

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology

2026 Army Acquisition Executive's (AAE) Excellence in Leadership Awards

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2026 Army Acquisition Executive's (AAE) Excellence in Leadership Awards

Please read the following information carefully before completing and submitting this application.

Category: Defense Export and Cooperation Journeyman of the Year Award

Background: The 2026 AAE's Excellence in Leadership Award for the Defense Export and Cooperation Journeyman of the Year recognizes the individual whose outstanding contributions innovative thinking, willingness to take calculated risks, and achievements merit special recognition. It also provides an opportunity to showcase the professionalism of the Army Acquisition Workforce.

Eligibility:

1. Nominee contributions must have been made between 1 June 2025 – 31 May 2026.
2. **Any Defense Export and Cooperation Journeyman across the Army Acquisition Workforce is eligible as long as he or she:**
 - a. Meets the specific criteria of the award for which they are nominated.
 - b. Performs a Security Assistance (SA)/Armaments Cooperation dedicated mission in their respective organizations.
 - c. Is at the level of a GS-13 equivalent and below.
3. If a member of the AAW, the following requirements must be met:
 - a. Occupy an acquisition workforce designated position.
 - b. Is current, or within the grace period, in their Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) acquisition functional area certification and achieved the required 80 continuous learning points during the prior two-year continuous learning cycle (CL) (1 Oct 2022 - 30 Sep 2024).
 - c. If a member of the Army Security Cooperation Workforce (SCW): Completed SC courses by sequential deadlines in accordance with their position's SCW Certification Level and SC Area of Concentration, along with either meeting the rolling '20 hours of CL the previous two years' requirement or in the two-year CL grace period.
 - d. Must not be a recipient of this award in the past five (5) years.

Evaluation Criteria:

Nominees must have made a significant contribution during the eligibility period to be considered for this award. This award recognizes the past performance of an individual who has clearly demonstrated exceptional mission accomplishment, selfless service to the United States, a willingness to champion new ideas and calculated risks, and extraordinary and uncompromising professionalism and true commitment to the personal and professional growth of others within the command.

Nominations will be considered based on demonstrated excellence and contribution to acquisition mission success in the following areas: Specific achievements within the functional area during the eligibility period. Given that many achievements result from one's efforts and contributions cumulatively over a period of time, achievements that take place over more than the 12-month window may be reported, but the culmination of the work must be within the window. Quantifiable descriptions of achievements are particularly desired. What impact did their action have on the unit or command? Did the nominee implement a novel solution or take a calculated risk that resulted in a tangible benefit to the workforce?

1. **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:
 - a. Rapid Material Modernization
 - b. New Capabilities
 - c. Robust, Resilient, Secure, and Innovative Industrial Base
 - d. Digital Transformation
 - e. Sustainable Force
 - f. Productive Collaboration
 - g. Innovation and calculated risk-taking
2. **Demonstration of leadership** including, by example, mentoring and sharing best practices to enhance the success of one's team, as well as fostering an environment where innovation and smart risk-taking are encouraged to achieve acquisition outcome success.
3. **Defense Export and Cooperation Journeyman specific criteria:**
 - a. Building cooperative relationships or capacity with our foreign partners, including emerging countries.
 - b. Improve interagency communication and coordination with RDECs and PEOs, other service IPOs, the ASAE and the Office of the Secretary of Defense in support of the mission of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Export and Cooperation.
 - c. Demonstrated leadership and success coordinating and executing key U.S. SA and/or capacity-building programs.
 - d. Demonstrated leadership and technical competence in working with stakeholders across multiple organizations that enhanced the Defense Export and Cooperation mission.
 - e. Actions that resulted in quantifiable efficiencies, innovative solutions, or savings to the U.S. Army SA Enterprise and/or international cooperative agreements.

Nomination Deadline and Submission:

1. The deadline for nomination submissions is July 27, 2026. **Submissions will not be accepted after 11:59 p.m. ET, July 27, 2026.**
2. Completed nomination packets must be submitted to the U.S. Army Acquisition

Support Center (USAASC) Army Director, Acquisition Career Management (DACM) Office through the Web-based call for nominations application at: <https://asc.army.mil/web/acquisition-awards/aae-awards/>. Nomination Packet Requirements and Format:

1. Signed endorsement memo (one per nomination).
 - a. The senior ranking civilian employee or military official will provide an endorsement letter to describe the nomination.
 - b. Each nomination must have its own endorsement memo addressed to Director, Acquisition Career Management, 9900 Belvoir Rd, Bld 201, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.
2. Completed nomination form with the following components:
 - a. Narrative
 - Separate sections describing the contributions for each of the four evaluation criteria (specific achievements; value of the nominee's contributions; demonstration of leadership; and Defense Export and Cooperation specific criteria).
 - Should not exceed **two** pages.
 - The format will be single-spaced text, Arial, 12-point font, single- sided 8 ½" x 11" page, 1" margins.
 - b. Citation
 - A short summary of accomplishments (not to exceed 200 words). This should be at the end of the nomination form and does not count against the two-page limit.

Miscellaneous Details:

1. The nominating point of contact (POC) and/or the organization's award POC will receive an automated email to confirm receipt of a completed submission. Contact the awards coordinator if the POC does not receive a confirmation email within one day after the submission.
2. An appointed panel of judges will select the award winners.
3. The awards will be presented by the AAE at the annual Army Acquisition Awards ceremony in early 2027.

Monetary Award:

Subject to Office of the Secretary of War (OSW) Acquisition and Support guidance, winners may be eligible for a \$3,000 monetary award. Monetary awards are normally funded with mission funding or available Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Account (DAWDA) funding. Per the OSW Personnel and Readiness memo, "Department of War Awards Spending Guidance for Non-Senior Executive Service and Senior Professional Employees", dated April 8, 2026, awards should be allocated in a manner that provides for "meaningful distinctions in performance." Organizations must coordinate with their budget and human resources offices to ensure compliance with funding and the respective awards guidance.

Awards Coordinator:

Questions regarding the 2026 Army Acquisition Executive's Excellence in Leadership Awards or the application and nomination submission process should be addressed to the awards coordinator, Ms. Rachel Longarzo, at rachel.m.longarzo.civ@army.mil.

Additional information can be found on the award website at

<https://asc.army.mil/web/acquisition-awards/aae-awards/>.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology 2026 Army

Acquisition Executive's (AAE) Excellence in Leadership Awards

Please read the following information carefully before completing and submitting this application.

Category: Defense Export and Cooperation Professional of the Year Award

Background: The 2026 AAE's Excellence in Leadership Award for the Defense Export and Cooperation Professional of the Year recognizes the individual whose outstanding contributions innovative thinking, willingness to take calculated risks, and achievements merit special recognition. It also provides an opportunity to showcase the professionalism of the Army Acquisition Workforce.

Eligibility:

1. Nominees' contributions must have been made between 1 June 2025 – 31 May 2026
2. **Any Defense Export and Cooperation Professional across the Army Acquisition Workforce is eligible as long as he or she:**
 - a. Meets the specific criteria of the award for which they are nominated.
 - b. Performs a Security Assistance (SA)/Armaments Cooperation dedicated mission in their respective organization.
 - c. Is at the level of a GS-14 or GS-15.
3. If a member of the AAW, the following requirements must be met:
 - a. Occupy an acquisition workforce designated position.
 - b. Is current, or within the grace period, in their Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) acquisition functional certification and achieved the required 80 continuous learning (CL) points during the prior two-year continuous learning cycle (1 Oct 2022 - 30 Sep 2024).
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Evaluation Criteria:

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uncompromising professionalism and true commitment to the personal and professional growth of others within the command.

Nominations will be considered based on demonstrated excellence and contribution to acquisition mission success in the following areas:

1. **Specific achievements** within the functional area during the eligibility period. Given that many achievements result from one's efforts and contributions cumulatively over a period of time, achievements that take place over more than the 12-month window may be reported, but the culmination of the work must be within the window. Quantifiable descriptions of achievements are particularly desired. What impact did their action have on the unit or command? Did the nominee implement a novel solution or take a calculated risk that resulted in a tangible benefit to the workforce?
2. **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:
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 - a. Building cooperative relationships or capacity with our foreign partners, including emerging countries.
 - b. Improve interagency communication and coordination with RDECs and PEOs, other service IPOs, the ASAE and the Office of the Secretary of Defense in support of the mission of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Export and Cooperation.
 - c. Demonstrated leadership and success coordinating and executing key U.S. capacity- building programs.
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