



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

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ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

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: 2011 Secretary of Defense Depot-Level Maintenance Award Selection

I am pleased to inform you that the recipient of the 2011 Secretary of Defense Depot-level Maintenance Award, known as the Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence, is the KC-135 Programmed Depot Maintenance Team at Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center. A brief summary of their accomplishments is attached.

Annually, the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Program recognizes the most outstanding Department of Defense (DoD) depot-level military maintenance program. This year, we received 11 nominations forwarded by the Military Services. Each nominee should be proud of their exceptional performance and contribution to our Nation's defense.

The Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Ceremony and Banquet are scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at the Omni Hotel at the Fort Worth Convention Center, Fort Worth, TX, as part of the 2011 DoD Maintenance Symposium & Exhibition. One of the highlights of the awards ceremony will be the presentation of the Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence.

Please extend my sincerest congratulations on behalf of the Secretary of Defense to the KC-135 Programmed Depot Maintenance Team and to all of the nominees for their outstanding efforts.

My point of contact is Mr. Chuck Field, ODASD(L&MR), at 703-697-9067 or [chuck.field@osd.mil](mailto:chuck.field@osd.mil).

  
Ashton B. Carter 20 7/29/11

Attachment:  
As stated

## **2011 Secretary of Defense Depot-Level Maintenance Award Winner**

KC-135 Programmed Depot Maintenance Team  
Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center  
Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma  
United States Air Force

The KC-135 Programmed Depot Maintenance Team at Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center distinguished itself in 2010 by conducting superior maintenance operations and producing a record number of 55 aircraft. Each year, the civilian and military personnel of the KC-135 PDM Team perform extraordinary maintenance feats, which keep the more than 50-year-old aircraft flying nearly 50,000 annual sorties. During 2010, the KC-135 PDM Team made significant achievements in every segment of the production line, including numerous kitting programs that improved material availability and technical efficiency as well as continuous process improvements that affected several maintenance procedures. The Team's *Road to 130 Plan* mandates a reduction in the number of maintenance-related flow days to meet the operational requirements for the KC-135. When combined with other initiatives, the plan contributed to a 21 percent improvement in average flow days. With the early production of 31 aircraft and a 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter surge of 18 aircraft, the Air Mobility Command – the PDM's chief client – was able to support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Operation NEW DAWN, and operations in the Horn of Africa. The 2011 Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence is awarded to the KC-135 PDM Team for their achievements and extraordinary devotion.