2010 Acquisition Excellence Awards

CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICERS COUNCIL (MAY 2010)

The 2010 CAOC Acquisition Excellence Awards were presented at the Acquisition Workforce Recognition and Awards Luncheon on May 5, 2010, at the General Services Administration EXPO held in Orlando, Fla. Two awards were presented—one individual and one team award. Each award came with a plaque that recognized the achievements associated with the award along with a check for $5,000.

***2010 Individual Award Winner**: Soraya Correa, Office of Procurement Operations, DHS*

Soraya Correa is the director and Head of Contracting Activity (HCA) for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Procurement Operations (OPO). Correa's FirstSource solution has helped drive operational savings and transparency across OPO and component buying organizations by automating competition documentation, increasing productivity, and creating more time to achieve negotiated savings on complex procurements. Under Correa's direction, OPO has become a change agent in the fight against contract inefficiencies, directly aligning the agency with the initiatives and mandates set forth by President Obama in the July 29, 2009, Office of Management and Budget Memorandum requiring better acquisition processes and acquisition-related programs.

***2010 Team Award Winner:** Military OneSource Program, Department of Defense*

The Military OneSource Program (MOS) was created by the Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP) Office within the Department of Defense (DoD) in 2002 to support military personnel and their families as a result of the Global War on Terror (GWOT). The team worked toward maximizing competition, and meeting DoD's commitment to increase utilization of small business concerns, particularly Ability One firms, Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses, and Veteran Owned Small Businesses. The team structured the fixed-price contract to allow for surge requirements and other military contingencies that cannot be fully predicted. Lastly, and most importantly, they sought to ensure high-quality performance to serve military families. Through the efforts of the Military OneSource Program Team, servicemembers and their families can now have greater confidence that they will continue to be supported in all facets of their lives, which is critically important as deployments and casualties of the war continue.

DoD Awards $227 Million in Research Funding

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JULY 16, 2010)

The Department of Defense announced plans today to make 32 awards to academic institutions to perform multidisciplinary basic research. The total amount of the awards is expected to be $227 million over five years. Awards are subject to the successful completion of negotiations between the academic institutions and DoD research offices that will make the awards: the Army Research Office (ARO), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR).

The awards are the result of the fiscal 2010 competition that ARO, ONR, and AFOSR conducted under the DoD Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) program. The MURI program supports research by teams of investigators that intersect more than one traditional science and engineering discipline in order to accelerate both research progress and transition of research results to application. Most MURI efforts involve researchers from multiple academic institutions and academic departments. Based on the proposals selected in the fiscal 2010 competition, a total of 67 academic institutions are expected to participate in the 32 research efforts.

The MURI program complements other DoD basic research programs that support traditional, single-investigator university research by supporting multidisciplinary teams with larger and longer awards. The awards announced today are for a five-year period subject to availability of appropriations and satisfactory research progress. Consequently, MURI awards can provide greater sustained support than single-investigator awards for the education and training of students pursuing advanced degrees in science and engineering fields critical to DoD, as well as for associated infrastructure such as research instrumentation.

The MURI program is highly competitive. ARO, ONR, and AFOSR solicited proposals in 30 topics important to DoD and received a total of 411 white papers, which were followed by 152 proposals. The awards announced today were selected based on merit review by panels of experts.

The list of projects selected for fiscal 2010 funding may be found on the Web at: www.defense.gov/news/d20100716MURI.pdf.

Lynn: Military Practices Energy, Environmental Stewardship

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JUNE 2, 2010)
Lisa Daniel

WASHINGTON—The winners of the annual Secretary of Defense environmental awards employ conservation and sustainability policies on their installations that support the nation's environmental and security strategies, Pentagon officials said today.

The federal government "is committed to curbing greenhouse gas emissions, using renewable energy resources, and promoting sustainable environmental stewardship," Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III said today at the Pentagon award ceremony.

"At DoD, we are already doing our part," Lynn said.

This year's winners include:
- The Michigan Army National Guard's Fort Custer Training Center for natural resources conservation at a small installation
- The Wyoming Army National Guard's Camp Guernsey for cultural resources management at an installation
- Marine Corps Base Hawaii for environmental quality of a non-industrial installation
- The Navy's Fleet Readiness Center Southwest in California for sustainability on an industrial installation
- Hill Air Force Base, Utah, for environmental restoration on an installation
- Stephen M. Sieber, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., for natural resources conservation by an individual or team
- Awni M. Almasri, at Naval Support Activity Bahrain, for environmental quality by an individual or team
- Regina Dixon Butler, at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., for environmental restoration by an individual or team
- The Air Force's Aeronautical Systems Center environmental and occupational health team at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The award recipients manage thousands of acres of government-owned land in an environmentally friendly way. Key projects include identifying new species and decreasing the use of pesticides; identifying and mapping cultural resource sites; managing environmentally friendly construction projects; reducing water and energy usage; and the disposal of hazardous waste.

As the country's largest single energy consumer, Lynn said, the Defense Department "has a responsibility to demand better from ourselves and from those we do business with." The department uses 1 percent of the nation's fuel, at 300,000 barrels of oil per day, Lynn said. Military procurement, storage, transport, and usage of large amounts of gasoline, diesel, and other fuels poses not only environmental challenges, but also adds to national security concerns, he said, noting that more than 70 percent of military convoys in Afghanistan—which are targets for attack—carry fuel or water to troops.

Reducing fuel use in combat zones "is a matter of life or death; of mission success or failure," Lynn said. "Crafting a strategic approach to energy is key to our broader national security strategy."

And the department is doing just that, the deputy secretary said, from Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates' inclusion of climate change and energy challenges to the Quadrennial Defense Review, to the conservation methods underway at the bases recognized for awards. Also, for the first time, the full environmental consequences of military programs are being considered in all facets of procurement, he said. And, the department has tripled investment in energy-efficient technology from $400 million to $1.2 billion, he said.

"Through our efforts, the department has become an environmental leader," Lynn said.

Ashton B. Carter, under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, also was on hand for the event. Carter recognized broader Service initiatives to better the environment, including the Navy's Great Green Fleet powered by nuclear energy; the Army's use of environmentally friendly construction; and the Marine Corps' and Air Forces' reduced fuel usage.

Especially in procurement, Carter said, "We are putting sustainability into every aspect of the process." He added, "Today's winners are central to that effort."

Mullen Lauds Civilian Efforts in MRAP Production

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JUNE 3, 2010)
Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Adm. Mike Mullen today cited the significance of mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles in combat, praising the life-saving efforts of civilian scientists and engineers who've integrated such capabilities into today's military.

"You've saved an enormous number of lives," Mullen told some 500 employees—the majority of whom are defense civilians—at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic headquarters and MRAP integration facility. "You realized that we needed to generate MRAPs at a remarkable pace [and] continually adjusted to meet mission requirements."

Mullen visited the facility today for the first time and helped the Naval command here celebrate its recent accomplishment of fielding 5,000 all-terrain versions of the MRAP.

The command achieved the milestone May 28. The Defense Department has spent more than $26 billion, fielding some 22,000 MRAPs in the past three years.

U.S. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thanks factory workers who make mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles and other types of military vehicles in Charleston, S.C., June 3, 2010. Mullen addressed the workers and congratulated them on reaching a milestone: producing the 25,000th vehicle to leave the factory.
DoD photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad McNeeley

"Every single one of these save lives," Mullen said, referring to the MRAP vehicles they outfit with radios, tracking, and counter-bomb systems.

"I came here with one single thought in mind, and that's to express my gratitude for what you've accomplished here," the admiral said. "You are the final outfitters for this capability, and you have continuously improved day by day over the last several years."

Mullen acknowledged the civilian efforts in MRAP development, calling the workforce here decisive in the Defense Departments efforts to give warfighters the best tools possible.

"You're part of the leading edge of technology," he said. "You've made a huge difference, [and] I couldn't be more proud of being associated with every one of you."

Mullen said deployed troops almost always express their gratitude for such capabilities when he visits with them in Iraq and Afghanistan. Troops on the ground recognize the need and appreciate the added protection they have with the vehicles, he said.

"There isn't a trip I've taken into [Iraq and Afghanistan] where some young soldier or Marine won't say to me, 'keep those MRAPs coming. They save our lives,'" Mullen said. "[MRAPs] saved countless lives, and believe me, there's not anyone on the ground over there who understands the threat that doesn't know that's exactly the case."

Mullen also lauded the civilian workforce here for doing their part in service to the nation. They may not wear military uniforms or deploy to war, but their contributions to improving national security are noteworthy in their own way, he said.

"You're as patriotic and dedicated with focusing on achieving our mission in national defense as any of us who wear the uniform," he said. "You are no different, in my perspective, in terms of your dedication, your patriotism in support of our country and our mission, than anybody in uniform."

AFMC Announces Robert T. Mason Award Nominees

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS RELEASE (JUNE 29, 2010)

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio—Air Force Materiel Command has designated its three Air Logistics Centers' depot maintenance wings as nominees to compete in the annual Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence.

The Robert T. Mason Award is sponsored by the Secretary of Defense and is presented to the outstanding program from a major Air Force, Army, Navy, or Marine Corps organic depot-level maintenance facility that exemplifies responsive, transformed, depot-level maintenance support to Department of Defense operating units.

Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., nominated the 76th Maintenance Wing; Ogden Air Logistics Center, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, nominated the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Propulsion Replacement Program; and Warner-Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., nominated the C-130 Gunship Production Team for this prestigious award.

The 76 MXW is located at Tinker AFB, which serves as Oklahoma's largest single-site employer, contributing more than $2.9 billion annually to the state's economy and employing 27,000 military and civilian personnel. Integral to the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center's mission, the 76 MXW is the largest industrial complex in the Air Force, performing programmed depot maintenance on four aircraft systems, phased maintenance on Navy E-6 aircraft, and maintenance repair and overhaul of seven engines for the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Navy, and foreign military sales to allies. Among its many accomplishments, the ALC quality standard met and exceeded those of industry and was the first Air Force installation to achieve the International Standardization for Organization AS9110 standard for aerospace maintenance repair and overhaul facilities.

The Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile makes up an integral part of the U.S. Nuclear Triad. Located at Hill AFB, Ogden Air Logistics Center employs more than 180 maintenance personnel that support this ICBM effort—82 government civilians work in direct support of the Propulsion Replacement Program in the munitions storage area, and more than 100 other technicians and support personnel work and manage the $2.6 billion program. The PRP team delivered 42 Minuteman III refurbished boosters to the three Air Force operational intercontinental ballistic missile wings, ensuring the United States has a viable ICBM fleet through the year 2020 and beyond to support the nuclear triad and the defense of the nation.

As part of the 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Robins AFB, the C-130 Gunship Production Team demonstrated outstanding mission support for Air Force Special Operations Command AC-130H and AC-130U Gunship Mission Design Series aircraft operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Through collaborative efforts, the 560 AMXS team developed standard work processes, optimized and prioritized schedules, and compressed production time on key inspections and repairs, resulting in 88 additional days of C-130 gunship mission availability for joint operational support. With a program budget approaching $200 million, 560 AMXS is a major part of the Air Force's depot repair infrastructure and serves a vital role in sustaining the full range of C-130 aircraft, employing approximately 1,000 skilled direct labor technicians performing more than one million manhours of production work annually.

The Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence—along with the Phoenix Trophy, DoD's highest award for field-level maintenance—will be presented Nov. 17, 2010, at the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Banquet, held during the 2010 Department of Defense Maintenance Symposium and Exhibition in Tampa, Fla.

AMC Employees Earn Presidential Honors

ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND NEWS RELEASE (JULY 8, 2010)
Melissa Bohan

ARLINGTON, Va.—The Secretary of the Army John McHugh presented awards to 11 U.S. Army Materiel Command senior professionals in a special recognition ceremony held at the Women's Memorial at Arlington Cemetery June 28.

Two of the award winners received the Distinguished Executive Rank Award, six received the Meritorious Executive Rank Award, two received the Distinguished Senior Professional Rank Award, and one received the Meritorious Senior Professional Rank Award.

Awardees are nominated by the Secretary of the Army, evaluated by boards of private citizens, and approved by the President. The evaluation criteria focus on the executive's leadership in producing results. The Presidential Rank Award is the most prestigious recognition given to career executives and senior professionals, according to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. The 2009 AMC award winners include:

Distinguished Executive Rank

Dr. Joseph A. Lannon, U.S. Army Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center

Dr. Joseph Lannon manages more than 3,000 people, 64 laboratories, 800 buildings, a budget of $1 billion, and the technology and products related to the Army's suite of guns from the smallest calibers to artillery, including gunfire control. During Dr. Lannon's tenure, he managed, designed, and fielded hundreds of armaments and achieved a center-wide cost savings of $100 million and cost avoidance of $4 billion.

John L. Shipley, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command

John Shipley is responsible for the development, acquisition, modernization, and fielding of the U.S. Army Special Operations' aviation fleet. Shipley's technical expertise, operational knowledge, management skills, and persistence in streamlining acquisition has provided capability for Special Operations Forces to strike in the most extreme operating environments.

Scott Welker of AMC's Army Sustainment Command (center) accepts his Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award from Secretary of the Army John McHugh (left) and Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, Army Materiel Command commanding general, during a ceremony June 28.

Photo by Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Meritorious Executive Rank

Kathryn Condon, Headquarters, U.S. Army Materiel Command (formerly)

Kathryn Condon developed a human capital strategy to lead AMC through the most complicated and extensive base realignment and closure efforts the Department of the Army has encountered. Due to her efforts, AMC become the leader in the BRAC initiative throughout the Army. The Secretary of the Army selected Condon to co-lead the Army Contracting Task Force to look at current Army operations and future plans for providing contracting support to contingency or other Army operations. Under her leadership, the review of contracting support in Kuwait produced a cost avoidance of more than $14 million and a cost savings of approximately $189 million for the Army. Her efforts led to the creation of the Army Contracting Command.

John P. Dugan, U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (formerly)

John Dugan led the successful fielding of more than 29,000 tactical wheeled vehicles, returning more than 45,000 pieces of Army equipment, including 800 combat vehicles, to optimal condition after redeployment. Using the discipline and continuous improvement philosophy of Lean Six Sigma, Dugan reduced redundant operations, and improved the quality and timeliness of products while reducing direct costs and overhead. His efforts to inculcate Lean Six Sigma into every business aspect within TACOM LCMC garnered more than $125 million in validated cost savings/avoidance during fiscal year 2008 alone.

Anthony Lisuzzo, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command

Anthony Lisuzzo's efforts resulted in delivery of 23 different intelligence and electronic warfare systems to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, including the fielding of more than 30,000 crucial electronic countermeasure systems to protect soldiers against improvised explosive devices. Lisuzzo is a leader in the cyber warfare arena in the areas of basic research, vulnerability assessments, technical test and prototyping, and satisfying real-world operational requirements for Joint and U.S. Army asymmetric warfare operations efforts worldwide.

Thomas M. Mathes, U.S. Army Tank-automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center

Thomas Mathes led multiple teams for TARDEC and partnered with non-government subject-matter experts in industry and academia to solve urgent problems facing soldiers. Mathes led the development of the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) improvement program to enhance HMMWV survivability and performance chal-

lenges. Mathes is using this same successful strategy in the Fuel Efficient Ground Vehicle Demonstrator Program. He also directed the development of HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer and Self Protective Adaptive Roller Kit systems. In June 2008, both programs received an Army's Greatest Invention award.

Dr. John M. Pellegrino, U.S. Army Research Laboratory
Dr. John Pellegrino is responsible for basic and applied research in the fields of electronics, sensors, and power and energy technologies, with an annual program budget in excess of $650 million, more than $400 million in capital assets, and a workforce of more than 350 civilian and military employees. He led the rapid transition of many technologies from the laboratory to the field, providing aerostat and airborne persistent surveillance sensors, unattended ground sensors for area monitoring and defense, and components to counter improvised explosive devices, providing lifesaving capability to soldiers.

D. Scott Welker, U.S. Army Sustainment Command
D. Scott Welker was instrumental in developing and implementing systemic fixes across the Army and obtained incredibly successful results with the operations of the Left Behind Equipment program. Working with Forces Command, he led efforts to re-engineer the process for equipment lateral transfers that allowed the equipment to be fixed to standard and moved to the next deploying units. As part of the Unit Status Readiness report, Welker led the effort to get critical unit equipment requisitioned for brigades, increasing the percentage of equipment requisitioned from 18 percent to 84 percent in less than 6 months.

Distinguished Senior Professional Rank
Dr. Kwong-Kit Choi, U.S. Army Research Laboratory
Dr. Kwong-Kit Choi is the world authority on quantum well-infrared technology used in night vision, missile guidance, and projectile defense systems. He invented the quantum well-infrared photodetector that started a new technology revolution. As a result of Choi's efforts, quantum well-infrared photodetector sensors are now being deployed by militaries worldwide as the next generation of advanced infrared sensors and have also found uses in civilian applications. Choi further improved the technology by inventing the corrugated-quantum well-infrared photodetector sensor structure, yielding exceptional results in current missions. Because of Cho's creative, ingenious, and diligent work, affordable and high-performance cameras are now available to the scientific, medical, and industrial communities for much wider applications, ultimately strengthening national security.

Dr. Mark B. Tischler, U.S. Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command
Dr. Mark Tischler is an internationally recognized technical expert and research leader in the field of rotorcraft flight dynamics and control, responsible for all planning and execution of the Army's $4.2 million flight control program on unmanned and manned rotorcraft. He led the development of key technologies that have fundamentally changed the way that rotorcraft control development is conducted. His integrated methods have greatly increased design and flight-test efficiency, and have been instrumental in achieving improvements to U.S. rotorcraft operational effectiveness in theater, especially in degraded weather conditions. He is heavily involved in the strategic planning of future Army aviation research programs, and is widely consulted on flight dynamics and control applications well beyond the rotorcraft field of discipline.

Meritorious Senior Professional Rank
Dr. James J. Valdes, U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center
Dr. James Valdes has authored more than 120 scientific publications, many of which represent seminal accomplishments in the field of biotechnology. Valdes was the first to develop receptor-based biosensors that mimicked human physiology, chairing the first four international conferences in this emerging discipline. He led the development of novel hybrid, waste-to-energy technology, which has been deployed in Iraq, reducing the military's need for petroleum-based fuels. Valdes serves as the lead scientist on major Department of Defense initiatives in the area of abiotic systems, developing technology that has the functionality of living systems; and in transdisciplinary science, designing a $300 million strategic science program for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Bohan writes for Army Materiel Command.

Big Idea: Civilian Employee Awarded $10,000 for Developing Cost Saving Measure

AIR FORCE NEWS SERVICE (JULY 8, 2010)
Air Force Senior Airman Samantha S. Crane

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill.—On June 28, Rick Griebel received the biggest check of his life, literally. The check, which was more than 3.5 feet long, was written for $10,000 and signed by Lt. Gen. Vern M. "Rusty" Findley II, the Air Mobility Command vice commander.

Griebel was awarded the incentive check through the Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program for an initiative estimated to save AMC more than $2 million during the next 15 years.

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill.—Lt. Gen. Rusty Findley, Air Mobility Command vice commander, presents Rick Griebel with an IDEA award certificate. Griebel introduced a box-making machine and shredder into 375th Logistics Readiness Squadron operations, saving the squadron time and money.
U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ryan Crane

The IDEA Program is an incentive program that recognizes submitters for their approved ideas that benefit the Air Force through streamlined processes, improved productivity, and cost savings. Approved initiatives that generate tangible savings for the Air Force often result in awards to individuals credited with ownership of the idea. Idea owners may be eligible for cash awards ranging from $200 to $10,000, based on validated first-year savings.

Griebel said he didn't expect recognition when he originally procured an automated, on-demand box-making machine and high capacity shredder for Scott Air Force Base. He was just trying to improve cargo operations, help airmen be more effective in their jobs, and do his part to save the Air Force money. Using unit funds in 2006, Griebel procured the equipment, enabling shop personnel flexibility to quickly create boxes "right-sized" to the items being shipped, and the ability to create box filler material from recycled cardboard scraps. The initiative at Scott AFB reduced cargo operations storage space requirements, dependence on plastic filler material by 30 percent, eliminated 95 percent of cardboard waste, and slashed supply costs by 60 percent per container.

After purchasing the equipment, Griebel spent the next several years tracking savings and demonstrating the equipment to anyone who was interested. During an Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century senior leader tour of the packing and crating shop's local improvement efforts, AMC leaders became interested in expanding this initiative to other bases in the command.

The years of collecting supply reduction cost data were critical in AMC officials' efforts to justify potential offset savings, and led to a fiscal 2010 decision to select six AMC wings to fund a similar equipment investment through the Air Force Productivity Enhancing Capital Investment Program. The $440,000 command investment project is expected to generate $2.1 million in supply cost savings over the life of the equipment. Innovative ideas like this are what led people like Griebel, the originator of the box-maker and shredder concept, to receive recognition and monetary awards through the IDEA program.

"It's great to see we're rewarding our teammates for great ideas," said Col. Michael Hornitschek, the 375th Air Mobility Wing commander. "We value the initiative Mr. Griebel displayed, and appreciate the outstanding results."

Griebel said he couldn't do it alone.

"I owe a lot to the guys up in headquarters. I couldn't have finished it without them," he said.

Crane writes for 375th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs.

AMC's Own Achieves Master Logistician Status

ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (JULY 9, 2010)
Army Lt. Col. Arthur Sharpe • AMC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—Not many organizations can say they have a certified master logistician on their staff, but thanks to one employee's diligence, the U.S. Army Materiel Command can.

Lyle Stone, a contract battle captain with AMC, is the first applicant in the United States and only the third applicant in the entire world to be awarded the Certified Master Logistician designation by the Society of Logistics Engineers, or SOLE, the International Society of Logistics.

"Mr. Stone's achievements and his efforts to attain certification as a Certified Master Logistician have certainly enhanced the skills he uses daily to manage the flow of information being sent to, through, and from AMC's operations center here at Redstone Arsenal," said Lane Collie, the lead Senior Executive Service member at AMC Forward-Redstone.

The Certified Master Logistician designation was created in 2005 and is awarded based on a rigorous evaluation of an applicant's education, training, and work experience, as well as testing for extensive knowledge about the science of logistics.

The certification recognizes the functional interrelationships within the professional responsibilities of logisticians regardless of their occupational roles. Designation as a Certified Master Logistician recognizes the applicant's competency across a broad range of logistics and logistics chain management.

SOLE has hundreds of chapters in over 50 countries. The society was founded in 1966 as the Society of Logistics Engineers "to engage in educational, scientific, and literary endeavors to advance the art of logistics technology and management." SOLE has significant ties to Redstone Arsenal, Marshall Space Flight Center, and the manned space flight program. As the challenges of organizing America's race to land a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s mounted, Dr. Werner von Braun and other missile pioneers realized that the lack of formal logistics training significantly hampered that effort. The society was born of the necessity to train logisticians and recognize excellence in logistics.

Stone, an Alabama native, is a graduate of Tulane University with a master's in architecture. He recently retired as a lieutenant colonel from AMC's Logistics Support Activity and has been a battle captain at AMC's operations center since February 2009.

Lyle Stone, a contract battle captain with AMC, is the first applicant in the United States and only the third applicant in the entire world to be awarded the Certified Master Logistician designation by the Society of Logistics Engineers, or SOLE, the International Society of Logistics.
U.S. Army photo by Marion Batts

Officials Commit to Disabled Veterans' Businesses

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JULY 15, 2010)
Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Carden

WASHINGTON—Defense Department officials are committed to providing service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses with contracting opportunities, and are closer to their goal of awarding 3 percent of department contracts to such businesses, the acting director for the Pentagon's Small Business Programs Office said today.

Testifying before the House Small Business Committee, Linda B. Oliver said the department has seen a steady increase in its annual contract awards to such businesses since 2003, when $300,000 was awarded to disabled-veteran-owned small businesses.

In 2009, $4.3 million in contracts was awarded to disabled-veteran-owned small businesses.

"We are proud of this progress, one that shows a 14-fold increase," Oliver said in her written testimony, which also noted the number of contracts awarded also has increased. "It is good for [veterans] when the percentages are increasing in an upward trend and also when the total dollars are increasing at an even faster pace.

"While these trends are positive and encouraging, we cannot and will not relax our efforts until we achieve the government-wide goal of 3 percent," she continued.

Also, the number of firms awarded defense contracts has steadily increased from 751 in 2003 to more than 3,000 in 2009. Of the $7.4 billion appropriated to the Defense Department in Recovery Act funds, $157 million was awarded and being worked by disabled-veteran-owned small businesses, she said.

Oliver credits the Pentagon's Mentor-Protégé Program and other training opportunities geared toward such contractors for the positive trend. The program helps "protégé" companies learn from established "prime" contractors through a three- or four-year agreement, Oliver explained.

"As a result, protégé firms that graduate from the program are generally valuable additions to the department's supplier base," she added.

The Pentagon also has undergone research to better understand the characteristics of disabled-veteran contractors, she said. Oliver's office monitors the Central Contractor Registration, which has received registrations from 500 businesses this year, she said.

Analysis shows that more disabled-veteran contractors each year want to do business with the federal government, Oliver said. Also, a majority of these contracts are awarded to businesses in specific categories. These areas include professional, scientific and technical services, construction, and administration specialties, she explained.

"I believe that we are gaining insights that will help us develop mechanisms that will, in turn, allow us to make even greater use of [service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses] in our contracting program," Oliver said.

Another initiative to help service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses attain federal contracts is eliminating fraud and enhancing participation among deserving business owners, said Timothy Foreman, executive director of the Veterans Affairs Department's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, who also testified before the committee.

"Small business enterprise can best serve as an engine of ingenuity and creativity with favorable impact on both business and government when it is free of fraud and enthusiastically engaged in its work or mission," Foreman said in his submitted remarks.

Foreman is set to become chairman of VA's newly formed Suspension and Debarment Committee for non-federal acquisition regulation debarment actions, he said. The committee will be a tool to deter fraud from companies posing as service-disabled, veteran-owned businesses, he added.

"Keeping the pretenders out of the competitive process will prevent them from stealing the statutory and regulatory rights due only to real [veteran-owned small businesses] and [service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses]," he said. "[The committee] will prevent them from stealing the valor of those who are entitled to meaningful procurement advantages."

VA awarded 16 percent of its fiscal 2009 contracts to disabled-veteran businesses, exceeding its goal of 7 percent. Still, the VA stands to improve, he said.

Foreman pointed to VA's current lack of tracking veteran subcontractors as one such area. Also, he noted shortfalls in verifying veteran- and disabled-veteran-owned businesses as another reason for fraud.

Currently, businesses appear in VA's database as "VA-verified or self-verified," he said. But by 2012, he added, only VA-verified businesses will be visible in the database.

VA hopes to accomplish this through the Suspension and Debarment Committee. VA's robust framework to identify fraud may be mirrored by other government agencies, Foreman said, with hopes of deterring fraud throughout the government.

As VA programs grow, "our veteran clients will continue to receive quality services and products from increasing numbers of service-disabled veteran suppliers who, as fellow veterans, better understand the needs of the community VA serves," Foreman explained. "This symbiotic aspect of VA's program is a win-win."