

**Nebraska Air National Guard
Chief Master Sergeant To
Receive Bronze Star Medal
Tomorrow, April 14, At 3 P.M.**

**RELEASED BY
CAPT KEVIN HYNES**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb. -- Chief Master Sgt. Leo Kreifels of Lincoln, will receive the Bronze Star Medal during a ceremony April 14 at the Air National Guard base in Lincoln. It is thought that he may be the first enlisted member of the Nebraska Air National Guard to receive the medal for service in the Global War on Terror.

Kreifels was deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, from January through May 2006, as chief enlisted manager of the 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, part of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing.

"I'm extremely proud to receive this high honor," said Kreifels, chief of information systems, 155th Communication Flight, Nebraska Air National Guard. "I was totally surprised. When I was in Afghanistan, people told me time and time again that I was doing a great job. I worked hard and also enjoyed the assignments I was asked to perform."

A native of Lorton, Neb., and 1972 graduate of Cook Nemaha Valley High School, Kreifels served in the U.S. Navy as an electronics technician from 1972 to 1979, then joined the Nebraska Air National Guard in 1980 as an avionics sensor systems technician. He has served in a variety of military specialties, including computers, telephone systems, radio and communications maintenance, and also was instrumental in the installation of the base's first local area network.

The ceremony, which is not open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. at the base fuel cell hangar.

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***NOTE:** The media is invited to cover the award ceremony. For more information about the ceremony, contact Chief Master Sgt. Vicky Cerino, Public Affairs Office at (402) 350-0898.*