

MIT Red Balloon Team Wins DARPA Network Challenge

DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY NEWS RELEASE (DEC. 5, 2009)

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency has announced that the MIT Red Balloon Challenge Team won the \$40,000 cash prize in the DARPA Network Challenge, a competition that required participants to locate 10 large, red balloons at undisclosed locations across the United States. The MIT team received the prize for being the first to identify the locations of all 10 balloons.

"The Challenge has captured the imagination of people around the world, is rich with scientific intrigue, and, we hope, is part of a growing 'renaissance of wonder' throughout the nation," said DARPA Director Dr. Regina E. Dugan. "DARPA salutes the MIT team for successfully completing this complex task less than 9 hours after balloon launch."

DARPA announced the Network Challenge to mark the 40th anniversary of the ARPANet, pre-cursor to today's Internet, to explore how broad-scope problems can be tackled using social networking tools. The challenge explores basic research issues such as mobilization, collaboration, and trust in diverse social networking constructs and could serve to fuel innovation across a wide spectrum of applications.

DARPA plans to meet with teams to review the approaches and strategies used to build networks, collect information, and participate in the challenge.

DARPA is the central research and development organization for the Department of Defense. The agency manages and directs research and development projects for DoD and pursues research and technology where the risk and payoff are both very high and where success may provide dramatic advances in support of military missions.

"We need a renaissance of wonder. We need to renew, in our hearts and in our souls, the deathless dream, the eternal poetry, the perennial sense that life is miracle and magic."

—E. Merrill Root

Team Celebrates 60 Years of Advancing Technology

SPECIAL TO AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (DEC. 7, 2009)

Ian Graham

WASHINGTON—The technology that lets you listen to CDs, the Global Positioning System that got you around a traffic jam this morning, and even the mouse you just used to click on this story all are direct results of research conducted or sponsored by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

For nearly 60 years, AFOSR has pushed the limits of technological research. The resulting accomplishments have led to the creation of numerous revolutionary capabilities—breakthroughs that have been the cornerstones in critical areas that directly support the Air Force mission—from lasers and stealth to space weather and self-healing materials.

Brendan B. Godfrey, director of AFOSR, spoke during a Dec. 2 interview on the Pentagon Channel podcast "Armed with Science: Research and Applications for the Modern Military" about the office's plans for continued success and the development of the next generation of outstanding scientists and engineers.

"We strive to identify and support revolutionary and far-reaching research that has a diversity of applications, attacking things that, frankly, we have no idea how to do," said Godfrey, who holds a doctorate in physics. "If we know how to do them, we let somebody else worry about them."

Fifty-seven of the scientists the office has sponsored in the past 60 years have gone on to win Nobel Prizes for their accomplishments. Godfrey said it's something AFOSR's people are proud of, but they aren't out looking to win awards.

"We don't set out to fund Nobel laureates," he said. "It's easy to fund somebody after they're famous, but we're quite skilled, I think, at picking out people that are going to make an impact before they've made it."

The group has a long history of contributing to major advances in technology. Its funding and networking played a role in the creation of the laser, the transistor, global positioning systems, the computer mouse, stealth technology, and high-pressure flight suits.

More recently, the office has worked to create three-dimensional holograms that can be changed in real time.

"We're not far away from 3-D holographic movies—movies where you can actually step inside the action," Godfrey said.

AFOSR looks in the long-term to keep the military ahead of its adversaries technologically. It stays on the cutting edge by networking with and funding the world's leading researchers and trying to move their research from the laboratory to the commercial and military sectors. Currently, for example, there's research being done in cooperation with Purdue University to create rocket fuel using aluminum nanoparticles and ice.



Depot Recognized for Demil Recycling Totaling More Than \$837,000

BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT, Ken. (Jan. 7, 2010)—Depot employees assist Blue Grass Army Depot Commander Col. Joseph Tirone in displaying the official Army recognition Blue Grass Army Depot received recently for its conventional ammunition demilitarization efforts in Fiscal Year 2009. The depot was awarded the recognition by the Army's Product Manager Demilitarization for generating \$837,721.75—the highest resource recovery and recycling (R3) revenue per funds received. The depot's demil recovery was accomplished through its maintenance demil division and the recycling through its qualified recycling program, managed by the installation's morale, welfare, and recreation office. Forty percent of the recaptured funds can be used by the depot for approved equipment, facilities, or projects that support ongoing and future demilitarization efforts. The remaining 60 percent of the R3 funding is placed with other depots' recaptured money to be used for the good of the Army ammunition demil community on a case-by-case basis. The R3 program benefits the entire Army demil community by recouping funds that will be used to aid future demil projects by purchasing related demil equipment or helping to fund a high-priority project.

U.S. Army photo by Jo Adail Stephenson

Godfrey said it can be particularly difficult, because by the time the public hears of a scientific breakthrough, the innovation could be years old. "We want to know where science is going, not where it's been," he said.

The group now is focused on three major research areas, Godfrey said. The first is working to improve aircraft and spacecraft, seeking better fuel and propulsion systems, and studying bats to learn about aerodynamics and maneuverability in close quarters.

"We know more about how bats fly than anybody else in the world," Godfrey said. "They're very good at maneuvering at

high speeds in tight quarters, and this is what you're going to have to do with micro-aerial vehicles as they fly around inside cities."

AFOSR's scientists also want to create a more complete picture of the battlefield for warfighters—"ubiquitous battlefield knowledge," Godfrey called it. Improved microwave and laser technology can improve battlefield communications, and potentially could be used as a weapon. New sensors are being developed that can read and display multiple bands of the frequency spectrum, and studies are being done to better understand phenomena in the ionosphere and in space to improve satellite communication and longevity.

The third main research area focuses on computers, cyber-security, and decision making—everything from creating algorithms that control large numbers of small, remotely piloted aircraft, to researching human cognition to better understand how humans and computers can interact.

AFOSR has undertaken many successful ventures, but many others have not turned out as planned or have resulted in accidental discoveries with limited relevance for the Air Force. Technical risk is an accepted part of all AFOSR basic research, Godfrey said.

“[The research we do] isn’t easy—you don’t know if it’s going to work,” he said. “But you’ve got to try.”

He referred to Thomas Edison’s response when asked about the thousands of failed attempts at creating the light bulb: “Every one of them worked,” Edison said. “Every one showed me how not to make an electric light.”

“If AFOSR succeeded in every piece of research that it funded, I should be fired,” Godfrey joked, “because it would mean that we’re not reaching forward far enough—that we’re not taking enough risks.”

Graham works in the Defense Media Activity’s emerging media directorate.

Employees Honored during 42nd Annual Recognition Program

DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS (DEC. 11, 2009)

Defense Logistics Agency employees were honored during the agency’s 42nd Annual Employee Recognition Program at the McNamara Headquarters Complex Dec. 10.

Today’s award recipients represent the best in an agency workforce filled with exemplary employees, said Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson, agency director.

“Their collective accomplishments epitomize excellence and bring light into our strategic focus of warfighter support, stewardship excellence, and workforce development,” Thompson added.

Military and civilian employees throughout the agency were recognized for their contributions to the DLA mission.

The 10 Outstanding Personnel of the Year are:

- Rene Olivas, Defense Distribution Center (DDC)
- Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mathew Whitman, Defense Energy Support Center (DESC)

- Delfina Zeigler, Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC), Ohio
- Jeffrey Ziegler, Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR), Va.
- Army Master Sgt. Valentino Vaughn, DDC
- Tracy Charles, DLA Enterprise Support
- Clancy Duncan, DESC
- Timothy Schmidt, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP)
- Andres Villa, DDC
- Kevin Epstein, DESC

TEAM AWARDS

- Small Team Performance Award—DESC Middle East Kuwait
- Medium Team Performance Award—Clothing and Textiles Directorate Recruit Training Center Team, DSCP
- Large Team Performance Award—Warner Robins Inventory Consolidation Team, DLA Logistics Operations and Readiness Directorate, J-3/4
- Equal Employment Opportunity Activity of the Year—Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif.

OTHER AWARDS

- Outstanding Employee with a Disability—Delfina Zeigler, DSCC
- Achievement in EEO by a Line Manager—Navy Capt. Brad Bellis, DDC
- Achievement in EEO by a Nonmanager—Linda Boule, DSCP
- Employee of the Quarter Annual Winner—Christopher Parker, William Bonnat Jr., and Robert Ilac Sr., DES
- DLA Environmental Award—Document Automation and Production Service
- Quality of Life Excellence Award—Dana Morgan, DES

ACQUISITION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

- Excellence in Pre-Award Contracting—Substance Operational Rations Team, DSCP
- Excellence in Contract Administration—DSCC Nuclear Reactor Program Contract Administration Team, DSCC
- Excellence in Pricing—Dennis Orosz, DSCC
- Excellence in Procurement Analysis—Dorothy Lohr, DSCR
- Excellence in Acquisition Management—John Gagliardi, DSCP

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

- Debbie Davis, Tier 1 (nonsupervisor), DLA Information Operations Directorate, J-6
- Melissa Phillips, Tier 2 (supervisor less than two years), DLIS, J-6

- Maureen Steffani, Tier 3 (supervisor for two – 10 years), DSCP
- Barbara Simbro, Tier 4 (supervisor for more than 10 years), DSCR
- Patricia Whittington, Tier 5 (manager of managers), J-6.

MILITARY AWARDS

- Company Grade Officer of the Year—Air Force Capt. Carissa Grant, DSCP
- Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year—Air Force Master Sgt. Karonda Edwards, DSCP
- Junior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year—Navy Chief Petty Officer Sandra Murphy, DDC
- Joint Reserve Forces Senior Junior Officer of the Year—Air Force Capt. Cheryl Scilingo, J-3/4
- Joint Reserve Forces Senior Enlisted Member of the Year—Navy Chief Petty Officer Avo Zaytounian, DSCP
- Joint Reserve Forces Junior Enlisted Member of the Year—Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Marcia Georgi, DLA Joint Reserve Force.

Agency Aids Construction Material Purchases

DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY NEWS RELEASE (JAN. 8, 2010)

FORT BELVOIR, Va.—Defense Logistics Agency officials have made shopping for construction materials easier for warfighters in Afghanistan.

DLA has created an online shopping portal, also known as a virtual storefront, so troops in Afghanistan can see what types of construction materials are available from local contractors in their region.

The Maintenance, Repair, and Operations Uzbekistan Virtual Storefront warehouse and Web site is open for business. DLA leaders say they expect that allowing warfighters to check available stocks in real time will shorten delivery times by as much as 60 to 90 days on certain items.

“The virtual storefront is being established for proof of principle that ordering and shipping time can be improved by moving supplies closer to the point of use,” said Linda Gruber, branch chief for the agency’s construction and equipment supplier operations directorate.

The virtual storefront was established through an agreement between DLA and one of its contractors to create a prime vendor-owned and operated facility in Termez, Uzbekistan, which borders Afghanistan to the north.

Within the area of operations, the storefront will procure, distribute, and store material manufactured in South Caucasus and Central and South Asian states. Besides Uzbeki-

stan, countries included in these two groups are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. In addition, items can also be sourced from any Trade Agreement Act-compliant country.

“Having the products closer to the fight will make it easier for warfighters by reducing logistics response and delivery time,” said Chet Evanitsky, DLA’s construction and equipment supply chain division chief.

So far, 24 types of construction material products are available for delivery to customers through the virtual storefront. These include cement, concrete, fencing, roofing, rope, sand, steel, gutters, and pipe. Additional items will be added on an as-needed basis, Gruber said.

Other high-demand items not manufactured or sourced in the region, such as replacement parts for relocatable buildings, also may become available through the storefront. DLA officials also are identifying sources for food items in Uzbekistan and plan to share these sources with subsistence prime vendors for potential local purchase as long as items meet quality and price requirements.

As the Defense Department’s combat logistics support agency, DLA is responsible for providing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, other federal agencies, and joint and allied forces with a variety of logistics, acquisition, and technical services.

NCO Taps into Medical Record Database to Process Soldier Claims Faster

U.S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR COMBAT CASUALTY CARE (MC4)

Bill Snethen and Ray Steen

A backlog of 20 open case files resides on Army Master Sgt. Bruce Mann’s desk long enough that colleagues consider it part of the office decor. Each file contains scribbled notes from follow-up phone calls and stapled e-mail correspondence spanning weeks, sometimes months at a time.

Conducting line of duty, or LOD investigations for the Southern Regional Medical Command-Community Based Warrior Transition Unit (CBWTU) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, means Mann’s attention to detail and persistence leads to a complete picture for some soldier applying for benefits or submitting a medical claim due to Service-related injuries.

It was a puzzle that the senior clinical noncommissioned officer knew there had to be an easier way to assemble.

Medical review boards evaluate LOD investigations to determine the level of benefits wounded warriors receive. WTU personnel track down the key data elements to validate the claims. Those key data elements include medical records.

“Occasionally, wounded warriors enter CBWTU offices with little or no medical documentation from theater,” Mann said. “My investigations would typically come to a standstill when patient data from theater treatment facilities was not digitally available, but instead collected on paper and stored locally. I’ve spent countless hours trying to track down those records.”

Mann’s personal best for tracking down a full medical record was one week. Unfortunately, that remained far from the norm.

“I had one file open for a couple of months,” Mann said. “The facility couldn’t locate the file. I knew there had to be a better way to access deployed records.”

In July 2009, Mann contacted the Army’s Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care (MC4) program—tasked with equipping, training, and supporting units with electronic medical recording (EMR) systems. MC4 pointed him to the Theater Medical Data Store (TMDS), a database into which MC4 systems feed medical data. Today, he’s completing puzzles in record fashion.

“I needed to track down information to back up service-members’ claims, such as a soldier evacuated to a combat support hospital for injuries from an IED blast,” Mann said. “Now I get the majority of the data I need for my LODs from TMDS. I used to call theater treatment facilities and send countless e-mails to complete my LOD investigations. Since July, I’ve called twice.”

As for the stack of outstanding open case files, Mann said, “Within a few days after getting access to TMDS, I found all of the information I needed, and every report was closed out.”

For more information about TMDS and how MC4 is used to help deployable servicemembers, visit the MC4 Web site at <www.mc4.army.mil>.

Army Announces Environmental Awards Winners

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JAN. 15, 2010)

Jen Gaskill

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.—Five installations, three teams, and one individual will receive Secretary of the

Army awards for their environmental and sustainability program achievements during fiscal year 2009.

These achievements demonstrate exemplary efforts in implementing innovative technologies, green remediation, endangered species protection, historic preservation, environmental restoration, and sustainability.

This year’s winning accomplishments include the implementation of green remediation technologies that efficiently used natural resources and energy to reduce negative impacts on the environment; an increased preservation of Oregon Trail historic sites; a partnership with local communities to address water conservation; the implementation of Korea’s first wetland conservation project; support to the region-wide recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker; and the application of new technologies, such as the ultra-violet optical screening tool, to rapidly identify subsurface petroleum contamination.

The winners of the FY 2009 Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards include:

- Camp Guernsey, Wyoming Army National Guard—Cultural Resources Management, Installation
- Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield—Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation
- Robert J. Chartier, U.S. Army Garrison Daegu—Environmental Quality, Individual
- Camp Withycombe, Oregon Army National Guard—Environmental Restoration, Installation
- Tanaga Island and Ogluuga Island Formerly Used Defense Site, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District—Environmental Restoration, Team
- Fort Custer Training Center, Michigan Army National Guard—Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation
- Fort Bragg, Natural Resources Team—Natural Resources Conservation, Team
- G-4 E-Team, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command—Environmental Excellence in Weapon Acquisition
- Letterkenny Army Depot—Sustainability, Industrial Installation

The Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards represent the highest honor in the field of environmental science and sustainability conferred by the Army. These award winners will go on to compete for the Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards later this year.

“The Army recognizes successes that demonstrate mission-driven solutions that protect the environment at installations

here and overseas. Whatever we do needs to revolve around supporting the mission, taking care of our soldiers, civilians, and families," said Tad Davis, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for environmental, safety, and occupational health.

"In simplistic terms, the Army—our Army, your Army—is building green, buying green, and going green. These winning environmental programs make the Army sustainable, thereby impacting generations to come."

The winners of this year's environmental awards stand out as examples of how environmental stewardship and sustainability play a crucial role in the Army's mission readiness. Investments that the Army makes in environmental programs and sustainability initiatives pay dividends in sustaining realistic training and testing capabilities both now and in the future.

Gaskill writes for Army Environmental Command public affairs.

Elmer B. Staats Young Acquisition Professional Excellence Award

FEDERAL ACQUISITION INSTITUTE (JANUARY 2010)

Each year, the Procurement Round Table, in cooperation with the Federal Acquisition Council, confers the Elmer B. Staats Young Acquisition Professional Excellence Award upon a young federal acquisition professional who has contributed significantly to acquisition operations or acquisition policy. The award is accompanied by a \$5000 monetary prize.

Staats was the first chairman of the Procurement Round Table, lending his prestige to the formation of the non-profit group in 1984. Staats had a distinguished career as a public servant beginning in 1939 when he joined the Bureau of the Budget—predecessor of the Office of Management and Budget. He was later appointed as deputy director, and served in that position under Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson. In 1966 President Johnson appointed him Comptroller General of the United States, and he served in that position until 1981.

In that time Staats introduced modern management methods, especially automated information processes and acquisition management to the Government Accountability Office, influencing the management process transformation of federal government agencies.

The directors of the Procurement Round Table believe that Staats' dedication to public service excellence, demonstrated over a career spanning nearly 60 years, should serve as a beacon to both civil servant and military acquisition professionals.

Applications must be submitted through the candidate's supervisory chain in time to reach the Procurement Round Table by **April 29, 2010**. The candidate must have at least five years of civil or military service as a contracting officer, contract specialist, procurement analyst, or purchasing agent (1102 series). The sponsoring command/agency agrees that the winning nominee will be made available by his/her sponsoring command or agency to attend the awards ceremony to accept the Staats Award. The sponsoring command or agency also agrees to defray the cost of the travel for the winning nominee to attend that ceremony. (The Awards ceremony is scheduled for the National Contract Management Association World Congress in the summer of 2010.)

Candidates must be no more than 37 years of age as of the due date for nominations. E-mail nomination packages to: awards@ncmahq.org. For questions about submitting the package, contact Mary Beth Lech, NCMA chapter relations manager, at 800-344-8096, ext. 419. Download nomination package requirements at www.procurementroundtable.org/awards.html.