



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
13 FEBRUARY 2012
12-09

CONTACT: ROBIN OLSEN
615-313-0838 (OFFICE)

Knoxville resident named Tennessee Air National Guard Airman of the Year

NASHVILLE – Knoxville resident, Senior Airman Travis Pruett, of the 134th Air Refueling Wing, was named as the Tennessee Air National Guard Airman of the Year.

Pruett, who is currently assigned to the 134th Medical Group, now moves on to compete with other National Guard, Active Duty and Reserve winners at the National level for the 12 Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year Award.

“Pruett leads by example,” said Col. Cory Strobel, 134th Medical Group Commander. “He was the first medic to deploy in direct support of Operation Unified Protector and he eagerly accepted additional roles and responsibilities while deployed to ensure that the standard of care was not diminished.” Operation Unified Protector was in support of NATO during the Libyan Civil War in 2011.

Pruett is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Tennessee where he maintains a 3.5 GPA and is listed on the Dean’s list. He is an active member of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. Also, in his spare time, he actively obtains flying hours in an effort to get his private pilot’s license.

Pruett’s previous awards include 134th ARW Airman of the Quarter for 2009 and 2011 for the Medical Group and Airman of the Quarter for Wing in 2011.

Other Tennessee Air National Guard recipients for different categories include Tech. Sgt. Michael Parson, NCO of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Roy Dowdy, Senior NCO of the Year; and Master Sgt. Matthew Smith, First Sergeant of the Year; who are all from the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis.

CAPTIONS:



001 – (Left)Senior Airman Travis Pruett

002 – (Right)Senior Airman Travis Pruett draws blood at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Knoxville. Pruett was honored as the Tennessee Air National Guard Airman of the Year and has been nominated for the Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

