

Achievements

Female Chief -- first in field

Senior Master Sergeant Janine Giochon, a member of the 216th Engineering and Installation Squadron, was recently promoted to the top enlisted rank of the U.S. Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant, a first for females in the EIS field, including active duty.



A native of Oakland, Giochon enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1974. After training in Radioman "A" school, Giochon was assigned to Kunia, Oahu at the Fleet Operations Control Center for the Pacific Fleet. She assisted in sending, receiving, and routing traffic to the Pacific theater, including disaster relief for Hurricane-stricken Guam, off-shore emergency rescues and the evacuation of South Vietnam.

She joined the Air National Guard, and EIS, in 1978 and worked in many capacities, to include an assistant team chief and ground radio team chief. Giochon completed the Naval Air Rework Apprenticeship program at Alameda Naval Air Station in the Plant Maintenance Electrician program. After completion of the apprenticeship program, she was assigned to the Rework Facility at Alameda.

Giochon then became a journeyman electrician at Alameda NAS, and worked the S-3 "Viking" air refueling project, the aircraft carrier based version of the P-3 "Orion". Her responsibilities for the project included electrical design, manufacture, and modification of the test stand and its pumps. As a result of her outstanding efforts in support of the Viking's refueling capabilities, Giochon received the Navy's sustained superior achievement award.

To enhance her career objectives, Giochon attended Chabot Junior College in Hayward and received two Associates of Science degrees in electrical technology and a second in supervision. (Story by Maj. Chris Gideon, 216th EIS)



First to Fight wins award

The outstanding performance of the 1st Brigade, the "First to Fight", 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized) during Training Year 1993 earned the unit The Order of Founders and Patriots Award.

This achievement, the first of its kind won by a combat arms maneuver brigade, was "a collective effort of the HHC and all four of the battalions of the brigade," according to Col. Ronald B. Flynn, commander, 1st Brigade. "Each command contributed bits and pieces to what I call a Mosaic of Excellence. I was blessed during my first year of brigade command with four outstanding battalion commanders and a full-time force of competitive professionals who rose to the challenge."

In addition to a full training year, elements of the brigade were involved throughout the year in their communities in the areas of drug demand reduction and emergency preparedness.

Testa cited for excellence

Col. Richard Testa, Deputy Commander, 162nd Combat Communications Group, was presented with the Air Force Association's Exceptional Performance Award at the McClellan AFB chapter's annual banquet.



Testa served as the Director of Communications (J6) for U.S. Central Command's (USCENTCOM) Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia (JTF-SWA) during Operation Southern Watch from August through November, 1993.

Operation Southern Watch is a coalition of US, British, French, Saudi and other member countries' armed forces chartered under U.N. sanctions to deny

flight to Sadaam Hussein's military below the 32nd parallel in Iraq.

These sanctions are designed to protect the Shiite Moslems living in the southernmost region of this country from reprisals by the Iraqi Air Forces. As the JTF-SWA/J6, Testa was responsible for all communications assets in the AOR, including all components of the US military as well as those of all of the coalition forces.

"It's really a tribute to the total force policy in action," said Testa. "As the active duty military restructuring continues ... I'm sure I won't be the last to have this privilege."