

SAVE THE DATE:
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2012
U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual
Awards Ceremony

Army Acquisition Excellence (AAE) Awards

ASA(ALT) Contracting Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Award for Contracting Excellence

David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award

Director, Acquisition Career Management Award

Secretary of the Army Project and Product Manager (PM) and Acquisition Director (Acq-Dir) of the Year Awards

Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Workforce Achievement Award

Nominations Open for 64th Annual Arthur S. Fleming Award

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL, SERVICES AND MANPOWER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (JUNE 20, 2012)

Gloria Kwizera

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—Air Force officials are accepting nominations for the 64th Annual Arthur S. Fleming Award.

The award is sponsored by the George Washington University, in conjunction with the Arthur S. Fleming 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. Each major command, field operating agency, and direct reporting unit may submit one nomination per category. Individuals previously nominated

but not selected for a Flemming Award may be renominated. Previous award winners may not be renominated.

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 Agency, or Direct Reporting Unit 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, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

DoD Announces Top Environmental Award Recipients

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JUNE 6, 2012)

Amaani Lyle

WASHINGTON—At a Pentagon ceremony today, Defense and Interior Department officials presented this year's Secretary of Defense Environmental Award to 10 teams and installations for excellence in advancing environmental initiatives.

Dr. Dorothy Robyn, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment; Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics; and David J. Hayes, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior presented the awards in six categories.

The award program, in its 50th year, recognizes recent strides in "green" initiatives that spring from DoD's \$42 billion investment in environmental initiatives over the last decade.

"Your accomplishments are now part of a five-decade legacy of environmental excellence within the Department of Defense," Robyn said to awardees.

This year's award recipients include:

- Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, Pennsylvania, Sustainability, Industrial Installation
- Fort Hood, Texas, Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation
- U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, Oahu Army Natural Resource Team, Natural Resources Conservation, Individual/Team

- Fort Hood Recycle Team, Texas, Environmental Quality, Individual Team
- Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Warren, Mich., Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Team
- Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation
- Naval Supply Fleet Logistics Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Environmental Quality, Individual/Team
- Former Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Calif., Environmental Restoration, Individual/Team
- 75th Civil Engineer Group, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Environmental Restoration, Installation
- 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Cultural Resources Management, Installation

The Defense Department manages nearly 30 million acres of installations—homes to old growth forests, tall grass prairies, thermal pool wetlands, archeological sites, and numerous ecosystems, Robyn said. The lands also harbor significant natural resources to include 420 endangered species and 523 at-risk species, 75 of them located solely on DoD lands, she added.

“Behind these statistics are the people, many of them unsung heroes, who work every day to preserve our natural heritage in support of the defense mission,” she said. “We protect the environment on our installations not only to preserve irreplaceable resources for the future, but to ensure that we have the land, water, and airspace we need for military readiness.”

DoD Announces Value Engineering Achievement Award Winners

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JUNE 27, 2012)

The Department of Defense announced today the winners of the fiscal 2011 Department of Defense Value Engineering Achievement Awards. A ceremony was held to recognize the recipients' outstanding achievements through the application of value engineering. The list of awardees is listed at www.acq.osd.mil/se/whatsnew/DoD-2011-Value-Engineering-Awardees.pdf.

“Value engineering is an important contributor to the ‘Better Buying Power’ program of continuous improvement in defense acquisition. By reducing cost throughout the life cycle of U.S. defense systems, value engineering delivers more capability at reduced cost to the taxpayer,” said Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. “Defense acquisition professionals across the department, including the ones that we honor today, use value engineering techniques to identify and implement innovative ideas that provide better solutions at lower costs.

DoD’s Value Engineering Program has achieved more than \$51 billion dollars in savings and cost avoidance since 1980, and its increased use can pay even greater dividends in the future.”

Value engineering is a systematic process to identify functions that can reduce cost, increase quality, and improve mission capabilities across the entire spectrum of systems, processes, and organizations. Innovative value engineering proposals seek best value solutions as part of a successful business relationship. During fiscal 2011, DoD executed in-house value engineering proposals and accepted contractor-initiated value engineering change proposals that produced a combined actual savings and cost avoidance of \$4.7 billion.

The Value Engineering Awards Program is an acknowledgment of exemplary achievements. Award winners from each military component are selected from one of the following five categories: program/project, individual, team, organization, and contractor. Additionally, joint service and special awards are given to recognize innovative applications or approaches that expand the traditional scope of value engineering use.

For more information about the Value Engineering Awards Program, visit: <http://ve.ida.org/ve/ve.html>.

Southcom Program Plugs Science, Technology Gaps

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JUNE 6, 2012)

Donna Miles

MIAMI—A little-known office here at the U.S. Southern Command headquarters is making a big impact by identifying technical capabilities to support the mission, and lacking them, helping develop new ones.

Southcom stood up its Science, Technology, and Experimentation program in 2002 to strengthen its support to Colombia’s war on drugs and drug cartels. The problem, explained Juan Hurtado, the command’s science advisor, was that existing capabilities, even in light of \$1.3 billion in U.S. funding, weren’t sufficient to meet Colombia’s counter-drug operational challenges.

“As the money ... to support Plan Colombia came in, we realized that a broad spectrum of the capabilities we needed to support Colombia and other partner nations were not available,” Hurtado told American Forces Press Service. Among the gaps, he said, were the tools to promote situational awareness and communication, particularly in deep jungles, and to share information.



U.S. Southern Command's Science, Technology, and Experimentation program is committed to providing technical capabilities to enhance U.S. and partner nation capabilities in the region. In this Oct. 10, 2011, file photo, Colombian military members explain their water purification and jungle survival techniques to U.S. Marines during Amphibious-Southern Partnership Station near Turbo, Colombia. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Juancarlos Paz

All, he noted, are essential to both U.S. and interagency efforts and partner-nation counterdrug interdiction operations.

"So it wasn't about money. It was about having the right tool sets to do the job," Hurtado said. "Some capabilities didn't exist and you could not buy them."

Modeled on a similar program at U.S. Pacific Command, Southcom's Science, Technology, and Experimentation office set out to find ways to get those technology-related capabilities. Its mission, Hurtado said, was "to find ways to do things better or do things cheaper."

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.

DoD's own advanced technology arms—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, among them—typically get first shot at the proposals. "We work through the DoD technical community and bring back something cheaper, something that helps us do things more effectively or creates new capability," Hurtado said.

But increasingly, Southcom is broadening its net to include other advanced technology programs. For example, the command hosts an annual science, technology, and experimentation conference that brings together the most innovative minds in the defense, interagency, industry, academic, and international communities, and encourages them to pursue projects to support recognized capability gaps.

The program has been highly successful, although Hurtado admits that most of its best achievements are classified and can't be divulged publicly.

He did, however, offer a sneak peek into some of the new technologies being developed, tested or put to use in the theater. These include:

- New radars that enable U.S. and partner nations' militaries and law enforcement officials to increase situational awareness of activities in jungle environments. In the past, the heavy foliage found in the jungles provided the perfect camouflage for illicit trafficking activities and the infrastructure that supports them. The new radars have the potential to provide "information superiority," Hurtado said, ultimately reducing sanctuaries for bad actors to operate freely.
- Robotics, communication devices, and low-light cameras able to detect mines and improvised explosive devices. Among the places where this technology may be applied is Colombia, which Hurtado said faces a troubling IED (Improvised Explosive Device) problem.
- The All Partners Access Network, which is designed to be as user-friendly as Facebook and enables regional partners to share information and collaborate as they deal with common threats.
- New power-generation, communications, and water-purification kits that forces can use to better support a broad spectrum of operations in isolated areas.
- An intercoastal and riverine monitoring system able to differentiate between illicit trafficking and legal commerce transiting waterways that constitute major supply routes in much of the region. This system was tested last fall in Belize, with participation from the U.S. Navy, Colombian navy, Guatemalan foreign ministry, and Mexican special forces.
- Nano satellites that can be launched far less expensively than traditional satellites and provide dependable communications capability at a fraction of the cost. This initiative, being developed by Army Space and Missile Defense Command, is expected to be "transformational" for operational forces, Hurtado said.

As the Southcom staff continues to seek out technologies to support current missions, Hurtado said they're keeping a steady fix on the horizon as well.

"We are the team who looks out to the future with an eye on improving our capability and support to our partner nations by enabling advanced technologies—not just for the near term, but 10 to 15 years out," he said.

AFMC Wing Wins Air Force Logistics Award

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

(JUNE 26, 2012)

Brian Brackens

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—In recognition of their dedication and superior performance in support of U.S. Air Force operations around the world during 2011, the 635th Supply Chain Operations Wing, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., was recently named the best logistics organization in the Air Force, and winner of the Gen. Thomas P. Gerrity Award.

Col. Mark Johnson, 635th SCOW commander, said that credit for winning the award should be given to the skill and dedication of the entire team.

"Winning the Gerrity Award highlights the consistency, dedication, and flexibility of our team," he said. "Our airmen have accepted and excelled at numerous challenges, to include supporting the surge in Afghanistan and the drawdown in Iraq. This is truly an outstanding total force organization."

Each year an Air Force committee selects the Air Force unit that has stood out among peers in making significant contributions to logistical operations, and honors them with an award named after logistics pioneer Gen. Thomas Gerrity.

The competition for this award is between the best logistics organization from each major command.

Some of the accomplishments that led to the 635th SCOW receiving the award include successfully sustaining more than 5,000 aircraft and 390,000 sorties operating in the Central Command area of responsibility by delivering important parts and supplies.

The skill and efficiency of the men and women assigned to the wing also drastically reduced delivery times to their warfighting customers overseas.

Col. Linda Hurry of the 735th Supply Chain Operations Group, a unit attached to the 635th SCOW, said that winning the award was a team effort.

"I am so proud of this team. They are absolutely amazing and truly deserve this recognition," she said. "We challenged everyone a year ago to make this wing better than we found it, and we worked hard to create an environment of innovation, empowerment, and creativity. Most importantly, we did it together as one cohesive team. After all, logistics is a team sport."

PM AcqBusiness Recognized as 2012 Computerworld Honors Laureate

U.S. ARMY ACQUISITION SUPPORT CENTER (JUNE 4, 2012)

Ken Waldrop

U.S. Army Product Manager Acquisition Business (PM AcqBusiness) has earned the distinction of being a 2012 Laureate in the International Data Group's (IDG's) *Computerworld* Honors Program. Founded by IDG in 1988, the program is governed by the not-for-profit *Computerworld* Information Technology Awards Foundation. The annual awards honor visionary applications of information technology (IT) promoting positive social, economic, and educational change. Lt. Col. Maurice "Mo" Stewart, PM AcqBusiness in the Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems, Fort Belvoir, Va., attended the gala awards ceremony June 4 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

"Our commitment to our stakeholders is that we'll continue to strive toward modernizing their information systems and enhancing the way the Army conducts acquisition business to become more efficient."

"There's no question technology plays a vital role in driving business forward. It ensures an organization's ability to compete, innovate, and communicate and to thrive. What the *Computerworld* Honors Laureates so clearly demonstrate is technology's role in moving society forward," said John Amato, vice president and publisher of *Computerworld*. "*Computerworld* is proud to name the 2012 Class of Laureates and celebrate their initiatives benefiting society through the innovative use of IT."

As an organization, PM AcqBusiness has been working closely with a number of Army Acquisition organizations to implement a highly virtualized Next Generation Business Environment (NGBE) that would solve some complex acquisition challenges. "Our commitment to our stakeholders is that we'll continue to strive toward modernizing their information systems and enhancing the way the Army conducts acquisition business to become more efficient," Stewart said. "For our efforts to be recognized by a panel of industry experts makes me very proud of this team and their hard work."

AcqBusiness delivers enterprise Service-oriented solutions to the Army Acquisition community that increase situational awareness and enhance decision support, maintaining more than 70 Web-based Army applications that serve more than 80,000 users worldwide. The NGBE fundamentally changes the methods whereby AcqBusiness hosts its products. For example, systems were required to go through lengthy ac-

quisition cycles to procure hardware and software—cycles that could take anywhere from weeks to months.

NGBE successfully transformed the AcqBusiness enterprise, including infrastructure, architecture, and the development and sustainment processes, to enable efficient solution delivery.

The configuration process was also cumbersome as it depended on external parties to execute, and those parties were not beholden to AcqBusiness schedules. NGBE successfully transformed the AcqBusiness enterprise, including infrastructure, architecture, and the development and sustainment processes, to enable efficient solution delivery. PM AcqBusiness began to decommission systems and remove redundant capabilities by introducing a new solution design paradigm that transformed development from application-centric to Service-centric.

AcqBusiness realized the critical need to consolidate both the IT portfolio and the IT infrastructure. NGBE established key goals, such as a more consolidated hardware infrastructure, a defined and standardized suite of software, strong promotion of Web services, and an enterprise data access strategy that seeks to reduce the number of existing applications and increase reusability.

For more information on the *Computerworld* Honors Program and an archive of past Laureate case studies, as well as oral histories of Leadership Award recipients, go to www.cwhonors.org/. For more information on *Computerworld*, go to www.computerworld.com.

Waldrop is program management director, PM AcqBusiness, with oversight of product life-cycle planning, PM operations, and project management. He holds a B.A. in accounting from Georgia State University and an M.S. in information technology management from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Defense Acquisition Program Saves Soldiers' Lives

U.S. ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND (JULY 2, 2012)

Roger Teel

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.—When it comes to rapidly fielding equipment for an urgent American warfighter need, a program run by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command quickly delivers the goods.

In July 2010, William "Randy" Everett of RDECOM's International Technology Integration Team donned a shaggy, heavily camouflaged military sniper outfit, called a ghillie suit, and entered a meeting room at the Office of the Secretary of Defense Comparative Testing Office in Arlington, Va.



Fire-resistant ghillie. A 1-175th Infantry soldier puts the Fire Resistant Ghillie Suit through the paces during a wearability test. The new ghillie suit was acquired for U.S. Army and Marine Corps snipers in record time through the Defense Acquisition Challenge Program.
U.S. Army photo

As Everett walked through the conference room he was met by people laughing and snickering at the odd sight.

Once calm returned, Everett, in a low and reverent voice, read aloud a letter from the commander of the Army's 11th Armor Cavalry Regiment. The words somberly recalled how the commander had lost two soldiers in Iraq when their ghillie suits caught on fire and they burned to death.

The letter stressed the need for a fire-resistant ghillie suit and strongly recommended that the Army resource one— pronto.

Everett had carefully chosen this moment to deliver the commander's message to the right audience.

Within hours, a call went out to find a fire-resistant ghillie suit for military snipers. Source One, a small business in Florida, submitted a proposal to the Defense Acquisition Challenge, or DAC, program, and soon thereafter, Program Executive Office Soldier, aware of and understanding the requirement, sponsored the proposal.

Neal Nguyen, the PEO Soldier product manager for protective clothing and individual equipment, shouldered the project and collaborated closely with the RDECOM ITI Team and Source One to deliver the ghillie suit as quickly as possible.

According to Thomas Mulkern, director of RDECOM's ITI section, Congress instituted the DAC program in 2003 to introduce "innovative and cost-saving technologies into the current acquisition programs of the Department of Defense."

"DAC allows anyone within industry, both large and small, to propose alternatives to component, subsystems, or systems level of DoD acquisition programs," Mulkern said.

"The program's hallmark is the ability to review commercial-off-the-shelf products and processes so the DoD can save dollars in the research and developmental phases of a product," he added.

Since beginning, the DAC program has saved an estimated \$375 million in DoD research and development, or R&D, by avoiding manufacturing, procurement, and life-cycle support costs. Additionally, more than 2,000 proposals have been evaluated and 130 projects have been funded from 35 states and the District of Columbia.

More than 70 percent of the awarded projects have been to American small- and medium-sized businesses, and more than 25 percent to non-traditional defense companies. Twenty-three projects have been deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

DAC projects normally begin within a year, and end within 18 to 24 months after contract award. They may be fielded faster based on need and product availability.

For the ghillie suit, PEO Soldier received \$185,000 to purchase and test suit samples. Nguyen oversaw the testing and evaluated the fire-resistant suit and accessory kit.

In 10 months, a record time, the project was complete. The fire-resistant ghillie suit is now being fielded at the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Ga.; at the U.S. Marine Corps Scout Sniper School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.;

and at the Special Operations Target Interdiction Course at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"It is unknown how many soldiers and Marines may be saved by this, but if even one life is saved, it is money well spent," Everett said.

When evaluating DAC proposals submitted by industry the RDECOM ITI Team focuses on the 24 science and technology challenges identified by Marilyn Freeman, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for research and technology.

The Army submitted 21 proposals for fiscal year 2012 funding. One is a Korean Advanced Text Translator, which is a significant requirement for the Combined Forces Command / U.S. Forces Korea and a documented operational need.

"The Army recently announced that the Korean text translator and eight other projects have been approved for funding," Everett said. "These represent a DoD investment of \$6.5 million for Army programs in fiscal year 2012.

"As a result, if all projects are successful, the estimated cost avoidance and savings is in excess of \$70 million—a significant return on the DoD's investment," he added.

The approved DAC projects include: a tactical communication and protective system; a universal battery charger; a deployable shelter/detention system; improved alloys for protection of armored and tactical vehicles; a protection kit for gunners; improved mortar manufacturing; a lightweight combat vehicle crewman helmet; and an enhanced combat vehicle crew coverall.

"Only the DAC program provides the vehicle for items like this to quickly gain access to the acquisition life cycle," Everett said.

Teel is with RDECOM.

Natick Scientists Defend Against Unseen Enemies

NATICK SOLDIER RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING CENTER (JULY 12, 2012)

NATICK, Mass.—Christopher Doona fights unseen enemies each day in his job at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center.

Doona, a civilian senior research chemist with NSRDEC's Materials and Defense Sciences Division, uses the tools of science to do battle against disease-causing microorganisms. His research has led to novel technologies to make the medical facilities, textiles, kitchens, galleys, showers, and

latrines that serve American warfighters even more hygienic and safer.

"For us, because we tend to work more on the basic research, publications, books and book chapters, it's kind of fascinating to see our research being more applied, patented, and licensed to industry," Doona said. "Actually, industry is already marketing a commercial product based on our inventions.

"Ultimately, we would like to see it procured and used to benefit the soldier in the field—for disinfection, decontamination, sterilization, or sanitation. That's our ultimate goal."

Doona's arsenal of disinfection is an ensemble of novel mixed-chemical technologies and a pair of portable, energy-independent devices that sterilize and sanitize on-site. Their ammunition: chlorine dioxide.

Chlorine dioxide is a well-known disinfectant that can be used to kill *Bacillus anthracis*—the agent that causes Anthrax—and it is environmentally friendly, as well.

Doona is a former National Science Foundation scientist in Germany and a Middlebury College professor investigating Chemical Chaos and Environmental Chemistry.

"My previous experience helped to convert complex reaction chemistry into simple applications for the military," he said.

The Portable Chemical Sterilizer, or PCS, is a lightweight, portable, plastic suitcase that safely generates gaseous chlorine dioxide in minutes to sterilize surgical instruments at their Point-of-Use, or PoU.

Doona's lightweight, collapsible plastic spray-bottle, called "D-FENS," which stands for "Disinfectant-sprayer for Foods and ENvironmentally-friendly Sanitation," also generates chlorine dioxide at PoU, to disinfect surfaces in medical units, showers, latrines, and other equipment.

Extensive laboratory testing has validated the effectiveness of both devices.

"Certainly, when tested against other [sterilants], it fared very well," Doona said. "Bleach also worked well, and it's the traditional one, but you have to transport a lot of weight of a hazardous chemical."

Doona will use any means available to win this war on microbial contamination to improve life for servicemembers. His newest weapon, in development, is something called "D-



Christopher Doona of the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, uses the tools of science to do battle against disease-causing microorganisms.

NSRDEC photo by David Kamm

FEND ALL,” an all-purpose system for the safe, controlled, PoU production of chlorine dioxide.

“D-FEND ALL generates dilute solutions rapidly,” said Doona, “and there are huge practical advantages for that in a number of potential applications. We validated it on textiles used in clothing and experimental fabrics. It’s very promising—we have several companies interested in licensing it.”

These portable PoU decontamination technologies resulted, in part, from a finding a number of years ago that was ignored during research at Natick into alternative chemical heaters.

“That’s where our original [chemical] reaction came out of,” Doona said. “The thing is, it never really worked for a chemical heater, but we knew we had something very special if we could generate chlorine dioxide. The real question was, ‘How could we harness it for use in practical applications?’”

Doona and his team have been recognized with Department of the Army Research and Development Achieve-

ment Awards and Federal Laboratory Consortium Awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer for this research with practical benefit to military and civilian consumers.

“It’s just one of those great projects that we’re really fortunate to have been involved in,” said Doona, “and it’s gratifying to see the research we created be recognized in the scientific community and to be developed into inventions the Army can use.”

Army Researcher Receives Top White House Award for Scientific Excellence

U.S. ARMY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE (JULY 23, 2012)

Kelly Sullivan

NATICK, Mass.—A young researcher from the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine has received top honors for scientific excellence.

Maria Urso will receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, or PECASE, at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, July 31, 2012. She will also go



Maria Urso, a researcher from the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine at Natick Soldier Systems Center, in Natick, Mass., received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers award at the Baird Auditorium at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, July 31, 2012.

U.S. Army photo

on a White House tour and meet President Barack Obama as part of the whirlwind honors of this award.

Urso will be among nearly 100 other budding scientists and engineers who receive this year's award based on scientific merit, as well as involvement in the community. The PECASE is the highest honor bestowed by the United States Government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers.

"Discoveries in science and technology not only strengthen our economy, they inspire us as a people," Obama said. "The impressive accomplishments of today's awardees so early in their careers promise even greater advances in the years ahead."

Urso, who has worked in U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine's, or USARIEM's, Military Performance Division at Natick Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., since 2006, received the award for her scientific contributions in the area of cellular mechanisms of musculoskel-

etal injury and repair and for her service to both military and civilian communities.

"Getting this award is the greatest thing to happen to me," Urso said. "To be recognized for the work you are doing, the work you plan to do, and the contributions you have made to the community—there is no greater honor at this point in my career. I still cannot grasp the fact that I was selected."

After receiving a bachelor of science and a master of science in kinesiology from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, R.I., in 1997 and 2000, Urso followed that up with a doctor of philosophy in kinesiology from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Mass., in 2006. Urso was then commissioned and served four years in the Army as a captain at USARIEM and has stayed on as a civilian since 2010.

Her work at USARIEM includes conducting basic science research in skeletal muscle cell signaling physiology. Her focus is on the discovery and evaluation of novel therapeutics in mitigating skeletal muscle injury in response-damaging ex-

Acquisition & Logistics Excellence

ercise, ischemia reperfusion (use of tourniquets and surgical procedures), and blunt-force trauma and blast injury.

Urso is involved in mentoring and serving the community. Her lengthy list of community outreach includes co-chair of the American College of Sports Medicine Cellular and Molecular Biology Interest group, a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, program committee member for the American College of Sports Medicine, and committee member for the Women in Physiology group of the American Physiological Society.

An avid teacher, Urso also serves as a mentor for two full-time Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education students in her laboratory, is a research adviser for a doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and volunteers to speak several times a semester at various universities to students about career opportunities in research.

With all that, Urso still has the energy to run marathons. She is a member of the All-Army Women's Marathon team and competed with the team for three years. She will compete again this year as a Reservist.

Her vast service to both the military and civilian communities and drive for scientific excellence led to her nomination for this award, first by her boss, then the institution—both to whom she is very grateful.

"Without the continued support, encouragement, trust, resources, and opportunities given to me by everyone at USARIEM, not one accomplishment on my vitae would have been possible," Urso said. "The prestige associated with this award puts USARIEM on the same ground as other research and academic institutions that are at the forefront of innovative scientific discovery."

USARIEM provides solutions to optimize warfighter health and performance through medical research. USARIEM is recognized by many DoD organizations as the trusted leader in medical research for warfighter health and performance.

As for Urso, she plans to keep reaching for the stars.

"I am working on three exciting projects right now that range from product development for muscle injury diagnostics to therapeutic interventions to minimize muscle injury and facilitate time to recovery," Urso said. "I plan to keep up the innovation and pace of this research so that we can reduce costs to the military and provide important musculoskeletal treatment measures."

Sullivan is with U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine Public Affairs.

AFRL Scientist Recognized by White House

377TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS (JULY 25, 2012)

Danny Monahan

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.—The White House announced Monday an Air Force Research Laboratory space vehicles directorate scientist has received a Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers.

Each year, the Office of Science and Technology Policy within the Executive Office of the President presents the PECASE awards to young scientists and engineers who are at the forefront of research and exploration.

Dr. Matthew Squires was recognized for his work with controlling laser-cooled atoms.

"My work is used to trap cold atoms, so we can make more accurate readings when measuring motion and time," said Squires. "Part of my work is also making cold atom technology cheaper, faster, and higher performing."



Dr. Matthew Squires, Air Force Research Laboratory space vehicles directorate scientist, received a Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers July 25, 2012. Each year, the Office of Science and Technology Policy within the Executive Office of the President presents the PECASE awards to young scientists and engineers who are at the forefront of research and exploration.

Courtesy photo

Squires is one of 96 PECASE recipients for 2011.

"It is very humbling to be singled out for this award, because there are a lot of great scientists and engineers throughout the Air Force. I'm truly honored," he said.

In addition to his scientific work, the award recognizes his efforts as a mentor to college students in the Phillips Scholar Program and Space Scholar Program.

"I hope to grow our in-house research by getting more college students involved with the great work AFRL is doing," he said.

Squires said AFRL, where he has worked since 2008, is his dream job.

"It is one thing to talk about ideas, but it's another thing entirely to actually work on ideas in a lab," said Squires. "AFRL does a lot of hands-on research. What I love about coming to work at AFRL every day is it has great science and real-world applicability, making a real difference to the Air Force."

To be nominated for the PECASE through the Air Force, an individual's contributions must improve current Air Force mission capabilities.

"We at AFRL are very proud of him," said Col. Bill Cooley, Materiel Wing director, Space Vehicles, commander, Phillips Research Site. "It doesn't get any bigger than this—presidential recognition for hard work and dedication to the Air Force is a tremendous honor. I can't wait to see the future science and technology contributions he will make for our nation."

In 1996, President Bill Clinton charged the National Science and Technology Council with creating the PECASE awards.

"As a kid, I loved science and I always wanted to be a scientist," said Squires. "To be honored with this award is above and beyond what I ever expected

Monahan is with 377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs.