



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
ACQUISITION LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY
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WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0103

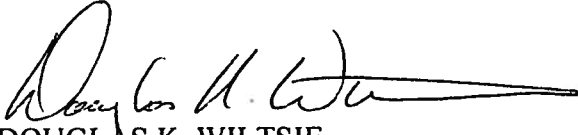
SAAL-SSI

JUL 24 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR Director, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, ATTN: Mr. Craig Spisak, USAASC, 9900 Belvoir Road, Suite 201, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

SUBJECT: Nomination of Ms. Nickee Abbott for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, Engineering and Systems Integration Professional of the Year Award

1. I enthusiastically endorse Ms. Nickee Abbott, Director of Engineering and Integration for the Army Rapid Capabilities Office and System of Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, 2017 Army Acquisition Executive's Excellence in Leadership Award for Engineering and Systems Integration Professional of the Year.
2. Ms. Abbott spearheaded the engineering and systems integration efforts resulting from the standup of the Army Rapid Capabilities Office, bringing a strategic approach to delivering high-priority technologies to meet urgent and emerging threats.
3. Ms. Abbott seized the opportunity to take on the additional mission and is now setting a precedent for incremental and rapid integration of capabilities for operational assessment by combining multiple programs of record, as well as emerging technologies from industry and government, to create new prototypes.
4. Ms. Abbott also led the engineering implementation of the Army's strategic vision for its tactical network, which enables commanders and Soldiers to communicate critical battlefield information across vast distances and in harsh environments, by building the architecture for the Network Integration Evaluations, Joint Warfighting Assessments and resulting Capability Sets.
5. Ms. Abbott possesses a Level 3 certification in Engineering and a Level 3 certification in Program Management. She became an Acquisition Corps Member in 2004 and sits in a Critical Acquisition Position. Ms. Abbott has completed several leadership courses to include one at Wharton and two at Harvard. Ms. Abbott has two Masters Degrees; one on Strategic Studies and one in Electrical Engineering.
6. The point of contact is Ms. Nancy Tate, 586 282-5091, nancy.y.tate.civ@mail.mil.


DOUGLAS K. WILTSIE
Executive Director, System of Systems
Engineering and Integration

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology

2017 Army Acquisition Executive's (AAE) Excellence in Leadership Award

ENGINEER AND SYSTEM INTEGRATOR OF THE YEAR

Administrative Information

Nominating Organization

Organization's Name: System of Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate

Mailing Address: 103 Army Pentagon (SAAL-SSI)

Address (continued):

City: Washington, DC Zip: 20310-0103

Primary Point of Contact

This is the person who should be contacted if there are any questions about the submission.

Name: Nancy Tate

Title: Project Officer

Telephone: 586-282-5091

E-mail: Nancy.y.tate.civ@mail.mil

Name, Grade, and Position Title of Nominee

Name: Nickee L. Abbott

Grade: NH-0801-04

Title: Director, Engineering and Integration

E-mail: Nickee.k.abbott.civ@mail.mil

Award Narrative

Recognizing that our adversaries' capabilities are evolving faster than the Army's traditional acquisition process can often support, the Army stood up the Rapid Capabilities Office in August 2016, launching a strategic approach to deliver high-priority technologies to meet urgent and emerging threats. At the same time, the Army continues to modernize a meticulously engineered, integrated and validated tactical mission command network that enables commanders and Soldiers to communicate critical battlefield information across vast distances and in harsh environments. Ms. Nickee Abbott stands alone in executing both of these crucial efforts for the Army, serving as the Director, Engineering and Integration for the Army Rapid Capabilities Office and the System of Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate.

Specific achievements:

Already with a full plate as the chief engineer for the System of Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate, Ms. Abbott seized the opportunity to take on the additional mission of leading the engineering and integration efforts of the newly created Army Rapid Capabilities Office. As the new office synthesized operational needs from across the force, Ms. Abbott spearheaded the resulting engineering and systems integration efforts to accelerate capabilities to Soldiers. She did so by combining multiple programs of record, as well as emerging technologies from industry and government, to create new rapid prototypes. One of these solutions is an electronic warfare capability that addresses an operational needs statement from United States Army Europe against the near-peer Russian threat. Through that project, approved by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army, Ms. Abbott is setting a precedent for incremental and rapid integration of prototypes for operational assessment and delivery. In doing so, Ms. Abbott created and tailored engineering and integration processes that focus on getting the capability into the hands of operators quickly to meet a specific threat, then learning from their experiences over time on how to improve the prototype. Her application of agile development, assessment and delivery and working hand-in-hand with the electronic warfare program office, is reducing risk for long-term programs of record. Her superior performance in executing these enormous responsibilities continues to add to the security of our nation.

Value of the nominee's contributions during the award period to the mission of one's organization in supporting one or more of the ASA(ALT)'s priorities:

Ms. Abbott is also leading the Army's strategic vision for its tactical network by building the architecture for the Network Integration Evaluations, Joint Warfighting Assessments and resulting Capability Sets. Due to her expertise and diligence, the Army has engineered and fielded integrated capability sets of tactical vehicles, network and mission command equipment to units from the 10th Mountain, 101st Airborne (Air Assault), 82nd Airborne, 1st Armored, 2nd Infantry, 1st Cavalry and 25th Infantry Divisions. In total, Ms. Abbott's engineering and integration efforts enabled the Army to execute capability set fieldings to 14 Brigade Combat Teams and eight Division Headquarters through July 2017. Ms. Abbott leads her team of engineers in the technical legwork to make this process possible by formulating an integrated network baseline, which determines system functionality, interoperability and all configuration settings and mission threads, for each exercise or fielding event. She also provides the technical analysis that allows Army senior leaders to make informed judgments about which capabilities provide the most reliable and valuable communications for the Soldier. Ms. Abbott's expertise

enables the Army to rapidly build and adjust its network architecture in accordance with its modernization and readiness needs.

Demonstration of leadership:

Ms. Abbott's ability to bring together stakeholders is unmatched. In her role, she must coordinate efforts at the highest levels across Army leadership, including the Army Training and Doctrine Command, Army Forces Command, Army Materiel Command, Army Cyber Command and other critical organizations. This collaboration also reaches beyond the Army to include the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Strategic Capabilities Office, Defense Innovation Unit-Experimental, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and other armed services. On any given day, Ms. Abbott manages a team of more than 80 engineers, planners and subject matter experts to provide strategic technical design in line with Army modernization objectives through network architecture and validation; capability integration and evaluation; and program of record synchronization. In doing so, she executes a disciplined system of systems engineering process and schedule, synchronized across Army program executive offices and project managers. She is regularly at the forefront of modernization efforts, providing system of systems engineering expertise and analysis to support Army decision making.

Engineer and system integrator specific criteria:

Ms. Abbott expertly serves as lead engineer and integrator for the Network Integration Evaluation and Joint Warfighting Assessment teams that plan, manage, execute and support the design, integration and fielding of diverse systems and capabilities. Since the Network Integration Evaluations began in 2011, more than 270 capabilities were evaluated and more than 130 demonstrations and risk reduction events were conducted. This continuous cycle of organized evaluation events helps the Army keep pace with the speed of technology, incorporate Soldier feedback into how systems are designed and trained and informs Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for using the technologies in the field. As the leading force for Network Integration Evaluation and Joint Warfighting Assessment engineering efforts, Ms. Abbott has supported Headquarters Department of Army initiatives by synchronizing the equipment and platform design, engineering, integration, fielding and sustainment across the Army. She leads the team that has assisted more than 50 project managers and five program executive offices in their efforts to improve their respective systems by providing: technical data packages and red-lined engineering documents; no-cost collaboration and consultation with the subject matter experts and field service representatives; valuable Soldier feedback and trouble ticket analysis. The addition of the Joint Warfighting Assessments this year meant that Ms. Abbott, went from a schedule that tests 10-15 systems a year to assessing 75-80 systems every six months.

Ms. Abbott demonstrated superb leadership through her actions to modernize technologies through innovative prototyping efforts with the Rapid Capabilities Office and in leading the Network Integration Evaluation, Joint Warfighting Assessment and Capability Set fielding processes with the System of Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate. Together, these efforts deliver constantly evolving, integrated technologies to the United States Soldier. Ms. Abbott's technical expertise, critical ability to reach across organizations and swift response to emerging needs is successfully meeting the needs of Army readiness.

Award Citation

For outstanding performance while serving as the Director, Engineering and Integration for the System of Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate. Ms. Nickee Abbott provided outstanding leadership and technical expertise in the modernization of United States Army capabilities to improve the readiness of the operational force. She was critical in synchronizing the engineering and integration of critical capabilities in the standup of the Army Rapid Capabilities Office to meet Combatant Command needs and deliver prototype solutions to close gaps against rapidly modernizing adversaries. Ms. Abbott's distinctive accomplishments reflect great credit upon her, the System of Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate and the Department of the Army.