

DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY
Acker and Hall of Fame
2017
AWARDS CEREMONY



Kendall, Four Others Inducted into DAU Hall of Fame

McKinley Receives Acker Award



The Honorable Frank Kendall, right, former Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, accepts a 2017 Hall of Fame award from DAU President James Woolsey.

Frank Kendall, former Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD[AT&L]), was the first of five new honorees inducted into the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Hall of Fame on June 15, 2017, at DAU's Fort Belvoir, Virginia, campus. Kendall was a regular contributor to *Defense AT&L* magazine. At the same ceremony, Gen. Craig R. McKinley, U.S. Air Force-retired, received the DAU Alumni Association (DAUAA) 2017 Acker Skill in Communication Award.

Kendall was recognized for his steadfast commitment to the Department of Defense (DoD), the Defense Acquisition Workforce as well as the great support he provided DAU, often by engaging Defense acquisition students directly

in the classroom. Over 5 years, Kendall wrote 27 articles for *Defense AT&L* detailing acquisition policy during his term as Under Secretary. New approaches under Better Buying Power were a key focus of the articles, which appeared in every issue but one from the July-August 2012 issue through the January-February 2017 issue.

The articles, with later updates, formed the basis for his book, "Getting Defense Acquisition Right," published in 2017 by DAU Press. Kendall also initiated an annual *Report on the Performance of the Defense Acquisition Workforce* that has provided hard data on DoD's efforts to improve purchasing services and materiel for U.S. warfighters. The citation for Kendall's Hall of Fame award states: "He embodied the concept of 'leader as teacher' through his extensive participation in DAU classes and his many keynote addresses at acquisition events. Because of his strong support, DAU significantly expanded its mission assistance program to provide customized workshops to help field organizations improve acquisition outcomes. His strategic direction was crucial to DAU achieving international recognition as a premier training organization."

At the induction ceremony, Pat Wills, dean of the Defense Systems Management College, said of Kendall: "He has dedicated his life and his passion to commitment to this great nation and keeping it free. ... He has had an impeccable career in which he has spanned not only the service as a uniformed military member, as a senior executive within the defense industry and also as our Defense Acquisition Executive and in other roles as a member of this Senior Executive Service." Wills added, "It's an incredible testament to the passion that he personifies."

John Higbee, director of DAU's Professional Learning Directorate, said: "He has been somebody who has been able to communicate in an exemplary way, particularly with respect to using stories and personal experience to illuminate points that he's wanted to make, both in writing and speaking. I've never seen anybody do it better. ... He has basically taken the data that we have, worked to improve it, and then made it fundamental to the way that he and the leadership of the Services and DoD make decisions. ... Keeping the end in mind, Mr. Kendall has always had the welfare for the warfighter and the ability of the acquirer to support the warfighter as his core intent and his core motivation."

René Thomas-Rizzo, director of the Human Capital Initiatives in the Office of the USD(AT&L), said: "There is no greater advocate for the acquisition workforce than Frank Kendall. His commitment and his passion are the direct reasons why we have the most qualified acquisition workforce since the inception of DAWIA [the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act]. ... Our certification rates are at an all-time high. Our workforce is highly educated. We've almost doubled our bachelor's degrees across the acquisition workforce over the past few years. "Mr. Kendall's energy and untiring advocacy of the acquisition workforce and the acquisition professionals is his legacy," she said. "We miss him greatly,

but the things that he has done for acquisition and the acquisition workforce will be around for many years to come. Thank you Mr. Kendall for all of your help and all of your support over these past few years."

A recording of these remarks about Kendall is available at the new DAU media site: https://media.dau.mil/media/Frank+Kendall+Hall+of+Fame+Induction+2017/O_xmimi8lqw.

The other four honorees were Dick David, former DAU director of workforce development; Michael Lacroix, former DAU department chair and international chair; Tim Shannon, former dean of DAU's Capital and Northeast Region, and former director of the Learning Capabilities Integration Center; Jesse Stewart, former director of Major Defense Acquisition Programs and former professor of Program Management.

David was recognized for expanding the professionalism of the university's faculty and staff and providing opportunities to capture knowledge and transfer key skills from veteran employees to future DAU leaders. Lacroix was "widely acclaimed for his teaching excellence and dedication to student success, leading to his selection as one of the first three professors to receive the DAU Distinguished Teacher Award." Shannon's award stated: "As faculty member, department chair, and dean, [Shannon] supervised the highly effective delivery of nearly 100 training courses to thousands of members of the acquisition workforce. Through his leadership and vision while serving as director of DAU's curriculum development organization, he evolved DAU's learning architecture to meet customer needs for training and continuous learning, as well as significantly enhancing the faculty development program." Stewart was honored for creating the worksite Mission Assistance programs that impacted numerous program managers and program executive officers, as well as developing learning products and information-sharing processes that improved teaching methods and learning capability for students. The award for his citation stated: "Stewart significantly improved course effectiveness and established functional integrated product team processes adopted by all functional areas. He also developed Acquisition Program Transition Workshops to achieve timely start-up of new programs and better collaboration between government and industry."

Gen. McKinley, a former president and chief executive officer of National Defense Industrial Association, received the DAUAA Acker Award in part for bringing together industry and government personnel to address national security issues and for effectively communicating with Defense Acquisition Workforce members.

For recordings of the full ceremony and awardee tribute videos, go to <https://media.dau.mil> and search "Hall of Fame." 

This article was compiled by the editors of Defense AT&L magazine from the DAU Communications staff records.