2025 Defense Acquisition Team Award for Software Innovation
Nomination Instructions

Please read the following instructions carefully before completing and submitting the nomination form.

Background: The Defense Acquisition Team Award for Software Innovation was established in 2019 to recognize teams who are driving speed, innovation, and the use of best practices in software development and software acquisition. Across DoD, new software teams, including Service "software factories" are standing up to deliver frequent and high-quality software capabilities into the hands of Warfighters – supporting the National Defense Strategy is imperative to increase readiness and lethality.

U.S. national security increasingly relies on software to execute missions, integrate, and collaborate with allies, and manage the defense enterprise. The ability to develop, procure, assure, deploy, and continuously improve software is central to our national defense. The threats facing the United States are evolving at an increasing pace, and the ability for the Department of Defense to adapt and respond is determined by its capability to rapidly develop and deploy innovative software technologies to the Warfighter.

The 2024 winner of this award was the Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) Software Factory team of the United States Air Force. This team managed and delivered classified software and digital infrastructure for the $22.4 billion-dollar NGAD and Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) programs. The team consistently delivered on-time capabilities for the DoD's first uncrewed, semiautonomous air-to-air combat vehicle, establishing an open architecture that enables rapid integration of software-defined capabilities

This award provides leadership another great opportunity to recognize the innovative efforts of DoD organizations to swiftly deliver innovative solutions and deploy a new generation of software capability. Additional information on the award is available at:
https://asc.army.mil/web/acquisition-awards/.

Eligibility: All DoD organizations and teams (DoD military and civilian) are eligible to be nominated for the 2025 Software Innovation Team Award, except for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) staff organizations. Contractors and contractor employees are not eligible for this award.

The award period is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Achievements resulting from efforts starting before July 1, 2024, may be included, but the culmination of the achievement must be within the award period.

Evaluation: Nominations will be evaluated as follows:

1) <u>Specific achievements and/or innovations (50 points).</u> Describe your organization's exemplary accomplishments driven by innovation, using software development and acquisition best practices, with speed, to deliver frequent and high quality solutions to the Warfighter.
2) <u>Value of the contribution (30 points).</u> Describe the positive impacts and value for the Warfighter.
3) <u>Demonstration of leadership initiative (20 points).</u> Describe examples of leadership initiative, for example (not inclusive): creating improved organic software talent; creating software development units who develop and deploy with speed and reduced cycle time, software to the field using DevSecOps practices; and strengthening program office software development and acquisition capabilities.

Selection: The Director of the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Human Capital Initiatives (HCI) validates eligibility and forwards nominations to the Software Workforce Innovation Team Award Selection Board. HCI consolidates the recommended winner for the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)) to review and approve.

Instructions:

Nomination format, content, and logo. The nomination package must include (in PDF) the completed nomination contact template (below) and a three-page (maximum) narrative supporting the nomination, and a brief, not to exceed 200 words, award citation. A high-resolution organizational logo (at least 2 inches by 2 inches at 300 dots per inch) in either JPG or TIFF format must also be included with the submission. The nomination package cannot contain information classified above Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). Note: Award citations of winning nominations will be made public and should not include CUI.

Nomination approval. The nomination package must be submitted with a signed endorsement letter from the organization commander. Each organization may nominate one team. Contractors may not be listed as members of the team. The Army Director, Acquisition Career Management (DACM) Office is the official collection point for U.S. Army nominations. The Army DACM Office will coordinate nomination packages for Army Acquisition Executive approval and endorsement to the USD(A&S).

Submission deadline. Your nomination must be submitted electronically no later than June 18, 2025. For more details on award categories and criteria, and to submit your nominations, visit the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center website at https://asc.army.mil/web/acquisition-awards/

Recognition Ceremony. The USD(A&S) will recognize winners at the 2025 Defense Acquisition Awards Ceremony in an early 2026 ceremony. Winners and team accomplishments will be featured in the Pentagon's "E-Ring" Defense Acquisition Workforce recognition display, the Defense Acquisition Magazine, and other media venues.

Monetary Award. Subject to Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) Acquisition and Support guidance, the Software Innovation Team winners may be eligible for a $10,000 group monetary award for not more than five (5) civilian team members. Contractors, while integral to the winning organization's success, are not eligible to be part of the group monetary award. DoD components normally fund monetary awards with mission funding or available component Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Account (DA WDA) funding. Per OSD Personnel and Readiness memo, "Department of Defense Award Spending Guidance for Non-Senior Executive Service and Senior Professional Employees," dated January 8, 2025, "DoD components are encouraged to allocate

awards in a manner that provides for meaningful distinctions in performance ... " DoD components should work with their budget and human resources offices to ensure compliance with funding and the respective awards guidance.

Questions. For questions regarding this award or the nomination process, contact Rachel Longarzo at rachel.m.longarzo.civ@army.mil.

Department of Defense (DoD)
Software Innovation Team Award
Nomination Submission Form

Part I - Nominated Organization / Group / Team
(Note: The winning organization and team name will be printed on all materials and trophies as listed below)

Team Name	Mailing Address

DoD Component	Command / Organization

Part II - Name of Service / Component Acquisition Executive / Senior Acquisition Leader

Name	Title

Telephone	Email

Acknowledgement of Monetary Award

By submitting this nomination, you acknowledge that, should the nominee be the selected winner, the monetary award will comply with DoD awards guidance.

Signature	Date

Part III - Submission Point of Contact
(Individual to be contacted if there are questions regarding nomination package)

Name	Title

Telephone	Email

Part IV - Director, Acquisition Career Management

Name	Title

Telephone	Email

Part V – Organization Information

Organization Size (Number of Military & Civilians):	Number of Acquisition Workforce Members (Military & Civilian):

Organizational Mission Statement (Maximum 100 words):

Part VI – Nominated Team Information

TEAM MEMBER INFORMATION:

List up to five key individuals responsible for the team's accomplishments (those managing initiatives cited in the narrative).

Note: If selected, these individuals will accept the award, on behalf of the larger team, at the annual awards ceremony and receive individual certificates. Individuals listed must be DoD military or civilian personnel. Contractors may not be listed on this form.

In the first column, include: Full Name, Position Title, and Rank (if applicable)

In the second column, select each team member's assigned Functional Area (leave blank if the individual is not coded to an acquisition position)

In the third column, provide the individual's email address. (Provide the Team Lead's Supervisor's Email where indicated)

List the Team Lead first, followed by four team members:

Team Lead's Supervisor's Email:

Section VII – Nominee Narrative

Narrative should not exceed the three pages provided in the nomination form template. Nominees will be evaluated in the areas of 1) Specific Achievement or Innovation (50 points); 2) Value of the Nominee's Contributions (30 points); and Demonstration of Leadership Initiative (20 points).

Section VII – Nominee Narrative *(Continued)*

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Section VIII – Award Citation

The Award Citation may be used for various recognition purposes, such as notification of award winners in the Defense Acquisition Magazine or other acquisition periodicals and should not include CUI.

The Award Citation should be approximately 100 words and may not exceed 200 words.

Section IX – Logo
A high-resolution organizational logo (at least 2 inches by 2 inches at 300 dots per inch) in either JPG or TIFF format. To add your logo, "click" the "Tools Bar" to edit the PDF, "click" on the "Add Image" icon in the tool bar that appears above and insert the logo in the area below.

Organizational Logo *(If you are unable to insert your organizational logo, you may attach a JPG or TIFF file to your email submission)*

Nomination Package Checklist
Nomination Packages must be complete to be considered, please do one final check before submitting all packages for consideration.

Nomination Form

Nominee Narrative

Award Citation

Logo (JPG or TIFF)