AMC Receives Small Business Programs Award

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (JULY 29, 2010)
Cherish Washington

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—The U.S. Army Materiel Command Small Business Office received the 2009 Department of the Army Small Business Programs Award during a ceremony at the National Veterans Small Business conference here, July 22.

"This award illustrates the team effort of AMC supporting the Army's Small Business Programs," said Nancy Small, director of the AMC Small Business Programs.

The award recognized AMC for outstanding achievement and continuous improvement in the Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI) category for the second time.

AMC's Small Business Programs took home this award first in 2007.

"We are evaluated on how well we did in meeting our established goal for the year. Although, we did not meet our established goal, we did significantly increase the amount of dollars awarded in this area," said Tony Hodge, program manager of AMC's Small Business Programs.

"This success was largely due to efforts at two of our major subordinate commands: Research, Development, and Engineering Command and Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command," continued Hodge.

Both signed memorandums of agreement with Morgan State University and Alabama A&M University respectively to conduct research activities at those institutions.

"It is important to garner relationships with HBCUs and MIs, because it helps to achieve the President's goal of promoting excellence, innovation, and sustainability at Historically Black Colleges and Universities," said Hodge.

Small accepted the award on behalf of AMC from Tracey Pinson, director of Small Business Programs in the Office of the Secretary of the Army.

The Department of the Army annually presents Small Business Awards in six categories: Small Business, Small Disadvantaged Business, Women-Owned, Service Disabled Veteran, Historically Underutilized Zone, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions.

For more information on AMC's Small Business Programs, visit www.amc.army.mil/pa/SMALLBUSINESS.asp.

Washington is with Army Materiel Command.

2010 Department of Defense Maintenance Awards Winners Announced

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (AUG. 4, 2010)

The Department of Defense (DoD) announced today the 2010 winners of the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards for depot- and field-level units. These awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding achievements in weapon system and military equipment maintenance.

The 2010 Robert T. Mason Depot Maintenance Excellence Award recipient is the Navy's Emergent Repair Program at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility. The program provided extraordinary support to combat forces by meeting or exceeding operational force requirements in every measurable category. Through innovative solutions, their diverse team was able to repair numerous surface ships and submarines in a very short period of time.

The depot-level award is named in recognition of Robert T. Mason, a former assistant deputy under secretary of defense for maintenance policy, programs, and resources. Mason served as the champion of organic depot maintenance for three decades and was instrumental in transforming DoD organic depot-level operations.

A total of six field-level awards are presented in three categories—large, medium, and small. The recipients of this year's Secretary of Defense Field-level Maintenance Awards in the large category are the Army's Bravo Company, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas, and the Navy's *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* home ported in Norfolk, Va. Winners in the medium category are the Navy's Fleet Readiness Center Northwest, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Wash., and the Marine Corps Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C. Small category winners are the Army's Bravo Company, 307th Brigade Support Battalion, Al Asad, Iraq, and the Air Force's 3rd Component Maintenance Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

The awards will be presented to the winners at the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards banquet on Nov. 17, 2010, during the 2010 DoD Maintenance Symposium and Exhibition at the Tampa convention center in Tampa, Fla. Additional information regarding the 2010 DoD Maintenance Symposium and Exhibition can be found at www.sae.org/dod.

Army Sustainability Report Highlights Energy and Environmental Achievements

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (AUG. 6, 2010)

The Department of the Army announced today that it has released its second Annual Sustainability Report highlighting energy and environmental achievements and milestones supporting the Army's sustainability concept and goals.

The annual sustainability report informs primary stakeholders, partners, the American people, and other interested parties on the Army's progress to embody the principles of sustainability in its operations and installation management.

"Army leadership has come to understand the potential for sustainability to strengthen national security. What had previously yielded benefit through environmental initiatives is emerging as an important tool for countering the destabilizing effects of emerging challenges from competition over limited and diminishing resources, as well as population movements, pandemics, and other climate change-related events," said Under Secretary of the Army Joseph W. Westphal, who serves as both the Army's senior sustainability official and chief management officer.

Throughout the Army, efforts are underway to further recognize sustainability as an organizing principle. Army sustainability results from aligning the Army's mission with environmental stewardship and community well being, plus the economic benefit accrued from reduced waste and increased efficiency.

Twenty-eight Army installations have undergone integrated strategic and sustainability planning, which requires long-term sustainability plans and goals to meet future mission and community needs. All new Army construction since fiscal 2008 has been required to be designed to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver minimum standard. Further, efforts are underway to ensure that all new Army acquisition programs include the fully burdened cost of energy in the selection process to maximize the productivity of energy needed to meet the nation's operational capabilities.

"The Army is currently in the midst of its eighth year of protracted conflict. With an eye toward rebalancing the force, sustainability has proven an effective tool for meeting operational requirements, while sustaining facilities and ranges, improving quality of life, and reducing the burden on the natural and manmade systems on which we depend," said Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, vice chief of staff of the Army.

Tad Davis, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for environment, safety, and occupational health said, "The results we are now seeing from the Army's sustainability programs and initiatives directly support our mission and the well-being of our soldiers, civilians, families, and communities."

The report and other information on Army sustainability programs and initiatives are available online at www.aepi.army.mil.

Media contact is Dave Foster, 703-697-5344 or Dave.Foster1@us.army.mil.

DoD Programs Recognized for Outstanding Systems Engineering

Stephen P. Welby

The Department of Defense, Director of Systems Engineering and the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Systems Engineering Division announced winners of the 2009 DoD Systems Engineering Top 5 Program Awards at the 13th Annual NDIA Systems Engineering Conference in San Diego on Oct. 27, 2010. The awards, presented to both government and industry, recognize significant systems engineering achievement by government–industry teams during calendar year 2009.

Winners exhibited common approaches to achieving systems engineering excellence, including well-defined and -executed technical reviews, exceptional communication among stakeholders, and strong, proactive risk management strategies. In addition, the five government-industry program teams demonstrated their own innovative approaches to implementing DoD systems engineering policy. Four of the five programs provide command, control, and communications support, highlighting the vital and timely emphasis on situational awareness, accuracy of targeting, and safety on the battlefield. The programs ranged from rapid acquisitions in support of a Joint Urgent Operational Need (JUON) to Acquisition Category ID Major Defense Acquisition Programs.

U.S. Army Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System

The Army's Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS), a $400 million program led by Program Manager Battle Command and supported by Raytheon, provides fully automated fire support to field commanders. A mature program, AFATDS has maintained its baseline for more than 10 years, delivering software with no mission-critical faults. The program obtains peer review and feedback through Internal Design Approval reviews, which emphasize identifying issues and risks early in the life cycle.

Raytheon Program Manager Steve Bohan said systems engineering is the key to any successful program because systems engineers work both sides—the users and the developers—to ensure quality performance, and that the end product meets the requirements. He said that in his experience, when he saw users and developers working alone to create a product without systems engineers, it would tend to miss the mark.

"Systems engineers are the glue," he emphasized. "I cannot overstress their importance in making a program successful through all the stages of the acquisition process."

The AFATDS passes data to weapon systems, so "nothing is more important than delivering a system to the warfighters that meets all their mission-critical requirements."

Bohan stressed the importance of the government-industry team working from day one and providing continuous feedback and support.

"Several individuals on the government side came up through systems engineering as well. They are constantly looking for better ways to do things. It is one of the strongest aspects of the program. They helped us learn, and we helped them learn."

Air Force Battlefield Airborne Communications Node

The Air Force Battlefield Airborne Communications Node (BACN), responding to a JUON, is led by the Air Force Materiel Command Electronics Systems Center and supported by Northrop Grumman Information Systems. With a base cost of $430 million plus options, the program was a top priority for the Air Force in 2009, providing voice services, tactical data link services, and Internet protocol services. Program metrics indicate systems engineering and integration methodologies reduced fielding time from 36 months to less than 12 months, and using modular system architecture and a full-scale mockup, reduced aircraft integration from 12 weeks to 2 weeks. The program achieved mission availability of more than 95 percent, and successful use of COTS components reduced the schedule by 70 percent compared with traditional aircraft programs.

Evaluators noted that BACN showed exemplary systems engineering in delivering a quick-reaction capability, establishing an early baseline, and streamlining documentation. The evaluators highlighted two systems engineering approaches that contributed to the program's success: 1) The BACN program took an incremental approach to verifying system requirements, and 2) BACN engaged in well-organized, criteria-based trade studies.

Army Base Expeditionary Target and Surveillance Systems–Combined

The Army's Base Expeditionary Target and Surveillance Systems–Combined (BETSS-C) sensor system, a $1.5 billion solely government-led systems integration effort, led by Project Manager, Night Vision/Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition, incorporates new technologies into existing systems to gather, integrate, and deliver situational awareness data to the field.

The concept arose in the summer of 2007 in response to a JUON and evolved into the BETSS-C. The program fielded the system in advance of the required schedule as a quick-reaction capability. Evaluators noted the program's strengths in systems engineering included maintaining control of system requirements, demonstrating effective risk management, and embracing peer reviews.

Defense Readiness Reporting System–Army

The Army's 3.75 million Defense Readiness Reporting System-Army (DRRS-A), led by Program Executive Office C3T and supported by Lockheed Martin and Accenture National Security Services (ANSS), fuses data to provide Army leaders with an accurate representation of unit readiness, including personnel levels, training status, equipment availability, and equipment serviceability. Evaluators noted the program excelled in its approach to converting from the original stand-alone system to a robust Web-enabled software suite. The program ensured collaboration among users and developers to achieve rapid development, solid risk management, and a schedule of comprehensive reviews. The program also exhibited a well-documented approach to identifying and resolving issues, leading to cost savings across the Army.

Army Lt. Col. Kevin Leonard, government program manager from 2007 to July 2010, said DRRS-A is an example of how "agile" development can produce capability quickly. The key was to have everyone involved—the warfighters, proponents, developers, and program management office—from strategy development to delivery. "DRRS-A also represents an exponential jump in capability from the legacy system, improving data quality and processing speed, and reducing system sustainment and unit travel costs."

Leonard said the agile engineering methodology allowed them to bring all the stakeholders to the table, from the program management office to the development team, which in their case included two sets of vendors and the actual subset of users themselves. They scheduled monthly software development "sprints" to show the users what had been developed so far in the capability. They would critique

the development and make adjustments. They would then weigh risk and schedule, lay out a plan for the next 30 days, and go into an aggressive development time. After about six or eight "sprints," they could put a useful capability in the hands of the warfighter. "It was tremendously beneficial," said Leonard, "because we had specific input from the warfighter and they had a vested interest in the product we were collectively developing. They got to see rapid changes and usefulness in a short amount of time."

C-17 Globemaster III Modernization

The $2.2 billion C-17 Globemaster III Modernization, led by the Aeronautical Systems Center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and supported by Boeing, is a heavy-lift cargo aircraft capable of carrying a variety of outsize equipment and cargo, including combat-equipped troops, paratroopers, containers, and armored vehicles. Concerned about long cycle times, the program team conducted a series of meetings in early 2009 to address areas including requirements management, risk management, and metrics. Government technical lead Cynthia A. Porubcansky said the 2009 effort saved the program more than $13 million, making particular strides in the requirements maturation process. Ongoing initiatives include improving risk mitigation and corrective action for deficiency reporting.

Porubcansky said systems engineering principles cannot be separated from any aspect of a program and must be an ongoing commitment.

"We are never finished making something better," she said. "Systems engineering is the crux of whatever we design and integral to everything we do. We expect all of our engineers to be systems engineers."

According to government lead systems engineer Christian Stillings, "robust systems engineering processes are a force multiplier," especially during times of increased competition for resources. The C-17 program needs to be as efficient as possible for the transition to the sustainment phase.

Boeing's Robert Ciesla said that although the C-17 has been around for years, the modernization effort represents an improvement of systems engineering for the entire airplane, updating avionics, air drop, and other features.

Porubcansky concluded, "In many cases the C-17 processes are benchmark processes in terms of discipline and systems engineering as a whole. Of course we had to make improvements, but history has shown that we have tried to apply systems engineering and to make process improvements. We are honored that the award recognizes that effort."

The sponsors congratulate the winners of the Systems Engineering Top 5 Awards and encourage continuing commitment to systems engineering excellence. Without the technical discipline that results from rigorous attention to systems engineering, even the best ideas could be lost to a wayward schedule and a spiraling budget. In an environment of urgent need and scarce resources, effective systems engineering execution such as exhibited by these five programs strengthens the department's ability to advance capability to meet warfighter needs.

Inherent to systems engineering is the drive to constantly review and improve. The systems engineering directorate, in collaboration with the defense acquisition community, continues to hone systems engineering policy and guidance. The directorate welcomes feedback and will continue to work among government offices, programs, industry, and academia to implement needed improvements.

Welby is the director of Systems Engineering, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics/Defense Research and Engineering.

Department of Defense Selects Tribal Colleges and Universities for Grants

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (SEPT. 16, 2010)

The Department of Defense (DoD) announced today plans to award instrumentation grants totaling $3.5 million to 13 tribal colleges and universities. These grants will be made under the fiscal 2010 DoD Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions Program. The grants will enhance programs and capabilities at these minority institutions in scientific disciplines critical to national security and the DoD.

This announcement is the result of merit competition for infrastructure support funding conducted for the Office of Defense Research and Engineering by the Army Research Office. The solicitation resulted in 15 proposals in response to a broad agency announcement issued in April 2010. The Army Research Office plans to award 13 equipment grants ranging from $132,000 to $400,000. Each award will have a 12-month performance period.

Awards will be made only after written agreements are reached between the department and the institutions.

The list of recipients is available at www.defense.gov/news/d20100916grants.pdf.

Department Joins in Call for Innovative Solutions

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (SEPT. 7, 2010)

Lisa Daniel

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department is putting some of its most vexing challenges on the Internet for the public to help solve as part of a new initiative to invite creative solutions to government problems.

Pentagon officials submitted four challenges to the Challenge.gov website that launched today. The site, a White House initiative administered by the General Services Administration, offers millions of dollars in prizes to those who find solutions to challenges that span all areas of government, from improving health and public schools to advancing science, technology, and the environment.

The administration's chief technology officer, Aneesh Chopra, announced the launch at the 2010 Gov 2.0 Summit here today. Speaking alongside the administration's chief information officer, Vivek Kundra, Chopra said the site is an example of the administration's efforts to close the technology gap between the public and private sectors, bring the two together to solve the nation's problems, and reward innovation.

"We wanted an organizational model to take all the components we describe to engage the American people in problem solving," Chopra said.

Part of the reason for the technology gap, Chopra said, is that the private sector has moved forward with open-architecture Internet models, while the government has remained closed. Challenge.gov is designed for long-term success because of its "grassroots, bottom-up" architecture for inviting public input, he said.

Posted Defense Department challenges include:

- A challenge from the Office of Naval Research, with more than $1 million in prizes, for white papers that solve problems in one of seven areas: enhanced perception systems for autonomous ground navigation, compressive sensing for urban warfare, flow noise mitigation by fish, chlorine-resistant sea water, reverse-osmosis membranes, measurement technology for high-noise assessments, and directed energy in maritime environments. Papers must be submitted by Nov. 10.
- A challenge from the Air Force, in partnership with the Defense Department's Cyber Crime Center, to pioneer new investigative tools, techniques, and methodologies. Fifteen prizes will be awarded. The deadline is Nov. 2.
- A challenge from the Army Research Lab to create innovative and interactive solutions in virtual environments, with a focus on artificial intelligence. Entries must be submitted by Dec. 6, and prizes total $25,000.
- The Defense Department's Technical Information Center offers a challenge for papers to be submitted by Feb. 7, 2011, to support the center's customer needs with the use of Web 2.0 and 3.0 technologies, delivering technical information to mobile devices and experimenting with tool suites.

Other challenges among more than three dozen posted today include:

- A NASA challenge to build an aircraft that can fly 200 miles in less than two hours using the energy equivalent of less than a gallon of gasoline per occupant. The team with the best combination of efficiency and speed will win $1.5 million.
- An Agriculture Department challenge, as part of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign, to create healthy—and tasty—new recipes for school lunches. Winners in various categories will share $12,000 in prizes.
- The Education Department and National Education Association Foundation are challenging public school educators to identify their most pressing classroom problem, and propose a solution. More than $67,000 in prizes is available.

The Challenge.gov site offers details for responding to challenges, and challenges can be searched by topic or department.

Face of Defense: Ammo Tech Earns Inaugural Award

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin

CAMP SCHWAB, Japan—An ammunition technician with Ammunition Company, 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, is the first Marine selected to receive the Marine Corps Ammunition Technician of the Year Award.

"I was kind of shocked really when I heard I was receiving this award," Marine Lance Cpl. Brent A. Smith said. "I kind of felt like I was up there with 'Chesty' Puller." The late Lt. Gen. Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller was a combat veteran of World War II and the Korean War, and the most-decorated U.S. Marine in history.

The Ammunition Technician of the Year Award is designed to recognize Marine Corps ammunition technicians, private through sergeant, who have set themselves apart from the rest of their peers through hard work, dedication, and sound decision making, officials said.

"It is a great honor to have an ammo tech from 3rd Supply Battalion represent the company here on Okinawa," said

Marine Lance Cpl. Brent A. Smith goes through ammunition clips to ensure they all have the same and correct number of rounds, Aug. 9, 2010. Smith is the first Marine to be named Marine Corps Ammunition Technician of the Year.
U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Kentavist P. Brackin

Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Deering, officer in charge of Ammunition Company, who recommended Smith for the award.

Smith works with several other ammunition technician Marines to issue ammo to units across Okinawa, giving out anywhere from 50,000 to 100,000 rounds of various types of ammunition in a day.

"Ammunition technicians seem to be overlooked sometimes," Smith said. "No one notices when their ammunition is delivered on time, but they sure notice when they are on the gun line and there is nothing to put downrange. You can go a few days without food, maybe a couple of days without water, but you wouldn't last a minute without ammunition."

Deering said the new award is good for the ammunition community in the Marine Corps. "I am excited to see how this award will transform our community in the future," he said. "It is a great program, and I think that through recognition, Marines may become more competitive. We all like bragging rights."

Smith said he's proud to be the first Marine to receive the award. "I know that I have set the bar for myself and for other Marines who push for this award in the future," he said.

Brackin is with Marine Corps Bases Japan.

Department to Reduce Fuel, Water Consumption

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (SEPT. 13, 2010)
Lisa Daniel

WASHINGTON—Defense Department officials plan to reduce the military's water and fossil fuels consumption by more than 20 percent in the next decade under an Obama administration plan to make government agencies better stewards of the environment.

The department's priorities for this year and next are to invest in fixed installations, enhance buildings, and ensure sustainability concepts in doctrine and policy, Ashton B. Carter, under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics wrote in the department's portion of the Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan.

White House officials released the plan Sept. 9. It includes a roadmap submitted from each department outlining how they will reduce their impact on the environment while meeting mission goals. The plan is the result of an executive order by President Barack Obama.

The department's goals are in line with the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, which highlighted for the first time the importance of having a strategic approach to climate change and energy.

"Our military's heavy reliance on fossil fuels creates significant risks and costs at a tactical, as well as a strategic level," Carter wrote in the plan. "We measure these costs in lost dollars, in reduced mission effectiveness, and in U.S. soldiers' lives. Freeing warfighters from the tether of fuel will significantly improve our mission effectiveness, as will reducing our installations' dependence on costly fossil fuels and a potentially fragile power grid."

The Defense Department's eight overarching goals include:
- Reducing the use of fossil fuels in facilities and vehicles while using renewable sources of energy;
- Improving water management;
- Further reducing greenhouse gas emissions to a 34 percent reduction since fiscal 2008;
- Curbing greenhouse gases further through contracted landfill disposal, increased teleworking, and less air travel;
- Reducing and better managing solid waste, such as by using less paper;
- Minimizing chemicals released into the environment through better electronics disposal and pesticide applications;
- Promoting sustainability as the norm in procurements and buildings; and
- Building sustainability into management systems, and with coordination with local and regional planning boards.

The goals apply to all of the department's mission and program areas, with the objective of incorporating sustainability principles into daily operations, officials said.

Making such changes will improve mission effectiveness while enhancing the environment, said Shannon Cunniff, the department's director of chemical and material risk management. She added that implementation will be challenging.

"Implementing the plan won't be easy, but it will be rewarding," she said. "We'll lower our vulnerabilities associated with reliance on fossil fuels and a fragile power grid, and preserve other assets critical to our readiness and training and, over the long run, we'll save money by doing so. It's a win-win-win [situation]."

The department has been recognized in recent years as a leader in environmental sustainability, and Cunniff said she expects that to continue under the new plan.

The department "has the innovative spirit and creativity, as well as the mission benefits, to drive successful implementation of the plan," she said.

"I'll bet that [the Defense Department] can and will lead the nation in making smart investments that protect assets for current and future generations to enjoy and use," she added.

The Federal Government occupies nearly 500,000 buildings, operates more than 600,000 vehicles, employs more than 1.8 million civilians, and purchases more than $500 billion per year in goods and services. As the single-largest energy consumer in the U.S. economy, the Federal Government spent more than $24.5 billion on electricity and fuel in 2008 alone, according to a White House news release.

Executive Order 13514, issued Oct. 5, 2009, requires agencies to set a 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, increase energy efficiency, reduce fleet petroleum consumption, conserve water, reduce waste, support sustainable communities, and leverage federal purchasing power to promote environmentally responsible products and technologies.

To promote accountability, annual progress will be measured by the Office of Management and Budget and be reported online to the public.

RDECOM to Receive U.S. Army Superior Unit Award

U.S. ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (SEPT. 14, 2010)

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.—The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command will be presented the U.S. Army Superior Unit Award for its support to America's warfighters during the Global War on Terrorism.

The RDECOM command team and directors of its subordinate elements will receive the award during a ceremony Sept. 16, on APG's Fanshaw Field.

The Army is recognizing that during 2007, RDECOM and its research centers and laboratories displayed meritorious devotion in support of the warfighting force and performed

One of the Army's Greatest Inventions for 2007 was Objective Gunner Protection Kit, developed by the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, Picatinny Arsenal, N.J. The kit provides a common force protection system capable of integration onto multiple vehicle platforms. Its integrated turret is mounted on vehicles, providing all-over ballistic protection from explosive device fragmentation and small arms fire. More than 8,000 kits were fielded in 2007. U.S. Army photo

in a superior manner while accomplishing unique and complex tasks.

The Army Superior Unit Award was established by the Secretary of the Army in 1985 to recognize the outstanding performance of a unit during a difficult and challenging mission under extraordinary circumstances. The award streamer will be added to each element's colors, and each organization's director will receive award lapel pins for every person in their organization.

Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commander, U.S. Army Materiel Command, will add the award streamer to the RDECOM unit colors at the APG ceremony.

The award citation credits RDECOM with developing and accelerating many technological and engineering solutions critical to warfighter needs. For example, nine of the Army's top 10 greatest inventions in 2007 came from RDECOM's centers and laboratories. These include the Improvised Explosive Device Interrogation Arm, the Reconnaissance Vehicle System, and the Objective Gunner Protection Kit.

Dunwoody will present RDECOM headquarters and its four APG-based subordinate organizations—the Army Research Laboratory; the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center; the Communication-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center; the U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity; and the RDECOM Contracting Center—streamers during the ceremony.

RDECOM's other four subordinate organizations—the Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center at Warren, Mich.; the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center at Natick, Mass.; the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.; and the Aviation, Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.—will receive their awards from the command team the following week.

Finalists Announced for Government Contracting Awards Winners to be Unveiled at Nov. 3 Gala

NATIONAL CONTRACT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (SEPT. 15, 2010)

TYSONS CORNER, Va.—Thirty-five Washington-area government contracting industry firms and executives have been chosen by their peers as finalists for the 8th Annual Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards™—an awards program recognizing the innovation, dedication, and commitment to excellence of the people and businesses in the region's government contracting community. The win-

ners will be announced at a gala dinner on November 3 at the Ritz-Carlton in Tysons Corner, Va.

Awards will be presented to contractors at four revenue levels, executives at three revenue levels, and to public-sector partners whose achievements are exceptionally distinguished. In addition, Clifford M. Kendall, founder of Computer Data Systems, Inc., will be inducted into the Greater Washington Government Contractor Hall of Fame in recognition of his professional excellence, consistent track record of growth and success, and his history of extraordinary personal contributions to his community, company, and industry.

"Every year, the nominees and finalists for this prestigious award offer a stark reminder of the great and important work that is being done," said Fairfax County Chamber President & CEO Jim Corcoran. "It is an honor for us to salute them."

"This is a time of unprecedented challenges for our country, and these firms and executives have risen to those challenges, supporting the government's myriad missions at home and abroad, while also bolstering our regional economy," said Professional Services Council President & CEO Stan Soloway. "We should all be proud of what they, and our sector, have achieved."

The Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards are presented in partnership by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Professional Services Council, and Washington Technology.

2010 Finalists—8th Annual Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards

Contractor of the Year (less than $25 million)
Blue Canopy Group, LLC and Subsidiary
CPS Professional Services
Digital Management, Inc.
Fulcrum IT
Synergy Enterprises, Inc.
Contractor of the Year ($25 to $75 million)
Buccaneer Computer Systems & Service, Inc.
Capstone Corporation
QED Group, LLC
The Tauri Group, LLC
Zimmerman Associates, Inc.
Contractor of the Year ($75 to $300 million)
A-T Solutions, Inc.
Global Defense Technology & Systems, Inc.
MicroTech
Pragmatics, Inc.
Systems Planning & Analysis, Inc.

Contractor of the Year (greater than $300 million)
CGI Federal
ICF International
Intelligent Decisions
Serco, Inc.
SGT (Stinger Ghaffrain Technology)

Executive of the Year (less than $75 million)
Anne Reed, Acquisition Solutions, Inc.
Allen Cage, AOC Solutions, Inc.
Gary Nakamoto, Base Technologies, Inc.
Susan Kidd, DRT Strategies, Inc.
Prachee Devadas, Synergy Enterprises, Inc.

Executive of the Year ($75 to $300 million)
Tim Keenan, High Performance Technologies, Inc.
Tony Jimenez, MicroTech
Dr. Long Nguyen, Pragmatics, Inc.
Michelle S. Lee, STG International, Inc.
Phillip E Lantz, Systems Planning & Analysis, Inc.

Executive of the Year (greater than $300 million)
John Belcher, ARINC, Inc.
Ralph Shrader, Booz Allen & Hamilton, Inc.
George Schindler, CGI Federal
Linda Mills, Northrop Grumman
Ed Casey, Serco
Public Sector Partners
Charlie Williams, Defense Contract Management Agency
Soraya Correa, Department of Homeland Security

Hall of Fame Inductee
Clifford M. Kendall, founder, Computer Data Systems, Inc.

Established in 1925, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce is a privately operated, nonprofit membership organization that represents Northern Virginia's premier businesses. The Fairfax County Chamber leverages its access, influence, and relationships to advance the economic vitality and quality of life in the Northern Virginia region. For more information about the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, visit the Chamber's Web site at www.fairfaxchamber.org.

Directorate is the Center of Belvoir Contracting Universe

ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (AUGUST 2010)
Larry D. McCaskill

Processing an average of more than 3,000 contracts valued at more than $300 million annually, the Fort Belvoir Directorate of Contracting (DOC) is the hub for contracting activity at Fort Belvoir, Va., Fort A.P. Hill, Va., and other local military facilities.

"I think our office provides the best service to our customers. We have a very good working relationship with our customers and continue to work on good communication," said Christine Thompson, director of contracting, Mission and Installation Contracting Command (MICC), Fort Belvoir DOC. "The DOC staff works very diligently to educate the customer on the contracting process while still meeting their mission [requirements]. Educating the customer will always be an ongoing process because our customers turn over staff as quickly as we do, and areas of emphasis change in acquisition."

The Fort Belvoir DOC supports the Fort Belvoir and Fort A.P. Hill garrison commanders; tenant units on the installations; Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) (non-medical contract support); Army Research Lab, Adelphi, Md.; and Rivanna Station, Va.

The Fort Belvoir DOC has three divisions supporting contracting actions. One division supports all pre-award actions, one division supports the garrison's post-award requirements and construction projects, including all Recovery Act projects for the installations; and one division supports post-award requirements for the other activities, such as Defense Acquisition University, WRAMC, and others. The DOC also has a small information technology division that maintains and supports contracting software, a legal staff, a small business staff, and an operations and policy division made up of a procurement analyst, the Government Purchase Card Team, and an administrative officer.

"The biggest challenge facing all the contracting offices is the shortage of trained and seasoned contracting professionals. We are all dealing with an aging workforce that can retire today or in the next few years," Thompson said. "The new folks are mostly coming from the intern program. The Army has the best intern program of all the federal agencies, but it's difficult to retain them as we are competing with other agencies offering higher grades and a lesser workload, especially in the National Capital Region."

Thompson places a lot of emphasis on team building, banking on it to create an environment that employees will not want to leave.

Each month the DOC hosts a gathering for employees to get together as a team. The meetings vary from formal training to addressing various relevant contract issues. Thompson said the training ensures the DOC staff is familiar with the standardized policies and procedures of the MICC.

Team building at the Fort Belvoir DOC is not all work and no play. Each quarter, a division hosts a social event such as a St. Patrick's Day party, Valentine's Day party, etc.

"The events have almost become a competition amongst the divisions seeing who can host the best party," Thompson said. "There are games, great food, and great company."

As in all contracting offices, the second half of the fiscal year is their busiest.

"The third and fourth quarters are usually the busiest time of year for contracting offices, obligating funds that expire at end of the fiscal year," Thompson said. "The past couple of years, many of the activities and the garrison have been incrementally funding service-type requirements. So we are now modifying contracts every month rather than once a year, but the fourth quarter is still very busy.

"The Recovery Act Stimulus Projects added additional workload as well as additional oversight in the reporting on all projects quarterly through the president's initiative on government transparency. The contracting staff and contractors must report accurately and timely on all projects involving the stimulus funds." Thompson said.

"We have a professional and positive workforce that is here to support our soldiers, and take great pride in their profession as well as the service they provide to their customers," said Thompson, who is celebrating her fourth year at the DOC.

"I have seen a lot of changes at the Fort Belvoir DOC and all for the good. We have a good relationship amongst the divisions, which is critical as workload may need to be shifted as it increases either in pre-award or post-award. This is a great team to be a part of," Thompson said.

McCaskill is with Army Contracting Command. For more information, contact the Army Contracting Command Public Affairs Office at 703-806-8349.