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The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) will present the 2012 Mackay Trophy to the members of the Crew of PEDRO 83 Flight.

The Mackay Trophy was first presented by Clarence Mackay in 1912 and was later deeded to the National Aeronautic Association. Administered by the United States Air Force and NAA, the trophy is awarded for the "most meritorious flight of the year" by an Air Force person, persons, or organization.

In January of 2012, Pedro 83 Flight was the dedicated rescue force for a Joint Special Operations Task Force. Pedro 83's unit was by-name-requested by the SEALs for this high priority mission near Mazar-e-Sharif, AFG. Pedro 83 Flight sat on-call MEDEVAC alert at Mazar-e-Sharif as the first assault helicopter departed the area. US Special Forces and ANA commandos were inserted into an LZ adjacent to the village to begin clearing ops. Shortly after their insertion, the team was engaged by heavy enemy fire, severely wounding an ANA commando. Recognizing his wounds were life-threatening, SEALs on scene attempted to treat and ready him for evacuation.

The SEALs requested an urgent MEDEVAC to the location to immediately ex-filtrate the wounded commando. Upon receiving the request, Pedro 83 Flight launched on the mission with visibility in the area as low as 2NM. The aircraft arrived to find an active fire fight in the target area, with an LZ at the bottom of a 1000 foot ravine. Marginal visibility forced a low altitude pass over the hostile village in order to identify the patient's location. After assessing the threat in the area, Pedro 83 Flight determined a hoist was required due to the rocky terrain. Upon sighting the LZ, Pedro 84 aggressively maneuvered the aircraft into position minimizing threat exposure. Once the PJ team was inserted on the ground, they provided immediate critical care to the wounded commando. Pedro 83 provided defensive overwatch from an overhead gun pattern as the PJ team secured the ANA patient.

While hovering, Pedro 84 identified a small LZ, allowing for a more expedient evacuation of the team/patient. As village clearing ops continued in the cliffs above them, Pedro 84 carefully landed in the rocky, confined LZ. PJs used expert lifesaving skills to stabilize the patient and were able to move him quickly to the waiting helo. After less than 5 minutes on the ground, the Pararescuemen rapidly loaded the patient for immediate departure. Pedro 84 executed a dangerous downwind takeoff to avoid overflying the ongoing firefight in the target village. Pedro 83/84's presence in the area allowed the Task Force to continue assault operations in the target village. At the conclusion of the clearing operation, 8 enemy fighters lay dead and another 35 HVTs had been captured. Due to Pedro 83 Flight's valiant efforts, the patient reached higher care within the "golden hour" and survived. As a result of the vigilant alert posture maintained by Pedro 83/84, the SEAL mission that night was successful.

The Trophy will be presented at the NAA Annual Fall Awards Banquet on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 in Arlington, Virginia.

The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering America's aerospace leadership and promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States.

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