

AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY ANNOUNCES THE 2014 SHIPTON AWARD WINNER

FORT SILL, Okla. (December 12, 2013) – The James A. Shipton Award is named for Brig. Gen. James A. Shipton, who is acknowledged as the founding father of the Air Defense Artillery (ADA) branch. Shipton felt that the mission of anti-aircraft defense was not to down enemy aircraft, but instead to protect maneuver forces on the ground.

The purpose of anti-aviation defense is to protect our own forces and establishments from hostile attack and observation from the air by keeping enemy aeroplanes [sic] at a distance. – Brig. Gen. James A. Shipton

The Shipton Award is presented to an individual ADA officer, noncommissioned officer (NCO) or enlisted soldier whose achievements throughout 2013, were judged superior to their peers based on the criterion of leadership, tactical and technical proficiency, selfless and community service, and commitment to excellence. The recipient's performance, military bearing, innovation and dedication must have resulted in significant contributions to or enhanced ADA's warfighting capabilities, morale, readiness and/or maintenance.

The individual recipient of this award is nominated by their respective battery and endorsed by their battalion commander. Selections were made following an in-depth evaluation of all nominations by a panel of ADA and Field Artillery (FA) senior officers and noncommissioned officers (NCOs). The competition for this year's illustrious award was formidable with 18 accomplished nominees.

The Fires Center of Excellence (FCoE) and U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School (USAADASCH) has announced the winner of the 2014 Air Defense Artillery (ADA) James A. Shipton Awards for military excellence. This year's honoree and recipient of the 2014 James A. Shipton Award is:



**Staff Sgt. Nancy A. Wingo,
C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery
(C/3-4 ADA) Regiment, 108th ADA Brigade
Fort Bragg, N.C.**

Staff Sgt. Wingo, an Athens, Ohio, native, epitomizes the leadership qualities, commitment to excellence, and innovative drive of Air Defense Artillery's founding father, Brigadier General James A. Shipton. In recognition of her excellent performance, she has already been identified as a top performer by selection for promotion to the rank of sergeant first class. Wingo remains in a promotable status while waiting for her sequence number to come up.

Wingo's exceptional performance as a tactical control assistant and master gunner is only upstaged by her performance as a fire control platoon sergeant. The fact that she is able to excel at all three duties simultaneously is why she is recognized as the top air defender in the branch. Her selfless acts of service were instrumental to C/3-4 ADA certifying Table VIII Gunnery on their first qualification attempt. Wingo personally scored a 98 percent on her certification test and led the rest of her crew to score a matching 98 percent as well. She worked around the clock to support her soldiers' training requirements and simultaneously fulfill her roles as crew supervisor and battery master gunner. Her training abilities enabled the "Cold Steel" battalion (6-52 ADA) to certify 11 crews in a 90-day period.

Wingo further distinguished herself by winning the 108th ADA's NCO of the Year competition and finishing admirably at the XVIII Airborne Corps competition.

She helped the "Skystriker" battalion (3-4 ADA) sweep the annual competition by mentoring and preparing a junior soldier from another battery to win the Brigade Soldier of the Year honor. She trained and mentored three enlisted soldiers and one NCO on preparing for the Soldier and NCO of the Month Boards; all four were selected winners of their respective competition.

Wingo leads by example in everything she does, personally scoring a 299 on her Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT); qualifying expert with her assigned weapon; and finishing her annual 20-kilometer foot march in less than 3 hours, are just a few examples. With Wingo's intervention, her platoon increased their APFT scores by 30 points to an impressive overall average of 271. Under her leadership, the battery received commendable ratings, especially in the areas of key control, communications security, safety and Sexual Harassment/Assault Prevention (SHARP) during external evaluations performed by XVIII Corps inspectors. Wingo sets the standard for excellence and instills her work ethic throughout her platoon; expecting nothing less than their best.

In what little free time she has, Wingo volunteer's hours to helping struggling veterans transition into the Jubilee Home (an organization that provides food and shelter to veterans while they search for employment), providing individual assistance with resumes, interview techniques, transportation and donations as needed.

Her noteworthy performance in a myriad of areas sets her apart from her peers, instills confidence in her subordinates, and merits the highest praise from her superiors. Wingo perpetuates excellence daily, achieving superior results, and continues to improve every formation that she is involved with. She exemplifies the leadership qualities, commitment to excellence, and innovative drive of ADA's founding father, and is deserving of the James A. Shipton Award.

On behalf of the Chief of Air Defense Artillery Brig. Gen. Donald G. Fryc, and the ADA community, congratulations Staff Sgt. Nancy A. Wingo, the 2014 James A. Shipton Award recipient.

Additionally, we'd like to recognize and acknowledge the leaders who acted, when given the opportunity to nominate exceptional soldiers within their command – for leading by example.