



# *Celebrating Our Acquisition Stars 2005!*

Mike Roddin

**T**he *2005 Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) Annual Awards Ceremony* was held Oct. 2, 2005, at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott 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).

Army Acquisition Executive Claude M. Bolton Jr. recognized the accomplishments of the acquisition workforce's most extraordinary members and the teams they lead at the 2005 AAC Awards Ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox, PEO EIS.)

The 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 kicking off the event, Bolton remarked, "Tonight we honor some of the outstanding men and women — military and civilian — of the Army Acquisition Corps and the greater Army Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Workforce. As a community, 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. With great challenges come great opportunities for success."

Bolton further observed, "Our courageous men and women in uniform display unrelenting tenacity, steadfast purpose, quiet confidence and selfless heroism. Let us continue to work hard and work together to ensure their decisive victory and safe return. They face threats that change — quite literally — overnight, and their success in meeting these challenges rests squarely on our collective shoulders as a community."

U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center Director Craig A. Spisak presided over the event as master of ceremonies. Other Army and defense acquisition senior leaders present included Dean G. Popp, Principal Deputy to the ASAALT and Director for Iraq Reconstruction and Program Management; LTG Joseph L. Yakovac Jr., Military Deputy to the ASAALT and Director, Acquisition Career Management; Dr. Nancy Spruill, Director, Acquisition Resources and Analysis, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; Tina



Craig Spisak, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center Director, and master of ceremonies for the 2005 AAC Awards Ceremony, presents Mari Feller with a bouquet of flowers. Feller opened the event by singing *The Star Spangled Banner* and closed the event with *America the Beautiful*. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox, PEO EIS.)

Ballard, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Policy and Procurement; Wimpy D. Pybus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Integrated Logistics Support; Dr. Thomas H. Killion, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology and Chief Scientist; and former Military Deputy to the ASAALT LTG (Ret.) John S. Caldwell.

### **Secretary of the Army (SECARMY) Excellence in Contracting Awards for FY04**

The *Excellence in Contracting Awards* recognize individuals, teams and organizations for outstanding achievement, dedication and professionalism in executing the contracting mission in support of the Soldier and the U.S. Army around the world.

\* Please note that each category contains the names of the nominees, and the winner's name is highlighted in bold text.

#### ***Outstanding Contracting Officer (Civilian) at Installation-Level Center***

Nancy F. Brown, U.S. Army Contracting Agency (ACA) Southern Region (SR)  
Denise Conklin, ACA Northern Region (NR)  
Patrick Hogston, ACA NR  
Annemarie Kopko, ACA NR

Jane M. Lemmon, ACA NR  
**Beth A. Mendell**, ACA NR  
Stephan Russell, ACA Pacific Region

#### ***Outstanding Contracting Officer (Civilian) at Installation-Level Satellite***

Steven J. Fries, ACA SR  
Kristine L. Murray, ACA NR  
**Mary Pat Shanahan**, ACA NR  
Jeanne Shykes, ACA SR  
William Willis, ACA NR

#### ***Outstanding Contracting Officer (Civilian) in Specialized Contracting***

James R. Chiarizio, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC)  
**Matthew J. Franzen**, U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) LCMC  
Janet L. Schwarzbart, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC)  
Patricia D. Thompson, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command

#### ***Outstanding Contracting Officer (Civilian) in Systems Contracting***

**Pamela A. Demeulenaere**, U.S. Army TACOM LCMC  
Johanna T. Hersch, Communications-Electronics (CE) LCMC



(Left to right) LTG Yakovac, Tina Ballard, Pamela A. Demeulenaere (U.S. Army TACOM LCMC) and Secretary Bolton recognize Demeulenaere for her selection as Outstanding Contracting Officer (Civilian) in Systems Contracting. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox, PEO EIS.)

Gloria E. McCracken, TACOM LCMC  
Mary K. Rehm, TACOM LCMC

*Outstanding Contracting Officer (Military) at Installation-Level Center*

MSG Christopher W. Chapple,  
ACA SR

MAJ Kelvin L. Robinson, CELCMC

*Outstanding Contracting Officer (Military) in Contingency Contracting*

MAJ Kathleen Jacobson, ACA SR  
MAJ Roderick D. Sanchez, ACA NR  
MAJ Robert W. Shelton, ACA NR  
MSG David C. White, ACA SR

*Professionalism in Contracting (Civilian)*

Leslie H. Carroll, ACA SR  
Sarah L. Corley, ACA SR  
Ellen C. Dennis, TACOM LCMC  
Peter D. DiPaola, ACA NR  
Wendy J. McCutcheon, CELCMC  
Frank A. Ruzicka, TACOM LCMC  
Bernard Valdez, ACA SR

*Professionalism in Contracting (Military)*

LTC Anthony J. Nicolella, ACA SR  
COL Scott O. Risser, ACA HQ

*Unit/Team for Installation-Level Contracting Center*

Anniston Army Depot Directorate of Contracting (DOC), TACOM LCMC  
Fort Carson DOC, ACA NR  
Fort Eustis DOC, ACA NR

Fort Hood Contracting Command,  
ACA SR  
Government Purchase Card Team,  
Fort Bragg DOC, ACA SR  
Logistics Support Contract Team,  
ACA SR  
Southwestern Division, Task Force  
Restore Iraqi Oil, U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers (USACE)

*Unit/Team for Installation-Level Contracting Satellite*

Aberdeen Proving Ground DOC,  
ACA NR  
Fort Campbell DOC, ACA SR  
Fort Dix DOC, ACA NR  
Fort Drum DOC, ACA NR  
Fort Knox DOC, ACA SR

*Unit/Team for Specialized Contracting*

Armor Survivability Kit Material  
Central Procurement Team,  
TACOM LCMC  
Contracting Division, Jacksonville,  
USACE  
Health Care Acquisition Activity,  
U.S. Army Medical Command  
Iraq Reconstruction and Program  
Management Team, TACOM  
LCMC  
Iraqi Armed Forces Battalion Sets,  
TACOM LCMC  
Iraqi Ministries Civilian Vehicles  
Support Contracting, TACOM  
LCMC  
Partnering Division, Maintenance and  
Special Projects, Aviation and  
Missile LCMC  
Small Business Innovation Research,  
Contract and Acquisition  
Management Team, SMDC  
**ACA Southwest Asia, ACA Pacific  
Region**  
  
*Unit/Team for Systems Contracting*  
Future Combat Systems (FCS )  
Contracting Team, TACOM  
LCMC  
Guardian, TACOM LCMC

**Stryker Brigade Combat Team,  
TACOM LCMC**  
Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Armor  
Contracting Team, TACOM LCMC

*Exceptional Support of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act Program*

Russ Hite, ACA Information  
Technology, E-Commerce and  
Commercial Contracting Center  
Mark Lumer, SMDC

**2005 SECARMY Life Cycle Logistician of the Year Award**

The Life Cycle Logistician of the Year 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, the U.S. Army Materiel Command, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) 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.

Linda Beltran, Logistics Readiness  
Center (LRC), CELCMC  
William L. Bidwell, Program Executive  
Office (PEO) Aviation  
Randy Burton, LRC, CELCMC  
Gerald Christophe, PEO Enterprise  
Information Systems (EIS)  
Jeffrey M. Forgach, Project Manager  
Force XXI Battle Command Brigade  
and Below  
Philip J. Gaylaro, PEO Simulation,  
Training and Instrumentation  
(STRI)  
Michael J. Jackson, PEO EIS  
John K. Jolly, PEO Soldier  
Glenn Kerley, Project Manager Close  
Combat Systems



David W. Manning, PEO STRI (center right), was selected from 15 nominees for Army Life Cycle Logistician of the Year honors for 2005. Presenting the award (left to right) are LTG Yakovac, Wimpy D. Pybus and Secretary Bolton. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox, PEO EIS.)

**David W. Manning, PEO STRI**  
 Jean M. Salvatore, Joint Project Manager Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC) Contamination Avoidance  
 Edward W. Schmidt, PEO Aviation  
 Eric Steckmann, PEO Ammunition  
 Leroy J. Weaver, PEO EIS  
 Mark Weston-Dawkes, Project Manager, LandWarNet

**Army Research and Development (R&D) Laboratory of the Year Awards**

The Army's R&D Laboratory Awards Program was established in 1975 to honor R&D labs that have made the most outstanding contributions in science and technology, providing U.S. warfighters with the best capabilities in the world.

All 12 Army laboratories and the two collaboration teams that competed this year are commended for their outstanding R&D efforts and warfighter focus, as well as their support to Soldiers in direct support of national homeland defense and GWOT. The Army's labs are critical enablers for achieving the Army Vision, its objectives and the Army's transformation from the Current to Future Force. These exceptional R&D organizations continue to provide the unmatched technical advantage in support of the Army's non-negotiable contract with the American people — to fight and win our Nation's wars.

*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)

*Large Development Lab of the Year Award*

U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC)  
 U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center  
 U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center  
 U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC)

*Small Development Lab of the Year Award*

U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center  
 U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center  
 U.S. Army Research Institute for Behavioral and Social Sciences  
 U.S. Army Simulation and Training Technology Center  
 U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Technical Center



Also receiving Collaboration Team of the Year Award honors were ARL and ARDEC for the "Barrel Reshaping Initiative." Pictured left to right are LTG Yakovac; Dr. Killion; Dr. Joseph Lannon, ARL; John Miller, ARDEC; and Secretary Bolton. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox, PEO EIS.)

*Collaboration Team of the Year Award*

U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center, TARDEC and the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM) for the "Cool the Force" Vehicle Mounted Personal Cooling Program  
 U.S. ARL and ARDEC for the "Barrel Reshaping Initiative"

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

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



Collaboration Team of the Year Award honors went to the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center, TARDEC and USARIEM for the "Cool the Force" Vehicle Mounted Personal Cooling Program initiative. Pictured left to right are LTG Yakovac, Dr. Killion, COL Beau J. Freund, Edward Doucette, Dr. Richard McClelland and Secretary Bolton. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox, PEO EIS.)



LTC Shane Dietrich (center), Yuma Test Center, ATEC, was selected for Acquisition Commander of the Year honors at the lieutenant colonel level. Here, Secretary Bolton and LTG Yakovac present him his award. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox, PEO EIS.)

and high operations tempo, these nominees demonstrated exceptional skill and service above and beyond the call of duty to the Army, AAC and the Soldiers they support.

**Acquisition Commander of the Year — LTC/GS-14**

- LTC Mark E. Ballew, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Boeing Philadelphia
- LTC Craig A. DeDecker, ACA NR
- LTC Shane Dietrich, Yuma Test Center, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC)
- LTC Robert W. Schumitz, XVIII Airborne Corps Contracting Command, ACA

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

- COL Victoria H. Diego-Allard, U.S. Army Contracting Command-Europe, ACA
- COL Stephen D. Kreider, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), ATEC
- COL Paul M. McQuain, DCMA, Dallas and Iraq

**Product Manager of the Year Award**

- LTC Darryl J. Colvin, Field Artillery Launchers, PEO Missiles and Space
- LTC Jeffrey A. Gabbert, Medium Altitude Endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems, PEO Aviation
- LTC Joseph A. Giunta, Ground Tactical Trainers, PEO STRI

- LTC Linda R. Herbert, Forward Looking Infrared, PEO Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors (IEW/S)
- LTC Claude Hines Jr., Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care, PEO EIS
- LTC Kevin N. Jennings, Demilitarization, PEO Ammunition
- LTC Daniel McCormick, NBC Reconnaissance and Obscuration Systems, Joint PEO Chemical and Biological Defense
- LTC Kevin P. Peterson, Light Tactical Vehicles, PEO Combat Support and Combat Service Support (CS & CSS)
- LTC Kevin P. Stoddard, Crew Served Weapons, PEO Soldier
- LTC Michael Van Rassen, Air Missile Defense Command and Control Systems, PEO Command, Control and Communications Tactical (C3T)

**Project Manager of the Year Award**

- COL Damian P. Bianca, Ground Based Interceptor, Joint Program Office Ground Based Missile Defense
- COL David W. Coker, Logistics Information Systems, PEO EIS
- COL William Crosby, Cargo Helicopters, PEO Aviation
- COL Timothy G. Goddette, Force Projection, PEO CS & CSS
- Robert F. Golden, Tactical Radio Communications Systems, PEO C3T



COL Stephen D. Kreider (center), YPG ATEC, receives his Acquisition Commander of the Year Award from Secretary Bolton and LTG Yakovac. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox, PEO EIS.)



Robert F. Golden (center) receives his Project Manager (PM) of the Year Award from Secretary Bolton and LTG Yakovac. Golden was one of three PMs honored at this year's awards ceremony.

- COL Jeffrey L. Gwilliam, Joint Services, PEO Ammunition
- COL Camille Nichols, **Guardian, Joint PEO Chemical and Biological Defense**
- COL Kevin S. Noonan, Combined Arms Tactical Trainers, PEO STRI
- COL John D. Norwood, Soldier Equipment, PEO Soldier
- COL Jess A. Scarbrough, Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities, PEO Missiles and Space

**2005 Army Acquisition Excellence Awards**

The Army Acquisition Excellence Awards — new this year — recognize acquisition workforce members and teams whose performance and contributions set them apart from their peers. The nominees worked at all levels of the acquisition community from senior leaders to newly hired interns. The awards directly reflect their outstanding achievements in support of the Army's Soldiers and the Army's transformation efforts.

**Equipping and Sustaining Our Soldiers Individual Award**

- MAJ Cary Ferguson, U.S. Army Transportation Center
- Saleem Ghazi, 120mm Illuminating Mortar Program, PEO Ammunition
- LTC Robert Lunn, PEO Aviation
- Gloria M. Martinez, **Gulf Region Central District, Pacific Ocean Division, USACE**
- BG Stephen M. Seay, PEO STRI
- Mike Sprang, Crew Protection Kits, TACOM LCMC

Bob L. Thomas, Unmanned Ground Vehicles, PEO Ground Combat Systems

*Equipping and Sustaining Our Soldiers Team Award*

Constructive Training Intelligence Team, PEO STRI

Electronic Countermeasure Device Team, CELCMC, PEO IEWS

Ground Mobile Forces Tactical Satellite Terminal Life Extension Program, Tobyhanna Army Depot

Improvised Explosive Device Countermeasure Equipment Team, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM)

M95 Mortar Fire Control System Integrated Product Team, PEO Ammunition

Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Operations Support Group, Alaska, Missile Defense Agency, Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office

ACA NR, Army Reserve Contracting Center

Office of the TRADOC System Manager, Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Modernization, U.S. Army Transportation Center

Partnering Division of the Logistics Maintenance and Special Project Directorate, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command

Product Manager Tactical Radios-Current Force, CELCMC/PEO C3T

Project Management Office Soldier Equipment, PEO Soldier

Sherpa Guided Parachute Cargo System, YPG

U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity's Artillery Team, RDECOM

United States Special Operations Command Team

Vicksburg Consolidated Contracting Office, Vicksburg District, USACE

*Information Enabled Army Individual Award*

Steven T. Chizmar, RDECOM  
MAJ Michael Devine, PEO EIS



Secretary Bolton (right) presents MAJ Michael Devine, PEO EIS, with the Information Enabled (Individual) Award for Army Acquisition Excellence as LTG Yakovac looks on. (U.S. Army photo by Richard Mattox, PEO EIS.)

*Information Enabled Army Team Award*

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Curriculum Development Division, Familiarization Project Team, TRADOC

Product Manager Joint-Automatic Identification Technology Team, PEO EIS

Knowledge Management Division, U.S. Southern Command Joint Intelligence Center, U.S. Southern Command

Project Manager Unit of Action (UA) Network Systems' Integration, Program Manager UA

*Transforming the Way We Do Business Individual Award*

Sharon H. Butler, Huntsville Center, USACE

Rodney A. Gelhaus, Program Management Office FCS UA

LTC Patricia Larrabee, Office of the ASAALT

Brian Riley, U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range

Keith G. Schwanke, ACA

*Transforming the Way We Do Business Team Award*

Aberdeen Proving Ground DOC, ACA Cargo Helicopters' Soldier-Focused Logistics, PEO Aviation

Lewis & Clark Facility Project Delivery Team, Kansas City District, USACE  
NR Contracting Center, DOC, ACA  
Regional Contracting Office, Hawaii, ACA

In closing the 2005 AAC Annual Awards Ceremony, the master of ceremonies thanked everyone for attending the event. "A special thanks goes to all those who helped make this a memorable evening," Spisak 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 please let's give one final round of applause for all nominees, award winners and their teams who achieved so much for our Soldiers."

This year's event attracted nearly 400 guests, and ASC Event Coordinator Betisa Brown suggested that it's not too early to mark your calendars for next year's awards ceremony that will be held Sunday, Oct. 8, 2006. Brown can be reached at (703) 805-2441 or via e-mail at [betisa.brown@us.army.mil](mailto:betisa.brown@us.army.mil). Questions on awards submission criteria and timelines should be directed to ASC Awards Coordinator Merrilee Feller at (703) 805-2992 or [merrilee.feller@us.army.mil](mailto:merrilee.feller@us.army.mil).

**MIKE RODDIN** is the ASC Strategic Communications Director and *Army AL&T* Magazine Editor-in-Chief. He has an M.A. in marketing from the University of Southern California and B.S. degrees in English and journalism from the University of Maine. Roddin is also a U.S. Army Command and Staff College graduate and three-time Army Keith L. Ware Journalism Award recipient. Additionally, Roddin was selected as the 2005 Secretary of the Army Editor-of-the-Year (Departmental).