



Outstanding

AIRMEN OF THE YEAR



SMSGT. BOSTON A. ALEXANDER

Superintendent J6 & Command 3DXXX Field Manager
NORAD and USNORTHCOM (AFDW)
Peterson AFB, Colo.
Home of Record: New Carrollton, Md.

Alexander successfully directed a 170-member information technology service management team and oversaw critical assets valued in excess of \$4 billion. As the J6 superintendent, he led 15 projects to provide around-the-clock, full-spectrum support for NORAD and USNORTHCOM missions. He piloted a \$2.8 million friendly forces tracker program of 32,000 electronic devices that improved force protection, homeland defense, and defense support to civil authorities operations. Alexander drove the information technology equipment certification methodology and managed 9,000 mission systems worth \$2 million, ultimately increasing NORAD, NORTHCOM, and Defense Information Systems Agency interoperability.

SMSGT. MICHAEL J. VENNING

Functional Area Manager
Directorate of Contracting (AFMC)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
Home of Record: Melbourne, Australia

Venning expertly managed the Air Force's largest contingency contracting corps of 405 members at nine bases. He was the uniformed expert for the contingency acquisition support model, briefing and demonstrating the program for five Army general officers, ensuring the system's approval. Venning planned and executed the career field's electronic training documentation initiative, creating a standardized system for 1,890 enlisted members. His efforts transitioned the entire career field in less than two months. He received Air Force Materiel Command's Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Award in contracting and was a distinguished graduate at the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, where he also won the prestigious Commandant's Leadership Award.



MSGT. DELOREAN M. SHERIDAN

Combat Control Craftsman
21st Special Tactics Squadron (AFSOC)
Pope Field, N.C.
Home of Record: Chesapeake, Va.

Sheridan served as the lone air commando with Army Special Forces through 177 days of combat in Afghanistan, including 43 high-risk missions and 18 firefights. He received the Silver Star for actions in an ambush by an Afghan police officer and insurgents, during which he exposed himself to heavy machine-gun fire to drag wounded service members to safety. Sheridan was handpicked to stand up an airfield recon team with a global focus. He led a search team to recover downed, sensitive technology with zero compromise to national security. Despite being deployed for more than half the year, he earned his second Community College of the Air Force degree and completed 12 semester hours toward a bachelor's degree. He was awarded a second Bronze Star Medal for heroism in combat during his sixth deployment to Afghanistan.



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.



TSGT. TOYRE L. HUDSON

Mental Health Flight Chief
6th Medical Operations Squadron (AMC)
MacDill AFB, Fla.
Home of Record: Columbus, Ga.

Hudson provided exceptional leadership for 47 personnel delivering mental health care to the Department of Defense's largest single-unit area, serving 220,000 beneficiaries. He deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, where he served as the combat stress noncommissioned officer in charge, providing oversight to 11 forward operating bases and ultimately supporting 15,000 joint service members and 50 coalition nations. Hudson conducted 21 outside-the-wire missions to assist more than 100 airmen in crisis. He served 65 days as a first sergeant, resolving more than 1,200 equipment and personnel issues, ensuring his team of 45 airmen was prepared to support combat operations throughout Afghanistan.

TSGT. DOUGLAS J. MATTHEWS

Combat Control Craftsman
125th Special Tactics Squadron (ANG)
Portland, Ore.
Home of Record: Boulder, Colo.

Matthews completed a mobilization that included a combat deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this deployment, Matthews was injured when his team came under heavy enemy fire. An improvised explosive device detonated directly below his vehicle, blowing Matthews out of it. Refusing a medevac, he continued to fight, calling in close air strikes and providing cover for his team. Matthews was awarded the Silver Star for heroism and a Purple Heart. After spending a year in intense physical therapy, Matthews returned to full combat mission ready status.



TSGT. WILLIAM R. POSCH

Pararescue Craftsman
308th Rescue Squadron (AFRC)
Patrick AFB, Fla.
Home of Record: Indialantic Beach, Fla.

Posch led a crisis evacuation of more than 120 Americans from the US Embassy in the South Sudan capital of Juba. He headed a team of 23 battlefield airmen during an expeditionary combat deployment and provided more than 1,560 hours of combat rescue coverage, rescuing 143 persons. His contributions in reorganizing UTC packouts increased his team's alert readiness by 33 percent. Posch aided his squadron's effectiveness by providing training for airmen and joint service personnel. Proven battlefield experience, coupled with an understanding of tactical operations, led to his design of schematics for a personnel recovery tactical operations center, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of command and control of rescue and recovery operations.



Outstanding AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

TSGT. RYAN E. GANGADEEN

NCOIC of Operations Training
1st Space Operations Squadron (AFSPC)
Schriever AFB, Colo.
Home of Record: Brooklyn, N.Y.

Gangadeen, on a one-year deployment in Afghanistan as the lead professional military education advisor to the Afghan air force (AAF), guided the creation of the AAF training regimen. He quickly responded to a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device threat, ensuring the safe return of 33 coalition and 22 civilians to Kabul Airport. As a certified convoy vehicle commander, he led seven outside-the-wire NATO mobility missions, securing 18 members with zero incidents. During the deployment, Gangadeen directed 44 AAF courses for 60 career fields. He evaluated four maintenance training contracts worth \$527 million, revealed six duplicate contractual requirements, and saved \$40 million.



TSGT. LATORIA R. ELLIS

Contracting Team Lead
502nd Contracting Squadron (AETC)
JBSA-Lackland, Texas
Home of Record: Miami

Ellis led a 25-member team that completed 86 contracts for Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center, the Air Force's largest medical wing. She spearheaded a \$2 million energy savings acquisition, retrofitting 19 buildings with solar panels, reducing the utility bill and saving the Air Force \$600,000 a year. She steered a \$1.9 million generator efficiency project, replacing 33 percent of defective grids in military family housing, reducing output by 14 percent and saving the Air Force \$24,000 a year. She completed 223 hours of training at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, garnering her distinguished graduate and academic achievement awards. Ellis was named Air Education and Training Command's NCO of the Year out of 13,039 noncommissioned officers.

SSGT. DAVID W. WALLACE III

Plans and Programs NCO
91st Security Forces Group (AFGS)
Minot AFB, N.D.
Home of Record: Minot, N.D.

Wallace was selected as the Air Force's 2013 Outstanding Security Forces Support Staff Airman of the Year while serving as the plans and programs noncommissioned officer. During that time, he authored a response-time matrix for 150 off-installation nuclear sites that maximized resources and minimized response times. His product was benchmarked throughout 20th Air Force for all intercontinental ballistic missile units. He reinvigorated outdated site defense plans to enhance the security posture for 150 launch facilities and 15 missile alert facilities. He also completed four college courses; the 12 completed credit hours culminated in a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice. Wallace also organized the Minot Air Force Base Spouse Showcase, which highlighted base products and services to more than 300 dependents.





SRA. AARON T. FELICIANO

MQ-9 Avionics Systems Journeyman
849th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (ACC)
Holloman AFB, N. M.
Home of Record: St. Cloud, Fla.

Feliciano was instrumental in modernizing the 49th Wing's MQ-9 fleet by successfully upgrading 13 MQ-9s in five days, increasing the combat mission readiness of 340 aircrews. He led a five-person RPA safety modernization team that upgraded 11 aircraft and reduced processing time from 90 days to less than two weeks with a 100 percent maintenance quality assurance rating. As the avionics section trainer, he certified 99 tasks, trained 11 airmen, and raised the section's qualifications by 35 percent. He successfully completed three college classes and seven College Level Examination Program exams with a 4.0 GPA, earning his Community College of the Air Force avionics systems degree. Feliciano also remissioned a MQ-9 training sortie supporting the recovery of an injured German air force airman stranded in the New Mexico desert.



SRA. SHABREE N. HEASELL

Geospatial Intelligence Analyst
603rd Air and Space Operations Center (USAFE)
Ramstein AB, Germany
Home of Record: San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Heasell's work as an imagery intelligence support analyst led to her selection as a tactics and training analyst. In this facet, she identified 43 smuggling routes across a 193-square-mile area, leading to the discovery and elimination of 12 enemy workshops, 20 improvised explosive devices, and 50 weapons caches. She developed nine primary and alternate evacuation routes for the Secret Service, ensuring the safety of the President of the United States and 223 staff personnel during the President's diplomatic visit to Africa. Heasell volunteered 1,270 hours for 15 organizations and led 350 volunteers through 53 events, raising more than \$2 million in sales and proceeds that were donated to local schools and charities.



SRA. ARIFUL HAQUE

Water and Fuel Maintenance Technician
374th Civil Engineer Squadron (PACAF)
Yokota AB, Japan
Home of Record: East Elmhurst, N.Y.

Haque led five Japanese-national employees in maintaining and repairing the Yokota Air Base bulk fuel storage area, Type III hydrant fueling systems, and high-level control valves, which enabled air operations for the sole airlift wing in the western Pacific. He led a storm pump renovation project that solved two years of flooding problems, eliminating the risk to multiple networks vital to bilateral operations. Relying on his criminal justice background and language skills, he partnered with the local AFOSI detachment to develop realistic scenarios for a joint training exercise for agents. As a member of the Yokota Air Base Honor Guard, he re-established the only drill team in Pacific Air Forces and has performed as a ceremonial guardsman.

