



DCMA EMPLOYEE LIVES LIFE TO FULLEST EXTENT

By Sam Rousso, DCMA Public Affairs

Dean Austin, Defense Contract Management Agency Boeing Seal Beach contract administrator, encountered Agent Orange, leading to diabetes and other health issues, while serving as a medic in Vietnam.

Agent Orange is a defoliant, or herbicide, used to clear jungle areas of their cover during the war but was found to cause serious health problems, including diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer, for those exposed to it.

Austin's diabetes has created serious complications for him, such as poor circulation in his right leg, leading to a breakdown of the skin tissue. This, and the resulting infections, leaves his mobility impaired but does not stop him.

Austin says the pain that comes as a result of his leg problems can be excruciating at times, but he has learned to cope with it to the greatest extent possible.

"Like wearing glasses, eventually even pain became 'normal' for me and something I don't think about," he confessed. To avoid painful situations, however, Austin makes it a point to position himself in a way that prevents anyone from hitting his legs.

Austin appreciates the accommodations DCMA has made for him and his co-workers' willingness to ensure he is a part of the team.

"I am keenly aware of how blessed I am to work at DCMA Boeing Huntington Beach," he said.

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— Dean Austin, Defense Contract Management Agency Boeing Seal Beach contract administrator

As a contract administrator, Austin performs reconciliations to verify that billings and payments comply with the contracts and modifications.

"I work with the administrative contracting officer, the contractor, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and others to resolve discovered issues," he explained. "I perform contract closeout, overage, canceling funds, trusted agent and other

responsibilities utilizing numerous computer programs."

According to Austin's co-workers, he performs his tasks at a high level, earning regular award recognitions since starting at DCMA in May 2001. Austin's co-workers say in spite of having to endure health issues that would stop others, Austin goes on living life to the fullest extent possible. 



Despite an uphill battle with diabetes that creates infections in his legs and impairs his mobility, Dean Austin, Defense Contract Management Agency Boeing Seal Beach contract administrator, continues to live life optimistically and excel as a valuable agency employee.