

The Outstanding Ai



▶ **SSgt. Timothy A. Bishop.** Joint Terminal Attack Controller, 607th Air Support Operations Group (Pacific Air Forces), Osan AB, South Korea—Deployed to Afghanistan, planned and controlled 120 close air support missions. ... Trained US Army Special Forces teams on CAS tactics. ... Awarded Bronze Star with valor device and US Army's Combat Action Badge for CAS support to two SF teams. ... Controlled AC-130s and A-10s during recovery of friendly forces and equipment at a crash site. ... Created seven training programs. ... Prepared JTAC teams for deployment to Southwest Asia.

▶ **SrA. Polly-Jan Bobseine.** Fire Team Member, 823rd Security Forces Squadron (Air Combat Command), Moody AFB, Ga.—Deployed to Iraq. ... Took part in 45 ground missions against insurgents near Balad Air Base. ... Received combat patch from Army's 1st Infantry Division for outstanding work at Balad. ... Provided security for January 2005 Iraqi interim government elections. ... Found an improvised explosive device at Iraqi polling center, called in explosive ordnance disposal team, safely evacuated civilians. ... Conducted more than 100 combat patrols around Kirkuk Air Base environs. ... Completed rigorous US Army Combat Lifesaver Course. ... Graduated from Army airborne school and maintained jump status.



▶ **SSgt. Daniel F. Dierickx.** Air Traffic Control Journeyman, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron (Air National Guard), Klamath Falls, Ore.—Volunteered for second and third tours in Iraq. ... Controlled aircraft just three days after arriving in Iraq. ... Trained 15 newly arrived controllers. ... Averted a potential collision by assuming command and control from Iraqi controllers when a C-17 was put on the same runway as a C-130 on short final approach. ... Rerouted more than 160 flight operations when an F/A-18 was disabled on the runway. ... Worked through language barriers and differing rules to create a joint US-Iraqi control team.

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

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.



SSgt. Jeffrey M. Hansen. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Craftsman, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron (ACC), Holloman AFB, N.M.—Awarded Army's 184th Ordnance Battalion combat patch. ... Identified insurgent ammunition cache, resulting in the seizure of 47 rockets. ... Supervised 29 post-blast investigations, collecting intelligence that led to arrest of bomb makers. ... Trained special operations troops in complex demolition techniques. ... Provided classified F-117A munitions support. ... Wrote a comprehensive guide on mobility equipment maintenance. ... Led munitions clearance efforts of two training ranges with zero mishaps.

SMSgt. Michael T. Lemke. Contracting Superintendent, 90th Contracting Squadron (Air Force Space Command), F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.—Wrote a contingency training plan that earned "Best Practice" from inspector general. ... Standardized AFSPC training in contract procedures. ... Set up secure satellite phone service in Iraq. ... Facilitated integrated cell-landline-satellite phone service in Baghdad. ... Expedited armored car purchase as a security measure for Mosul government leadership. ... Earned Joint Commendation Medal. ... Received John L. Levitow Award at Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy.



SMSgt. Henry Parker III. Squadron Superintendent, 65th Services Squadron (US Air Forces in Europe), Lajes Field, Portugal—USAFE Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. ... Led both squadron combat support and resource management flights in the area of responsibility. ... Co-wrote management plan for Al Udeid (Qatar) Coalition City. ... Engineered education facility project. ... Overhauled the service squadron's readiness program. ... Helped lead renovations of dining room and fitness center. ... Received SNCO Commander's Award.





SrA. Eric J. Pena. Combat Arms Instructor, 349th Security Forces Squadron (Air Force Reserve Command), Travis AFB, Calif.—Served as turret gunner for convoys within greater Baghdad. ... Ensured security for US military legal personnel in Central Criminal Court of Iraq. ... Responsible for moving insurgents in custody of coalition forces. ... Worked closely with Iraqi security forces. ... Installed laser sights for M-9 pistols for Raven unmanned air vehicle security teams. ... Led wing inspections of thousands of M-16A2 rifles needed for troops in the theater. ... Received Joint Service Commendation Medal.



SSgt. David L. Plachno. Communications Systems Operator, Presidential Airlift Squadron (Air Mobility Command), Andrews AFB, Md.—AMC's Airman of the Year for 2005. ... Provided communications support for more than 30 Presidential flights. ... Certified on the VC-25 in record time. ... Qualified quickly on C-32 and C-40. ... Troubleshooted a problem affecting secure radio, restoring secure communications link between President and White House staff. ... Managed tsunami relief mission to Asia for former President Clinton and former President Bush. ... John L. Levitow Award recipient.

TSgt. Bradley T. Reilly. Combat Control Craftsman, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron (Air Force Special Operations Command), Hurlburt Field, Fla.—Deployed to Afghanistan. ... Wounded in OEF, received Purple Heart and Silver Star. ... Administered life-saving emergency medical care to wounded soldier under hostile fire. ... Coordinated close air support for dozens of combat patrols. ... Devised procedures to use US Navy attack submarines as a special tactics platform. ... Set up landing zone at forward operating base. ... Controlled many combat sorties and brought in supplies critical to Army Special Forces. ... Developed new tactics for border security checkpoints inside enemy territory. ... Qualified as Raven unmanned aerial vehicle operator.



SrA. (now SSgt.) Elizabeth E. Sewell. Personnel Employment Journeyman, 71st Flying Training Wing (Air Education and Training Command), Vance AFB, Okla.—Filled noncommissioned officer position for six months during period of need. ... Sustained zero discrepancies as NCO. ... Corrected awards and decorations errors. ... Revamped and published wing awards and decorations guide. ... Earned an “outstanding” report in readiness exercise. ... Retooled officer accession process, slashing procedure time. ... Executed deployment exercises, processing hundreds of personnel records with no errors.



TSgt. Billy Tramel Jr. Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Fire Suppression Section, 75th Civil Engineer Squadron (Air Force Materiel Command), Hill AFB, Utah—Chosen as AFMC NCO of 2005. ... Deployed to Iraq in support of Army combat operations. ... Served as chief Air Force advisor for security of infrastructure of Iraqi oil production. ... Helped manage a multimillion dollar oil pipeline security project for Iraqi Army. ... Contributed to security system for Iraq’s largest oil facility. ... Organized and led more than 20 convoys per month. ... Led combat live fire training at Udairi Range in Kuwait. ... Discovered IED on primary Iraqi road and led response effort.

MSgt. Renee L. Williams. Command Equipment Manager, Hq., AFRC (Air Force Reserve Command), Robins AFB, Ga.—Honored as Hq. AFRC’s Senior Noncommissioned Officer for second consecutive year. ... Volunteered for duty in Combined Air Operations Center at Al Udeid AB, Qatar. ... Located and acquired hard-to-find B-52 gyroscopes, enabling bombers to quickly return to mission capable status. ... Invented a superior repair-and-return process for Identification, Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders. ... Expedited purchase of runway repair material for Bagram AB, Afghanistan. ... Reallocated excess weapons from closing units to fix shortfalls throughout AFRC.

