

A Noteworthy Reservist



by Mr. Sam Rousso, DCMA Public Affairs

Noteworthy” isn’t a word you hear much any more in these days of stimulus overload. But it’s a word that applies to many of the people you read about in the *Communicator* who are supporting our nation and its troops.

Air Force Col. Cliff Chi, a reservist on extended active duty, is the acting commander of the DCMA Santa Ana Raytheon Los Angeles office, an activity of DCMA’s Aeronautical Systems Division. According to Air Force Col. Gray K. Coyner, individual mobilization augmentee to the Agency director, Col. Chi was selected for several reasons. “He’s a natural self-starter, as

indicated by the highly successful business he started in the 1990s. As an Air Force Academy graduate (with a degree in engineering), he possesses strong technical skills. Most importantly, however, he is a strong leader.”

Col. Coyner says that Col. Chi has a number of admirable qualities. He “displays a great deal of humility and quiet assurance. It took me a long time to learn that he speaks fluent Mandarin Chinese and is a frequent traveler

to Asia to oversee manufacturing activities for his business. He is also quite the athlete — always working to better himself. I know that he has used his quiet tenacity and high standards to improve the contract management office’s [CMO’s] business practices and adjust his command’s focus on what is important to our customer.”

Col. Chi was promoted to his current rank Sept. 1. He also serves as the joint reserve team leader for the Agency’s Space & Missile Systems Division based in Carson, Calif. The colonel’s reserve status is noted only as a differentiator; reservists on active status have commanded CMOs several times in the Agency’s past.

DCMA Santa Ana Raytheon Los Angeles has 48 people on staff managing 21 major programs worth \$4.3 billion. “We provided value-added support to our military service customers, which has not only enhanced the reputation of our Agency, but has won our teams recognition from our customers,” said Col. Chi.

Support provided to the customer has included participation in the Air Force’s B-2 radar modernization program, which led to a successful first test flight for the advanced technology radar system. The staff has also increased monthly delivery rates for the advanced targeting forward-looking infrared (ATFLIR) system for the Navy’s F/A-18 aircraft fleet. Perhaps even more importantly, the CMO has worked with the contractor to streamline radar repair procedures, reducing the turnaround time from 210 days to 45.

Agency support has included deployment of performance-based management (PBM) initiatives, including design and delivery of a PBM-based workshop that has trained more than 250 employees across five field offices in the system.

Col. Chi has been at DCMA Santa Ana Raytheon Los Angeles since September 2004. His tour of duty there is scheduled to end

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— Col. Gray Coyner

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in February 2007. “What started as a six-month backfill as a program integrator has evolved into a great experience leading the organization,” he said.

Col. Coyner affirms the Agency currently has or soon will have as many as four reservists commanding CMOs. “This all portends a great deal of trust that Agency management has placed in our reserve program.” He noted that Agency-wide, there is an average of 25 reservists on active duty, supporting the global war on terrorism.

Col. Chi expressed gratitude to Ms. Leslie Gregg, DCMA Santa Ana director, Air Force Col. Marilyn Sabicer, joint reserve team leader, and the entire Santa Ana team for their support and guidance. “Having a great team with an abundance of knowledge, experience and heart” is what Col. Chi quickly believes has made the job so fulfilling. “Over time, you come to realize that you don’t know everything, and you must rely on the bright and seasoned professionals in the organization. To do that, you must be able to see the strengths in each person and match it with an organizational need. Team members should be made to take ownership and be accountable.”

Col. Coyner added, “DCMA’s mission both stateside and overseas is challenging and

directly supports the warfighter in many areas. Reservists know that this — combined with a very positive and progressive working environment — provides strong incentives to volunteer for duty not only once but, in many cases, for several long tours continuously.”

In Col. Chi’s civilian life, he has a wholesale sporting goods business specializing in roller hockey and other skating products. “We design the products, outsource the manufacturing and market them to retailers worldwide.” Col. Chi is also a certified fitness instructor. Not surprisingly, he says that “fitness is a great way to decompress and clear my mind after a tough day at the office.” He runs, lifts weights, bikes and plays some roller hockey.

In quiet time, the colonel likes to visit the Museum of Contemporary Art and other cultural attractions in southern California.



(Above) Air Force Col. Cliff Chi, acting commander of DCMA Santa Ana Raytheon Los Angeles, addresses an audience of DCMA Special Programs Division and contractor personnel during a milestone celebration. Col. Chi, a reservist on active duty, is scheduled to command the contract management office until February 2007.