

Veteran of the Month December 2009

Congratulations to Oran M. Hurst!



In partnership with the Veterans Coordination Commission, we are pleased to present the December, 2009 Veteran of the Month recognition to Oran M. Hurst.

Oran M. Hurst joined the United States Air Force and trained in the Metal Fabrication career field at Sheppard AFB, Texas. He was assigned to the CE Squadron at the United States Air Force Academy and maintained the cadet and flight line facilities during this time. In 1993, Oran was sent to the 554 RED HORSE Squadron in Osan AB, Korea and worked as the Structures Tool Room Monitor. In 1994, Oran was found at the 28th CES at Ellsworth AFB working as a Structural Journeyman. During his stay at Ellsworth, he was deployed two times to Saudi Arabia participating in OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH and VIGILANT WARRIOR. He was also deployed to Port-au-Prince, Haiti for humanitarian relief efforts. Returning to Ellsworth in 2004, he was appointed NCOIC of the Black Hills Self Help Store and in 2004, was sent to Nellis AFB at the 820th RED HORSE Squadron before deploying overseas to support OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Oran returned to Nellis but was redeployed one more time to Qatar and Afghanistan in support of OPERATIONS ENDURING AND IRAQI FREEDOM.

Upon his return, Sergeant Hurst volunteered to become Cantonments Vehicle Control NCOIC responsible for over \$43,000,000 worth of vehicles. Through his expertise he was instrumental in producing an "Outstanding" in the annual inspection.

Technical Sergeant (E6) Hurst retired from the United States Air Force in October 2008. His awards and decorations include: the Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, AFA Achievement Medal w/2 OLC, Meritorious Unit Award with w/2 OLC, AF Outstanding Unit Award w/Valor Device w/5 OLC, AF Good Conduct Medal w/4 OLC, National Defense Service Medal w/Service Star, Armed Forces Campaign Medal w/2 Service Stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Expeditionary Service Ribbon w Gold Border w/OLC, Air Force Longevity Service w/4 OLC, USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon w/Service Star, and AF Training Ribbon. Oran was also awarded the Non-Article 5 NATO Medal-International Security Assistance Force (Afghanistan). Oran feels his greatest achievement was receiving the Army Commendation Medal for his outstanding performance in the RED HORSE Squadron attached to the United States Army.

Oran married Jennifer Hicks in 1993 and they have two children, Jason Hicks of Las Vegas, NV and SRA Kristin Hicks stationed at Spangdahlem AB, Germany. Oran and Jennifer have one grandson Jacobi. Since retiring, Oran has worked at Wal Mart. He is a member of TREA and continually volunteers his time by helping with the Monday night bingo program. He has served his country with honor and integrity and is most proud of his military records and accomplishments.