



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE SOLDIER
5901 PUTNAM ROAD, BLDG 328
FORT BELVOIR, VA 22060-5422


AUG 08 2019

SFAE-SDR

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Craig Spisak, Director, US Army Acquisition Support Center, 9900 Belvoir Road, Building 201, Suite 101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5578

SUBJECT: 2019 Army Acquisition Executives' Excellence in Leadership Award for Defense Exportability and Cooperation Professional of the Year Category

1. It is with extreme pleasure that I endorse the nomination of Ms. Kristin McKenna for the 2019 Army Acquisition Executives' Excellence in Leadership Award for Defense Exportability and Cooperation Professional of the Year Award. Ms. McKenna has distinguished herself as the principle advisor for all facets of the Security Cooperation enterprise, and has directly and significantly affected efforts within Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier to reinforce and expand organizational Foreign Military Sales capabilities in support National Security.
2. Ms. McKenna's expertise, vision, and judgement were instrumental to the strategic planning and operational execution required to completely revamp the organizational approach and resourcing capacity to foster expansion of Foreign Military Sales opportunities associated with the PEO Soldier portfolio of products.
3. Her exemplary leadership and commendable successes were foundational to integrating and synchronizing Security Cooperation efforts within the PEO and communication and coordination across the spectrum of external stakeholders.
4. Ms. McKenna is current with her DAWIA acquisition career field certification and continuous learning points.
5. The point of contact for this nomination is Ms. Stephanie Jarrett at (703) 704-0726 or email: stephanie.j.jarrett.civ@mail.mil.

for  *SES*
ANTHONY W. POTTS
Brigadier General, USA
Program Executive Officer Soldier

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

2019 Army Acquisition Executive' (AAE) Excellence in Leadership Award

***DEFENSE EXPORTABILITY AND COOPERATION
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR***

Administrative Information

Nominating Organization

Organization's Name: Program Executive Office, Soldier

Mailing Address: 5901 Putnam Road, Building 3289

Address (continued):

City: Fort Belvoir State: VA

Zip: 22060

Primary Point of Contact

Name: Mr. Alphonse Dassonville

Title: Chief of Staff, PEO, Soldier

Telephone: 703-704-0594

E-mail: alphonse.e.dassonville.civ@mail.mil

Name, Grade, and Position Title of Nominee

Name: Ms. Kristin McKenna

Grade: NH III Title: International Program Officer

E-mail: kristin.e.mckenna.civ@mail.mil

Award Narrative

Ms. McKenna leads PEO Soldier management and oversight effort for open Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases totaling \$257.7 Million. These cases are associated with 48 different countries. Due to the breadth of capability areas within the PEO Soldier equipment portfolio, Ms. McKenna engages and coordinates closely with three Army Materiel Command Life Cycle Management Commands (LCMC): US Army Aviation and Missile (AMCOM) LCMC, US Army Tank Automotive and Armaments (TACOM) LCMC, and US Army Communications-Electronics (CECOM) LCMC. Additionally, is the lead organizational lead for coordinating support to the US Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC). Within this complex enterprise structure, Ms. McKenna has established herself as adept, energetic professional leader that capably synchronizes activities to achieve optimal results.

Notably, Ms. McKenna led PEO planning and implementation efforts to expand and enhance the Program Executive Office Soldier FMS capability. Bringing to bear her experience and expertise, she provide crucial input to the development of the PEO vision regarding this critical area and coordinated with external agencies to formulate optimized courses of action for PEO Executive Leadership consideration. Ms. McKenna presented the courses of action and provided her assessment of the alternatives. Ultimately the Program Executive Officer selected Ms. McKenna's preferred solution. Ms. McKenna then refined and obtained approval for a supportive organizational concept to implement the strategy. In addition, she led efforts to establish and set in motion processes and procedures to guide FMS activities across the organization within the new construct. Implementation is in progress and on track. Throughout this process, Ms. McKenna ensured all stakeholders were informed, that their roles and responsibilities were clear and understood, and that all supporting activities were synchronized.

To ensure key external stakeholders were kept abreast of the intent, scope, and plans for expanding PEO Soldier FMS capabilities and set the stage for increased FMS opportunities, Ms. McKenna met with multiple agencies to build and strengthen relationships including various Combatant Commands and Security Cooperation Offices. Ms. McKenna also ensure all PEO efforts were fully coordinated with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Exports and Cooperation. As a result of her personal and persistent outreach, Ms. McKenna successfully coordinated for FMS Administrative funding and FMS-Administrative Table of Distribution and Allowances positions that were previously unclaimed. As a product of her initiative and cooperative approach, PEO FMS Administrative resources will more than double in the next fiscal year. In addition and as a product of her tenacious research, she has identified multiple potential areas for the realignment of FMS Case dollars to fund PEO Soldier-resourced efforts; so far, these potential realignments total more than \$2 million. The identification of these additional funds and positions are vital elements required to achieve the PEO's vision for improving FMS support functions and increasing the volume of FMS opportunities.

In addition to the strides achieved within the FMS enterprise to foster FMS growth for the PEO Soldier portfolio of products, Ms. McKenna implemented a sustained regimen of interaction with other Program Executive Office International Program leads to gather and discuss best practices, lessons learned, and experiences. Her unflagging pursuit of information to support an

environment of continuous improvement for the PEO Soldier FMS initiative has yielded numerous in stride improvements which she seamlessly integrated during implementation.

In the performance of her duties, Ms. McKenna has proven herself as an extremely effective problem-solver and enabler. For example, as part of her communication strategy, Ms. McKenna met with USASAC-New Cumberland to discuss Project Manager-provided quality assurance and technical support for FMS contracts, including those for Personal Armor System for Ground Troops (PASGT) helmets, Small Arms Protective Inserts (SAPI), and the Outer Tactical Vest (OTV). After initial discussions and further investigation, she determined that a support agreement between organizations did not exist and would provide an essential framework to guide and synchronize efforts. To rectify this, Ms. McKenna took the lead for coordinating and developing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between PEO Soldier and USASAC to ensure a codified arrangement for support and funding to ensure success and ensure appropriate, timely resourcing.

While stewarding the strategic growth of the PEO Soldier FMS capabilities, Ms. McKenna has also implemented several innovative measures to stimulate global exposure of the PEO Soldier FMS portfolio at the operational level. For example, she initiated a cooperative effort with the PEO Soldier Public Affairs Office to creating a PEO Soldier FMS Portfolio Handbook, detailing the products and capabilities we can provide to our foreign partners. Once established, this handbook will be provided to the COCOMs, country teams, USASAC, and senior leaders to support development of Letters of Request (LORs) and to ensure partner countries receive the capabilities what they require.

Award Citation

Ms. Kristin McKenna's leadership, technical expertise, exceptional communication skills, and tenacious pursuit of excellence have been the keystone for enhancing and expanding Program Executive Office Soldier Security Cooperation support capabilities. Her efforts directly and significantly contributed to the development of the strategy, implementation plans, and a supportive resourcing approach necessary to achieve the Program Executive Officer's vision for a more robust and responsive Foreign Military Sales program. Ms. McKenna achievements will foster improved FMS support performance and provide more pervasive access to the PEO Soldier products to friendly nations. Her effort have set the stage for enhancing the warfighting capabilities of nations that are essential strategic partners of the United States. Kris has distinguished herself as a consummate professional and expert advisor. Her ability to form meaningful, cooperative relationships has led to the formation of strong, productive bonds between PEO Soldier and key Security Cooperation stakeholders. Ms. McKenna's professional excellence, innovative commitment to continuous improvement, and selfless service reflect great credit upon herself, the Program Executive Office Soldier, and the United States Army.