



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND - NEW JERSEY  
BLDG 10B, PHIPPS ROAD  
PICATINNY ARSENAL, NJ 07806

ACC-NJ

15 September 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center (AASC), 9900 Belvoir Road,  
Building 201, Suite 101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

SUBJECT: Nomination for 2017 Secretary of the Army Award Excellence in Contracting

1. It is with great pride that I endorse Mr. Steven B. Piggott for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting in the category of the Barbara C. Heald (Deployed Civilian) Special Award. Mr. Steven B. Piggott serves as a Contract Specialist within the Army Contracting Command – New Jersey, but for the past year has been supporting the Army's mission within Afghanistan, assigned to the Expeditionary Contracting Command – Afghanistan.
2. Mr. Piggott excelled in his service while deployed to Afghanistan. The award would be a small token of appreciation for his resound successes while deployed. He is a prime example of the Army's civilian workforces' commitment to the Warfighter. He provided exceptional support during Operations Freedom's Sentinel clearly demonstrated and embodied his unique, outstanding qualities, extraordinary commitment, demonstrating professionalism in contracting; and his dedication to selfless public service supporting the mission of the United States Army in Afghanistan.
3. The point of contact for this memorandum is Mrs. Jacqueline E. Alpaugh at 973-724-4177 or [jacqueline.e.alpaugh.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jacqueline.e.alpaugh.civ@mail.mil).

PAUL MILENKOWIC  
Executive Director  
Army Contracting Command – New Jersey

ENCL: Nomination Package

## **2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting**

### **Nomination Submission Format**

*The information below does not count toward the two-page limit. That limit applies to the summary only.*

#### **Nominating Organization**

Name: Army Contracting Command – New Jersey (ACC-NJ)

Address: BLDG 10B, Phipps Road, Picatinny Arsenal, NJ 07806-5000

Point of contact (POC) name: David Banashefski

POC phone: (973) 724-4369

POC email: david.m.banashefski.civ@mail.mil

#### **Nomination Submission POC**

Name: Jacqueline Alpaugh

Phone number: (973) 724-4177

Email address of action officer: Jacqueline.e.alpaugh.civ@mail.mil

*The action officer is the person who should be contacted if there are any questions about the submission.*

#### **Name, Grade and Position Title of Nominee(s):**

PIGGOTT, STEVEN B. GS-1102-12 Contract and Agreements Specialist

**Nominee Employing Organization (Command/Unit/Organization or Activity):** ACC-NJ

**Nominee Business Address:** BLDG 9, Phipps Road, Picatinny Arsenal, NJ 07086-5000

Select an Award Category for your nominee from the list below: (Please check only **ONE** box.)

#### **Special Awards (5)**

Barbara C. Heald (Deployed Civilian)

Exceptional Support of the Ability One Program

Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst

Contracting Professional of the Year

Contracting NCO of the Year

**2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting, Barbara C. Heald  
(Deployed Civilian) Special Award**

Steven B. Piggott is nominated for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting, Barbara C. Heald (Deployed Civilian) Special Award for exceptional support during Operations Freedom's Sentinel. During his deployment, Mr. Piggott clearly demonstrated and embodied outstanding qualities, extraordinary commitment, dedication, and professionalism in contracting in supporting the mission of the United States Army in Afghanistan.

Mr. Piggott was deployed in support of the Expeditionary Contracting Command – Afghanistan (ECC-A), as a member of the Army Contracting Command's (ACC) Deployable Cadre Program. As a Contract Specialist, he was responsible for a diverse workload for priority requirements in support of the NATO Resolute Support (RS) Commander and the Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (CSTC-A). Mr. Piggott was responsible for the contract execution and/or administration of the following priority requirements; Bulk Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants for Afghan National Defense Security Forces (ANDSF), the Afghan Personnel and Pay System (APPS), and medical purchases, including vaccines and pharmaceutical supplies.

In executing his mission responsibilities, Mr. Piggott simultaneously provided expert contract administration for over 26 contracts valued at more than \$416 million dollars as well as supported pre-award support and customer requirements generation. He was instrumental in the solicitation, source selection and eventual award of two multiple year IDIQ contracts for bulk fuel valued at approximately \$450M and \$270M respectively. These two contracts provided ACC Rock Island with critically important lead times to allow the award of an enterprise \$1.3 billion dollar fuel contract. Additionally, Mr. Piggott demonstrated a high degree of proficiency relating to federal regulations, theater-wide policies and procedures, and local guidance and instruction which was critical to his support to Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

As part of his support of bulk fuel procurements, Mr. Piggott planned, conducted and executed an Industry Day in Kabul in which international and regional industry leaders came together to solve the Army's requirement for procuring bulk fuels on behalf of the ANDSF. Mr. Piggott briefed senior USG and industry leaders on lessons learned regarding fuel delivery in Afghanistan. This invaluable information was well received by industry and aided in the Government developing the right acquisition strategy for mission success. His communication skills were an integral component of, and reflected through the support he provided to the requirement activity. He always strived to "work to yes" with the customer, ensuring open lines of communication between all parties, while protecting the Government's interests.

During his deployment, Steven also directed the award, management and administration of over \$234 million dollars in vital petroleum, oil and lubricant support to the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, and Afghan Air Force; all provinces in Afghanistan. He also supported and managed fuel contracts to sustain power plants essential to the effectiveness of the Afghanistan Government. This effort ensured the delivery and accountability of more than 97 million gallons of fuel across the Combined Joint Theater of Operations - Afghanistan. These

bulk fuels directly supported decisive Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior planned and emergent security operations across Afghanistan, as well as provided fuel for life support and sustainment. Provisioning of bulk fuel supplies and delivery is a strategic imperative to maintaining operational activities, supporting emergent operations, and enabling life support and installation operations and security training. These activities are integral to the development of an affordable, successful and self-sustaining Afghan force.

In ensuring rapid and responsive acquisition support and deliveries for fuel, Mr. Piggott proved to be a critical enabler to the combat effectiveness of Afghan security forces, allowing ANDSF to launch their continued campaign to combat insurgency and fuel counter-terrorism operations throughout the country.

While serving in Afghanistan, Steve was also selected to serve as the single Contract Specialist for Project Management Office (PMO) Afghan Personnel and Pay System (APPS), providing acquisition support to the PMO. During development of the APPS servers were breached, where Afghan Personal Identification Information was compromised. Mr. Piggott successfully provided contracting expertise to ensure additional security services and firewalls were put in place to prevent further security threats.

Mr. Piggott became an essential resource to the Command, often providing operational support and knowledge to his senior leaders across CENTCOM and ACC. Mr. Piggott's drive and willingness to complete the mission was critical to the overall success of the United States Army in Afghanistan.

### **AWARD CITATION**

For exceptional customer service and contracting innovation, Mr. Steven B. Piggott is recognized for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting, Barbara C. Heald (Deployed Civilian) Special Award. Mr. Piggott was instrumental in the management and development of innovative contracting solutions for the procurement and administration of Afghan National Defense Security Forces critical requirements. Mr. Piggott was instrumental in the solicitation, source selection and eventual award of two multiple year IDIQ contracts for bulk fuel valued at approximately \$450M and \$270M respectively. Additionally, he provided expert contract administration for over 26 contracts valued at more than \$416 million dollars, as well as supported pre-award support and customer requirements generation. His contracting expertise and innovative solutions were key contributors to the success of the United States mission in Afghanistan. Mr. Piggott's contributions to supporting the warfighter reflect great credit upon herself, the Army Contracting Command and the United States Army.



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND – ROCK ISLAND**  
3055 Rodman Avenue  
ROCK ISLAND, IL 61299-8000

**SEP 19 2017**

CCRC

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, 9900 Belvoir Road,  
Building 201, Suite 101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5567

SUBJECT: Army Contracting Command-Rock Island Endorsement of 2017 Secretary  
of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting (SAAEC)

1. It is with great pleasure that I endorse Mr. Richard J. Lee for Exceptional Support of the Ability One Program for the 2017 SAAEC.
2. Mr. Lee is amongst this Command's finest and has demonstrated excellence in the accomplishments of the mission. I strongly recommend your highest consideration of this outstanding individual for subject award.
3. My point of contact for this action is Ms. Lisa Swank, CCRC-BA, 309-782-3023 or DSN 793-3023, e-mail [lisa.j.swank.civ@mail.mil](mailto:lisa.j.swank.civ@mail.mil)

  
JAY T. CARR  
Executive Director

**UNCLASSIFIED**

## **2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting**

### **Nominating Organization**

Name: Army Contracting Command-Rock Island

Address: 3055 Rodman Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61299-8000

Point of contact (POC) name: Mark E. Mower

POC phone: 309-782-1169

POC email: mark.e.mower.civ@mail.mil

### **Nomination Submission POC**

Name: Lisa Swank

Phone number: 309-782-3023

Email address of action officer: lisa.j.swank.civ@mail.mil

### **Name, Grade and Position Title of Nominee(s):**

Richard J. Lee, GS-1102-13, Contract Specialist

### **Nominee Employing Organization (Command/Unit/Organization or Activity):**

Army Contracting Command-Rock Island

### **Nominee Business Address:**

3055 Rodman Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61299-8000

### **Special Awards (5)**

Barbara C. Heald (Deployed Civilian)

Exceptional Support of the Ability One Program

Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst

Contracting Professional of the Year

Contracting NCO of the Year

## **Citation**

Mr. Richard J. Lee, in his role as the Closeout Contracting Officer, is recognized for his dedication and hard work in support of the Ability One Program. His continuous efforts and leadership style have resulted in the continued success of the Ability One program located at the Army Contracting Command-Rock Island. He has demonstrated his commitment to foster individuals with disabilities and wounded warriors. Mr. Lee's dedication to excellence and his efforts to ensure that Ability One personnel are provided with meaningful and challenging work is a credit to himself, the Army Contracting Command, and the U.S. Army.



## **Summary**

### **Description of Services:**

Mr. Richard J. Lee, Army Contracting Command – Rock Island (ACC-RI), Contracting Support Division, is nominated for the Exceptional Support of the Ability One Program Award. Mr. Lee is a Contracting Officer within this Division. His efforts were instrumental in the establishment of a new contract for Contract Closeout Services which provided for additional job opportunities for individuals with disabilities employed through Ability One in support of ACC-RI's Field Support Contracting mission. Mr. Lee's extraordinary achievements are aligned with the goals and vision of the Ability One Program. Mr. Lee's dedication and efforts have resulted in the continued success of the Ability One Program at ACC-RI. Ability One personnel are valuable partners in support of ACC-RI's Afghanistan and contract closeout missions. Mr. Lee's actions and leadership ability have fully supported the mission and vision of the Ability One Program.

### **Specific Achievements Supporting the Mission:**

Mr. Lee identified a need for out-year support and added four option year periods to the contract that was awarded in September 2016 for a total value of \$3.76 million. He also identified a need by ACC-RI to have its overaged non-contingency contracts closed out. Flexibility was built into the Statement of Work to allow for this. To help improve communications with Ability One, he started weekly meetings to discuss status and any issues, which has provided great benefit to the working relationship.

Mr. Lee assumed the role of the Closeout Contracting Officer in October 2015. During the nomination period, Mr. Lee was responsible for the workload oversight for 17 personnel of which 11 are Ability One personnel. During the timeframe for this award, Ability One personnel closed out 413 contingency contracts which equates to approximately 53 percent of the total contingency workload. Under Mr. Lee's leadership and support, the Ability One personnel have proven that they are a valuable part of the ACC-RI team and have made significant contributions to the Afghanistan contract closeout mission. It is because of this success that three additional positions were added to focus on closing out ACC-RI's overaged contracts.

### **Innovation Solutions:**

During this nomination period, Mr. Lee has made several innovative changes to ensure the continued success of the Ability One personnel. First, Mr. Lee discovered the need to provide training to the Ability One personnel to ensure consistency and to provide the opportunity for people to ask questions. This training was on cost contracts and on the closeout process. Specifically, Mr. Lee, Ability One personnel, and Defense Finance and Account Service met to discuss the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the closeout process when it comes to financial issues. As a result of this meeting, each participant now has a better understanding of

what needs to be done so that these contracts can be closed in a streamlined matter without numerous delays. Each participant knows what needs to be done, and by whom.

Finally, he ensured that the appropriate Ability One personnel participated in biweekly meetings with the DFAS. By doing this, the Ability One personnel have a greater understanding and appreciation for the issues causing a delay in the closeout of these contingency contracts.

### **Individual Career Professional Qualities:**

Mr. Lee has over 35 years of Government contracting experience, including 12 years as a Contracting Officer. During his contracting career, he has worked on major programs such as Apache, Program Executive Office - Aviation, Chemical Demilitarization programs, and Global Maintenance and Supply Services. Under the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act, he is Level III certified in Contracting. In addition, he holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Management from the University of Arkansas. Mr. Lee participated in the 2006-2007 U.S. Army Sustainment Command, Journey to Leadership – Tier II program. Mr. Lee was a member of the 2009 Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting, Logistics Support (Sustainment) Contracting Division award. Mr. Lee was also a member of the 2010 Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting, Logistics Support (Sustainment) Contracting Division award.

### **Contributions to Career Field:**

Mr. Lee has over 12 years of experience in a team leadership position. Over these years, he has been and continues to be a caring mentor to his team members. He conducts weekly meetings with his team to foster communications. He goes above and beyond helping them to achieve their full career potential and to ensure they gain a variety of experiences.

### **Professionalism:**

Mr. Lee displays the highest level of professionalism. He is a true role model to his subordinates and others. He is committed to the highest level of integrity and makes personal sacrifices to serve all of his customers. In addition, he has earned the respect of his peers and leaders.

### **Contributions to the Contracting Profession:**

In Mr. Lee's role as Closeout Contracting Officer, he has supported people with disabilities and diversity. He has done everything within his power to ensure that the Ability One personnel are given every opportunity to excel and enhance their contracting skills which will increase their ability to secure permanent employment in the future. He has also been an advocate of the Minority Intern Program for the past several years, which demonstrates his passion to support diversity.



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND - ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND  
4401 BOOTHBY HILL AVENUE  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21005-3013

CCAP-OPB

18 September 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, 9900 Belvoir Road, Building 201, Suite 101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

SUBJECT: Nomination for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting – Special Awards

1. I highly recommend the nomination of the New England Soldier Systems and Individual Equipment (NESSIE) Team for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting in the category of Exceptional Support of the AbilityOne Program. The NESSIE Team is with the Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Natick Contracting Division.
2. The NESSIE Team takes pride in leveraging the AbilityOne Program as a unique acquisition strategy to meet the customer's need, provide the best value to the taxpayer, and to support the disabled. The Team executed approximately 40 contracting actions supporting AbilityOne on behalf of Program Manager – Soldier Clothing and Individual Equipment. The total dollar amount obligated against those contracts was approximately \$63 million and the number of jobs at AbilityOne participating nonprofit agencies that supported these contract actions exceeded 400 positions.
3. The point of contact for this action is Ms. Diane Seitz, (410) 278-7672 or [diane.f.seitz.civ@mail.mil](mailto:diane.f.seitz.civ@mail.mil).

Encl

  
KENYATA L. WESLEY, SR.  
Executive Director

# **2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting**

## **Nomination Submission**

### **Nominating Organization**

Name: Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground (ACC-APG), Natick Division

Address: 7 General Greene Ave., Bldg 1, 3rd Floor, Natick, MA 01760

Point of contact (POC) name: Justin G. Baker

POC phone: 508-233-6191

POC email: [justin.g.baker3.civ@mail.mil](mailto:justin.g.baker3.civ@mail.mil)

### **Nomination Submission POC**

Name: Diane F. Seitz

Phone number: 410-278-7672

Email address of action officer: [diane.f.seitz.civ@mail.mil](mailto:diane.f.seitz.civ@mail.mil)

*The action officer is the person who should be contacted if there are any questions about the submission.*

**Name, Grade and Position Title of Nominees:** New England Soldier Systems and Individual Equipment (NESSIE) Team members:

Matthew R. Buchanan, GS-1102-13, Contract Specialist

Mark A. Marchioli, GS-1102-13, Contracting Officer

Sean P. Murphy, GS-1102-14, Branch Chief

Jason G. Papadopoulos, GS-1102-11, Contract Specialist

### **Nominee Employing Organization (Command/Unit/Organization or Activity):**

Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Natick Contracting Division

### **Nominee Business Address:**

Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Natick Contracting Division

7 General Greene Ave., Bldg 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Natick, MA 01760

Select an Award Category for your nominee from the list below:

(Please check only **ONE** box.)

### **Special Awards (3)**

Barbara C. Heald (Deployed Civilian)

Exceptional Support of the Ability One Program

Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst

### **Summary**

In Aug 2008, Mr. Shay Assad, Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing issued a memorandum to the acquisition workforce challenging contracting personnel to find more opportunities to contract with AbilityOne-participating Non-Profit Agencies (NPA). In July 2012, Mr. Assad issued another memorandum, not only renewing his call for more opportunities for AbilityOne NPAs, but also going into further detail on how the AbilityOne Program employs wounded veterans.

The nominees identified above have demonstrated unusual initiative, skill, and commitment in utilizing the AbilityOne Program to meet the challenges of an ever-changing Army. The Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground, Natick Contracting Division (ACC-APG, NCD), New England Soldier Systems and Individual Equipment (NESSIE) Branch has repeatedly gone above and beyond to support Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier's Product Manager – Soldier Clothing and Individual Equipment (PdM-SCIE) efforts to field the best equipment possible in the shortest time possible under changing combat and fiscal conditions. A core NESSIE value in that approach is to leverage the AbilityOne Program as a unique acquisition strategy to meet the customer's need, provide the best value to the taxpayer, and to support the disabled. Through the utilization of the AbilityOne Program, NESSIE has successfully met all of PdM-SCIE's mission requirements for clothing and individual equipment by awarding contracts that provide quality and timely delivered products required by the warfighter in various environments, from arid to jungle to cold-weather climates.

During the period from May 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, NESSIE has executed approximately 40 contracts to AbilityOne NPAs on behalf of PdM-SCIE. The total dollar amount obligated by these contracts is approximately \$63 million dollars, and created more than 400 jobs for the blind and disabled at AbilityOne-participating NPAs. The items produced by the NPAs include (but not limited to): Army Combat Shirt (ACS), Improved First Aid Kit, Version 2 (IFAK-2), Improved Hot Weather Combat Uniform (IHWCU), Multipurpose Personal Hydration Systems (MPHS), Flame Resistant Army Combat Uniform (FRACU) Coat & Trouser, and Flame Resistant Environmental Ensemble (FREE).

Through the Manufacturing and Development (M&D) FPL vehicle, NESSIE is able to speed the testing and development of changes to existing items. The M&D tool allows the introduction of technological improvements and testing of design changes to individual equipment and to test the manufacturability of requirements in the research and development phase for PdM-SCIE. Being able to conduct research and development utilizing a small scale approach and leveraging the expertise of the AbilityOne NPA manufacturing base provides additional cost savings to the Government. M&D programs typically result in adjustment to current specifications or the addition of new items to the Federal Program List. During this period, the following items were manufactured and tested under the M&D program: Hydration Bladder Cleaning Kits; Airborne Tactical Assault Panel (ATAP); Overwhites; ACS-Female; and IHWCU. The Hydration Bladder Cleaning Kits and IHWCU were both successfully added to the FPL after going through the M&D program during this period.

In addition, NESSIE has worked with PdM-SCIE on an anticipated Chief of Staff of the Army GEN Milley directed requirement for the Army Service Uniform (ASU), also known as the Pinks

and Greens uniform. As part of the acquisition strategy, NESSIE is working with the limited commercial industry base with manufacturing experience of the ASU to form Mentor-Protégé relationships with AbilityOne NPAs to increase their capability to manufacture this more complex and difficult uniform. The intent is to add ASU manufacturing components, such as the dress shirt and pant, partially to the FPL. This is projected to be a \$350M program and will drive considerable new work to the AbilityOne Program utilizing Industry relationships to reduce the Government's risk, and increasing the industrial base's capability, while further demonstrating our support of the AbilityOne Program.

These efforts not only reflect NESSIE's level of commitment to the AbilityOne Program, but also reflects a clear understanding and commitment to the guidance issued by Mr. Assad. NESSIE's actions have demonstrated that they are a DoD leader in the area of support to AbilityOne Programs and sets an example for other DoD contracting agencies.

Because of their efforts, NESSIE was awarded the SourceAmerica 2014 Government Award for Products. This prestigious award is presented to the Government Agency that has demonstrated commitment and growth to the AbilityOne Program. During the presentation of this award, Mr. Assad specifically recognized Natick by name as a leader in its commitment to the AbilityOne Program, and his acknowledgement of such. That commitment has not waived since this time.

All members of the team nominated have demonstrated the professional contracting qualities necessary to understand, utilize and leverage FAR SUBPART 8.7 – ACQUISITION FROM NONPROFIT AGENCIES EMPLOYING PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED to support the customer's mission. The nominated team has not only demonstrated a high level of understanding and ability to apply FAR SUBPART 8.7, but they have also demonstrated a high level of professionalism by establishing a trusted, committed partnership between AbilityOne, PdM-SCIE, NESSIE and Ability-One non-profit agencies. The NESSIE contributions have resulted in quality contracts for clothing and equipment required to support stateside and deployed soldiers and product improvements that increase comfort, reduce weight, and positively impact the soldier; the creation of jobs for people with disabilities; and successful implementation of the guidance from Mr. Assad for contracting personnel to increase contract opportunities with AbilityOne-participating nonprofit agencies.

As a result of these actions, the NESSIE Branch of ACC-APG, Natick Contracting Division is deserving to be considered for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting – Exceptional Support of the AbilityOne Program. Thank you for your consideration of such.

### **Citation**

The nominees have demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting existing and new opportunities under the AbilityOne program. Through effective contracting strategies, this group

has awarded approximately 40 contracting actions with a dollar value of approximately \$63M during the period of 1 May 2016 through 30 June 2017. These actions have created and sustained in excess of 400 jobs for the blind and disabled at SourceAmerica Non-Profit Agencies (NPA). Items manufactured by these contract actions include the Army Combat Shirt (ACS), Improved First Aid Kit, Version 2 (IFAK-2), Improved Hot Weather Combat Uniform (IHWCU), Multipurpose Personal Hydration Systems (MPHS), Flame Resistant Army Combat Uniform (FRACU) Coat & Trouser, and Flame Resistant Environmental Ensemble (FREE). Through the use of the Manufacturing & Development (M&D) Federal Procurement List (FPL) vehicle, it provides NCD with a reactive tool to introduce and test the manufacturability of technological improvements to new and existing product portfolios for NCD customers, decreasing the test and evaluation schedule for program offices. Successful programs added to the FPL as a result of testing in the M&D program include the Hydration Bladder Cleaning Kits and the Improved Hot Weather Combat Uniform.



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND - ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND  
4401 BOOTHBY HILL AVENUE  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21005-3013

CCAP-OPB

18 September 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, 9900 Belvoir Road, Building 201, Suite 101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

SUBJECT: Nomination for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting – Special Awards

1. I am pleased to endorse Ms. Katherine C. Thompson for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting in the category of Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst. Ms. Thompson serves as a Lead Contract Specialist with the Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Division B.
2. Ms. Thompson provided exceptional support in the source selection for the Responsive Strategic Sourcing for Services (RS3) program. She was extremely instrumental in the successful execution of the \$37.4 Billion RS3 multiple award Indefinite-Delivery Indefinite-Quantity (MA IDIQ) contract vehicle, which provides knowledge based professional engineering support services for a diverse group of organizations that span the spectrum of mission areas for programs with Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) related requirements.
3. The point of contact for this nomination is Ms. Diane Seitz, (410) 278-7672, [diane.f.seitz.civ@mail.mil](mailto:diane.f.seitz.civ@mail.mil).

Encl

  
KENYATA L. WESLEY, SR.  
Executive Director



# **2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting**

## **Nomination Submission**

### **Nominating Organization**

Name: Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground (ACC-APG), Division B

Address: 4401 Boothby Hill Avenue, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005

Point of contact (POC) name: Joseph B. Neil

POC phone: 443-861-5071

POC email: [joseph.b.neil2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:joseph.b.neil2.civ@mail.mil)

### **Nomination Submission POC**

Name: Diane F. Seitz

Phone number: 410-278-7672

Email address of action officer: [diane.f.seitz.civ@mail.mil](mailto:diane.f.seitz.civ@mail.mil)

*The action officer is the person who should be contacted if there are any questions about the submission.*

### **Name, Grade and Position Title of Nominee(s):**

Katherine C. Thompson, GS-1102-13, Lead Contract Specialist

### **Nominee Employing Organization (Command/Unit/Organization or Activity):**

Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Division B

### **Nominee Business Address:**

Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Division B

6001 Combat Drive

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005

Select an Award Category for your nominee from the list below:

(Please check only **ONE** box.)

### **Special Awards (5)**

Barbara C. Heald (Deployed Civilian)

Exceptional Support of the Ability One Program

Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst

Contracting Professional of the Year

Contracting NCO of the Year

## Summary

Ms. Katherine C. Thompson is nominated for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting, Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst category based on her exceptional support to the Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground (ACC-APG) in conducting the source selection for the Responsive Strategic Sourcing for Services (RS3) Program.

**Description of services:** Ms. Thompson served as the Contract Specialist for the source selection and was instrumental in the successful execution of the \$37.4 Billion RS3 Multiple Award Indefinite-Delivery Indefinite-Quantity (MA IDIQ) contract vehicle, which provides knowledge based professional engineering support services for a diverse group of organizations that span the spectrum of mission areas for programs with Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) related requirements. Customers include ACC-APG C4ISR customers, other Department of Defense (DoD) agencies, and other federal agencies. Areas of support include Engineering, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E), Logistics, Acquisition and Strategic Planning, and Education and Training. Ms. Thompson provided exceptional support from the acquisition planning phase through to the award of 56 prime contracts at the end of Phase 1 of the source selection, and continues to provide support issuing task orders under RS3 contracts.

**Specific achievements supporting the mission:** As the sole Contract Specialist and primary point of contact for all government and public inquiries, Ms. Thompson was fully responsible for ensuring the successful execution of the RS3 contracts. She led a team of eleven members, providing expert advice to the Source Selection Evaluation Board (SSEB) on their roles and responsibilities, the source selection process, and conducting evaluations. Ms. Thompson went above and beyond by also supporting the RS3 Program Manager at ACC-APG in conducting the market research through extensive communications with industry, developing the acquisition plan and strategy, and independently coordinating and briefing approximately 600 attendees from industry at an Industry Day/Pre-solicitation Conference.

**Innovative solutions:** Ms. Thompson successfully implemented innovative source selection techniques and modified approaches in order to satisfy procurement requirements for the RS3 acquisition. She used a streamlined source selection methodology, which reduced administrative costs to the Army during the source selection process and also reduced bid and proposal costs for contractors. By reducing costs at the base contract level, the Army and the 56 prime contractors are now able to focus resources on meaningful competition and high quality proposals at the task order level. In order to maximize the streamlined methodology, Ms. Thompson obtained approval from the Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting (PARC) and approval from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP) to deviate the source selection requirement which requires the evaluation of small business participation in MA IDIQ source selection. Evaluating small business participation goals at the task order level instead benefits the Army, the contractors, and small businesses by encouraging contractors to submit more accurate and meaningful goals based on information about the specific requirements of the task orders. Ms. Thompson further streamlined the source selection process by using an innovative two phase process. This two phase process resulted in the ability to award contracts

to 56 highly capable contractors at the end of Phase 1, under which the Army immediately began issuing task order requirements. Phase 2 of the source selection is ongoing and may result in further awards to other valuable contractors. By conducting the source selection in two phases, Ms. Thompson successfully met the Army's required timeline for providing these critical services and mitigated protest risk in the process.

**Individual career professional qualities:** Ms. Thompson clearly demonstrates an innate desire and motivation to become an extraordinary contracting professional. She is Level III certified in Contracting and OPM LEAD certified at the Project/Team Lead level. Ms. Thompson is a 2014 Class graduate of the Defense Civilian Emerging Leader Program (DCELP), a highly competitive one-year program that covers topics including leadership, conflict resolution, team building, emotional intelligence, and effective writing. In May 2017, Ms. Thompson completed her Master's Degree in Management specializing in Acquisition and Supply Chain Management, and achieving a 4.0 GPA in her program. She demonstrates a sincere love of learning by continuing to pursue opportunities for self-development in contracting and leadership.

**Contributions to career field:** Ms. Thompson is always readily available to team members to answer questions or participate in discussions in order to contribute to a positive group culture. She regularly shares "lessons learned" and "best practices" based on her experience with the RS3 program with her peers at ACC-APG, as well as with requiring activities, other contracting agencies, and senior leadership. Ms. Thompson received a Coin from Colonel Dennis McGowan, Commander, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, for excellence in supporting the Mission Installation Contracting Command (MICC) by participating in an informal peer review of the draft acquisition strategy and solicitation, and sharing lessons learned and best practices for the Army Marketing and Advertising Program in San Antonio, Texas, based on her experience on the RS3 program.

**Professionalism:** Ms. Thompson upholds the highest degrees of professionalism in all of her contract actions and interactions with coworkers, customers, contractors, and senior leadership at the highest levels. Throughout the RS3 source selection, Ms. Thompson facilitated collaboration with all stakeholders involved, to accomplish the program mission requirements accurately and efficiently while achieving the best value for the Army, working closely with the contracting officer, evaluation board, legal counsel, and senior leadership ensuring a successful and cohesive outcome. She independently prepared and delivered briefings to high ranking officials throughout the source selection process.

**Contributions to the contracting profession:** Ms. Thompson has consistently provided exceptional customer service in order to support the mission and goals of customers by providing guidance, identifying potential acquisition problems, and providing alternative solutions to problems arising during the RS3 acquisition. She meets weekly with her team to provide training and share information regarding best practices, lessons learned, technical and regulatory updates, professional development, and providing the best customer service possible. Ms. Thompson is self-motivated and her demeanor and professional competence make her an ideal candidate for this award. Ms. Thompson is a true professional in every sense of the word and has earned our nomination for the Secretary of the Army Excellence in Contracting Award - Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst.

## **Citation**

**2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting  
Special Award**

**For**

**Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst**

**Is Awarded to**

**Ms. Katherine C. Thompson**

For her outstanding service in conducting the source selection for the Responsive Strategic Sourcing for Services (RS3) program. Ms. Thompson was instrumental in the successful execution of the \$37.4 Billion RS3 Multiple Award Indefinite-Delivery Indefinite-Quantity (MA IDIQ) contract vehicle, which provides knowledge based professional engineering support services for a diverse group of organizations that span the spectrum of mission areas for programs with Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) related requirements. Ms. Thompson continues to contribute to the contracting profession by consistently providing exceptional customer service and sharing lessons learned and best practices based on her experience. Ms. Thompson's achievements are keeping with the highest traditions of duty to the nation and reflect great credit upon herself, the Army Contracting Command and the United States Army.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND- NEW JERSEY  
PICATINNY ARSENAL, NEW JERSEY 07806-5000

ACC-NJ-SW

15 Sept 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center (USAASC)

SUBJECT: Secretary of the Army Excellence in Contracting Award for Contracting Officers Nomination Form, The Contracting Professional of the Year Award

1. I am pleased to recommend Mr. Kevin Puma for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting, Contracting Professional of the Year. Mr. Puma's nomination represents many outstanding achievements, the highest level of performance and professionalism. He deserves formal recognition for his diligent service, integrity and perseverance. It is my pleasure to forward this nomination for consideration.

2. Point of contacts are Therese Grimm, [therese.m.grimm.civ@mail.mil](mailto:therese.m.grimm.civ@mail.mil), 973-724-3942 and Jacqueline Alpaugh, [jacqueline.e.alpaugh.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jacqueline.e.alpaugh.civ@mail.mil), 973-724-4177.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Milenkowic", is positioned above the printed name.

PAUL MILENKOWIC  
Executive Director  
Army Contracting Command – New Jersey

ENCL: Nomination Package

## **2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting**

### **Nomination Submission Format**

#### **Nominating Organization**

Name: U.S. Army Contracting Command – New Jersey  
Address: Phipps Road, Bldg. 9, Picatinny Arsenal, NJ 07806-5000  
Point of contact (POC) name: David Banashefski  
POC phone: 973-724-4369  
POC email: [david.m.banashefski.civ@mail.mil](mailto:david.m.banashefski.civ@mail.mil)

#### **Nomination Submission POC**

Name: Jacqueline Alpaugh  
Phone number: 973-724-4177  
mail address of action officer: [Jacqueline.e.alpaugh.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Jacqueline.e.alpaugh.civ@mail.mil)

#### **Name, Grade and Position Title of Nominee(s):**

Kevin Puma, NH04, Supervisory Contract Specialist, Contracting Officer

#### **Nominee Employing Organization (Command/Unit/Organization or Activity):**

Army Contracting Command – New Jersey, ACC-NJ

#### **Nominee Business Address:**

Select an Award Category for your nominee from the list below:  
(Please check only **ONE** box.)

#### **Special Awards (5)**

Barbara C. Heald (Deployed Civilian)

Exceptional Support of the Ability One Program

Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst

Contracting Professional of the Year

Contracting NCO of the Year

## **Citation**

The 2017 Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting, Contracting Professional of the Year is presented to Mr. Kevin Puma of the Army Contracting Command – New Jersey for exceptional contracting leadership and support while serving as the Contracting Officer for the Modular Handgun System (MHS) Program.

Mr. Puma's commitment to excellence and uncompromising work ethic significantly contributed to the successful January 2017 award of a 10-year contract valued at \$580M for the MHS Program. This historic contract award will result in the procurement of 400,000 Modular Handgun Systems that will be used by all Services. Mr. Puma's outstanding performance reflects great credit upon himself, the Army Contracting Command – New Jersey, and the United States Army.

## **2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting - Contracting Professional of the Year**

Mr. Kevin Puma is nominated for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting, Contracting Professional of the Year based on his outstanding leadership and support to the Modular Handgun System (MHS) Program managed by Program Manager Soldier Weapons (PMSW), Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. While serving as the Procuring Contracting Officer, Mr. Puma played an integral role in keeping this politically charged program on track. This competitive acquisition, valued at \$580M, was initiated in 2015 with the issuance of the Request for Proposal (RFP). The purpose of the MHS procurement was to replace the Beretta M9 service pistol, which had been the Army's standard sidearm since the 1980's. In addition to obtaining a new handgun for the Services, the MHS was procured as a total system which included the handgun, ammunition, accessories, and spare parts which added to the complexity of this acquisition. This historic contract award will result in the procurement of 400,000 Modular Handgun Systems that will be used by all Services.

Mr. Puma was exceptional in providing quality customer support by ensuring timely mission accomplishment. Mr. Puma serves as principal contracts advisor for the MHS program to PMSW and was sought after by PMSW to lead this complex procurement. One of the mission goals, from the on-set of the program, was to see that the program was "born healthy", a term coined by the Program Executive Officer for Soldier at the time. In order to fulfill the goal, Mr. Puma worked closely with the Integrated Product Team (IPT) which included members from all Services, as well as members from the ammunition community to ensure that the Acquisition Plan and Strategy were sound executable documents. There was a tremendous amount of time and effort that went into the planning stages of the MHS acquisition. Mr. Puma's participation on the IPT was instrumental in producing exceptionally high quality program documents which facilitated a clear acquisition path forward for the MHS Program.

Throughout the entire MHS acquisition process, Mr. Puma explored and implemented solutions to issues and processes that helped foster a timely award while minimizing risks that would jeopardize the program schedule. Prior to issuing the MHS RFP, Mr. Puma prepared and issued a draft RFP in order to solicit industry feedback of the requirements and contract structure. Due to the length of the contract which, was ten years, and the fact that this requirement was being procured as a system, there were over 500 contract line items that industry needed to understand in order to properly submit a proposal. Mr. Puma also encouraged and participated in four separate industry days for the MHS program in order to ensure all interested parties clearly understood the Government's requirements and program objectives. While this ultimately extended the issuance date of the final RFP, the extra time spent up front to exchange information with industry and to listen to their feedback was extremely valuable. It allowed for a clearer insight of the requirements by our industry partners, which resulted in the receipt of high quality proposals.

As offerors were eliminated from the competitive process, via the evaluation process, Mr. Puma showed the utmost professionalism by providing each offeror with a face-to-face in-depth debriefing. Mr. Puma went the extra mile to answer questions and to show the Army's transparency of the source selection process. As a result, there was only one protest submitted for this highly competitive acquisition. This GAO protest was ultimately dismissed/denied as a result of the superb support provided by Mr. Puma to



the PM and legal counsel. Due to Mr. Puma's perseverance and contracting excellence throughout the acquisition process, the MHS contract was awarded in a timely manner in January 2017 without any impact to the program schedule. As a result of the contract award, the Government received very favorable terms and conditions regarding the unit price of the handgun and the associated data rights, the Joint Services will reap the benefits of the MHS contract award for years to come while providing the Soldier with the absolute best modular handgun system available.

Mr. Puma demonstrates an outstanding work ethic and sets an example for others around him. Having already earn a Master's degree in Contract Management from the Naval Post Graduate School, Mr. Puma always continues to stay engaged in career enhancing opportunities. Mr. Puma earned a Certificate in Leadership Dynamics in October 2016 from the University of Pennsylvania. This year he completed the third leg of a four course leadership program from the University of Virginia, (Darden School) geared towards earning a second professional certificate with a concentration in leadership.

Mr. Puma is a genuine Army leader who inspires and influences his team members to accomplish organizational goals. He recently was chosen to serve as the Acting Center Director for ACC-NJ's Soldier Weapons Contracting Center, as a means to further develop and hone his leadership skills. Mr. Puma currently manages a group of ten contracting professionals while maintaining a full workload as a Contracting Officer. He is the person that others often seek out for advice and guidance. Mr. Puma was also selected to serve on a selection panel to hire new interns for ACC-NJ. He spent over two weeks interviewing potential new hires. His participation and judgement on this selection panel greatly enabled ACC-NJ to select the best qualified candidates from a very large pool of candidates. This will ensure the organization continues to maintain a robust, diverse, and highly qualified cadre of contracting professionals to support the ever growing military mission.

Mr. Puma is a devoted and dedicated professional. He maintains the Army values on a daily basis and treats all team members with respect and dignity. Mr. Puma encourages everyone around him to be better. He communicates tactfully and effectively with both subordinates and upper management. Mr. Puma is a loyal team member and diligently executes all work assignments with great professionalism.

Mr. Puma is a Level III certified Contracting professional and continuously demonstrates competence, character, and commitment in carrying out his duties. Most recently, Mr. Puma was selected to serve on an IPT panel made up of staff representatives from all of the major contracting centers under ACC. Their charter is to develop AMC Command guidance and policy regarding the acquisition of data, software, and data rights. Mr. Puma is a true steward of the Contracting Profession and adheres to the Army's ethics and values in providing the necessary contracting/business advisory support to ensure our warfighters are properly equipped to perform their mission objectives.



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
ENTERPRISE INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
(PEO EIS)  
9350 HALL ROAD  
FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-5526

SEP 27 2017

SFAE-PS

MEMORANDUM FOR U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center (ATTN: Ms. Vicky DeGuzman), 9900 Belvoir Road, Building 201, Suite 101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5567

SUBJECT: PEO EIS Nomination Endorsement Memorandum for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence, Contracting Professional of the Year Award

1. I am pleased to forward the enclosed nomination of Ms. Stacy R. Watson, Enterprise Solutions Division Director within the Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) office, for the 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence, Contracting Professional of the Year Award.
2. The value of Ms. Watson's contributions cannot be overstated. Her leadership provides the foundation for CHESS to continue its outstanding performance record providing the benefits of continuous vendor competition for best value and consolidating requirements to maximize cost avoidance and leverage the Army's buying power.
3. POC for this action is Ms. Ylander Jones, CHESS Hardware and Services Lead at DSN: 656-8125, 703-806-8125, or email [ylander.a.jones.civ@mail.mil](mailto:ylander.a.jones.civ@mail.mil).

Encl

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "For Patrick W. Burden", is positioned above the typed name.

PATRICK W. BURDEN  
Brigadier General, USA  
Program Executive Officer  
Enterprise Information Systems

## **2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting**

### **Nomination Submission Format**

*The information below does not count toward the two-page limit. That limit applies to the summary only.*

#### **Nominating Organization**

Name: Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS), Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS)

Address: 9351 Hall Road, Bldg. 1456, 1SW1709, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Point of contact (POC) name: Douglas Haskin

POC phone: (703) 806-8399

POC email: douglas.r.haskin.civ@mail.mil

#### **Nomination Submission POC**

Name: Ylander Jones

Phone number: (703) 806-8125

Email address of action officer: ylander.a.jones.civ@mail.mil

*The action officer is the person who should be contacted if there are any questions about the submission.*

#### **Name, Grade and Position Title of Nominee(s):**

Stacy R. Watson      NH-04 Enterprise Solutions Division Director

#### **Nominee Employing Organization (Command/Unit/Organization or Activity):**

Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS), Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS)

#### **Nominee Business Address:**

9351 Hall Road, Bldg. 1456, 1SW1709  
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Select an Award Category for your nominee from the list below:  
(Please check only **ONE** box.)

#### **Special Awards (5)**

Barbara C. Heald (Deployed Civilian)

Exceptional Support of the Ability One Program

Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst

Contracting Professional of the Year

Contracting NCO of the Year

**Nomination packets must include:**

**Citation** (200 word maximum)

2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting  
Contracting Professional of the Year

Ms. Stacy R. Watson is recognized for her outstanding achievements and contributions to the Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) Program Office. Her contracting excellence continually exceeded expectations as she provided direction, guidance and contract recommendations in the issuance and management of 97 contracts to include 5 major IDIQ vehicles with a combined ceiling of over \$31.5 billion that provide Army customers with vehicles to obtain IT software, services, total solutions, and IT commodity hardware. Her exceptional contracting expertise and leadership skills were demonstrated with her efforts in leading multiple working groups and the implementation of category management guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), resulting in a Federal-wide Best in Class designation. Ms. Watson's remarkable performance and dedication to excellence brings great credit upon herself, the CHESS Program Office, and the United States Army.

## **Summary - Exceptional Support of the Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions Program**

The Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) program is the Army's designated source for commercial Information Technology (IT), falling under Enterprise Services (ES) in Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS). CHESS contracts do not charge a fee, and are the mandatory source for Army organization procuring Commercial off the Shelf (COTS) hardware and software, and a preferred source for IT services.

Ms. Stacy R. Watson serves as the Enterprise Solutions Division (ESD) Director for the CHESS Program Office and oversees a team composed of 7 Project Officers (PO). In this capacity, she brings her prior experience as a warranted contracting officer and has been instrumental in CHESS' mission to be the Army's center of excellence for commercial IT acquisition. Ms. Watson's team is responsible for sustaining the current generation of IDIQ contracts and agreements, ensuring an efficient award of the next generation contracts, and planning for the future contracts. She does this all with enthusiasm and professionalism, never missing a beat, and ensuring that the Army has uninterrupted access to these critical IT contracts.

### **Sustaining the current generation contracts**

Ms. Watson's team manages the second generation IDIQ contracts, consisting of Information Technology Enterprise Solutions – Services (ITES-2S), Information Technology Services – Small Business (ITS-SB), Army Desktop and Mobile Computing Contract – 2 (ADMC-2), and Information Technology Enterprise Solutions – Software (ITES-SW). These contracts have a combined ceiling of over \$18 billion, and have been heavily relied upon by Army organizations for a decade. They provide critical hardware and services to the field. In particular, ADMC-2 is currently supporting the Army's migration to Windows 10, which has driven the need for updated office computers to fully utilize the new security features. Her support has directly enabled Army customers to purchase confidently through ADMC-2, ensuring that all items are fully compliant with these new hardware and firmware requirements. With over a million end user devices that require Windows 10, it is critical that CHESS provides a vehicle that takes the guesswork out of customers' hardware purchases.

Ms. Watson has ensured that the current generation contracts remain usable while the next-generation contracts are being awarded. For the ITS-SB contract, which is a critical vehicle for the Army as well as its nine small business primes, Ms. Watson executed a ceiling increase that doubled the contract maximum from \$400 million to \$800 million. She similarly executed bridging strategies for ADMC-2 (period of performance extension) and ITES-SW (ceiling increase) to ensure they remain available for Army use until the follow-on actions are completed.

### **Awarding next-generation contracts**

Ms. Watson's team was responsible for awarding the first of the third-generation CHESS contracts in calendar year 2016, the Information Technology Enterprise Solutions – Hardware (ITES-3H) contract, with a ceiling of \$5 billion and 10-year period of performance. She has also overseen the development and release of the Army Desktop and Mobile Computing – 3 (ADMC-3) and ITES – 3 Services (ITES-3S) Requests for Proposals (RFPs). Combined, these IDIQs are valued at \$17 billion and, when awarded, will provide Army customers with vehicles to obtain

IT services, total solutions, and IT commodity hardware. Both contracts are focused on providing more opportunities for small businesses, which is a win-win for those companies, as well as Army and Federal customers in meeting their small business goals.

#### Moving the Army and CHES into the future

Ms. Watson also is shaping the future of Army IT acquisition as she guides her team in developing contracts and strategies that will take CHES into 2020 and beyond. A significant part of this has been ensuring compliance with category management guidance from the OMB. In order to better leverage the Federal government's buying power as a single enterprise, OMB designated a handful of contracts for mandatory use by all Federal agencies to buy desktops and notebook computers. As a result, Ms. Watson coordinated with stakeholders, ACC-RI, and vendors to add 6 different categories of Government-wide Strategic Solutions (GSS) configurations to the CHES Consolidated Buy (CB). This resulted in the Army being the first DoD service to offer a centrally managed buying event that included the required GSS categories. Within this effort CHES has now been named as Best in Class for ADMC-2 and ADMC-3, joining in the initiative with NIH, GSA, and NASA – and positioning CHES as not just an Army source but as one approved for the entire Federal government for category management-compliant IT procurements.

Ms. Watson is also guiding her team as they work on future contracts, which include the next-generation software IDIQ contract (to replace ITES-SW) and Enterprise License Agreements. She has worked closely with Army Contracting Command, the Army CIO/G-6, and industry to conduct market research and shape these critical follow-on actions. She also is leading an effort to allow aggregation of similar computer orders at the CHES level for a single Request for Quote (RFQ), which will allow greater quantities and lower pricing for these commodities.

Ms. Watson's focus on preparing CHES contracts for the future was also evident in the deployment of the first Army-owned Reverse Auction (RA) capability, which was built into the CHES IT e-mart under her watch. She understood that as something new to the field, it would require outreach to customers to make them aware of the capability and understand how to effectively use it. She identified relevant Federal, DoD, and Army policies to support the use of the RA capability, and provided detailed training to ordering contracting officers/customers, vendors, and CHES personnel. The result has been a tremendous demand from customers, who have used it more in the past nine months than they have used GSA's existing RA tool in the past three years. Customers have been pleased to see tangible results of a 7.5% cost avoidance.

#### Conclusion – a truly outstanding contracting professional

Ms. Watson's expertise, professionalism, perseverance and hard work managing a team of professionals has resulted in 100% mission success for CHES. She understands the certainties of protests and other complications in even the best source selections, and constantly has executable mitigation plans to ensure CHES can provide service no matter what. Ms. Watson demonstrates great commitment to the CHES program office by providing exceptional leadership skills, professionalism, initiative and innovation. She has greatly exceeded her objectives, demonstrating performance above her compensation level. She has proven to be a superb problem solver, whose applied knowledge of contracting and IT acquisition has enabled one of the most productive years in CHES' history.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND-ORLANDO**  
**12211 SCIENCE DRIVE**  
**ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32826-3224**

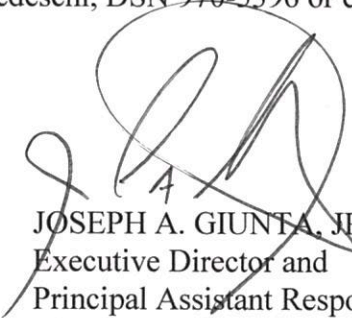
ACC-ORL

26 September 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Yves B. Jackson, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, 9900 Belvoir Road, Building 201, suite 101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5567

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Contracting Command - Orlando Endorsement of 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting (SAAEC)

1. It is with great pleasure that I endorse SFC Victor B. Huston for the 2017 SAAEC, Contracting NCO of the Year Award.
2. SFC Huston provided phenomenal support to Army Contracting Command (ACC) – Orlando, the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO-STRI) and its customers at the Threat Systems Management Officer (TSMO) utilizing the Threat Information Operations System (TIOS) and Threat Signal Simulator Program (TSSP) contracts. He distinguished himself as a Contracting NCO with his unwavering dedication to the success of ACC-Orlando's contracting mission while simultaneously leading and supporting Non-Commissioned Officer responsibilities within ACC – Orlando and its area of responsibility. In addition to leading NCO led functions for ACC-Orlando, SFC Huston also leads NCO led functions for PEO-STRI and local Military sponsored functions such as the Interservice Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) 2016.
3. I am personally and professionally honored to nominate SFC Victor B. Huston for this prestigious award. He is an outstanding contracting professional.
5. My point of contact is Mrs. Kimberly A. Tedeschi, DSN 970-5396 or commercial (407) 384-5396.



JOSEPH A. GIUNTA, JR.  
Executive Director and  
Principal Assistant Responsible  
for Contracting

## 2017 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting

### Nomination Submission Format

**Nominating Organization:**

Name: U.S. Army Contracting Command – Orlando  
Address: 12211 Science Drive, Orlando FL 32826  
Point of contact (POC) name: Kimberly A. Tedeschi  
POC phone: Kimberly A. Tedeschi  
POC email: [kimberly.a.tedesch.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kimberly.a.tedesch.civ@mail.mil)

**Nomination Submission POC:**

Name: Kimberly A. Tedeschi  
Phone number: Kimberly A. Tedeschi  
Email address of action officer: [kimberly.a.tedesch.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kimberly.a.tedesch.civ@mail.mil)

**Name, Grade, and Position Title of Nominee:**

Sergeant First Class Victor B. Huston, E-7, 51C-Contract Specialist

**Nominee Employing Organization (Command/Unit/Organization/Brigade or Region):**

U.S. Army Contracting Command – Orlando

**Nominee Business Address:**

12211 Science Drive, Orlando FL 32826

Select an Award Category for your nominee from the list below:  
(Please check only **ONE** box.)

**Special Awards (5)**

- ☐ Barbara C. Heald (Deployed Civilian)
- ☐ Exceptional Support of the Ability One Program
- ☐ Outstanding Contract Specialist/Procurement Analyst
- ☐ Contracting Professional of the Year
- ☒ Contracting NCO of the Year



**Citation**

**CONTRACTING NCO OF THE YEAR**

**FOR**

**SFC VICTOR B. HUSTON**

SFC Victor B. Huston is recognized for his phenomenal support to Army Contracting Command (ACC) – Orlando, the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO-STRI) and its customers at the Threat Systems Management Officer (TSMO) utilizing the Threat Information Operations System (TIOS) and Threat Signal Simulator Program (TSSP) contracts. SFC Huston has distinguished himself as a Contracting NCO with his unwavering dedication to the success of ACC-Orlando's contracting mission while simultaneously leading and supporting Non-Commissioned Officer responsibilities within ACC – Orlando and its area of responsibility. In addition to leading NCO led functions for ACC-Orlando, SFC Huston also leads NCO led functions for PEO-STRI and local Military sponsored functions such as the Interservice Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) 2016. SFC Huston's exceptional performance and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon himself, the Army Contracting Command and the United States Army.

## **Summary**

### **Description of services:**

Sergeant First Class Huston serves as an Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (AL&T) Contracting Non-Commissioned Officer for the Army Contracting Command - Orlando (ACC-ORL). He administers and executes pre/post award procurement activities for core and support mission contract requirements in excess of \$3 billion annually in support of training system programs and services, in direct support of Program Executive Office (PEO) Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (STRI) Project/Product Managers, Threat System Management Office (TSMO). He applies acquisition planning, administration, and execution in support of multiple efforts in direct support of worldwide training and operational missions.

### **Specific achievements supporting the mission & Innovative solutions:**

Over the past 12 months in support of the Threat Systems Management Office (TSMO), Huntsville, AL office, SFC Huston performed with the highest level of diligence and fidelity as a Contract Specialist. He effectively executed three end of year actions ensuring the customers funding was obligated and the follow-on phase of the pre-existing programs were seamlessly integrated without a break in support. His excellence was recognized by AUSA Sunshine Chapter for being a member of the ACC-Orlando Contracting Team of the Year, which won ACC-Orlando Branch of the Year for exemplary contracting support and expertise which directly and positively enabled the successful contract award of multiple critical programs which provide test, training and operational support to numerous customers including, Army Test & Evaluation Command (ATEC), Air Combat Command, Air National Guard, Defense Operational Test & Evaluation (DOT&E), OSD Test Resource Management Center (TRMC). In addition, he was recognized by BG Gabbert with an AAM for providing world class support as Cadre during the 2016 NCO of the Year Competition. Tasked with developing and implementing the mystery event during the course of the competition, he flawlessly integrated the event into the competition. His drive, selfless efforts, and contributions to the contracting profession, his customers, his management and the local community distinguish him from his peers and has proven instrumental to numerous mission success stories.

### **Contributions to career field & Contributions to the contracting profession:**

Through relentless commitment and dedication to the acquisition career field, SFC Huston completed ten acquisition courses to include ACQ 265 and CON 360, while maintaining his assigned workload. He obtained his Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Contracting Level-III certification, exceeding the current Contracting NCO career development goals set by the Army Director of Acquisition Career Management (DACM) office for a Sergeant First Class in the 51C CMF. SFC Huston is currently enrolled with Webster University pursuing a Master of Arts in Procurement and Acquisitions Management. He intends to pursue a career in contracting as a U.S Army civilian continuing to support the U.S. Army Contracting Command when he retires from the military. A Master's degree in Procurement and Acquisition will help him hone his technical expertise and sound judgement which is value added to the Army's Acquisition Corps its processes and efficiency.

### **Individual career professional qualities & professionalism:**

In addition to his superb performance as an acquisition professional, SFC Huston is called upon often as a Soldier in the U.S. Army. His efforts impacted the Orlando community as a volunteer mentor for

20 high school students in support of the Educate to Innovate Campaign during the Interservice Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) 2016. He excelled in his duties as a Noncommissioned Officer and Master Fitness Trainer by organizing and administering the Semi-Annual Physical Fitness Tests (APFTs) for PEO STRI and ACC-Orlando ensuring 100% of assigned military personnel for both organizations were properly tested and met the required standards. SFC Huston routinely leads the area Joint Color Guard team in support of local high visibility events.

SFC Huston is an invaluable asset to Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (AL&T) Contracting community, ACC-Orlando, and the customer base he supports. His drive, selfless efforts, and contributions to the contracting profession, his customers, his management and the local community distinguish him from his peers and has proven instrumental to numerous mission success stories. The excellence displayed by SFC Huston attest to his dedication and embodies the spirit of an Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (AL&T) Noncommissioned Officer.

SFC Huston has been happily married to his wife Samantha Huston for almost 16 years and is a loving and involved father to his 11 year old daughter Ashley Huston. His family is an important part of his life and has been at his side supporting him throughout his Army career.