

Seeing the Light: ONR-Sponsored Scientist Named One of *Popular Science's* 'Brilliant 10'

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
(OCT. 17, 2013)

ARLINGTON, Va.—An assistant professor at the University of Southern California, funded by the Office of Naval Research (ONR), is highlighted as one of this year's "Brilliant 10" young scientists and engineers *Popular Science* magazine's October issue.

The annual feature highlighted Dr. Andrea Armani, who—with support from ONR—could help the Navy save lives through new understandings of light and biology.

With steady backing from ONR, including both the Young Investigator Award Program and recognition under the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, Armani has invented a range of devices that allow her to explore the nano-world of viruses, bacteria and DNA, and their interactions with the environment.

One immediate application of her research is improving detection abilities of pathogens in different environments.

"She's developing the capabilities that will be used in future conflicts to keep sailors and Marines out of harm's way," said Dr. Timothy Bentley, program officer in ONR's Warfighter Performance Department.

While biosensors like those created by Armani would give warfighters increased protection against biological threats on the battlefield, her research also holds implications for communications, preventative healthcare, and more.

"ONR's support allows me to pursue high-risk research that ultimately has benefits in many areas," Armani said. "When you have that kind of encouragement, there's no end to what you can discover, and the next breakthrough could come when you least expect it."

She recently developed a sensor to detect ultra-violet light that could help fend off diseases associated with excessive exposure. Given the simplicity of the detection mechanism, it has many potential applications, including water monitoring.

Now Armani and ONR are embarking on a new project to study the way cells communicate after damage from a blast incident. The findings could help scientists create biomarkers to better understand blast injuries and develop protective methods and therapies for traumatic brain injury, a problem faced by many military service members.

But ONR's research investment in Armani's work is making an impact beyond what happens on the battlefield, Bentley said.

"Dr. Armani attracts some of the brightest young researchers to work in her lab and makes a lot of connections through her work," he said. "This is invaluable as we build up our network of national and international scientists who carry our research from the military and into the world at large."

The Department of the Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR) provides the science and technology necessary to maintain the Navy and Marine Corps' technological advantage. Through its affiliates, ONR is a leader in science and technology with engagement in 50 states, 70 countries, 1,035 institutions of higher learning, and 914 industry partners. ONR employs approximately 1,400 people, comprising uniformed, civilian and contract personnel, with additional employees at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C.

For more news from Office of Naval Research, visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/onr/>.

Special Ops Command Seeks Prototypes for 'Iron Man Suit'

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (OCT. 18, 2013)

David Vergun

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18, 2013 – U.S. Special Operations Command wants its operators to be protected with what it informally calls an "Iron Man suit," named after the fictional superhero.

In September, SOCOM announced it is seeking proposals for prototypes of the Tactical Assault Light Operator Suit, or TALOS.

The goal of TALOS is to provide ballistic protection to Special Operations Forces, along with fire-retardant capability, said Michel Fieldson, TALOS lead for SOCOM.

"We sometimes refer to it as the 'Iron Man' suit, frankly, to attract the attention, imagination, and excitement of industry and academia," Fieldson said. "We're hoping to take products we're developing in several technology areas and integrating them into a consolidated suit to provide more protection for the [special operations forces]."

Other technologies include sensors, communications, energy, and material that can store and release energy to prevent injuries and increase performance.

Materials that can store and release energy might be similar to the Intrepid Dynamic Exoskeletal Orthosis, now used by some wounded warriors for lower leg injuries. So TALOS could benefit wounded warriors too, Fieldson said.

The Homeland Security Department and firefighters have expressed an interest in this technology as well, he said, and it eventually might become available for other servicemembers.

"Our goal right now is to try to get the word out and bring industry partners together," Fieldson said. The technologies that will go into the suit's development are varied, he said, so it is unlikely one contractor would be able to specialize in the entire ensemble.

The traditional approach, Fieldson said, was to pick a prime contractor, usually a traditional defense partner, give them the design requirements and let them come up with the solution. That would take a long time, he noted.

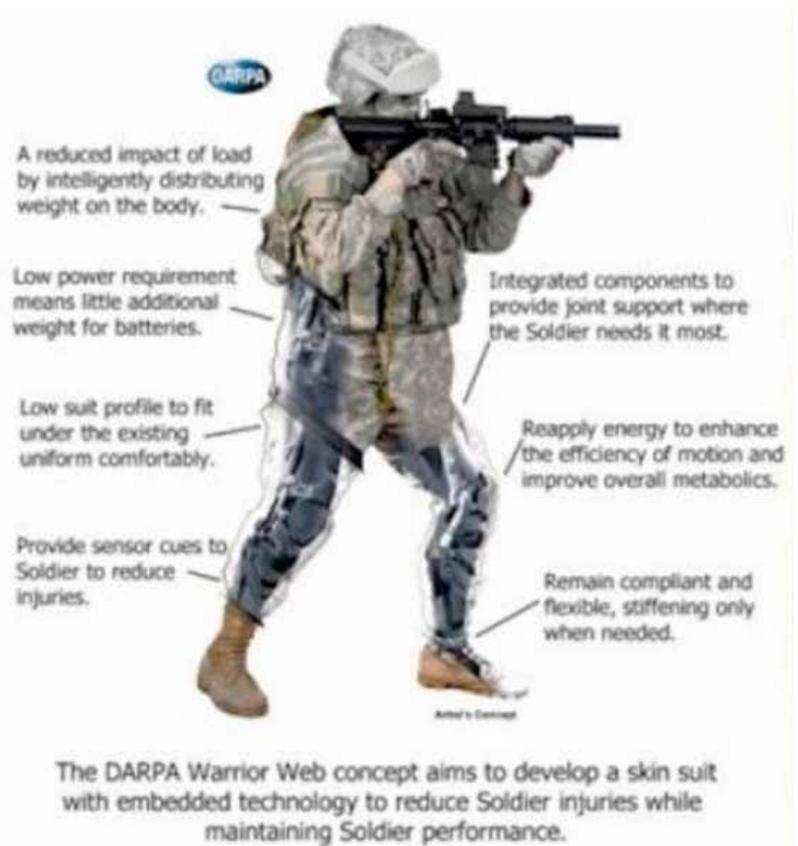
"In this case, the government will be the lead integrator, and we'll look to work with traditional or nontraditional partners in industry and academia who are innovative," he said. "We'll leave no stone unturned."

The goal, he said, is to begin integrating capabilities over the next 12 months and have the first suit ready for full field testing in four to five years.

Fieldson thinks TALOS will become a reality because it protects the warfighters and has the backing of SOCOM's commander, Navy Adm. William H. McRaven.

"I'm very committed to this," McRaven said to industry representatives at a July 8 TALOS demonstration in Tampa, Fla. "I'd like that last operator that we lost to be the last one we ever lose in this fight or the fight of the future, and I think we can get there."

"I'm committed to this," he continued. "At the end of the day, I need you and industry to figure out how you are going to partner with each other to do something that's right for America."



An artist's rendering of what the Tactical Assault Light Operator Suit might look like with its desired capabilities.

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency courtesy graphic

Air Force Top Energy Expert Receives Prestigious Award

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS (OCT. 25, 2013)

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service presented Dr. Kevin Geiss, Air Force deputy assistant secretary for energy, with the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal (Sammies) Oct. 3.

The Sammies have earned a reputation as one of the most prestigious awards dedicated to honoring America's civil servants. All nine recipients were honored at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. for their achievements that improved the lives of countless Americans and others around the world.

"Smart, dedicated, and driven public servants are making contributions that change the world for the better and the Service to America Medals are a powerful reminder of the



Department of the Air Force's Kevin Geiss (left) receives the 2013 Service to America Management Excellence Medal from Department of Defense Deputy Secretary Ashton Carter, Oct. 3, 2013 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

Courtesy photo by Sam Kittner

good that government does every day," said Max Stier, the Partnership for Public Service president and CEO. "We will never get what we want out of our government if its successes aren't identified, celebrated, and replicated."

Dr. Geiss received the Management Excellence Medal, which recognizes a federal employee for demonstrating superior leadership and management excellence through a significant contribution to the nation that exemplifies efficient, effective, and results-oriented government. Within the past three years, nominees demonstrated exemplary leadership and management excellence to advance a significant accomplishment within his or her particular government field that was innovative and high impact, and met a critical need for the nation.

"No single individual has had more influence and impact in improving the Air Force's energy posture than Dr. Kevin Geiss," said Kathleen Ferguson, the acting Air Force installations, environment, and logistics assistant secretary.

The Air Force is the largest single consumer of energy in the federal government, spending almost \$10 billion a year

on fuel and electricity. The energy bill constitutes nearly 10 percent of the Air Force budget.

Under Geiss' leadership, the Air Force was recognized as the Pentagon's top alternative energy user.

Although energy prices keep rising and costs have increased, the aviation initiatives instituted by the Air Force during Geiss's tenure surpassed the Air Force goal of lowering fuel consumption by 10 percent by 2015, achieving a 12 percent reduction in 2012—almost \$1.2 billion in avoided costs—compared to 2006. Related efforts also led to lowered energy consumption at Air Force facilities in 2012, avoiding \$300 million in utility costs, compared to 2003.

In addition, Geiss oversaw the Air Force achieving 51 megawatts of renewable energy generation at 56 installations and the institution of a program to reduce extra fuel carried by transport aircraft while maintaining safety standards, resulting in annual savings of five million gallons of fuel a year. He championed alternative fuels, including the certification of the entire Air Force fleet for unrestricted operations using 50/50 blends of traditional military jet fuel and synthetic or hydro-treated jet fuel derived from renewable biomass.

“Energy is critical to everything we do in the Air Force,” Geiss said. “Yet, meeting that need comes at a significant cost. We know becoming more energy efficient can free up dollars for other priorities without compromising mission success.”

The finalists’ achievements range from new discoveries in space, improved hurricane forecasting, the first-ever use of genome sequencing to help stop the spread of deadly hospital-acquired infections, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developing new approaches to treat drug addiction, and helping small businesses get capital to grow and create jobs.

The Service to America Medal recipients were chosen by a committee that included leaders from government, academia, the private sector, the media, and the philanthropic community.

Renamed the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals in 2010 to commemorate the organization’s founder, the program has honored more than 400 outstanding federal employees since its inception in 2002. More information about the program and the 2013 finalists’ achievements is available at <http://www.servicetoamericamedals.org>.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Earns DLA Customer of Year Award

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Public Affairs (NOV. 1, 2013)

KITTERY, Maine—Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) received the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) customer of the year award at a ceremony held at DLA headquarters in Virginia Oct. 29.

PNSY earned this prestigious award for its collaborative efforts to improve material support of fast attack submarines.

“We started researching common material for similar submarine overhauls back in 2011,” said Pete Lambert, material support division head. “We were able to identify materials which could be forecasted and made available in the supply system prior to the start of an overhaul.”

Material support for these extremely technical and sophisticated platforms requires components to be manufactured of the highest of quality and with the keenest of tolerances. With a limited manufacturing base certified to provide these critical parts, many short-fused material support challenges arise. PNSY established the Shipyard Material Team to maximize material availability by collaborating with leading experts from the shipyard, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), and DLA.

The Ships Availability Planning and Engineering Center (SHAPEC) forecast was established to ensure the supply system had ample time to respond to the maintenance period. The SHAPEC forecast enables the shipyard and DLA to make confident investments in procurements ahead of demands while also lowering backorders and improving material availability, by focusing on what was actually used versus what was planned to be used. Consisting of more than 1,300 DLA-managed individualized stock items, the SHAPEC Forecast covers three years and supports 16 future Los Angeles class maintenance overhauls.

“It’s all about the ships and the shipyard material team is a prime example of what can be achieved when we embrace our maintenance partnerships for the betterment of the mission,” said Lambert.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, a field activity of NAVSEA, is committed to maximizing the material readiness of the Fleet by safely delivering first-time quality, on budget and on time.

For more news from Naval Sea Systems Command, visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/navsea/>.

Chief Sees Future of Army Equipment at PEO Soldier

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE SOLDIER (NOV. 6, 2013)

FORT BELVOIR, Va.—The Army’s chief of staff inspected an array of advanced technology being mobilized on behalf of soldiers during a visit to Program Executive Office Soldier here, Nov. 1.

Experts from Program Executive Office, or PEO, Soldier briefed Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno on a new generation fused thermal and night vision goggles, more accurate laser targeting systems, improved body armor, and innovative devices to provide soldiers electrical power in the field.

PEO Soldier is responsible for the small arms, equipment, and clothing worn or used by the individual soldier.

“It’s about ensuring our soldiers are equipped to do their job,” Odierno said, after reviewing the equipment. “For me, that’s the most important thing.”

Odierno received briefings from PEO Soldier’s four project managers: PM Soldier Sensors and Lasers, PM Soldier Warrior, PM Soldier Weapons, and PM Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment.

The general was particularly interested in PEO Soldier’s efforts to achieve one of the Army’s main development goals,

which is lightening the load on soldiers. With the development and increased use of body armor, night vision equipment, and other equipment, today's soldiers carry more weight than their predecessors.

Program Executive Officer Soldier Brig. Gen. Paul A. Ostrowski told Odierno that reducing the weight on soldiers is a personal issue for him, and is something to which he devotes a great deal of time and effort.

Ostrowski told Odierno that PEO Soldier, the Maneuver Center of Excellence and U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, are working together to find "evolutionary and revolutionary" approaches to lightening the soldier load. Odierno was briefed on two programs which emerged from that effort. One of those briefings dealt with providing power to Soldiers in the field, and the other with the rucksacks they carry on their backs.

The increased use of radios, sensors and other electronic equipment has resulted in greater weight as Soldiers carry additional batteries. Maj. Joseph J. McCarthy, of the Soldier Power Section of Soldier Warrior, told Odierno that future Soldiers will use fewer batteries for their devices, and thereby reduce the weight they carry.

"This is one of the most important areas we have because it helps solve the problem of weight," Odierno said.

Two of the products McCarthy briefed were the conformal battery, which shapes to the soldier and provides power to numerous devices; and the solar blanket, which converts solar energy to power. The latter is important because PEO Soldier is working to make soldiers energy self-sufficient.

During a briefing on rucksacks, Odierno learned that PEO Soldier is collaborating with the Marine Corps on redistributing weight from shoulders to the hips. This is similar to hiking backpacks that use a waist belt to lighten the load on shoulder straps.

Soldier Warrior also informed Odierno of its efforts to leverage existing advanced technology to provide soldiers new capabilities more quickly and at lower cost.

Capt. Paul E. Cluverius described the Nett Warrior system, which allows a unit of soldiers to remain linked and exchange data while conducting operations. The system uses a commercially available Android smart phone to provide situational awareness capabilities to dismounted soldiers. The captain said developing apps would increase the capability of the Nett Warrior system.

"The key is being able to leverage that technology," Odierno commented.

The Rapid Equipping Force is also harnessing three-dimensional printing for its development efforts. Sgt. 1st Class Adam M. Asclipiadis described its new Expeditionary Laboratory, which houses a laboratory and machine shop with computerized numerically controlled machining equipment and 3-D printing capabilities in a mobile shipping container. The Expeditionary Lab enables soldiers to "print" and create physical solutions to problems they face.

"Three-dimensional printing has incredible potential," Odierno said. He added that Expeditionary Labs have placed "scientists on the battlefield."

During his visit, Odierno also closely examined the fruit of Army efforts to provide improved equipment for female soldiers, who make up about 14 percent of Army personnel.

The general examined the Generation III Improved Outer Tactical Vest, which provides ballistic protection and comes in variants for male and female soldiers. He also inspected the Enhanced Combat Helmet, as well as other helmets.

The general also learned about the Soldier Enhancement Program, or SEP, which locates and tests commercially available non-developmental clothing or equipment that can be used to meet soldier needs. The program can greatly reduce the cost and time for fielding needed capabilities. One of the SEP items the general saw was the Modular Airborne Weapons Case that Airborne troops use to protect weapons during air drops.

At the close of the information-packed briefing, Odierno thanked the PEO Soldier team for its work in supporting soldiers.

DoD Engineer Urges Competition to Advance Technology

*AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (NOV. 12, 2013)
Amaani Lyle*

WASHINGTON—With technology doubling in advancement roughly every decade, the Defense Department needs to ensure capable and flexible weapons systems to meet future challenges, a Pentagon official said today.

"The military, while leaner, needs to be more agile, flexible, ready, and technologically advanced," Stephen Welby, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for systems engineering told the Defense Daily's Open Architecture Summit.



Capt. Paul E. Cluverius briefs Nett Warrior to Gen. Ray Odierno, chief of staff of the Army. Odierno visited Program Executive Office Soldier on Fort Belvoir, Va., Nov. 1, 2013.

U.S. Army photo

Open systems and standard-based components, Welby explained, will enable the department to address obsolescence.

"We should be thinking about open architecture as the means to produce new capabilities and to address agility against emerging threats and ... to expand and fill in the gaps."

But, Welby added, if the government wants competition then it must plan for it. "The government needs to share the data that allows the players to come to the table smart."

Building capacity to be more flexible in the face of an uncertain future also requires thinking about alternative futures, particularly affordability and its span of options, Welby noted.

As such, the science and technology base of each Service now includes engineering resilient systems as a full-fledged topic of research and development, he said.

"It's a key way to shape across future systems," Welby said. "Those tools ... really enable us to think differently, to think about how we shape designs and deal with threats."

The deputy assistant secretary also acknowledged that many don't recognize DoD's most vital resource, as the single largest engineering organization in the world.

Today, the department employs more than 99,000 uniformed and civilian engineering professionals, with about 35,000 in construction trades, he added, emphasizing the right capacity of people is critical to the department's better buying power goals.

"Today we're making a lot of hard choices in terms of cost," Welby said. "We may find ourselves wanting to produce [certain] technologies and systems and we'd like to make sure we don't have buyer's remorse as we go forward."

Hutchison Receives AUSA Award

U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (NOV. 14, 2013)

The Association of the U.S. Army has selected Michael Hutchison, deputy to the Army Contracting Command commanding general, to receive its 5th AUSA region: 5th Region Civilian Exceptional Service Award.

The announcement was made at the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, DC on Oct. 23.

Though Hutchison was unable to attend the award ceremony, he commented that he was "truly honored to receive

this award because it recognizes the hard work and dedication of the ACC-Rock Island contracting center team.”

Reflecting on his former position as executive director of ACC’s Rock Island, Ill. contracting center, ACC-RI, Ill., he said the center “does extensive work in support of operations in Southwest Asia, the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, reachback support to troops on the ground, plus all of the ammo we bought. It also recognizes the work we did to build ACC-RI into the center it is today.”

Hutchison said ACC-RI is 2.5 times larger and does seven times the work today compared to 2002, when he arrived. He also worked closely with the Quad City Chamber of Commerce and the Rock Island Development Group.

The Rock Island Arsenal chapter of the AUSA nominated Hutchison as its 2012-13 Department of the Army civilian of the year. The main criteria for this award included service not only to the Army but also to the local community, according to his nominator, Kerry Skinner, Rock Island AUSA chapter 5102.

Skinner said Hutchison executed his duties as executive director in an exemplary manner, but his work with organizations such as Women in Defense, National Defense Industrial Association, and the National Contract Management Association was also recognized.

The award has five executive core qualifications: leading change, leading people, results-driven, business acumen, and building coalitions. According to the nomination, Hutchison had strong examples of success in each.

In leading change, the most notable was his creation of the Rock Island contracting center Reachback Division that entailed moving poor-quality contracts in Kuwait to an office in the states capable of handling the workload while keeping a liaison on ground. He was also instrumental in achieving more diversity in the workforce, doubling minority representation in two years.

The nomination described Hutchison as results-driven and described how he provided Army Materiel Command with a simple, three-step process to improve quality within the center and followed through each step in order. Concerning business acumen, another issue of workforce crisis was age and retirement eligibility.

He began hiring interns immediately, finding money from a variety of sources, personally hiring more than 40 interns



Michael Hutchison, deputy to the Army Contracting Command commanding general.

US Army photo

over a two-year period of time. Today, the interns he brought to ACC-RI comprise almost 30 percent of its workforce.

Hutchison’s nomination also cited him for building coalitions with local organizations and other Army and joint organizations.

Army Engineer Named as Winner in 2013 Greengov Presidential Awards

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NORTHWESTERN DIVISION (NOV. 15, 2013)

SEATTLE—An Army engineer was recognized by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) during the fourth annual GreenGov Presidential Awards.

Jeanette Fiess, the sustainability and energy program manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division, was selected by the White House as this year’s winner in the ‘Sustainability Hero’ category.

The awards honor federal civilian and military personnel as well as agency teams, facilities, and programs that have taken innovative steps to reduce energy use and carbon pollution, curb waste, and save taxpayer money in federal agency operations.

At the White House ceremony, senior administration officials recognized the eight award winners, including Fiess, for exemplifying President Obama’s charge to lead by example



The U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Jeanette Fiess, an electrical engineer for USACE, Northwestern Division, and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo Ellen Darcy, display the GreenGov award for Sustainability presented during a White House ceremony.

U.S. Army photo

and demonstrating extraordinary achievement in the pursuit of the President's 2009 Executive Order on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance (Executive Order 13514).

Under Fiess' leadership, the USACE Northwestern Division has increased the number of employees with training in high-performance building standards by 70 percent.

In 2012, Jeanette Fiess led the nationwide USACE effort to update their Unified Facilities Guide specifications, which lacked critical sustainability requirements. USACE Headquarters has recommended that training developed by Fiess be included as part of their national training platform in future years.

CEQ solicited nominations for the 2013 GreenGov Presidential awards from the federal community earlier this year. A panel of judges that included federal and national sustainability leaders reviewed the nominations and recommended the award finalists to the President.

Northwestern Division is one of nine U.S. Army Corps of Engineers divisions. The Northwestern Division is nearly

2,000 miles wide, enveloping 14 states and two of the country's longest rivers, the Missouri and Columbia, which drain nearly one million square miles within its boundaries that stretch from Seattle, Wash., to St. Louis, Mo.

Carter Pays Tribute to 9 DoD Honorees

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (NOV. 18, 2013)

Terri Moon Cronk

WASHINGTON—Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter honored nine employees today with the Distinguished Civilian Service Award, which recognizes exceptional devotion to duty that leads to significant contributions in policy, science, technology, and administration.

At a Pentagon ceremony, Carter, in referring to the budget situation that triggered the recent government shutdown and furloughs, said it's times like these that make it important to honor DoD's outstanding employees "who have made significant contributions for our country, and to get a chance to see the incredible impact that dedicated employees can make."

Carter noted that despite the challenges faced by DoD, the military, and the country, the honorees exemplify the quali-

ties and determination that allow the department to meet the challenges “head on.”

Citing great variation in the awardees’ contributions, Carter said one recipient increased the defensibility of DoD’s information network and transformed the way information is collected and shared; another mitigated national security risks of foreign investments; and still another investigated health risks for servicemen and servicewomen deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I’m particularly proud of the many initiatives made by our honorees that focused on leading the urgent needs of our warfighters on the battlefield,” Carter said. “Many of their efforts have also saved the department billions of dollars, which is also appreciated during these times of shrinking budgets and fiscal uncertainty.”

A single individual was selected for the ninth annual DoD David O. Cooke Excellence in Public Administration Award, named for the late 55-year “mayor” of the Pentagon, “Doc” Cooke, which was established in Cooke’s name to recognize one person each year who demonstrates top leadership potential as a future federal executive.

Expressing gratitude for DoD’s civilian workforce in a time of budget uncertainty, Carter said civilians continue to care about national defense. “You get to wake up every morning and take part in something that’s bigger than yourself. And for that, [Defense] Secretary [Chuck] Hagel and I and the entire department ... are incredibly grateful,” he added.

The award honorees are:

- DoD David O. Cooke Excellence in Public Administration Awardee: Josiah A. B. S. Dykstra, technical lead, Computer Network Operations Advanced Research Team, National Security Agency, Fort Meade, Md.

Recipients of the DoD Distinguished Civilian Service Award are:

- Lonny A. Anderson, director, technology directorate, NSA, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence
- Dr. Steven F. Butler, executive director, Air Force Materiel Command
- Jo Ann Decker, acting principal deputy, assistant secretary of the Navy for Financial Management and Comptroller
- Carl Gotzmer, research physicist, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head [Md.], Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division
- Robert S. Jack III, director, Communications And Information, Air Force Global Strike Command

- Dr. R. Craig Postlewaite, director, Force Readiness and Health Assurance, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
- Dr. Leonard A. Smith, senior research scientist, Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases
- Frank W. Zardecki, deputy commander, Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Retired ACC Ops Chief Lauded by Acting SECAF

AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AGENCY, OPERATING LOCATION-PENTAGON (NOV. 19, 2013)

Senior Airman Jamie Jagers

WASHINGTON—A retired Air Force officer who brought the F-22 Raptor fleet back to full operational status following an indefinite grounding, received the 2012 Eugene M. Zuckert Management Award, at the Pentagon, Nov. 18.

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning presented the award to retired Maj. Gen. Charles W. Lyon, the former Air Combat Command director of operations, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

“There’s quite a list of accomplishments that made [him] a very compelling choice for this award,” Fanning said.

As Fanning addressed the audience during a small ceremony for Lyon, he spoke to the character and accomplishments of the retired general.



Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning (left) sits with retired Maj. Gen. Charles Lyon before presenting Lyon the Zuckert Management award Nov. 18, 2013, during a Pentagon ceremony. The Zuckert Management Award is named after the seventh secretary of the Air Force and is presented annually to recognize outstanding top-level Air Force managers.

U.S. Air Force photo by Scott M. Ash

"The thing that stands out the most to me is his time in the F-22 life support system task force," Fanning said. "He was hand-selected by then Secretary of the Air Force Mike Donley to lead this organization. His leadership and tenacity helped return the F-22 to full operational status, and restored confidence in the safety of our fifth generation fighter fleet."

Lyon found the root cause of the F-22 life support anomalies, bringing the Raptor back to full flying status. According to the award citation, he also improved the combat Air Force's posture by successfully advocating for an additional \$107 million for the 2012 flying hour program.

"More than anything, I feel like I'm here to represent the hundreds of people who supported me while I was working the F-22 life support system task force, as well as the many other hundreds on my ACC A3 Staff," Lyon said.

While being recognized for his managerial ability during active duty, Lyon's focus has shifted post-retirement.

"It was spectacular," Lyon said. "I had a 32-year career, which had a lot of great opportunities, and I'll bleed Air Force blue

for as long as I live. But retiring has now given me time to really be with my family, especially my wife, and our young daughter who is graduating high school this year."

The annual award recognizes outstanding achievements by a top-level Air Force manager—brigadier through lieutenant general or civilian equivalent. The award is named after the seventh Secretary of the Air Force Eugene M. Zuckert, who attended the award ceremonies regularly until 1998. He passed away in 2000 at the age of 88

Given Today's Sequester Environment, No Contract is too Small for Army Manufacturing

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (NOV. 22, 2013)

John B. Snyder

WATERVLIET ARSENAL, N.Y.—The Watervliet Arsenal announced this week that it received a contract valued at nearly \$1 million to manufacture 155 mm cannon carrier assemblies for the Army's TACOM Life Cycle Management Command.

"This million dollar order will add to our current workload more than 2,200 hours of direct labor," said Diane Nelson,



Second year machinist apprentice Jeremy Brackett works on a 60 mm mortar tube he just finished turning, at Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.

U.S. Army photo

the arsenal's program manager for the cannon order. "We will begin shipping in December 2014, and we will complete our production by January 2015."

Jake Peart, the arsenal's chief of Production Control & Program Management, said that given this era of fiscal uncertainty with the defense budget, even a small order is critical to sustaining the critical machining skills required for today's weapons systems.

"What makes this order even better for us is that it was not part of our planned production schedule for this fiscal year," Peart explained.

Just a few years ago, when arsenal manufacturing was supporting two wars, this small order may not have been news, Peart said.

But as the effects of sequestration trickle down throughout the Department of Defense, the arsenal's future workload has taken its fair share of the pain. Since sequestration took effect in March of this year, the arsenal has suffered through a hiring freeze, furloughed workforce, very limited overtime to meet production, and a drop in future weapons orders.

Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army's chief of staff, said earlier this month at a Senate Armed Services Committee testimony, "If Congress does not act to mitigate the magnitude, method, and speed of the reductions under the Budget Control Act with sequestration, the Army will be forced to make significant reductions in force structure and end strength. From [fiscal year 20]14 to [fiscal year 20]17, as we draw down and restructure the Army into a smaller force, the Army will have degraded readiness and extensive modernization program shortfalls."

The arsenal has historically benefited from DoD's modernization of its weapon systems. But given Odierno's dire outlook, the arsenal may need to look harder than it ever has to find new work, even if it means fully embracing small orders such as this one.

As a sign of just how important new orders are to the arsenal, Nelson said that it usually takes more than a month from a request for a quote to a receipt of an order, but the timeline for this order took less than two weeks.

The carrier assemblies are for the M109 155 mm self-propelled howitzer, called the Paladin.

The Watervliet Arsenal is an Army-owned and operated manufacturing facility and is the oldest, continuously active

arsenal in the United States having begun operations during the War of 1812. It celebrated its 200th year of continuous service to the nation on July 14, 2013.

Today's arsenal is relied upon by U.S. and foreign militaries to produce the most advanced, high-tech, high-powered weaponry for cannon, howitzer, and mortar systems. This National Historic Registered Landmark has an annual economic benefit to the local community in excess of \$90 million.

Carter Presents Awards for Excellence in Acquisition

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (NOV. 25, 2013)

Claudette Roulo

WASHINGTON—Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter today presented four acquisition teams with the David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award, the highest Defense Department-bestowed honor for acquisition.

"I can think of no better way to spend one of my last days as deputy secretary of defense than by acknowledging these men and women who have worked so hard to make our department succeed," Carter said.

The David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award was first awarded in 1997 in honor of the late David Packard, a former deputy secretary of defense and advocate of excellence in defense acquisition practices. The award recognizes organizations, groups, and teams that have demonstrated superior program management, exemplary innovation, and accomplishment in the successful execution of the department's Better Buying Power initiatives.

Acknowledging recent challenges faced by DoD's civilian workforce, including furloughs and the government shutdown, the deputy secretary said that the work of acquisition professionals is vital to the success of the department.

"You stuck with us, despite all these recent challenges," Carter said.

"I know why you do it," he continued. "You do it because you get to wake up every morning and be part of something bigger than yourselves."

In these challenging times, it's particularly important to honor outstanding public servants, Carter said.

"The impact that they can make—all of them—[is] represented today by our distinguished honorees," he said.

The honorees include:

- The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle team, a joint Army and Marine Corps team, for its cost-saving efforts in restor-



Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter, left, presents the David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award in a ceremony at the Pentagon, Nov. 25, 2013. Four acquisition teams received the award, the highest Defense Department-bestowed honor for acquisition.

DoD photo by Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo

ing the mobility, payload-carrying capacity, rotary-wing transportability, and overall safety of Army and Marine Corps light tactical vehicles;

- The Navy's Air and Missile Defense Radar team for its cost saving and risk reduction initiatives in the pre-engineering, manufacturing and development phase of this major defense acquisition program;
- The Air Force's HC-130J Combat King II and MC-130J Commando II Program team for its innovative recapitalization program to procure 131 aircraft for Air Combat Command and Air Force Special Operations Command; and
- Defense Information Technology Contracting Organization and Air Force National Capital Region Information Technology Team, a joint Defense Information Systems Agency and Air Force team, for its cost-saving ability to quickly respond to real-world needs for scalable information technology services and help desk support.

"All four of these teams have made a huge difference to the department," Carter said.

"The accomplishments of our recipients today showcase precision, business acumen, innovation, dedication, and teamwork at every stage of the acquisition process," he said. The honorees' cumulative efforts "have saved the department billions of dollars," the deputy secretary said. "Being responsible stewards of taxpayer money is always a top priority for us, but it's particularly appreciated during these times of shrinking budgets and fiscal uncertainty.

"You have proven that we do not have to sacrifice performance and capabilities in order to achieve speed and savings," Carter added. "Your successes show that we can have effective oversight, but above all, better value for the taxpayer and the warfighter."

"I can think of no better way to spend one of my last days as deputy secretary of defense than by acknowledging these men and women who have worked so hard to make our department succeed," Carter said.