

ARMAN

NOVEMBER 1971

A LITTLE MORE OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

by Sgt. DAVE COLE

It takes time to become Outstanding Airman of the Air Force. Not time in grade, or time in service, but a very special kind of time . . . sharing and caring.

The 12 airmen designated outstanding aren't alike. Some are middle-aged. One is a first-termer. Most are career men. And there is a WAF. They come from all areas of the country and from many career fields. But they all have a single, common trait . . . they give a damn.

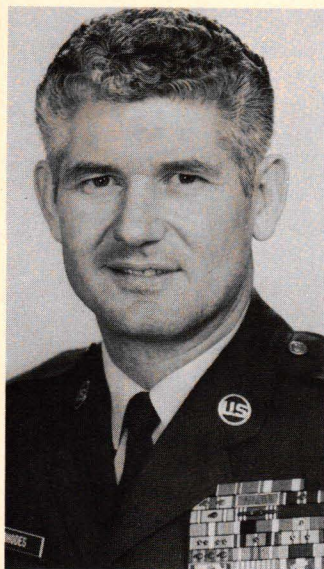
Does it sound archaic—old-fashioned—to care . . . to give a damn? Maybe. But to the kid who came down from an acid cloud of surrealistic stupidity because of

a Myrtle Beach NCO; or the white man who clasps hands with his black brothers in Korea because of a senior sergeant; or the guys who learned from a super-motivated buck sergeant they can get a job done right, the first time—to these people sharing and caring are not old-fashioned emotions.

The outstanding 12 are people who opened their hearts; soiled their hands and took the time to share their credo of caring.

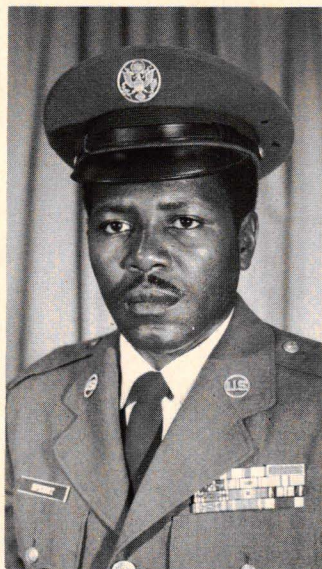
They probably aren't much different from you and me. But when they could have been curled in their easy chairs, or hunched over the bar at the club, they went out and changed a few lives, created a few happy moments, nurtured understanding or fostered brotherhood. Just plain giving a damn—that's what they did—and that takes time.

Their nominations express in glowing tones what their commanders think of people who care. Each letter is peppered with adjectives that are small reflections of the people . . . "outstanding," "unequaled," "distinguished," "most valuable." And many others which describe, if briefly, the kinds of Air Force people chosen the most outstanding—and the kinds of work they did when honored.



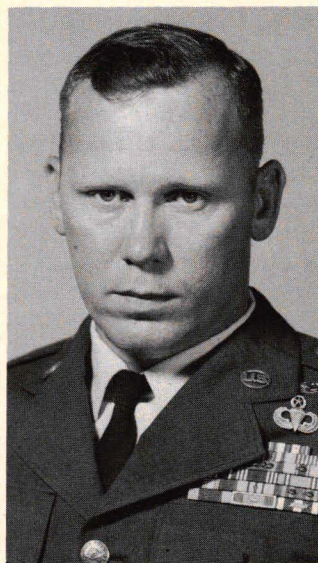
MSgt. Lesley D. Rhodes

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. Bachelor of Science. Working on Master's. Business major. Attention to details. Meticulous. Job knowledge. Knows the law . . . and how it should be used. Bronze Star winner. Civic Action program in Southeast Asia. Soon to be SMSgt. Recommended for Vietnamese Medal of Honor Second Class. Fast, efficient, effective. He does the job . . . right . . . every time.



MSgt. William Speight

Brotherhood is the name of his game. He plays to win. Human relations. Korea . . . he worked with black and white to promote understanding. Rock and Soul festivals . . . and the Brotherhood Association of Military Airmen . . . president. Aggressive. NCOIC, War Readiness Materiel Maintenance section, Kunsan AB. Responsible. Controlled. Logical. When problems must be solved, he's around. With answers.



TSgt. Larry Wellington

Pararescue specialist. P.J. Instructor. Flight examiner. Scheduling NCO for P.J. course. Knows how to save lives and how to share the knowledge. Silver Star winner. Son Tay prisoner-of-war camp raid. Perfectionist. He can jump from an aircraft into the sea . . . and save a man from death. It takes concern—total—to make it as a P.J. He has what it takes.

MSgt. Elmer F. Williams

Negotiator. Responsive. Procurement Specialist. Rapid. A self-starter. Credit Union president. Board of Directors. Confident. Religious. Advisor on interracial affairs. Senior Procurement Airman Award. A good judge of human nature and the value of each man. He cares about children . . . sports. He begins where others stop. ✈

