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LT COL DANA BOCHTE SELECTED AS RECIPIENT OF 2018 STINSON TROPHY

Washington, DC, February 1, 2019 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is pleased to announce that Lt Col Dana Bochte, USAF, has been named the recipient of the 2018 Katherine and Marjorie Stinson Trophy.

The Stinson Trophy was created in 1997 by NAA to honor the accomplishments of two sisters - Katherine and Marjorie Stinson. These sisters were among the first 11 American women to be certified as airplane pilots through the Aero Club of America (the predecessor of NAA). Their flying school helped numerous U.S. and foreign pilots to earn their Aero Club licenses, the precursor to FAA pilot certificates. The trophy recognizes a living person for "...an outstanding and enduring contribution to the role of women in the field of aviation, aeronautics, space, or related sciences."

Lt Col Bochte is being recognized for "... her courageous leadership as a combat rescue pilot and her dedication to training the next generation of helicopter crewmembers."

For over 15 years, Lt Col Bochte has made outstanding contributions to aviation as a combat rescue pilot and trailblazer in the Air Force helicopter community. Her personal example of combat valor and courageous leadership have inspired countless airmen to commit themselves to the rescue creed, "That others may live." In her career as a rescue aviator, Lt Col Bochte has saved over 200 lives in combat.

Lt Col Bochte is currently serving as an Operations Officer leading the only Air Force helicopter graduate flight training program. In 2018, over 130 newly qualified crewmembers graduated from her program and went on to support combat rescue, nuclear defense, and transport missions across the globe. During her time leading the unit, the flight training operation has seen an 87% increase – the largest in the unit's 25-year history. Her vision and ability to network across multiple commands has ensured that the unit is equipped and able to execute the increase.

In her role as Operations Officer, she oversaw the rewriting of initial qualification syllabi for both Air Force helicopters - the Sikorsky HH-60G Pave Hawk and the Bell UH-1N Twin Huey. These revisions fundamentally altered the focus of training, bringing them in line with current operational need. She is also on the front lines of bringing on two new helicopters to the Air Force inventory.

Lt Col Bochte's has continued to employ airpower towards her passion for rescue. Her unit is called upon when conditions are either too dangerous or beyond the capability of other organizations. In 2018, Lt Col Bochte's unit had the busiest civil search and rescue season on record, executing four Air Force Rescue Coordination Center tasked-missions. Each of these missions required extreme skill and resulted in four lives saved and the return of two deceased to their loved ones.

Over the course of her career, Lt Col Bochte has served as an inspiration to women in the helicopter community. She is the only officer, male or female, who has instructed at the graduate level in both Air Force helicopters. She is a true pioneer whose passion and leadership have blazed a path that many female aviators have followed.

Members of the Selection Committee were Margaret Jenny, NAA Board of Directors; Christine Mau, 2016 Stinson Trophy Recipient, Mary Miller, BBA Aviation and NAA Board of Directors, Mary Claire Murphy, Textron Aviation and NAA Board of Directors; Deborah Jean Rihn-Harvey, Pilot, Instructor, and Aerobatic Pioneer; and Shaesta Waiz, 2017 Stinson Trophy Recipient.

The Stinson Trophy will be presented on a date and location to be determined. For more information, please visit www.naa.aero.

The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States. NAA is the caretaker of some of the most important aviation awards in the world and certifies all national aviation records set in the United States. For information, visit www.naa.aero.

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