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**2004 AAC Awards Ceremony Recognizes Acquisition Stars!**

Arlington, VA — On Sunday, October 24, 2004, the acquisition community held its 2004 Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) Annual Awards Ceremony at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott. The event recognized the accomplishments of the acquisition workforce's most extraordinary members and the teams they lead. The ceremony's theme, "*Celebrating Our Acquisition Stars*," was a fitting tribute to the uniformed and civilian professionals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide combatant commanders and their Soldiers the weapons and equipment they need to execute decisive, full-spectrum operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The Honorable Claude M. Bolton Jr., Army Acquisition Executive and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics & Technology (ASAALT), who hosted the event, remarked that "We are facing some of our greatest challenges. We are serving a Nation at war and a military force that is transforming while fighting. It is clear that we have charted the right course – increasing capability, flexibility and sustainability – and that we must maintain the tremendous momentum we have built," he continued. "With great challenges, come great opportunities for success."

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center Director COL Genaro J. Dellarocco presided over the event as Master of Ceremonies. Other Army and defense acquisition senior leaders in attendance included GEN Paul J. Kern, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command; LTG Joseph L. Yakovac Jr., Military Deputy to the ASAALT and Director, Acquisition Career Management; MG Darryl A. Scott, Director, Defense Contracting Management Agency; and Dr. Thomas H. Killion, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research & Technology and Chief Scientist. Other distinguished guests included former Assistant Secretary of the Army Mr. Page Hoeper and former Military Deputy to the ASAALT LTG (Ret.) John S. Caldwell.

The evening's presentations included the Army Research and Development Laboratory (RDL) Awards, the Secretary of the Army Awards for Acquisition Commander, Project and Product Managers of the Year and the Army Superior Unit Award.

The Army Superior Unit Award, a special presentation, was awarded to the Program Executive Office (PEO) for Command, Control and Communications Tactical (C3T) for its efforts and accomplishments leading up to, and throughout *Operations Enduring* and *Iraqi Freedom*. Accepting the organizational award were MG Michael R. Mazzucchi,

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Commanding General, Communications-Electronics Command and PEO C3T, and Mr. John C. Perrapato, Deputy PEO C3T.

The Army RDL Award winners included the Army Research Laboratory (ARL), *Large Research Lab of the Year*; the U.S. Army Armament Research Development and Engineering Center, *Large Development Lab of the Year*; and the Natick Soldier Center, *Small Development Lab of the Year*. The HUMVEE Armor Survivability Kit Team, which represents the collaboration between the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center and ARL, received the *Collaboration Team of the Year Award*.

COL Ainsworth Mills, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA)–Philadelphia, and LTC Jack Pellicci Jr., DCMA–New York, both received *2004 Acquisition Commander of the Year Awards*.

The *Project Manager and Product Manager (PM) of the Year Awards* were presented to COL N. Lee S. Price, PM Defense Communications and Army Transmissions Systems, PEO Enterprise Information Systems, and LTC Joseph Grebe, PM Battle Command Sustainment Support System, PEO C3T.

“People are central to everything we do,” Secretary Bolton explained. “Institutions do not transform; people do. Platforms and organizations do not defend the Nation; people do. Units do not train, they do not stay ready, they do not grow and develop leaders, they do not sacrifice, and they do not take risks on behalf of the Nation; people do. Our job, at its very heart, is to equip and sustain the men and women who volunteer to defend this Nation,” he concluded.

For more information about the 2004 AAC Awards Ceremony, please contact Mike Roddin at (703) 704-0114 or e-mail [mike.roddin@us.army.mil](mailto:mike.roddin@us.army.mil).

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