

DCMA WEST WELCOMES AIR FORCE COL. AARON CLARK AS NEW REGION COMMANDER

By Ann Jensis-Dale, DCMA Public Affairs

Air Force Col. Aaron Clark's career began almost 25 years ago with his first assignment as a tactical communications officer, Combat Theater Communications System at Electronic Systems Division, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass. Fast forward 25 years later and to the West Coast, Clark is now the DCMA West commander, one of the three new geographic region commanders for the Defense Contract Management Agency.

DCMA Director Charlie Williams, Jr. announced this past February the selection of the three new DCMA geographic region commanders: Clark; Navy Capt. Sidney Kim, DCMA East; and Army Col. Jeffrey Gabbert, DCMA Central. The new region commanders are tasked with building on the agency concept of operations and standing up the geographic regions and the Operations Directorate under Chief Operations Officer Marie Greening.

"Several goals of the agency realignment are to improve the consistency of contract operations across all [contract management offices], minimize organizational seams, make it simpler to reallocate resources in a geographic region and ensure a more consistent prioritization of resources across the agency," said Clark.

Some may say DCMA is going back to the future since it was previously organized by two geographic districts



Air Force Col. Aaron Clark, Defense Contract Management Agency West commander, is one of the three new geographic region commanders for DCMA. (Photo by Ann Jensis-Dale, DCMA Public Affairs)

prior to the reorganization of the four military service product divisions. Not exactly, according to Clark.

"I think the product divisions did a great job identifying with their respective customers' needs and providing the tailored contract administrative services they desired. I am proud of my previous role, building the Aero Division and working to improve the agency's overall performance," said Clark. "I think the functional alignment and

Operations Directorate with the region commands is the next great step in the evolution of DCMA's role in the overall [Department of Defense] acquisition enterprise."

The new geographic region commands are tasked with establishing their commands and standard operating procedures across the Operations Directorate, managing CMO performance as measured by the agency performance indicators, allocating resources appropriately

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and resolving issues across the new geographic regions. New geographic regions are expected to be fully staffed by January 2013.

“Any required staff member relocations will be accomplished by January 2013. At this time, I am planning to spend time on temporary duty with the West region CMOs and in Carson, [Calif.,] as we stand up the West region and turn the command over to a new commander in the summer of 2011,” said Clark.

Clark’s first priority is to identify the employees who will be on the DCMA West staff and

establish a schedule to transition the responsibilities of the former product division to the operations directorate and region staff to result in initial operations capability. He expects some challenges during this period but believes effective and open communications will smooth out some of the bumps along the way.

“I think our initial challenge will be to learn how to work within the overall agency alignment and effectively communicate with the Operations Directorate and Portfolio Management and Integration Directorate staffs. I want to ensure

our customers receive the excellent contract administrative services they deserve,” said Clark.

Clark truly believes DCMA’s most valuable assets are its dedicated employees. “I’m amazed with the incredible knowledge and experience of our DCMA workforce. It is a humbling experience to have worked the DoD’s acquisition system for 24 years and still learn something new every day. The functional alignment is bringing a real technical renaissance, and the geographic alignment will be like putting on a familiar sweater,” concluded Clark. 



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