

### NAVFAC Employee Receives National Acquisition Award

Don Rochon

NAVY NEWSSTAND (NOV. 7, 2008)

WASHINGTON—A contracting officer for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas received the General Services Administration's prestigious 2008 Ida Ustad Award for Excellence in Acquisition in a ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard Oct. 27.

Eugene Diaz received the \$5,000 award. The annual award is sponsored by the GSA and recognizes an individual government employee whose actions demonstrate or embody the concept of a contract specialist as business leader-advisor and have a major impact on improving the acquisition process.

"This comes as a surprise, but it is truly an honor to receive this recognition," said Diaz, who joined NAVFAC Marianas as an intern in 2002. "More so, it's an honor to have been surrounded by such a professional acquisition workforce in the different assignments that I supported. I extend this recognition to all of them."

Diaz is an acquisition professional working for NAVFAC Marianas in Guam. While forward-deployed to the Philippines, he served as the administrative contracting officer providing oversight of the operations support contract for Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines. This major contract, an annual value of approximately \$30 million, en-

compasses 15 functional areas, ranging from air operations; morale, welfare, and recreation; facilities management; utilities; and galley services.

Bob Griffin, NAVFAC assistant commander for acquisition, praised Diaz for his commitment to NAVFAC and his dedication to the principles embodied in the award.

"His oversight and attention to detail are directly responsible for this award. He truly embodies excellence in acquisition for NAVFAC."

As the ACO, Diaz was the on-site agent for NAVFAC and served as an advisor to the JSOTF-P, ensuring the contractor understood the command's multi-Service requirements.

Diaz was the liaison between the different military services in Hawaii and the Philippines involved in the contract. He was the driving force in facilitating communications between all stakeholders and in resolving any contract interpretation issues. In addition, he was the main influence in promoting the best practices of NAVFAC operations support contracting to this remote and challenging location.

Diaz joined NAVFAC Marianas after graduating from the University of Guam with a degree in accounting. He was selected as the NAVFAC Marianas Employee of the Year in 2005, and in 2007 was assigned to temporary duty with the Marine Corps at Quantico, Va., to support the high-profile Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Systems program.

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### DoD Announces \$400 Million Investment in Basic Research

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (NOV. 7, 2008)

The Department of Defense announced plans to invest an additional \$400 million over the next five years to support basic research at academic institutions.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates secured the additional funding in the fiscal 2009 President's budget request to Congress to expand research into new and emerging scientific areas and to foster fundamental discoveries related to the DoD's most challenging technical problems. The DoD published a 'Strategic Plan For Basic Research' last summer, which built the case for this effort. Acknowledging this need, Congress authorized and appropriated funds to support these significant increases in basic research investment.



Rear Adm. Wayne G. Shear, Jr., commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and chief of Civil Engineers, presents Eugene Diaz the prestigious 2008 Ida Ustad Award for Excellence in Acquisition at the Washington Navy Yard Oct. 27.

NAVFAC photo by Don Rochon

By making these additional investments, the DoD aims to “sustain and strengthen the nation’s commitment to long-term basic research,” as recommended by the National Research Council’s ‘Rising Above the Gathering Storm’ report and to address similar recommendations from numerous other independent national security and scientific advisory groups.

“These new grants will lead to discoveries in fundamental fields which underpin many of the technologically complex systems fielded in today’s armed forces,” said William Rees Jr., the deputy under secretary of defense for laboratories and basic sciences.

The anticipated awards will be intended for individual investigators and provide sufficient funding to support a cadre of graduate students working with the faculty member to make substantial and sustained progress in research areas of importance to the DoD. Merit-based awards, based on peer review, will support projects beginning in fiscal 2009 that will be funded for five years. Exceptionally meritorious projects that can be completed in less time will also be considered for funding.

Projects will be based on numerous academic disciplines, including: physics, ocean science, chemistry, electrical engineering, materials science, environmental engineering, mechanical engineering, information sciences, civil engineering, mathematics, chemical engineering, geosciences, atmospheric science, and aeronautical engineering.

Topics for the initial funding will focus on the following areas of technical challenge: counter weapons of mass destruction, network sciences, energy and power management, quantum information sciences, human sciences, science of autonomy, information assurance, biosensors and bio-inspired systems, information fusion and decision science, and energy and power management.

DoD research offices that will make the awards, contingent upon the receipt and evaluation of sufficiently high quality proposals, include the Army Research Office <[www.aro.army.mil](http://www.aro.army.mil)>, the Office of Naval Research <[www.onr.navy.mil](http://www.onr.navy.mil)>, and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research <[www.afosr.af.mil](http://www.afosr.af.mil)>.

Information on specific program announcements and solicitations supported by this funding can be found at <[www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)>, as well as at the respective research office Web sites.

### **DoD Names Two Additional 2008 National Security Science and Engineering Fellows**

*DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (NOV. 7, 2008)*

The Department of Defense today announced two additional National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellows (NSSEFF), bringing the total number of distinguished scientists and engineers in the inaugural round of this prestigious program to eight.

Professor Constance Chang-Hasnain, University of California, Berkeley, and Professor Margaret Murnane, University of Colorado at Boulder, join the other notable university faculty announced by the DoD in June 2008.

“Every NSSEFF award—up to \$3 million in total direct research support for up to five years—provides DoD with top-tier researchers from U.S. universities, each conducting long-term, unclassified, basic research on challenging technical problems of strategic national security importance,” said William Rees Jr., deputy under secretary of defense for laboratories and basic sciences. “It also affords significant opportunities for Fellows to contribute to research programs within the DoD laboratories.”

Selected from over 350 applicants to the fiscal 08 round, the eight researchers from the first NSSEFF competition “are expected to make considerable discoveries in the core science and engineering disciplines underpinning the technology of future DoD systems,” said Rees. Rees also noted that the fiscal 09 NSSEFF competition is well underway and that selectees are anticipated to be announced by year’s end.

Additional information on the NSSEFF is available online at <[www.defenselink.mil/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=11964](http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=11964)>.

### **FCS Active Protection System in “Top 50” Inventions**

*John R. Guardiano*

*ARMY NEWS SERVICE (NOV. 17, 2008)*

WASHINGTON—The Army’s new Active Protection System, which is designed to safeguard soldiers and vehicles from incoming fire, has been named one of the best inventions of 2008 by *Time* magazine.

“Think of [it] as Star Wars for Soldiers,” said *Time* magazine in its Nov. 10 edition. The APS “will automatically detect an incoming round and then launch a missile to destroy it, all within a split second.”

The Army is developing APS as part of its Future Combat Systems ground-force modernization program. FCS is designed to bring soldiers into the 21st century by equipping

them with state-of-the-art vehicles, communication capabilities, sensors, and protective systems.

The APS is actually part of a more comprehensive “hit-avoidance system” that the Army is building into a suite of eight new FCS Manned Ground Vehicle types. This more comprehensive hit-avoidance system will give the soldiers in the MGVs “full-scale 360-degree hemispherical protection,” said FCS Program Manager Maj. Gen. Charles A. Cartwright.

Current Army vehicles lack this level of protection, he said, because they were designed more than a generation ago, before the information technology revolution of the past quarter century.

### **Metastasizing Threats**

According to the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command, American servicemen and women face a proliferating array of new and more sophisticated threats, which, if not addressed, will jeopardize American lives and mission success.

“The threats are getting more dangerous,” said TRADOC’s Deputy Commanding General Lt. Gen. Michael A. Vane. “Technology proliferation is creating a dangerous mix of state-of-the-art technology, radical extremists, and irregular tactics.

“Future Combat Systems, the MGVs, the hit-avoidance system, APS,” he added, “these all will protect our soldiers against a variety of changing threats and address current force limitations.”

The Army’s Active Protection System is still in development, but has proven itself in live-fire testing. Hit-avoidance prototypes, moreover, are scheduled for delivery in 2011, said Maj. Lewis Phillips, assistant product manager.

### **Current Force Limitations**

In the meantime, elements of the FCS survivability system are being incorporated into current Army vehicles on a limited basis. Because of inherent design limitations due to their age, current Army vehicles cannot accommodate a comprehensive hit-avoidance system, officials said.

In addition to being equipped with active protection, the new Army vehicles, or MGVs, also are being designed with an independent hull structure, in which armor is bolted onto the vehicle. This allows for frequent armor upgrades to accommodate technological advances.

The armor on current force vehicles, by contrast, is integrated throughout the structure of the vehicle. Current force vehicles, consequently, have a very limited ability to accommodate better and more modern armor protection, officials said.

### **IED Protection**

Current force vehicles—the Abrams Tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and Stryker Interim Armored Vehicle—also were not specifically designed to withstand attack from Improvised Explosive Devices.

The new FCS vehicles, by contrast, are being designed with a V-shaped hull, specifically to help diffuse IED blasts. And the seating inside the MGVs will be suspended from the ceiling of the vehicle to further reduce the shock and trauma of an IED blast.

Army officials said this is significant because, for many of America’s enemies, IEDs have become the weapon of choice.

IED attacks, in fact, account for the majority of U.S. casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan and are a leading cause of brain injury to American servicemen and women. By separating occupants from the floor of the vehicle, which absorbs the blast, soldiers will suffer much less trauma and injury, Army officials said.

### **Quick Kill**

The FCS Active Protection System is being developed by Raytheon. Raytheon won the contract from the FCS program after participating in an open competition that involved other key competitors and competitor systems.

A team of 21 technical experts from various U.S. government agencies, the Army, and private-sector industry evaluated competing Active Protection Systems. According to the Government Accountability Office, the team reached “a clear consensus... [that] Raytheon’s Quick-Kill system was the best alternative.”

Army officials said that one key advantage of the Raytheon APS is its vertical launch system, which protects against top-attack rounds. They said this gives soldiers true 360-degree hemispherical protection.

The FCS Active Protection System “is the only available vertical launch system that I’m aware of,” Lewis said. Other Active Protection Systems out on the market employ horizontal launch systems and thus do not provide total vehicular protection.



The rocket-propelled grenade defeat test of the FCS Active Protection System for Manned Ground Vehicles was the first time that any vertical launch APS defeated an incoming RPG while mounted on a moving vehicle.

Photo courtesy FCS Program Management Office

- Dr. Sharon Glotzer University of Michigan, Smart, Autonomous, Adaptive Phenomena in Self-Organizing, Reconfigurable Materials
- Dr. Naomi Halas, Rice University, 3D Nanophotonics: Bending Light in New Directions
- Dr. Mark Kasevich, Stanford University, Atomic de Broglie Wave Navigation Sensors and Applications of Ultra-fast Electron Sources
- Dr. Christine Ortiz, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Natural Armor: An Untapped Encyclopedia of Engineering Designs for Protective Defense
- Dr. John Rogers, University of Illinois, Materials and Mechanics for Stretchable Electronics/Optoelectronics.

“These individuals are some of the top academics in fields of strategic importance to the DoD, and we congratulate each of these remarkable scientists and engineers on their selection,” said William Rees Jr., deputy under secretary of defense for laboratories and basic sciences.

A vertical launch system, Phillips said, allows for redundant protection from all sides of the vehicle. One countermeasure situated anywhere on the vehicle can defeat any incoming round. Horizontal launch systems lack this capability, Phillips said.

*Guardiano serves in the plans division of Army Public Affairs and is a frequent contributor to the Army News Service.*

### **DoD Names 2009 National Security Science and Engineering Fellows**

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (NOV. 21, 2008)

The Department of Defense announced today the selection of six distinguished university faculty scientists and engineers forming the 2009 class of its National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellows (NSSEFF) Program. NSSEFF provides grants to top-tier researchers from U.S. universities to conduct long-term, unclassified, basic research involving the most challenging technical issues facing the DoD.

A list of the fellows, their home institutions, and their research topics follows:

- Dr. Graham Candler, University of Minnesota, Multi-Physics Simulations of Hypersonic Flow

The fellows conduct basic research in core science and engineering disciplines that underpin future DoD technology development. This basic research is crucial to enabling future applications in sensors, functional materials, surveillance, near-shore navigation, communications and information security, energy independence, and force protection. In addition to conducting this unclassified research, Rees noted another important benefit of the NSSEFF Program. “These are leaders in their research areas, and NSSEFF will engage them with senior DoD officials, as well as scientists and engineers in DoD laboratories, in sharing their knowledge and insight on technological challenges facing the department.”

In response to the NSSEFF broad agency announcement, 156 academic institutions submitted 659 nomination letters. A rigorous technical review of 468 white papers resulted in 17 semifinalists being invited to submit full proposals outlining their research plans. Each of the semifinalists was interviewed by a panel of scientists and engineers representing a broad segment of national security. The DoD may elect to announce additional winners of the 2009 NSSEFF awards at a later date.

Upon successful completion of negotiations between their home academic institutions and DoD research offices, grant

awards will be made to the faculty members' universities for support of their research.

### **Small Business Specialist Recognized with DoD Award**

*Annette Crawford*

*AIR FORCE NEWS SERVICE (NOV. 21, 2008)*

WASHINGTON—The small business specialist for the 6th Air Mobility Wing at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., was one of six individuals recognized in the Department of Defense for his efforts in going beyond goals to advance the objectives of the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business, or SDVOSB program.

Nelson Escribano received the Golden Talon Award Nov. 17 at the 2nd SDVOSB Program Awards Ceremony at the Pentagon. Gordon England, deputy secretary of defense, was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. Other speakers included James I. Finley, deputy under secretary of defense for acquisition and technology.

"My congratulations and thanks [go] to all the honorees for your service to our country," England said. "Our veterans have contributed greatly to the defense of our nation, and many are continuing to do so as owners and employees of small businesses. We're pleased by the success of the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. They're making a positive impact, and we want to see these businesses continue to do well. It's good for them, it's good for us, and it's good for America."

Escribano more than doubled the assigned goal of 3 percent by obligating \$6.91 million, or 6.44 percent of contract dollars, to SDVOSBs. It was the third year in a row that Escribano exceeded the category goal.

Some of his other achievements include hosting a one-day SDVOSB conference in 2007, which increased to two days and doubled to more than 400 participants in 2008; partnering with industry and professional organizations to develop and provide workshops; developing and performing squadron training and assistance on the SDVOSB program; and directly collaborating with other federal agencies to identify new sources in government procurements.

"Winning this award is a significant honor because of the sacrifices that have been made by these Service-disabled veterans," Escribano said. "This is just the beginning of something bigger in purpose and better in quality for the Air Force."

Ronald A. Poussard, the director of the Secretary of the Air Force Small Business Programs, said he was proud of

Escribano's efforts on behalf of small-business specialists throughout the Air Force and of his role in helping the Air Force "Beyond Goals" campaign.

"There is no other group of individuals that understands the mission of the Department of Defense like Service-disabled veterans do," Poussard said. "Mr. Escribano's supreme accomplishments in opening up opportunities to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses ensured the 6th Air Mobility Wing went 'beyond goals' to bring the innovation, agility, and efficiency of small businesses in support of the Air Force mission to fly, fight, and win in air, space, and cyberspace."

Also recognized at the ceremony were six SDVOSBs that excelled during the previous fiscal year in three areas: innovative technologies for the warfighter; impact on the veteran and Service-disabled veteran community; growth of the SDVOSB; and five prime contractors that significantly exceeded the 3 percent annual goal for prime contractors providing subcontracting opportunities to SDVOSBs.

*Crawford is with Secretary of the Air Force Small Business Programs.*

### **AFMC Announces Organizational Excellence, Outstanding Unit Awards**

*Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs*

*AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND NEWS RELEASE (NOV. 26, 2008)*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—Six Air Force Materiel Command agencies have earned the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award while another 13 earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, according to information released by AFMC's Manpower and Personnel Directorate Nov. 25.

Officials will forward a certificate of achievement or service to each awarded unit. All assigned or attached personnel who served with a unit during the indicated period for the award are authorized the appropriate ribbon if they directly contributed to the mission and accomplishments of the unit.

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award recipients are:

- Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker AFB, Okla., covering the period from April 1, 2006, to March 31, 2008.
- Air Armament Center at Eglin AFB, Fla., covering the period from Aug. 1, 2006, to May 31, 2008.
- Arnold Engineering Development Center at Arnold AFB, Tenn., covering the period from June 1, 2006, to May 31, 2008.

- Air Force Research Laboratory headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, covering the period from March 1, 2006, to Feb. 29, 2008.
- The U.S. Air Force Band of Liberty at Hanscom AFB, Mass., covering the period from April 11, 2006, to April 10, 2008.
- The Airborne Laser Systems Program Office at Kirtland AFB, N.M., covering the period from Jan. 1, 2006, to Dec. 31, 2007.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award recipients are:

- 78th Air Base Wing at Robins AFB, Ga., covering the period from May 1, 2006, to April 30, 2008.
- 330th Aircraft Sustainment Wing at Robins AFB, covering the period from May 2, 2006, to May 1, 2008.
- 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing at Robins AFB, covering the period from May 1, 2006, to April 30, 2008.
- 303rd Aeronautical Systems Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB, covering the period from July 1, 2006, to Feb. 29, 2008.
- 311th Human Systems Wing at Brooks City-Base, Texas, covering the period from Jan. 1, 2007, to Dec. 31, 2007.
- 653rd Electronic Systems Wing at Hanscom AFB, covering the period from Jan. 1, 2006, to Dec. 31, 2007.
- 308th Armament Systems Wing at Eglin AFB, covering the period from March 20, 2007, to March 19, 2008.
- 76th Maintenance Wing at Tinker AFB, covering the period from Jan. 1, 2006, to Dec. 31, 2007.
- 46th Test Wing at Eglin AFB, covering the period from Jan. 1, 2007, to Dec. 31, 2007.
- 784th Combat Sustainment Group at Hill AFB, Utah, covering the period from April 1, 2006, to March 31, 2008.
- 356th Aeronautical Systems Group at Wright-Patterson AFB, covering the period from July 1, 2006, to Feb. 29, 2008.
- 950th Electronic Systems Group at Hanscom AFB, covering the period from April 1, 2006, to March 31, 2008.
- 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron at Robins AFB, covering the period from Jan. 1, 2007, to Dec. 31, 2007.

### **Picatinny Mortar Fire Control System Team Wins Top**

#### **Department of Defense Award**

PICATINNY ARSENAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS  
RELEASE

(DEC. 4, 2008)

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J.—A Picatinny weapons development team was recently awarded the prestigious “Top Five Depart-

ment of Defense Program Award” for its work on the 120mm Dismounted Mortar Fire Control System, or MFCS-D, during the National Defense Industrial Association’s Systems Engineering Conference in San Diego Oct. 23.

The award is given to technology programs that best exemplify system engineering and program management principles, practices, and results.

The programs recognized are considered models for meeting cost, schedule, and performance requirements.

During the ceremony, Gordon M. Kranz, director of systems and software engineering for the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, presented the award to representatives of the MFCS-D development team.

The MFCS-D is a new fire control system that will be integrated into the 120mm mortar to make the weapon fire more easily and accurately, said Ron Tatusch, Dismounted Mortar System team lead.

It combines a highly accurate weapon pointing device, inertial navigation and position system, and digital communications capability, all embedded in the fire control computer.

The MFCS-D will make the weapon system three times more accurate and allow mortar crews to send and receive digital



The towed Dismounted Mortar Fire Control System contains a fire control computer, portable battery supply, electronics rack, and other equipment that make it easier and more accurate to fire. The MFCS-D team recently won a Top Five Department of Defense Program Award for system engineering and program management principles, practices, and results. U.S. Army Photo

## Acquisition & Logistics Excellence

call-for-fire messages, calculate ballistic solutions, determine the position of the gun, and accurately point the weapon.

It also will provide a link to other digital fire control network assets and allow the gun to operate as a fire direction center, which will allow the mortar section to execute dispersed operations, he explained.

All these advantages increase the survivability and responsiveness for towed 120mm mortars on the future battlefield, Tatusch said.

Tatusch said the success of the program results from the employment of well-defined, proven processes to develop, manage, and integrate the MFCS-D hardware and software with the dismantled 120mm mortar system.

The Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center's in-house software development and system integration was executed through an empowered integrated product team approach, he said.

In less than two years, the integrated product team took the program from an idea concept to "Type Classification Standard" in August 2008. Type classification signifies the successful transition of a weapon system's research and development efforts into production. The IPT is comprised of product manager for mortars and ARDEC employees, as well as other government and contractor workers.

Using tools such as Capability Maturity Model Integrated Level 5 software development processes for software quality enhancement, user verification and validation, and stress testing, the MFCS-D and other current software-intensive system developments undertaken at ARDEC are providing soldiers critically needed, well-engineered, and well-tested products developed in a short amount of time.

The Top 5 program award was created in 2004. Since its creation, ARDEC's fire control systems and technology directorate teams have won the award three times.

Previous winners include the M32 Lightweight Handheld Mortar Ballistic Computer and the M152 Portable Excalibur Fire Control System.

### Hard Work Pays Off for LOGSA Employee—Industrial Engineer Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Anthony Ricchiazzi

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (DEC. 17, 2008)

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa.—An industrial engineer here, who started as an analyst, has been inducted into the

Military Packaging Hall of Fame. Charlotte Lent works in the Packaging, Storage, and Containerization Center, which is part of the U.S. Army Materiel Command's Logistics Support Activity. She is the 12th PSCC person to enter the hall.

Lent was inducted at a ceremony earlier this year by John Antal, acting dean of the School of Military Technology, for her accomplishments in the military packaging career field over the last 30 years. The honor is recommended by fellow packaging professionals in recognition of her outstanding duty performance.

Lent also earned the 2008 Handling Achievement Award from the National Institute of Packaging, Handling, and Logistics Engineers.

Lent began working at PSCC in 1978 as an operations research analyst. She switched to the industrial engineer field in 1988.

Noteworthy accomplishments include:

- Developing new hazardous materials testing protocols to comply with United Nations' regulations



Richard Owen presents Charlotte Lent with the 2008 Handling Achievement Award from the National Institute of Packaging, Handling, and Logistics Engineers. Owen is the executive director of NIPHLE. The award coincides with Lent being inducted into the Military Packaging Hall of Fame. Photo by Rosy Poole

- Key player in the design and testing of a Frozen Specimen Shipping Unit for infectious and other substances for the National Institutes of Health
- Preparing the PSCC Lab to become the Department of Transportation's compliance testing source for containers such as 55-gallon drums to make sure they meet specifications for shipping hazardous and other substances.

Tobyhanna Army Depot is the largest full-service command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance maintenance and logistics support facility in the Department of Defense. Employees repair, overhaul, and fabricate electronics systems and components, from tactical field radios to the ground terminals for the defense satellite communications network.

### **Defense Department Agencies Recognized for Cutting Costs**

*Army Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden*

*AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (DEC. 18, 2008)*

WASHINGTON—After more than two years of promoting the idea that “What gets checked gets done,” the Defense Department’s “Check It” campaign came to an end Dec. 18 with an awards ceremony at the National Defense University on Fort McNair.

The campaign was launched in July 2006 to raise awareness about the department’s internal management controls program by Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England, who called it “a simple concept that will have very, very powerful results here in the department.”

Those results have reached every corner of the defense community, Douglas A. Brook, the Pentagon’s acting comptroller and chief financial officer, said.

Management and internal controls are “light years” ahead of what they were during his first Pentagon job more than 16 years ago as the Army’s assistant secretary for financial management, Brook said.

“My managers’ internal control programs during my first round in the Pentagon really consisted of checklists that literally included things like, ‘Are there enough paper towels in the restroom and restaurants?’” he said.

The difference today is evident in changes in internal auditing, accounting, and controls, he said, by simply reminding everyone throughout the Defense Department of the importance of their jobs and of double-checking themselves to ensure they’re doing their jobs right.

“We’ve come to the point now where we’re applying managers’ internal controls to ... do things better, save money, add metrics, and measure our results, [which] are significantly different from the first time I encountered this kind of activity,” he said.

During the campaign, 24 Defense Department components reported 40 process improvements that have produced nearly \$4 billion in savings or cost avoidances, he said.

U.S. Transportation Command won a first-place award, he said, for saving \$1.88 billion with improvements to the department’s passenger and equipment distribution system for war and peacetime missions by taking over more influence and controls of the process.

TRANSCOM shared first place with the Marine Corps Logistics Command, which improved controls over small arms in-transit shipments and strengthened public safety. The command led a worldwide inventory that resulted in 194 weapons recovered and \$1.4 billion in cost avoidances, Brook said.

Other agencies and organizations recognized were:

- The Air Force’s 82nd Training Wing pharmacy
- The Air Force’s 71st Flying Training Wing
- The Defense Information Systems Agency
- DLA’s Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service
- The Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Raising awareness for individuals and agencies throughout the Defense Department has been the cornerstone of the campaign, and though the campaign is officially finished, the message and processes it promoted are not, Brook said.

### **15 DoD Early Career Scientists and Engineers Win Presidential Award**

*DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (DEC. 19, 2008)*

The White House recognized 15 scholars nominated by the Department of Defense (DoD) as winners of the 2007 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The awards are the nation’s highest honor for faculty members that are beginning their independent research careers.

DoD’s selections for this prestigious award included submissions from the three Services that were based on the individual’s innovative research at the frontiers of science, engineering, and education.

“The PECASE recognizes promising young faculty at universities involved in basic research of importance to DoD,”

said William Rees Jr., deputy under secretary of defense for laboratories and basic sciences. "It, together with the DoD National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellowships program and Young Investigation Programs, build the core science and engineering competencies that underpin current and future national security systems."

To support their basic research, DoD 2007 PECASE recipients will receive \$200,000 a year for five years.

A list of the DoD awardees and their home institutions follows.

- Chad Fertig, University of Georgia, Army
- Enrique Vivoni, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Army
- Krista S. Walton, Kansas State University, Army
- Mung Chiang, Princeton University, Navy
- Stefano Curtarolo, Duke University, Navy
- Maya Gupta, University of Washington, Navy
- Brian Lail, Florida Institute of Technology, Navy
- Ravi Ramamoorthi, Columbia University, Navy
- Purnima Ratilal, Northeastern University, Navy
- Tim Roughgarden, Stanford University, Navy

- Rachel Segalman, University of California at Berkeley, Navy
- Shengli Zhou, University of Connecticut, Navy
- Zhenqiang Ma, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Air Force
- Max Shtein, University of Michigan, Air Force
- Haiyan Wang, Texas A&M University, Air Force

### Supply Technician Claims AMC Employee of Year Award

Tony Medici

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (DEC. 17, 2008)

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa.—For 26 years, Laura Dumback has worked around, over, and under a wall of silence. Her perseverance has earned the profoundly deaf employee two promotions, and now the Army Materiel Command's 2008 Outstanding Disabled Employee of the Year award.

Prior to being named, she was also named the Tobyhanna Army Depot and Communications and Electronics Command—Life Cycle Management Command 2008 Outstanding Disabled Employee of the Year.

## A Six-pack of Tips for Defense AT&L Authors

**1** Look at back issues of the magazine. If we printed an article on a particular topic a couple of issues ago, we're unlikely to print another for a while—unless it offers brand new information or a different point of view.

**2** We look on articles much more favorably if they follow our author guidelines on format, length, and presentation. You'll find them at [www.dau.mil/pubs/dam/DAT&L%20author%20guidelines.pdf](http://www.dau.mil/pubs/dam/DAT&L%20author%20guidelines.pdf)

**3** Number the pages in your manuscript and put your name on every page. It makes our life so much easier if we happen to drop a stack of papers and your article's among them.

**4** Do avoid acronyms as far as possible, but if you must use them, define them—every single one, however obvious you think it is. We get testy if we have to keep going to [acronym](#)

[finder.com](#), especially when we discover 10 equally applicable possibilities for one acronym.

**5** Fax the *Certification as a Work of the U.S. Government* form when you e-mail your article because we can't review your manuscript until we have the release. Download it at [www.dau.mil/pubs/dam/DAT&L%20certification.pdf](http://www.dau.mil/pubs/dam/DAT&L%20certification.pdf). Please don't make us chase you down for it. And please fill it out completely, even if you've written for us before.

**6** We'll acknowledge receipt of your submission within three or four days and e-mail you a publication decision in four to five weeks. No need to remind us. We really will. Scout's honor.

Col. Stephen Christian, Fort Monmouth Garrison commander, presented the CECOM-level award to Dumback on Nov. 13 at Fort Monmouth, N.J., on behalf of Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via, CECOM commander.

Dumback's supervisor, Yvette Pollack, said her determination and initiative have allowed her to perform well in a job that depends on communications skills. Dumback works in the requisitioning branch of the production management directorate's materiel management division. She is the wife of Chris Dumback, a deaf employee who works in the systems integration and support directorate. They have four children and one grandchild, all hearing.

"Laura requisitions large amounts of equipment, which is quickly shipped to forward support locations such as Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan," Pollack said. "Also, she has expedited test equipment for our engineering personnel and consistently exceeds credit card program standards."

Pollack emphasized that Dumback must be effective in communicating technical information with people from different organizations, most of whom are not deaf.

"It is noteworthy that these employees have little, if any, knowledge of sign language," she said. "Laura uses writing, faxing, and e-mail to get around this. However, her language is American Sign Language, which is a visual language and is not equivalent to English grammar. She has become so adept at applying the basic concepts of English grammar that she communicates effectively with her co-workers using those methods."

Pollack noted that she has also helped some deaf employees understand written English since American Sign Language is the primary language of the deaf community.

Dumback said her job involves research to find the best price to save the depot money, and that e-mails work the best for her.

"We write back and forth to each other and they will answer my questions in this way. If I have a problem, I will call

Tamara and she will help me to straighten it out, including talking to them directly if necessary," Dumback said.

Tamara Marinaro is the depot's interpreter for the deaf and works in the EEO Office.

As a result of her outstanding work performance throughout her entire career, Dumback has received numerous awards, including an Army commendation for service and support provided to the presidential inauguration of George W. Bush in 1989.

She has also earned on-the-spot and time-off awards. Dumback earned an exceptional performance rating in 2007.

Dumback also participates in special projects that help people with disabilities, such as Telecommunication Device for the Deaf inventory controller for the depot. In addition to working with Scranton State School for the Deaf, Dumback is a 20-year, active member of the Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf.

Dumback says she likes working and plans to spend her entire career at Tobyhanna. She noted that co-workers throughout her career have always joked, gossiped, and teased her as if she were not deaf, which she appreciates.

"It's very nice that some of them have learned, or at least tried to learn, sign language to communicate with me," Dumback said. "It's hard for people with disabilities to find work, and it can be frustrating working in an environment where most people can hear. But [at Tobyhanna], that's not so. I enjoy working here, so I'm not afraid to try new things."

*Tobyhanna Army Depot is the largest full-service Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance maintenance and logistics support facility in the Department of Defense.*