



Outstanding

AIRMEN OF THE YEAR



SMSGT. ERNESTO J. RENDON JR.

Air Freight Superintendent, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron
62nd Airlift Wing (Air Mobility Command)
JB Lewis-McChord, Wash.
Home of Record: Weslaco, Tex.

As a First Sergeant, Rendon encouraged excellence throughout his unit, and his commander considered his advice in disciplinary actions to be “spot-on.” Rendon led a squadron inspection, earning zero safety failures and an overall “outstanding.” He also oversaw four separate nuclear asset movements that enabled the wing to receive the highest inspection rating. He led the unit’s Hurricane Sandy relief efforts, directing movement of 74 utility vehicles and some 474 tons of supplies in less than 96 hours. He helped advance airdrop training, helping qualify 50 aircrews. Teamed with AMC’s joint movement center, he helped develop cargo movement guidance, maximizing training missions to save transportation costs. He has completed a bachelor’s degree in management studies.

MSGT. ANDRE S. DAVIS

Unit Education Training Manager, 203rd RED HORSE
(Air National Guard)
Camp Pendleton, Va.
Home of Record: Newport News, Va.

His attention to detail and dedication to improving the performance of the Power Production Shop while serving as its supervisor led to his selection as unit education training manager in 2010. In that role, Davis established a new upgrade training process that significantly increased the number of upgrades; corrected computer and software problems that had negatively affected career development courses and professional military education exams; and identified training program issues, reducing discrepancies in Air Force training records. He also mentored dozens of junior enlisted members and acted as unit career advisor. He has associate degrees in mechanical and electrical technology, education and training management, and electrical engineering.



MSGT. TESSA M. FONTAINE

Superintendent, Counterintelligence and Cyber Inquiries, National Reconnaissance Office’s Counterintelligence Division
(Air Force Space Command)
Chantilly, Va.
Home of Record: Holyoke, Mass.

Fontaine is a security forces craftsman who has served with the NRO since 2006 in a variety of positions, including personnel security special investigator and anti-terrorism/force protection officer. Her career has included deployments to Kuwait in 1998 and Iraq in 2005. She received the NRO Bronze Medal for her work on a joint espionage investigation. She also managed 14 investigators, closing 133 of 279 counterintelligence inquiries—an NRO record. Additionally, she created a spy brief for the US Attorney General; captured long-running Cuban spy activity and prepared the Director of National Intelligence brief; and led a national counterintelligence executive inquiry study, analyzing seven years of data. She also served as the president of the NRO’s Joint Enlisted Top 3.



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 of the Year Ribbon with the bronze service star device and wear the Outstanding Airman badge for one year.



MSGT. SHAWN J. JONES

Public Affairs Specialist
514th Air Mobility Wing (Air Force Reserve Command)
JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
Home of Record: Galloway, N.J.

Jones is the first Air Force Reservist to win the DOD print journalist of the year award. He spent some nine years on Active Duty before transferring to the 514th Air Mobility Wing as a traditional Reservist. He is the editor of the wing's *Freedom Flyer* magazine, which has been named AFRC's best news publication. Jones has cultivated public media to gain regular coverage of Reserve activities. He also manages the wing's public website and has significantly increased viewer traffic. His increase of morale-boosting coverage in the wing magazine has contributed to the wing earning AFRC-best retention rate honors. He garnered AFRC's "best news feature" award for his reporting on a high-visibility airlift mission to France. Additionally, he has completed a master's degree in business administration.

MSGT. CELESTE C. OKOKON

Flight Chief, Dental Services, 7th Aeromedical Dental Squadron
7th Bomb Wing (Air Combat Command)
Dyess AFB, Tex.
Home of Record: Colorado Springs, Colo.

Okokon pursued National Hygienist Certification, becoming one of only 46 certified military hygienists in the Air Force. Among her accomplishments, she developed schedules for 15 providers, increasing dental visits by 11 percent and beating the Air Force readiness goal by five percent, a first for Dyess. Her work also directly helped achieve a 50 percent reduction in dental disease among the base population, and her efforts for more than 800 airmen slated to deploy led to less than one percent needing dental care while overseas. She resurrected a failing self-inspection program, guiding 34 staff members and correcting 64 critical items. She also served as the moulage team chief for exercises, aligning emergency medical training with the Air Force standard.



TSGT. ADAM L. GOMEZ

Cyber Transport Craftsman, 3rd Combat Camera Squadron
Air Force Public Affairs Agency (Air Force District of Washington)
JBSA-Lackland, Tex.
Home of Record: Rochester, N.Y.

On 12-month deployment to Afghanistan, Gomez led cyber maintenance support, including managing installation for a new supply database. He received the Air Force Combat Action Medal for successfully leading his team through five hostile-fire engagements. He filled a senior master sergeant role as theater planner for American Forces Network-Afghanistan, managing equipment and system maintenance to cover 620 forward operating bases. He operated for 127 days outside the wire, helping establish new AFN services at 137 sites, and installed a satellite receiver for an outpost during 39 indirect fire attacks. Gomez also directed an AFN satellite upgrade, completing the system transfer and maintenance five weeks early.

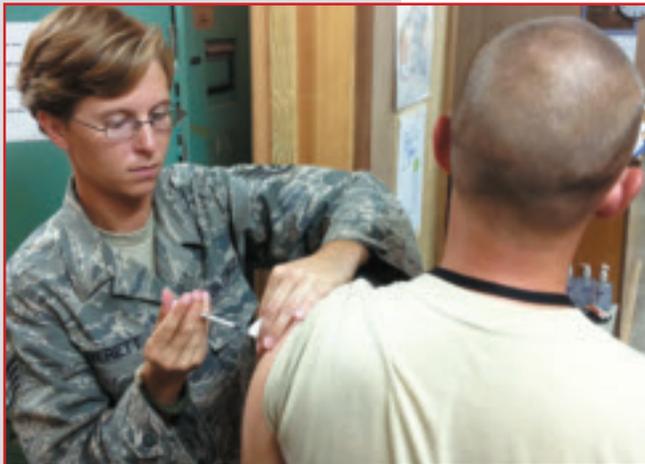


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TSGT. JASON D. PAYNE

Combat Control Craftsman, Red Troop, 24th Special Tactics Squadron
24th Special Operations Wing (Air Force Special Operations Command)
Pope Field, N.C.
Home of Record: Pensacola, Fla.

Payne deployed most recently as the sole combat controller with a 50-man US Navy SEAL team in Afghanistan, directing close air support during 31 high-risk missions with zero losses. He helped conduct operations that led to the killing or capturing of 44 enemy fighters. He participated in a successful rescue of a US hostage that required quietly infiltrating an insurgent stronghold after a grueling six-mile journey and then guiding shooters onto enemy positions and personally killing seven enemy fighters. During one mission, he stood exposed in open terrain to survey and secure a hot landing zone to quickly evacuate a wounded SEAL. Payne also served with a national crisis response force where he was the lead CCT with an elite Special Operations Forces team.



SSGT. LAUREN A. EVERETT

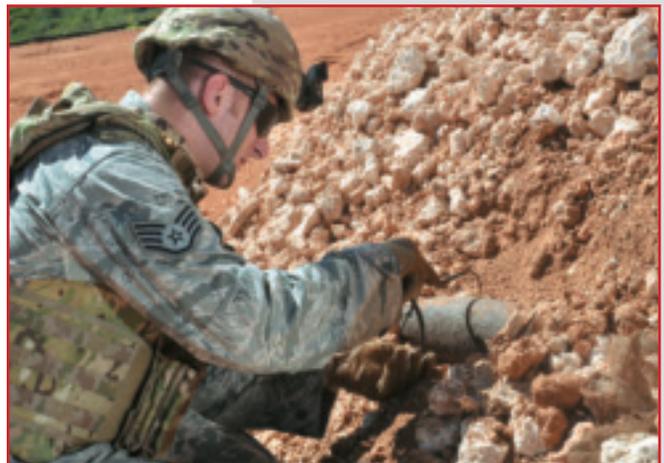
Aerospace Medical Service Journeyman, 48th Inpatient Squadron
48th Fighter Wing (US Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa)
RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom
Home of Record: Jackson, Mo.

On a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan, Everett conducted lifesaving medical procedures while under enemy attack, gathered intelligence, and augmented forward operating base security forces. She received both the Army Commendation Medal and Army Combat Medic Badge. She was the lead combat lifesaver instructor, illustrating tactics to multinational personnel. As one of the few trained to detect traumatic brain injury, she made early identification in 51 cases, securing treatment and ensuring their successful return to duty. Additionally, she coordinated medical care for more than 100 civilians and contractors, assessed numerous trauma patients, and supported nearly 100 outside-the-wire missions.

SSGT. JOSHUA L. HANNA

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Journeyman, 36th Civil Engineer Squadron
36th Wing (Pacific Air Forces)
Andersen AFB, Guam
Home of Record: Bellwood, Pa.

On his most recent deployment to Afghanistan, Hanna executed 151 joint combat missions and received the Air Force Combat Action Medal. He trained 347 coalition troops on improvised explosive device search techniques and mentored 10 Afghan IED technicians, preparing for the coalition drawdown. He cleared a 15-square-mile area of IEDs and supported 23 Army dismount operations, working with Quick Reaction Forces during enemy contact. He helped sanitize a remotely piloted vehicle crash site. He mitigated an imminent explosive threat, removing munitions from a burning facility after an attack. He also certified personnel on range clearance equipment and led robotic operations during 65 IED responses.





SSGT. JOSEPH C. SENTENO

Financial Analysis Technician, 2nd Comptroller Squadron
2nd Bomb Wing (Air Force Global Strike Command)
Barksdale AFB, La.
Home of Record: Carlsbad, Calif.

Senteno excelled in managing the wing's second largest account, one previously maintained by a seasoned NCO, and continued to thrive when asked to handle a second high-profile account during a co-worker's deployment. He received a below-the-zone promotion to senior airman and was selected to present a distinguished visitor briefing to the Secretary of Defense, who "coined" him for his excellent presentation. Senteno's efforts included recapturing some \$13 million in overestimated procurement costs and streamlining processes, such as developing an obligation balance tracker that is considered a commandwide benchmark. He also was able to accelerate fund certification, obligating \$2.3 million within hours of receipt and averting possible mission stoppage. Senteno has completed a bachelor's degree in economics and accounting.



SRA. CASEY L. ANDERSON

Mental Health Technician, 59th Mental Health Squadron
59th Medical Wing (Air Education and Training Command)
JBSA-Lackland, Tex.
Home of Record: New Brighton, Pa.

Before enlisting in the Air Force, Anderson received a bachelor's degree in sociology and worked four years as a civilian with Air Force Services in Hawaii. At her first Active Duty assignment, she has consistently performed above her pay grade. The Air Force Medical Operations Agency picked Anderson as a site officer to help determine suitability for a new brain study. She trained 30 psychology residents and numerous other staff members and served as wing predeployment stress instructor and squadron instructor for bystander intervention, basic lifesaving support, and physical fitness training. She also conducted nearly 1,000 post-traumatic stress disorder assessments, saving hundreds of provider hours.

SRA. STEVEN C. HEDGEPEETH

Contracting Specialist, 772nd Enterprise Sourcing Squadron
Enterprise Sourcing Group (Air Force Materiel Command)
JBSA-Lackland, Tex.
Home of Record: Sioux Falls, S.D.

Hedgepeth was selected below-the-zone for senior airman for cumulative actions that included providing upgrade training and direct contracting support to the Air Force Civil Engineering Center for construction requirements to support operations in Afghanistan. Over one year, he executed 278 contract actions covering three contingencies and touching six countries. He also cleared \$5.7 million in contractor claims. He supported a \$2 million electrical systems upgrade contract for Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan. He also revamped the Afghan Air Force headquarters project, rectifying a four-week delay and recouping \$5 million. During a volunteer 83-day temporary duty at Offutt AFB, Neb., he completed 264 contract actions for DOD and other federal agency customers.

