

Around DCMA



Food Items Collected

Over 2,000 Food Items Collected

JANUARY – The DCMA Detroit Equal Employment Opportunity Working Group's (EEOWG's) annual food drive collected 2,039 non-perishable food items, which were donated to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Detroit. The food drive is done each year in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, and this year's drive was organized by EEOWG members Ms. Melissa Steinkamp (left), Mr. Corey L'Heureux (center) and Ms. Sarah Paccione. As in 2005, EEOWG made the food drive a competition among DCMA Detroit teams, and this year's winner was the Brigade Combat Team, with an average of 63.5 items collected per person. The efforts of the Technical Assessment Group and Team General Dynamics Land Systems were also noteworthy for their significant increases over last year, with 32.95 and 22.14 donated items per team member. Upon the event's conclusion, representatives from Gleaners Community Food Bank

collected the donated items and were overwhelmed by the extremely generous donation — they were not prepared to pick up so much food. DCMA Detroit's EEOWG takes great pride in its annual food drive, enjoying the experience of helping people in the community in the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision. (by Mr. Corey L'Heureux, Ms. Melissa Steinkamp and Ms. Sarah Paccione, DCMA Detroit)

Teaming With Contractor Pays Big Dividends

JAN. 23 – Air Force Lt. Col. Ben Badami, DCMA Aircraft Integrated Maintenance Operations (AIMO) – Birmingham commander (front row, left), and Pemco Aeroplex, Inc. President Mr. Glenn Hess (front row, right), signed an updated Management Council Charter. By teaming with the contractor, members of DCMA AIMO – Birmingham have helped improve costs and efficiency for the Air Force KC-135 Program Depot Maintenance Program. Between 2004 and 2005, the dividends realized at Pemco have included a 32 percent reduction in flow days (from 368 to 251); a 71 percent reduction in defects (from 2.8 product quality deficiency reports per aircraft to 0.8); and a 74 percent reduction in lost, damaged and destroyed parts. Other employees involved in negotiating the agreement include (back row, from left): Ms. Debra Moulton, Business Operations team leader, AIMO – Birmingham; Mr. Joseph Carpe, deputy, AIMO – Birmingham; Mr. Vic Perkins, technical team leader, AIMO – Birmingham; Mr. Sam Porter, vice president Quality Systems, PEMCO; Mr. Ed Dunlap, vice president, KC-135 Programs, PEMCO; and Mr. Mike Taggart, vice president, Turboprop Programs, PEMCO. (by Ms. Debra Moulton, Business Operations team leader, DCMA AIMO – Birmingham)



Teaming With Contractor



Black History Program

DCMA Sikorsky’s Black History Program

FEB. 22 – “None of us got where we are by ourselves.” That was the message delivered by Professor Jeff Gaillard (left) of Central Connecticut State and Quinnipiac universities and the keynote speaker at DCMA Sikorsky’s Black History Program. The professor recited a list of leaders of all races who, together, have made this country what it is today. The program also included a film about the predominantly black crew of the destroyer escort *USS Mason* (DE 529), the only ship crewed by black sailors to see combat in World War II. During a record-breaking storm in the North Atlantic Ocean, the *Mason* escorted a convoy of merchant ships bound for England. The storm forced the convoy to break up, and the *Mason* was chosen to escort some ships. With land in sight, the *Mason*’s deck split. However, emergency repairs were made, and the *Mason* returned to escort duty. At the end of the program, Navy Capt. Dorothy J. Freer (with Prof. Gaillard at left),

DCMA Sikorsky commander, provided closing remarks. “We don’t get to where we are by the people who look just like ourselves,” Capt. Freer said. (by Mr. Walt Zaborowski, contract administrator, DCMA Sikorsky; photo by Mr. Steve Kaufman, DCMA Sikorsky)

DCMA Boston Employee’s Daughter Wins Rotary Award

MARCH – DCMA Boston Industrial Specialist Mr. Ed Clavette’s daughter, Katherine (pictured with her dad at right), has been honored as an “Outstanding Youth” with a 2006 distinguished service award from the North Attleboro/Plainville [Mass.] Rotary Club. For the past several years, Katherine, a senior at North Attleboro High School, has organized a monthly coffee house to raise funds for various charities. Each month, with help from friends, Katherine coordinates the coffee house, selecting a charitable organization, scheduling the performers, hosting the event and doing post-event clean up. The coffee houses have proven to be an extremely effective method of fundraising. Because the entertainers perform free of charge and the coffee and baked goods are donated, the money collected from the admission fee and snacks can go entirely toward the chosen charity. To date, the coffee houses have raised over \$9,000.



Rotary Award

Marine Recognized by DCMA Bell Helicopter Textron

APRIL – Marine Corps Sgt. Robert E. Canales (center), son of Mr. Ben Canales (right), DCMA Bell Helicopter Textron on-site Contract Operations supervisor, was recognized for his service in Iraq at a small ceremony at the Bell Helicopter Textron facility in Amarillo, Texas, where the Bell/Boeing V-22 Osprey and Bell UH-1N upgrade and AH-1Z attack helicopters are produced for the Marine Corps. During the ceremony, Marine Corps Lt. Col. Marc McCoy (left), Flight Operations chief for DCMA Bell Helicopter, presented Sgt. Canales with a plaque and a Commander’s Coin



Marine Recognized

on behalf of the commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, and a DCMA Bell Commander's Coin on behalf of Marine Corps Col. Nicholas Hall, DCMA Bell Helicopter commander. On March 10, Gen. Hagee was conducting a site visit at the plant when it was brought to his attention that Mr. Canales' son was injured in Iraq. Sgt. Canales was serving his second tour in Iraq as a scout sniper with the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion when, on Jan. 4, 2006, the vehicle that he and his platoon were in was destroyed by an improvised explosive device. He suffered several serious injuries and was eventually shipped back stateside. Sgt. Canales has been awarded the Purple Heart, and he continues to make progress in his recovery. Upon becoming aware of Sgt. Canales' story, Gen. Hagee explained to Mr. Canales that he tries to meet and personally decorate every wounded Marine that he possibly can. Although he was unable to meet Mr. Canales' son, Gen. Hagee gave Mr. Canales a Commander's Coin and asked the proud father to give it to Sgt. Canales on his behalf. The ceremony was a symbol to all that the efforts and sacrifices of the men and women serving our country are not going unnoticed. It was also a great opportunity for DCMA and contractor personnel to meet one of the heroes of today's war as they build and deliver the technology that will be used by the heroes of tomorrow. (by Mr. Matthew Leonard, technical lead, Quality Assurance, DCMA Bell Helicopter Textron)

DCMA St. Petersburg Trainee is Golden Key Inductee

APRIL – DCMA St. Petersburg Student Career Experience Program contracting trainee and University of South Florida student Ms. Melanie Ann Kordana (right), was honored recently in an induction ceremony for the Golden Key International Honour Society. Golden Key is a nonprofit organization that provides academic recognition to college juniors and seniors in the top 15 percent of their classes, as well as leadership development opportunities, community service, career networking and scholarships. Membership into the Society is by invitation only and is available to students in all fields of study. There are more than 1.6 million members in 335 chapters in the United States, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates. "Our members are inspired and motivated not only to achieve exceptional academic accomplishments, but also to make a positive impact on our world through the Society's commitment to service," said Mr. Alexander D. Perwich, Golden Key's chief executive officer.



Golden Key Inductee



P-3 Program

Pemco P-3 Program is off to a Great Start

APRIL 4 – The first Navy P-3 aircraft (left) was delivered 16 days ahead of schedule, an outstanding beginning for the new contract at the Pemco Aeroplex facility in Birmingham, Ala. The contract was awarded on July 11, 2005, with the first P-3 arriving on Nov. 15, 2005. The aircraft's early release was not luck; it was due to the hard work, excellent teamwork and strong leadership demonstrated by both the Pemco Aeroplex and DCMA AIMO – Birmingham teams. Members of the DCMA AIMO – Birmingham P-3 team include, from left: Mr. Jack Smith, quality assurance specialist (QAS); Ms. Melissa Aaron, QAS; Mr. Reginald Johnson, QAS; Mr. Dan Holovac, industrial specialist; Mr. Vic Perkins, team leader; Mr. Daryl Hill, QAS;

Mr. Terrell Tillery, QAS; and Mr. Billy Mosley, QAS lead. During its stay at the Birmingham facility, the P-3 went through extensive depot maintenance, special structural inspections/repairs and selected avionics modifications, which will keep the aircraft operational and extend its service life. The P-3 is a vital component in the global war on terror, performing surveillance and control capabilities in support of maritime interdiction as well as anti-ship and anti-submarine missions. (by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Rafael Him, DCMA AIMO – Birmingham)

Partnering to Meet Future Challenges

APRIL 11 – In an expansion of its customer partnering initiatives, the DCMA Atlanta South Carolina Operations Team entered into a Business Enterprise Agreement with BAE Systems of Aiken, S.C. The agreement's objective is to seize opportunities to exceed mutual customers' expectations. The parties agreed to adopt shared ownership approaches for enterprise metrics, such as quality, cost, scheduling, process improvements and customer satisfaction. The shared vision also includes other key operating principles, such as working towards streamlining oversight activities based upon process certifications. The need for partnering was intensified due to significant increases in workload at the contractor's facility. Over the past year, the need for critical items to support the war effort, such as add-on armor suites and kits for M-1 tanks, M113 Armored Personnel Carriers and Bradley and Stryker Infantry Fighting Vehicles, resulted in a 30 percent increase in direct customer shipments and a 55 percent increase in personnel resources. Both organizations' teams believe that this agreement will set them on the right path of continued process improvements and increased confidence in product performance. Team members, sitting, from left: Mr. Jim Hinkey, BAE Systems divisional quality lead; Mr. Mike Eaton, BAE Systems Aiken plant manager; Mr. Tom Uva, DCMA Atlanta team leader; Mr. Mike Frye, DCMA Atlanta senior product assurance representative; standing, from left: Mr. Bill Danielson, DCMA Atlanta quality assurance representative; Mr. Harry Crowe, BAE Systems Aiken quality manager. (by Mr. Thomas Uva, Contract Operations supervisor, South Carolina Operations, DCMA Atlanta)



Partnering for the Future



\$3 Billion Lift

\$3 Billion Lift

APRIL 17 – Numerous acquisition officials attended a ceremonial contract signing at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, Conn., to mark the U.S. Marines' selection of Sikorsky Aircraft for a \$3 billion development contract for a new heavy-lift replacement helicopter. The design of the new helicopter, the CH-53K, will be based on the existing CH-53E, with the same dimensions and cruising speed. However, the CH-53K equipment-carrying capacity will be increased. In Afghanistan and Iraq, CH-53Es supply troops on the ground and perform rescues. Sikorsky is expected to begin delivering the first of 156 helicopters in 2015. "This is a great opportunity for Sikorsky to write a new chapter in its heavy-lift aircraft history," said Navy Capt. Dorothy J. Freer (back row, left), DCMA Sikorsky commander. "We look forward to helping them develop a quality product, delivered on time and within budget." Signing the agreement were Assistant Secretary of the

Navy, Research, Development and Acquisition Dr. Delores M. Etter (front row, left) and Sikorsky Aircraft President Jeff Pino (front row, right). Also in attendance were (back row, from left): Mr. Bill Balderson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Aviation; U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, 2nd Congressional District of Connecticut; Deputy Commandant for Marine Aviation Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John G. Castellaw; and Mr. Thomas Laux, program executive officer for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault & Special Mission Programs. (by Mr. Walt Zaborowski, contract administrator, DCMA Sikorsky; photo by Mr. Richard Zellner, Sikorsky Aircraft)



Boeing Facility Tour

Boeing F-18E/F Production Facility Tour

APRIL 24 – Ms. Lisa C. Clark (left), director, DCMA Aeronautical Systems Division, Operations Directorate, visited the Boeing aircraft production areas at Boeing’s St. Louis facility. DCMA Quality Assurance Specialist Mr. John Schaefer and Boeing employee Mr. Pat Leahy conducted the tour. Ms. Clark was given an overview of the F-18E/F production lines, including the wing shop, forward fuselage and final assembly areas. In the F-18 final assembly area, DCMA Quality Assurance Specialist Mr. John Prass joined the tour and coordinated the opportunity for Ms. Clark to sit in the crew station of an F-15. (by Mr. John Schaefer, quality assurance specialist, DCMA Boeing St. Louis, and Mr. John Prass, quality assurance specialist, DCMA Boeing St. Louis)

Local Girl Scouts Support the Troops

MAY 13 – In an effort to brighten the days for U.S. troops overseas, the San Diego-Imperial Council Girl Scouts sent them 192,667 boxes of cookies for this year’s Operation Thin Mint. The cookies were sent off at a ceremony on the *USS Midway*, a decommissioned aircraft carrier, in downtown San Diego. The event drew a crowd of more than 1,000 Girl Scouts and their families, as well as California Congressional Reps. Susan Davis and Bob Filner and officials from all branches of the military. Ms. Rachelle Munz, DCMA San Diego Communications and Ground Team supervisor and Girl Scout Troop 3359 leader, participated in the program with her daughter, a member of Troop 3359 (members of the Troop shown at right on the *USS Midway*). Operation Thin Mint began after 9/11, when military troops were increasingly deployed overseas. “The security was so tight that people were having a hard time sending mail to their troops and loved ones,” said Ms. Munz. “So the Girl Scouts of San Diego-Imperial County got together with the government in order to have the security of the boxes checked straight from the warehouse to the troops.” The program allows customers to donate the cost of a box of cookies to the Council, which then orders the cookies directly from the warehouse and sends the cookies to the troops. To date, Operation Thin Mint has sent over 630,000 boxes of cookies overseas. The Girl Scout troops also make and send cards, thanking the troops for their efforts. The U.S. Navy manages the program and assists with the distribution of the cookies to U.S. troops from all branches of the military. (by Ms. Ashley Wuytens, Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, DCMA Ground Systems & Munitions and Space & Missile Systems Divisions)



Girl Scouts Support Troops