Agile pilot program wins the DoD’s First Software Innovation Award

Every year, the Defense Acquisition Workforce Awards recognize a select few of the civilian and military professionals who play an instrumental role in delivering, procuring, and sustaining the systems that support our warfighters. Reflecting the growing recognition of software capabilities as central to that mission, for the first time in 2019 the list of awards included the Software Innovation Team Award. According to the website of the Office of Human Capital Initiatives (HCI), this award "recognizes those who epitomize innovation and use of best practices in software development and acquisition as evidenced by frequent and high quality delivery of software capabilities into the hands of warfighters."

The inaugural award was given to the USAF Kessel Run Team. Citing several concrete successes in pushing out new capabilities to warfighters in a timely way, the HCI website notes "unparalleled" value and substantial cost savings from their track record of delivering new capability to the field every 14 hours. The Honorable Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)), hosted the award ceremony and recognized the award winners at the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes on October 29, 2019.

As a pilot under the 2018 NDAA Sec 874 program, Kessel Run has worked with OSD to demonstrate their methods, practices, and results on a capability that is part of the Air Operations Center. Along with work from our other pilots, this effort has helped inform reports to Congress as well as new Department policy and guidance. Kessel Run has also served as a leader by documenting key practices central to their Agile software transformation in a series of playbooks that are available on the Agile Acquisition Pilots Community of Practice site. To see the full award summary, please visit https://www.hci.mil/what-we-do/Awards.html

**For best results, copy and paste the URL after logging into your DAU account.**
Ask an Expert

Q: I am new to my organization, what type of training will provide me with an overview of working in an Agile DoD Program?

To see the answer from our Agile Experts, please visit the Agile Pilots Community of Practice site using the link below (Select Discussion Board: CoP News, Issue 4, December 2019).

https://www.dau.edu/team/AgilePilots/SitePages/Category.aspx?CategoryId=16&SiteMapTitle=Ask%20an%20Agile%20Expert

Meet the PM

Major Zach McCarty is a Project Manager within the F-22 Pipeline Operations team, which manages enterprise-level execution of the F-22 Capability Pipeline, a unique Section 873 pilot and Section 804 prototype. He is responsible for rapid development and fielding of critical F-22 modernization upgrades, valued at more than $550 million per year, for the world's foremost air superiority fighter fleet. He has served in a variety of program management and engineering capacities, including assignments with the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center sustaining the nation's intercontinental ballistic missile force and with the National Reconnaissance Office developing next generation space-based collection assets. Prior to his current position, Maj McCarty served as the executive officer to the Vice Commander, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center. The F-22 Program Office, through the F-22 Capability Pipeline, is striving to prototype a new acquisition construct leveraging Agile principles and commercial best practices. This approach is intended to rapidly develop and deploy multiple capabilities, encompassing hardware and software retrofits to a fielded, embedded system. This includes crafting innovative business arrangements, establishing a secure cloud-based development environment, and realigning organizational structures and management processes. Challenges include facilitating a significant cultural shift, establishing meaningful metrics, and scaling localized gains to the larger enterprise.

Announcements & Events

DEC – Section 874 Pilot Program Completion Report to Congress
DEC – Agile Pilots Guidebook for FY19
30 JAN – A&S Town Hall, Pentagon Auditorium BH 650 at 1330

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