

Meet the AT&L Workforce

Lt Col Ernest "Turk" Tavares Jr.

CV-22 Systems Squadron Operations Officer/Sustainment Engineer
U.S. Air Force

What does your job entail?

As Ops O, I take care of the acquisition documentation that statuses the program to the PEOs and OSD, such as the DAES, SAR, Monthly Acquisition Reports, etc. I also work manpower issues and fill in for engineering when they are short manned. As a sustainment engineer, I interface with the user and run down maintenance and logistics issues and plan for the long-term sustainment of the CV-22 Osprey.



What do you find most fulfilling about your job?

Making decisions that have a positive impact on the operational capability of the aircraft. For example, this vehicle will be the first rotary wing craft with an anti-iced radar pod, allowing true all-weather capability. I made decisions that expedited putting that capability in the aircraft.

And what do you find most frustrating?

All the paperwork and the duplicative taskings from the three reporting chains (Navy Air Force, and United States Special Operations Command).

What do you think makes you successful at what you do?

I don't like to wait around to make a decision. Get the info, and make a decision. I hate decision by committee.

What are your interests and pastimes when you're not at work?

Astronomy, golf, and playing tennis with my daughters.

Is there anything unusual or interesting about you that you'd like to share with us?

I'm a B-1 weapons system officer working in a CV-22 tiltrotor program office. In the Air Force, that is called a perfect fit.

Sharmella A. Riggs

AN/APR-39A/B(V)2 Radar Warning Receiver Integrated Product Team Lead

Naval Air Systems Command Headquarters/Program Executive Office for Tactical Aircraft, PMA 272 (Advanced Tactical Aircraft Protection Systems Program Office)

What does your job entail?

As an IPT lead in the Advanced Tactical Aircraft Protection Systems Program Office, I help provide the fleet a quality radar warning receiver system that is designed to offer maximum survivability on fixed wing, rotary wing, tilt rotor, and transport aircraft. I manage system requirements with the prime contractor and multi-Service platform representatives and ensure alignment of hardware and software system architecture design, system integration, and quality assurance with program requirements.

What do you find most fulfilling about your job?

Responding in real time to e-mails and technical inquiries from the warfighters.

And what do you find most frustrating?

The inability to fulfill fleet requirements because of funding constraints.

What do you think makes you successful at what you do? Success comes with the combination of my can-do attitude and the support of dedicated and motivated team members.

What are your interests and pastimes when you're not at work?

I love spending time with my family, especially on vacation. In my spare time, I also enjoy coordinating special events and conferences.

Is there anything unusual or interesting about you that you'd like to share with us?

I think it is interesting that I manage resources and am accountable for a geographically dispersed team located in five different regions of the country.



Attention AT&L PEOs, PMs, Managers, and Supervisors

Do you have an employee you'd like to see recognized in *Meet the AT&L Workforce*—someone who works behind the scenes to support your organization? Send us the name, military rank (if appropriate), job title, defense agency/Service affiliation, and home or business mailing address, plus the employee's responses to the italicized questions above. Please include your own contact information, and spell out all acronyms. Profile responses may be edited.

Information may be e-mailed (preferably in a Word file) to datl@dau.mil.

We will contact you if your nominee is selected for publication.

Photographs: Only submissions with photographs will be considered. A casual photograph, not a formal bio portrait, is preferred. Submit a high-resolution digital file (300 dpi with a final print size no less than 3 x 5 inches) or mail a traditional photo to the address on page 1. *Photographs cannot be returned.*