

DCMA Commanders Meet in Nashville

by Mr. Art Forster, Director, Congressional and Public Affairs,
DCMA Headquarters

The theme for the Oct. 25 – 27 Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Commanders' Conference, held in Nashville, Tenn., was "Enterprise Thinking - Customers, Performance and Human Capital." Approximately 225 contract management office (CMO) commanders and staff representatives from DCMA Headquarters and Districts attended. In his opening remarks, Air Force Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Scott, DCMA director, reviewed the Agency's progress in adopting performance-based management (PBM). He underscored the importance of focusing on customer needs as the means for measuring DCMA's success. The director described the Agency's realignment into four new product divisions. Details and timelines of these actions are at: <http://home.dcma.mil/dcma-dsl/realignment.htm>.

Mr. Keith Ernst, DCMA deputy director, addressed the Agency's strategic goals and highlighted the importance of leadership development. He challenged all commanders to provide subordinates with leadership training and experiential opportunities and to reward excellence. Mr. Ernst also discussed the assessment architecture for monitoring progress in achieving customer-based outcomes.

The conference included presentations, discussions and workshops on a range of subjects. The commanders of DCMA CMOs at Boeing Seal Beach, Denver and Santa Ana provided operational overview briefings about their activities. Other workshops featured discussions on PBM, sustainment support in a PBM environment, earned value management and performance-based individual performance plans.



The conference highlight was the presentation of DCMA's Annual Employee Awards at a banquet on Oct. 26. The program included Maj. Gen. Scott's presentation of the Purple Heart to Mr. Frank Barrientes, deputy commander, DCMA Huntsville, for wounds received in combat action on Nov. 16, 1966, in the Republic of Vietnam. Then-Specialist Six Barrientes was a crew chief and door gunner aboard a U.S. Army UH-1B helicopter gunship with the 114th Assault Helicopter Company operating in the Mekong Delta region of South Vietnam. An administrative oversight precluded Mr. Barrientes from receiving the award at the time of his wounds.

In his summary remarks, Maj. Gen. Scott reminded leaders to take care of their people, ensuring they are properly trained, encouraged, rewarded and recognized. As DCMA continues to evolve and transform, he challenged everyone to think of DCMA as an enterprise and to make full use of the Agency's collective talents and skills in meeting customer requirements. Maj. Gen. Scott concluded the conference by announcing that he will be leaving DCMA to assume command of the Joint Contracting Command – Iraq and Afghanistan in Baghdad, Iraq.

(Above) Air Force Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Scott, DCMA director, presents the Purple Heart to Mr. Frank Barrientes, DCMA Huntsville deputy commander. (DCMA staff photo)