



## DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 8091 WAINWRIGHT STATION  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78208-0091



11 September 2016

Dear DUSTOFF Commander:

The DUSTOFF Association held their 37th annual reunion in April 2016 in Atlanta, GA in conjunction with the Army Aviation Association of America Summit. At the reunion, we presented awards to SFC Armando Ocon for the DUSTOFF Medic of the Year, to SSG Zachary Rice for the DUSTOFF Crew Chief of the Year, and CW4 Michelle Sheffield for the DUSTOFF Aviator of the Year and to the crew from Shadow DUSTOFF C/6-101 GSAB for the DUSTOFF Rescue of the Year. These awards are sponsored by the AirMethods Corporation, Breeze Eastern, the EADS North American, and the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation respectively. We are now seeking nominations for our new awards program for next year's presentations. I know everyone is busy, especially with units on the front line of our nation's Global War on Terrorism, but we owe it to our Soldiers to take time to recognize them for their often heroic and monumental efforts. All of last year's awardees were nominated by Unit Commanders from their forward deployed sites in Afghanistan. Even if they may not win the award, your Soldiers will know that you have taken time to recognize them for their efforts. The criteria for the four awards are:

- a. Crew Chief of the Year: For a lifetime achievement or for a specific mission.
- b. Medic of the Year: For a lifetime achievement or for a specific mission
- c. Aviator of the Year: For a lifetime achievement or for a specific mission
- b. Rescue of the Year: **For rescue missions between 1 October 2015 and 30**

**September 2016.**

Please submit your nomination to the DUSTOFF Association no later than 31 December 2016, so that they may be considered by the Executive Council. We understand that this will be difficult given the current operational tempo, but we will be flexible with the unit commanders. I have enclosed the required nomination format to be used for your submission. If you choose, you may e-mail your entry to: the Executive Director at [executivedirector@dustoff.org](mailto:executivedirector@dustoff.org). If you have any questions, please contact the DUSTOFF Executive Director, Dan Gower at (325)388-2631 or his cell phone (210) 379-3985.

We are always seeking stories and photographs from active DUSTOFF units for our newsletters. Please take the time and send us the good news and great stories of what your units are doing each day. This Association is the only organization which works to preserve the history, to include lessons learned, traditions, friendships and memories of DUSTOFF. To accomplish the organization's goal, we must ensure a strong and growing membership. Last year, we added nearly 70 new members, this year we want to add more.

I hope to see you at our next DUSTOFF Reunion in San Antonio TX 28 March - 2 April 2017. This is a great opportunity to exchange ideas, recognize Soldiers, and see old friends. This year's reunion hotel will fill up rapidly so make your reservations as soon as they open up in November 2016. Come and play some golf and relax in a great resort city. Details are in the DUSTOFFer - it's online at <http://dustoff.org> (after 15 November 2016)

Best wishes and DUSTOFF!

Ben Knisely  
President  
DUSTOFF Association



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USE THIS LETTER AS A FORMAT FOR YOUR SUBMISSION FOR THE DUSTOFF  
*Crew Chief/ Medic/ Aviator OF THE YEAR AWARD*

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS 31 December, 2016

Executive Council  
DUSTOFF Association

Sir(s)/Ma'am(s):

I hereby nominate the following enlisted crewmember for the Outstanding DUSTOFF Crew Chief or Medic or Aviator of the Year Award. This crewmember has consistently demonstrated the true spirit of DUSTOFF in the accomplishment of his/her duties. I respectfully submit his/her name on behalf of this unit for recognition at the next DUSTOFF Reunion.

NAME:

RANK:

UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT:

SERVES AS MEDIC / CREW CHIEF / AVIATOR (Commissioned or Warrant Officer)

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER (XXX)XXX-XXXX or (DSN)

I have attached a one-to-three-page narrative of his/her list of accomplishments and contributions both on and off duty to the Army, the local community, and this unit. (Note: Please include those visible contributions seen by others, membership and activity in on- and off-duty organizations which demonstrate service above and beyond the call of duty, and awards and recognition's that he/she has been given for superlative performance, accomplishment, or services. Remember, it is this "word picture" upon which we will make the decision!)

Signed:

UNIT COMMANDER  
RANK, MS  
Commanding



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USE THIS LETTER AS A FORMAT FOR YOUR SUBMISSION OF THE  
***OUTSTANDING RESCUE OF THE YEAR AWARD***

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS 31 December 2016**

Executive Council  
DUSTOFF Association

Sir(s)/Ma'am(s):

I hereby nominate the following crew for the Outstanding Rescue Award. These crewmembers demonstrated the true spirit of DUSTOFF in the accomplishment of the cited mission in order to save a life or lives. I respectfully submit their names on behalf of this unit for recognition at the next DUSTOFF Reunion.

The crewmembers are:  
Pilot in Command  
Co-Pilot  
Medic  
Crew Chief

Date of the mission  
Unit Designation  
Contact Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_ (DSN)\_\_\_

I have attached a one-to-three page narrative of the mission scenario as it occurred. (Note: Unit Commanders keep the scenario to a two pages if possible, single-spaced sheet of paper. If there are pictures or video of the rescue you may include them as well. Remember that the judging on these awards will be done by the Executive Council of the DUSTOFF Association; so please, no "smoke and mirrors"!

Signed:

UNIT COMMANDER  
RANK, MS  
Commanding