

566 IS Airmen Earn Bronze Star Medals

8/26/2009 – BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colorado. Colonel John Bansemer, 70th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing Commander presented Bronze Star Medals to three 566th Intelligence Squadron Airmen during an award ceremony August 26 at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado.

“Before 9/11 the number of Bronze Star Medals I saw presented was zero. So being here today to recognize three Airmen who were in the fight outside the wire, faced danger, and accomplished a significant mission is my honor,” Colonel Bansemer said. “Well done!”

TSgt David Romanowsky distinguished himself by exemplary meritorious service while engaged in ground combat operations in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM from 5 August 2006 to 31 January 2007. As the Senior Intelligence Analyst for Weapons Intelligence Team Two, TSgt Romanowsky was exposed to extreme danger from rocket propelled grenades, small arms fire, mortars and improvised explosive devices. TSgt Romanowsky’s unselfish dedication to duty, sound judgment and courage successfully contributed to Task Force Troy Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Mission and safe passage of coalition forces.

“I’m proud to serve and happy to do my part. I can honestly say that was the best job I’ve ever had; I’d do it again,” TSgt Romanowsky said of this deployment.

MSgt Matthew Strube earned the Bronze Star Medal for his service during a deployment 7 November 2008 to 2 May 2009 during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. As the senior ranking member of Weapons Intelligence Team Six, Combined Joint Task Force Troy, MSgt Strube completed over 250 weapons intelligence missions and collected over 1,000 pieces of evidence, resulting in over 300 latent fingerprints of value and leading to the capture of three high-value individuals.

MSgt Strube said, “That was, by far, the greatest job I have ever had. If given the opportunity, I’d volunteer again.”

MSgt Joseph Houlihan earned the Bronze Star Medal for his service during a deployment 9 December 2007 to 2 December 2008 as Superintendent, Multi-National Forces-West and Multi-National Division-Baghdad Weapons Intelligence Detachments, Combined Joint Task Force Troy. MSgt Houlihan led 40 joint service personnel on eight teams and provided hands-on oversight for over 2,500 combat missions staged from 16 forward operating bases. His outstanding dedication to duty during combat operations in Iraq contributed to the overwhelming success of the Multi-National Corps- Iraq Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Mission.

“I’ve been in for over 20 years and this was the most rewarding assignment I’ve had in my career,” said MSgt Houlihan of his year-long deployment. “At the end of each day, we knew we had saved countless American lives because of the huge impact of our mission to conduct counter-improvised explosive device operations. Basically, from start to finish, we were the crime scene investigators on the battlefield. We performed forensics and identified the insurgents. Then after putting in a target package, we were even able to capture our enemies. The sense of accomplishment was amazing. It’s not often, as intelligence Airmen, that we get to go outside the wire as battlefield Airmen. In this assignment, we did.”

“The impressive accomplishments of each of these Airmen is a perfect example of how expansive the role of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance has become in prosecuting

the Global War on Terrorism. Whether it's on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, at worldwide collection sites, or supporting Air Force and Joint units around the globe our ISR professionals are working around the clock to protect our nation," said Lt Col David Scanlon, Commander 566th Intelligence Squadron.
