

Expanding Horizons for Keystone Interns



by Mr. Sam Rousso, Public Affairs Specialist, DCMA West

Keystone interns will have an opportunity to expand their horizons and knowledge under terms of an agreement between Defense Contract Management Agency West (DCMAW) and the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC), signed on August 2, 2004.

Mr. Richard L. Zirk, DCMAW director, and Ms. Patricia Kirk-McAlpine, SMC director of contracts, signed the Memorandum of Agreement at District West Headquarters. The agreement establishes the SMC-DCMA Cooperative Exchange Program, which is intended to “foster increased understanding, learning support and knowledge management to associates from both organizations, with the ultimate goal of fostering a more efficient and effective acquisition environment,” according to its text.

The exchange program will afford DCMA’s Keystone and SMC’s Copper Cap interns a three-month opportunity to work at one



another’s agencies. Initial focus will be on contract specialists, series 1102, grades seven through 12, but the program is not necessarily limited to those series and grades.

“This is a momentous occasion,” said Ms. Kirk-McAlpine. “I am so very pleased that we recognize we’re on the same team and that we’re all here to support the warrior. I can tell you that General Arnold [SMC commander] is very, very pleased with the program and support.”

Mr. Zirk was equally enthusiastic. “This agreement will provide our interns the opportunity to



(Above - right) Mr. Richard L. Zirk, DCMAW director, signs the Cooperative Exchange Agreement as Ms. Patricia Kirk-McAlpine, SMC director of contracts, looks on.

(Bottom) From left: Keystone Interns Mr. Ron Gallagher, engineer, DCMA Phoenix; Ms. Eileen Deng, engineer, DCMA Northern California; Ms. Alma Casias, property specialist, DCMA San Antonio; Ms. Gina Collins, DCMA St. Petersburg; and Mr. Winston LaCroix, safety specialist, DCMA Atlanta.

“My intentions are to stay with this organization once I finish the program. I like DCMA’s mission and what they do.”

— Mr. Winston LaCroix, safety specialist, DCMA Atlanta

experience the other side of the contracting coin. It will help our future leaders know how our customer operates, and it will help our customer’s future leaders understand our processes and procedures. In the end, our understanding of each other will increase and so will our ability to meet each others’ needs and requirements.”

Among the attendees at the ceremony were Mr. Randy Sawlsville, DCMAW Human Resources acting director; Ms. Carlene Cooks, DCMAW director of Program Integration; Ms. Leslie Kennedy, DCMA customer liaison representative; and Air Force Col. Wilma F. Slade, DCMA West chief of staff.

Employee of the Quarter: Ms. Rajkumari Bezwada



by Ms. Donna Lopez, Human Resources Specialist, DCMA Headquarters

Congratulations, Ms. Rajkumari Bezwada, program analyst, Strategic Planning, Programming and Analysis Division FBP. Ms. Bezwada was selected as the DCMA HQ/Center Employee of the Quarter for the Third Quarter FY04. She was awarded a Director’s Coin and an On-the-Spot Cash Award for her outstanding accomplishments to the DCMA mission. Ms. Bezwada came to DCMA in November 2003 and was quickly able to comprehend the DCMA organizational structure, computer programs and operating concepts. During this last quarter, DCMA-FBP launched a number of high-visibility, labor-intensive tasks including the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) and the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).



Ms. Bezwada set up Knowledge Management communities of practice (CoP) for each of these programs. The CoPs for these sites had hits that exceeded tens of thousands. Ms. Bezwada’s use of innovative approaches to problem solving resulted in the Agency receiving satisfactory outcomes from the Department of Defense Inspector General’s review of our BRAC process. She far exceeded the expectations of a new employee by gaining an in-depth knowledge of her new organization and demonstrating willingness to tackle difficult assignments. Thanks for a job well done!

(Above) Ms. Rajkumari Bezwada