



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Release No. 01-03-03
March 1, 2001

LOGISTICS GROUP TRAINING FLIGHT GIVES FIRST PROFESSIONSLISM AWARD

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – The 437th Logistics Group Training Flight presented the first Dale Bannister Professionalism Award to Staff Sgt. Michael Kretser Feb. 23.

Tech. Sgt. Dale Bannister taught in the maintenance arena for many years, said Tech. Sgt. William Harmon, 437 LGTF. “He was a great instructor and top notch NCO. He had an effect on every student he taught and ran the instructor pool for some time before he died. He was very professional in everything he did.”

Bannister died following a sudden illness in January 2000. He was 34.

The NCOICs of the four elements of LGTF got together and hashed out criteria for the award, said Tech. Sgt. Brendan Ryan, acting first sergeant for the 437th Logistics Support Squadron.

“We didn’t want it to be an instructor award, but rather an award for anyone in the flight,” Ryan said.

The NCOICs decided the award would be given to a person in the flight each year who showed the degree of professionalism and commitment to the training flight that Bannister had shown during his career.

“We’ve been wanting to have an award like this for awhile. We decided by naming it after Dale, people who work here ten years from now will know who Dale was and what he did,” Ryan said.

According to Ryan, Kretser demonstrated vast knowledge of LGTF processes and procedures and is an unmatched expert in his field. He displays a high level of integrity and professionalism.

(more)

“Dale didn’t get to leave here on his own terms,” Ryan said. “So to us, he’s still here. He’ll always be a part of the training flight.”

The names of each year’s award recipients are displayed on a plaque bearing a portrait of Bannister. They are also currently looking into having Bldg. 112 renamed in honor of Bannister.

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(Media interested in interviews can contact Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith at 963-5589)