... Earned error-free ratings in inventory control. ... Managed kitchen equipment at five remote missile sites. ... Trained her team to conduct underground rescues. ... Created a model Career Distance Course testing program. ... Served as chef superintendent during superior's absence.





TSgt. Miguel Ortega-Llarena. Flight Chief, 96th Security Forces Squadron (Air Force Materiel Command), Eglin AFB, Fla.—Served as fire team leader while deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom. ... Led joint off-base patrols. ... Chosen to run armory, despite no prior experience. ... Volunteered to lead fire team for coalition drive into Baghdad. ... Planned and led sensitive convoy into Tallil AB, Iraq. ... Restructured training for his flight at Eglin, bolstering the base's standards-compliance rating to 100 percent for the first time in five years. ... Implemented a traffic-accident report writing guide, reducing errors in reports. ... Planned hundreds of anti-terrorism measures to bolster base security.

SSgt. Terri D. Palmer. Weather Forecaster Journeyman, 15th Air Support Operations Squadron (ACC), Hunter AAF, Ga.—Served as combat weatherman for the Army's 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq. ... Set up operations in less than 12 hours. ... Transmitted 260 detailed and accurate weather observations. ... Issued 40 weather advisories/warnings which played key roles in mission success. ... Originated and sent nearly 100 wartime reports used to estimate effective range of potential chemical attacks ... Served as convoy driver on 96-hour push into Iraq. ... Forecasted huge sandstorm six days before it arrived. ... Located remote 3rd ID units and initiated weather data broadcasts to them over Army communications network. ▶



MSGt. (now SMSgt.) Jonathan G. Rosa. Combat Control Craftsman, 123rd Special Tactics Squadron (Kentucky Air National Guard), Louisville—Accompanied Army Special Forces unit conducting unconventional warfare in northern Iraq. ... Directed air strikes against 25 enemy targets. ... Helped secure a key mountain stronghold to aid coalition advance into Mosul. ... Controlled more than 40 close air support sorties. ... Relayed commands from Kurdish fighters to AC-130 gunships for strike on key Iraqi position. ... Served as member of security guard for Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai. ... Organized complex helicopter search to find numerous surface-to-air missile sites posing threats to Karzai's aircraft.