



'Teaming' to net new Keystones, journeymen

Jason Tippet | DCMA Central Regional Command

It was a team effort as these Defense Contract Management Agency headquarters, Central Regional Command and Chicago Contract Management Office employees spearheaded a hiring event in Chicago to identify potential applicants for Keystone and journeyman positions. (Left to right front) Joe Harris, Ted Zalewski, Deb Case, Kathleen James, Mariangela Monsalve (Left to right back) Steve Hayner, Janice Spradling, Sonya Alston and David Andersen. (Photo by Jason Tippet, DCMA Central Regional Command)

Defense Contract Management Agency headquarters, Central Regional Command and

Chicago Contract Management Office employees recently spearheaded a hiring event to identify applicants for possible placement within some of the agency's key career fields.

"These events are imperative to the success and future of DCMA," said David C. Andersen, senior recruiter, DCMA. "The best thing about these events is that you get to see candidates, meet with them and pick the best available talent that will aid in our mission success."

The recent hiring event took place in downtown Chicago as an effort to place applicants into 48 Keystone and journeyman positions in the career fields of contracting, quality, engineering and manufacturing and production. After the public advertisement of the position openings, DCMA recruiting contacted more than eight Chicago area college career counselors who advertised the event to their students for a broader net-casting, according to Andersen.

The expedited hiring process, as

authorized by the Office of Personnel Management, was used to help get qualified candidates into the agency in the most expeditious way legally possible, he said.

"For me, a great day is when I can hire someone. This economy has taken a toll on many people in our country, so to be able to make someone's day is truly a great feeling," Andersen said.

The event provided an opportunity for applicants to interview in person for positions located throughout Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Wisconsin. Deborah Case, Chicago CMO, served as the event action officer and leveraged DCMA Chicago and Central Regional Command employees to serve on three-person hiring panels.

"My goal is to find that person who wants to serve his or her country even though he or she is not wearing a uniform," Andersen said. "I served in the Marine Corps for 21 years and my son recently returned from Afghanistan with the Marines, so this is near and dear to my heart. I want to take care of that kid whom I never met as he or she protects our country."

Since December, the agency headquarters recruiters, Andersen and Mariangela

Monsalve, DCMA recruiter, organized hiring events in Chicago, Detroit, Dallas, northern California, southern California, Philadelphia and Puerto Rico.

"I certainly did not do this alone," Andersen said. "Mariangela was right there with me 100 percent of the time, and she still is, as we work through the processing of all these new hires. She was a key to the success of our efforts in Puerto Rico, as well, as she attended college there."

Regarding the recruiting events, Monsalve said, "I believe this kind of event is a team effort. There are so many people and pieces involved that we, as an agency, have to work as a team in order to make it happen."

Monsalve praised the DCMA employees who assisted with the hiring events.

"Certainly doing all these hiring events with only two agency headquarters recruiters was hard work, but we had the best people in the field helping us to make it happen," Monsalve said. "We received assistance from the CMOs involved, panel members, the Keystone and journeyman team, (Army Service Team) and the CMO event points of contact who have been working with us through the entire process." 