



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETINGS:
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, 16 JANUARY 1969
HAS AWARDED
THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

TO
MASTER SERGEANT JOE A. MUNOZ
FOR
OUTSTANDING SERVICE
27 June 2018 to 27 June 2022
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Master Sergeant Joe Munoz distinguished himself in the performance of outstanding service to the United States as F-16 Production Superintendent, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy. During this period, Sergeant Muñoz's expertise was on full display as the Maintenance Lead for the 31st Fighter Wing's Operations Verification Team as he coauthored Aviano's Air Tasking Order generation plan. His plan was adopted by United States Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa and utilized to generate ten alert aircraft in less than eighteen hours to deter Russian aggression during the invasion of Ukraine. Additionally, in support of Operation ATLAS GUARDIAN, Sergeant Muñoz was selected to lead 147 personnel to maintain eight combat loaded F-16 aircraft deployed to Fetesti Air Base, Romania and establish a Combat Air Policing mission. His efforts reassured the United States' North Atlantic Treaty Organization partners of continued commitment to the alliance and fortified Europe's eastern flank. Finally, Sergeant Muñoz challenged a major command assignment policy that limited personnel's extension options and contradicted the governing Air Force Instruction. His steadfast perseverance triggered the restrictive policy's cancellation, enabled three of his airmen to gain assignment extensions, and improved family stability options for the major command's thirty-thousand personnel along with enhanced unit continuity and experience. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Sergeant Munoz reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND
1 MAR 2023

//signed, TDC, 1044086197, 1 MAR 23//
VINCENT J. O'CONNOR
Colonel, USAF
Vice Wing Commander, 31st Fighter Wing

