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512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Top 3 announces essay contest winners

The 512th Airlift Wing Top 3 Essay Contest came to an end Feb. 3, and one wing Airman walks away with a new mess dress uniform.

From the 46th Aerial Port Squadron, the first place winner of the Top 3's 300-word essay contest is Senior Master Sgt. Ara Shishmanian.

"You got to be kidding me," said Sergeant Shishmanian when he received the call notifying him of the accomplishment. "I thought alot about this topic before putting it down on paper."



Each of the essays entered into the Top 3 contest were entitled, "Why do veterans deserve our support, respect and understanding." Several of the entries will be published on the wing's website at www.512aw.afrc.af.mil.

The aerial porter's winning piece includes a testimonial describing the day he feels he became a veteran.

Second and third place winners also receive a monetary gift towards the purchase of a mess dress uniform. Accepting second place honors is Master Sgt. Shawn Byers from the 326th Airlift Squadron. Rounding out the top three essays in third place is the entry from Master Sgt. Anthony Harris, 512th Force Support Squadron.

With honorable mention, coming in fourth place is Master Sgt. Antoinette Worthey, 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron.

After receiving entries from all of the groups, including the unit's medical squadron, a panel of seven judges reviewed and scored the essays with a veterans related theme.

The 512th AW Public Affairs Office narrowed the field of essays down to five and masked each of the authors' names.

"We wanted to ensure each essay was judged predominately on content, so in addition to re-

moving the writer's name, we also made sure each essay was presented to the panel in the same font and same size," said Master Sgt. Veronica Aceveda, 512th AW Public Affairs NCO in charge and Top 3 president.

The other three Top 3 officers provided their input as well as a panel of four other Top 3 members.

They were so good," said Senior Master Sergeant Nadine Ritter, the Top 3 secretary and one of the contest judges. "One actually brought tears to my eyes. My top two were almost too close to decide. All are worthy."

There actually was a tie for first place, but a member of senior leadership cast the tie-breaking vote. It was that vote which decided what Airman would win a free mess dress uniform.

"This is real exciting stuff," said Sergeant Shishmanian. "I've already got a mess dress, so I'm going to give the new one to someone else who needs it, probably one of the new master sergeants being inducted in April."

(Courtesy 512th AW Public Affairs)

CGOC coat drive ends

Operation Warmth is over, and the 512th Airlift Wing's Company Grade Officers Council collected 289 gently used and new coats to various local shelters and schools. The 512th Maintenance Group donated the most with 127.

Kudos to Liberty Wing's fourth quarterly award winners

The 512th Airlift Wing's fourth quarterly award winners for 2010 are:

- Airman of the Quarter, Senior Airman Ryan Villermaux, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron,
- NCO of the Quarter, Tech. Sgt. Robert Rogers, 512th Security Forces Squadron,
- Senior NCO of the Quarter, Master Sgt. Sean Dawson, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron,
- Company Grade Officer of the Quarter, Capt. Frederick Kuehn, 512th Airlift Control Flight and
- Civilian of the Quarter, Beverly Lumia, 512th Operations Group.

The wing's annual award winners will be announced at the annual awards banquet at 6 p.m., March 5 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dover.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Danella Shea

On the court

Senior Airman Jerome Jenkins, 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron, prepares to pass the ball to one of his 512th Force Support Squadron teammates during an intramural game against the 436th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Feb. 10 at the fitness center. The 512th FSS team won the game 42-36, which brings their record to 10-3. The Reserve basketball team is currently tied for first place in the national division; they've won two of the past three base basketball championships.