



**For Immediate Release – February 28, 2005**

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### **FAA Presents ASTAR with Awards of Excellence**

Miami, FL – ASTAR Air Cargo recently received the Diamond Award of Excellence from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Diamond Award is the highest award the FAA issues and it is presented based on companies who have promoted the tenets of professionalism and integrity, while exemplifying honor and diligence within the aviation community. This is the first time that ASTAR Air Cargo has been honored with such an award.

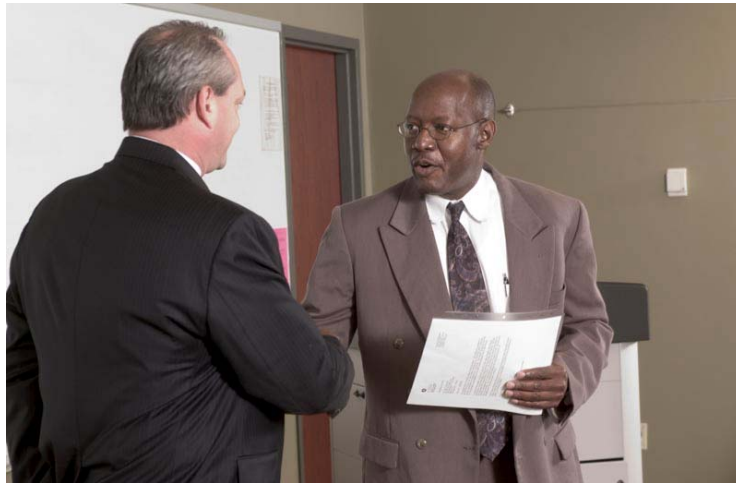


Photo caption: Gary Hammes (left), ASTAR Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, accepts the Diamond Award of Excellence from Charles Whitlock of the FAA

The Diamond Award of Excellence is associated with the Aviation Maintenance Technicians Awards (AMTs), of which ASTAR employees were also honored with. Out of 200 eligible AMTs at ASTAR, 136 received awards. The awards program is designed to encourage companies and their employees to take advantage of training opportunities, through both initial and recurrent training, and recognizes employees by issuing awards based on the amount of training received in one calendar year. The incentive program encourages AMT employees and employers to actively participate in available maintenance training.

Gary Hammes, ASTAR's Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, believes in the quality of maintenance training and continues to support the effort made by all ASTAR

employees. Hammes stated, “Training is perpetual, once you get it started, it takes off and everyone gains from it.”

The AMT award program has five levels of recognition: Diamond, Ruby, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. The awards take the form of an FAA Certificate of Training, and recipients are awarded with a distinctive tie tack or lapel pin. In order to qualify for the awards, AMTs must have completed the following number of hours of training: Diamond – 100 hours; Ruby – 60 hours; Gold – 26 hours; Silver – 12 hours; Bronze – 6 hours.

Two ASTAR employees were presented with the Diamond Award, the highest honor: Mike Barcey and James Singley. Along with the two employees receiving Diamond Awards, 41 will receive Ruby Awards, 79 will receive Gold Awards.

**About ASTAR Air Cargo, Inc.**

ASTAR Air Cargo is a licensed U.S. air carrier operating a fleet of 40 aircraft from its hub at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. The airline provides all-cargo scheduled and charter services on a contract basis for the DHL Worldwide Express network and charter services on a contract basis for other customers including the U.S. Military and the United States Postal Service. ASTAR Air Cargo is a participant in the United States Civil Reserve Air Fleet program supporting our national defense. Additional information can be found at [www.astaraircargo.us](http://www.astaraircargo.us).