

Celebrating Our Acquisition Stars 2006! Recognizing Acquisition Superiority in a Time of Operational Uncertainty

Michael I. Roddin
U.S. Army photos by Richard Mattox, PEO EIS/USAASC

The 2006 Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) Annual Awards Ceremony was held Oct. 8, 2006, at the DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City in Arlington, VA. 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 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 (GWOT).

AAE/ASAALT Claude M. Bolton Jr. (left) presents MILDEP to the ASAALT/DACM LTG Joseph L. Yakovac Jr. with a statue of the American Soldier in honor of his 35-plus years of dedicated service to the Army Acquisition Corps, U.S. Army and the Nation.

Army Acquisition Executive (AAE) and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT) Claude M. Bolton Jr. hosted the prestigious ceremony. In opening the evening's formal awards ceremony, Bolton remarked, "Tonight we will honor some of the outstanding men and women — military and civilian — of the AAC and the greater Army Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Workforce ... it is clear that we have the world's best acquisition and logistics workforce to keep our Army the most capable land force on Earth. We serve a Nation at war and a military force that is transforming while fighting and winning the GWOT. 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."

During his presentation, Bolton cited several examples of key acquisition initiatives that resulted in increased capacity and capability for our warfighters. "Our Rapid Equipping Force and Rapid Fielding Initiative have substantially changed the normal acquisition process by enabling commanders and Soldiers to purchase and field commercial-off-the-shelf technologies to respond as rapidly as possible to changing operational environments. Likewise, through our acquisition and logistics processes, we have increased or improved equipment to meet urgent operational needs in Afghanistan and Iraq."



COL Fred Mullins, USAASC Deputy Director, served as the event's master of ceremonies.

Specifically, Bolton cited the fielding of body armor to 100 percent of all Soldiers in theater, the up-armor of more than 11,000 Humvees, augmentation of all Army aircraft operating in theater with aircraft survivability equipment and the superb operational ready rate of the fleet of Stryker vehicles for the two deployed Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) that have logged more than five million miles during combat patrols in Iraq.

"One thing that I would like you to always remember is that we — each and every one of us — work for the Soldier," Bolton emphasized. "Every day, America's warfighters stand ready to make the ultimate sacrifice. They serve with distinction in Iraq and Afghanistan, in the Balkans, in Kuwait, in the Sinai, in Korea — in 120 countries throughout the world. They face threats that change, quite literally, overnight, and their success in meeting these challenges rests on our shoulders."

U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center (USAASC) Deputy Director COL Fred Mullins presided over the event as master of ceremonies. Other Army and defense acquisition senior leaders present included former AAE/ASAALT Page Hooper and his wife Barbara; LTG Joseph L. Yakovac Jr., Military Deputy (MILDEP) to the ASAALT and Director, Acquisition Career Management (DACM), and his wife Valerie; LTG Steven Boutelle, the Army's Chief Information Officer, G-6; Tina Ballard, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (DASA) for Policy and Procurement (P&P), and her husband Wenners; Dr. Thomas H. Killion, DASA for Research and Technology and the Army's Chief

Scientist, and his wife Connie; former MILDEP to the ASAALT LTG (Ret.) John S. Caldwell and his wife Judy; and U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) Chaplain COL Kenneth Sampson and his wife Kate. Representing the DASA for Integrated Logistics Support was Larry Hill and his wife Barbara.

"Our theme tonight is 'Celebrating Our Acquisition Stars,' and what a fitting forum to recognize the individuals and teams who contribute so much to our Soldiers, our Army and our Nation," Mullins remarked. "It is indeed a personal honor and privilege for me to announce the recipients of this year's awards."



Yakovac, DASA (P&P) Tina Ballard (second from left) and Bolton present Kristina Jensen, U.S. Army CELCMC, with the inaugural SECARMY Excellence in Contracting Barbara C. Heald Award.

Recognizing a Soldier's Soldier

The first recognition of the evening went to LTG Yakovac. Using a slide show presentation to capture Yakovac's lasting contributions to the U.S. Army and the AAC over the past decade, Bolton related that Yakovac would retire in November. "It is important after more than 35 years of faithful and honorable service, that we recognize his enormous contributions to our Nation and our Army. His deep and abiding love for our Soldiers is evident. He knows firsthand the great importance of their being well-trained, well-led and well-equipped," Bolton



Yakovac, Larry Hill (second from left), representing the **DASA for Integrated Logistics Support**, and Bolton present Amy Barnett, AMLCMC, with the 2006 SECARMY Life Cycle Logistician of the Year Award.

emphasized. “And, through his tireless efforts, he has made a big difference in the lives of our Soldiers — Soldiers who are serving today, as well as those who will be serving tomorrow’s force.”

“During his more than 35 years of service, Joe Yakovac has, time and again, proven himself the consummate professional establishing the standard for ethics in the acquisition community,” Bolton continued. “His leadership will be deeply missed by the Army, but he leaves a lasting legacy of countless, significant contributions to the Nation. Joe, on behalf of the men and women of the United States Army Acquisition Corps — and the greater acquisition

unrelenting tenacity, steadfast purpose, quiet confidence and selfless heroism.” Bolton concluded, “It is a fitting tribute to you — a Soldier and a leader, who has dedicated his life to providing his fellow Soldiers with the weapon systems and equipment they need to fight, win and return home safely.”

demonstrates selfless service to the country, extraordinary and uncompromising professionalism in contracting, and true commitment to the personal and professional growth of others.

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

The 2006 AAC Awards Ceremony recognized

nearly 100 nominees in five categories. Nominees and winners follow:

**Editor’s Note:* each category contains the names of the nominees, and the winner’s name is highlighted in bold text.

Secretary of the Army (SECARMY) Excellence in Contracting Barbara C. Heald Award

This first-ever award remembers and pays tribute to Barbara C. Heald, whose service and character was recognized at this year’s ceremony, and whose sacrifice will forever be memorialized by this award for years to come. After retiring from a 27-year career in government service, Heald again came to the service of her Nation when she volunteered to deploy to Iraq. She knew her skills as a contract negotiator and contracting officer would be useful in the reconstruction effort. Heald was on her third tour of duty working for the Army’s Project and Contracting Office in January 2005 when she was killed in a rocket attack

on the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad. This award is presented to a Department of the Army civilian who clearly



Yakovac, Killion and Bolton present the DA Large Development Lab of the Year Award to ARDEC Director Dr. Joseph Lannon (second from right).

Robert Grasso, Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS)
 Eileen Hipe, U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC), Europe
Kristina Jensen, U.S. Army CELCMC
 Mark Lumer, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command
 Velia Pier, U.S. Army Contracting Agency (ACA) - The Americas



Yakovac, DASA for Research and Technology and the Army’s Chief Scientist Dr. Thomas H. Killion (second from left) and Bolton present the Department of the Army (DA) Large Research Lab of the Year Award to ARL Director John Miller.

and logistics workforce — it is my honor to present you with a statue of the American Soldier. Our courageous men and women in uniform display



Yakovac, Killion and Bolton present the DA Small Development Lab of the Year Award to NSC Director Phillip Brandler (second from right).



Yakovac, Killion and Bolton present one of the DA Collaboration Team of the Year Awards to NSC Director Phillip Brandler and USARIEM Deputy Commander COL Gaston Bathalon (third and fourth from left) for their teamwork on the *Nutritionally Optimized First Strike Ration* project.

SECARMY Life Cycle Logistician of the Year Award

This award recognizes excellence in the field of Life Cycle Logistics and achievements in improving the Total Life Cycle Systems Management process. Army military and civilian personnel are eligible for the award, and nominations were open to all life cycle logisticians residing in program executive and program management offices, AMC, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and other acquisition logistics and sustainment organizations. The AAE/ASAALT annually recognizes one military or civilian logistician with this award for significant Life Cycle Logistics achievements.

Amelia (Amy) Barnett, PEO Missiles and Space, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command (AMLCMC)

William Bidwell, PEO Aviation, Utility Helicopters Project Office
 Gary Bishop, Headquarters, AMC
 Michael Calabrese, U.S. Army CELCMC, Communications Security Logistics Agency

Our theme tonight is 'Celebrating Our Acquisition Stars,' and what a fitting forum to recognize the individuals and teams who contribute so much to our Soldiers, our Army and our Nation.

Danny Jordan, U.S. Army CELCMC
 Randal Kendrick, U.S. Army Europe
 Ralph Ocasio, PEO EIS, Product Manager Joint Automatic Identification Technology
 Benjamin Pryor, PEO EIS, Product Manager Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care
 James Satchfield, PEO Combat Support and Combat Service

Robert Crawford, AMC, Joint Munitions Command (JMC)
 William Cuneo, U.S. Army TACOM LCMC
 Michael Jackson, PEO EIS, Project Manager Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems

Support (CS&CSS), Project Manager Tactical Vehicles
 Keith Schweizer, U.S. Army TACOM LCMC
 John Sells, U.S. Army CELCMC, Tobyhanna Army Depot
 Lorenzo Thomas, U.S. Army AMLCMC
 Roy Weaver, U.S. Army CELCMC

James Wheeler, AMC, JMC
 Artro Whitman, U.S. Army AMLCMC
 Gloria Wooten-Standard, U.S. Army TACOM LCMC

Department of the Army Research and Development Laboratory (RDL) of the Year Awards

The Department of the Army RDL awards program was established in 1975 to honor Army research and development (R&D) laboratories that have made the most outstanding contributions in science and technology, providing our warfighters with the best capabilities in the world. These awards recognize laboratories for their outstanding contributions and their



Yakovac, Killion and Bolton present one of the DA Collaboration Team of the Year Awards to ARL Director John Miller (center) and TARDEC Executive Director for Development Thom Mathes (second from right) for their collaboration on the *Powder Panel for Fuel Tank Protection* project.

impact on enhancing the Army's capabilities worldwide. The Army laboratories are recognized for their outstanding R&D efforts and warfighter focus, as well as their tremendous support to our Soldiers worldwide.



Yakovac and Bolton present LTC James Simpson (center), DCMA Central Pennsylvania and Northern Iraq, with the SECARMY Acquisition Director of the Year Award (LTC/GS-14).



Yakovac and Bolton present ATC Director COL John P. Rooney (center), ATEC, APG, with the SECARMY Acquisition Director of the Year Award (COL/GS-15).

Large Research Lab of the Year Award

U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Laboratories

U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) (John Miller, ARL Director, accepted the award for the lab.)

Large Development Lab of the Year Award

U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) (Dr. Joseph Lannon, ARDEC Director, accepted the award for the lab.)

U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center

U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center



Yakovac and Bolton present COL Philip Carey (center), PEO IEW&S, Infrared Countermeasures, with the SECARMY Product Manager of the Year Award.

U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC)

Small Development Lab of the Year Award

Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith
Simulation and Training Center

U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center

(NSC) (Phillip Brandler, NSC Director, accepted the award for the lab.)

U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Technical Center

Collaboration Team of the Year Award

U.S. Army NSC and the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM) for the *Nutritionally*

Optimized First Strike Ration (Phillip Brandler, NSC Director, and COL Gaston Bathalon, Deputy Commander, USARIEM, accepted the awards for the labs they represent.)

ARL and TARDEC for the *Powder Panel for Fuel Tank Protection* (John Miller, ARL Director, and Thom Mathes, TARDEC Executive Director for Development, accepted the awards for the labs they represent.)

SECARMY Awards for Acquisition Director, Product and Project Manager of the Year

These awards recognize the expertise and ability needed to research, manage,

develop, test, evaluate, contract, field and sustain the Army's warfighting systems to ensure that Soldiers have the material they need to fight with greater lethality, survivability and sustainability, regardless of where the battlefield or mission takes them. When faced with numerous challenges, and an environment characterized by change, deployments, unit rotations and high operations tempo, the nominees in these categories demonstrated ex-

ceptional skill and service above and beyond the call of duty to both the Army, the AAC and the Soldiers they support.

Acquisition Director of the Year — LTC/GS-14

LTC Craig DeDecker, ACA - Northern Region Contracting Center
LTC Patrick Mason, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC), U.S. Army Aviation

Technical Test Center, Flight Test Directorate

LTC James Simpson, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), Central Pennsylvania and Northern Iraq

Our Rapid Equipping Force and Rapid Fielding Initiative have substantially changed the normal acquisition process by enabling commanders and Soldiers to purchase and field commercial-off-the-shelf technologies to respond as rapidly as possible to changing operational environments.



Yakovac and Bolton present COL Jonathan Maddux (center), PM FCS(BCT), with the SECARMY Project Manager of the Year Award (Future Force).



Yakovac and Bolton present COL Mark Rider (center), PEO Ammo, Maneuver Ammunition Systems – Direct Fire, with the SECARMY Project Manager of the Year Award (Current Force).

**Acquisition Director of the Year —
COL/GS-15**

COL Peggy Carson, DCMA, Phoenix
**COL John Rooney, ATEC, U.S.
Army Aberdeen Test Center
(ATC), Aberdeen Proving
Ground (APG)**

COL Jeffrey Willey, ACA, ACC,
Korea, Principal Assistant
Responsible for Contracting

Product Manager of the Year Award

LTC Calvin Bailey, PEO EIS,
Defense Message System
LTC David Bassett, Program
Manager Future Combat Systems
(FCS(BCT)), FCS(BCT) Software
Integration

**COL Philip Carey, PEO Intel-
ligence, Electronic Warfare
and Sensors (IEW&S), Infrared
Countermeasures**

LTC Kenneth Carrick, PEO
Command, Control and
Communications Tactical (C3T)
Tactical Radios – Current Force
LTC John Chicoli, PEO Missiles and
Space, Field Artillery Launchers
LTC William Cole, PEO Ammuni-
tion, Excalibur
LTC Michael Flanagan, PEO Ground
Combat Systems (GCS), Abrams
LTC Thomas Haase, Missile Defense
Agency (MDA), Ground-Based
Midcourse Defense (GMD),
Ground-Based Interceptor Block

04 (formerly Exo-Atmospheric
Kill Vehicle)
LTC(P) Daniel McCormick, JPEO
Chemical and Biological (ChemBio)
Defense, Reconnaissance and
Platform Integration
LTC Jeffrey Mockensturm, MDA,
GMD, Terminal High-Altitude
Area Defense (THAAD) Radar
LTC Dwayne Morton, PEO
CS&CSS, Test, Measurement and
Diagnostic Equipment
LTC David Riggins, PEO Simula-
tion, Training and Instrumentation
(STRI), Air and Command
Tactical Trainers
LTC Kevin Stoddard, PEO Soldier,
Crew Served Weapons
LTC Leon Thurgood, PEO Aviation,
Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter

Project Manager of the Year Award

COL Jesse Barber, Chemical
Materials Agency – APG, Elimina-
tion of Chemical Weapons, Alterna-
tive Technologies and Approaches
Project
COL Stephen Berté, JPEO ChemBio
Defense, Joint Chemical and Biolog-
ical Medical Systems
COL David Cook, MDA, GMD,
Ground-Based Interceptor
COL Scott Crizer, ARDEC, Arma-
ment Systems Integration Center
COL Charles Driessnack, MDA,
THAAD Radar



Yakovac and Bolton present MAJ Carl Kimball (center), PEO STRI, Assistant Product Manager for Live Training Systems, with the evening's first Army Acquisition Excellence Individual Sustained Achievement Award.

COL Peter Fuller, PEO GCS,
Stryker BCT
COL Timothy Goddette, PEO
CS&CSS, Force Projection
COL Harold Greene, PEO C3T,
Battle Command
**COL Jonathan Maddux, Program
Manager FCS(BCT), Network
Systems Integration**
COL Cory Mahanna, PEO Aviation,
Utility Helicopter
COL John Norwood, PEO Soldier,
Soldier Equipment



Yakovac and Bolton present William H. Weed (center), PEO EIS, Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care, with the evening's second Army Acquisition Excellence Individual Sustained Achievement Award.

COL James Ralph, PEO STRI,
Training Devices
**COL Mark Rider, PEO Ammuni-
tion, Maneuver Ammunition
Systems – Direct Fire**
COL Jess Scarbrough, PEO IEW&S,
Tactical Exploitation of National
Capabilities, and Director, Army
Space Program Office
COL John Vaughn, PEO Missiles
and Space, Lower Tier

**2006 Army Acquisition
Excellence Awards**

The Army Acquisition Excellence Awards recognize an Army acquisition workforce member and/or team whose performance and contributions set them apart from their peers. The nominees work at all levels of the acquisition community, from senior leadership to newly hired interns. Any

Army acquisition workforce member, team or joint program, active duty military, including Reserve Component Soldiers and civilian employees, are eligible for award nomination. The award directly reflects the outstanding achievements in support of the Army's Soldiers and the Army's transformation initiatives.

Individual Sustained Achievement Award

George Albinson, ARDEC
 MAJ James Bamberg, Office of the ASAALT, USAASC
 Norman L. Brown, Headquarters, U.S. Army Field Support Command (AFSC), Acquisition Center
 Laurie M. Castro, U.S. Army

Medical Command (MEDCOM), Health Care Acquisition Activity (HCAA)

LTC Phil Deaton, U.S. Army AMLCMC

Michael W. Hubner, Developmental Test Command (DTC)

MAJ Carl Kimball, PEO STRI, Assistant Product Manager for Live Training Systems

Gary Olejniczak, JPEO ChemBio Defense

David J. Strawbridge, ATC

Amber Thompson, U.S. Army Sustainment Command

William H. Weed, PEO EIS, Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care



Yakovac and Bolton present NARCO Director COL Earle Smith (center) with the Army Acquisition Excellence Equipping and Sustaining Our Soldiers Systems Award.

Equipping and Sustaining Our Soldiers Systems Award

Army Battle Command System and Enablers System of Systems Test Support Team, PEO C3T

Every day, America's warfighters stand ready to make the ultimate sacrifice. They serve with distinction in Iraq and Afghanistan, in the Balkans, in Kuwait, in the Sinai, in Korea — in 120 countries throughout the world. They face threats that change, quite literally, overnight, and their success in meeting these challenges rests on our shoulders.

Army Recruiting and Advertising Program Team, CELCMC, Acquisition Center Army Special Operations Aviation Project Team, PEO STRI

Combat Feeding Directorate, U.S. Army NSC Countermeasure Flares Team, PEO Ammunition, Project Manager Close Combat Systems General Dynamics C4 Systems Performance-Based Logistic Team, PEO Aviation, Air Traffic

Control Product Management Office Global Combat Support System-Army Team, PEO EIS

Live Fire Team, DTC Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care, PEO EIS

North Atlantic Regional Contracting Office (NARCO), MEDCOM, HCAA (COL Earle

Smith, NARCO Director, accepted the award for his team.)
 Small Caliber Second Source Team, AFSC

Information Enabled Army Award ATEC Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Instrumentation Team, ATC

(COL John P. Rooney, ATC Director, accepted the award for his team.)

Northern Region Contracting Center – Fort Leavenworth, KS, ACA Product Manager Network Operations, Data Products Team, PEO C3T

Transforming the Way We Do Business Award

Information Technology, E-Commerce and Commercial Contracting Center, ACA Operations and Maintenance Division, Directorate of Public Works, U.S. Army Garrison – Giessen, Germany

Task Force Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, ASAALT (MAJ James Bamberg, USAASC, accepted the award on behalf of the ASAALT Staff.)
 White Sands Missile Range Lean Office, DTC

In closing the 2006 AAC Annual Awards Ceremony, the master of ceremonies thanked everyone for attending the event. "A special thanks goes to all



Yakovac and Bolton present ATC Director COL John P. Rooney (center) with the Army Acquisition Excellence Information Enabled Army Award.



Yakovac and Bolton present MAJ James Bamburg (center), USAASC, Task Force Acquisition, Logistics and Technology - ASAALT, with the Army Acquisition Excellence Transforming the Way We Do Business Award.

those who helped make this a memorable evening,” Mullins remarked. “Although numerous awards were presented to individuals on behalf of

teams, it was the contributions of many of our workforce members that made these successes possible. So let’s give one final round of applause for all nominees, award winners and their teams who achieved so much for our Soldiers this past year.”

This year’s event attracted more than 360 guests, and USAASC Event Coordinator Andrea Simmons suggested that it’s not too early to mark your calendars for next year’s awards ceremony that will be held Sunday, Oct. 7, 2007. Simmons can be reached at (703) 805-1095 or via e-mail at andrea.simmons@asc.belvoir.army.mil. Questions on awards submission

criteria and timelines should be directed to USAASC Awards Coordinator Merrilee Feller at (703) 805-1096 or merrilee.feller@us.army.mil.

MICHAEL I. RODDIN is the USAASC Strategic Communications Director and *Army AL&T* Magazine Editor-in-Chief. He has B.S. degrees in English and journalism from the University of Maine and an M.A. in marketing from the University of Southern California. Roddin is a former Army Advertising Program Manager and three-time Army Keith L. Ware Journalism Award recipient. In 2005, he was selected by the Secretary of the Army for Editor-of-the-Year Honors.

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