

## **SAAEC and SLDP-3 Highlight Achievements of Contracting and Acquisition Professionals**

July 16, 2009, marked a day of achievement and honor for 13 recipients of the Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting (SAAEC) and 16 graduates of the Senior Leadership Development Program (SLDP-3). “Our Soldiers are at the heart of everything we do. ... Just remember that’s who we work for,” said Dean G. Popps, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology and Army Acquisition Executive, during the awards ceremony at Fort Belvoir, VA. “Contracting is the business of building the future Army. It’s the connector between the warfighter, his/her requirements, and the vendors who fulfill the requirements.”

The SAAEC were established in July 1997 to recognize contracting and acquisition professionals. These prestigious awards are presented annually to honor contracting officers, contracting units, and teams with special awards for excellence in executing the contracting mission in support of our Soldiers and our Nation. These awards distinguish contracting organizations and individuals that excel in timeliness, customer support quality, and contracting innovation.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement partnered with the Office of Personnel Management’s Federal Executive Institute to develop the SLDP. The program, which draws on developing core leadership competencies, is intended for senior Army contracting and acquisition professionals in the grades of GS-14, GS-15, or pay band equivalent.

To view pictures from the awards and graduation ceremonies, go to

[http://asc.army.mil/conference/archives/2009/contractSLDP/pics\\_01.cfm](http://asc.army.mil/conference/archives/2009/contractSLDP/pics_01.cfm).