

### **Navy Civilian Professionals at Academic Awards Ceremony Observe Moment of Silence in Honor of Fallen Navy Yard Colleagues**

NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER DAHLGREN DIVISION CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS (SEPT. 19, 2013)

John J. Joyce

Navy technology and business professionals paused during an academic recognition ceremony Sept. 17 to reflect and honor their Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) colleagues who were killed and injured at the Washington Navy Yard the day before.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD) Commander Michael Smith read the names of the 12 victims and led the audience in observing a moment of silence.

"We are closely affiliated with the Navy Yard," Smith said at the command's annual Academic Recognition Ceremony held in the University of Mary Washington Dahlgren campus.

He asked everyone to keep the victims in their thoughts and prayers, noting that Dahlgren employees often travel to the location of the shooting on command business.

Continuing with the ceremony, Smith and NSWCDD Acting Technical Director Stuart Koch honored 132 NSWCDD awardees for their academic and professional achievements.

"Today we are recognizing some very special men and women within our workforce who have taken on the challenge of balancing work and home with school and have succeeded in earning certifications or degrees—all the while continuing critical support to the Navy," said Smith. "We also recognize their families who shared in this sacrifice. Taking classes means long hours and an interruption of daily routines. No doubt, there were days when dinners were late or kids' ball games were missed. A special 'thank you' to all the family members and friends, for you are part of today's success."

The ceremony, marking the event's 17th consecutive year, recognized scientists, engineers, and business and human resource leaders who completed professional certifications or academic milestones covering the spectrum of associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.

"We are indeed proud of our employees' accomplishments," said Smith. "With their goals met, they will be better equipped to meet the scientific, technological, and management challenges ahead. They assure us that our legacy of innovators and problem solvers will continue."

In addition to core engineering disciplines—mechanical, electrical, and systems engineering—this year's graduates earned degrees in computer science, applied physics, material science, microbiology and infectious disease, as well as information assurance, engineering management, business administration, and public administration.

"Earning these credentials enhances knowledge that can be directly applied on the job—and is vital to continuing our mission readiness," said Koch, telling the audience that NSWCDD employees continued to leverage the development opportunities available to them in spite of furloughs, budget concerns, and other pressures.

In all, 96 employees earned degrees from academic institutions while 36 received technical or business specialty certificates.

In addition to the nine doctoral degrees, employees were specifically recognized for 48 master's degrees, 37 baccalaureate degrees, and two associate degrees. Honored employees included eight academic fellows, 11 professional or academic certifications, 17 information assurance certifications, and one Security Professional Education Development Certification.

NSWCDD employees received nine doctorates over the past year compared to previous years when the number of doctoral degrees was typically two to five.

This year, a father and daughter graduation duo was honored for their academic achievements. The father was recognized for earning a master's degree, while working full time. His daughter was recognized for earning her undergraduate degree at Virginia Commonwealth University as a member of Pathways, an NSWCDD student program.

Moreover, NSWCDD scientist Ryan Mackie, a graduate degree honoree, received George Mason University's Impact Award. The George Mason College of Science recognized Mackie as the graduate student who published peer-reviewed scientific research in a scientific journal with the highest impact factor in the 2012-13 academic year.

Maintaining a diverse and highly skilled workforce is critical to NSWCDD—the Navy's leading warfare system architect and systems engineer, recognized as the technical leader in delivering innovative, affordable, and effective solutions for the Navy, joint forces, and the nation.

"We are well aware of the importance of diversity, and that translates into the diversity of degrees as well," said Koch.

In an economy where many employers are reducing or eliminating support for employees to pursue advanced education, NSWC Dahlgren Division remains committed to supporting education opportunities for the workforce to the greatest extent possible and welcomes the opportunity to recognize employees who have reached an academic milestone each September at this annual event.

For more information, visit <http://www.navy.mil>.

### **NAVSEA Recognized for STEM Contributions**

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND OFFICE OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS (AUG. 15, 2013)

WASHINGTON—The Women of Color magazine will recognize four Naval Sea System Command (NAVSEA) employees for their contributions in the fields of science, technology, math, and engineering (STEM), Naval Sea Systems Command announced Aug. 15.

Tonya McNair will be awarded the technology all star award for demonstrating excellence in the workplace and in her community in the mid-level to advanced stage career category (approximately 22 or more years in the workforce).

The technology rising star award will be presented to Soralis Pimentel Cabrera, Courtney Crittenden, and Beverly Cusworth for demonstrating exceptional achievements in their workplace and communities, as well as helping to shape technology for the future.

"Our nation needs scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematics talent in the government, industry, and academia; yet, fewer and fewer students prepare for or pursue STEM careers," said Bill Deligne, NAVSEA's executive director. "These women exemplify the brightest in their subject areas and serve as role models to young men and women interested in pursuing education and careers in STEM fields."

McNair, an engineer with Integrated Warfare Systems 2.0, served as the acting principal advanced program manager for the surface electronic warfare improvement program responsible for the development and execution of two acquisition category (ACAT) II programs, two ACAT IV programs, and all in-Service systems. She carried an extremely critical, high-visibility electronic warfare program through crucial acquisition reviews with flying colors.

Cabrera is an engineer at Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC), Newport, and has been engaged in the develop-

ment and transition of new technologies into the Navy's submarine force. She is currently an NUWC Newport representative at NAVSEA where she is responsible for all Navy electronics warfare (EW) systems. She currently serves as acting NAVSEA EW Foreign Military Sales project manager and as the liaison between NAVSEA and NUWC Newport in these areas.

Crittenden, an engineer for Program Executive Office Ships, will be recognized for her contributions to promoting STEM fields to a diverse population of students through volunteering with local schools and recruiting events. Crittenden serves as a STEM outreach program coordinator and tutors AP calculus, pre-algebra, and basic math at a Washington, D.C. school.

Cusworth, a research biologist at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren, will be acknowledged for her work on accelerating the fielding of the Joint Biological Agent Identification and Diagnostic System (JBAIDS), the current biological detection and identification system to the Fleet, reducing the fielding schedule from three years to one year. She is active in outreach programs that engage young people very early on to encourage interest in STEM fields.

The winners will be acknowledged during an Oct. 18 ceremony in Dallas.

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

### **Nominations Accepted for Flemming Award**

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (SEPT. 17, 2013)

*Gloria Kwizera*

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—Air Force officials are accepting nominations for the 65th Annual Arthur S. Flemming Award.

The award is sponsored by the George Washington University, in conjunction with the Arthur S. Flemming Awards Commission. It honors outstanding federal employees who have made significant and extraordinary contributions to the federal government.

Nominations are open to federal employees and service members who have at least three, but no more than 15 years of service through Dec. 31, 2013. Each major command, field operating agency, direct reporting unit, and combatant command may submit one nomination per category. Individuals previously nominated but not selected for a Flemming Award may be re-nominated. Previous award winners may not be re-nominated.

The five categories are leadership or management; legal achievement; social science, clinical trials and translational research; applied science and engineering; and basic science.

Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their major command, field operating activity, direct reporting unit, or combatant command for applicable suspense dates and additional information regarding nomination procedures. Additional guidance and nomination forms are also available at <http://flemming.gwu.edu>.

Completed nomination packages must be sent to the Air Force Personnel Center by Nov. 19.

For more information on Air Force recognition programs and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

### **Elite Group of Young Scientists Embark on DARPA Research Efforts**

*DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY (AUG. 27, 2013)*

A group of early-career scientists at research universities have received grants totaling more than \$12 million for basic research to address some of the Department of Defense (DoD)'s most challenging technological hurdles. From 226 applicants, 25 tenure-track faculty members were selected to receive up to \$1 million each over the course of three years. The technology areas they will investigate align with DARPA's future program directions and were chosen with the ultimate goal of going beyond current research and providing new paths forward to realize tomorrow's national security capabilities.

The long-term goal of the DARPA Young Faculty Award (YFA) program is to develop the next generation of scientists and engineers who will focus their careers and research on DoD and national security issues. DARPA hopes the 25 recipients selected for 2013 will help accelerate DARPA program research while providing new ideas and a fresh perspective. Over the course of two years in the YFA program (three years, if selected for the Director's Fellowship), recipients will gain enhanced awareness of DoD issues and research through a variety of activities—allowing them to heighten their colleagues' understanding as well.

To aid their research, YFA recipients receive two years of funding at \$250,000 each year. Of the entire 2013 YFA class, four of the most promising recipients will be selected

for a third year supported by \$500,000 each in funding. Each recipient will be assigned a DARPA program manager with closely aligned research interests. Program managers will work closely with the recipient as a mentor, providing insight into how DARPA works and the research needs of DoD.

"DARPA has selected some of the most promising young researchers in the country to participate in the next YFA class," said Alicia Jackson, DARPA program manager. "We expect the 2013 recipients to hit the ground running on research that matters to DARPA. But, we're also going to provide a lot of support to help them understand DARPA, our mission, and the DoD science and technology community. YFA recipients will have the chance to go on military site visits to meet some of the potential users of their technology. There will be opportunities for networking with their peers, DARPA staff, and other DARPA performers. A YFA recipient who makes the most out of the program will have a solid foundation for a successful career, interacting with DARPA and the DoD to solve national security problems."

DARPA began YFA in 2006 and has since awarded grant money to more than 200 academic rising stars. This year, the scope of the program was focused to ensure researchers are more closely aligned with DARPA's current research interests. Also new this year is the potential for four recipients to receive a Director's Fellowship for a third year of research; selected researchers will work with DARPA leadership to apply their work to applicable DoD programs.

A list of 2013 recipients is available on the DARPA website at [http://www.darpa.mil/Opportunities/Universities/2013\\_Young\\_Faculty\\_Award\\_Recipients.aspx](http://www.darpa.mil/Opportunities/Universities/2013_Young_Faculty_Award_Recipients.aspx). Solicitation for the 2014 iteration of YFA will be posted to <http://www.fbo.gov> and <http://www.grants.gov> in Fall 2013. Those interested in applying are encouraged to frequent those websites.

### **Navy Officers Receive White House Fellowships**

*AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (AUG. 28, 2013)*

WASHINGTON—Two Navy officers have been appointed to the 2013-2014 class of White House Fellows.

Cmdr. Cara LaPointe and Lt. Cmdr. Robert McFarlin will participate in the program, which was created in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to give promising American leaders firsthand, high-level experience with the workings of the federal government, and to increase their sense of participation in national affairs.

The fellowship program is designed to encourage active citizenship and a lifelong commitment to service, White House officials said. The fellows take part in an education program

designed to broaden their knowledge of leadership, policy formulation, and current affairs. They also participate in service projects in the national capital area.

LaPointe is the deputy technical director of the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship Program, providing government technical oversight to \$7 billion of shipbuilding contracts. Previously, she served at the Naval Sea Systems Command working on surface force architecture and unmanned vehicle technology integration.

A patented engineer, LaPointe has deployed to the Persian Gulf and the Pacific in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle. She has served as an advocate for victims of sexual assault, volunteered in rural communities internationally from Honduras to Fiji, and, most recently, founded the Engineering Duty Officer Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Outreach Initiative.

LaPointe earned her doctorate in mechanical and oceanographic engineering jointly from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. She was valedictorian of her U.S. Naval Academy class, graduating with a bachelor of science degree in ocean engineering.

McFarlin is a surface warfare officer who has deployed to more than 30 nations on six continents, most recently as commanding officer of *USS Typhoon* in the Arabian Gulf supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. While he was in command, his crew earned the Golden Anchor award for outstanding retention and the Battle "E" award as the No. 1 ship in its squadron.

In 2008, he circumnavigated South America on a counter-narcotics deployment. He served as an assistant professor at the University of Rochester and co-founded a company dedicated to transforming dilapidated inner-city property into safe, low-income housing.

He volunteers as a Big Brother mentor, with Habitat for Humanity and globally through the Navy's community relations program. He is a national director of the Surface Navy Association and the recipient of the peer-nominated Navy/Marine Corps Association Leadership Award. He holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the Naval Academy and a master of business administration degree from the University of Rochester's Simon School of Business.

### **SPAWAR Receives Department of Navy Award at Small Business Event**

*SPACE AND NAVAL WARFARE SYSTEMS COMMAND (AUG. 30, 2013)*

*Ashley Nekoui*

SAN DIEGO—Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) participated in the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Navy Gold Coast Small Business Procurement Event, Aug. 26-28, at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego.

"Gold Coast" provides a forum to educate, guide, and assist businesses, especially small businesses, in working with the government, primarily the Department of Defense.

Sean Crean, director of the Navy's Office of Small Business Programs, presented Rear Adm. Patrick Brady, commander of SPAWAR, with a Secretary of the Navy Cup, in recognition of SPAWAR's role in promoting acquisition opportunities for small businesses.

During the three-day event, Brady, Pat Sullivan, executive director of SPAWAR, and Capt. Joe Beel, commanding officer of Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific (SSC Pacific), provided presentations to attendees, highlighting SPAWAR's role as the Navy's Information Dominance Systems Command, and its mission to develop, deliver, and sustain communications and information capabilities for warfighters, anytime and anywhere.

Brady noted that SPAWAR's priorities are to keep the fleet ready to fight and to deliver on major acquisition programs. During his presentation, he shared programs anticipated for delivery this year, including the Consolidated Afloat Networks and Enterprise Services, which will provide reliable standardized upgrades to communications throughout the fleet; the Next Generation Enterprise Network, which will replace the Navy's current ashore communications network; and the Mobile User Objective System, the Navy's narrow-band satellite program, which launched its second satellite into orbit July 19.

Beel reiterated Brady's focus points and highlighted the rebalance to the Pacific that is underway and SSC Pacific's prime position in supporting this shift with offices in San Diego, Hawaii, Guam, and Japan.

In addition, Beel pointed out to potential collaborators that as a competency-aligned organization, SSC Pacific aligns their business portfolios with customer demand.

SPAWAR's participation in event supports an outreach program established by the Defense Acquisition Regulation System to identify and develop established interested small businesses that can support SPAWAR programs.

For more news from Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/spawar/>.

### **CENTCOM Program Bridges Scientific, Technological Gaps**

*AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (SEPT. 9, 2013)*

*Donna Miles*

WASHINGTON—Step onto an elevator beside Martin Drake, U.S. Central Command's chief science and technology advisor, and one might be surprised to hear him deliver to perfect strangers an unclassified tutorial he calls "Science and Technology 101."

The impromptu briefing completed, Drake is known to cajole his unsuspecting "students" into raising their right hands so he can deputize them as "honorary deputy science advisors for U.S. Central Command."

"I tell them, 'It takes a village to be the best and to be able to understand where technology is going,'" said Drake, who runs CENTCOM's dozen-member Science and Technology Division. "We can't do this by ourselves, and we need their help."

The elevator encounters are just one example of the team's unrelenting quest to identify better ways to support warfighters in the command's demanding and complex area of operations. The office members, an eclectic mix of active-duty forces, military retirees, and civilian employees, scour the Internet, professional journals, and technology exhibitions to seek out new and emerging technology-related capabilities, Drake told American Forces Press Service.

That boils down to taking gaps and requirements as identified by U.S. forces and partner nations in the theater, converting them into technical requirements, then going out to the science and technology community for solutions. It's a search that begins with the Defense Department's own advanced technology arms—among them the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Rapid Fielding Directorate; the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; the Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; the Office of Naval Research; and the Air Force Research Laboratory.

But it extends across the interagency, industrial, academic, and international scientific and technological communities.

One staffer frequently visits businesses, garages, anywhere he might stumble on "that piece of technology that might not otherwise be discovered through normal Department of Defense processes," Drake said. Others are dedicated to analyzing the technologies they discover or that others bring to them to identify how it might translate to capability on the ground.

"We are looking for things that might fill the gaps and seams between our military departments in supporting forces in our operational battlespace," Drake explained. "We are looking for that unique approach that may not be discovered or headed toward being discovered by the Department of Defense."

CENTCOM's effort, similar to those at U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Southern Command, focuses on requirements specific to its geographic area of operations. The idea, Drake explained, is to be able to look across the vast research and development programs taking place within military, government, private, and international sectors.

"We think we have a unique perspective," he said. "We are looking across the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and our coalition partners. Because we are not tied to any one Service approach, we look to see how we can bring them together, and what it might take to make it better." When a concept appears particularly promising, he added, CENTCOM promotes it through the Defense Department's research, development, and acquisition channels.

"I characterize myself as a venture capitalist with no capital," Drake said. "I don't have any money, and U.S. Central Command is not an acquisition authority." All acquisitions in support of CENTCOM operations are funded by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, and the military services, he noted.

"So what I do is advocate for potential solutions," Drake said. "And through that advocacy, we try to help maneuver promising technology through our developmental and acquisition processes."

This approach has promoted far-ranging technologies that have proven to be winners on the battlefield. For example, CENTCOM's Science and Technology Division was a major advocate of the technologies used for battlefield forensics and biometric identification. Both are considered invaluable for warfighters operating against adversaries who don't wear military uniforms and often operate in the shadows.



Army Pfc. David Diaz, right, assigned to Team Hatchet, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, Task Force 4-25, collects a DNA sample for biometrics from an Afghan man at a security checkpoint in Afghanistan's Khost province, Sept. 8, 2012. U.S. Central Command's Science and Technology Division has been a major advocate of the technologies used for biometric identification and battlefield forensics to support deployed warfighters.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Trumbull

"These have become absolute tools for our forces forward, to help them sort out the who's who in the battlespace," Drake said.

But the division doesn't limit its scope to technologies, Drake emphasized. "We're also looking at concepts" to identify ways to improve current procedures and processes for future operations, he said. "This is a conceptual-type review of things we currently do and asking, 'Can we do them better?'"

"So this is not only about building new things," Drake continued. "We are also improving the things we have, trying to make them better, more cost-effective, and easier for folks in the field."

For example, the team is researching better ways to operate in remote areas with little or no infrastructure to support those operations, Drake explained. Its members continue to explore smaller, more efficient power sources and new technologies that make it easier to communicate and push data.

"We have learned a lot over the past decade," he said. "The good news, from my seat, is that I have seen a lot of the processes, procedures, and policies changing for the better. We are embracing technology earlier and more fully. And

my belief is that if we were faced with a similar situation in the future, we would do it somewhat differently as a result."

But the search is far from over, and Drake said his team is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to support U.S. forces in the region.

"We always have our eyes over the fence to see what is going on," he said. "As I tell my staff, 'We will go anywhere. We will listen to anything,' because I never know when the next, best technology is going to manifest itself."

Weapon System Sustainment Gains Highlight Results of Command's 5-Center Construct

AIR FORCE NEWS SERVICE (SEPT. 17, 2013)

Airman 1st Class Alexander W. Riedel

WASHINGTON—Improved sustainment of service weapon systems tops the list of command accomplishments after a year-long reorganization effort, the Air Force Materiel Command's top general said here Sept. 16.

Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger addressed her command's mission of regaining acquisition excellence in a time of fiscal constraint at the Air Force Association's 2013 Air & Space Conference & Technology Exposition.

"Our mission, as we have embraced it, is to equip the Air Force for world-dominant air power," Wolfenbarger said. "In essence, we are responsible for providing combat capabilities to the warfighter, and that is an awesome responsibility the men and women of Air Force Materiel Command execute on a daily basis."

Representing 83,000 military and civilian service members in her command, Wolfenbarger outlined the progress of an ongoing restructure effort of AFMC's operations and procedures.

By reducing 12 centers to five, aligned around the primary mission areas of science and technology, life-cycle management, developmental test and evaluation, and sustainment, command leaders have improved AFMC processes, Wolfenbarger said.

"[We have] done a lot of work to launch us on a path that leverages a reorganization that is historic in nature," Wolfenbarger said. "What I'm most excited about in this reorganized Air Force Materiel Command is not how much more efficient we've gotten, but how much more effective we've become."

The command's five centers are the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, both headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; the Air Force Test Center, headquartered at Edwards AFB, Calif.; the Air Force Sustainment Center, headquartered at Tinker AFB, Okla.; and the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, headquartered at Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Part of the new organization's success, Wolfenbarger said, is the implementation of Integrated Life Cycle Management—reducing "seams" in the organization through standardization and streamlining of processes.

"The real power of the new construct is our ability to work across the centers to ensure that while they have their own distinct mission, we can better succeed by working collaboratively," she said. "We are looking for standardization and cost-cutting opportunities that take the construct of ILCM to a level we have never seen before in our U.S. Air Force. True ILCM is the enabler for delivering affordable and effective global vigilance, global reach, and global power to our nation."



Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger speaks about sustaining the force at the 2013 Air Force Association's 2013 Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 16, 2013, in Washington, D.C. The 2013 Air & Space Conference is a professional development conference sponsored and conducted by AFA in support of the total Air Force. Wolfenbarger is the commander of Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Neshia Humes

Despite the importance of the civilian workforce for AFMC, Wolfenbarger said in the wake of sequestration her command was able to maintain support to the most important mission sets.

"We had to slow down some of the great momentum we have had, during the furloughs," she said. "We are now ramping back up again, but it will take us some time—we're estimating until the second quarter of fiscal year 2014, to get back to that pace we were on before the furloughs—but that hinges on not having to embrace additional civilian furloughs in fiscal year 2014."

During fiscal shortfalls, maintaining existing fleets is an important challenge the Air Force successfully continues to manage, she said.

"We are very good at maintaining legacy aircraft," the general said. "We, along with our industry partners, can continue to maintain these systems for the length of time our nation demands. But I have to tell you—they are not necessarily up to the threats that are evolving."

Despite the hardship, Wolfenbarger said there is excitement within AFMC for the opportunity to standardize approaches, continually improve them, and to enable the workforce to have a role in a different way of accomplishing the workflow.

"There is always an opportunity to get better," she said. "We're executing in this new organizational construct for about a year now and are about 10 days from declaring full operational capability. But we are all appreciative of the fact that we are on the forefront of really leveraging this new organizational construct and what it can provide in terms of a more effective way of executing our mission."

In an address to civilian leaders within the audience, Wolfenbarger asked industry partners to also examine their own approaches of executing military contracts while reducing inefficiencies.

"Maintaining our national defense comes down to a concerted collaborative partnership between government and industry," Wolfenbarger said. "Our Air Force partners with industry on identifying and implementing best business practices and on developing technologies and weapons systems across the life-cycle management, testing, and sustainment arenas ... Collectively, it is our responsibility to squeeze as much as we can out of every defense dollar that's allocated to us."

While the current budgetary environment provides a significant opportunity to reinforce the role of industry and military in this partnership, Wolfenbarger said smaller budgets will require all to bring even more ingenuity, creativity, and collaboration to the table.

"We will preserve to the best of our ability the execution of mission sets that are critical and part of our DNA as the U.S. Air Force," Wolfenbarger said. "We will have to make some tough decisions on our weapons systems and capabilities that go with executing those critical mission sets. But we will get through this downsized budget environment and come out the other end."

### **Rock Island Enables 100 Percent Accountability, Quick Delivery of Warfighting Gear**

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (SEPT. 18, 2013)

C. Todd Lopez

WASHINGTON—For just about a year now, employees at the Joint Manufacturing Technology Center at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., have been making it easier for military units to get the sensor and laser equipment they need to equip their soldiers.

The Project Manager Soldier Sensors and Lasers Staging Facility at Joint Manufacturing Technology Center, or JMTC, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., stood up in September 2012, and is coming up fast on its one-year anniversary, Sept. 28, 2013.

The government-owned, government-operated facility serves as a staging area to more efficiently move equipment procured by Program Executive Office Soldier's "Project Manager Soldier Sensors and Lasers," or PM SSL, section from the manufacturer to the end user, said Joe Pearson, director of logistics for PM SSL.

"The individual vendors are very capable," Pearson said. "But having a staging facility like Rock Island allows us the capability to receive and repackage the shipment just prior to each hand-off to the gaining commands."

Pearson said it would be possible for manufacturers of equipment like thermal sights, or night-vision goggles or laser-designator rangefinders to send the equipment they manufacture directly to receiving units. But units preparing for deployment are authorized to be issued equipment that comes from multiple manufacturers. If the manufacturer sent items directly, units would receive items at different times and on unpredictable schedules.

"Trying to orchestrate all the vendor shipments would be a challenge," Pearson said. "That would tie up the gaining commands. They wouldn't know when the shipments would arrive. We wouldn't know how long our fielders would be on the ground to issue the equipment because they would be waiting for separate shipments to come in."

With the efforts at JMTC at Rock Island Arsenal, a commander's entire order for equipment is packaged at the same time, verified to be accurate, and sent all at once; and commanders know when it will arrive.

"It's a staging facility," Pearson said of employees at the JMTC. "We track everything, individual serial numbers, that's what they do for us using an inventory database system. They are able to track items that come in 'first-in-first-out,' from the vendors, which actually serves the soldiers. You want to make sure that for the equipment that is bought under warranty, if something breaks, soldiers are able to send it back to the vendor without any cost. We can't easily do that without depending on Rock Island Staging facility."

Sensor and laser equipment wasn't always fielded out of a government-owned, government-operated facility. In the past, Pearson said PM SSL has staged and distributed the equipment they procure from a variety of locations, but

never one both owned and operated by the government—which Pearson refers to as an “organic” capability.

The JMTC at Rock Island, which began just a year ago doing work for PM SSL, is part of the U.S. Army Tank and Automotive Command, or TACOM. The command had already been supporting PEO Soldier with “life-cycle management” of SSL systems. And Pearson said that TACOM personnel had also been fielding PM SSL equipment to gaining units.

“It was just a natural fit,” he said of the choice to use JMTC at Rock Island for the staging facility. “We were looking for organic support—and they are a totally organic organization.”

Pearson also said that by moving onto a military base, they have increased their level of security. Rock Island sits in the middle of the Mississippi River, near Moline, Ill. Its location on the river makes it a difficult target.

“It’s very hard for somebody to get there that doesn’t belong there,” Pearson said.

The PM SSL fields about 18 different types of equipment to soldiers out of JMTC Rock Island, including thermal weapon sights, enhanced night-vision goggles, monocular night-vision devices, aviator’s night-vision imaging systems, clip-on sniper night sights, multifunction aiming light, integrated laser white-light pointers, weapons-mounted lights, aircrew laser pointers, laser target locators, and lightweight laser-designator rangefinders.

Each day the JMTC ships out about 2,000 pieces of equipment to receiving units, though Pearson said that number fluctuates. Once, he said, at a prior facility, and during a surge, nearly 30,000 pieces of equipment were shipped in one day.

### **MONEY SAVING**

The now nearly year-old JMTC staging facility at Rock Island doesn’t just enable PM SSL to deliver critical warfighting equipment on time to gaining commands. It also saves money, Pearson said. A recent Lean Six Sigma project showed that the facility, from fiscal year 2012-2016, is expected to save the government “at least half a million a year.”

In the last year, efforts at JMTC to use item-unique identification tracking tools have also drawn the attention of Headquarters Department of the Army. The advanced inventory tracking systems in use there were lauded by Army leadership because they better enable transparency in the supply chain, Pearson said. The JMTC is able to maintain a 100 percent success rate in tracking all its gear.

“There is a big thing with transparency, not only with the units wanting to know what items that they have on their property books, but also from an HQDA [Headquarters, Department of the Army] perspective, in knowing what Congress appropriated, and in knowing what items were bought with what dollars,” Pearson said.

With budgets tightening, accurate accountability of equipment is important, Pearson said. But even more important is the PM SSL mission of supporting soldiers in the war fight—and that’s something efforts at JMTC Rock Island enable them to do.

“All of this is very important when it comes to timing and supporting units. The units usually have a complicated pre-deployment schedule. Without having what JMTC does for us up there, we couldn’t easily support the units. The goal is to get them everything from our specific portfolio that they need to go to win the fight.”

### **Life-saving ESAPI Plate Returned to Soldier**

*ARMY NEWS SERVICE (SEPT. 19, 2013)*

*C. Todd Lopez*

WASHINGTON—When Sgt. Joseph Morrissey stepped out of his vehicle onto a military supply route in Afghanistan, Aug. 9, 2012, he didn’t know it would be the day his body armor would prove to be worth the weight and discomfort that comes with wearing it.

“It was basically like getting a sucker punch that you didn’t expect,” Morrissey said of being shot. “It’s kind of an unexpected feeling and takes your breath away; it knocks the wind out of you a little bit—but I kept my balance the whole time.”

Despite being hit in the chest with a 7.62mm round from about 30 meters, Morrissey remained uninjured. The ceramic “Enhanced Small Arms Protective Insert,” or ESAPI, he wore, which weighs about 3.5 pounds, stopped the bullet and saved his life.

On Sept. 18, 2013, a year after the incident in Afghanistan, Morrissey and his wife Nikki traveled from Fort Bragg, N.C., to Program Executive Office, or PEO, Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va., to retrieve the ceramic plate that enabled their life together to continue.

“It’s amazing how much my life has changed in the last year, and to think it wouldn’t have been possible without that piece of equipment,” Morrissey said. “I’ve been married since then; I have a child on the way.”



**ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HONORS  
DARPA PM Bonnie Dorr for "Significant Contributions"**

**(DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY, SEPT. 19, 2013)**

Bonnie Dorr (left), program manager in DARPA's Information Innovation Office (I2O), is pictured with Henry Kautz, past president of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), upon her recent induction as an AAI Fellow. Each year, AAI bestows the lifetime honor of Fellow on only a handful of researchers for their exceptional leadership, research, and service contributions to the field of artificial intelligence. AAI honored Dorr for "significant contributions to natural language understanding and representation, and development of the widely recognized methods for interlingual machine translation." Dorr is developing new approaches and advanced capabilities in automated language translation and analysis to support a variety of Department of Defense missions.

Photo courtesy DARPA

After he was shot, Morrissey finished out the remainder of his tour protected by a new ESAPI plate. The plate that saved his life redeployed so it could be evaluated by scientists at PEO Soldier and the Joint Trauma Analysis and Prevention of Injury in Combat program. Their analysis of the plate will help the joint warfighting team better understand injuries, and will also help PEO Soldier design better protective gear.

Command Sgt. Maj. Emmett Maunakea, PEO Soldier, returned the plate to Morrissey in a small ceremony at PEO Soldier headquarters. The event was attended by dozens of scientists, engineers and staffers of the agency respon-

sible for fielding to Soldiers such things as body armor, laser sights, and individual and crew-served weapons.

"These are the hidden faces behind all of the equipment that gets issued by PEO Soldier," Maunakea said, addressing Morrissey. "These are the science and technology folks, the research and development folks, the acquisition professionals. These are the people who bring together all of the kit that you wear down range. And this is as much their moment for them because this is one of the few times the PEO Soldier team actually gets to watch one of the plates return."



Sgt. Joseph Morrissey and wife Nikki will take this ESAPI plate home with them to Fort Bragg, N.C. Sgt. Morrissey was wearing the plate in Afghanistan, Aug. 9, 2012, when he was shot in the chest with a 7.62mm round. After the plate was evaluated by PEO Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va., it was returned to Morrissey during a ceremony.

U.S. Army photo

To the PEO Soldier staff, Maunakea let them know that Morrissey, standing there in the room with them with his new bride—is the reason they come to work in the morning.

“Everything I’ve talked with you all about before, this is where it all culminates,” he said. “We’ve got a soldier who got hit, went back in to continue to patrol, and finished an entire rotation, came back and he’s standing here today—here with his wife and father-in-law and a battle buddy from one of his deployments. And he’s here because of exactly everything you all do. It’s every piece of equipment you put your blood, sweat, and tears into—that’s what saved Sergeant Morrissey’s life, and that’s why he’s able to be here today.”

For making available to him and other service members the protective gear that saved his life, Morrissey thanked the PEO Soldier team—a team he said he hadn’t known existed until he arrived to pick up his plate.

“I didn’t even know this place existed,” Morrissey said. “I didn’t understand the process of testing our equipment. I just know equipment is given to you, it’s what you use, and you go on every day with it. I want to say ‘thank you very much’

for everything you guys do; without you I wouldn’t be here. It’s been a little over a year since the incident happened, and in the last year I was able to come home from that deployment, I married my fiancée—probably the happiest day of my life—and shortly thereafter, I found we have a baby on the way.”

If Morrissey is a believer now in the protective armor he wears downrange, he wasn’t always so. Like many soldiers who wear the heavy protective gear, he said he sometimes had doubts if it was worth the burden of carrying that much weight on his shoulders.

“Before I actually had put this equipment to the test, on a personal level, I didn’t have faith in it because of stories I’d heard—that it won’t stop a 7.62, that it won’t save you from anything,” Morrissey said. “There’s always rumors going on. Most people in the Army are going to tell you they don’t like wearing the body armor because it is heavy and uncomfortable. Whatever their excuse is, they don’t want to wear it.”

Now, he said, he’s a believer.

"After putting it to the test, regardless of the weight, regardless of the comfort, you can't beat having your life saved," he said. "Regardless of how heavy it is, or how uncomfortable it is—the equipment works."

Morrissey's wife, Nikki, said the plate allowed her to have her husband—and says the plate will be displayed prominently in their home.

"It's going to get hung up somewhere where it's very visible," she said.

For more ARNEWS stories, visit <http://www.army.mil/ARNEWS>.

### **AMC Commanding General Earns Career Award**

*ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND (SEPT. 26, 2013)*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Army Materiel Command's Commanding General Gen. Dennis L. Via accepted the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's leading award Wednesday for exceptional career service.

Via received the Admiral Jon L. Boyes Medal for Distinguished Service to AFCEA. The medal is the organization's premier award, given for exceptional career service to AFCEA. Winners are selected by an appointed committee.

"This recognition brings great honor to my family and to my career as a United States soldier," Via said. Throughout Via's career as a U.S. Army Signal Corps officer, he has focused on command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, which the professional communications industry refers to as C4ISR.

"I know firsthand that we must maintain C4ISR technological overmatch to defeat our adversaries," Via said. "Consistent, open communication and partnership with military, industry, and allies is key to that success."

In a letter to Via announcing the award, AFCEA International President and CEO Kent Schneider told the general he was selected based on his exceptional service related to defense, intelligence, and homeland security.

"Your outstanding contributions over time are legendary," Schneider wrote. "You commanded signal units at every level in the Army, commanded the U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Command, and served as our nation's director of Command, Control, Communications and Computers on the Joint Staff. Finally, you are commanding the

U.S. Army Materiel Command as the Army's first ever four star to come from the Signal Corps."

The Admiral Jon L. Boyes award was established in 1978. Past recipients include H. Ross Perot, Army Gen. Colin Powell, and late senators Barry M. Goldwater and Daniel K. Inouye.

### **2013 Department of Defense Maintenance Awards Winners Announced**

*DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (SEPT. 27, 2013)*

The Department of Defense (DoD) announced today the 2013 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 2013 Robert T. Mason Depot Maintenance Excellence Award recipient is the Army, UH-60 Black Hawk Recapitalization Program at Corpus Christi Army Depot, Corpus Christi, Texas. The program converts and extends the life of the UH-60A aircraft, which entered the Army inventory in 1979, through equipment overhauls, structural upgrades, and technology and system enhancements to the more advanced UH-60L. The program gives each recapped UH-60 an additional 10 years of service, while enabling the Army to avoid procuring newer and costlier replacements. During 2013, the program completed a record high total of 50 recapped aircraft, while achieving lowered recap costs and shortened turnaround times by 17 percent.

The depot-level award is named in recognition of Robert T. Mason, a former assistant deputy undersecretary 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 *USS John C. Stennis* (CVN-74), Naval Base Kitsap, Bremerton, Wash., and the 27th Special Operations Maintenance Group, Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. Winners in the medium category are the D Company, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment (Task Force Talon), 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., and the *USS Emory Land* (AS-39), Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. Small category winners are the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., and the Naval Sea Systems Command Submarine Performance

Monitoring Program, Headquarters, Washington Navy Yard, D.C.

The awards will be presented to the winners at the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Ceremony scheduled for Oct. 30 in the Pentagon Auditorium.

### **Supply Corps Admiral Receives Diversity Achievement Award**

*NAVSUP OFFICE OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS (SEPT. 27, 2013)*

*Kathy Adams*

MECHANICSBURG, Pa.—The commander of Naval Supply Systems Command and 46th chief of Supply Corps received a diversity achievement award from the Washington, D.C., Chapter of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA), Sept. 25.

The award recognized Rear Adm. Mark Heinrich for his exceptional efforts at improving the diversity posture within the Navy Supply Corps during his tenure.

The chapter president, retired Capt. Tom Aberneth, along with retired Capt. Jerome D. Davis, presented the award at a ceremony at Naval Supply Systems Command Headquarters in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

“I am honored to be recognized by NNOA,” said Heinrich. “As chief of Supply Corps, I think it is important to have diverse opinions and experiences to draw from. The diversity of the Supply Corps is what I’m most proud of.”

As the 46th chief of Supply Corps, Heinrich’s efforts created the environment that produced the first African American to be selected as a two-star admiral in the history of the Supply Corps. He also led the effort to formally recognize and

acknowledge the historic significance and achievements of the first African American selected to admiral in the Supply Corps—Rear Adm. William E. Powell Jr.—by naming and dedicating the library at the Navy Supply Corps School in Newport, R.I., in his honor. These efforts, in conjunction with his emphasis in growing the level of diversity along all fronts within the senior ranks of the Supply Corps via job placement and mentoring, have been exceptional.

The NNOA is an organization of active duty, Reserve, and retired naval officers, U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen and cadets, and interested civilians devoted to achieving a diverse senior officer corps and enhanced operational readiness in the Sea Services by recruiting, retaining, and developing the careers of minority officers, as well as maintaining a positive image of the Sea Services in minority communities and educational institutions.

The NAVSUP and Navy Supply Corps team share one mission—to deliver sustained global logistics and quality-of-life support to the Navy and joint warfighter. NAVSUP/Navy Supply Corps’ diverse team of more than 25,000 civilian and military personnel oversee a diverse portfolio including supply chain management for material support to Navy, Marine Corps, joint and coalition partners, supply operations, conventional ordnance, contracting, resale, fuel, transportation, security assistance, and quality-of-life issues for our naval forces, including food service, postal services, Navy Exchanges, and movement of household goods. The NAVSUP/Navy Supply Corps team forms a vast network of professionals who deliver unparalleled products and services to customers in the Fleet and across the world.

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