

Contracting Community Highlights



Role of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement (DASA(P))

Dona Alexander



The success of the Army's critical contracting mission heavily depends on our ability to effectively communicate not only with our customers and contractors, but within our own contracting community. I believe that by building a communication infrastructure

that sustains ongoing collaboration, cooperation, and knowledge sharing, we'll foster ingenuity and innovation, and build a reputation that conveys integrity and trust.

Part of my commitment to enhancing collaboration within our community was to host the first Army Contracting Stand-Down Day. On July 20, 2009, contracting professionals from worldwide locations participated in our first event. Your investment of time, effort, and enthusiasm was an important step to building relationships, sharing information, learning, initiating change, and improving the timely communication of new and ever-changing policies, processes, and procedures.

I would like to thank the many people who worked so hard to make our Army Contracting Stand-Down Day a success. Our distinguished speakers enhanced our awareness of AbilityOne, the Defense Contract Management Agency, Procurement E-Business, small business programs, the Procurement Management Review Program, and Wounded Warrior Outreach. They shared their experiences and insight in source selection processes, service contracting, and the events and policies that affect the health and future of our workforce.

I am encouraged by the ideas and suggestions that you have provided as a result of spending a day at this event. Not only will we strive to improve upon the content and delivery of future forums, but we will collaborate with Army contracting leaders to bring to you the experts and topics that you told us are needed for success in meeting your mission.

Thank you again for your continued support as we build a strong and agile Army materiel enterprise.

Edward M. Harrington

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Procurement)

The DASA(P) is responsible to Army leadership for the management, measurement, oversight, and continuous improvement of the Army's procurement mission. The DASA(P) staff acts as the Army's interface on procurement with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, defense agencies, small business, the Joint Staff, Congress, the Army Staff, leaders of contracting activities, and Principal Assistants Responsible for Contracting (PARCs). The DASA(P), Edward M. Harrington, directly supports the Army Acquisition Executive/Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology. He develops policies, processes, and tools to enable the contracting workforce to execute, manage, and measure the full range of contracting, from credit card and micro-purchases to contingency contracting to major systems acquisition.

As the Functional Chief Representative for Contracting, the DASA(P) is responsible for leading and managing the recruitment, retention, education, and training of the contracting workforce. Harrington accomplishes this by serving as an advocate on the Contracting Functional Integrated Process Team, in partnership with the Defense Acquisition University, for the development of new contracting courses, continuous improvement of existing course material, and enhanced training for the contracting community. The DASA(P) is responsible for recruiting, developing, retaining, and empowering a highly motivated, innovative, and professional contracting workforce.

The DASA(P) executes the Army Procurement Management Review (PMR) program, which determines the overall health of Army contracting by assessing the management of contracting; adhering to regulations and policies; and identifying education, training, and experience requirements through periodic reviews of PARC offices and select subordinate operational contracting offices. The program continuously improves Army contracting through recommendations from root cause analysis of PMR reviews. In 2008, the PMR team reviewed 15 Army contracting offices and more than 1,100 contract files. As a result, management oversight, workforce education/training, electronic data management, template use, and training have been identified as areas for continued focus for the DASA(P). The goal is to share best practices and lessons learned across the contracting community. Overall, organization leaders and the contracting workforce are continuously improving the quality of Army contracting, in a time when workloads have expanded fivefold.

The DASA(P) also serves as the Army Competition Advocate. Harrington is a strong advocate for a thorough analysis of noncompetitive actions and is committed to increasing competition in the Army contracting community. Recently, he initiated assessments of acquisition strategies, justification and approval documentation, market surveys, cost contracts, and the Technical Data Package decision process to increase the Army competition levels. Harrington's vision is to increase competitive awards by ensuring a solid business case analysis during acquisition planning and strategy development that considers total life-cycle cost reduction. The intent is to conduct analyses early that address the requirements, costs, and benefits for a system's life cycle and the contract that is used to acquire that system, and provide objective decision information for selecting the most optimal contracting structure.

The DASA(P) is the proponent for the Army Procurement and Contracting Board. This board of senior contracting executives helps guide the strategic direction for contracting business processes in the Army and supports the Army contracting community. The members have been instrumental in developing new business practices and training tools that have provided flexibility and a standardized framework of procurement solutions for the contracting workforce.

Harrington's key initiatives for 2009 include, as the first priority, improving contract support to our Soldiers engaged in combat, then enhancing and increasing the contracting workforce and providing it with the education and training to be recognized as the leader in contracting. Key priorities for improving contract execution include implementing optimal electronic systems linked to stakeholders, completing contract closeout, improving cost, implementing pricing and property administration capabilities, defining better measures of contract mission performance, and improving small business participation.

Dona Alexander is a Procurement Analyst in the Office of the DASA(P). She holds a B.S. in business and management from the University of Maryland. Alexander is Level III certified in contracting and a U.S. Army Acquisition Corps member.



DASA(P) Edward M. Harrington speaks at the first Army Contracting Stand-Down Day, July 20, 2009, designed to enhance collaboration within the contracting community. (U.S. Army photo by Leroy Council.)

Southwest Asia (SWA) Support Branch Leads to Reachback Contracting Expansion

Jake M. Adrian

Building on successful reachback programs, the U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC)-Rock Island Contracting Center (RICC) has expanded reachback contracting with the stand up of the Joint Contracting Command-Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (JCC-SDDC) Support Branch. This expansion adds approximately \$2 billion in procurements to the RICC and highlights the need for increased support within the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) theater.

History

On Oct. 1, 2007, ACC-RICC, formerly the U.S. Army Sustainment Command Acquisition Center, established the CONUS-based reachback cell to support the 408th Contracting Support Brigade (CSB) in Kuwait. Authority for all contracts exceeding \$1 million was transferred from ACC-Kuwait to RICC. RICC assumed responsibility for approximately \$6 billion of SWA contracts. The reachback cell was renamed the SWA Support Branch shortly after its implementation, and it has already achieved several major successes:

- Saved \$152 million through negotiations on combat support services contract-Kuwait undefinitized contractual actions and new requirements.
- Increased asset use under Heavy Lift Six, a line-haul trucking program, saving \$21.1 million.
- Streamlined nontactical vehicle leasing requirements by folding more than 100 contracts into just four.
- Saved \$3 million through negotiations on Kuwait dining facility services.
- Combined duplicate requirements for logistics automation support, wash rack maintenance, and generator leasing and maintenance.

The SWA Support Branch was also awarded the 2008 Secretary of the Army Team Award for Excellence in Contracting-Logistics Support (Sustainment) Contracting.

SDDC Expansion

On June 1, 2008, the success of the SWA Support Branch led to the first expansion of reachback contracting with the creation of the CENTCOM SDDC Team. The 409th CSB in Europe transferred contractual authority to RICC in support of the 595th Theater Transportation Group, one component of SDDC. The SDDC Reachback Team has awarded or administered contracts ranging from Internet service, information and technology automation, rental cars, and housing, to stevedoring



CENTCOM's SDDC Reachback Team has led to the proposed expansion of SDDC reachback to USEUCOM, AFRICOM, and USPACOM. Here, a ship is unloaded during a stevedoring operation at the Port of Muscat, Oman. (SDDC photo by Derek Schnorrenberg.)

and other related terminal services, line-haul services, and third-party logistics. The contracts range in value from \$13,000 to \$293 million. The potential value of all contracts is \$626 million. Some of the SDDC team successes are:

- Creating a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) training program, standardizing the COR's tracking, training, and surveillance reporting.
- Standardizing integrated product teams to assist in consistent requirements definition.
- Standardizing compliance of quarterly contractor manpower reporting, synchronized predeployment and operational tracker, and arming contractors.

The CENTCOM SDDC Reachback Team's success has led to the proposed expansion of SDDC reachback to the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM), U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), and U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM). This expansion would streamline and provide a consistent approach to transportation and strategic movement contracts for all overseas contingency operations and maximize personnel efficiency to improve warfighter support.

JCC Expansion

JCC-Iraq/Afghanistan (JCC-I/A) was approached by the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) about reachback contracting. After AMC gained JCC-I/A support, it asked the RICC to implement a new branch. On Jan. 5, 2009, the RICC established the JCC-SDDC Support Branch to reduce workload, provide personnel continuity, and offer unique capabilities to support JCC-I/A. Because of multiple contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the SDDC team was put under the JCC expansion. Other teams within the branch support Iraq, Afghanistan, and CENTCOM theaterwide requirements.

Iraq

Several contracts were immediately transferred to JCC-SDDC support from JCC-I/A for administration, the largest of which is an Omnibus, a multiple-award, indefinite delivery indefinite quantity (IDIQ) life-support contract that supports the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. The contracts are valued at \$256 million with a ceiling of \$495 million. Early award accomplishments for the JCC teams include the commander's support valued at \$1 million, Big Voice (warning system) repairs valued at \$36 million, acquisition support services (personnel) valued at \$7.6 million, and a classified procurement.

There are multiple procurements in the presolicitation phase for Iraq including multimedia illustrators support estimated at \$3.2 million, counter-improvised explosive device marketing campaign estimated at \$25 million, foreign military sales parts warehouse estimated at \$43 million, warehouse support estimated at \$90.8 million, and intelligence support services estimated at \$395 million.

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, only one procurement—relocatable buildings, a multiple-award IDIQ valued at \$150 million—has been transferred for administration. To date, there has been one award made for Afghanistan—a classified procurement—and a modification has been issued against the Iraq acquisition support services contract to provide the same service in Afghanistan. There are two classified procurements in the pre-award phase for Afghanistan.

Theaterwide

CENTCOM theaterwide procurements are those that don't directly support the SDDC mission or the JCC-I/A mission. The largest theaterwide procurement is Heavy Lift Six, a multiple-award, IDIQ, line-haul trucking and bus transportation program. The program, valued at \$881.4 million, originates in Kuwait and travels into Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Heavy Lift Six is a legacy program that moved from SWA support to JCC-SDDC support because it spans multiple CENTCOM countries.

Most of the theaterwide procurements are in the pre-award phase. Shuttle bus service is the only procurement that is specific to one country (Kuwait). Many of the theaterwide procurements are for U.S. Air Forces Central, including airfield rubber removal and marking services, locally employed persons screening services (background investigations), pop-up barrier repair and maintenance, skywatch tower repair and maintenance, and the lone commodity procurement—command, control, communications, and computers infrastructure materials.

Goals

JCC-SDDC Support Branch goals are:

- To reduce the workload of the JCC-I/A procurement officials in theater so they can focus on a smaller number of procurements and provide overall increased contract oversight.
- To provide long-term contracting support to the Theater Transportation Groups, minimizing personnel turnover.
- To ensure the best contract structure is used to deliver goods and services to troops, reduce costs, and provide maximum benefit to American taxpayers.

Jake M. Adrian is an RICC JCC-SDDC Support Branch Contracting Officer. He holds a B.A. in liberal studies with emphasis in economics and aerospace engineering from Iowa State University and an M.B.A. from St. Ambrose University. Adrian is certified Level III in contracting and Level I in program management, and is a U.S. Army Acquisition Corps member.

AMCOM's Contracting Officers Boot Camp Launched

Charles Urban

The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) Contracting Center University (CCU) has developed and conducted its first Contracting Officers (KOs) "boot camp" training course. "You may not hear the synchronized thumps of boots or shouts of 'Hooah' from the students, but the CCU's boot camp is a key element in the center's comprehensive plan to keep the Army's Force Multiplier [contracting] on the cutting

technological and ethical edge," said L. Marlene Cruze, AMCOM Contracting Center Executive Director and CCU creator.

"There is a knowledge vacuum in the government contracting community exacerbated by the experience drain of the aging workforce that cannot be readily replaced by accelerated promotions and workload leveling," said Cruze. "Capturing the fast evaporating corporate knowledge is never easy but made nearly impossible at the rate my senior managers are retiring." The boot camp is designed to help prevent loss of knowledge in the contracting community by ensuring KOs are trained adequately to assume the responsibilities of those who are retiring.

The KOs boot camp, attended by 35 contract specialists, June 15–19, 2009, was 5 days of intensive lectures and presentations. This first class had 25 modules presented by subject matter experts including former Defense Acquisition University professors, Missile Defense Agency senior contracting officials, attorneys, and industry chief executive officers. The students also participated in a contracting case study that highlighted the seriousness of KO decision making. The course concluded with "KO Perspectives," an intense lecture/discussion by current KOs stressing the responsibilities of being a warranted KO.

"Someone said, 'With great authority comes great responsibility,'" said Cruze. "That sums up the role of a KO. Capturing the essence of a KO warrant isn't a small task. There is much more to it than signature and approval authority. The standards we hold KOs to are higher because of the power they have in their signature. Public trust and ethical basis for each decision must be above question. That is one of the primary reasons that no one can direct a KO to sign a contract. A KO's signature is a personal decision for which they will be accountable."



Pictured here are the first graduates of AMCOM CCU's KOs boot camp, June 15–19, 2009, Redstone Arsenal, AL. (U.S. Army photo by Charles Urban.)

Specialized intensive boot-camp style training in the workplace has a proven track record and the positive results on contracting personnel are without question. A boot camp training course creates an intense exchange of knowledge and ideas, yet tempers that exchange with an influx of new ideas for today's contracting environment.

For more information about CCU, contact Dr. Rex Conners, CCU Dean, at (256) 876-7767/DSN 746-7767 or rex.j.conners@conus.army.mil.

Charles Urban is the CCU Operations Dean. He holds a B.A. in business administration from Columbia College and is certified Level II in contracting and quality assurance.

TMDE Support Center Civilian Honored for Saving Life

Rita Maclary

An engineering technician from the U.S. Army Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE) Support Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), MD, was recognized for his skills and quick response in saving a life.

Ronald C. Hudgins, a TMDE supervisory engineering technician, was presented the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service by Bryon Young, U.S. Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command Contracting Center (RDECOMCC) Executive Director. "Mr. Hudgins, it is an individual such as you who inspires others and makes us proud to be a part of the Army Family. Thank for your service and assistance," Young said.

Hudgins and other Aberdeen Installation Contracting Division (AICD) RDECOMCC employees were attending Suicide Prevention Training on March 10, 2009, at the APG Post Chapel when an AICD employee collapsed. Hudgins, a former cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instructor, ran to her assistance and, although she was a complete stranger, asked if anyone knew her name and began speaking calmly, encouraging her to respond.

"When she did not respond, I realized she was not breathing," Hudgins said. "I placed a jacket under her head and began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and CPR while a co-worker placed a call to 911, providing location and condition information." CPR was provided until the emergency response personnel and ambulance arrived and took over. The employee was taken to Harford Memorial Hospital and later transferred to St. Joseph's Medical Center in Baltimore, MD, and is now fully recovered.

According to Young, AICD RDECOMCC members were so grateful that Hudgins was at the training and was able to provide his expertise to the situation. All TMDE employees are trained in CPR as required by their work environment.

Rita Maclary is a RDECOMCC employee.

Editor's Note: Article courtesy of APG News.

NCMA World Congress Conference—'Riding the Wave of Change'

Charlene McMillan

The National Contract Management Association (NCMA) World Congress Conference was held April 5–8, 2009, in Long Beach, CA. The event celebrated NCMA's 50th anniversary and included an impressive display of quality speakers and instructors as participants shared professional knowledge. NCMA understands the importance of communicating directly with leaders in the contracting profession, hearing their perspectives, and providing valuable feedback. The conference provided networking and learning opportunities across all levels and departments. An event of this caliber demonstrates how valuable NCMA is to the contracting profession and its role in bringing government and industry partners together to focus on contracting.

Participants were offered various general panel discussions and educational breakout sessions. There were several "hot" topics repeated throughout the conference such as the political interest in contracting procedures, firm-fixed-price contracts versus cost-reimbursement contracts, and the contracting personnel shortage.

The main theme of the conference was "Riding the Wave of Change." The keynote speaker, former Hewlett Packard Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Carly Fiorina, focused on four main points: common sense, transparency, perspective, and ethics. She advised that these are the "tools" every contracting professional must use effectively to change the contracting community and gain the respect the profession deserves.

Contracting professionals are faced with making adjustments as rules and regulations change. NCMA helps us to keep abreast of those changes and how they impact our missions. The conference spotlighted important contracting topics to inspire conversation that would ultimately lead to actions addressing the issues. Some important topics discussed were President Barack Obama's *America Recovery and Reinvestment Act* and how transparency in government spending affects contracting.

There were also many workshops geared toward either government or industry where each point of view was heard, bringing a better understanding among the contracting community. As we better recognize everyone's role in the contracting process, we can more effectively fulfill our mission requirements.

NCMA also led a discussion on the lack of adequate resources. Several leaders agreed that the contracting profession will expand in the near future and that NCMA will certainly be on the forefront, providing contracting professionals with a valuable resource and training to adequately do their jobs. Contracting professionals understand that staying connected to others within the profession can ease some of the pressures that come with operating in an understaffed environment. NCMA will be the medium that keeps contracting professionals connected and informed.

The NCMA World Congress Conference demonstrated how NCMA has passed the test of time in providing countless dedicated contracting professionals with valuable services year after year.

Charlene McMillan is a Senior Contract Specialist at the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Contracting Center, APG, MD. She holds a B.S. in human resources from Southern Illinois University and an M.B.A. from Monmouth University. McMillan is certified Level II in contracting and Level I in program management.

Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations (IDCs)

Ann Budd

The *Federal Register* published an interim rule, effective July 1, 2009, covering *Federation Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Case 2008-009, Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations*. This case implemented statutorily mandated requirements included in the *Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-8), Section 743 of Division D*. It effectively stopped federal contracting officers from awarding contracts to IDCs, otherwise known as "corporate expatriates," by not permitting the expenditure of appropriated funds for goods or services supplied directly by IDCs. The *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary* defines expatriating as "to withdraw [oneself] from residence in or allegiance to one's native country." An IDC is a corporation that used to be incorporated or partnered in the United States, but switched to being incorporated in a foreign country or became a subsidiary of a company incorporated in a foreign country. The statutory definition is included in the interim rule.

Why would Congress take such a drastic step? Because, as specified in the background information included with the rule, one reason for expatriation of a corporation from its native country is to avoid paying U.S. taxes on income generated in foreign countries.

To discourage the expatriation of U.S. corporations, Congress has enacted both tax and contracting statutes that use the same definition of IDC. Under specific circumstances relating to ownership, *26 United States Code, Subsection 7874*, was enacted to remove the tax benefits by requiring foreign parent corporations to file U.S. tax returns as domestic corporations. Although the tax and contracting statutes use the same definition of IDC, there is a huge difference in their application. The tax statute applies to all IDCs incorporated after March 4, 2003, whereas the contracting statute applies to all incorporations regardless of the date of incorporation. By law, contracting officers do not have access to tax returns, so they are unable to determine whether a corporation is an IDC and must rely on the status provided through contractor self-certification based on analysis of their own corporate history and current status.

The *FAR Part 9, Contractor Qualifications*, now includes a new *Subsection, 9.108, Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations*. This subsection references the *Internal Revenue Code* and *Treasury* regulations, the prohibition included in the *Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009*, waiver requirements in the interest of national security, and



Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina was the keynote speaker at the NCMA World Congress Conference held April 5-8, 2009, Long Beach, CA. (Photo courtesy of hroot.com.)

the solicitation provision. The respective provision and clause are included under *FAR Part 52*. They provide prospective contractors with the definition of an IDC, its relationship to the *Internal Revenue Code*, and the requirement for submission of “Offeror Representations and Certifications.” This prohibition is applicable to commercial procurements.

The interim rule was issued with a request for comment submission by Aug. 31, 2009, to be considered in the formulation of the final rule. The *Civilian Agency Acquisition* and the *Defense Acquisition Regulation (DAR)* councils have commented that although the Act does not require flow down of the representation provision to subcontractors, they would like public comments on this issue.

Ann Budd works for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement and is a DAR council member. She holds a B.S. in business administration from Mary Washington College, an M.B.A. from Strayer University, and an M.S. in national resource strategy from the National Defense University. Budd is certified Level III in contracting and Level II in program management, and is a U.S. Army Acquisition Corps member.

Contracting and Acquisition Professionals Honored at SAAEC and SLDP-3 Graduation

Jaelyn Pitts

U.S. Army contracting and acquisition professionals provide outstanding service and support to our Soldiers and their missions. On July 16, 2009, 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) were honored for their achievements that continue to help our warfighters get what they need, when they need it. “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 (ASAALT) and Army Acquisition Executive (AAE), 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.”

In his opening remarks, Popps shared with the audience some qualities that he believes truly define leadership: vision, integrity, personal virtues, self-confidence, courage, and common



Dean G. Popps gives opening remarks at the 2009 SAAEC and SLDP-3 graduation ceremony July 16, 2009. (U.S. Army photo by McArthur Newell II, BRTRC.)

decency. “I am not speaking of the chest-thumping, strutting egotism we sometimes see,” Popps said about self-confidence. “Rather, it is the quiet self-assurance that allows a leader to give others both real responsibility and real credit for success. A leader is able to make decisions but then delegate and trust others to make things happen.”

SAAEC

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. All military and civilian Army contracting professionals are eligible for these awards.

The SAAEC categories and winners are as follows.

Barbara C. Heald Award*

Suzanne Anderson, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command (CECOM LCMC)

*This award was originally presented at the 2008 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual Awards Ceremony, Oct. 5, 2008.

AbilityOne Program

Gertrude Colbert, Mission and Installation Contracting Command (MICC) Directorate of Contracting (DOC), Fort Campbell, KY

Outstanding Contract Specialist

Baltazar Soto, MICC DOC, Fort McPherson, GA

Outstanding Procurement Analyst

Marvin Kastberg, MICC Center, Army Reserve Contracting Center, Fort Dix, NJ



Edward M. Harrington (left), DASA(P), and Dean G. Popp, Acting ASAALT/AAE, present Suzanne Anderson, CECOM LCMC, with the Barbara C. Heald Award during the SAAEC. (U.S. Army photo by McArthur Newell II, BRTRC.)

Outstanding Contracting Officer Contingency Contracting
Sherry Gaylor, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Gulf Region Division

Outstanding Contracting Officer Installation Level Contracting-Center
MAJ Charlotte Rhee, USACE

Outstanding Contracting Officer Installation Level-Directorate of Contracting
Colleen Arnold, MICC DOC, Fort Jackson, SC

Outstanding Contracting Officer Logistics Support (Sustainment) Contracting
Rodger Pearson, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile LCMC

Outstanding Contracting Officer Specialized Services and Construction Contracting
Pamela Callicutt, MICC, Contracting Center of Excellence

Outstanding Contracting Officer Systems Contracting
Kathleen Rizzo, CECOM LCMC

Outstanding Unit/Team Award Installation Level Contracting-Center
Fort Campbell DOC, MICC

Outstanding Unit/Team Award Logistics Support (Sustainment) Contracting
Southwest Asia Reachback Team, U.S. Army Sustainment Command

Outstanding Unit/Team Award Specialized Services and Construction Contracting
Health Care Acquisition Activity, U.S. Army Medical Command

SLDP-3

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement (DASA(P)) and the Contracting and Acquisition Career Program (CP-14) Team partnered with the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Executive Institute (FEI) 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 and GS-15 or broad/pay band equivalent.

Beverly Thomas, a graduate of the inaugural SLDP class and Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting, USACE, Atlanta Region, addressed the graduates on behalf of Dr. Gail Funke, FEI Senior Faculty. "You've all been through a lot together, braving three residential sessions and numerous forums, preparing leadership philosophy statements, carrying out developmental assignments, conferring with mentors, and executing an individual development plan," Thomas said.

"You've been turned inside out and upside down to make you see what it takes to be a senior leader and what you still need to do to be effective in this role," she continued. "Trust me, it's a continuous work in process and I commend you for stepping up to the challenge. The future of Army contracting needs you."

Patricia R. Creagh spoke on behalf of the SLDP-3 graduating class. "While I'm sure the CP-14 office can easily assign a dollar value to this experience for us, I would have to say the program falls into the category of priceless to those of us who stand before you today," she said. "There's no simple way to put a value on the growth opportunity we've been given both personally and professionally."



Edward M. Harrington (left) and Dean G. Popp present Baltazar Soto, MICC DOC, Fort McPherson, with the Outstanding Contract Specialist Award. (U.S. Army photo by McArthur Newell II, BRTRC.)



Jackie Robinson-Burnette, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Small Business Programs, ACC, and Edward M. Harrington present Patricia R. Creagh, ACC, TACOM, with her SLDP graduation trophy. (U.S. Army photo by McArthur Newell II, BRTRC.)

The SLDP draws on developing core leadership competencies and extends over an 18-month period. The program alternates learning between the classroom and the broader world outside and is customized to each student. The program also includes a focused training element that examines Army acquisition and contracting issues as a complement to the leadership program.

The SLDP supports the premise that values-based leadership is essential in a democratic society, and it draws on the latest research on leadership development. That research shows that leadership competencies are best enhanced through an ongoing cycle of assessment, challenging work and learning opportunities, and support from mentors and coaches. It also demonstrates the power of a mix of learning methods (such as reading, case studies, role playing, simulations, and field experiences) in fostering leadership learning.

The 2009 SLDP graduates are as follows:

John D. Bertsch, U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC),
Headquarters (HQ)
Patricia R. Creagh, ACC, U.S. Army Tank-automotive and
Armaments Command (TACOM)
Katherine Freeman, USACE, Fort Worth, TX, District
Diane C. Hodor, U.S. Army Research, Development, and
Engineering Command Contracting Center
Kyoung W. Lee, USACE, HQ
Peggy C. Maxwell, MICC
Sean M. O'Reilly, ACC, TACOM
Douglas W. Packard, MICC
Christine M. Pallazza, ACC, HQ
Patty J. Queen-Harper, MICC, Atlanta, GA

James J. Rich, USACE, Baltimore District
Charlean Thompson, Office of the DASA(P)
Barbara J. Trujillo, ACC, HQ
Harold E. Williams, ACC, HQ
Alice M. Williams-Gray, ACC, HQ
Terri A. Workman, Contract Management Agency, HQ

To view pictures from the awards and graduation ceremonies, go to http://asc.army.mil/conference/archives/2009/contractSLDP/pics_01.cfm.

Jaclyn Pitts provides contract support to the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center through BRTRC Technology Marketing Group. She holds a B.S. in journalism from West Virginia University and a B.S. in criminal justice from Kaplan University.

IB Express Store Opens at Fort Detrick

Terry McCune

After years of planning and development between the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA), National Industries for the Blind (NIB), and Fort Detrick, MD, the IB Express store finally opened on June 4, 2009, as the newest addition to the post's expanding storefront locations.

IB Express stores have been fixtures on U.S. military installations for more than 10 years. They offer a wide variety of products including office supplies, cleaning supplies, clothing, and mission-essential items. As an AbilityOne-authorized source, all purchases from IB Express stores comply with federal purchasing regulations.

The stores are affiliated with NIB, an organization that provides economic and personal independence for people who are blind or sight impaired. NIB operates under the AbilityOne program, formerly the *Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act*, enabling people who are blind to provide products to federal customers.

According to Chuck Lange, NIB Milwaukee President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Fort Detrick IB Express store finally opened after more than 8 years of planning and development. "NIB awarded IB Milwaukee the Fort Detrick assignment in 2001," he said. "But due to Fort Detrick's rapid expansion, no storefront property was available to rent, so we decided to build a store instead."

