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FORTY ONE AWARDS FOR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

NEW DELHI, Magha 4, 1885
January 24, 1964.

Awards for forty one Air Force personnel have been announced in the Republic Day Honours List this year. These include Vishisht Seva Medal Class I for the late Air Vice-Marshal E.V.Pinto and Air Vice-Marshal M.M.Engineer, MVC,DFC., Vishisht Seva Medal Class II for Group Captain K. Chand and Sqn.Ldr. C.S.Raje; 25 Vayu Sena Medals and 12 Vishisht Seva Medals Class III.

The citation for Air Vice-Marshal E.V.Pinto, who was A.O.C.-in-C Western Air Command at the time of his demise in an air accident in November last year, in part reads: "As a result of meticulous planning by A.V.M. Pinto and efficient co-ordination, the air operations in the three enclaves of Goa, Daman and Diu were carried out most successfully.

"With the outbreak of the Chinese hostilities in 1962, the air operational commitments assumed vast proportions in J. & K. area as the land forces were largely dependent upon the Air Force for supplies, ammunition and evacuation of casualties. The resources at A.V.M.Pinto's disposal remained unaltered. However, he faced the situation with his usual calm and reorganised the units under his command to undertake the intensive logistic support required. To infuse confidence in his officers and men he led many difficult airlift missions with complete disregard to his personal safety.

"As A.O.C.-in-C Operational Command, A.V.M. Pinto all along displayed initiative, drive and leadership of a very high order."

Air Vice-Marshal M.M.Engineer, MVC,DFC., who is at present AOC-in-C Eastern Air Command, is the second Air Force officer to receive the Vishisht Seva Medal Class I in the present list. His citation, in part, reads: "During the Chinese aggression in autumn last year, Air Vice-Marshal

M.M.Engineer personally planned most of the logistic support operations with considerable success in NEFA. The helicopter operations in NEFA were also controlled by him in order to achieve maximum utilization of the few helicopters then at his disposal. To infuse full confidence among his pilots in landing difficult helipads at heights like Tsangdhar (16,000 ft.) he flew in the first helicopter to land there and organised evacuation of casualties from that difficult helipad. On another occasion he remained at our outpost at Walong till the last moment and flew out when the landing ground was being shelled by the enemy. These operational missions were beyond the call of his normal duties but in carrying them out, he set a fine example at all times for his officers and men to emulate.

"By his devotion to duty and sound organising ability, he has rendered distinguished service of the most exceptional order."

Group Captain Kailash Chand has been awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal Class II for his distinguished services while on loan to the Government of Republic of Indonesia. His citation says: "The existing close relations between I.F. and IURI bear ample testimony to the excellent work of this officer which has throughout been commended by the Indonesian authorities".

Sqn.Ldr. C.S. Raje gets the Vishisht Seva Medal Class II for his pioneering work of operating Packet aircraft from the forward airfields in J. & K. and for his retrieving a Packet from ^{a difficult} /argil airstrip which is unsuitable for the operation of this type of aircraft. His citation says: "Sqn.Ldr. Raje, an exceptional pilot, has exhibited great skill, utmost confidence and initiative throughout his ^{tours} operational/and has thus inspired his colleagues and juniors alike".

The full list of the Air Force personnel, who have received awards, is as follows:

VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL CLASS-I: A.V.M. L.W.Pinto, GD(P);
A.V.M. M.M.Engineer, MVC, DFC, GD(P).

VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL CLASS-II: Gp.Capt. K. Chand, GD(N);

Sqn.Ldr. C.S. Raje, GD(P).

VAYU SEVA MEDAL: Wg.Cdr. M.S.Khalsa, GD(P); Wg.Cdr.B.Fernandes, GD(N);

Sqn.Ldr.K.R.Kamath, GD(P); Sqn.Ldr.S.Venkataraao, GD(N); Sqn.Ldr.I.Kovoor, GD(P); Sqn.Ldr.M.A.Dutt, GD(N); Sqn.Ldr..D.Ralli, GD(P); Sqn.Ldr.D.W. Chauhan, GD(P); Sqn.Ldr. R.P.Vasisht, GD(P) (Posthumous); Sqn.Ldr.S.K.Dhar GD(P); Sqn.Ldr.K.M.Ponnappa, GD(P); Sqn.Ldr.J..R.Balraj, GD(P); S/Ldr.J.Philipose, GD(P); Sqn.Ldr.M.N.Arithalingam, Tech/Sig; Flt.Lt.T.C.Martins, GD(P); Flt.Lt.A.L.Mendanha, GD(P); Flt.Lt.P.K.Kaul, GD(P); Flt.Lt.P.D.Kaura, GD(P); Flt.Lt.V.Puri, GD(P); Flt.Lt.U.K.Ahuja, GD(P); / Flt.Lt.H.S.Bedi, GD(P); W.C.K.S.Gill. Sig(Air); W.C. Rachpal Singh, Flt.Eng.; W.C. S.S.Yadav, Flt.Eng; W.C.J.Banerjee, Sig(Air);

VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL CLASS-III: Wg.Cdr.S.C.Keshu, Tech/Eng.;

Wg.Cdr.G.S.Naik, Tech/Eng.; Wg.Cdr.M.S.Dandekar, GD(P); Sqn.Ldr.J.S. Sandhawalia, Tech/Eng.; Sqn.Ldr.A.J.Chacko, GD(N); Sqn.Ldr..S.Lala, GD(P); Sqn.Ldr.N.S.Bhagwanani, MLD.; Flt.Lt.M.K.Chandrasekhar, GD(P); Flt.Offr.B.L.Arora, Tech/Eng.; Flt.Cffr.C.Martin, Tech/Eng.; / Flt.Sgt.K.C.Ghosh F.II.I. Flt.Sgt.K.Krishnamachari Flt.I.

MENTION-IN-DESPATCHES: Wg.Cdr.G.J.Shah, GD(P); S.K.Chakrabarty,

Tech/Sigs; Sqn.Ldr.M..Saloon, Med.; Flt.Lt.T.D.Adiakha, GD(P); Flt.Lt.R.Tandon, GD(P); W.C.Mohinder Singh, F/Eng.

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