

EMPLOYEE'S PARALYZING ACCIDENT NEVER SLOWED HIM DOWN

By Ann Jensis-Dale, DCMA Public Affairs

George Pigan, Defense Contract Management Agency Aircraft Integration Maintenance Office Birmingham, Ala., management analyst, is known as the “go-to-guy” for his extensive knowledge of DCMA computer applications and various software programs at his contract management office. Pigan has overcome numerous obstacles and challenges throughout his life and career but always epitomizes the “can do” spirit.

Pigan is a quadriplegic from a spinal cord injury suffered in a car accident in 1982. He is paralyzed from the neck down with limited use of his arms, including shoulders, elbows and wrist extensors. But, according to his co-workers, his disability has never slowed him down. Instead, he is always a few steps ahead of everyone else.

“George’s critical thinking process is three consequences ahead of everyone else — he transforms ideas into workable solutions,” said Victor Perkins, DCMA AIMO Birmingham Technical Operations Group chief.

Pigan, who holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, joined DCMA 20 years ago as a quality engineer with the Quality Technical Support

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Group. His initial responsibilities were to provide technical reviews of contractor quality plans and assist the quality assurance staff in the field with their contractor oversight plans. “This was just about the time the organization was coming into the computer age,” Pigan explained. “So, I developed a local database

for tracking contractor requests for waivers and/or deviations from the contract requirements.”

Due to agency budget cuts — and Pigan’s natural computer skills — he became involved with information technology-related work as computers made their way into the mainstream of DCMA. He



George Pigan, Defense Contract Management Agency Aircraft Integration Maintenance Office Birmingham, Ala., management analyst, receives the Employee of the Quarter First Quarter 2008 award from former DCMA AIMO Birmingham commander Army Lt. Col. Ben Badami at the Birmingham office. (DCMA photo)



soon found himself splitting time between his engineering duties and IT initiatives. The Performance Labor Accounting System was an early IT initiative that Pigan was involved with from its inception to the program we all use today.

“My first experience with George concerned something called PLAS over a decade ago,” noted Perkins. “Initially, PLAS provided a means for determining if a person showed up for work or took annual/sick leave. George said, ‘Why don’t we add additional source codes and the tools to capture where the person spent their time and what they did while they were at work? Look, I’ll show you.’ The rest is history.”

Fellow DCMA co-workers fondly refer to Pigan as the “nerve center” for DCMA AIMO Birmingham. The list of Pigan’s accomplishments is impressive and includes IT initiatives for the Integrated Performance Software tool, performance indicators in Metrics Manager, the DCMA AIMO Birmingham community portal, the Product Assurance Database and the Integrated Quality Database Management System. According to Pigan’s co-workers, he demonstrates daily the exceptional ability to extract, organize and analyze every type of data DCMA AIMO Birmingham manages in the most effective and efficient manner.



George Pigan, Defense Contract Management Agency Aircraft Integration Maintenance Office Birmingham, Ala., management analyst, poses for a picture recently at his workstation at DCMA AIMO Birmingham. (Photo by Shelton Price)

“He is amazing. Not only can he take a program and give reports that make sense, but he is one of the nicest, most sincere people you would ever like to meet,” said Melinda Varner, DCMA AIMO Birmingham contracts team lead. “He is a great management analyst and a great employee. His smile and laugh always brighten up my day.”

Pigan does require some assistance throughout the work day, which includes anything from preparing a report, preparing food or drink and traveling to and from the office. He is

appreciative of the support provided by his co-workers and his family.

“I have always been supported by both management and the personnel wherever I’ve been. This is one of the best things I’ve found in my years working for DCMA is that the people are the best,” Pigan said. “My long-term goal is to continue to work for DCMA until I retire. I have had numerous opportunities throughout my career that would have required relocation, which I was not willing to do. I firmly believe that anyone can go as far as they want within DCMA.”

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