



ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

NOV 06 2019

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: 2019 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Selection

The Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Program recognizes the Department of Defense's most outstanding military maintenance units in four categories: field-level; the Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence; the Sustainment Training, Advice, and Assistance of Foreign Military Forces Award; and the Rear Admiral Grace M. Hopper Award for Software Maintenance Excellence. I am pleased to inform you of the 2019 Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award winners listed below. A brief summary of each unit's accomplishments is attached.

FIELD-LEVEL AWARDS

Large Category

Trident Refit Facility Kings Bay, United States Navy
48th Maintenance Group, United States Air Force

Medium Category

USS O'KANE, United States Navy
48th Munitions Squadron, United States Air Force

Small Category

Combat Logistics Detachment 5, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command, United States Marine Corps

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWELVE, United States Navy

ROBERT T. MASON AWARD FOR DEPOT MAINTENANCE EXCELLENCE

M777A2 Howitzer Program, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, United States Marine Corps

REAR ADMIRAL GRACE M. HOPPER AWARD FOR SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE EXCELLENCE

402d Software Engineering Group, Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex, United States Air Force

SUSTAINMENT TRAINING, ADVICE, AND ASSISTANCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES AWARD

Ministerial Category

Defense Governance and Management Team and the United States European Command
Directorate of Policy, Strategy, Partnering, and Capabilities, United States European Command

Operational Category

108th Sustainment Brigade - Task Force Lincoln, United States Central Command

The awards will be presented on December 10, 2019, in Spokane, Washington, at the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards banquet and ceremony held in conjunction with the 2019 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 for this action is Mr. Michael P. Hynes, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Materiel Readiness, at 703-697-1903, DSN 227-1903 or michael.p.hynes.civ@mail.mil.



Ellen M. Lord

Attachments:

As stated

**2019 Secretary of Defense
Maintenance Award Winners' Summaries**

Field-level Awards

**TRIDENT REFIT FACILITY KINGS BAY
UNITED STATES NAVY**

The TRIDENT Refit Facility (TRF) Kings Bay provided world-class maintenance readiness support to the United States Ballistic-Missile, Guided-Missile and Fast-Attack Submarine Forces in support of the nation's strategic deterrent posture and submarine force operational commitments during this period. TRF consistently distinguished itself through the accomplishment of cost-saving, one-of-a-kind front-line maintenance availabilities and emergent repairs encompassing over two million expended production hours, supporting the submarine force's need for maximum operational availability, despite an aging fleet that is well beyond its expected life cycle and with growth work that continues to rise each year. Concurrently, with successful completion of four standard 35-day refits on-time or early, TRF began the longest and most extensive work package in its history, accomplishing 200,000 man-hours of work towards USS GEORGIA's CNO-level Extended Refit Period in four and a half months. At completion in 16 months, USS GEORGIA's Extended Refit Period expended 537,000 production man-hours, 14 percent greater than the previously largest availability, USS FLORIDA. In addition, the command's extraordinary accomplishments in providing quality maintenance and logistical support to conduct emergent nuclear guided-missile submarine repairs on the island of Diego Garcia and aboard two underway nuclear powered ballistic missile submarines resulted in extremely successful Voyage Repair Periods for forward-deployed USS FLORIDA, USS MARYLAND and USS TENNESSEE, allowing for continuation of their respective missions. During this period, the men and women of TRIDENT Refit Facility exhibited exceptional dedication, professional excellence and superb management of maintenance resources and assets. These and other unprecedented maintenance accomplishments led to their selection as one of the six field-level award winning units for 2019 and their outstanding performance is in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Navy and the Department of Defense.

**48TH MAINTENANCE GROUP
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

The 48th Maintenance Group, 48th Fighter Wing, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England has distinguished itself by accomplishing superior aircraft maintenance during the competition period. The 48th Maintenance Group flawlessly executed the U.S. Air Forces Europe's largest Flying Hour Program encompassing more than 9,904 sorties and 23,936 flying hours while simultaneously deploying 406 Airmen and 18 aircraft in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. While deployed, Liberty Wing Maintainers generated 10,462 combat hours, and built and employed 550 munitions resulting in the destruction of 494 targets and the elimination of 56 enemy combatants. Additionally, Maintenance Group Airmen exemplified steadfast dedication when called upon by the President of the United States to provide defensive counter air support for the United States Navy that enabled coalition partners to deliver a direct strike

package. Their ability to quickly mobilize and deploy 10 aircraft and 200 Airmen proved vital to support for continuous bomber presence by coalition forces, enabling the first Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missile combat employment and the destruction of three Syrian chemical factories. Furthermore, the 48th Maintenance Group provided unmatched nuclear deterrence as the only nuclear capable Fighter Wing in the United States Air Force. The group proved the reliability of their nuclear mission by winning the USAFE's Nuclear Deterrence Operations Team Award as well as 12 Inspector General "Superior Team" Awards. Lastly, the 48th Maintenance Group was instrumental in building relationships with NATO allies, other partners, and deterring enemy aggression with deployments to Iceland, Lithuania, Morocco, and Greece amassing 778 sorties and 1,475 flying hours. The professionalism and commitment to excellence demonstrated by the men and women of the 48th Maintenance Group reflect great credit upon themselves, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, U.S. Air Force, and the Department of Defense.

**USS O'KANE (DDG 77)
UNITED STATES NAVY**

The USS O'KANE distinguished itself through excellence in maintenance support during the competition while deployed in the Western Pacific with the U.S. Third Fleet and Seventh Fleet conducting Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) of Guam and Japan. During this deployment the O'KANE maintained 99 percent connectivity for all data link and external communication systems, essential to sustaining the ready to fire status. O'KANE's tenacity, self-sufficiency, and exceptional maintenance efforts resulted in several first ever at sea repairs; including a input shaft seal repair in the main reduction gear, overhaul of the lube oil purifier, and emergency repair to the braided hose on the AN/SPY-ID Radar cooling skid to sustain full mission capability. The O'KANE conducted 26, 786 periodic and situational maintenance checks, 196 flight deck landings, 21 underway replenishments, 26 sea and anchor details to extend time on station. Following her deployment, the O'KANE continued her record of excellence in the Rim of the Pacific 2018 exercise. During this exercise, the O'KANE served as the afloat commander for a live fire missile defense against multiple threats. The O'KANE's holistic approach to providing the highest levels of maintenance support and dedication to warfighting excellence are second to none. The diligence and devotion to mission success displayed by the sailors of the USS O'KANE reflect great credit upon the U.S. Navy and the Department of Defense.

**48TH MUNITIONS SQUADRON
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

The 48th Munitions Squadron distinguished itself by accomplishing superior munitions, missile and armament systems maintenance during the performance period. The unit expertly balanced and executed its assigned combat, training and deterrence missions in support of three Unified Combatant Commands. While deployed in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, the unit assembled over 5,300 precision weapons generating 24,500 combat sorties. This impressive effort empowered the 494th Fighter Squadron to eliminate over 494 enemy targets along the Middle Euphrates River Valley and ultimately led to the liberation of the Syrian town of Dasha. Meanwhile, the unit expertly managed a \$383 million munitions arsenal generating

13,000 training sorties, encompassing multiple airframes which directly sustained two robust flying hour programs, the largest combined in Europe. Furthermore, the squadron answered a no-notice presidential tasking, rapidly generating over 17,000 munitions and arming 12 aircraft within 22 hours. The swift response allowed the 48th Fighter Wing to integrate into the combined strike against the Syrian regime, successfully eliminating three chemical facilities. Finally, the Munitions Squadron demonstrated its dual-role flexibility by sustaining the Wing's largest account of nuclear certified items and equipment, outfitting 72 STRIKE EVAL generations and 10 Large Force Exercises. The professionalism and commitment to excellence demonstrated by the men and women of the 48th Munitions Squadron reflect great credit upon themselves, the U.S. Air Force, and the Department of Defense.

HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON TWELVE UNITED STATES NAVY

The "World Famous" Golden Falcons of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 12 served as proud ambassadors to the Indo-Asia-Pacific Theater, demonstrating outstanding success in tactical proficiency and operational readiness while finding innovative solutions to ensure mission success. Operating as a forward deployed naval force aboard USS RONALD REAGAN, HSC-12 participated in multiple joint and multinational exercises including KEEN SWORD, ANNUALEX, and VALIANT SHIELD. The squadron flew 3,554 flight-hours supporting of Carrier Air Wing 5 and Battle Force 7th Fleet tasking, including the rescue of eight Sailors and 48-hours of continuous aerial search and rescue coverage following the Password 33 aviation mishap. The squadron was selected as the primary rotary wing unit for quick reaction force security for Joint Task Force President of the United States Singapore during the historic de-nuclearization summit. Additionally, the squadron was selected as the rotary wing unit responsible for moving the Vice President of the United States and Secretary of Defense in Japan. During the mission the squadron's maintenance department that sustained a mission capable aircraft rate of 62.1 percent, resulting in a 99.2 percent sortie completion rate; which is a testament to the hard working, fully qualified, and supremely dedicated men and women of the Golden Falcon maintenance team. The "World Famous" Golden Falcons of HSC-12 proudly continued their tradition of excellence in all that they accomplished, and were keeping in tradition with the highest traditions of the U.S. Navy and the Department of Defense.

COMBAT LOGISTICS DETACHMENT 5, SPECIAL PURPOSE MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE - CRISIS RESPONSE - CENTRAL COMMAND UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Combat Logistics Detachment 5 distinguished itself by consistently provided the highest quality intermediate maintenance and overflow maintenance support to the entire Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force as well as seven other Task Forces conducting contingency operations throughout the Central Command Area of Operations. In just six months, the detachment conducted intermediate repairs on more than 600 principle end items worth more than \$50 million, returning vital equipment back to the fight. A unique formation of wide-ranging expertise, Combat Logistics Detachment 5 supported Marine and other Services with critical maintenance capabilities through 33 separate maintenance contact team deployments to

twelve distinct locations and six countries, totaling more than 1,600 man-hours of work. In Afghanistan in support of Task Force Southwest, Detachment 5 Marines closed more than 1,200 service requests in a month and increased material readiness by 56 percent. In Syria in support of Special Operations Task Force-North, ordnance and optics maintenance Marines from the Detachment executed crucial maintenance on equipment that was key to repulsing a large-scale pro-regime force attack. Marines of Combat Logistics Detachment 5 also meticulously and tirelessly analyzed repair part demand signals, on hand repair part quantities, and the complex distribution systems inherent to Central Command to increase the quality of maintenance support across the region. The result was a 30 percent increase in fill rate from the on hand parts block which in turn eliminated days and often weeks from customer wait times. The Detachment also led the way in technological and procedural innovation, designing and producing some of the first 3D printed parts applied to Marine Corps equipment while providing invaluable field expertise and insight to higher headquarters to refine and speed up design and approval processes for additive manufactured repair parts. The unparalleled maintenance support provided to the men and women forward deployed, and in contact with the enemy, demonstrated the steely resolve of Combat Logistics Detachment 5 and its commitment to mission accomplishment. The Detachment's actions reflected great credit upon themselves and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Naval Service, and the Department of Defense.

ROBERT T. MASON AWARD
FOR DEPOT MAINTENANCE EXCELLENCE

M777A2 HOWITZER PROGRAM
MARINE DEPOT MAINTENANCE COMMAND
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

The Marine Depot Maintenance Command M777A2 Howitzer Program is recognized for extraordinary achievement, innovative solutions, and the improvement in the use of resources to the United States Marine Corps during the period 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018. During this period, the program team demonstrated exceptional performance in the execution of the repair and overhaul of 61 guns ahead of schedule in support of Marine Corps operating forces. While seamlessly executing master work schedule requirements, the program team excelled at delivering timely and cost effective maintenance solutions to the Warfighter by leveraging new technologies and methods to improve and optimize processes. The program team's uncompromising dedication and holistic approach to quality management enabled Marines to achieve unprecedented rates of fire and deliver an immense level of lethal force to the enemy during Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve's liberation of Raqqa, Syria. During this fight, Marine artillery units equipped with M777A2 howitzers overhauled by the program team provided 24-hour, all weather-fire support with over 35,000 155mm projectiles fired. The professionalism and dedication of the M777A2 Howitzer Program team members reflected great credit upon themselves and were keeping within the highest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Naval Service, and the Department of Defense.

REAR ADMIRAL GRACE M. HOPPER AWARD
FOR SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE EXCELLENCE

402d SOFTWARE ENGINEERING GROUP
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The 402d Software Engineering Group distinguished itself by providing exemplary mission critical software products and services to the warfighter during the competition period. The Group achieved extraordinary results supporting a diverse portfolio of mission requirements marked by challenges, innovations, and continuous process improvements in timeliness, cost, and quality. They superbly executed a spending authority of \$206 million all while reducing expenses by \$17 million and increasing production by 30,000 hours. A total of 323 software programs were delivered on time to various warfighting programs including Command and Control; Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance; Operational Flight Programs, Electronic Warfare, and the Joint Mission Planning System. A critical accomplishment was the development of software to support the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Squadron Operations Center resulting in \$133 million in cost avoidance. The Group consistently maintained a 98 percent compliant software baseline that was the highest scored ground-based weapons system rated by Air Combat Command. The professionalism and commitment to excellence demonstrated by the men and women of the 402d Software Engineering Group reflect great credit upon themselves, Air Force Materiel Command, the U.S. Air Force, and the Department of Defense.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SUSTAINMENT TRAINING, ADVICE, AND
ASSISTANCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES AWARD – OPERATIONAL
CATEGORY

108th SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE
UNITED STATES ARMY
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND

The 108th Sustainment Brigade while serving as Task Force Lincoln is recognized for outstanding achievement and excellence in operational level sustainment train, advise, and assist of the Iraqi Army in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Task Force Lincoln coordinated Security Force Assistance efforts between the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq, Combined Joint Task Force-OIR, Defense Governance and Management Team, Directorate of Military Assistance, and 1st Theater Sustainment Command Director for Counter- Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant Train and Equip Fund (CTEF-I). The task force documented over 12 Iraqi Army sustainment processes into which proper supply chain management of CTEF-I materiel must be injected. They advised the Iraqi Army Logistics Directorate and Engineer Directorate and assisted their Planning Directorates with data analytics to develop trend analysis of equipment faults, demand analysis, and forecasting Class IX requirements for future Foreign Military Sales and CTEF-I orders. Based on this data driven approach, Task Force Lincoln and the Iraqi Army Logistics Directorate developed a plan to build a component repair capability at two National

depot-level repair facilities at the Taji Military Complex. This capability plan included required machinery, training packages, and an FMS order of 45,200 parts valued at \$16 million with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense committing \$9 million dollars a year in FMS funding for the next five years to sustain this capability. TF Lincoln also assisted in the allocation of over \$12 million dollars of FMS funding as part of a systematic change in the drivetrain maintenance process for various vehicles. Task Force Lincoln redesigned the engine and transmission rebuild capability to streamline the workflow and supply chain resulting in an annual 28 percent increase in the number of HMMWVs repaired and a 20 percent increase in Oshkosh trucks repaired. The task force also transitioned the M1A1 maintenance program from General Dynamics Land Systems to the Iraqi Army and helped increase its operational readiness rate from 77 percent to 95 percent. Task Force Lincoln's hard work and dedication reflected great credit upon the 108th Sustainment Brigade, the U.S. Army, and the Department of Defense.

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SUSTAINMENT TRAIN, ADVISE, AND ASSISTANCE OF
FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES AWARD – MINISTERIAL CATEGORY**

UKRAINE SUSTAINMENT PLANNING TEAM AND
DEFENSE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT TEAM
UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND DIRECTORATE OF POLICY, STRATEGY,
PARTNERING, AND CAPAIBILITIES
UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND

The Ukraine Sustainment Planning Team's efforts during 2018 significantly helped to develop, implement, monitor and improve sustainment plans for equipment provided by the United States to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The team consisted of the Defense Governance Management Team and United States European Command Directorate of Policy, Strategy, Partnering, and Capabilities. Achievements were made in innovations in practices as well as improvements to facilities that have resulted in a significant cost savings in United States security cooperation and security assistance dollars by transferring sustainment costs to the Ukrainian armed forces while also increasing operational readiness rates and combat utilization of equipment provided by the United States. The team's implementation of the sustainment planning project resulted in the establishment of long-term sustainment plans, increased the ability of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to integrate systems into operations, and reduced the proportion of United States aid dedicated to sustainment activities instead of the provision of new capabilities. The team's efforts during this period represent the very best in integrated institutional capacity building and security cooperation activities producing key sustainment outcomes and enduring capabilities for a strategically important partner. Ukraine Sustainment Planning Team's hard work and dedication reflected great credit upon itself and the Department of Defense.