2009 MACKAY TROPHY TO BE PRESENTED TO CREW OF PEDRO 16


The Mackay Trophy was first presented by Clarence Mackay in 1912 and deeded to the National Aeronautic Association and is on permanent display at the National Air and Space Museum. Awarded annually for the "most meritorious flight of the year" by an Air Force person, persons, or organization, the trophy is administered in partnership between the United States Air Force and NAA.

Accompanying the nomination from General Norton A Schwartz, USAF Chief of Staff, the citation justifying the Crew of Pedro 16's most meritorious flight state, “the crewmembers of Pedro 16, flying an HH-60G Pavehawk, distinguished themselves under fire during rescue operations near Frontenac Forward Operating Base, Afghanistan on July 29, 2009. Demonstrating the utmost bravery, Pedro 16 and two Army OH-58s engaged enemy forces in an effort to defend and recover Pedro 15 who was downed by enemy fire. Pedro 16 landed, positioning their aircraft directly between enemy positions and the crew of Pedro 15. With rounds falling within 10 meters, Pedro 16 evacuated 6 USAF aircrew and 3 US Army soldiers from the hot landing zone. The selfless actions of Pedro 16 reflect great credit upon themselves and the United States Air Force.”

The Mackay Trophy will be presented at the NAA Fall Awards Banquet on November 8, 2010, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott 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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