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## **HEROIC F-15E PILOTS AND CREW TO RECEIVE 2010 MACKAY TROPHY**

Four U.S. Air Force officers who killed more than 80 Taliban fighters and saved the lives of approximately 30 coalition troops in Afghanistan last year have been named the recipients of the prestigious Clarence Mackay Trophy.

The trophy is awarded annually for the most "meritorious" Air Force flight that demonstrated "gallantry, intrepidity, initiative, resourcefulness, and achievement of outstanding results in combat or non-combat conditions."

Lieutenant Colonel Donald D. Cornwell, Lieutenant Colonel Dylan T. Wells, Captain Leigh P. Larkin, and First Lieutenant Nicholas R. Tsougas distinguished themselves by meritorious airmanship on April 6, 2010. While operating as a flight of two F-15Es - call signs Dude 01 and Dude 02 - they were tasked to support a Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force team surrounded by over 100 enemy fighters in the town of Bala Morgab, Afghanistan.

With weather below rescue force launch minimums, Dude flight used Terrain Following Radar to execute five "Show of Force" passes in a valley surrounded by high terrain. When hostilities escalated, Dude Flight expertly employed six Joint Direct Attack Munitions, helping kill over 80 Taliban fighters who occupied reinforced positions within the town. Their efforts helped save the lives of approximately 30 coalition troops. There were no civilian casualties.

The officers will be recognized as the 2010 Mackay Trophy recipients at the NAA Fall Awards Banquet November 7, 2011 in Arlington, VA.

*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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