



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



SFAE-CCC

JUL 26 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR Director, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, ATTN: Mr. Craig Spisak, Director USAASC, 9900 Belvoir Road, Building 201, Suite 101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

SUBJECT: 2018 Army Acquisition Executive's Excellence in Leadership Award for Engineer and Systems Integrator of the Year

1. It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I endorse the nomination of Ms. Tara Claussen for the 2018 Engineer and Systems Integrator of the Year. As the Product Lead for Tactical Network Initialization and Configuration (PdL TNIC) at Program Executive Office Command Control Communication-Tactical (PEO C3T), Ms. Claussen leads her team in the development and management of baseline data files, commonly known as "Data Products." These files enable Mission Command Network interoperability and provide systems with critical configuration parameters, including system architecture, Internet Protocol (IP) address assignments, Unit Reference Number (URN) assignments and Variable Message Format (VMF) configuration values. These information items are essential for the design, development, test, certification, fielding, and continued operation of automated tactical data systems, enabling the exchange of timely and critical command and control information across joint boundaries.
2. Ms. Claussen demonstrated superb leadership through her actions to modernize technologies and streamline processes enabling efficiencies in Data Product deliverables, greatly assisting operational unit fieldings and integration efforts. Her consistent display of technical expertise, customer service, and ability to collaborate across organizations as well as her keen identification of emerging needs is a model for addressing Army readiness challenges.
3. Ms. Claussen is Defense Acquisition Workforce certified for Program Management Level III. She has achieved the necessary continuous learning points as well.
4. The point of contact is Mr. Paul Mehney, Director of Public Communications, PEO C3T, 586.770.3438 or 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*

***ENGINEER AND SYSTEM INTEGRATOR OF THE YEAR***

**Administrative Information**

**Nominating Organization**

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

Mailing Address: SFAE-CCC, PEO C3T, 6590 Reconnaissance Street, 3rd Floor, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-1848

**Primary Point of Contact**

Name: Nancy Villani

Title: PEO C3T Administrative Officer

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

Name: Ms. Tara Claussen

Grade: NH-IV Title: Product Lead for Tactical Network Initialization and Configuration (PdL TNIC)

E-mail: [Tara.m.claussen.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Tara.m.claussen.civ@mail.mil)

## **Award Narrative**

As the Product Lead for Tactical Network Initialization and Configuration (PdL TNIC) at the Program Executive Office Command Control Communication-Tactical (PEO C3T), Ms. Tara Claussen leads her team in the development and management of baseline data files, commonly known as "Data Products." These files enable Mission Command Network interoperability and provide systems with critical configuration parameters, including system architecture, Internet Protocol (IP) address assignments, Unit Reference Number (URN) assignments and Variable Message Format (VMF) configuration values. These information items are essential for the design, development, test, certification, fielding, and continued operation of automated tactical data systems, enabling the exchange of timely, critical, command and control information across joint boundaries. Data Products enable System of Systems (SoS) integration and serve as a key enabler of effective, timely and accurate communications for the execution of today's complex joint and coalition missions worldwide.

**Specific achievements:** Ms. Claussen continues to lead PdL TNIC at a fast tempo, supporting numerous Mission Command Network efforts, including the Mission Command Software Baseline Reduction, Unit Set Fielding (USF), fielding of the 1st and 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigades (SFABs), support to Network Integration Evaluations (NIEs), Joint Warfighter Assessments (JWAs), and Joint and Coalition Army Warfighter Exercises (WFXs). Ms. Claussen seized the opportunity to spearhead the development of Coalition Data Products, as directed by Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) G3/5/7. To support critical changes in Army threat priorities and focus expanding beyond current conflicts, Ms. Claussen was faced with the challenge of building Coalition Data Products for units in support of missions with allied partners. In addition to the Data Products currently required by USF, this effort more than tripled PdL TNIC's data production output from 79 to 376, without any negative impacts to schedule. She met these extraordinary goals by leading engineering efforts that improved processes and efficiencies, evaluating emerging technologies and capabilities, and rapidly developing tool enhancements and prototypes to accelerate coalition capabilities that address specific threats. Her efforts were essential in providing critical capabilities that address multiple United States Pacific Command operational needs statements. Her superior performance in executing these enormous responsibilities continues to add to the security of the Nation and to instill trust in the Army's Mission Command Network.

**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. Claussen is helping to lead the Army's Mission Command Network integration efforts, by building the network configurations required to instantiate all digital architectures. These architectures include the 1st and 2nd SFABs, NIEs, JWAs, Capability Sets (CS) and Software Block (SWB) fieldings, as well as real-world humanitarian efforts such as PEO C3T's support to the hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico last fall. Her expertise and diligence helped the Army to engineer and field integrated CS of tactical vehicles, network, and mission command equipment across the Army. Ms. Claussen leads her highly skilled team to conduct the technical work that make these efforts possible, by formulating an integrated network baseline, which determines system functionality, interoperability, and all of the configuration settings required to support mission threads for each exercise or fielding event. Her expertise enables the Army to rapidly build and adjust its network architecture as needed to support the Army's complex missions.

**Demonstration of leadership:** Ms. Claussen's years of experience in systems engineering and technical support within PEO C3T have contributed to a consummate professional who is continuously recognized throughout the community. Ms. Claussen supervises and leads a team of more than 68 engineers, planners, and subject matter experts. She and her team provide tactical Data Products and technical design guidance, in line with Army modernization objectives, through network architecture validation, capability integration, and program of record synchronization. In her role, she must coordinate efforts across multiple levels of the acquisition community, including PEO C3T, PEO IEW&S, PEO Soldier, PEO GCS, PEO AVN, PEO Missiles & Space, ASA(ALT), TRADOC, FORSCOM, PACOM, CENTCOM, and their subordinate organizations. This collaboration reaches beyond the Army to include the U.S. Marine Corps, Air Force, and coalition partners such as the Australian Army. Her proven record for implementing process improvements and key leadership decisions have enabled PdL TNIC to reach productivity milestones and achieve critical goals in support of emerging mission requirements. She executes a disciplined SoS engineering process and schedule, synchronized across Army program executive offices and project managers. Ms. Claussen is regularly at the forefront of modernization efforts, providing SoS engineering expertise and analysis to support Army decision making.

**Engineering and Systems Integration Professional specific criteria:** Ms. Claussen expertly serves as lead network device integrator for the NIE and JWA teams, who plan, manage, execute, and support the design, integration, and fielding of diverse systems and capabilities during these events. Since the NIE began in 2011, hundreds of capabilities have been evaluated and demonstrated, including risk reduction efforts enabled by PdL TNIC data products. The 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 lead network device integrator for NIE, JWA, SWB and CS fielding engineering efforts, Ms. Claussen supported HQDA initiatives by synchronizing the engineering, integration, fielding, and sustainment across the Army. By employing industry best practices, standards, and proven system engineering processes, her efforts enable the network to operate as a single holistic SoSs and provide backward compatibility to the maximum extent possible. She leads a team that has assisted more than 20 project manager offices and six program executive offices in their efforts to integrate their respective systems into the Mission Command Network. With Ms. Claussen at the helm, the team collaborates with subject matter experts on integration and initialization, defines initialization requirements, and provides required data products.

Ms. Claussen demonstrated superb leadership through her actions to modernize technologies and streamline processes enabling efficiencies in Data Product deliverables. Her consistent display of technical expertise, customer service, critical ability to collaborate across organizations, and her keen sense of immediacy of purpose for emerging needs is a model for meeting the needs of Army readiness. Ms. Claussen's influence spans across the entire Mission Command Network community and supports the Army's objective of delivering constantly evolving, integrated technologies to the United States Soldier.

#### **Award Citation**

For outstanding and exceptionally meritorious support serving as the Product Lead for Tactical Network Initialization and Configuration (PdL TNIC). Ms. Claussen demonstrated superb leadership through her actions to modernize technologies and streamline processes enabling efficiencies in Data Product deliverables. Her consistent display of technical expertise, customer service, critical ability to collaborate across organizations, and her keen sense of immediacy of purpose for emerging needs is a model for meeting the needs of Army readiness. Ms. Claussen's influence spans across the entire Mission Command Network community and supports the Army's objective of delivering constantly evolving, integrated technologies to the United States Soldier. Ms. Claussen's achievements are a great credit upon herself, Project Lead Network Enablers; the Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications-Tactical; and the U.S. Army.