

# NEWS RELEASE

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

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## **SSG selects annual award winners**

*By Master Sgt. Darlene M. Foote*

*SSG Public Affairs*

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE - GUNTER ANNEX, Ala.** – Officials announced the 2003 Standard Systems Group Annual Award Winners during a banquet at Gunter’s Falcon’s Nest Friday.

“We’re very fortunate here at SSG to have some of the most talented folks in the Air Force,” Frank Weber, SSG Executive Director, said. “Our award winners and all the nominees truly represent the best of the best and thanks to their efforts, SSG is a winner, as well.”

### **Airman of the Year**

Staff Sgt Michael Flanakin, an architectural design analyst assigned to SSG’s Engineering Directorate, was selected as Airman of the Year.

Flanakin, who is described as superior airman, designed and developed a website to store and distribute common organizational architecture and design information. He also provided global warfighters with quick, seamless access to more than 250,000 state-of-the-art information technology products.

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## **SSG Annual Award Winners**

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Flanakin, who recently pinned on staff sergeant, is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer and Information Sciences at Troy State University.

### **NCO of the Year**

Staff Sgt Jered Sledge, NCO in charge of Budget Enactment Management Information Systems in the Logistic Information Directorate, was named the NCO of the Year.

Sledge is lauded for his skillful design and implementation of a critical routing a document consolidation module for the Secretary of the Air Force Budget office system. His efforts saved the government \$220 thousand annually. He also eliminated over 500 hours of redundant research on Congressional taskings annually, saving Pentagon Secretary of the Air Force offices over \$50,000.

Sledge is the team chief for the SSG Sabre Drill Team. He hopes to someday get commissioned and possibly pursue a career as a military chaplain.

### **Senior NCO of the Year**

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Woodson, the superintendent of Maintenance Operations Branch, Logistic Information, is SSG's Senior NCO of the Year.

Woodson increased real-world operational capabilities by delivering two emergency software releases and correcting 72 deficiency reports in response to real world operation during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. He also developed status and flight data tracing module for Predator and Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

Woodson, who is the president of SSG's 140-member Top Three Council, has a Master's Degree in Technology Management. He also served as a coach for the Maxwell AFB youth and the base varsity basketball team.

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## **SSG Annual Award Winners**

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### **Company Grade Officer of the Year**

Capt. John McCollum, the Executive Officer to the Commander, was selected as the CGO of the Year.

McCollum, who is described as “our best CGO” managed and implemented the first-ever global Air Force Virtual Private Network, benefiting 1.4 million users around the world. He also successfully led a 104-person team through planning and development of a highly anticipated \$8 million project.

McCollum recently earned a Masters of Business Administration with a focus in finance from Auburn University of Montgomery. He is also the president of the Maxwell-Gunter Company Grade Officer Council.

### **Civilian of the Year – Category I**

Gwendolyn Oliver, a procurement technician in the Acquisition Directorate, is the Civilian of the Year, Category I, GS-1-GS-6.

Oliver initiated a division contract closeout process and trained co-workers to ensure closeout of all current and overdue contracts, including detailed document compilation for program managers and contractors. She also established and maintained a database to ensure DFAS pay status for contractor invoices and payments.

She recently received a Bachelor of Science degree in Management of Human Resources and is a member of the National Contracting Management Association. She also organized and led a neighborhood youth day to teach basic job skills to young people.

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## **SSG Annual Award Winners**

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### **Civilian of the Year – Category II**

Laronda Jemison, Communications Directorate Portal Deputy Project Manager, is the Civilian of the Year, Category II, GS-7-GS-11.

Jemison demonstrated unparalleled leadership ability when the Business Management Division manpower was reduced from eight to two people and she ensured continuation of critical business management duties while “standing up” a new outsourced division. She also effectively orchestrated the outsourcing of the Business Management Division.

Jemison is active in the local community, volunteering 20 hours a month as a mentor for local college students on career and life choices. She also led church effort to collect clothes for tri-county single parent families.

### **Civilian of the Year – Category III**

Herbert Hunter, Jr, Chief, Supply Modernization Branch and Enterprise Solutions Supply project manager with Logistics Information, was selected as the Civilian of the Year, Category III, GS-12-GS-15.

Hunter streamlined three support offices to align with SSG’s Transformation initiative, reducing redundancy by 28 percent. He also helped the Logistic Information Transformation Team reduce cost by \$2.9 million and manpower by 50 percent by crafting an approach to balance slots with projected workload.

Hunter spoke to R.E. Lee High School “at-risk” students offering real life experiences, values and advice. His Walk for Diabetes efforts also raised \$1,000 for America’s Walk for Diabetes organization.

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## **SSG Annual Award Winners**

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These winners will compete for the Maxwell-Gunter Annual Awards in February. In addition, the four military members and civilian categories I and II winners will also be competing at Electronic Systems Center, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.

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