DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

MAR 19 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

FROM: SAF/IA
1080 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1080

SUBJECT: 2011 Air Force International Affairs (IA) Excellence Award Recipient

The USAF IA Excellence Award selection board convened on 6 March 2012 to select one Airman as the most effective in building, sustaining, expanding, and guiding international relationships. In accordance with AFI 36-2871, each HAF two-letter, MAJCOM, DRU, FOA, and commander of an independent center or unit could nominate one Air Force uniformed Airman or civilian. Seventeen nomination packages were received.

The board selected Colonel Lee H. Harvis, Commander, 374th Medical Group, United States Forces Japan and Fifth Air Force Surgeon, Yokota Air Base, Japan. As Department of Defense (DOD) medical advisor to the Joint Task Force Commander, United States Ambassador to Japan, and Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF), Colonel Harvis led a multinational medical emergency response coalition for information sharing and personnel exchange during Japan's worst natural disaster in recorded history. He crafted the emergency medical services MOU for the new JASDF Headquarters, and established strategic ties between the JASDF Chief of Staff and United States Air Force Surgeon General. Colonel Harvis was instrumental in rebuilding Japan's aeromedical evacuation system, and orchestrated the first USAF medical liaison to the Japanese Ministry of Defense for critical coordination of future Air Force and DOD medical assets. His leadership and initiative in handling a broad spectrum of issues was vital to our relationship with Japan and enhanced the capacity of our Japanese partners for many years to come.

I am pleased to forward the name of Colonel Lee H. Harvis as the recipient of the CY 2011 USAF IA Excellence Award.

Heidi H. Grant

HEIDI H. GRANT
Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force
International Affairs