

DCMA Annual Military Awards

Please join me in congratulating the Defense Contract Management Agency's 2006 Annual Military Awards winners. Their outstanding accomplishments, dedication to the agency's mission and service to our nation are truly worthy of this recognition. These winners include both active duty and Reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentee members.

This year's competition presented the boards with a challenge — having two equally superior field grade officers executing DCMA's mission resulted in a deadlock tie. Therefore, it was my decision to award both of these respected nominees with the title of "Field Grade Officer of the Year," delineating them by their vastly differing areas of mission excellence.

We will formally recognize each of our winners at our annual awards dinner to be scheduled in conjunction with our Fall Commanders' Conference. Again, congratulations to all... and thank you for your tremendous efforts!

— Keith Ernst, DCMA acting director

Air Force Lt. Col. Lloyd Blackmon – Field Grade Officer of the Year – Systems Support

Lt. Col. Blackmon aggressively executed more than 1,000 reusable solid rocket motor inspections that resulted in three successful NASA Space Shuttle launches in 2006. Logging over 1,800 travel miles in Iraq, Blackmon cemented relationships with Multi-National Force – Iraq customers and increased vital contractor logistics support oversight by 37 percent. He spearheaded an initiative to close 11 forward operating bases and increased the use of air transport for cargo by 56 percent to decrease the need for dangerous ground convoy shipments. Blackmon directed changes to instill discipline in critical contractor processes at a high-risk rocket plant. He teamed with NASA to fix Space Shuttle booster separation motors that decreased the orbiter foreign object damage risk. He pushed hard to close 11 Iraq forward operating bases by utilizing existing assets, saving \$5 million. He is an active member of the National Contract Management Association and was selected to brief a local chapter on Iraq contracting.

Army Maj. Vaneada S. Terrell – Field Grade Officer of the Year – Theater Support

Maj. Terrell demonstrated superb leadership while leading her team to manage the seamless flow of DCMA service members in and out of theater. A strategic thinker, she implemented processes that reduced personnel processing time by 40 percent. Terrell's insightful analyses of each deployment order provided invaluable feedback to both field commanders and the DCMA International staff about needed changes. She also trailblazed the meaningful integration of performance-based management concepts into the day-to-day execution of her team's duties. Selflessly leading by example despite her heavy workload, Terrell volunteered to work with the Humanitarian Operations Center in Kuwait, supporting a Multi-National Force – Iraq initiative to provide medical treatment, transportation and aid to sick Iraqi children. She also acted as senior military advisor to the contract management office's commander. Terrell did the work of two field grade officers for three months until her deputy arrived and then trained him. On her days off, she volunteers to work with the Humanitarian Operations Center

as an information technology support representative.

Air Force Capt. Paul J. Ferguson – Company Grade Officer of the Year



Capt. Ferguson volunteered for a deployment to Kuwait to oversee Army airfield operations, seaport fire and emergency services, theater transportation, theater retrograde operations and Iraqi Umm Qasr deep-water port operations contracts valued at more than \$850 million. As program integrator for the F-22 aircraft, he expertly devised and implemented a comprehensive performance-based plan to deliver results for his Air Force customers. Leading a team of 10 quality assurance professionals performing more than 500 audits, he ensured contractor compliance with contract requirements. He managed U.S. Central Command's bulk fuel operation, providing 125 million gallons of fuel to Iraq, which fueled 85 percent of

coalition combat vehicles. Ferguson uncovered contractor improprieties and took appropriate corrective actions that resulted in a savings of \$1.5 million. He met top Air Force priorities and delivered 16 F-22 wings on time and below cost with three zero-defect jets. Ferguson assists his community by mentoring underprivileged youths in math, science and the arts. He is also a volunteer tax advisor for military personnel.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason W. Sheer – Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Sgt. 1st Class Sheer displayed outstanding leadership as a senior aviation maintenance manager. As the leader of acquisition professionals, maintainers and warfighters, he provided expert surveillance on contracts valued at more than \$750 million. He ensured contract safety compliance at five locations throughout a tri-state region, personally safeguarding programs valued at \$9 billion. Moreover, Sheer monitors aircraft repair, remanufacture, service and movement, ensuring 100 percent accountability of tools and ground support equipment. He established stringent, but achievable, performance standards associated with contractor performance and

delivery. He facilitated on-time delivery of more than 50 rotary wing aircraft to warfighters and provided an unprecedented level of ground operations surveillance for numerous acquisition category II and III programs. Sheer is also advisor to the unit commander and chief of flight operations on all aspects of program ground/flight safety. He serves his community by holiday visits to more than 50 veterans of a Phoenix nursing home and by coaching young athletes in local football league and arranging numerous educational events at the Boeing Mesa, Ariz., facility.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jonathan G. Patnaude – Junior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



Petty Officer 1st Class Patnaude displayed outstanding leadership, teamwork and dedication while serving as the executive assistant to the DCMA Pacific commander.

He excelled at coordinating and supervising command-level administrative actions, operational calendars, command visits, and military administrative and personnel actions for the contract management office and its six field commands. Patnaude improved the organization, privacy and security of information on the command server. He also edited and published a bimonthly report that enhanced awareness of contractual and operational issues and served as a direct liaison to administrative contracting officers supporting Operation Enduring Freedom – Philippines. Throughout all of this, he continued to provide significant quality assurance support to DCMA Japan while fulfilling all his new duties. Patnaude ensured timely release of four F/A-18 aircraft to Carrier Air Wing Five aboard USS *Kitty Hawk*. His community interests range from leading a local Japanese cycling club to volunteering as a cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid instructor at the Red Cross. Off duty he attends the University of Maryland, maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Greg G. Russell – Best in Service (U.S. Navy) – Field Grade Officer of the Year

Lt. Cmdr. Russell distinguished himself as administrative contracting officer and deputy of operations for DCMA Aircraft Integrated Maintenance Operations Bethpage, N.Y. He led the business support team in the reduction of unfinalized contract actions by 47 percent. Russell's leadership of the \$21 million littoral combat ship integration contract management team resulted in numerous contract management improvements. As the executive officer for all military concerns, he mentored both military and civilian subordinates on meeting customer goals with limited resources. Russell coordinated DCMA Bethpage's fiscal year 2008 budget submission and ensured resource requirements were accurate. He assists his community by mentoring church members relocating to New York City, helping them become familiar with their new surroundings and locate housing. Russell also researched information about how a local Republican Club could best assist disabled veterans returning from Iraq and briefed the club on his findings.

Navy Lt. Christopher M. Sylvester – Best in Service (U.S. Navy) – Company Grade Officer



Lt. Sylvester designed a multipurpose personnel database tailored to aircraft operations, which facilitated management of personnel in key positions and forecasted gaps in contract surveillance. He coordinated personnel management of 60 Navy and Marine aviators at more than 15 contractor sites. He served on two aircraft operations inspections and objectively measured aircraft operating risk at contractor facilities. Sylvester served as deputy on a quality assurance team, validating critical safety item checks for six aircraft types, and provided exceptional service as aide-de-camp to the DCMA director. He performed prime work preparing for Joint Contracting Command – Iraq Commander Air Force Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Scott's deployment and

Naval Aviation Enterprise speech. Sylvester also took time to rebuild a local church's Web site to assist them in their community outreach program.

Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. William T. McKelvey – Best in Service (U.S. Marine Corps)

Gunnery Sgt. McKelvey's management and leadership helped provide exceptional oversight of CH-53 aircraft programmed depot-level maintenance worth more than \$20 million. He aggressively maintained a production flow schedule that ensured timely delivery of 12 aircraft following a 125 percent increase in requirements. His maintenance prowess set the pace for CH-53 upgrades while saving \$650,000. McKelvey obtained complete federal regulatory compliance for the depot maintenance program and its execution. He provided vital oversight for a \$20.1 million CH-53 contract at the largest depot facility for U.S. aircraft in the Pacific Command. He managed two weapon system programs and streamlined redundant processes. He acts as airfield manager for all inbound U.S. aircraft and pushes for 100 percent safety on the job. McKelvey was selected as senior NCO mentor for 30 troops at Chinhae Naval Base, Korea, where

he provides guidance and career counseling. He also took the lead in multi-service physical fitness fun-runs to promote wellness and spearheaded a 2006 Toys for Tots drive supporting children at Pusan's International School.

Air Force Master Sgt. Todd D. Lawson – Best in Service (U.S. Air Force) – Senior Noncommissioned Officer

Master Sgt. Lawson demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to the DCMA contingency contracting administrative services mission during a six-month deployment supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and as an information technology specialist with DCMA Northern Europe. In the war zone, he provided unparalleled support to the warfighter. While assigned to DCMA Northern Europe, he provided critical network support and was a key member of the information technology team. Lawson replaced the entire DCMA Northern Europe data center's outdated infrastructure and created a new network operating system image for DCMA Northern Europe's annual 33 percent computer replacement. He volunteered to document various DCMA networks throughout Northern and Southern Europe

where his efforts proved critical during network certification and accreditation updates. Lawson also maneuvered existing assets to support the Yeovil, England, office supporting the \$6 billion VH-71 presidential helicopter program. In addition to his many accomplishments, he managed all facilities, vehicle maintenance and quality of life requirements for DCMA Iraq headquarters personnel. He serves his community by assisting at high school regional cross-country, softball and football events.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Larry J. Robbins – Best in Service (U.S. Air Force) – Junior Noncommissioned Officer

Tech. Sgt. Robbins displayed outstanding leadership and dedication as an aviation maintenance manager at DCMA Korea by overseeing the safe execution of aviation contracts valued at \$250 million at the Department of Defense's largest international aircraft depot facility. He regularly briefs aircrews from all four branches of the U.S. military and ensures safety for more than 550 flight operations flown on nine different types of aircraft. In addition to Tech. Sgt. Robbins' many accomplishments, he coordinated 230 operational

test flights on post-maintenance aircraft resulting in 380 critical, mishap-free hours. He also found deficiency with a contractor's flight line refueling procedure and stopped improper fuel draining operations. Robbins continuously applies his operational maintenance expertise, serving as the communications link between aircrews and support agencies during functional test flight operations. His community involvement includes coordinating a bike ride for charity — the proceeds going toward fighting childhood cancer — volunteering numerous hours to coach a youth baseball team, organizing mountain bike rides for members of DCMA Korea and organizing a softball game between DCMA and Korean Air.



Air Force Reserve Maj. Barney Dudas — IMA Junior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



Maj. Dudas mobilized and backfilled for the DCMA St. Louis commander, who was deployed to Kuwait, from June 2006 to January 2007. During his time as commander, Dudas developed justifications for critical fill positions at DCMA St. Louis. These justifications were then used by the Chicago contract management office director to secure the positions that provided contracting personnel to meet customer inspection and delivery requirements. During this time, he also acted as the DCMA Chicago contract management office's continuity of operations plan manager, Keystone coordinator and antiterrorism officer. Dudas implemented program-based management on both acquisition category II and III programs with schedule A

and B critical characteristics on ammunition and aircraft depot contracts. Contributing to an Operation Iraqi Freedom critical ammunition requirement, he was able to meet an urgent Army request to expedite a 400 percent increase in ammunition. Dudas's community service includes acting as the DCMA St. Louis Combined Federal Campaign coordinator, volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America and participating as a member of his church's worship team.

Air Force Reserve Capt. Michelle Marie T. Faucher — IMA Company Grade Officer of the Year



Capt. Faucher established an informative Web site for the Aeronautical Systems and Naval Sea Systems Divisions' Reservists. She supported the Air Force Research Lab's participation in a Red Flag Exercise. During the extended medical absence of the

incumbent, Faucher volunteered to fill a key position. She also developed and implemented Aeronautical Systems and Naval Sea System Divisions' Reservist home page, enabling Reservists to access up-to-date information about division Reserve leadership, recruitment, available Reserve positions and deployment eligibility and qualifications. Faucher's involvement with the community involves volunteering as a teacher's aide with Destination Imagination, serving as a Red Cross lifeguard and water safety instructor to children in her community, and planning, organizing, and narrating a ceremony honoring a fallen service member. She is also a volunteer teacher in her church.

Air Force Reserve Senior Master Sgt. Pamela S. Francis – Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Senior Master Sgt. Francis led a team of five contract administrators on 125 contracts valued at more than \$2 billion at DCMA Harris, Palm Bay, Fla. Included among the team's contracts are two complex national defense programs — Advanced Extremely High Frequency Navy Multiband Terminal and the Joint Strike Fighter. At DCMA Bell Helicopter,

she issued an order supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom from receipt of proposal through negotiation in less than one week. Francis not only volunteered to support Operation Enduring Freedom by performing two backfill assignments during this period, but she also provided outstanding administrative contracting officer support to DCMA Harris. She demonstrated contracting knowledge and experience equivalent to a field grade officer or GS-13 civilian and was the sole administrative contracting officer from February – August 2006. She led the team in closing 35 contracts valued at more than \$550 million while closing all overage contracts. Her community service includes sending numerous care packages to Iraq and Afghanistan during the holiday season, volunteering as a Disabled American Veteran volunteer and assisting at social gatherings for local veterans.

Air Force Reserve Staff Sgt. Michael Breeden – Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Staff Sgt. Breeden had an immediate impact on ensuring mission requirements were met on the KC-135, C-130 and P-3 depot maintenance programs. He wrote a flight line inspection checklist

for all three aircraft and developed a safety of flight checklist for the P-3 program, both of which have helped avoid any potential delays and correct problems prior to flight takeoff. Breeden coordinated with both contractor and flight line personnel on safety of flight product audits to be performed on aircraft prior to acceptance or functional check flights and ensured proper inspections were completed prior to aircraft launch. He also performed maintenance inspection of aircraft for preflight and functional check flights and initiated and wrote corrective action requests against defects found during product audits. Breeden demonstrates an outstanding attitude and ability to resolve issues before they grow into problems. His community service includes donating \$2,000 worth of furniture and clothes to charities in support of Hurricane Katrina relief and supporting a local hockey team by donating several hours to charity events, raising \$25,000 for the community. 

