



ACQUISITION,
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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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

SUBJECT: 2013 Secretary of Defense Field-level Maintenance Awards Selection

Annually, the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Program recognizes the Department of Defense's most outstanding field-level military maintenance units. This year we received 24 nominations forwarded by the Military Services. Each nominee should be proud of their exceptional performance and contribution to our Nation's defense. I am pleased to inform you of the 2013 Secretary of Defense Field-level Maintenance Award Winners. Brief summaries of the units' accomplishments are attached.

Large Category

USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74)
Bremerton, Washington
United States Navy

27th Special Operations Maintenance Group
Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico
United States Air Force

Medium Category

D Company, 3rd Battalion
82nd Aviation Regiment (Task Force Talon) 82nd Airborne Division
Fort Bragg, North Carolina
United States Army

USS EMORY LAND (AS-39)
Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory
United States Navy

Small Category

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California
United States Marine Corps

Naval Sea Systems Command Submarine Performance Monitoring Program Headquarters,
Washington Navy Yard, District of Columbia
United States Navy

The Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Ceremony is scheduled for October 30, 2013, in the Pentagon Auditorium. One of the highlights of the awards ceremony will be the presentation of the Secretary of Defense's Phoenix Trophy. The recipient of the Phoenix Award is selected from the six Secretary of Defense Field-level Maintenance Award winners listed above and is recognized as the "Best of the Best" maintenance unit within the Department of Defense. The Phoenix trophy is the highest award for field-level maintenance within the Department.

Please extend my sincere congratulations on behalf of the Secretary of Defense to each of your Secretary of Defense Field-level Maintenance Award winners and to all of the nominees for their outstanding efforts.

My point of contact is Mr. Michael P. Hynes, ODASD(MPP), at 703-697-1903, DSN 227-1903, or michael.p.hynes.civ@mail.mil.



Frank Kendall

Attachments:
As stated

Summary Accomplishments for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Field-level Maintenance Award Winning Units

USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74) Bremerton, Washington United States Navy

The USS JOHN C. STENNIS deployed twice in FY 2012 to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf, logging a total of 232 days underway. Between those deployments, it participated in two Fleet Replacement Squadron Carrier Qualification events and a Sustainment Exercise, and performed an Operational Reactor Safety Examination. Throughout these lengthy deployments and inspections, the Sailors assigned to the ship's Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) and other repair shops performed superbly. The AIMD, for example, completed more than 13,000 maintenance actions, processed nearly 9,300 components, reviewed 1,200 hydraulic fluid samples, and performed 272 audits, while achieving a 90-percent ready-for-issue rate. In addition, the AIMD's composite repair team completed more than 50 maintenance action, including the first-ever afloat repair of an F/A-18 trailing edge flap. The maintenance units assigned to the USS JOHN C. STENNIS are truly worthy of being designated as one of the Department's best field-level maintenance units.

27th Special Operations Maintenance Group Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico United States Air Force

The 27th Special Operations Maintenance Group (SOMXG), through four maintenance squadrons, supports 112 aircraft across nine mission design series. In FY 2012, the 27th SOMXG had an outstanding year: it generated 1,865 combat sorties that flew more than 16,000 hours over hostile territory; performed over 200,000 maintenance actions; supported the Department's only CV-22 Centralized Repair Facility; completed the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation for the AC-130W Stinger II Small Diameter Bomb and the Special Operations Command's first MC-130J Commando II; and helped validate the MQ-1 Predator Rapid Reaction Force concept in responding to the Benghazi terrorists attacks. These accomplishments were even more impressive because the 27th SOMXG provided that support in five forward operating locations across three geographic combatant commands, with technical skill imbalances and often operating under austere conditions—an outstanding performance. Clearly, the 27th SOMXG deserves being singled out as one of the Department's best field-level maintenance units.

D Company, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment (Task Force Talon) 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina United States Army

Throughout FY 2012, D Company, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment, an aviation maintenance company supporting H-60 and CH-47 aircraft, was deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. D Company's performance during the deployment was remarkable. It supported

53 aircraft flying combat missions totaling more than 43,000 flight hours, with an aircraft readiness rate of 87 percent fully mission capable; completed over 3,000 unscheduled mission-critical aircraft work orders; performed 42 major phase inspections; and managed an inventory worth \$150 million, all while setting the standard for aviation maintenance performance within the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade. These and other maintenance-related actions enabled Task Force Talon to successfully conduct air assault, air movement, medical evacuation, reconnaissance, and security operations throughout the ground commander's area of responsibility. During some of these operations, D Company maintainers were frequently on the ground before the air crews. For these and other accomplishments, D Company, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division (Task Force Talon) is extremely deserving of being designated as one of the Department's best field-level maintenance units

USS EMORY LAND (AS-39)
Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory
United States Navy

The USS EMORY LAND, a submarine tender supporting submarine and surface ships operating in the Fifth and Seventh Fleet areas of responsibility, was the Nation's only forward deployed tender for much of FY 2012. As a result, it continuously operated away from its homeport, generating a 112-percent increase in production hours and a 120-percent increase in the number of maintenance jobs over the previous year. Those hours included 100,000 hours in support of 42 deployed warships in Fifth and Seventh Fleet availabilities and four shore commands. The USS EMORY LAND also provided project management planning and maintenance support to The Philippine Flagship *BRP Gregorio Del Pilar*, an unprecedented international relation building event by a repair activity. For these and other accomplishments, the men and women of the USS EMORY LAND have earned the distinction of being recognized as members of one the Department's best field-level maintenance units.

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California
United States Marine Corps

The Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 (HMH-361) supports Marine Air-Ground Task Force Commanders with transport of equipment, troops, and supplies. Its performance in FY 2012 was exceptional despite major organizational disruptions: it detailed 4 CH-53E and 50 marines to another squadron in support of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and then received Marines (including 70 new maintenance personnel) from two other squadrons prior to deploying to Afghanistan. These changes had little effect on HMH-361's performance. It completed over 13,000 maintenance actions, totaling more than 83,000 man-hours; flew almost 2,900 mishap-free flight hours in both the Continental United States and Afghanistan; attained an inspection grade of 62.5 percent in a 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing "Maintenance Program Assist" that was nearly double the inspection team's average grade; and achieved a score of 92.5 percent in a Commander, Naval Air Forces, aviation maintenance inspection. This exceptional performance by HMH-361 unquestionably supports being recognized as one of the Department's best field-level maintenance units.

Naval Sea Systems Command Submarine Performance Monitoring Program
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.
United States Navy

The mission of Naval Sea Systems Command's (NAVSEA) Submarine Performance Monitoring Program (PMP) is to perform safety and diagnostic maintenance inspections of critical shipboard systems across all submarines. Through small cadres of technicians stationed at submarine home ports and two forward operating locations, the PMP identifies existing and anticipated system deficiencies before they affect submarines during deployments. In FY 2012, it applied predictive maintenance techniques during more than 22,000 maintenance inspections to identify 4,100 critical system deficiencies, which were corrected before submarines deployed, avoiding costly failures at sea. It also increased submarine operational availability by correcting 43 mission-limiting system failures, deployed fly away teams to repair 46 submarines in foreign ports, and submitted performance data to NAVSEA so it could extend the service life of two *Los Angeles-Class* submarines by 33 operational months. These and other achievements are ample justification for recognizing NAVSEA's PMP as one of the Department's superior field-level maintenance units.