



106th RQW Accepts National Awards

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106 RQW

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Distinguished Flying Unit Award

The Wing received the National Guard's Distinguished Flying Unit Award at the National Guard Association Conference held in Washington D.C. on September 22. Only four other Air National Guard flying units were honored with the Flying Unit Plaque. Established in 1959 and first awarded in 1960, the plaque recognizes outstanding Air National Guard flying units. Selection of the winner is based on overall combat readiness and the units' performance with respect to all other Air National Guard flying units.

Earl T. Ricks Award

On Monday Sept. 15, the rescue crew of Yankee 02 of the 101st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron received the Air Force Association's 2008 Earl T. Ricks Award at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington.

Major Curtis T. Green, Capt. Mary O. Jennings, Senior Master Sgt. James F. McAleavey, Master Sgt. Thor F. Rasmussen and Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Infante were given the award for their outstanding airmanship in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The HH-60G Pavehawk rescue crew flew 35 successful combat sorties and was directly responsible for saving 32 U.S., Coalition and Afghan National lives.

The award citation describes a flight where the rescue crew flew near an altitude of 9,000 feet, with the temperature exceeding 130 degrees and intelligence reports of heavily armed Taliban forces in the area. They successfully evacuated a wounded Special Forces soldier in less than three minutes even though their helicopter experienced a brown out condition.

The Earl T. Ricks award, a national award for Air National Guard personnel, was established in 1954 in honor of Major Gen. Earl T. Ricks who served as chief of the Air Force Division, National Guard Bureau.



The crew of Yankee 02 receives the Earl T. Ricks award during the 2008 Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington.