



**Department of War (DoW)
2026 Warfighting Acquisition Awards
Software Innovation Team
Nomination Instructions**

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

Background: The Warfighting Acquisition Team Awards for Software Innovation recognize teams advancing the DoW's acquisition transformation by rapidly delivering impactful software capability to the warfighter. Award recipients apply modern software development and software acquisition best practices to prioritize execution, adaptability, and measurable results over process and compliance.

This award highlights teams operationalizing acquisition reform as U.S. national security increasingly depends on software to execute missions and integrate capabilities across domains. By leveraging the commercial marketplace, flexible acquisition authorities, and a culture of accountability and execution, these teams deliver capability faster across the enterprise. Additional information on the award is available 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 Software Innovation Team Award, with the exception of the Office of the Secretary of War 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, through 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 as follows, with a total score of 100 points:

- 1) **Specific achievements and/or innovations (50 points).** The team demonstrates concrete initiatives, practices, or reforms that produce innovative achievements using software development and acquisition best practices to deliver frequent and high-quality solutions to the warfighter. Examples may include reduced time to field capability; improved responsiveness to operational demands; enhanced interoperability and responsive modernization achieved through maximal adoption of a modular open systems approach (MOSA) and software application programming interfaces (API); enhanced development, security, and operations (DevSecOps) practices; and cost avoidance or efficiencies achieved through leveraging the Software Acquisition Pathway, Other Transactions, and/or Commercial Solutions Openings.

- 2) Value of the nominee's contribution (30 points). The team demonstrates positive impacts and value for the warfighter. Accomplishments should directly align with the National Defense Strategy, the Secretary of War priorities, and the Acquisition Transformation Strategy.
- 3) Demonstration of leadership initiative (20 points). The team demonstrates leadership initiatives that enable acquisition transformation and sustain high-performance software delivery. Examples may include initiatives that improved organic software talent; created software development units that deliver and deploy with speed and reduced cycle times; effectively delivered capabilities using MOSA and API strategies; reinforced a culture that prioritizes informed risk-taking and outcomes; and strengthened program office software development and acquisition capabilities.

Selection: The Director of the Warfighting Acquisition University (WarU)/Human Capital Initiatives (HCI) validates eligibility and forwards nominations to the Software Innovation Team Award Selection Board. WarU/HCI consolidates the recommended winner(s) for 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 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 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. The Software Innovation 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)
2026 Warfighting Acquisition Awards
Software Innovation Team
Nomination Submission Form

Part I - Nominated Organization / Group / Team	
<i>(Note: The winning organization and team name will be printed on all materials and trophies as listed below)</i>	
Team Name	Mailing Address
DoW Component	Command / Organization
Part II - Name of Service / Component Acquisition Executive / Senior Acquisition Leader	
Name	Title
Telephone	Email
<i>Acknowledgement of Monetary Award</i> <i>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.</i>	
Signature	Date
Part III - Submission Point of Contact	
<i>(Individual to be contacted if there are questions regarding nomination package)</i>	
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 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)*

Section VII – Nominee Narrative *(Continued)*

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)