



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY,
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

SEP 16 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES NAVY
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: 2016 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Selection

Annually, the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Program recognizes the Department of Defense's most outstanding military maintenance units in three categories, field-level, depot-level, and in the maintenance training, advice, and assistance of foreign security forces. I am pleased to inform you of the 2016 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award winners listed below. A brief summary of each unit's accomplishments is attached.

Field-level Awards

Large Category

USS RONALD REAGAN
Forward Deployed, Yokosuka, Japan
United States Navy

48th Maintenance Group
Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England
United States Air Force

Medium Category

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 29
Marine Corps Air Station
New River, North Carolina
United States Marine Corps

455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan
United States Air Force

Small Category

Forward Support Co, 3rd BN, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida
United States Army

31st Munitions Squadron
Aviano Air Base, Italy
United States Air Force

Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence

USS ALEXANDRIA Engineered Overhaul Project Team
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence in Maintenance Training, Advice, and Assistance of
Foreign Security Forces (Operational Category)

438th Air Expeditionary Wing
9th Air Expeditionary Task Force
United States Air Force Central Command

The awards will be presented on December 6, 2016, at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards banquet and ceremony, which will be held in conjunction with the 2016 DoD Maintenance Symposium. Please extend my sincere congratulations on behalf of the Secretary of Defense to each of your Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award winners and to all nominees for their outstanding efforts.

My point of contact is [REDACTED] Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Maintenance Policy and Programs [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].


Frank Kendall

Attachments:
As stated

2016 Secretary of Defense Field-level Maintenance Award Winners'
Summaries

USS RONALD REAGAN
Forward Deployed, Yokosuka, Japan
United States Navy

The mission of the USS RONALD REAGAN is to support National Policy and Theater Security Cooperation efforts by maintaining the highest possible level of readiness, thereby ensuring successful execution of any operational commitment in the projected operating environment. In her first year as the centerpiece of the Carrier Strike Group, REAGAN Sailors set the standard for operational and maintenance readiness through innovative management practices and the effective use of limited maintenance resources. Her material condition superiority was evidenced by her completion of an eight-month, on-time, compressed Planned Incremental Availability maintenance period, which was fused together with an exhaustive, two-week hull-swap with USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, and culminated in an arduous but highly successful Indo-Asia-Pacific deployment. This allowed REAGAN to safely sail 42,598 nautical miles, providing support to Carrier Air Wing FIVE and executing 3,237 sorties during 5,878 flight hours with a 98 percent sortie completion rate. This great warship and crew's list of achievements established her as a premier aircraft carrier in Navy Fleet.

48th Maintenance Group
Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England
United States Air Force

The 48th Maintenance Group flawlessly executed a \$439 million Flying Hour Program encompassing 9,782 sorties and 27,715 hours while they simultaneously deployed Airmen and aircraft in support of Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL and Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. On deployment, the Group generated more than 12,000 hours and employed over 1,700 munitions, resulting in the destruction of 1,225 targets. Additionally, the Group exemplified service before self when responding to the crash of a Greek F-16 aircraft by rescuing French maintainers from the fire and providing lifesaving recovery actions. The Airmen involved were recognized for their heroism by the United States Air Force in Europe and military leadership in both Spain and France. These accomplishments, and numerous others, readily justify designating the 48th Maintenance Group as one of the Department's best field-level maintenance units.

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 29
Marine Corps Air Station, New River, North Carolina
United States Marine Corps

The Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 29 (MALS-29) provides aviation logistics support, guidance, planning, and direction to Marine Aircraft Group squadrons as well as logistics support for Navy-funded equipment in the Marine Wing Support Squadron, Marine Air Control Group, and Marine Aircraft Wing/Mobile Calibration Complex. MALS-29 supported seven squadrons, comprised of 134 aircraft, throughout a fast-paced schedule that consisted of 22,000 flight hours. MALS-29 deployed 431 of the 879 Marines assigned to the unit and thousands of aeronautical assets across the world to support 18 various detachments and deployments. MALS-29 Aviation Supply Department also sustained a vigorous operational tempo while achieving a 91 percent effectiveness rate and maintaining over \$280 million of inventory. Through resiliency and devotion, the Marines of MALS-29 demonstrated that they are among the best of the Department's field-level maintenance units.

455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing
Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan
United States Air Force

The 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron accomplished superior aircraft maintenance while partnering with 14 allied countries and more than 12,000 personnel in support of North Atlantic Treaty Organization's RESOLUTE SUPPORT to train, advise, and assist Afghan security forces and Coalition partners. Furthermore, in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron displayed its combat superiority when it generated 61,000 flying hours during the execution of 18,000 combat sorties, one of which destroyed the largest weapons cache in the history of Afghanistan's Parwan Province. The performance of the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron unquestionably demonstrates the unit's worthiness of recognition as one of the Department's best field-level units.

**Forward Support Co, 3rd BN, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida
United States Army**

The Forward Support Company (FSC), 3rd Battalion, supports the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) with field-level maintenance to provide multifunctional self-sustainment capability to support internal needs for fuel, ammunition, maintenance, and miscellaneous supplies that reduces the need for reliance on higher logistics organizations. On order, the unit forward deploys as part of the Special Operations Task Force. During the period of performance, FSC consistently overcame fiscal and manning challenges while maintaining Operational Readiness Rates in excess of 99 percent and a Shop Stock Reconciliation Rate of 99 percent. The command maintenance program was executed in some of the harshest and most austere environmental conditions with exemplary results. The unit's maintenance program is a testament to the ingenuity and adaptability of Special Operations Forces support Soldiers and is in keeping with the honorable and proud traditions of the Ordnance Corps. Their commitment to technical excellence has positioned them as one of the best field-level maintenance units in the Department of Defense.

**31st Munitions Squadron
Aviano Air Base, Italy
United States Air Force**

The 31st Munitions Squadron accomplished superior munitions maintenance while delivering and maintaining over \$12.2 billion in munitions stockpile, \$23 million in Weapons Storage and Security Systems, and \$48.6 million in combat-ready armament equipment for the 51 Block-40 F-16CM aircraft. Their continuous drive for excellence and unparalleled attitude cemented the foundation for the successful generation of 7,755 sorties while sustaining the best Combat Air Force Block-40 F-16 mission capable rate of 80.4 percent for 12 consecutive months. Additionally, the unit solidified itself as the bedrock of the Fighter Wing's nuclear surety programs. Their efforts culminated in nine 2015 United States Air Forces in Europe Inspector General Nuclear Surety Inspection "Excellent" and/or "Outstanding" ratings and six superior performer award results. Furthermore, the unit executed 16 deployments and Flight Training Deployments throughout 15 geographically separated areas of responsibility, which culminated in over 19,000 aircraft flying hours and the destruction of over 1,200 enemy targets. These and other exceptional accomplishments clearly illustrate that the 31st Munitions Squadron is one of the Department's best field-level maintenance units.

**2016 Secretary of Defense Robert T. Mason Award for
Depot Maintenance Excellence Winner Summary**

**USS ALEXANDRIA (SSN 757) Engineered Overhaul Project Team
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
United States Navy**

The USS ALEXANDRIA Engineered Overhaul Project Team and the ship's crew performed superbly when they executed a 280,000 man-day overhaul and delivered the ship back to the fleet two weeks ahead of schedule and \$9 million under budget—the Navy's fastest ever Engineered Overhaul. By utilizing improved processes, innovative management techniques, and sound leadership principles, the USS ALEXANDRIA Engineered Overhaul Project Team, with the support of the ship's crew and the entire Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, was able to meet every major milestone on or ahead of schedule with best-ever quality and safety record. Returning the USS ALEXANDRIA to the fleet early improved quality of life for the ship's crew and made the ship's post-overhaul transition from the Atlantic to the Pacific Fleet significantly less challenging and stressful. By their dedication to duty, untiring efforts, and perseverance in the face of difficulty, the USS ALEXANDRIA Engineered Overhaul Project Team upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval service and the mission of the Department of Defense. Their accomplishments truly merit recognition and designation as the recipient of the 2016 Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence.

**2016 Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence in Maintenance Training,
Advice, and Assistance of Foreign Security Forces Winner Summary**

Operational Award

**438th Air Expeditionary Wing
9th Air Expeditionary Task Force
United States Air Force Central Command
United States Air Force**

The 438th Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW) provided maintenance training, advice, and assistance to the Afghan Air Force, which was comprised of 56 MI-17 and 16 MD-530 rotary-wing aircraft as well as 26 C-208 and four C-130 fixed-wing aircraft. The 438th AEW inspired the Afghan Air Force to mature its maintenance force and capability through innovative training, dedicated advising, and timely assistance. Consequently, the Afghan Air Force performed admirably in their first year solo as they conducted operations to secure the country. The 438 AEW's efforts assisted the Afghan Air Force generate 121 percent more missions, move 142 percent more passengers, and perform 276 percent more casualty evacuation/human remains movements than in the previous period of performance. Furthermore, the Afghan Air Force transported 249 percent more cargo and provided significantly more aerial fires than the preceding year. This was accomplished despite suffering combat losses and mishap attrition of nine aircraft during the period. The 438th AEW's efforts contributed to the Afghan Air Force's ability to complete 22,267 flight hours spread across 102 aircraft of 5 different types. Through their competency and tenacity, the Airmen of the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest standards of the United States Air Force. Their accomplishments truly deserve the designation as recipient of the 2016 Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence in Maintenance Training, Advice, and Assistance of Foreign Security Forces.