

## Celebrating Our Acquisition Stars

Mike Roddin

On Oct. 24, 2004, the Honorable Claude M. Bolton Jr., Army Acquisition Executive (AAE) and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT), hosted the U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual Awards Ceremony at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. The event recognized the numerous 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 (GWOT).

In kicking off the event, Bolton remarked, "We are facing some of our greatest challenges. We are serving a Nation at war and a military force that is transforming while fighting.



ASC Director COL Genaro J. Dellarocco presides over the annual awards event as master of ceremonies. (All article photos courtesy of SGT Scott Meinhardt, DA Staff Photographer.)

Information systems are major contributing factors to today's success in the global war on terrorism and in all other operations throughout the world...MG Michael Mazzucchi and his superb team have contributed immeasurably to the ability of our commanders and their troops to get the information they need when they need it — the right information, at the right time and in the right place.

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."

U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center (ASC) 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, former Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command; LTG Joseph L. Yakovac Jr., Military Deputy to the ASAALT and Director, Acquisition Career Management; Dean G. Poppo, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (DASA) for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology; MG Darryl A. Scott, Director, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA); Dr. Thomas H. Killion, DASA for Research and Technology and Chief Scientist; Donald L. Damstetter, DASA for Plans, Programs and Resources; Tina Ballard, DASA for Policy and Procurement; Wimpy D. Pybus, DASA for Integrated Logistics Support; Dale A. Ormond, DASA for Elimination of Chemical Weapons; and BG(P) Jeffrey A. Sorenson, DASA for Systems Management. Other distinguished guests included former ASAALT Paul J. Hoepfer and former Military Deputy to the ASAALT LTG John S. Caldwell (USA, Ret.).

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

### Army Superior Unit Award (ASUA)

The ASUA, 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* (OEF and OIF) during the period March 19, 2002, to March 18, 2003. The ASUA is presented to organizations to honor outstanding meritorious performance during a difficult and challenging mission under extraordinary circumstances. Accepting the organizational award were MG Michael R. Mazzucchi,



Secretary Bolton (right) presents the ASUA plaque to John C. Perrapato, Deputy PEO C3T (left), and MG Mazzucchi, PEO C3T.

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

“Information is power,” Bolton emphatically stated. “Throughout history, commanders have sought to leverage information to achieve a decisive advantage over the enemy. Information systems are major contributing factors to today’s success in the global war on terrorism and in all other operations throughout the world,” he commented. “Our systems today — such as Force XXI Battle Command Brigade-and-Below — dissipate the ‘fog of war’ and provide our commanders and their forces with visibility that enables them to execute attacks on the best targets, at the most opportune times, with the most effective weapons. These systems also enable us to distinguish friend from foe and allow logistics and supply forces to maintain a constant flow of materiel to the troops. MG Michael Mazzucchi and his superb team have contributed immeasurably to the ability of our commanders and their troops to get the information they need when they need it — the right information, at the right time and in the right place,” Bolton observed.

#### RDL Awards

The evening’s next event was the RDL Awards presentation. The Army’s RDL Awards Program was established in 1975 to honor Army research and development (R&D) labs that have made outstanding contributions in science and technology, providing U.S. warfighters with the best capabilities in the world. The RDL Awards recognize labs for their outstanding contributions and their impact on enhancing the capability of Army operational forces worldwide.

All 12 Army laboratories competed in this year’s competition and were commended for their outstanding

research efforts and Soldier focus. Throughout the year, they provided extraordinary support to combatant commanders and their Soldiers during *OEF* and *OIF* and 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

The first RDL Award was presented to the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) in the *Large Research Lab of the Year* category. John Miller, ARL Director, accepted the award on behalf of the ARL team. His lab was recognized for its significant efforts in autonomous mobility for unmanned ground systems research, and was selected as the basis for the Future Combat Systems Autonomous Navigation System. The program’s focus was machine perception, human-machine interface and tactical behaviors. ARL’s initiative and leadership during 2003 brought robotics technology to a new level, enabling the Army to move closer to fielding semiautonomous unmanned ground vehicles in the near future.

ARL’s mission is to provide innovative science, technology and analyses to enable full-spectrum operations. As the Army’s corporate laboratory, it provided its customers and partners the underpinnings necessary for developing and fielding the capabilities that Soldiers require for mission execution across the entire spectrum of operating environments.



ARL Director John Miller receives the *Large Research Lab of the Year Award* from Secretary Bolton. ARL was recognized for its significant efforts in developing autonomous mobility for unmanned ground systems research.

### Large Development Lab of the Year Award

The U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) was presented the *Large Development Lab of the Year Award*. Michael Devine, the ARDEC Technical Director, accepted the award for his organization. ARDEC was recognized for fielding the M95/M96 Mortar Fire Control System that has revolutionized mounted mortar operations. Initially fielded in May 2003 for the 1st Cavalry Division in support of ongoing conflicts, the Mortar Fire Control System delivers significant improvements in both effectiveness and survivability. This is the first application of digital fire control technology for mortar systems. This is also the first full mortar connectivity to the fire support network, including “sensor-to-shooter” options.



DOD Combat Feeding Directorate Director Gerald A. Darsch accepts the *Small Development Lab of the Year Award* for the Natick Soldier Center (NSC) from Secretary Bolton. NSC was recognized for its outstanding technology generation, application, transition and rapid fielding of equipment, as well as its efforts as the lead in a joint team that developed and accelerated fielding of the Joint Precision Airdrop System.

fielding of the Joint Precision Airdrop System. The system provides an evolutionary way to conduct precision airdrops from high altitudes, and provides the first-ever deployment and control of small, highly loaded parafoils. This new system reduced costs by 33 percent over its large parafoil system counterparts.

### Collaboration Team of the Year Award

The Humvee Armor Survivability Kit (ASK) Team, which represents the collaboration between the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) and ARL, received the *Collaboration Team of the Year Award*. Dr. Richard McClelland, TARDEC Director, and John Miller, ARL Director, accepted the award plaques on behalf of their respective organizations.



From left: Dr. Thomas H. Killion, DASA for Research and Technology and Chief Scientist, looks on as ARL Director John Miller and TARDEC Director Dr. Richard McClelland receive the *Collaboration Team of the Year Award* from Secretary Bolton.

ARDEC Technical Director Michael Devine receives the *Large Development Lab of the Year Award* from Secretary Bolton. ARDEC was recognized for fielding the M95/M96 Mortar Fire Control System.

ARDEC's mission is to provide advanced armaments for peace and war. It develops and integrates weapons, ammunition and fire control, and executes full armaments life-cycle engineering.

### Small Development Lab of the Year Award

The Natick Soldier Center (NSC) was selected as the *Small Development Lab of the Year*. This is the second year in a row that NSC has garnered lab of the year honors. Gerald A. Darsch, Director, DOD Combat Feeding Directorate, accepted the award on behalf of NSC. NSC's mission is to treat Soldiers as systems to maximize their individual survivability, sustainability, mobility, combat effectiveness and quality of life in the field. NSC was duly recognized for technology generation, application, transition and rapid fielding of equipment to the Army's deployed forces. In addition, NSC was also recognized for its efforts as the lead partner in a joint team that developed and accelerated

When the Humvee was created in 1981, it was not designed to be in the line of fire. In the pre-9/11, post-Cold War era, the Humvee's role was a behind-the-scenes support vehicle. Things have changed dramatically since GWOT's start. In Iraq and Afghanistan, Soldiers operate in a fluid environment with no clear-cut front or rear lines, leaving the Humvee and, more importantly, its passengers, subject to greater risk. In August 2003, the U.S. Central Command *Joint Task Force* issued an operational needs statement requesting a rapid solution to small arms fire, improvised explosive devices and rocket-propelled grenade threats to the Humvee platform. Together, TARDEC and ARL formed a collaborative team to tackle the challenge.

The ARL team, led by MAJ Dan Rusin and Mike Keele, joined forces with their TARDEC team counterparts, led by CPT Greg Hetzel and Michael Manceor. Within 3 months, the collaboration team had developed, tested and deployed a complete prototype armored solution used to upgrade the Humvee to reduce the risk to Soldiers who use the vehicles in combat zones. By October 2003, they had developed a production model and began shipping Humvee ASKs to Iraq. In theater, the return on investment from this collaboration has increased Soldier survivability exponentially. It is worth noting that this project wasn't a "quick-fix" solution, because the ASKs are now standard stock Armywide. As of Sept. 10, 2004, there were 8,361 ASKs installed and in use in the theater of operations.

#### Acquisition Commander of the Year Awards

Air Force MG Darryl A. Scott, Director, DCMA, assisted Bolton in presenting the *Acquisition Commander (AC) of the Year Awards*. DCMA is an indispensable partner in the Army acquisition life-cycle management process. Scott's contract managers are responsible for ensuring supplies and services are delivered on time, within cost and meet performance requirements. The Army currently has 32 colonels and lieutenant colonels in AC positions within DCMA.

The AAE received 28 nominations this year, but only one award was presented in each category. The winners were selected from an elite group of nominees who faced tremendous challenges and complexities during a year characterized by change, deployments, unit rotations and high-operational tempo. The nominees were outstanding representatives of the Army acquisition workforce, whose collective expertise and abilities to research, manage, develop, test, evaluate, contract, field and sustain Army warfighting systems helped ensure that Soldiers had the materiel they needed to fight

with greater lethality, survivability and sustainability on the modern battlefield.

#### AC of the Year — LTC/GS-14

LTC Jack Pellicci Jr., DCMA-New York, was honored as an *AC of the Year* for managing all aspects of life-cycle support services to more than 200 DOD contractors with 2,500 contracts valued in excess of \$2.2 billion, ensuring the delivery of critical supplies and services to our Nation's warfighters. DCMA-New York is the only entity within DOD that



LTC Jack Pellicci, DCMA-New York, addresses the audience after winning the 2004 *AC of the Year Award (LTC/GS-14)*.

provides contractual oversight and processing throughout the entire United States for Duty Free Entry of military materiel including critical spares in support of *OIF*.

Pellicci restructured his command into a leaner, more streamlined organization, focusing more efforts and resources on improving customer satisfaction and response time. Additionally, assigned manpower levels

were reduced by 45 percent over a 2-year period. He then skillfully cross-trained and positioned the majority of his workforce into more direct customer support roles. Finally, his command reduced its overage contracts with final acceptance dates over 5 years old by 60 percent.

#### AC of the Year — COL/GS-15

COL Ainsworth Mills, DCMA-Philadelphia, garnered honors as an *AC of the Year* for his exceptional leadership of one of the largest contract management offices within DCMA. He led 346 civilian and military acquisition professionals in managing more than 16,000 contracts from all services, defense agencies and NASA valued at nearly \$10 billion. Mills had just returned from a deployment in Central Iraq as an AC in direct support of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) during *OIF*.

As a result of Mills' leadership, DCMA-Philadelphia received recognition from the Secretary of Defense for pricing assistance under the Oil for Food program and accolades for work performed in support of the Army Transformation Industrial Base Study. During his deployment to Iraq, Mills was responsible for overseeing contracts dealing with base



COL Ainsworth Mills, Commander, DCMA-Philadelphia, accepts the *AC of the Year Award (COL/GS-15)* from Secretary Bolton.

camp operations, security, linguists, the rebuilding of the oil infrastructure and the Iraqi broadcasting system.

#### Product Manager (PM) of the Year Award

The *PM of the Year Award* was presented to LTC Joseph Grebe, PM Battle Command Sustainment Support System, PEO C3T. Grebe oversees a program responsible for designing, developing, acquiring, testing, approving and fielding more than 1,600 different products for Army combatant commanders. Upon assuming command, he discovered the need to transform the Combat Service Support (CSS) Control System, into a useful and acceptable battlefield asset. This product is a decision support system that assists commanders and their staffs in planning and executing CSS operations.

Likewise, he conducted extensive market surveillance and target research to discover a commercial-off-the-shelf



LTC Joseph Grebe, Battle Command Sustainment Support System, PEO C3T, receives the *Product Manager of the Year Award* from Secretary Bolton for designing, developing, acquiring, testing, approving and fielding more than 1,600 different products to Army combatant commanders.

product that could be used to produce a significantly smaller and user-friendly product for combatant commanders. He then created a credible and persuasive communications strategy that addressed the new product's transformation features to all stakeholders. During this transformation process, Grebe was recognized for exemplifying the highest standards of dedication, acquisition discipline, judicious use of risk, technical innovation and industry cooperation.

#### Project Manager (PM) of the Year Award

COL N. Lee S. Price, PM Defense Communications and Army Transmissions Systems, PEO Enterprise Information Systems, was responsible for more than 121 projects, including *Reachback* for deployed forces, worldwide satellite ground systems, terrestrial microwave communications systems, radio systems for first responders and combat vehicle intercom systems. She is responsible for upgrading technical control facilities, relocating and upgrading command center information systems and commercializing tactical assets in Iraq and Kuwait.

Price led her team to field the CSS Very Small Aperture Terminal — a leading-edge satellite communications system — to the first Unit of Action, the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized). This system is hailed as a significant combat multiplier as it allows Soldiers to rapidly change their



COL Lee Price, PM Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems, PEO Enterprise Information Systems, receives the coveted *Project Manager of the Year Award* from Secretary Bolton. She was recognized for successfully managing 121 projects, including *Reachback*, and overseeing the upgrade of technical control facilities, the relocation and upgrade of command center information systems and the commercialization of tactical assets in Iraq and Kuwait.

processes, freeing them to do other mission-essential tasks. Likewise, it has saved trips between units in the field, keeping Soldiers out of harm's way by reducing the number of convoys deployed on potentially dangerous overland supply routes.

In addition, Price's project office was selected by the CPA to provide U.S. Embassy personnel communications in the Baghdad area. She also assisted a nonprofit foundation in providing more than \$10 million of free Internet access to troops stationed in Iraq.

### Closing Remarks

In closing this year's awards event, Bolton explained that, "People are central to everything we do. 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.

"Every day the dedicated men and women of our Army Acquisition Corps go beyond the call of duty to make a positive and lasting impact on how our Soldiers protect America's freedom," Dellarocco reminded the audience. "The accomplishments and milestones set and achieved by this year's Army Research and Development Labs and Secretary of the Army Awards recipients for Acquisition Commander, Project Manager and Product Manager need no further elaboration — they speak for themselves and set measurable standards of performance to which we all can aspire. I hope one and all will draw inspiration from the accomplishments of the outstanding teams and individuals recognized here tonight."

This year's event attracted more than 370 guests, and ASC Event Coordinator Betisa Brown suggested that it's not too early to mark your calendars for next year's Awards Ceremony to be held Sunday, Oct. 2, 2005. Brown can be reached at (703) 805-2441 or via e-mail at **betisa.brown@us.army.mil**. Questions on awards submission criteria and timelines should be directed to ASC Awards Coordinator Ann Incorvati at (703) 805-1070 or **ann.incorvati@us.army.mil**.

*Mike Roddin is Strategic Communications Director, ASC, Fort Belvoir, VA, and Editor-in-Chief, Army AL&T Magazine.*

*Editor's Notes: Ann L. Incorvati, Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC) Program Analyst, ASC Program Structure and Information Analysis Division, Fort Belvoir, VA, contributed to this article.*

## Army Civilians Selected for GMAP II

The state-of-the-art, part residency, part distance-learning Global Master of Arts Program (GMAP) II of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Medford, MA, is designed for midcareer-level professionals serving in the security assistance/security cooperation fields. GMAP II enhances the skills of selected civilian and military personnel working in international affairs positions.

The program's purpose is to improve the quality and professionalism of the DOD International Affairs and Army Security Assistance Workforce. This prestigious course of study helps tomorrow's leaders grow and builds personal relationships at the midmanagement level among the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, military departments, other federal agencies, international foreign military sales customers and defense industry organizations.

GMAP II admission criteria are exacting and applicants must pass both an Army board and an academic panel at Tufts University. This year, 3 Army candidates were selected for the 12-month graduate degree program starting in March 2005. This year's Army selectees are:

- Brent M. Law, Lead International Program Specialist, Precision Fires Project Office, Program Executive Office (PEO) Tactical Missiles, Redstone Arsenal, AL.
- John H. Daniele, Director, Industry and Multinational Affairs, PEO Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, Orlando, FL.
- Vane Morrison, DOD Security Assistance Training Field Activity, Fort Monroe, VA.

Congratulations to this year's GMAP II student candidates!

### Acquisition Trivia

The acquisition process is designed to provide a needed capability to the Soldier in the shortest practical time while concurrently reducing risk, ensuring affordability and providing adequate information for decision making.