



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CAPT. KRISTEN ZEBROWSKI SELECTED AS DOLLY VINSANT FLIGHT NURSE OF THE YEAR**

MIDLAND, TEXAS – (Sept. 14, 2007) – Capt. Kristen Zebrowski, chief of aircrew training for the 86<sup>th</sup> Aero Medical Squadron, Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany, will be honored as the Commemorative Air Force's 2007 Dolly Vinsant Flight Nurse of the Year award winner. CAF Col Gordon Stevenson, CAF chief of staff, will present Zebrowski with this prestigious award at the CAF's General Membership Meeting 3 p.m., Friday, Sept. 28, 2007, in the CAF Hangar in Midland, Texas.

The award, presented each year by the CAF, pays tribute to Lt. Wilma (Dolly) Roland Vinsant, a flight nurse who was killed in action over Germany during an aeromedical evacuation on Aug. 14, 1945. One of only three flight nurses known to have lost their lives in World War II, Vinsant is the only woman buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery in Margraten, Holland. She is also the only Texas woman killed as a direct result of enemy action in the European Theater of Operations.

Lt. Col. Douglas G. Cook, chief nurse for the 86<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, recommended Zebrowski for this year's award as the military's flight nurse who most nearly embodies the characteristics exhibited by Vinsant. "Zebrowski's concern for the welfare of patients and crew were highlighted recently during an alert mission to central Africa, the transport of an Afghani child and her current deployments supporting OPERATIONS IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM," said Cook in his letter of recommendation. "By putting patient care above self and volunteering at great personal risk to fly missions in order to help the ill and injured, Captain Zebrowski represents the spirit of Lieutenant Dolly Vinsant."

Zebrowski's official nomination detailed one particular mission where her efforts demonstrated her dedication. In July of 2007, Zebrowski was alerted in the middle of the night for an airlift of four wounded Army Special

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Forces soldiers out of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Africa. Zebrowski led her crew and a Critical Care Transport Team onto a C-17, helped remove cargo and reconfigure the plane for the urgent mission. During the five-and-a-half hour flight to pick up the wounded soldiers, the crew prepared for the worst, knowing that one patient was unstable with injuries to his leg, pelvis, spinal cord and abdomen. Zebrowski cared for this patient, administering life-saving medications, blood products and advanced monitoring after noticing a cardiac arrhythmia. She also worked to arrange diversion alternatives, in case it appeared that the patient needed immediate surgery. Zebrowski and her crew arrived at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany with all four patients stabilized.

Over the course of the past year, Zebrowski has flown 18 combat missions, moving 15 urgent, 36 priority and 242 routine patients, totaling 83 combat hours. All of this experience will be used to shape the next generation of flight nurses, as Zebrowski was recently named officer in charge of aircrew training.