

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

PRESENTATION TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, HOMELAND  
DEFENSE, AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUBJECT: AWARDS FABRICATION OF MILITARY AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

STATEMENT OF: COLONEL KARI MOSTERT  
CHIEF, OPERATIONS DIVISION  
DIRECTORATE OF SERVICES  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, MANPOWER, PERSONNEL, SERVICES  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

FEBRUARY 29 2012

Not for publication until released by the Committee on Oversight and Government  
Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense, and Foreign  
Operations

Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to discuss the Air Force Military Awards Program and, specifically, the process for verifying the validity of decorations. We appreciate the leadership and support this Committee continually provides to the Air Force.

As you know, awards and decorations are very important to Airmen. To the trained eye, they tell the story of an Airman's career: where they have been and what they have done. These decorations are more than just metal and fabric; more than the colors and heraldic symbols. They are worn with pride for a job well done...no matter what the job.

Although many of our awards and decorations are relatively new, some have been in existence since the Civil War era and before. Due in no small part to the historical and social significance of many of these awards and decorations, the perceived potential for personal benefit has unfortunately led to clear instances where veterans or others fraudulently assert to have earned awards for valor when, in fact, they have not. This action has the potential to degrade the perceived value of our military awards programs and to diminish the bona fide valor of legitimate award recipients.

The Air Force, as our sister services, vigilantly protects the integrity of our awards. We take matters of fraudulent awards and decorations very seriously and have resources available through the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) for the verification of award entitlement.

## **VERIFICATION PROCESS**

When our Department receives requests for award verification from Congress through the Secretary of the Air Force Legislative Liaison Office or from Law Enforcement Agencies, AFPC conducts research in order to validate the award of the decoration in question.

Regardless of the source of the request, if the person being researched is an active duty Airman or separated from service during or after October 2004, we can quickly ascertain the purported recognition by retrieving their electronic record in our Military Personnel Database System, which originated in October 2004. However, if the person is not on active duty or separated from service prior to October 2004, we must send a record request to the National Personnel Records Center in St Louis, Missouri. On average, it takes 60 days, from start to finish, to verify this information; however, for suspected fraudulent cases, the records review is expedited. Routinely, the Department of Defense Form 214 (DD Form 214) provides conclusive documentation of the recognition. Where the purported recognition is not reflected on the DD Form 214, and the original documentation is made available, the awards can be adjudicated for verification by the military records correction process. The veteran or inquiry originator is notified of this process.

We also utilize other official sources for verification of awards such as campaign medals. This includes the official AF Military Personnel Data System, Department of Defense Manuals, Air Force Historical Research Agency, and Air Force Instructions (in some cases previous Air Force and Army regulations).

If the award or decoration can be verified, assuming it is not already in the official record, the veteran's DD Form 214 record is corrected to reflect accordingly. If we are unable to verify entitlement, the veteran or inquiry originator is notified and provided the results of the research. We also provide them information on the process to apply for correction of their official military record concerning the award, should they obtain validating information in the future.

## **STATISTICAL DATA**

Award verification requests to AFPC from congressional offices totaled 480 in 2011 and 251 in 2010. In both years, approximately 95% were verified as valid. About 4.9% had missing documentation, needed additional information, or the veteran was not entitled. Only .1% were determined to be fraudulent. To be exact, AFPC has seen two cases in the last two years that were fraudulent.

## **CONCLUSION**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude by thanking the men and women of the United States Air Force. They are our nation's multi-domain warriors. We continue to work hard to appropriately recognize them, as their actions demonstrate laudable courage and commitment to excellence in the maintenance and advancement of our national interests. We fully support the position that those individuals who fraudulently assert to have earned an award for valor have committed a crime and need to be held accountable. We sincerely appreciate your resolve to ensure these individuals are appropriately reprimanded for fraudulently claiming awards and decorations they did not earn, and we will continue to work to ensure the information we provide to those agencies requesting medal verification is accurate. On behalf of the men and women of Air Force, I thank you for your efforts.



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### Colonel Kari A. Mostert



Colonel Kari A. Mostert is the Chief, Combat Operations Division, Directorate of Services (HQ AF/A1S), Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters, United States Air Force. He entered the Air Force as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps in April, 1988. During his career, Colonel Mostert has served in numerous leadership positions at squadron/division, wing, numbered air force and major command levels. His operational deployment experience includes duty as Chief of Services, Silopi Combined Military Base, Turkey; Mayor, Sirsenk Joint Military Airfield, Iraq; Chief, Initial Processing Team, Dover Port Mortuary, Dover AFB, DE; Deputy Commander, 620<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Air Base Group, Camp Able Sentry, Macedonia; Commander, 40<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Services Squadron, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory; and Deputy Chief, C1 Plans and Programs, Multi-National Corps–Iraq, Camp Victory, Iraq. Colonel Mostert served as Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Services Squadron, Barksdale AFB, LA and Commander, 35<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, Misawa AB, Japan.

#### EDUCATION:

- 1988 Bachelor of Science (Magna Cum Laude), Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
- 1993 Squadron Officer School (residence), Maxwell AFB, AL
- 1994 Master of Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Administration, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
- 2000 Air Command and Staff College (seminar), Ramstein AB, Germany
- 2003 Command and General Staff College (residence), Ft. Leavenworth, KS
- 2010 Master of Science, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Ft. McNair, Washington, DC

#### ASSIGNMENTS:

1. June 1988 – January 1989: Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training–Helicopters (medical disqualification), 3588<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Squadron, Fort Rucker, AL
2. January 1989 – November 1990: Force Management Officer and Interim Commander, 3415<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, Lowry AFB, CO
3. November 1990 – September 1992: Force Management Officer and Food Service Officer, 513<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom
4. September 1992 – January 1993: Chief, Military Support Flight, 100<sup>th</sup> Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom
5. January 1993 – April 1993: Wing Quality Officer, 100<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom

6. April 1993 – December 1994: Student, Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) Civilian Institution Program, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
7. December 1994 – May 1997: Course Director and Instructor, Civil Engineer and Services School, AFIT, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
8. May 1997 – May 1999: Deputy Director and Interim Director, 11<sup>th</sup> Services Division, Bolling AFB, DC
9. May 1999 – June 2001: Chief, United States Air Forces Europe (USAFE) Contingency Support and Aerospace Expeditionary Force Implementation Branch, USAFE Air Operations Squadron, Directorate of Aerospace Operations, HQ USAFE, Ramstein AB, Germany
10. June 2001 – June 2002: Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Services Squadron, Barksdale AFB, LA
11. June 2002 – June 2003: Student, Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS
12. June 2003 – June 2005: Commander, 35<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, Misawa AB, Japan
13. June 2005 – June 2006: Chief of Services, HQ USCENTAF, Shaw AFB, SC
14. June 2006 – August 2009: Deputy Director, Manpower, Personnel, and Services, HQ 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force and US Air Forces Central, and Chief of Services, HQ USAFCENT
15. August 2009 – June 2010: Student, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Ft. McNair, Washington, DC
16. June 2010 – Present: Chief, Combat Operations Division, Directorate of Services, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters, United States Air Force, Washington, DC

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Meritorious Service Medal with six devices  
 Air Force Commendation Medal with two devices  
 Joint Service Achievement Medal  
 Army Achievement Medal  
 Joint Meritorious Unit Award with gold border  
 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with six devices  
 Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with device

#### **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:**

Second Lieutenant	April 23, 1988
First Lieutenant	May 10, 1990
Captain	May 10, 1992
Major	September 1, 1999
Lieutenant Colonel	July 1, 2004
Colonel	Nov 1, 2010

(Current as of 8 Nov 10)