

JEANETTE M. BLACKDEN RECEIVES THE 1991 JULIE Y. CROSS MEMORIAL AWARD



TSgt Blackden displays her award. She is joined by WIFLE Committee Cochairs Mary Ann Gordon (l) and Debra Mack (r).

Technical Sergeant Jeanette M. Blackden entered the Air Force on July 21, 1979, attended basic training and was selected as the Honor Graduate. She later attended the USAF Security Police Academy, where she was appointed as a flight leader. From December 1979 to December 1982, she was assigned to the 18th Security Police Squadron, Brooks AFB, TX. While assigned to the 6570th, she performed duties as Patrolman, Flight Chief, NCOIC of Pass and Registration, and NCOIC of Personnel Security. From April 1988 to March 1989, she was assigned to the 51st Security Police Squadron, Osan AB, Korea, and performed duties as Assistant Flight Chief and Desk Sergeant. In April 1989, she was transferred to her present assignment to the 6570th where she has performed duties as Patrolman and Flight Chief, with additional

duties in the areas of Pass and Registration. In February 1990, TSgt Blackden attended NCO Leadership School and was selected as the Honor Graduate.

Technical Sergeant Blackden displayed exceptional courage, stamina, and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty during a seven hour barricaded suspect incident in the Brooks Air Force Base housing area. In September 1990, she performed duties as one of the primary negotiators on the hostage negotiation team. In this capacity, TSgt Blackden stood ready to assume negotiation duties to preclude lost credibility with the perpetrator. This necessitated her active involvement through the situation as she advised the first team with critical input and situational updates during this exceedingly stressful event.

As tension reached the boiling point, the perpetrator discharged his

firearm to demonstrate his willingness to exercise deadly force. TSgt Blackden retained her composure and rock-steady demeanor, and continued providing vital input and suggestions to calm the perpetrator. Her involvement enhanced the quality and performance of the entire negotiations staff and contributed to the peaceful surrender of the barricaded suspect with no injuries. The performance of the team during this incident received laudatory comments from the Federal Bureau of Investigations Special Weapons and Tactics Team members, who augmented on-scene security police forces. TSgt Blackden had previously attended the Advanced Hostage Negotiation course presented by the local FBI officials at the San Antonio Police Academy.

In November 1990, TSgt Blackden was placed in charge of a confrontation management appre-

hension team during an Animal Rights demonstration at the main gate of the base. During a second Animal Rights demonstration in April 1991, she was placed in charge of a 13-member riot control team. Base resources were safeguarded and both events concluded without incident.

TSgt Blackden further displayed exceptional stamina and courage while performing duties as a law enforcement flight chief during two separate life-threatening incidents. In May 1991, a speeding automobile was forced off a four lane road directly adjacent to the base, crashed through the base perimeter fence, and collided head-on into a tree, seriously injuring three of the four occupants. TSgt Blackden assumed control of the situation, directed and rendered first aid to the vehicle occupants until medical crews responded, and coordinated pertinent investigative functions with the San Antonio Police Department.

Shortly thereafter, in July 1991, she was dispatched to a dormitory to apprehend an individual pending dis-

ciplinary action. Upon gaining access to the room, she found the individual attempting suicide by hanging. TSgt Blackden and her patrol partner cut the individual down, opened an airway, and resuscitated him until emergency medical response arrived. The individual survived, and TSgt Blackden was credited with saving his life. She proved her exceptional courage, stamina, and mature leadership in the most stressful of situations.

Because of her exceptional leadership abilities and outstanding performance, TSgt Blackden was selected as the team leader of a 13-person mobility team capable of going anywhere in the world on short notice to defend Air Force resources. Her team consistently receives excellent ratings on inspections and local air base ground defense training deployments. TSgt Blackden has performed duties and is well versed in the areas of Pass and Registration, Information, and Personnel Security. Because of her management skills and ability to quickly adapt to any situation, she

was chosen to assume supervision over the entire Security Police Administration Division while the person in charge was on a six month temporary duty assignment.

TSgt Blackden's accomplishments have earned her the well-deserved respect of subordinates, peers, and supervisors in a career field traditionally dominated by male counterparts. She crashes through perceptual barriers and actively encourages other female law enforcement professionals to strive for excellence. Recognized as a role model to emulate, her advice is continually sought by junior female law enforcement specialists on career opportunities. Her performance contributed greatly to this organization's selection as the 1990 Air Force Systems Command Best Small Security Police Unit. TSgt Blackden epitomizes the whole person concept and total quality force. She continually brings great credit upon herself, the U.S. Air Force, and the entire law enforcement profession.