

Six AFMC Civilians Among 2010 Presidential Rank Award Winners

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT (OCT. 19, 2010)

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley announced Oct. 19, 2010, Air Force recipients of the prestigious Presidential Rank Awards for 2010, and the list includes six civilians currently assigned to Air Force Materiel Command.

“Winners of this prestigious award are strong leaders, professionals, and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry, and a relentless commitment to public service,” the secretary said in an e-mail message announcing the winners.

There are two categories of rank awards: distinguished and meritorious. Award winners are chosen through a yearlong rigorous selection process. They are nominated by their agency heads, evaluated by boards comprised of private citizens, and approved by the president. The evaluation criteria focus on leadership and results. Specific categories and AFMC recipients include:

2010 Meritorious Executives

- Michael A. Gill, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the director of Contracting, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
- Dr. David M. Jerome, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is director, Sensors Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
- Richard W. Lombardi, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is executive director, Electronic Systems Center, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass.
- John J. Thrasher, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is director, Air Force Materiel Command Law Office, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

2010 Meritorious Senior Professionals

- Dr. Ravinder Chona, a member of the scientific and professional cadre of senior executives, is senior scientist for Structural Integrity, Air Vehicles Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
- Dr. James M. Larsen, a member of the scientific and professional cadre of senior executives, is a senior scientist for Structural Materials Life Prediction, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The Air Force will honor all award winners during an official ceremony scheduled for spring 2011.

Army Announces New Policies on Energy Efficiencies

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (OCT. 27, 2010)

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment Katherine Hammack issued today a new policy memorandum to improve high-performance green buildings standards for the Army.

“Energy security, sustainability, and efficiency are national security imperatives,” said Hammack. “This policy supports the Army’s global missions in a cost-effective, safe, and sustainable manner that will benefit Army soldiers, families, and the entire nation.”

The Memorandum for Sustainable Design and Development Policy Update (Environmental and Energy Performance) (Revision), changes the way the Army will approach efficient design of Army facilities. Requirements throughout the planning, programming, budgeting, design, and building stages will strengthen the Army’s sustainability, energy security, and energy independence through more responsible consumption and planning.

Incorporation of sustainable design and development principles, following guidance as detailed in American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 189.1, will reduce water and energy consumption, optimize energy efficiencies and performance, and reduce negative impacts on the natural environment. Through strategies such as siting, cool roofs, solar water heating, storm water management, and water efficiency, the Army will reduce its impact on the environment. Options will be investigated and documented for each project to evaluate the Army’s ability to utilize renewable and alternative power sources on its installations in a fashion that is compatible with training missions.

Commissioning, measurement, and third-party verification are also required to track progress and identify opportunities for further improvement. Life cycle cost analyses will be mandatory to promote best business practices.

The Army’s commitment to sustainable design and development extends beyond construction or renovation savings, Hammack said, “High-performance buildings are critical to cost-effective life cycle management of our infrastructure and national energy security. Maintaining access to vital resources, including energy, water, and the environment, is vital for accomplishing the Army’s global missions.”

While the overall benefits gained through efficiencies and reduced consumption will vary based on location, buildings in compliance with the new policy are expected to yield significant energy savings for the Army over current construction standards. Preliminary analysis by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers indicates energy savings over current design of 45 percent or greater.

The Army also announced that all light bulbs acquired for use in facilities and structures owned, leased, or controlled by the Army must meet higher energy efficiency standards. The goal is a complete replacement of all incandescent lighting on Army installations within 5 years. New efficient lighting will use 3-5 times less electricity than an incandescent bulb over the same period.

Hammack issued today a 'Memorandum on the Utilization of Efficient Lighting' to reduce energy consumption and reduce adverse impacts to the environment. The memo establishes policy and guidance to use only efficient light bulbs that meet standards outlined in the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. EISA requires the manufacture of energy efficient light bulbs, with efficiency standards phasing in between 2012 and 2014. It also requires the use of energy efficient lighting fixtures and bulbs in buildings constructed by the General Services Administration.

"Lighting efficiency improvements present a clear opportunity to decrease energy consumption, which is a priority for the U.S. Army, the Department of Defense, and for the entire federal government," said Hammack. "It's been over 130 years since Thomas Edison gave birth to the world's first practical incandescent light bulb, and we're undeniably overdue for a jump forward."

In order for the Army to capture energy efficiency savings consistent with these provisions, the new policy requires the use of the light bulbs as soon as possible. When installed bulbs fail and existing inventory is depleted, only efficient light bulbs may be purchased. Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) require significantly less energy to produce the same amount of light, and need replacement six times less often. This means a profound reduction in electricity, maintenance, and labor costs.

For more information, media may contact Dave Foster, Army Public Affairs, at dave.foster1@us.army.mil or 703-697-5344

2010 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Awards Ceremony Celebrates Army Acquisition Stars

U.S. ARMY ACQUISITION SUPPORT CENTER (OCT. 24, 2010)

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Oct. 24—The U.S. Army acquisition community held its 7th U.S. Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) Annual Awards Ceremony Oct. 24 at the Westin Alexandria hotel, in Alexandria, Va.

The event, with the theme "Celebrating our Acquisition Stars," pays tribute to the uniformed and civilian professionals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide combatant commanders and their soldiers the weapons and equipment they need to execute decisive, full-spectrum operations in support of overseas contingency operations. The awards recognize extraordinary accomplishments by members of the Army Acquisition Workforce and the teams they lead.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Malcolm R. O'Neill, host of the event, addressed the crowd of more than 400 people.

"We are here this evening to showcase the significant achievements of the outstanding military and civilian members of the Army Acquisition Corps and the greater Army acquisition, logistics, and technology workforce. It is my privilege to witness the outstanding work of these acquisition professionals and to know firsthand of the great things they do for our warfighters."

U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center Deputy Director Col. William Boruff presided over the event as master of ceremonies. This year, a total of 130 nominees competed for the following awards:

- Army Life Cycle Logistician of the Year Award
- ASA(ALT) Contracting Noncommissioned Officer Award for Contracting Excellence
- Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting—Barbara C. Heald Award
- Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Continuous Process Improvement Award
- Department of the Army Research and Development Laboratory of the Year Awards
- Secretary of the Army Acquisition Director, Project Manager, and Product Manager of the Year Awards
- Army Acquisition Excellence Awards

The list of winners follows.

2010 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual Awards Ceremony Winners

2010 Army Life Cycle Logistician of the Year Award
John T. Smith, Program Executive Office (PEO) Aviation

2010 ASA(ALT) Contracting Noncommissioned Officer

Award for Contracting Excellence

Master Sgt. Jason Pitts, 413th Contracting Support Brigade, 618th Contingency Contracting Team

2010 Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting—Barbara C. Heald Award

Walter O. Epps, U.S. Army Contracting Command, 412th Contracting Support Brigade

2010 Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Continuous Process Improvement Award

Full Materiel Release Process Ground Munitions Project Team, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Policy and Logistics

2010 Department of the Army Research and Development Laboratory of the Year Awards

Laboratory of the Year (Small Laboratory)

U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (MRMC) Laboratories, MRMC

Management Award (Small Laboratory)

U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development, and Engineering Center, U.S. Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command (RDECOM)

2010 Secretary of the Army Acquisition Director, Project Manager, and Product Manager of the Year Awards

Acquisition Director of the Year at the Lieutenant Colonel Level
Lt. Col. James Patrick Delaney, U.S. Army Developmental Test Command

Product Manager of the Year

Lt. Col. James Choung, Joint PEO Chemical and Biological Defense, Joint Project Manager Guardian, Product Manager Force Protection Systems

Acquisition Director of the Year at the Colonel Level

Col. Theodore Harrison, Expeditionary Contracting Command, 410th Contracting Support Brigade

Project Manager of the Year

Col. Kevin B. Peterson, PEO Combat Support and Combat Service Support, Project Manager Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles

2010 Army Acquisition Excellence Awards

Individual Sustained Achievement Award

Maj. John Todd Masternak, PEO Ammunition, Product Director Non-Standard Ammunition

Equipping and Sustaining Our Soldier's Systems Award

Acquisition Cell (AQCELL) Team, RDECOM and U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command

Information Enabled Army Award

Project Directorate Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar, PEO Command, Control, and Communications-Tactical

Transforming the Way We Do Business Award

Forward Deployment Services Cell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Middle East District

USAASC supports the Army's acquisition mission through superior personnel development systems and management support capabilities, enabling the most effective and efficient equipping of the nation's forces while maintaining an internal culture of constant organizational improvement.

For more information about the 2010 AAC Annual Awards Ceremony, contact Stanley Eisenhower at 703-805-1096 or stanley.eisenhower@us.army.mil; or visit <http://asc.army.mil>. Event photos are available online at <http://asc.army.mil/conference/archives/photos.cfm>.

Land and Maritime Employee Takes Top DLA-Level Award

DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY NEWS RELEASE (OCT. 26, 2010)

Tony D'Elia

Usually rated among the top performers in her organization, Wendy Gray has been selected as the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Defense Logistics Agency Employee with a Disability Award.

Gray, who was born deaf, is a product data specialist in the Acquisition Support Branch of DLA Land and Maritime Operations Support Directorate. She was selected from a field of 18 nominees from all over DLA and will be recognized at the 30th Annual DoD Disability Forum in Bethesda, Md., where she will receive the award sponsored by the Defense Department's Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity.

She is responsible for acquiring engineering drawings from the military services and industry that are essential in the acquisition of items in support of warfighters. Gray consistently exceeds all production standards regarding both volume and quality, her supervisor Terrell Carter said.

Spending her entire 26-year federal career in the field of technical data management in her current organization, Gray advanced to her present GS-9 journeyman position 18 years ago. Among a number of high-priority weapon system proj-



Third Army Receives Lean Six Sigma Award

Brig. Gen. Robert McCaleb, who serves as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-8 for Third Army (center), accepted the 2010 Army Lean/Six Sigma Excellence Award from Under Secretary of the Army Joseph P. Westphal and Lt. Gen. Robert Durbin, who serves as director of the Office of Business Transformation at the Department of the Army, during a ceremony held at the Pentagon, Oct. 15. The Lean/Six Sigma Excellence Awards Program, or LEAP, recognizes the valuable practitioners of the manufacturing and business process improvement programs in the Army. Lean/Six Sigma is a methodology that provides businesses with the tools to improve the capability of their business processes. Last year, practitioners of Lean and Six Sigma saved the Army more than \$1 billion.

U.S. Army courtesy photo

ects she has worked on is the M2 .50-caliber machine gun parts initiative.

"My job has changed a lot since I came here [from Dayton, Ohio] in June 1996," said Gray, who has taken more and more training throughout her career to learn new systems. "I enjoy learning new thing—that is a challenge.

Gray added that the best part of her job is verifying drawing information and downloading it into DLA's acquisition system software.

In addition to her regular workload, this year Gray, who uses American Sign Language and the written word to communicate, learned and mastered the art of technical data package development. She has learned the job well enough to now be considered the "go to" expert in her work unit.

It's the fourth consecutive year that a DLA Land and Maritime associate has been honored with the award. Delfina Zeigler, a supply clerk, was selected last year; Dave Anders,

a supervisory inventory management specialist, was named in 2008; and Constance Gardener, a contract specialist, took the prize in 2007.

Lynn Honors Department's Best Employees

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (NOV. 4, 2010)

Lisa Daniel

WASHINGTON—Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III today paid tribute to eight people who distinguished themselves among more than 700,000 others in winning the Defense Department's annual top civilian employee awards.

"They understand that working for the department is a public trust that brings great responsibilities and opportunities," Lynn said during a ceremony in the Pentagon auditorium where he presented the 6th Annual David O. Cooke Excellence in Public Administration Award and the 55th Annual Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Awards.

Lynn presented the first award—named for the late “mayor” of the Pentagon, 55-year employee “Doc” Cooke—to Manuel A. Fajin, a special agent with Force Protection Detachment Colombia, Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Fajin was cited for his dedication, resourcefulness and leadership in helping to protect 4,500 government personnel in Latin America, which led to his unit being recognized as the department’s model force-protection detachment.

The award was established in Cooke’s name to recognize great leaders with less than 10 years of service. “As someone who knew him well, this achievement personifies his legacy,” Lynn said of Cooke in presenting the award to Fajin. “He was an icon because he was a quintessential public servant.”

Lynn noted the seven distinguished service award recipients’ contributions toward innovations and efficiencies in information technology, foreign languages, developing unmanned aircraft, and enhancing the performance of deployed servicemembers, among others.

“Each one of you helped the department carry out its mission in various ways,” he said.

The Distinguished Civilian Service Award was created 55 years ago to recognize a small number of employees whose careers reflect exceptional devotion to duty and extremely significant contributions in policy, science, technology, and administrative fields.

This year’s winners are:

- Lisa S. Disbrow, the National Security Council’s senior director for policy implementation, who serves as the principal deputy director for force management and the Joint Staff’s vice director of force structure.
- Bruce S. Lemkin, the Air Force’s principal deputy assistant secretary for financial management and deputy under secretary for international affairs.
- Glenn H. Nordin, foreign language and foreign area advisor in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence.
- Timothy R. Owings, deputy project manager in the Army’s unmanned aircraft systems project office.
- Barbara A. Sission, director of U.S. Central Command’s resources and analysis directorate.
- David M. Wennergren, deputy assistant secretary for information management and deputy chief information officer.
- Peter Wilhelm, director of the Naval Research Laboratory’s Naval Center for Space Technology.

CERDEC Small Business Coordinator Recognized for Achievements

U.S. ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND-COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND ENGINEERING CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (NOV. 23, 2010)

Allison Barrow

FORT MONMOUTH, N.J.—An employee from the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, or CERDEC, was recognized for exceptional performance in working with small businesses, during a ceremony at the Army Materiel Command Small Business Conference in McLean, Va., Nov. 18.

Suzanne Weeks, CERDEC Small Business Innovation Research program analyst, was awarded AMC SBIR Program Coordinator of the Year for fiscal year 2009.

“Suzanne is the driving force behind CERDEC’s very successful SBIR program. This award is well deserved,” said Mari Kovach, CERDEC associate director for Technology and Strategic Planning.

Weeks oversees the day-to-day operations of the CERDEC SBIR program, in which small businesses compete for research and development awards with the U.S. Army. Weeks coordinated 89 Phase 1 SBIR Awards, 46 Phase 2 SBIR Awards, and 36 other SBIR actions for CERDEC in fiscal year 2009.

“I like seeing things come out of the program, seeing some of the technology that comes out of it,” said Weeks.

Weeks has been a part of the SBIR program since 1991 and has led the CERDEC program since 2000. Her efforts helped CERDEC earn 19 U.S. Army SBIR Achievement Awards since 1995, which are awarded to the top Army SBIR projects based on originality of research, relevance to the Army’s mission, commercialization potential of the product, and the overall performance of the project.

“We’re successful every year, and since CERDEC’s reputation is good, I get a good reputation,” said Weeks.

Beginning her civilian service in 1982, Weeks has held positions in CERDEC headquarters’ Financial Management Division and the Technology Transfer Office. Her contributions to the SBIR program were previously recognized in 1997 by the Department of Defense SBIR Office. Along with her role as CERDEC SBIR program coordinator, she currently serves as the lead for the Cooperative Research and Development

Agreement program and supports the technology transfer program.

Weeks attributes her years of success with the CERDEC SBIR program to the "great group of people" she works with both at CERDEC and RDECOM, as well as those in the small business offices.

"They're willing to take a chance, where maybe the bigger companies won't. They'll do something different that might lead to something very valuable for the soldier."

Barrow writes for U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command-Communications-Electronics Research, Development, and Engineering Center Public Affairs.

EProcurement Officially Launches

DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY NEWS RELEASE (NOV. 29, 2010)

Sara Moore

EProcurement, the Defense Logistics Agency's long-anticipated automated contract-writing tool, officially launched Nov. 29, with the first release going to DLA Document Services and DLA Strategic Materials.

EProcurement, short for Enterprise Procurement, is a software program within the Enterprise Business System that automates and standardizes contract writing throughout the agency. It was developed to replace DLA's legacy contracting systems, which range from manual-entry paper systems to fully automated systems used at the agency's various field activities.

"This will bring DLA, which has thousands of users [and] multiple buying activities spread throughout the world, onto the same contract writing and contract administration system," said Air Force Col. Mike Claffey, the procurement process owner in DLA Acquisition. "Really, we would be the first in the entire Department of Defense to do that."

DLA began developing EProcurement several years ago as a way to streamlining the more than 10,000 contract awards and modifications the agency processes each day, said Sabrina Holloway, the EProcurement project lead in DLA Information Operations. The project originally started in 2002, she said. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendation that gave DLA responsibility for procuring all depot-level reparable items added new requirements to the project. Depot-level reparables, or DLRs, are parts that can be repaired and reused throughout their usable life, like transmissions and vehicle engines.



Suzanne Weeks, a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program analyst from the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command-Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, or CERDEC, was awarded Army Materiel Command SBIR Program Coordinator of the Year for fiscal year 2009. Weeks received the award during a ceremony at the Army Materiel Command Small Business Conference in McLean, Va., Nov. 18, 2010.

Photo by Allison Barrow

The final EProcurement solution includes capabilities not only for simplified acquisitions, long-term contracts, service contracts, and performance-based logistics contracts, but will also include capabilities for DLR procurement, Holloway said.

The incremental release of EProcurement, which began in November and will continue with Release 1.1 in February and Release 1.2 next summer, wasn't the original plan for the project, but was borne out of necessity when some technical issues delayed an enterprise-wide release, Claffey said. DLA senior leaders decided they wanted to get the program started in 2010 as opposed to waiting for a large-scale release.

"It was becoming difficult to get all the functionality in that we need to get in one big bite, which was the original plan," said Rob Gee, the EProcurement functional lead in DLA Acquisition Management. "Breaking it up into smaller increments has probably been a good move. It's made things a lot more manageable."

The first release of EProcurement is going to Strategic Materials and Document Services because they are smaller activities with fairly simple procurement systems, Gee said. In this way, DLA can start the program with a small number of users and gradually grow the system with the future releases, using feedback from the first users to improve the system along the way.

"It's not going to be perfect; there's going to be bumps along the way as we deploy this thing," Gee said. "We're there to work through it."

EProcurement will most definitely bring changes to DLA Document Services, where all contracts were previously written manually in word-processing programs, said Steve Sherman, director of DLA Document Services. He said he expects the system to improve the efficiency and quality of his activity's contracting practices. He noted that DLA Document Services implemented the Enterprise Business System in June 2009, and employees were putting in a lot of extra work to learn the new system and ensure all the contracting documents synched up for each transaction.

"We're looking for both streamlining efficiencies, which I think is extremely important in today's environment, and improvement in quality and consistency, because we're using a program to ensure that our contract packages are properly built," Sherman said.

Implementing EProcurement will bring challenges, as any new system does, Sherman said. Besides the expected functional issues, one of the most obvious will be the culture change. Employees will have to learn how to use the new system. To overcome this challenge, DLA Document Services has been conducting EProcurement training and putting a lot of emphasis on change management, he said.

"We're looking forward to it," he said. "We're depending on it to streamline our process and improve quality and consistency, and we're going to make it work."

In addition to training employees, the DLA EProcurement Program Office has been testing the EProcurement system in preparation for the first releases, said Chuck McNelley, chief of contracting for DLA Document Services. He noted that DLA EProcurement Program Office personnel at Hybla Valley took current contracts from DLA Document Services and loaded them into the system to ensure everything worked smoothly.

A key component in preparing to release EProcurement has been workforce training, Claffey said.

"In this resource-constrained environment, we're seeing a great team effort by all of DLA to step up and to tailor the training and make it the most meaningful and have the biggest and best impact to the users and posture them for success," he said.

Some of the notable new capabilities are in the contract administration and records management areas, Gee said. EProcurement will also establish automated interfaces with various Defense Department and federal systems, Claffey said.

EProcurement was designed to work within the agency's Enterprise Business System, the technology hub that makes DLA's daily supply-management operations possible. EBS is the "backbone" that contains all the core financial, technical, procurement, and item data, Gee explained. EProcurement will work as a subsystem of EBS and will be used by DLA's buyers and contract administrators to process purchase requests and customer-direct requisitions, he said.

"They will use EProcurement to go out and do their job and solicit bids or quotes from vendors, create those solicitation documents, get the quotes back in, do the evaluations, make the contract award, and all the actions that need to be taken to do a purchase," he said. "The data, of course, as we're going along, is being fed back into EBS."

Having an automated procurement system is something DLA has been working toward for a long time and is directly tied to stewardship initiatives outlined in the 2010 and 2011 Director's Guidance, which are aimed at bringing EBS-enabled business process enhancements online. It has taken a lot of work to get to this point, and while implementation may not be perfect, the system will ultimately bring many improvements to the agency's procurement operations, Gee said.

"It's going to be a big change for everybody. People are used to whatever systems they've been using for however many years, so there's going to be a learning curve out there," he said. "They're just going to have to be aware of that and work with us along the way, and eventually we'll end up with a good system. It might not be tomorrow, but a few years down the road I think we'll probably be glad that we did what we did."