



## Weapons Safety Award of Distinction

On Jan. 28, 2003, TSgt Smith, along with personnel from the 347th Rescue Wing's Safety and Legal Office were dispatched by the Command Post to investigate a cylindrical object, believed to be military in origin, which had crashed through a woman's roof in Flowerville, Georgia. Upon arrival, TSgt Smith surveyed the impact area and the suspect object. He quickly determined that it was a type of parachute-assisted signaling flare used by many branches of the military. The parachute had not properly deployed, so the pyrotechnic material was still live and highly combustible. The failure of the parachute is also the reason the flare went through the roof at a high rate of speed upon return to earth. TSgt Smith consulted technical procedures to render this type of flare safe to handle. He also kept all non-essential personnel a safe distance from the area. He then properly secured the device for safe transport to Moody AFB. TSgt Smith also noticed that the flare had been handled prior to his arrival, so he took the opportunity to educate the property owner about never

handling suspect objects. The item was subsequently determined to be a Ground Illumination Signal: White Star Parachute M127A, capable of traveling about 650-700 feet in the air and developing 50,000 candle-watt power for 36 seconds as it descends at 10 to 15 feet per second. Left unchecked, this flare could have started a massive fire with loss of property and personnel injuries. TSgt Smith's confidence, superb munitions knowledge, and exemplary professionalism ensured that this dangerous recovery operation was a complete success.



TSgt Robert L. Smith  
347th Civil Engineer Squadron  
347th Rescue Wing  
Moody AFB, Ga

## Ground Safety Award of Distinction

Sgt Swede personifies the adage "Safety First." During the month of January, he provided safety oversight for 30 radar maintenance personnel who inventoried, palletized, and mobilized a tactical air traffic control system in support of the continuing Global War on Terrorism. His team was comprised of personnel from three different squadrons working various shifts to complete the time-critical mobilization process. SSgt Swede ensured that each team brought proper protective equipment, to include steel-toed boots, work gloves, and hard hats for building towering cargo pallets. SSgt Swede set up exterior lights to increase illumination in outdoor work areas, which reduced trip-hazard potential, as crews often worked through the night. He worked with squadron supply to ensure extra reflective belts were available and worn by flightline personnel during hours of limited visibility. He instituted work-rest cycles, preventing prolonged exposure to the biting Oklahoma wind, which made nighttime temperatures feel below negative 10-degrees Celsius. Through his efforts, over

71 tons of tactical communication equipment, support items, and tents were ready to deploy worldwide at a moment's notice. In all, 19 increments of cargo, consisting of 8 pieces of rolling stock, 6 generators, and 5 pallets were built. He also oversaw facility chiefs prepare 12 hazardous cargo declarations to ensure aircraft loadmasters were aware of potentially dangerous materials. The careful attention to safety exhibited by SSgt Swede ensured the equipment was prepared on time and in the safest manner possible.



SSgt Gregory J. Swede  
32nd Combat Comm Squadron  
3rd Combat Comm Group  
Tinker AFB, Okla.

## Flightline Safety Award of Distinction

During an Operational Readiness Exercise, A1C Williams was performing fire guard duties for aircraft 90-0246 as it returned to chocks after a sortie. Two F-15E aircraft were to be parked, one on each parking spot at the Mountain Home Live Ordnance Loading Area, and A1C Williams was directed to watch clearance between the wingtip of 90-0246 and the aircraft already parked on the spot. The crew chief for the parked aircraft was also observing the wingtip clearance and continued to signal to the marshaller that all was clear, giving a thumbs-up. A1C Williams saw that the taxiing aircraft was coming way too close to the parked one and that the person marshalling was still directing the aircraft forward. She gave the signal to halt the taxiing aircraft, finally

having to wave her arms before the person marshalling saw her signaling. The person marshalling signaled the aircrew to halt and they did, with 90-0246's wingtip within 1 foot of the parked aircraft. A1C Williams' attentiveness and quick action prevented serious damage to two combat-ready F-15Es and potential injury to personnel.



A1C Tracy L. Williams  
366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
366th Fighter Wing  
Mt. Home AFB, Idaho

## Aircrew Safety Award of Distinction

On Jan. 25, 2003, Fever 11 had just completed a difficult low altitude, poor-weather helicopter air refueling during an attempted rescue mission when the crew noticed low oil quantity on #1 engine and subsequent fluctuating high gearbox oil pressure. Rather than attempting to further troubleshoot the indications, the crew decided to immediately shut down the engine. After shutdown, they flew on three engines for the hour-and-a-quarter return to JBAD, where they executed a textbook three-engine landing to recover the aircraft safely. Upon inspection of the engine and gearbox, maintenance determined that the gearbox scavenge pump had failed, preventing return flow of oil from the sump to the oil system, and dumping oil out the back of the gearbox. Had the crew not quickly shut down the engine, the gearbox could have experienced oil starvation and subsequent catastrophic failure, with unpredictable, unpleasant consequences. By rapidly assessing the situation and taking action, and by skill-

ful handling of the three-engine condition for the remainder of the flight, Capt Endlich and the crew minimized damage to their aircraft and prevented a potentially catastrophic in-flight emergency.



Capt Roark Endlich, Phil Suffridge, and Joe Sapere, 1Lt Richard Moores, TSgt Marshal Todman, SSgts Kerry Gay and Kevin Rolle, SrA Jason Fitzpatrick  
71st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron  
Jacobabad, Pakistan