

Defense Acquisition Workforce Awards for 2012

The Honorable Katharina G. McFarland, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, presented nine Workforce Achievement Awards and six Workforce Development Awards in a ceremony on Monday, Dec. 17, at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

In remarks prepared for the program, the Honorable Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, wrote: "Our winners represent the very best of professionalism, ingenuity, and accomplishment among their peers—the 151,000 members of the acquisition workforce. We proudly recognize these winners and the entire acquisition workforce for delivering world-class products and capabilities to our warfighters and for protecting taxpayer dollars."

Workforce Achievement Awards



From the left, Assistant Secretary McFarland presents Lt. Col. Chase Martin, U.S. Army project manager—Forward Iraq, with the award for acquisition in an expeditionary environment for work done in support of Operation New Dawn.



Mrs. McFarland with Jeffrey Le Claire, U.S. Navy, who was given the business Workforce Achievement Award as lead business and financial manager for weapons in support of the Program Executive Officer for Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons.



Mrs. McFarland presents the award for contract auditing to Rhonda Brock, a senior contract price/cost analyst in the pricing directorate of the Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal.



David C. Block, U.S. Air Force, won his award for contracting and procurement, as chief of contracting for Military Satellite Communications. Block executed 172 contract actions valued at \$1.74 billion in support of space-based global communication.



Saeed Emadi received the Achievement Award for information technology. He was responsible for acquisition, modification, and sustainment of all Air Force information technology systems supporting the Minuteman III weapon system, achieving a 99 percent ICBM alert rate.



The Life Cycle Logistics Achievement award was presented to Robert Levitt, who, as U.S. Navy program manager for air PMA-261 Director of Logistics, focused his team on weapon system affordability and on developing continuous maintenance planning.



Capt. Shane Gahagan, U.S. Navy, received the program management award. He led a diverse team of more than 1,200 as the E-2/C-2 program manager (PMA-231) for Program Executive Officer, Tactical Aircraft Programs. He was responsible for the \$21 billion program's cost, scheduling, and performance.



Clint Justin Govar received the award for systems planning, research, development, and engineering. He leads the advanced expeditionary power system development and fielding for the United States Marine Corps in the areas of battery technology, renewable energy development, fuel cell development, and portable power distribution.



Peter Manternach was the recipient of the test and evaluation Workforce Achievement Award. He is the lead survivability engineer for the United States Marine Corps, selected to fulfill the task of developing the Commandant's No. 1 priority program—a military combat helmet capable of providing select small arms protection to reduce battlefield fatalities.

Workforce Development Awards

Gold Award Large Organization

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic

Shown receiving the award from Mrs. McFarland is Christopher Miller, Senior Executive Service and executive director at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic. The organization instituted a creative, thorough, and standardized program for all new hires and created a well-defined curriculum focused on mid-career leadership development. It also provides executive coaching and mentoring to help advance employees.



Gold Award Small Organization

Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) Acquisition Directorate (AD)

Above left to right: Edith Pierce, chief of staff, WHS/AD; Richard Selby, deputy director, WHS/AD; Mrs. McFarland; Linda Allen, director, WHS/AD; and William Brazis, director, WHS and deputy director of administration and management.

The organization created a Knowledge Management system that is used by all of its employees. It also created in-house training that focuses on dissecting the entire process of new contracts, and exposes novice employees to differing contracting types and varied customer bases through assignment rotations.



Silver Award Large Organization

Missile Defense Agency (MDA)

Left to right: Sandra Rawdon, MDA deputy director for human resources; Mrs. McFarland; John H. James, Jr., MDA executive director; and Donna Davis, MDA director of human resources.

The organization concentrated on recruitment initiatives by creating the Missile Defense Career Development Program for entry-level talent and by focusing on virtual career fairs to increase exposure. It expanded opportunities for mid-career employees by increasing awareness of lateral career broadening opportunities and created 18 agency-specific, mission-critical career guides.



Silver Award Small Organization

U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Special Operations Research, Development, and Acquisition Center (SORDAC). Left to right: Theodore W. Koufas, director of resources and analysis, SORDAC; Mrs. McFarland; James W. Cluck, director, SORDAC. The center's SORDAC University is the central repository for all knowledge sharing across the organization. SORDAC also focuses on recruiting high-caliber students and provides rotations for interns. In addition, it instituted an awards program to recognize contributions of individuals and teams demonstrating core values.



Bronze Award Large Organization

Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Test and Evaluation Group (AIR-5.0)

Left to right: Stephen Cricchi, director, Integrated Systems Evaluation, Experimentation and Test Department; Lori Jameson, NATEU program manager; Christina Crowley, AIR 5.0C Test and Evaluation chief of staff (now senior T&E Engineer for Integrated Warfare, Test and Evaluation Division); Mrs. McFarland; Leslie Taylor, director, Flight Test Engineering, NATEU chief of academics; Jennifer McAteer, NATEU deputy program manager; Gary Kessler, deputy assistant commander, Test and Evaluation/executive director, Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division. The group exhibits best practices in training and development through its Naval Aviation Test and Evaluation University, career broadening opportunities, and for sharing training strategies across the Test and Evaluation communities.

Bronze Award Small Organization

Medium Altitude Unmanned Aircraft Systems (MAUAS) Division, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC/WII)

Left to right: Dr. Yvette Weber, deputy chief, MAUAS Division; Mrs. McFarland; Col. Christopher Coombs, chief of MAUAS Division; Maj. Russell Burks, chief, Director's Action Group. The division supports the Air Force Academy Summer programs, alternate workplace arrangements, and risk management partnerships to ensure that research, development, and emerging technologies are brought to the warfighters.

