

Michael E. Shields, Jr. Appointed to SES

Katherine H. Crawford | Staff Writer

Michael E. Shields, Jr., Defense Contract Management Agency Quality Directorate executive

director, was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in a ceremony at DCMA Headquarters in Alexandria, Va., Aug. 11.

Many of Shields' colleagues, as well as his wife, children and parents, attended the ceremony.

After the national anthem and an invocation by master of ceremonies Marcus Berry, DCMA Director Charlie Williams, Jr. welcomed attendees and gave a brief history of the SES position and its role. He explained his view of the SES, stating that it's important "that we understand that when we're talking about senior executives, we're talking about leaders, not managers. We are talking about people who are called to lead institutions and enterprises across the federal government." He continued, "SES are called to step out of what has traditionally, up until this point in their careers, been their typical functional lane."

Williams felt strongly that Shields was well-qualified for becoming an SES, explaining, "We know that Mike can work at an SES level, to work across the natural seams of any organization. We also know that he can work in a collaborative way on issues and problems to resolve those issues in a way that's good for the institution. We also know that Mike is able to maintain an open mind in order to envision the future, another very important thing that we call on these SES leaders to do — to set the vision, to establish a strategy, then bring the team together to move down that road that we've set." He concluded, "Mike has certainly demonstrated the skills to be a leader in our Defense Contract Management Agency."

Following his remarks, Williams presented Shields with an SES certificate signed by Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates in recognition of his acceptance to the SES. Shields' wife, Patricia, then stepped forward to present the SES pin to her husband and attach it to his lapel, and Williams presented Shields with the SES flag.

Next, Williams administered the SES oath of office to Shields. As Berry explained to the audience, Williams' recitation of the oath symbolized a reaffirmation of his commitment to serve the nation as a member of the Department of Defense.

With the ceremonial formalities completed and Shields an official member of the SES, he addressed the audience, stating, "This is a very special honor, and I'm truly grateful for it." Shields expressed his gratitude for those in his life who had supported him on his journey, thanking first his parents, then the managers and senior leaders who mentored him throughout his career and, finally, Patricia.

Addressing Williams, Shields remarked, "I'm proud to dedicate myself, sir, to achieving the vision, your vision, of the agency and also to focus my efforts on serving others." He listed some of the items he intends to focus on going forward, including supporting his peers on the senior leadership team, rebuilding the quality community, helping new Keystone interns and fostering those in the Tomorrow's Leaders program. He concluded by saying, "Our mission here at DCMA is really vital to the security of the country, so I'm honored and proud to be here."

The SES corps was established in 1978, and there are approximately 7,500 members across the federal government. According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, this dedicated corps of executives is comprised of men and women charged with leading the continuing transformation of our government. These executives share a commitment to public service and a set of democratic values grounded in the fundamental ideals of the Constitution. As the leaders of the federal civilian workforce, SES members strive each day to create a more citizen-centered, results-oriented federal government. 



Michael E. Shields, Jr., Quality Directorate executive director, poses for a picture with his family Aug. 11 after being appointed to the Senior Executive Service. From left: daughter, Katherine Davis; son, William Shields; father, Michael E. Shields, Sr.; wife, Patricia Shields; son-in-law Michael Davis; son, Patrick Shields; and mother, Carmella Shields.