

DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY



193RD CAPTAIN IS LIKENED TO ONE OF ARMY'S GREAT GENERALS

By Sharon L. Hartman

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Duty, Honor, Country. These words were made famous by GEN Douglas MacArthur in his acceptance speech of the Thayer Award in 1962. But, the significance of what MacArthur intended with those words can only be truly understood by those who sacrifice of themselves for others. No one in the history of this country has sacrificed more than the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

To that end, the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award was established in 1987, and has since been presented annually to Army company-grade officers and warrant officers who demonstrate those ideals of duty, honor and country of which MacArthur spoke. CPT Angie L. Tofflemeyer, of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command is one of those officers.

Tofflemeyer was nominated for the award earlier this year, and in May was one of 27 Army officers who were selected to receive the award. Of the 27, seven were National Guardsmen, seven were Reservists and 13 were Active Duty.

Tofflemeyer is the commander of the SMDC/ARSTRAT, Space Support Company, 193rd Space Support Battalion, Colorado Army National Guard which is nearly identical to the 1st Space Battalion's

Second Space Company.

"The only difference is the Commercial Exploitation Team (CET) in the 193rd falls under my company, where in the 1st Space Battalion it falls under the headquarters company," said Tofflemeyer.

Tofflemeyer served as the Intelligence Officer for the first National Guard Army Space Support Team that deployed overseas to Kuwait during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001. Under her command the company has deployed three teams including the CET, which is currently deployed to Bahrain, and Tofflemeyer has traveled to South Korea three times for exercises. In addition to her role as company commander, Tofflemeyer works as a full-time contractor for SMDC/ARSTRAT.

"I'm a Space planner and STRATCOM (U.S. Strategic Command) representative for our command," said Tofflemeyer. "I interface with the STRATCOM planners giving input to their plans that they are currently working and in the future as plans come up for review and we'll eventually be doing. Depending on the plan, I will be the lead for developing the supporting plan or just the action officer for our command."

LTC Scot Cuthbertson, commander of the 193rd Space Battalion, nominated Tofflemeyer for the award saying, "Captain Tofflemeyer is a strong leader and always has been. This is a very prestigious program. There are very few captains per year that receive the

award, but she has faced many challenges being in a dual military family and she has always managed everything well and is an extremely effective leader.”

Tofflemeyer’s husband, CPT Troy Tofflemeyer, is currently stationed in Fort Polk, La., so Tofflemeyer is a geographical single parent to daughter Rachael, five and son Nicholas who just turned two, until her husband returns in August.

Cuthbertson first submitted Tofflemeyer’s packet to the brigade level. The troop commander then reviewed the packets from the brigade and selected the ones that would go on to the state headquarters. Out of the eight National Guard Battalions in the state of Colorado, Tofflemeyer’s packet was the only one to make it out of the state and to the next level.

“It meant a lot to me to be nominated and then to be accepted,” said Tofflemeyer. “It’s such a big compliment.”

The official ceremony was held in Arlington, Va., at the Pentagon on May 25, and the recipients were presented their awards by GEN Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the Army.

Each recipient was presented with an 18-inch bust of GEN MacArthur and a gold watch that had their initials engraved on the back from the Association of the United States Army.

“I also received an awesome black leather backpack from the National Guard and of course we all got coins ... lots of coins!” added Tofflemeyer.

During their visit, the group spent time touring various areas of the Pentagon and visiting Arlington Cemetery. Getting to tour the new chapel commemorating Sept. 11 meant a lot to Tofflemeyer.

“The chapel was not there the last time I went, so it was nice to get to see it. It is a very somber reminder of what happened there. They actually gave us each a piece of the Pentagon from 9/11.”

With the ceremony done and over with, and Tofflemeyer back to work, she is still very much in awe over her experience.

“It was Memorial Day Weekend, and one of the recipients got to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There had been so much attention for us and it was definitely overwhelming, but just walking around Arlington and seeing all the flags that had put on the graves for Memorial Day in honor of their sacrifice was so awe-inspiring and humbling,” said Tofflemeyer. “Honestly, I’m just another captain out there trying to do the best I can.”

Cuthbertson had his own thoughts on that, “Having been honored as sharing the moral code of one of the Army’s greatest generals, I can tell you that Captain Tofflemeyer is definitely not just another captain.”

Sharon L. Hartman is a Department of Defense Contractor with COLSA Corporation, and has served the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command Public Affairs Office at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., for six years. She is the senior editor and technical director for the **Army Space Journal** and is the managing editor of SMDC/ARSTRAT’s worldwide stringer program.



Top, CPT Angie L. Tofflemeyer receives the GEN Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award from Chief of Staff of the Army, GEN Peter J. Schoomaker during a ceremony at the Pentagon on May 25. Photo by CPT Troy Tofflemeyer; Center, CPT Angie Tofflemeyer gives her daughter, Rachael, a farewell kiss prior to her deployment to Afghanistan in 2001. Photo by MAJ Laura Kenney; Bottom, CPT Angie Tofflemeyer, right, works with one of her Soldiers during a drill weekend for the 193rd Space Battalion. Photo by MSG Class Dennis Beebe