



NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS RELEASE

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**NEBRASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
AERIAL REFUELING WING EARNS 12TH
AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD**

**Released by
Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb. – The Nebraska Air National Guard’s Lincoln-based 155th Air Refueling Wing has made history again when it was named the recipient of the 2015 U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

This marks the 12th time in the unit’s nearly 70 year history that it has earned the prestigious national award. The award covers the time period of Sept. 1, 2012, through Aug. 31, 2014.

“The dedication and commitment of these honored organizations enable the Air National Guard to continue to fulfill its commitment to the missions and the defense of America,” said Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, director of the Air National Guard, in making the announcement. The 155th Air Refueling Wing is one of 34 Air National Guard wings that were selected to receive the award this year.

“Congratulations to the members of the Nebraska Air National Guard’s 155th Air Refueling Wing for earning yet another award and adding to your illustrious legacy of outstanding service to our state and nation,” said Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts. “The outstanding service to which you and your families have continually dedicated yourselves exemplifies why Nebraska is such a great place to live.”

In earning the award, the 155th Air Refueling Wing was lauded for a number of significant accomplishments including:

- Flying 1,657 sorties while offloading 1,518,703 gallons of fuel to U.S. and Coalition aircraft;
- Maintaining a strength of 101 percent and a retention rate of 89.5 percent, which included an “astounding” 108 accessions over the two-year span;
- Deploying 429 Nebraska Air National Guard Airmen to 26 separate location including U.S. Central Command and U.S. Pacific Command bases.
- Aided in the movement of 96 fallen service members, which involved the coordination of dignified transfers to ensure that these fallen service members were returned to their homes with the highest honor;
- Supported numerous national-level exercises;

- Significant support to the neighboring communities through support of such activities as the Lincoln Public Schools Science Fair, the annual Thunder Run, Habitat for Humanity, the annual Cornhusker State Games, the state-wide Nose Art Program, Salvation Army Bell Ringers Program, Special Olympics, the National Guard Marathon and numerous other activities;
- Extraordinary results following a number of separate inspections;
- Being named the 2012 Outstanding Tanker Unit of the Year;
- Numerous other unit and individual awards.

According to Col. James “Bob” Stevenson, the current commander of the 155th Air Refueling Wing, the organization is extremely proud to have earned another Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

“This award is simply outside validation of what we already know. Twelve of these awards is a little unprecedented, but when you have a standard, and you consistently perform to that standard, it's the only possible result and shows that the Nebraska Air National Guard is made up of top notch people doing great things for their state and nation,” said Stevenson.

“Most Nebraskans and the majority of Americans don't realize that the Guard is in the fight day to day, overseas against ISIL. They also don't realize that their Guard is ready to answer the call here at home if tragedy strikes,” he added. “We're here, we're ready and we're good.”

The official presentation of the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and streamer will take place at time and place to be named later.