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PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
INTELLIGENCE, ELECTRONIC WARFARE AND SENSORS  
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SFAE-IEW

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Craig Spisak, Director, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, 9900 Belvoir Road, Building 201, Suite 101, Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060-5567

SUBJECT: 2018 Army Acquisition Executive's (AAE) Excellence in Leadership Award – Science and Technology Professional of the Year Category

1. It is with distinct pleasure that I nominate Mr. Jason Matheney for the 2018 AAE Excellence in Leadership Award – Science and Technology Professional of the Year category. This nomination recognizes Mr. Matheney's many accomplishments and contributions, which have contributed to significantly to Army aircraft survivability and merits special recognition.
2. Mr. Matheney serves as the Acting Product Director for the Aircraft Survivability Equipment Quick Reaction Capability (QRC) Product Office. During this award period, Mr. Matheney's unmatched dedication, subject matter expertise, and exceptional leadership led to the successful integration of the Advanced Threat Warner sensor with the Common Infrared Countermeasure System and subsequent deployment to the current theater of operations to defend our Army Aviation assets against newly emerging threats.
3. Mr. Matheney is current with DAWIA acquisition career field certification and continuous learning points.
4. The point of contact is Trina L. Taliaferro, Human Resources Management Directorate, comm: 443-861-7778, email: [trina.l.taliaferro.civ@mail.mil](mailto:trina.l.taliaferro.civ@mail.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bucci", is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

JOSEPH E. BUCCI  
Deputy Program Executive Officer  
Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors

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

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

***SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR***

**Administrative Information**

**Section 1. NOMINATION INFORMATION**

**Nominating Organization**

Organization's Name: Project Management Office, Aircraft Survivability Equipment

Mailing Address: 6726 Odyssey Drive

Address (continued): ATTN: SFAE-IEW-SE

City: Huntsville                      State: AL                      Zip: 35806

**Primary Point of Contact**

Name: Edwin L. Courtney

Title: Operations Officer

Phone: (256) 313-0383

E-Mail: edwin.l.courtney.ctr@mail.mil

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

Name: Mr. Jason L. Matheney

Grade: DB-IV

Title: Acting Product Director, Quick Reaction Capability Product Office

E-Mail: jason.l.matheney.civ@mail.mil

## **Nomination of Jason L. Matheney for the 2018 Science and Technology Professional of the Year Award**

**Specific achievements:** As the Acting Product Director for the Quick Reaction Capability Product Office (APdD QRC) assigned to the Project Manager Aircraft Survivability Equipment (PM ASE), Mr. Matheney provided the leadership, technical oversight, and strategic guidance across the entire PM ASE QRC portfolio of systems which included three disparate sensors and counter measures being integrated onto four unique aircraft platforms. From August 2017 to July 2018, Mr. Matheney provided oversight and leadership for all efforts to integrate and field newly developed ASE onto deploying rotary-wing aircraft in response to a Joint Urgent Operational Needs statement from the Army Special Operations Command (SOCOM). Mr. Matheney successfully designed and developed Army Aviation specific installation kits for the Department of the Navy's (DoN) Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasure (LAIRCM) ASE system. This was the first integration of this system with the Advanced Threat Warner (ATW) sensor onto the UH-60M, CH-47F, and AH-64E rotary-wing aircraft. His efforts resulted in the successful integration of the system, flight testing, approved Airworthiness Release, and the subsequent deployment of the aircraft. As a direct result of his efforts, the AH-64E platforms in theater have already flown over 5,000 combat hours to date.

The growing lethality and complexity of the current and future threat environment drives the need for greater capabilities in the defeat of emerging Infrared (IR) seeking threat systems. The Common Infrared Countermeasure (CIRCM) system is a critical enabling component of Future Vertical Lift's protection and survivability. Any delay to this program will increase vulnerability of aircraft and aircrew protection from threat weapon systems during Joint Combined Arms Maneuvers (JCAM). During this award period, Mr. Matheney Science and Technology efforts also accelerated the fielding of the CIRCM system by integrating it with the ATW sensors. This new ASE suite of sensors was successfully incorporated onto the CH-47F and AH-64E platforms requiring the execution of Requirements Review, the Preliminary Design Reviews (PDRs) and the Critical Design Reviews (CDRs) for each of the installation mounts for these platforms in an expedited timeframe.

**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:** Mr. Matheney had a uniquely significant impact on shaping future ASE capabilities by accelerating the deployment of emerging technologies. His focus on delivering timely capabilities to the current theater of operations was instrumental in protecting Army Aviation assets and crew against a newly emerging enemy man-portable air defense (MANPAD) threat. Mr. Matheney utilized the Joint Urgent Operational Needs requirement to streamline the processes for design, integration, testing and deployment of the ATW – DoN LAIRCM system. Mr. Matheney utilized current support agreements with AMRDEC and other DoD agencies to expedite the design and manufacture of aircraft installation kits for the ATW-CIRCM design. This effort realized significant and substantial time savings by avoiding a new formal contracting action and allowed for the opportunity for the flight safety team, the acquisition community, and the aviation community to work together on the design. This 'engineering on the fly' approach allowed for the development and incorporation of design changes quickly and provided valuable test and design data to the CIRCM Program of Record.

Mr. Matheney established a forward PM ASE presence in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in order to maximize the operational effectiveness of deployed aircraft. Utilizing existing contractual agreements, Mr. Matheney located a facility and the required equipment in order to start a four-bay modification line; having an immediate and positive impact on the combat readiness of two deployed Combat Aviation Brigades. Through his leadership, the time required for integrating ASE equipment onto an airframe was reduced from over one hundred days to an all-time low of forty-two days.

**Demonstration of leadership:** Mr. Matheney played a critical and instrumental role in establishing the JUONs/QRC product office within PMO ASE. He was responsible for recruiting, training, mentoring, and ultimately building a group of Military, Government and contractor personnel into a high functioning Product Office organization in less than a year's time. Mr. Matheney coordinated and guided the discussion among the leaders within the Aviation Center of Excellence, the DA G3/5/7 (Air)), DA G8, the Technology Applications Program Office (TAPO) and the Army Material Command for a system that could meet current requirements, achieve affordability goals, and that could be supported in a deployed environment. Mr. Matheney's effort were instrumental in shaping the wording of the Directed Requirement needed to meet theater's immediate needs, while retaining the flexibility to meet the Army's future ASE requirements.

**Science and Technology Professional specific criteria:** Mr. Matheney led a crucial effort in identifying, maturing, and accelerating ASE Science and Technology efforts and incorporating them into current ASE systems for deployment. Mr Matheney was able to incorporate 2-color infrared sensors and integrate them into the counter-measure system which increased the distance the ASE system could detect a hostile threat and thus increasing the reaction time of the countermeasures. This increased sensor reaction time directly increased survivability of the aircraft and crew.

Mr. Matheney worked directly with the Army Staff and other Program Executive Offices in improving the architecture of the ASE systems. He championed an open-systems architecture which will allow for new and emerging ASE sensor and counter-measure systems to work with older control units and messaging systems. The newly designed architecture effort that he is responsible for will directly impact the development of the Army's Future Vertical Lift program, avoid older federated systems, and lead to reduced weight, increased air crew awareness, and increased capability over time. Mr. Matheney additionally advocated for the accelerated development of the ASE B-Kit Emulator (ABE). The B-kit emulator allows for increased collective training realism at the Combined Training Centers. ABE will be able to replicate different ASE suites of equipment without the sensors physically being installed; and then, based on aircraft platform, location and other environmental variables replicate various threat systems and the likely outcome of the engagement. This system allows Brigade and Division Commanders much more detailed analysis of their current tactical situation at a significantly reduced training cost.

**Summary:** Mr. Matheney is a model government employee and highly-respected acquisition professional. The results of his accomplishments will have immediate and long lasting effects on the U.S. Army aviation community. Mr. Matheney is clearly worthy of the 2018 Army Acquisition Executive's (AAE) Excellence in Leadership Award.

## **AWARD CITATION**

Mr. Jason Matheney's performance as the Acting Product Director for the Quick Reaction Capability Office had a tremendously positive impact in providing a unique and innovative design for new technology to Army Aviation units world-wide. His unmatched dedication, technical subject matter expertise, and exceptional leadership led to the development and implementation of innovative approaches to engineering efforts in response to both a Joint Urgent Operational Needs requirement and a Chief of Staff of the Army Directed Requirement. Mr. Matheney performs his mission with integrity and a thoroughness that invokes respect from members of the Acquisition Community, his peers, and seniors within the U.S. Government. The results of his accomplishments will have immediate and long lasting effects on the U.S. Army aviation community and the operations they support. His actions bring great credit upon himself, the Project Manager, Aircraft Survivability Equipment, the Program Executive Office, Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, and the U.S. Army.