



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE
COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS-TACTICAL
6590 RECONNAISSANCE STREET
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21005-1848



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

SFAE-CCC

JUL 26 2018

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

SUBJECT: 2018 Army Acquisition Executive's Excellence in Leadership Award for Acquisition Support Professional of the Year

1. It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I endorse the nomination of Mr. Breck Tarr, Product Lead, Common Hardware Systems (PdL CHS), for the 2018 Army Acquisition Executive's Excellence (AAE) in Leadership Award for Acquisition Support Professional of the Year.
2. Mr. Tarr is most deserving of this award based on his outstanding contributions as Product Lead for CHS. He has expertly guided his team in utilizing the speed and rapid execution of CHS, and leveraging industry innovation to supply the latest technologies to Soldiers. He consciously works to identify and implement efficiencies across the Army community, as evident in his work with the CHS-5 contract.
3. Mr. Tarr actively seeks out ways to promote a flexible and streamlined approach to acquisition, and he is instrumental in moving the CHS portfolio forward. His efforts result in better products and consistent cost avoidance across the Army, including \$640 million over the last four fiscal years. Mr. Tarr is a tremendous asset to the PEO C3T community, and I am proud to nominate him for this prestigious award. More details are enclosed.
4. The point of contact is Mr. Paul Mehney, PEO C3T's Director of Public Communications at cell: 586-770-3438 or email: Paul.d.mehney.civ@mail.mil.

Encl

JOSEPH D. WELCH
Acting Deputy Program Executive Officer

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

2018 Army Acquisition Executive's (AAE) Excellence in Leadership Award

Acquisition Support Professional of the Year

Administrative Information

Nominating Organization

Organization's Name: Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical (PEO C3T)

Mailing Address: PEO C3T HQ, 6590 Reconnaissance Street, Building 6010

City: Aberdeen Proving Ground

State: MD

Zip: 21005

Primary Point of Contact

Name: Nancy Villani

Title: Administrative Officer

Telephone: 443-395-6538

E-mail: nancy.villani2.civ@mail.mil

Name, Grade, and Position Title of Nominee

Name: Breck A. Tarr

Grade: NH-04

Title: Product Lead, Common Hardware Systems

E-mail: breck.a.tarr.civ@mail.mil

Summary

Mr. Breck Tarr provided outstanding contributions to the United States Army and the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical (PEO C3T) through his expert leadership and dedication as the Product Lead for Common Hardware Systems (PdL CHS). In this position, Mr. Tarr is responsible for leading a program that acquires and supports the sustainment of highly flexible, cost effective, common, and simplified non-developmental Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C5ISR) solutions.

The CHS program has served as the premier source for state-of-the-art computing and networking equipment that improves connectivity, interoperability, logistics and maintenance support to Soldiers for more than 30 years. Under Mr. Tarr's expert leadership and guidance, CHS procures capabilities that improve battlefield interoperability and connectivity while garnering efficient competition, and enabling the latest commercial technology solutions to be integrated onto the Army tactical network and combat systems.

Mr. Tarr is the quintessential resource manager. He actively seeks out ways to promote a flexible and streamlined approach to acquisition and contracting. In managing the CHS program, Mr. Tarr successfully leverages the speed and rapid execution of the CHS-4 contract to offer economies of scale, complete lifecycle management, and extended warranties for systems of all sizes and varying levels of ruggedization. He also implements Better Buying Power techniques by working across multiple programs and leveraging industry innovation to supply the latest technologies to Soldiers. Additionally, CHS-4 facilitates the efficient procurement and sustainment of hardware items with stakeholders from across the Common Operating Environment (COE), enabling them to benefit from quantity pricing discounts and price reductions from vendors.

By creating and maintaining this holistic approach to contracting, Mr. Tarr has led his team in establishing a pattern of significant cost avoidance for the Army. Specifically, \$640 million over the past four fiscal years (\$118 million in FY14; \$205 million in FY15; \$217 million in FY16; and an estimated \$99.6 million in FY17). This is achieved through the use of a centralized Army contract to reduce acquisition lead time, and through consolidated procurement of common hardware configurations. For example, the purchase of a Dell Latitude 5414 Notebook through the CHS contract is \$2,084.46, while the General Services Administration (GSA) cost is \$4,137.93.

Mr. Tarr is an extreme advocate of increasing efficiencies and improving processes, and he challenges his team to do the same. A large part of what makes Mr. Tarr and his team unique is the active role they play with their customers. Mr. Tarr works diligently alongside other Army programs, while also maintaining visibility into current and next generation commercially-available IT products in order to determine what technology each vendor has available and is developing. In doing so, Mr. Tarr is able to successfully match customer requirements to commercial off-the-shelf information technology (COTS IT) products available in the commercial market.

Mr. Tarr has also demonstrated superior performance in hosting annual technology roadmaps with the 104 vendors on contract, so that supported programs can plan how to leverage future technologies to meet their respective cost, schedule and performance requirements, and reduce hardware capability gaps. Additionally, Mr. Tarr places an emphasis on maximizing CHS' partnerships with small businesses, 64 of which are currently on contract. For example, CHS hosts an annual technology expo at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, which raises awareness among the C5ISR community of COTS IT solutions that are available through small business suppliers. It is Mr. Tarr's dedication and support to the program that has enabled the success of his team, and the satisfaction of his customers. He has established a culture that is extremely motivated and focused on efficiency and requirements-based decision making.

Mr. Tarr remains steadfast in his focus towards cost-efficient sustainment and customer satisfaction. A prime example of this can be found in the role he played in developing the next iteration of CHS contracts, CHS-5. The CHS-5 contract requires vendors to establish a Public-Private Partnership (P3) with Tobyhanna Army Depot, or TYAD, in order to facilitate product support for programs procuring hardware via CHS-5 and having core logistics capability requirements. This partnership leverages the innovation, resources and leadership skills of both TYAD and CHS in order to provide the best value to the warfighter. Other enhancements for CHS-5 include a pre-negotiated pricing schedule for the life of the contract; additional warranty options with up to eight years of coverage; added Program Protection Plan language; incentives to provide the lowest price hardware; and the ability to procure Technical Data Packages based on competitive pricing.

Working in the best interest of his customers, Mr. Tarr has also forged a mutually beneficial partnership with the Product Lead, Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (PdL CHESS), under Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS). In other words, CHS will direct a customer to CHESS if their needs will be better served through their contract rather than their own, and vice versa. The unique partnership that Mr. Tarr continues to uphold pays dividends for the Army by ensuring that organizations are directed to the appropriate contract in order to obtain the best pricing that is consistent with their requirements. As the Army and the greater DOD community align with the agile acquisition process, Mr. Tarr remains committed to ensuring that CHS, and its partners, provide timely and relevant solutions to meet the diverse needs of its customers.

Mr. Tarr is instrumental in moving the CHS portfolio forward strategically, as well as functionally, in the area of acquisition support and program management. His efforts result in better products and consistent cost savings across the Army. His high level of competence, versatility and initiative make him a tremendous asset not only to PEO C3T, but to the entire APG community. Mr. Tarr's unfailing display of extraordinary and uncompromising professionalism, selfless service to the United States, and true commitment to the Army's mission, and exceptional operational support to American troops, make him truly deserving of this award.

Award Citation

For outstanding achievement, Mr. Breck Tarr, Product Lead for Common Hardware Systems (PdL CHS), for the period 1 August 2017 through 31 July 2018. Mr. Tarr has expertly guided his team in utilizing the speed and rapid execution of CHS, and leveraging industry innovation to supply the latest technologies to Soldiers. He consciously works to identify and implement efficiencies across the Army community, as evident in his work with the CHS-5 contract. Mr. Tarr actively seeks out ways to promote a flexible and streamlined approach to acquisition, and he is instrumental in moving the CHS portfolio forward. His efforts result in better products and consistent cost avoidance across the Army, including \$640 million over the last four fiscal years. Mr. Tarr's achievements reflect great credit upon himself, the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical, and the Department of the Army.