

# Col. Robert Kennedy honored for 27 years service in Air Force



**Col. Ronald J. Kennedy was honored at a retirement ceremony at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio in July.**

Col. Ronald J. Kennedy, formerly of Winnsboro, was honored in July for 27 years of service.

An official retirement ceremony was held in his honor at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, at which he received the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Col. Kennedy also was presented the Legion of Merit award for meritorious service to the country by President Bill Clinton.

Following the ceremony, he was honored with a luncheon where several colleagues presented him with special awards and gifts.

Col. Kennedy and his wife, the former Diane O'Neal of Jenkinsville, have two children, Jennifer and Jimmy.

He is the son of the late James Kennedy, Jr., and Viola Kennedy of Winnsboro, who was also in attendance. Several brothers, sisters, in-laws, friends and colleagues shared in the day's festivities.

Kennedy retired as commander of Air Force Office of Special In-

vestigations (AFOSI) 1st Field Investigations Region, a wing-level field operating activity headquartered at Wright-Patterson. In this important assignment, he was instrumental in the resolution of many issues of importance to the Air Force. His leadership resulted in the recovery of more than \$140 million for the U.S. Treasury, more than 85 indictments, 60 convictions, and 155 suspensions/debarments in the central systems fraud area.

Under his leadership, Region 1 pioneered three major task forces that focused on contractors who supplied defective parts to the Air Force. It also exposed a systemic weakness in the Air Force pharmacy system and halted the theft of large quantities of controlled substances, and identified major problems in Air Force Material Commands accountability for aircraft spare parts with a total impact of more than \$1 billion.

Kennedy graduated from Newberry College in 1973 with a bachelor of science in accounting. He earned a master of business ad-

ministration degree in 1976 from University of Northern Colorado.

He was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1973.

His first assignment was to the Air Force Audit Agency Office, Kelly AFB, Texas, moving on in 1977 to the Air Force Audit Agency Office, Anderson AFB, Guam.

He became a student in 1980 at U.S. Air Force Special Investigations Academy, after which his first command was at Base Investigative Detachment Norton AFB, California.

In 1987, he became the commander of AFOSI Detachment 540 at Wright-Patterson. His next move in July, 1990 was to Travis AFB, California to become the Deputy Commander and Commander of AFOSI District 19 and Commander of AFOSI Detachment 303.

In 1993 he became the director Major Crimes Investigations at the Investigative Operations Center at Bolling AFB near Washington. In 1995 he became commander of AFOSI 53rd Field Investigations Squadron in Naples, Italy.