

# NEWS RELEASE

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

## **HEADQUARTERS STANDARD SYSTEMS GROUP**

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## **SSG selects annual award winners**

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*SSG Public Affairs*

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE - GUNTER ANNEX, Ala.** – Officials announced the 2002 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**

Senior Airman Nathan Dever, a Logistics Feasibility Analysis Capability application programmer assigned to SSG’s Software Factory, was selected as Airman of the Year.

Dever, who is described as superb airman, provided direct 24-hour operational center support to Air Staff planners supporting operations ENDURING FREEDOM, NOBLE EAGE, NORTHERN and SOUTHERN WATCH. The nomination package lauded Dever as a proven performer, designing and coding 18 Graphical User Interface screens that will provide users with real-time wartime capability, planning and analysis data.

Dever is maintaining a 4.0 grade point average while pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Resource Management at Troy State University.

### **NCO of the Year**

Staff Sgt. Karl Kile, a supply data analysis programmer in the Logistic Information Directorate, was named the NCO of the Year.

Kile implemented a web-based system allowing centralized control of all phases of software testing process. He also is the lead functional expert on a \$414,000 project designing a web-enabled tool used by deployed Supply troops managing mission critical aircraft parts and equipment in low bandwidth areas.

Kile served as the Maxwell AFB Honor Guard Flight noncommissioned-officer-in-charge for two months, leading the 14-member flight in rendering funeral honors for 31 fallen comrades.

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

Senior Master Sgt. Terry Thomas, the superintendent of Logistic Information Directorate's Core Automated Maintenance System Database Development, is SSG's Senior NCO of the Year.

Thomas led a 16-person conversion team through more than 1,200 test scenarios with no errors. He also designed a part analysis database, recording more 4 million parts from 221 Air Force flying wings.

Thomas is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Troy State University. In his off duty time, he serves as the chairman of the Central Alabama Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services and serves on the City of Montgomery Disaster Preparedness committee.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Timothy Fuhrman, a Contingency Operations Mobility Planning and Execution System (COMPES) program manager assigned to SSG's Software Factory, was selected as the CGO of the Year.

Fuhrman spearheaded efforts to fully integrate Air Force operations command and control requirements within the DoD joint planning system. He implemented an error-free capability to edit plans directly supporting Operations NOTHERN and SOUTHERN WATCH.

Fuhrman has completed 10 of 12 courses in pursuit of a Master's degree, maintaining a 4.0 average. Selected as the group's volunteer of the quarter, he provided more than 72 hours of computer instruction at the Montgomery Council on Aging and also helped raise 700 pounds of canned food for the community homeless shelter.

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

Kenya McCants, a business and marketing student trainee within the Corporate Management directorate, is the Civilian of the Year, Category I, GS-1-GS-6.

McCants serves as the project manager for the Balanced Scorecard – a tool that will enable SSG to measure how well the group developed its strategic plan, as well as the progress it's making at accomplishing its goals and objectives. She also developed a training plan with required courses and a timeline to get Corporate Management personnel acquisition certified.

She recently received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Alabama State University, graduating with a 3.46 grade point average. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta, a Youth Sunday school teacher, and works with the children's choir. McCants also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity.

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

Melody Wilson, Air Force Systems Networking project manager, is the Civilian of the Year, Category II, GS-7-GS-11.

Wilson is the project lead for the Senior Level Communication System development and implementation. Her efforts delivered a secure network and teleconferencing capability for C32/40 aircraft and Air Force One, as well as ensured key DoD and Executive government decision makers have connectivity. She also managed the planning, design and implementation of the classified and unclassified networks used to support command and control systems as 255 worldwide sites.

Wilson is active in the local community, hosting a monthly clothing drive at her church to benefit the Sunshine Center. She also prepared meals, cleaned the kitchen and dining facility and counseled patrons during the Montgomery Faith Crusade Rescue Mission.

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

Barry Morton, a supervisory computer engineer with SSG Software Factory, was selected as the Civilian of the Year, Category III, GS-12-GS-15.

Morton was handpicked to lead the Combat Ammunition System (CAS) software development effort. His efforts enabled SSG to field CAS as the first fully integrated Global Combat Support System program, and forged a path for future web-based, integrated combat support systems.

Morton served on Montgomery's Riverfront Development Commission to secure funding of the \$28 million Civic Center renovation, the multi-use baseball stadium and Riverwalk.

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.

