

Around DCMA



Silver Snoopy

NASA Silver Snoopy Award

SEPT. 8 – Mr. Rodney Sorapuru (left), quality assurance specialist at DCMA Marshall/Stennis Support Center, was presented with a Silver Snoopy Award by astronaut Dr. Lee Morin (right) during a ceremony at the Center. Mr. Sorapuru was recognized for his outstanding performance in support of testing Space Shuttle main engines at the NASA Space Center, contributing to the safety of manned space flight and ensuring mission success. The Silver Snoopy presented to Mr. Sorapuru was taken into space aboard Space Shuttle *Atlantis* on mission STS 110, which was flown by Dr. Morin. Dr. Morin has accumulated more than 259 hours in space and is currently working on the cockpit design for NASA's new crew exploration vehicle, *Orion*. (by Ms. Sharon Worgan, program analyst, DCMA NASA Product Operations, Marshall/Stennis Support Center)

Sgt. Gainey Briefed by DCMA Leaders

SEPT. 19 – Army Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey (right), senior enlisted advisor (SEA) to the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, visited DCMA to learn more about the Agency. Sgt. Maj. Gainey met with Mr. Keith Ernst (center), DCMA acting director, and Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Terrence Woodley (left), DCMA SEA. Discussions included a general overview of DCMA and its relationship to the services within the Department of Defense. Army Col. Jake Hansen also provided a briefing about DCMA Iraq and all the work DCMA is doing in support of the war effort. Sgt. Maj. Gainey is in a newly created position established to advise the chairman on matters of professional development of enlisted personnel for a joint environment. (by Ms. Julia Wyant, DCMA Public Affairs)



SEA Briefing

For Those About to Speak, We Salute You

SEPT. 27 – The Toastmasters International club at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation in Stratford, Conn., celebrated its one-year anniversary. Toastmasters is a worldwide, non-profit organization dedicated to increasing its members' leadership and communication skills in an enjoyable and educational social setting. The Sikorsky DCMA Club #842294 was formed by Sikorsky Aircraft, DCMA and Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) employees who wanted to improve



Toastmasters

their public-speaking skills in a non-threatening, supportive environment. The club meets every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. at the Sikorsky facility, and the meetings are open to all Sikorsky, DCAA and DCMA employees. Navy Capt. Dorothy J. Freer, DCMA Sikorsky commander, said, “Good leaders should have good communications skills. Toastmasters can play a role in developing those skills. This is just one more avenue for our employees to pursue self-improvement and improve their opportunities for advancement.” Club participants who attended the anniversary celebration, front row, from left: Mr. John Lynch, District 53 governor; Mr. John Bate, club president (Sikorsky), holding the annual Toastmaster Award; Mr. Justin Paulin (DCMA); and Mr. Steve Kaufman (DCMA); second row, from left: Ms. Martha Collins (DCAA); Mr. Walter Jones (DCAA); Ms. Catherine Buturla (DCMA); and Mr. Brian Cavanaugh (Sikorsky); third row, from left: Mr. Greg Ryan (Sikorsky); Mr.

Jim Baltrush (DCMA); Mr. Ray Palaka (DCMA); Mr. Jon Swensson (DCAA); Mr. Tom Anderson (DCMA); Mr. Ray Crosby (Sikorsky); Mr. Mario DiPreta (Sikorsky); and Mr. Brian Jones (Sikorsky). (by Mr. Thomas P. Anderson, industrial specialist, DCMA Sikorsky; photo courtesy of DCMA Sikorsky)

DCMA Pittsburgh Employee’s Wife Recognized by First Lady

OCT. 5 – At a ceremony at the Union League Club in New York, N.Y., Mrs. Gerry Kohler, wife of DCMA Pittsburgh Quality Assurance Representative Mr. Bill Kohler, was honored by First Lady Laura Bush (third from left) with the 2006 Preserve America History Teacher of the Year Award. Mrs. Bush stated, “For young Americans to appreciate how we live today, they should understand how Americans lived in the past, which requires great teachers of American history. Great history teachers take required coursework and ... turn it into a thrilling personal experience. They encourage students to discover our country’s heritage”. Mrs. Bush later drew laughter by mentioning Mrs. Kohler’s favorite piece of feedback — an anonymous evaluation last year in which a student wrote, “Dear Mrs. Kohler, I’ve always hated history, and I still don’t like it very much. But I can tell *you* like it a whole lot.” Dr. James Basker (left), president, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, also spoke.

Mrs. Kohler, who has been teaching for 27 years, has a fascination with the past that began when she read *Gone With the Wind* in sixth grade. For the last nine years, she has taught at VanDevender Junior High School in Parkersburg, W.V., and two of her students, Ms. Elizabeth Corbit (fourth from left) and Mr. Patrick Shahan, attended the ceremony. Mrs. Kohler is also vice president of the Wood County Historical Preservation Society, and she organized a junior historical society for her students. She travels widely, attending workshops with historians and other teachers, serves as a master teacher at an institute in New Hampshire and mentors history teachers in West Virginia. (Photo courtesy of Mr. William Kohler, DCMA Pittsburgh)



Mrs. Gerry Kohler



Lt. Col. Simpson

Acquisition Director of the Year

OCT. 8 – Army Lt. Col. James Simpson (center), DCMA Central Pennsylvania and DCMA Northern Iraq, was honored at the 2006 U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Annual Awards Ceremony held in Arlington, Va. Lt. Col. Simpson received the award for Acquisition Director of the Year at the Lieutenant Colonel Level for his extraordinary contributions and brilliant leadership as commander of the two DCMA offices. Under his leadership, the organization played a critical role in fielding 281 reset and 156 recap Bradley Fighting Vehicles to units deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Claude M. Bolton Jr. (right), Army acquisition executive and assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics & technology (ASAALT), hosted the event with the assistance of Mr. Craig A. Spisak, director, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center. Army Col. Fred Mullins, deputy director, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, presided as master of ceremonies. Also in attendance was Army Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac (left), military deputy to the ASAALT and

director, acquisition career management. This annual event acknowledges the accomplishments of the acquisition workforce's most extraordinary members and the teams they lead. These uniformed and civilian professionals work behind the scenes to provide combatant commanders and their soldiers the weapons and equipment needed to execute decisive, full-spectrum operations in support of global combat missions. (by Ms. Katherine Crawford, staff writer; photo by Ms. Meg Williams, BRTRC)

"Flags of Our Fathers" Movie Extras

OCT. 20 – Last summer, two federal employees got a chance to become part of history — at least on film. Ms. Kathleen "Kate" McConnell (right), DCMA Headquarters Plans and Policy Division, and Ms. Kelly Dowd (left), Defense Energy Support Center, Ft. Belvoir, Va., and sister of Ms. Kim Raley, DCMA Headquarters, were extras in the movie, "Flags of Our Fathers." They learned of the opportunity through a casting call announcement requesting extras published in the Sunday newspaper. Ms. McConnell's best memories about the experience are "spending time with Kim's sister Kelly — we laughed the whole way through it. Also, seeing Clint Eastwood (the film's director) and meeting the stars of the movie — that was really exciting!" Ms. McConnell also noted that there was a consultant on the set, an actual Iwo Jima veteran. After seeing the film, Ms. McConnell said she felt "proud to have been a

part of it." When asked if she would act as an extra again, Ms. McConnell said, "Oh yes, definitely!" (by Ms. Dianne Ryder, editor in chief; movie photos courtesy of <http://www.flagsoffourfathers.net>)



Movie Extras

