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Air Force ISR Agency/Public Affairs

9/3/2009 - **LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** -- Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency recognized two of its enlisted members Monday when Brig. Gen. John D. Stauffer, vice-commander, presented two Bronze Star Medals and an Air Force Combat Action Medal, all earned while supporting Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

Master Sgt. Angela Hanck, Air Force ISR Agency computer operations training superintendent, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for her actions while assigned to the Multi-National Division-Baghdad, noncommissioned officer in charge. While she was deployed, Sergeant Hanck supported more than 400 combat operations resulting in the capture of 711 insurgents with 171 being High Value Individuals.

General Stauffer presented Sergeant Hanck's medal using her father's Bronze Star, which was awarded to him during the Vietnam conflict.

"It was a real thrill to be awarded my dad's Bronze Star he received 40 years ago," said Sergeant Hanck. "My father had a lot of influence on my decision on joining the Air Force which made this so special."

During the ceremony Senior Airman Charles Combs, National Air and Space Intelligence Center network threat analyst, was also presented both the Bronze Star and the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

Airman Combs earned the Bronze Star for guiding his team on 41 combat missions that resulted in the capture of more than 45 insurgents, including a High Value Individual who had assassinated numerous Iraqi officials and was in charge of multiple Improvised Explosive Device cells throughout the area.

According to the narrative page report for his Bronze Star recommendation, "Senior Airman Combs far exceeded all expectations and quickly became a valuable asset to the teams he led. His tireless efforts to accomplish the mission were inspirational to all those he worked with."

Out of all the accomplishments during his deployment, the Airman said the highlight of his time while assigned to Multi-National Division-Baghdad was whenever they completed a successful mission capturing HVIs and everyone returned safely.

Airman Combs was also awarded an Air Force Combat Action Medal for his actions while deployed in September 2008. While on a mission, his team came under enemy fire. He disregarded his own safety to secure the detainee his team had captured and ensured mission success.

"I am really honored to have been awarded these decorations," said Airman Combs. "However, I really have to thank the 1-66th Armored Regiment, Scout Sniper platoon [Fort Hood, TX]; they really took great care of me and my team."

General Stauffer summed up the significance of the award presentation. "This is a pretty big deal to present two Bronze Star Medals in one day," said the general. "It's not something we get to do very often. Some people don't ever get to see a Bronze Star presented ... today we saw two presented and an Air Force Combat Action Medal.

"It has been my honor and privilege to officiate today's ceremony," he continued.

The Bronze Star Medal was established in February 1944 and was designed to be awarded to ground troops involved in and supporting ground operations during a time of war or conflict.

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Master Sgt. Angela B. Hanck, Air Force ISR Agency computer operations training superintendent, is presented a Bronze Star medal from Brig. Gen. John D. Stauffer, the agency's vice commander. She earned the award while deployed as the noncommissioned officer in charge, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, supporting Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

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