



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I'd Like to Say ... Thanks!

This issue, we are doing something a little different with *Communicator*. The magazine staff examines what our people are doing day-to-day in the contract management offices across the agency through photographs of them on the job.

One group of people, critical to our support of the warfighters, that the *Communicator* staff could not photograph with their cameras is the group of volunteers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Over the past couple of years, the need for personnel performing contracting, quality assurance and other duties in theater has grown and continues to grow. We were required to provide another 100 volunteers for duty in theater at the end of 2007 and will likely have further growth as the operations tempo in Afghanistan changes. It is

important to remember that most of the civilian men and women who deployed and are away from friends and family are volunteers.

We do not have any trouble remembering our military volunteers serving overseas, but we do not always remember the increased role of our civilian volunteers. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of the volunteers for stepping up to ensure the performance of this critical wartime mission.

To be able to provide these volunteers for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan required the assistance of a number of people. We often forget, too, that for every deploying volunteer, someone must take over his or her duties in his or her respective CMO, taking up the slack and sustaining the performance of that critical mission. This means that many of you performed the duties of two or more people for an extended period during this last year. Thank you!

Thank you for your dedication to our warfighters, to our customers and our agency. I think we all recognize that DCMA's commitments to supporting our deployed warfighters will not end soon. While we continue to meet the contract management needs in the war zone with civilian volunteers, we have also begun to examine DCMA's "true role" in contingency operations in the future.

Suffice it to say, for now we have been "the right answer" for fulfilling the needs of the Department of Defense and the military services. Thank you for all of the hard work each of you accomplishes every day.

Warmly,

Charlie Williams Jr.
Director
DCMA

DCMA Director
Charlie Williams Jr.

Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

Director
Jackie Noble

Chief, Public Affairs
Richard Cole

Editor in Chief
Dianne Ryder

Associate Editor
Mark Woodbury

Editorial, Layout and Design
Katherine Crawford, Laura Tansill & Michael Kaplun, BRTRC Technology

Research Corporation, 8260 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Suite 800, Fairfax, VA. 22031
phone: (703) 204-9777

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Quintessential Color Group
7915 Penn Randall Place
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phone: (301) 736-3390
fax: (301) 736-3395

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