

# MARINE COMMAND AND CONTROL OFFICER OF THE YEAR



## THE ROBERT F. GIBSON AWARD

Presented by THE MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION to

Established in Honor of Colonel Robert F. Gibson who Pioneered the Concept of Integrated Air Control Group Detachments Supporting Marine Aviation Around the Globe.

In Recognition of The Most Outstanding Contribution to Marine Aviation by an Officer Serving in a Marine Command and Control Unit.



**NORTHROP GRUMMAN  
ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS**

CAPTAIN  
**MICHAEL J. PRUDEN**



### Award Citation

Captain Michael Pruden made outstanding contributions to Marine Corps aviation while serving as the Tactical Air Operations Center Officer in Charge from 1 January 2009, to 31 December 2009. Capt Pruden's performance in support of Operation Enduring Freedom was brilliant. He expertly planned and executed the establishment of the Marine Tactical Air Operation Center in Afghanistan. Starting from a flat piece of barren desert, Capt Pruden designed an ideal site maximizing radar and radio coverage across southwestern Afghanistan. He identified key resources, critical training, and the coordination required to successfully accomplish the mission. He directly coordinated with multiple joint and coalition agencies to ensure a seamless transfer of authority from the British Air Control Centre to the Marine Tactical Air Operation Center. In assuming this theater-level mission, Capt Pruden eagerly accepted a level of responsibility normally associated with a more senior officer. His detachment demonstrated the value of the Marine Air Command and Control System in the joint and combined fight. Capt Pruden's professionalism and total dedication to duty reflected great credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of Marine Corps aviation.



22 May 2010

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2009 Capt Christopher M. Nelson | 1990 Capt Mark R. Cyr           |
| 2008 Capt Amanda Donnelly       | 1989 Capt Dale L. Kratzer       |
| 2007 1stLt Andrea L. Goeman     | 1988 Capt Chad W. Hocking       |
| 2006 Capt D. A. Funkhouser      | 1987 Capt Francis W. Chesney    |
| 2005 Capt K. M. Karcher         | 1986 Capt Kelvin K. Womack      |
| 2004 Maj Lorna M. Mahlock       | 1985 Capt Randolph L. Hill      |
| 2003 Maj Christopher S. Richie  | 1984 Maj William L. Groves      |
| 2002 Maj K. A. Knarr            | 1983 Capt Richard J. Martin Jr. |
| 2001 CWO James M. Graham II     | 1982 Maj Jimmie T. Turner       |
| 2000 Capt Matthew Culbertson    | 1981 Maj Timothy J. Balch       |
| 1999 Major John C. Reimer       | 1980 MSgt Bobbie D. Hodges      |
| 1998 Major Jeffery S. Carusone  | 1979 1stLt Timothy J. Kirk      |
| 1997 Capt Blaise R. Strandquist | 1978 Capt William W. Smith      |
| 1996 Capt Michael C. Bogna      | 1977 Capt Paul F. Cibuzar       |
| 1995 Capt Rodney D. Burnett     | 1976 GySgt W. E. Grogan         |
| 1994 Maj William L. Clemente    | 1975 Maj Mitchell Steinberg     |
| 1993 Capt Robert S. Crosetto    | 1974 Maj James W. Bierman       |
| 1992 Capt Paul D. McGraw        | 1973 CW04 Robert D. Favreau     |
| 1991 Capt Mark R. Cyr           | 1972 1stSgt Frederico Verceles  |