Department of War (DoW)
2026 Warfighting Acquisition Awards
Flexibility in Acquisition Team
Nomination Instructions

Please read carefully before completing and submitting the nomination form.

Background: The Warfighting Acquisition Team Awards for Flexibility in Acquisition recognize DoW civilian and military teams that exemplify innovation, agility, and mission-focused risk-taking in their approach to program management and contracting, demonstrated through use of flexibilities and authorities provided by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), Other Transaction Authorities (e.g., 10 U.S.C. 4022), and DoW Instruction 5000.02 (Operation of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework). The recipients of this award leverage the available authorities to remove unnecessary barriers, streamline processes, and improve outcomes in schedule, performance, cost, and productivity.

This award honors teams whose execution reflects the principles of acquisition transformation, empowering teams with the authority, responsibility, and accountability to adapt quickly, make informed tradeoffs, and deliver results at the speed and scale demanded by today's operational environment Additional information can be found on the awards website at https://asc.army.mil/web/acquisition-awards/warfighting-acquisition-awards/.

Eligibility: All DoW organizations and teams (DoW military and civilian) are eligible for the Flexibility in Acquisition Team Award, with the exception of the Office of the Secretary of War (OSW) staff organizations. All team members listed on the nomination form must be DoW civilian or military personnel, contractors may not be listed as members of a team.

The award period is July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Achievements resulting from efforts starting before July 1, 2025, may be included, but the culmination of the achievement must be within the award period.

Evaluation: Nominations will be evaluated on the quality of specific actions taken by program/service acquisition teams, and the exceptional nature of the problems overcome, or the outcomes produced by those actions. Successful applications clearly describe and substantiate what was done, as well as the resulting quantifiable impacts. Successful applications will describe the acquisition initiatives undertaken, the tools and principles that were applied, and how these led to the exceptional outcomes. Use of innovative acquisition techniques, local adaptation, and tailoring of acquisition processes should be highlighted. The application should describe lessons learned in the subject acquisition, and how these might be applied to other programs or service acquisition efforts.

Examples of the nomination may include any innovation initiatives and local adaptations that:

a. Achieved significant cost savings in any or all parts of the acquisition lifecycle through various means to include expanded use of the simplified acquisition procedures or inherent flexibilities within the FAR;
b. Used contracting vehicles that improve incentives and speed;
c. Enabled greater productivity and innovation from industry through, for example (but not limited to), the effective use of contracting incentives, commercial contracting approaches, public-private partnership agreements and practices, cost-sharing arrangements, and the leveraging of commercial best practices;
d. Promoted more effective market competition for contracts, to include small business participation and global market outreach; and
e. Improved program outcomes through the use of other innovative acquisition flexibilities to include use of pathways provided in the new Adaptive Acquisition Framework (DoDI 5000.02).

Selection: The Flexibility in Acquisition Team Award Board is comprised of a Chair, appointed by OSW leadership of Defense Pricing, Contracting, and Acquisition Policy. Board membership is composed of up to ten Senior Executive Service members. The Warfighting Acquisition University (WarU)/Human Capital Initiatives (HCI) consolidates the recommended winner(s) to the Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment to review and approve. Up to five teams may be selected to receive the award based on merit each year.

Instructions:

Nomination format, content, and logo. The nomination package for the Team submission must include (in PDF) the completed nomination contact template (below), a three-page (maximum) narrative supporting the nomination, and a brief award citation, not to exceed 200 words. 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 email 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 CUL

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 USW(A&S).

Submission deadline. Your nomination must be submitted electronically no later than September 8, 2026. 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/warfighting-acquisition-awards/.

Recognition Ceremony. WarU/HCI will hold an in-person event at Howell Auditorium, WarU Campus, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, in early 2027. Winners and team accomplishments will be featured on the Pentagon's warfighting acquisition workforce recognition display, in the Defense Acquisition Magazine, on the WarU/HCI Awards website, and on other media venues.

Monetary Award. Flexibility in Acquisition Team winners may be eligible for a $10,000 group monetary award for not more than five (5) civilian team members, at the discretion of the component and subject to DoW guidance. Contractor personnel are not eligible to receive a group monetary award. DoW components typically use mission or Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Account funding for these awards. DoW components must coordinate with their respective budget and Human Resource offices to ensure compliance with the latest funding and award guidelines.

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

Department of War (DoW)
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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
DoW Component -	Command / Organization

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

Acknowledgment of Monetary Award

By submitting this nomination, you acknowledge that should this be a winning nomination and a monetary award be provided by the Service/Component, it will comply with DoW awards guidance.

Signature	Date

Part III - Submission Point of Contact *(Individual contacted if there are questions regarding nomination package)*	
Name	
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):	

Brief description of your organizational structure:

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 DoW military or civilian personnel. Contractors may not be listed on this form.

List the Team Lead first, followed by four team members. (Leave Functional Area blank if the team member is not coded to an acquisition position.)

Full Name, Position Title, Rank	Functional Area	Email Address
	-	

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 must 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)