



The Outstanding Airmen

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

SSgt. Sean D. Belding. Aircraft Structural Maintenance Journeyman, 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron (Air Force Materiel Command), Robins AFB, Ga.—Responsible for structural maintenance on C-5, C-17, C-130, and F-15 aircraft. ... Repair and manufacturing skills played a major role in achieving squadron's best assessment pass rate of 93 percent. ... Manufactured C-5 skin panels, rebuilt F-15 wing assemblies. ... Completed inspection and repairs of high-priority C-130s ahead of schedule.



SMSgt. James E. Davis. Security Forces Manager, 1st Security Forces Squadron (Air Combat Command), Langley AFB, Va.—Served as operations director for Joint Iraqi Military Police Academy. ... Trained the academy's first class of Iraqi soldiers. ... Continued training Iraqi soldiers while the school endured 18 consecutive days of mortar attacks. ... Received Bronze Star for his work while deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. ... Directed physical security at Langley for F/A-22 beddown. ... Created plan to steer unit through period of high operating tempo and deployments.

TSgt. (now MSgt.) Michael E. Harris. Dispatch Support Supervisor, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron (Pacific Air Forces), Kadena AB, Japan.—Led USAF's first gun truck convoy to augment Army mission wartime shortfalls. ... Derailed night ambush by terrorists on convoy in Fallujah. ... Warded off dozens of heavily armed insurgents; his troops suffered no injuries. ... Awarded the Bronze Star, Meritorious Unit Award with Valor, and Army's 13th Corps Support Command's combat patch for heroism. ... Asked to teach new Air Education and Training Command combat convoy course.



The Air Force Outstanding Airman program annually recognizes 12 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 selection board comprises the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and the command chief master sergeants from each USAF major command. 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. Douglas C. Isaacks. Pararescue Superintendent, 56th Rescue Squadron (US Air Forces in Europe), NAS Keflavik, Iceland.—USAFE Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. ... Co-authored rescue jumpmaster plan of instruction. ... Led and trained Czech, Polish, and British forces in search and rescue tactics. ... Directed HH-60G static line personnel parachute jumps, producing proficient jumpers with no mishaps. ... Devised combined MEDEVAC procedures aboard Danish frigate. ... Enhanced pararescue jumper expertise for USAFE and Air Force Special Operations Command.

MSgt. Robert N. Liles. Superintendent, Operations Element, 342nd Training Squadron (Air Education and Training Command), Lackland AFB, Tex.—Received base Large Unit Safety Award for safety program. ... Led flight to highest explosive/ground safety rating in 20 years. ... Created convoy weapons safety guide. ... Oversaw combat convoy firearms training for 980 personnel preparing for deployment. ... Validated new tactical rifle qualification course. ... Directed creation of range improvement team.



SrA. John A. Lockheed. Air Traffic Control Journeyman, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron (Air National Guard), Klamath Falls, Ore.—Controlled aircraft three days after arrival in Iraq. ... Selected to train new personnel. ... Secured airspace into Turkey for MEDEVAC aircraft transporting wounded troops. ... Assumed control of half of Iraq's airspace when Balad ATC Center lost radios and radar. ... Coordinated F-16s and Apache gunships protecting Army convoy. ... Relayed coordinates of oil pipeline under attack to AWACS and fighter aircraft. The warplanes stopped the attack, saving the pipeline.

AD SPACE

SSgt. (now TSgt.) Amber B. Mitchell. Senior Aerospace Control Officer Evaluator, 45th Operations Group (Air Force Space Command), Patrick AFB, Fla.—Received 14th Air Force’s Gen. Charles A. Horner leadership award. ... Named Enlisted Space Operator of the Year. ... Attained perfect score during Guardian Challenge. ... Helped 45th Space Wing win the 2004 Schriever Trophy. ... Identified deficient operations trends, preventing potential launch hazards. ... Chosen for inaugural AFSPC Guardian Path leadership course.



SSgt. Terrence A. Raybon. Medical Laboratory Journeyman, 60th Medical Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron (Air Mobility Command), Travis AFB, Calif.—Managed clinic and bedside point of care testing sites. ... Spearheaded equipment upgrade. ... Revamped training for lab tasks. ... Implemented one-on-one instruction. ... Improved staff training. ... Ensured patient privacy with revision to file format. ... Attention to detail garnered “best practices” acclaim for unit in Air Force blood program audit. ... Received John L. Levitow Award.

SMSgt. Anthony J. Rittwager. Accessories Flight Chief, 514th Maintenance Squadron (Air Force Reserve Command), McGuire AFB, N.J.—Supervised Reserve maintenance support for airlifters in the 514th Air Mobility Wing. ... Drafted and implemented reconstitution plan for KC-10s returning from Iraq. ... Organized volunteer and mobilization deployments to offset deployed maintenance crew shortfalls. ... Drew up C-17 training plan for Reserve maintainers. ... Earned 22nd Air Force’s Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Aircraft Maintenance Supervisor/Manager Award.



AD SPACE



TSgt. (now MSgt. sel.) Paul J. Schaaf II. Kennel Master and Military Working Dog Handler, 823rd Security Forces Squadron (Air Combat Command), Moody AFB, Ga.—Deployed for 225 days to Ali, Kirkuk, and Balad Air Bases, Iraq. ... Selected as interim kennel master to direct 31 troops and 27 dogs. ... Developed first-ever deployed military working dog training course for handlers. ... Primary jumpmaster for security forces airborne element, overseeing 20 jumps with 160 paratroopers. ... Prepared airmen to complete Army Basic Airborne Course.

SSgt. Scott V. Tamayo. Contract Administrator, 15th Contracting Squadron (Pacific Air Forces), Hickam AFB, Hawaii.—Named top contracting airman in PACAF. ... Devised new procedures to gather contractor performance data, halving assessment time. ... Engineered replacement of dorm air-conditioning system, solved mold problem affecting 124 residents. ... Expeditiously prepared airfield pavement contracts. ... Managed repair of Hickam's seawall. ... Received John L. Levitow Award.



SrA. Amber J. Turek. Firefighter, Fire Dept. Emergency Services Flight (Air Force Special Operations Command), Hurlburt Field, Fla.—Provided emergency services for base personnel and special operations aircraft. ... Personally responded to 100 fire calls while protecting assets worth billions. ... Conducted fire-fighting operations during a major gas leak, evacuating personnel, preventing explosion. ... Responded to numerous aircraft, facility, and medical emergencies with zero combat assets lost while forward deployed to Southwest Asia.