

FEB 17 89

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The best: HART chief is Aviator of Year

Linda Douglass

FORT WAINWRIGHT — CWO
ron F. Babcock, Company C,
th Aviation Regiment, was
ed Army Aviator of the Year
the Army Aviation Associa-
of America (Quad A). Bab-
is the OIC of the High Alti-
Rescue Team (HART) and is
unit's instructor pilot.
"I'm amazed," Babcock said
learning of the selection on
Friday. "I had no idea my nom-
ination would go this far."

The award, the highest avail-
able to Army fliers, is presented
annually by Quad A, an aviation
organization similar to the Asso-
ciation of the U.S. Army.
According to Maj. Henry S.
Morgan, Babcock's company com-
mander, each aviation unit on
Fort Wainwright forwarded nom-
inations to the commander of the
Aviation Brigade. From there,
Babcock's nomination was for-
warded to division level and then
up the chain to Quad A.

Morgan said Babcock was nom-
inated for his work on the HART,
which he has commanded since
July 1987. "He took a program
already in place and continued to
improve it," Morgan said.
Babcock's nomination form
cited his role in separate rescue
missions on Mt. McKinley in May
and June 1988. "On both rescue
missions, severe winds and white-
out conditions from blowing snow
made flying particularly hazard-
ous, forcing Mr. Babcock to make

several attempts before he was
successful. Pilots with less skill,
confidence and dedication would
have aborted the mission after
the first futile attempts."
Morgan said the rescue mis-
sions in May and June 1988 were
probably the two highest helicop-
ter hoist rescues ever made.
"I think it's great," said Col.
Dean M. Owen, Aviation Brigade
commander. "He's a very, very
professional aviator . . . he really
deserves the award."

Command News

Black History Month activities set:
Black History Month is underway. The
Qual Employment Opportunity Office
at Fort Richardson will observe the
month with a Gospel Music Extrava-
nzanza, Feb. 25, 7-9 p.m., at Theater 1.
The program includes a skit by soldiers,
and a quest...



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