

THE CARGO COURIER

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Best *in* Blue

Davis, Parker and Ingle honored as wing's Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2006

By Capt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Master Sgt. Carol Davis, Tech. Sgt. Cutty Parker and Airman 1st Class Shawn Ingle have been named the Kentucky Air Guard's Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2006, officials announced recently.

All three Airmen embody the essence of the Air Force Core Values — integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do — said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Mitro, command chief master sergeant for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"These three individuals are just tremendous Airmen in every respect," Chief Mitro said.

The selection process was extraordinarily difficult, he added, because so many exceptional Airmen were nominated for the honors, which are given in three categories — airman, non-commissioned officer and senior NCO.

This year's field included 31 applicants, all of whom were vetted by their respective units for outstanding performance in their primary duties, self-improvement and community involvement during the 2005 calendar year.

The finalists were selected by boards comprised of last year's winners and chief master sergeants from across the base, Chief Mitro said.

Master Sgt. Carol Davis is a disaster preparedness specialist and serves as the non-commissioned officer in charge of 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron's Readiness Flight.

She is widely recognized across the career field as a subject matter expert with an encyclopedic knowledge of concepts related to Ability To Survive and Operate, said Lt. Col. Connie Allen, squadron commander.

Sergeant Davis was instrumental in overhauling the wing's ancillary training plans last year,

boosting completion rates for nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional defense training by 24 percent.

She also volunteered to serve as a security forces augmentee and taught disaster preparedness classes to civilian health workers, supporting homeland defense programs while improving the cooperative relationship between military and community first-responders.

"Sergeant Davis is the kind of NCO to whom you can give a task, and you never, ever have to worry about whether it will get done — and with a high level of excellence," Colonel Allen said.

"She's a treasure, and a great resource for her commanders."

Sergeant Davis also is an active member of her neighborhood association and serves on the board of directors of the Kentucky Air National Guard Thoroughbred Club.

Tech. Sgt. Cutty Parker is a services specialist in the 123rd Services Squadron who performed with great distinction during a voluntary deployment to Mississippi last year as part of relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina, said her supervisor, Chief Master Sgt. Ronnie Holliman.

Sergeant Parker also set the bar for excellence during the wing's annual field training deployment to the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, effectively managing a constantly shifting demand for base lodging.

Despite a busy schedule that includes ongoing education programs, Sergeant Parker finds time to participate in community fundraising efforts and coordinates the base Honor



Master Sgt. Carol Davis



Tech. Sgt. Cutty Parker



Airman 1st Class Shawn Ingle

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The value of our integrity is priceless

On May 10, 1972, an F-4 Phantom with the call sign Showtime 100 streaked toward the South China Sea and the safety of the USS Constellation.

Pilot Lt. Randy "Duke" Cunningham and back-seater WSO Lt. Willie "Irish" Driscoll were on the homebound leg of a mission where they tallied MiG kills three, four and five, earning them the distinction of becoming the first Air Aces of the Vietnam War.

The exhilaration of the moment would be short-lived, however, as a North Vietnamese surface-to-air missile battery launched a "parting shot" SA-2 missile at Showtime 100's tailpipes.

The missile detonated early but close enough to send a crippling bucket full of hot shrapnel slicing through the engine bays and hydraulic lines of the Phantom, starting a fire that would render the jet barely controllable.

The crew knew that ejecting over North Vietnam would mean certain capture and retribution for their success earlier that day, and reaching the coastline would now mean literally life or death for them.

With an engine on fire and trailing thick, black smoke, Lt. Cunningham struggled to keep Showtime 100 headed toward home and right side up. Anxious minutes seemed to turn into hours as they finally coasted out toward freedom.

The collective sigh of relief would only be temporary as the engine on fire exploded, blowing the tail off the aircraft and sending it into a spiral toward the water below.

Lts. Cunningham and Driscoll safely



Col. Mark Kraus
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

ejected from the fiery, spinning hulk of metal that served them so well that day and parachuted into the sea, where they were rescued and returned to the USS Constellation and a celebration.

Lt. Cunningham was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroism and superior airmanship aboard Showtime 100. The legendary mission would springboard him through an instructor tour at the Navy's Top Gun School, various command positions and, finally, election to the U.S. Congress, where he would serve for eight terms from 1990 until 2005.

It's no stretch to describe that day in May

1972 as a "defining moment" for Duke Cunningham. His actions propelled him to unqualified success and good fortune.

But Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham had another "defining moment" recently, when he confessed to being guilty of bribery and resigned from his seat in Congress.

This month, the former Congressman was expected to receive his sentence on charges of conspiracy to commit bribery, fraud and tax evasion, which could include up to 10 years in a federal prison and a fine of \$350,000.

The depth of his recompense runs greater, however, as Mr. Cunningham acknowledged in a news conference, saying, "I know that I will forfeit my freedom, my reputation, my worldly possessions, most importantly, the trust of my friends and family."

You may be thinking, "So what! Where's the news here? Just another dishonest politician trading his vote for personal favors. What does that have to do with you or me?"

Well, plenty — if we stop to think about it. We, by virtue of the fact that we wear our nation's uniform, are public servants just as Mr. Cunningham had been for most of his life. As public servants, we are called to a higher standard of conduct than others. Those standards are codified for us in the Air Force Core Values:

- Integrity first
- Service before self
- Excellence in all we do

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Our office is located in room 2118 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 10.

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Retirement dinner to be held tonight for Chief Mitro

The 123rd Airlift Wing is holding a retirement dinner tonight in honor of Chief Master Sgt. Michael Mitro, the wing's command chief master sergeant.

The event will be held in the Base Annex, with a social hour scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Amanda Blackburn at ext. 4404.

Cell phone use now banned while driving

Effective Dec. 1, 2005, motor vehicle operators may not use a cell phone on military installations unless the vehicle is safely parked or the phone uses a "hands-free" device. Other types of headphones or earphones continue to be prohibited for drivers at DOD facilities.

Top Flight



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

President George Bush waves to onlookers at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base as he steps off Air Force One on Jan. 11. The president was in Louisville to hold a town hall-style meeting at the Kentucky International Convention Center.

Military OneSource offering free tax services

Cargo Courier staff report

Members of the Kentucky Air Guard can take advantage of free income tax assistance this year, thanks to a new program being offered through Military OneSource.

The assistance includes toll-free telephone consultations and complimentary use of Intuit's TurboTax software, said Paula McClain, family program coordinator for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

In order to use the software without incurring fees, filers must access TurboTax through the Military OneSource Web site, www.militaryonesource.com.

"TurboTax allows filers to complete their taxes using a simple, step-by-step process that double-checks for errors and audit risks, and identifies deductions for specific tax returns," Mrs. McClain said.

After taxes have been filed using the software, filers will receive an Internal Revenue Service confirmation receipt.

Telephone consultations are available to military members who call (800) 342-9647, said Jane Burke, acting deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy.

"Military OneSource tax consultants are also familiar with the IRS publication 'Armed Forces Tax Guide'," she noted.

Ms. Burke said DOD has a long history of offering tax assistance to military members but increasingly has seen a need for a tax filing system that better serves Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines.

TurboTax, for example, modifies itself based on information relevant to each filer's unique tax situation. Providing an easier way to file taxes is an important quality-

of-life issue, officials said.

"DoD recognizes the reciprocal relationship that binds the military member, the military mission, and military families," Ms. Burke said.

"The department is working hard to make a difference in the quality of life of servicemembers and their families.

"The Military OneSource program, available worldwide 24/7, leverages technology to help servicemembers and their families deal with the stresses of the military lifestyle.

"The department is proud to offer innovative options, like free electronic access to Turbo Tax and telephonic support, for addressing the challenges that military members and their dependents face. The Department of Defense recognizes that families also serve and is committed to supporting military families."

Moore honored for recruiting excellence

Kentucky troop was among 63 who met challenge by Guard Bureau

By Senior Airman Malcolm Byrd II
Cargo Courier Staff Writer

The Kentucky Air Guard's Master Sgt. Tery Moore recently was honored for exceptional performance as the only National Guard recruiter in Kentucky to win the Chief Freedom Challenge award.

The award was established last year by Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, as part of a campaign to boost recruiting efforts.

Only 63 recruiters out of about 500 won the award nationally, officials said.

"I am extremely proud to be recognized for this award, first on a personal basis and second on a unit basis," Sergeant Moore said.

"It is gratifying to be recognized as an impact player. It is also gratifying to see Kentucky's name at the top of Chief of the National Guard Bureau's list for recruiting on the Air side."

To earn the award, Air Guard recruiters were required to enlist 18 Airmen between Feb. 1 and June 15 of 2005.

Sergeant Moore exceeded those expectations by enlisting 21 personnel within the same time period.

According to Sergeant Moore, competing on a national level with other Army and Air National Guard recruiters was extreme.

"This was a very demanding task. I was very fortunate to be able to meet the chief's challenge, and I give a big thanks to the wing's mission support flight and the other units for their support in helping me get my applicants through the accession process."

Sergeant Moore enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard on Jan. 29, 1987 as an information manager. After 10 years of service, she became a recruiter for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"I love being a recruiter," she said. "This



Staff Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Master Sgt. Tery Moore talks to potential recruits during a recent unit training assembly. Sergeant Moore has been honored for recruiting excellence by the National Guard Bureau.

is the absolute best job in the Air National Guard. I'm able to provide wing leadership with the manpower they need to operate this great unit. I feel I have made, and continue to make, a difference in the lives of people every day. My belief is that precision recruiting is good for the individual, the unit and the country."

Sergeant Moore noted that the wing aims for 100 percent manning at all times, which is dependent on recruiters' ability to enlist mentally, morally and medically qualified applicants to fill targeted vacancies. The unit's relatively high retention rate also is helpful, she added.

Two key traits personify Kentucky's recruiting efforts: "A true effort in being open and honest with recruits and the support of unit members as our best source for 'quality' leads," Sergeant Moore said.

The first factor reflects the unit's — and Sergeant Moore's — focus on integrity,

one of the Air Force Core Values.

The second factor represents a philosophy often voiced by Col. Michael Dornbush, wing vice commander, who notes that "every person in the unit is a recruiter."

Sergeant Moore said the wing will continue to benefit from strong recruiting efforts if it fosters this concept.

"If everyone feels the pride of belonging to this unit, they will be encouraged to recommend others to share in this experience, making it easier for professional recruiters to effectively do our jobs," she said.

Sergeant Moore described the collective effort of Kentucky Air Guard members who promote positive attitudes about the unit while off-duty as being "paramount."

"We want our members to feel like being in the Kentucky Air National Guard is the best part-time job in America," she said.

Guardsman vies for Super Bowl ring Sunday

By Army Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

SEATTLE — Bryce Fisher the “Guardsman” can earn a medal or a ribbon or receive a commander’s coin for a job well done.

Now, Bryce Fisher the “football player” has a shot at a Super Bowl ring and a title his hometown has been waiting 30 years for. The Seahawks, the newly crowned National Football Conference champions, will play the American Football Conference champion Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XL on Sunday in Detroit.

Fisher, 28, is the Seahawks’ starting left defensive end, No. 94. Since being sworn in last November, he is also Capt. Bryce Fisher, a Washington Air National Guard public affairs officer.

After the Seahawks’ 34-14 victory over Carolina in the NFC championship Jan. 22, Captain Fisher ran onto Qwest Field, a place that owner Paul Allen designed to be deliberately deafening.

With the crowd noise rivaling the roar of two F-16 Fighting Falcons at full throttle, Captain Fisher hugged his teammates. He reached into the stands to grasp the hands of fans. But most of all he smiled. A huge,

toothy grin.

Being a Guardsman helped him get here, he said, yelling to be heard above the crowd.

“The Air Force gave me my opportunity to succeed and play football in college, and if it hadn’t been for the things I learned — the discipline, the teamwork — I don’t think I ever would have got to be a part of a thing like this,” he said.

He jogged off to embrace another teammate and watch the trophy presentation at midfield.

His roles as a Guardsman and pro football player work two ways. He brings the discipline of the military to the team. As he soars with the Seahawks, he highlights the role of the Air National Guard to the nation.

“It puts my name out there,” Captain Fisher said in the locker room after the game. “And it gives me a chance to shed some light that there are a lot of people who are Soldiers in a lot of different environments — doctors, lawyers — and they’re doing their one weekend a month and two weeks a year, doing great things.”

As the 6-foot-3, 268-pound Captain Fisher changed into a sweatshirt and jeans, Tim Ruskell, the Seahawks’ president of

football operations, said the qualities that the defensive end honed in the Guard are an asset to the team.

“We’re just so proud of what he’s accomplished,” Mr. Ruskell said. “Not his numbers — I mean, the sacks are great and everything — but the character that he brings to our locker room, the discipline and the preparation and the work ethic. And that permeates throughout the locker room — certainly along the defensive line — and it adds to what this team has done.”

Head Coach Mike Holmgren echoed that observation the day after the Seahawks clinched the NFC title. He paused in a corridor at the Seahawks’ training facility in Kirkland, a suburb of rolling hills and lakes northeast of Seattle, during a training break.

“First of all, Bryce has had a great season,” Coach Holmgren said. “He brings a very disciplined attitude, a very try-hard attitude and an attitude that he goes 150 miles per hour all the time — a kind of never-quit kind of attitude. And I’m sure there’s a lot of carryover from his military background.”

Coach Holmgren was looking for exactly that kind of discipline when he brought Captain Fisher to Seattle as one of the “tweaks” that turned the team from also-rans into Super Bowl contenders.

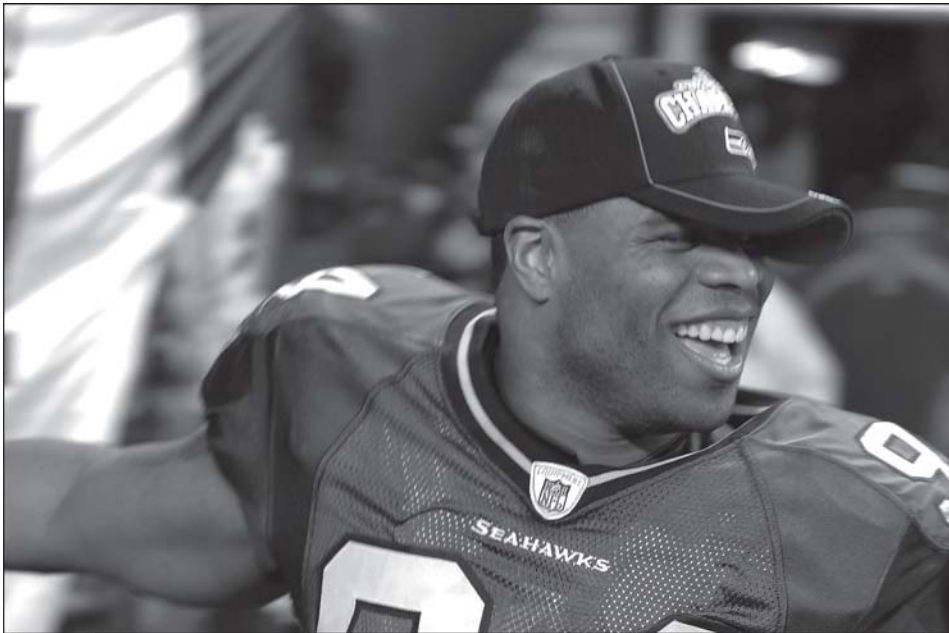
“He brought the type of character that we’re looking for,” Coach Holmgren said, “and the type of never quit, high effort, ‘go until I can’t go anymore’ attitude.”

Captain Fisher was quick to talk up the Seahawks’ offense. It is said the best offense is a good defense, and Captain Fisher is having the best season of his five-year NFL career. He is part of a team that can claim to be the only defense to shut down Panthers’ wide receiver Steve Smith this year.

He made 34 solo tackles, assisted on 13 others and sacked quarterbacks a team-high nine times during the Seahawks’ 13-3 regular season. He has recorded five tackles, four assists and one sack during Seattle’s playoff victories over Washington and Carolina.

When Captain Fisher came to the Seahawks from St. Louis for this season, he came home. He was born in Renton, Wash., May 12, 1977. That made the NFC title especially sweet. It was the Seattle franchise’s first championship in its 30-year history.

“Man, you can’t beat this at all,” he said



Army Sgt. Jim Greenhill/NGB

Starting defensive end Bryce Fisher sports a championship cap and a big smile after the Seattle Seahawks punched their tickets to Super Bowl XL by defeating the Carolina Panthers, 34-14, in Seattle on Jan. 22. When he’s not playing defensive end, No. 94 is a captain and a public affairs officer in the Washington Air National Guard.

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Headquarters realign under 'J-staff' model

Move to help warfighting and communications capabilities, officials say

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The staff functions at Headquarters Air Force, major commands and warfighting headquarters will soon all share the same "A-staff" structure.

By Feb. 1, the Air Staff at Headquarters Air Force here will adopt an organizational structure that closely mirrors the Army's "G-staff," the Navy's "N-staff" and the joint "J-staff." The effort will help the Air Force optimize internal communications and communicate more efficiently with other services, said Brig. Gen. Marshall K. Sabol, the Air Force director for manpower, organization and resources.

"This change will enhance our warfighting capability and help our communications both horizontally and vertically in the Air Force, as well as with those on the joint staff and the office of the secretary of defense," General Sabol said. "As we operate in deployed and joint environments, our communication will also be more effective and efficient."

The affected Air Force functions will be re-named and re-aligned so similar functions at all levels are referred to by the same name. Those same functional groupings will closely match other services and the joint staff.

At Headquarters Air Force, the deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel is now called "AF/DP." Under the reorganization, he will be referred to as "the A1." The A1 in the Air Force is responsible for plans and policies covering all military life cycles and civilian personnel management.

Changes at major commands and warfighter headquarters' levels that have not yet adopted the A-staff structure will follow suit by May 1. Similar functions at all levels will be "re-mapped" to nine standardized A-staff areas of responsibility. Those areas include:

- A1 - Manpower and Personnel
- A2 - Intelligence
- A3 - Air, Space and Info Operations
- A4 - Logistics
- A5 - Plans and Requirements
- A6 - Communications
- A7 - Installations/Mission Support
- A8 - Strategic Plans and Programs
- A9 - Analyses, Assessments and Lessons Learned

By adopting this staff structure, the Air Force will eliminate the difficulty sometimes

encountered when leadership at one headquarters attempts to contact functional counterparts at another headquarters.

"Back in November, if I were to try to get a hold of a person that dealt with manpower issues, one command might call that the A5M, another the XPM, and still another the DPM," General Sabol said.

"That is very confusing. And even if you were to compare phone books, not one of them looks the same. This reorganization will change that.

"Wherever you are, you are going to know who to talk to and how to communicate."

As part of the A-Staff structure, the Air Force assistant vice chief of staff will also serve as the director of staff. This title allows for better association with the joint staff and other services.

Retaining the assistant vice chief of staff nomenclature is required to fulfill the representational role the person plays in dealing with attachés and communication to foreign contingents while representing the chief of staff.

Not all functions of the Air Staff will be affected by the reorganization. The reorganization will not change special staff offices assigned to the Secretary of the Air Force and will not filter down to the wing level.

Super Bowl

Continued from Page 5

during those gleeful moments on the field after the victory. "Thirty years for a thing like this. It's time for us to bring this thing home. It's time for us to finish this thing off. All these analysts that said, 'Seattle can't do this, can't do that,' all they know is there's 30 teams at home wishing they were where we are."

That's the competitive spirit that pushed Captain Fisher through the U.S. Air Force Academy where he graduated in 1999.

"I wasn't focused on the NFL at the academy," he said. "I was focused on graduating and learning to be a good officer. Then the opportunity presented itself to convert my commitment to Reserve time, and I took that."

He spent two years on active duty before

negotiating to serve nine years of Reserve time to complete his military commitment. He picked the Air National Guard. His father, Richard, was in the Army Reserve.

Captain Fisher is a family man. His decision to play for Seattle was focused on a good place for his wife Bobbi and their two children to live. So did being close to his parents. The Jan. 22 victory, like the playoff win over Washington the previous weekend, was as much for his family as anyone.

"My family's been rooting for this team for so long," he said. "Especially my dad and my brother. This is where I grew up. I'm on the middle to back half of my career. This is the kind of place that I wanted to be (with) my wife and kids. This is the kind of city and kind of organization that I wanted to be a part of. We wanted to be close to one of our families, either mine or hers. Now I'm getting a chance to start in the Super Bowl."

If Captain Fisher's Super Bowl XL appearance is followed by orders deploying

him for duty with the Air National Guard, he'll still have his game face on.

"If they say it's time for me to go, it's time for me to go," he said. "When I signed on to be in the military, I knew what I was signing on for. It's part of my commitment. I've been blessed to have some great commanders that have put me in great positions.

"If the president says, 'Look, we want the public affairs officer of the Washington (Air) National Guard,' then it's time for me to go do that."

Captain Fisher says the Air Guard can offer young adults a great start in life.

"I really believe that young men and women can benefit from serving and learning to be in a team environment," he said. "Learning that it's not all about me. It's about the organization. It's about doing something higher," he said.

"As a member of the Guard now instead of active duty, I get to still be a part of that and I'm thankful."

Integrity

Continued from Page 2

We probably don't recite these everyday but these values should never be far from recall to help us balance the decisions we make and the actions we take.

When we lose sight of these core principles, we risk the possibility of violating the public trust placed upon us and — as Mr. Cunningham can attest — the personal cost for a willful, intentional violation can be devastating.

In the closing remarks of his press conference, Mr. Cunningham acknowledged that, "The truth is I broke the law, concealed my conduct and disgraced my office. In my life, I have known great joy and great sorrow. Now I also know great shame. I intend to use the remaining time as God grants me, to make amends."

The thing each of us has that can never be taken from us, but that we can give away, is our integrity.

Mr. Cunningham reportedly received \$2.4 million in cash and gifts in exchange for his integrity, and in the process he forfeited a lifetime of achievement.

Somewhere along the line "Duke" Cunningham — military officer, fighter Ace and elected official — broke faith with what he knew to be right.

It may not have happened overnight, but it did happen voluntarily, and there are lessons there worth learning for all of us.

Of all the things he has surrendered and will surrender, he must count his integrity as the most precious and difficult to replace.

Its value, for him and to each of us ... priceless!



Best

Continued from Front Page

Guard, responding to multiple short-suspense taskings with grace and dignity.

"She's an outstanding NCO who always seems to place service before self," Chief Holliman said.

"Sergeant Parker puts forth 100 percent in everything she does and can always be counted on to do whatever it takes to accomplish the mission."

Airman 1st Class Shawn Ingle, a public health technician with the 123rd Medical Group, also performed with distinction during a deployment to Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina, said his supervisor, Master Sgt. Ernie Kays.

While deployed, Airman Ingle helped control numerous public health threats and ensured that multiple food and water sources were safe for thousands of military members deployed along the Gulf Coast.

"He's a hard-charger," Sergeant Kays said. "You give him something to do, and he goes right after it with everything he's got."

Airman Ingle routinely volunteers his time to assist with the Kentucky Youth Challenge Academy, a National Guard program for at-risk teens; and in 2005 he selflessly donated his bone marrow to a stranger dying from myelodysplastic disorder, enduring months of uncomfortable tests, injections and surgery to help a woman he had never met.

All three Airmen of the Year will be honored March 18, alongside the Kentucky Army Guard's top soldiers, during a combined banquet to be held on Millionaire's Row at Churchill Downs.

The banquet will feature a multimedia presentation and music by the Kentucky Army National Guard Band.

Tickets, available from any chief master sergeant, are \$20 per person. Military members may wear mess dress, semiformal mess dress or class-A blues, while civilians should wear business attire.

The social hour is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7.

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