



Outstanding

AIRMEN OF THE YEAR



SMSGT. MARK E. FARMER

Operations Superintendent
114th Space Control Squadron (ANG)
Patrick AFB, Fla.
Home of Record: Cleveland, Tenn.

As the noncommissioned officer in charge of a command and control space cell deployed to Al Udeid AB, Qatar, Farmer led his team in three intelligence collection missions, identifying two high-value individuals and guaranteeing battlespace awareness. He led three crews through more than 30 rehearsal of concept drills that exercised space effects and elevated the crews' ability to carry out combatant command missions. He modified four mission-critical documents and created a C2 real-time tracker to organize events during multiple missions. This increased situational awareness during periods of high operational tempo. He guided the transition from classroom-based training to high-fidelity performance-based scenarios that developed ready warriors.

SMSGT. JEREMIAH F. GRISHAM

Superintendent, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight
11th Civil Engineer Squadron (AFDW)
JB Andrews, Md.
Home of Record: Lakewood, Colo.

Grisham led a flight of 22 airmen supporting more than 230 US Secret Service missions, representing about 50 percent of the Air Force's quota of missions in 2015. His flight provided Air Force counterimprovised explosive device capabilities at the 18-acre White House complex. Grisham revolutionized his flight's support to the VIP Protection Support Activity by adapting a model used by large-range bases to simultaneously cover home station and range missions. This system allowed his flight to execute 50 percent more missions than the previous year and was positively highlighted during the 11th Wing's 2015 Unit Evaluation Inspection. He developed a streamlined tasking process for VIP missions, adapted by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center for use throughout the enterprise.



SMSGT. REBECCA F. MCNELLEY

Superintendent, Standardization and Evaluation
90th Security Forces Group (AFGSC)
F. E. Warren AFB, Wyo.
Home of Record: Clearwater, Kan.

McNalley pioneered the 90th Missile Wing's first active-shooter exercise by partnering with the Wyoming Air National Guard and Army National Guard, preparing more than 8,000 personnel to avert such threats. She directed more than 1,000 evaluations and assessments for four squadrons, reducing the number of defenders posted in missile fields by 10 percent. McNalley engineered weekly missile field and weapons storage team visits, covering three squadrons and 17 flights, ensuring 1,200 security forces airmen were nuclear-security ready. She was proactive in the community, managing the Air Force's largest Airman's Attic program and overseeing her wing's loan locker, assisting more than 3,000 families.

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. MARCUS A. MADER

Superintendent, Recruiting, Assessments, and Selection
Special Tactics Training Squadron (AFSOC)
Hurlburt Field, Fla.
Home of Record: Clarksville, Tenn.

Mader led the Special Tactics Training Squadron's largest assault team, training 37 airmen in four Air Force specialty codes while managing an operating budget of more than \$470,000. When a Louisiana National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed in the Gulf of Mexico, he alerted the dive team, stood up the unit control center, and oversaw 92 dives in five days, ensuring the remains of the seven marines and four soldiers onboard were returned honorably. Additionally, he led 60 airmen through seven months of deployment preparation, pushing 22 special operations forces to three areas of responsibility, crushing ISIS with 582 strikes and an estimated 1,200 enemies killed in action. Finally, he led a local memorial and dignified transfer, raising \$5,000 in a fallen teammate's honor.

TSGT. MICHAEL A. ASUNCION JR.

Pavement and Equipment Craftsman
45th Civil Engineer Squadron (AFSPC)
Patrick AFB, Fla.
Home of Record: Mangilao, Guam

Asuncion was vital in the construction of the Royal Air Force's 44,000-square-foot aircraft maintenance area, enabling coalition forces to obliterate more than 500 ISIS targets. He filled the non-commissioned officer in charge position across two work centers, leading 51 airmen for 130 days, enabling 16 space launches with more than \$6.3 billion in payload. He presided over two junior enlisted organizations, influencing more than 1,500 members across two areas of responsibilities. His leadership led to six quarterly awards, culminating in his team earning the Heavy Equipment Shop Team of the Year win. This contributed to his squadron and operations flights being named the best in Air Force Space Command in 2015.



TSGT. SHARRY L. BARNSHAW

NCOIC, Cyberspace Plans and Implementation
436th Communications Squadron (AMC)
Dover AFB, Del.
Home of Record: Dundalk, Md.

Barnshaw led 16 projects, 45 contractors, and \$30 million in command and control programs. She finalized a six-year, \$12 million military construction project by migrating 20,000 telephones and 30 systems, leading to her unit earning recognition as Dover Air Force Base's Team of the Quarter. She lobbied for 10 projects within Air Mobility Command, garnering approval for a \$6 million engineering and installation work plan, cementing information technology support to 19 squadrons. As president of Team Dover's Junior Noncommissioned Officer Association, she partnered with three other organizations to raise more than \$9,000 and donated more than 1,200 volunteer hours in support of programs across the state of Delaware.



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TSGT. CASSANDRA L. CRUZ

Professional Military Education Instructor
81st Force Support Squadron (AETC)
Keesler AFB, Miss.
Home of Record: Hau'ula, Hawaii

Cruz aided the Total Force Integration initiative by educating 113 Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Command leaders, facilitating 1,000 hours of instruction. She identified credential shortfalls for her primary Air Force specialty code and aligned civilian requirements with the Career Field Education and Training Plan, enabling the expansion of seven additional certifications available to over 2,000 airmen. As a base victim advocate, she dedicated 1,300 hours to the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program, serving as a first responder and trainer for base personnel. She was recognized as a distinguished graduate from the Archibald Mathies NCO Academy's Intermediate Leadership Experience.

SSGT. RAQUEL R. CARAMANNO

Medical Readiness Technician
412th Medical Support Squadron (AFMC)
Edwards AFB, Calif.
Home of Record: Staten Island, N.Y.

As a senior airman, Caramanno was instrumental in leveraging a 50 percent staff loss while flawlessly managing 17 medical contingency response teams and \$1 million in war reserve materiel. Her attention to detail drove "Outstanding" test wing ratings in the Air Force Input Tool; Defense Readiness Reporting System; Air Expeditionary Force Reporting Tool; and Emergency Management programs. As the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear program manager, Caramanno directed a 42 percent capability surge, leading to \$40,000 in modernization upgrades to critical assets. She identified a pandemic-influenza shortfall, resulting in the procurement of \$26,000 in protective equipment, ensuring the operational integrity of \$895,000 in allowance standards. Finally, her dedication to excellence culminated in her selection as the 2015 Air Force Medical Service Health Services Management Airman of the Year.



SSGT. DEREK F. MILES

Ground Radar Systems Technician
39th Operations Support Squadron (USAFE)
Incirlik AB, Turkey
Home of Record: Buffalo, N.Y.

As a senior airman, Miles guided a four-member emergency response team, rewiring the Turkish air force precision approach radar in under one hour to secure host nation F-16 alert capabilities. He repaired a vital radar control unit, saving \$19,000 in procurement costs, and restoring air traffic control of 6,700 NATO missions for Operation Inherent Resolve. Additionally, he stepped outside his career field to install nine ground-to-air radios in less than 48 hours, establishing operations centers for five deployed squadrons flying more than 1,000 OIR missions. Miles displayed his adaptive leadership ability during a three-week stretch, leading his work center through 103 maintenance actions and an unprecedented 99.9 percent radar uptime rate. He earned the John L. Levitow Award for academic and leadership excellence at Airman Leadership School.





SSGT. AARON M. TOBLER

Geospatial Intelligence Analyst
50th Intelligence Squadron (AFRC)
Beale AFB, Calif.
Home of Record: Rocklin, Calif.

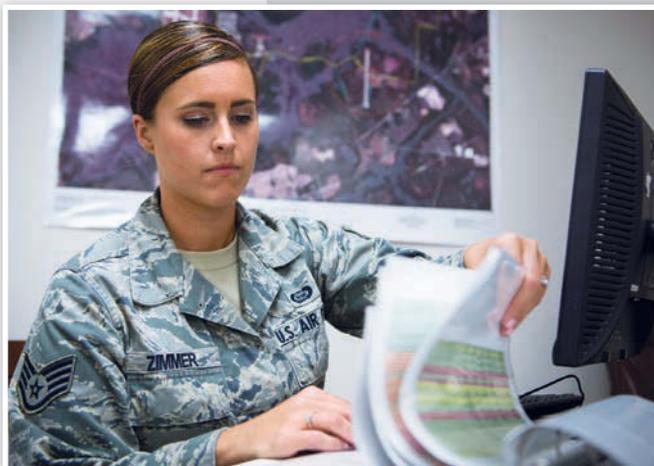
Tobler repeatedly filled Active Duty intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations gaps, logging hundreds of combat mission hours. He exploited 45 high-value targets, providing key indicators and warnings to seven combatant commands. He provided intelligence support to special operations forces, resulting in the neutralization of terrorist camps and associated members. He identified terrorist weapon manufacturing compounds, resulting in crippling a network. He facilitated joint task force convoy overwatch, clearing more than 2,000 miles, securing forces, and marginalizing hostile combatants. He earned a Project Management Professional Certification and a Master Analyst Program Certificate. He led a Friendship Place charity event attended by the President and first family, raising more than \$4 million.



SSGT. JAMIE K. ZIMMER

Intelligence Analyst
347th Operations Support Squadron (ACC)
Moody AFB, Ga.
Home of Record: Newburgh, N.Y.

As a senior airman, Zimmer was instrumental in establishing the Joint Rotary Wing Intelligence Working Group, increasing interservice operability across 14 rotary wing intelligence squadrons spanning all branches of the Department of Defense. As the acting noncommissioned officer in charge of intelligence training, she created five scenarios and crafted deployment briefings, increasing the expertise of 187 personnel in the 23rd Wing and directly impacting multiple high-level exercises, including Trident Juncture, NATO's largest joint and coalition force exercise. She also excelled scholastically, obtaining an associate's degree through the Community College of the Air Force, earning a Pitsenbarger scholarship, and winning the John L. Levitow Award for academic and leadership excellence on completion of Airman Leadership School.



SRA. JASMIN N. FIGUEROA

Emergency Services Technician
51st Medical Operations Squadron (PACAF)
Osan AB, South Korea
Home of Record: Lakewood, Colo.

Figueroa facilitated five specialty clinics and trained 14 personnel on the Air Force Medical Service Provider and Patient Continuity Program. Her efforts helped support the medical care of more than 11,000 Active Duty and civilian personnel. In addition, she spearheaded a basewide influenza-prevention campaign, surpassing the Air Force's goal of immunizing 90 percent of the base's populace within a two-week period, sustaining an overall 99.5 percent medical readiness rating for her base. She is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in nursing, applying her training and leadership principles to mission objectives. She has arranged three speed-mentoring events, connecting five senior leaders at Osan Air Base in Korea with 60 airmen, providing networking opportunities.

