

# Special Programs Division Competes in Aircraft Operations Annual Awards

By Mark Woodbury, Associate Editor

**T**he Defense Contract Management Agency's Aircraft Operations Special Programs Division stepped out from behind its "closed-door" world and competed alongside the rest of the AO career fields during the annual 2007 Aircraft Operations Awards. The award winners were announced during the annual AO training conference in Reno, Nev. Following are descriptions of the first AO Special Programs employees to be publicly recognized for their work, their competing award categories and some of their professional contributions.

## **Danny Hodgkinson** — *Quality Assurance Representative*



Hodgkinson was selected to develop and implement a comprehensive safety of flight (SOF) checklist. His selection was based on his

15 years of experience as an Army aviator and senior crewmember, 2,000 flight hours and four years of experience at DCMA developing SOF plans for the platforms he supports.

The SOF checklist allows personnel to determine quickly which SOF surveillance actions have been completed and which have not, which will assist in 100 percent of the aircraft delivered from Hodgkinson's facility being safe for flight.

## **Rickey Pridemore** — *Aircraft Maintenance Manager*



Pridemore averted a major mishap when he prevented a fuel vapor problem from escalating into a fire while an aircraft was parked in a hangar. On another occasion, he found improperly connected wires that were sparking

*(Above Left)* Danny Hodgkinson, DCMA Aircraft Operations Special Programs Division.

*(Above Right)* Rickey Pridemore, DCMA Aircraft Operations Special Programs Division. (Photos by Mark Woodbury, DCMA Public Affairs)

in the crown of an aircraft fuselage and shut the ongoing operations down immediately, preventing another major incident.

Pridemore is also a key player in advising personnel regarding potential problems with program depot maintenance process errors leading to poor workmanship found after aircraft are delivered.

### **Air Force Maj. Johnny Husak — Outstanding Government Flight Representative**



Husak leads five aviation program teams involving assets in excess of \$8 billion. He is a core instructor for DCMA's government flight representative course, where he taught five classes in 2006 to more than 175 students from all U.S. service branches, various contractors and other government organizations.

Husak, with only three day's notice, coordinated critical landing permits with two different military services to support a flight test program on a uniquely modified aircraft. Additionally, while working as team leader of a 10-member program support team, he worked with the contractor to reduce the number and dollar amount of mishaps from 17, costing over \$320,000, to nine, costing approximately \$10,000.

**(Above Left)** Air Force Maj. Johnny Husak, DCMA Aircraft Operations Special Programs Division.

**(Above Right)** Navy Capt. David Moroney, third from right, AO director, and Keith Ernst, right, DCMA acting director, with members of the DCMA AO Special Programs Divisions Team Rangers, from left: Mike Morse, Air Force Maj. John Husak, Dan Hodgkinson and Greg Gerdes. (Photos by Mark Woodbury, DCMA Public Affairs)

### **Team Rangers**



Team Rangers, comprising Air Force Maj. John Husak, Greg Gerdes, Mike Morse, Candelario Rendon and Danny Hodgkinson, were awarded the Outstanding Aviation Program Team award.

Team Rangers members were recognized for their impact on the global war on terrorism by delivering the first upgraded aircraft two months sooner than had been predicted by the chief of naval operations.

The team was also able to reduce by half the overall mishap rate, resulting in a 97 percent decrease in mishap dollar amounts compared to the 2004 calendar-year baseline. It accomplished this by working with the contractor to implement an operational risk management approach to all critical tasks involved at every level of supervision facilitywide. **C**