

The Outstanding

By **Tamar A. Mehuron**, Associate Editor

SMSgt. Edy D. Agee, Management and Systems Chief, 39th Supply Squadron, Incirlik AB, Turkey (US Air Forces in Europe)—Led the activation of a contingency supply cell following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. ... Planned, directed, and executed delivery of thousands of items for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. ... Expedited fuel filter delivery to C-17s en route to Afghanistan. ... Supported Operation Northern Watch F-16 operations by timely acquisition of a halon shipment. ... Helped to cut aircraft downtime with improved tool inventory program.



SSgt. Terrence F. Carraway, Security Journeyman, 315th Security Forces Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C. (Air Force Reserve Command)—Outstanding force protection record. ... Led force protection team during Northern Watch deployment. ... Assisted Secret Service in providing security for President Bush's visit to Charleston. ... Superb fire team leader. ... Leadership and training methods boosted performance and retention.

MSgt. Bruce W. Dixon, Special Tactics Team Leader, 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope AFB, N.C. (Air Force Special Operations Command)—Planned and led special tactics team on US ground operation in Enduring Freedom. ... Led five team members in a high-altitude low-opening parachute jump into Afghanistan. ... Devised new combat tactical survey techniques to assess hard surface runways and taxiways. ... Dynamic leadership helped unit earn two consecutive outstanding ratings from AFSOC inspector general team. ... Excellent strategic planner and organizer.



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.



MSgt. Timothy K. Garland. Superintendent, AWACS Communications Flight, 752nd Computer Systems Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla. (Air Combat Command)—Led team that, within 10 hours, installed ground-to-air communications systems for AWACS use in Enduring Freedom. ... Built crucial communications link to NATO AWACS aircraft supporting Operation Noble Eagle sorties. ... Created first group maintenance standardization evaluation program. ... Helped to improve unit productivity and reduce equipment downtime. ... Streamlined training program for radio maintenance and operators.

SrA. (now SSgt.) Brian Hamilton. Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Weapons Standards/Evaluations, 611th Air Control Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska (Pacific Air Forces)—Evaluated teams protecting airspace over the Alaskan NORAD Region. ... Coordinated air-to-air defensive missions involving combat fighters, tankers, and AWACS aircraft. ... Selected as Operator of the Month for his Noble Eagle actions, including his handling of the largest single day volume of emergency action messages in NORAD history. ... Instructor in emergency actions qualification training.



SSgt. Michael A. Holland. Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Resource Protection and Electronic Security, 12th Security Forces Squadron, Randolph AFB, Tex. (Air Education and Training Command)—Selected as top airman from 19th Air Force. ... Developed and carried out security plans for sensitive base facilities. ... Designed a commandwide force protection briefing. ... Used electronic sensor kits to help identify the culprit in a string of house break-ins. ... His interrogation led to suspect's confession. ... Chosen as key representative to FBI regional terrorism working group.



TSgt. Caesar Kellum. Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Airspace Division, Southeast Air Defense Sector, Tyndall AFB, Fla. (Air National Guard)—Earned top weapons director rating in two consecutive evaluations. ... Excelled as enlisted weapons director, weapons director technician, and tracking technician. ... Monitored combat air patrols and set up scramble procedures for Noble Eagle and standardized them with FAA facilities. ... Coordinated airspace for NORAD air defense joint exercise with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and law enforcement agencies.



TSgt. Rhonda K. Miller. Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Air Defense Analysis, 324th Intelligence Squadron, Hickam AFB, Hawaii (ACC)—Led analysis on the Navy EP-3 aircraft incident with China. ... Delivered reportable data on the incident to the President and National Security Council. ... Wrote and contributed to intelligence reports for the President and Secretary of Defense on global reaction to Enduring Freedom. ... Analyzed three years of raw data in a national review of US overseas intelligence facilities. ... Managed production of key intelligence reports used to develop countermeasures for US pilots.

SSgt. Brian P. Sharman. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Journeyman, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C. (Air Mobility Command)—Chosen by AMC to deploy to Dover AFB, Del., to help process human remains recovered from the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. ... Helped lessen impact on flight operations by taking charge of damaged guns and flares following several F-15 aircraft ground emergencies at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. ... Selected to lead multiservice teams to help enhance security at Camp David. ... Handpicked for sensitive State Department assignment.





MSgt. Taru K. Taylor. Chief, Wholesale Logistics, Ogden Air Logistics Center, Hill AFB, Utah (Air Force Materiel Command)—Selected for the wholesale logistics advanced career program. ... Directed a major annual depot repair effort at the Aircraft Directorate Avionics Shop Service Center. ... Established a new A-10 aircraft supply chain program well ahead of schedule. ... Tracked and solved a problem in getting F-16 avionics components, including recovering some parts lost in transit from suppliers.

SrA. (now SSGt.) Claudia V. Van Hassel. Mental Health Technician, 460th Medical Squadron, Buckley AFB, Colo. (Air Force Space Command)—Took responsibility beyond her rank in working as drug testing program assistant manager. ... Served as instructor and manager for suicide awareness and prevention of workplace violence programs. ... Developed program to help prepare high-risk groups, such as firefighters and medics, to handle traumatic stress.



SSgt. Alan T. Yoshida. Combat Control Craftsman, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla. (Air Force Special Operations Command)—One of the first combat controllers to enter Afghanistan for Enduring Freedom. ... Called in numerous close air support strikes against enemy targets. ... Awarded Purple Heart for injuries suffered during ground combat. ... Key planner for controllers' predeployment actions. ... Helped integrate USAF combat aircraft missions into Special Forces fire support plans. ... Picked as STS team leader for combat search-and-rescue teams deployed to support operations in Afghanistan.

