

# Annual Military Awards



## **Technical Sergeant Michael R. Flemming, U.S. Air Force**

*Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year and USAF Non-Commissioned Officer Best of Service*

Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Flemming displayed outstanding technical skills and dedication to duty while serving as the information resource manager at DCMA Singapore in 2004. Tech. Sgt. Flemming was essential to maintaining the Singapore and Malaysia offices' productivity through computer network connectivity. This significant achievement required Tech. Sgt. Flemming to demonstrate his technical skills through troubleshooting hardware failures and integrating the efforts of the Defense Information Systems Agency, local U.S. Navy units and multiple foreign contractors. An example of his skills and dedication occurred when a Singapore network switch failed, causing the office to lose e-mail, shared folders and its intranet. He rapidly identified the cause of the problem, drove 500 miles to retrieve the required part in Malaysia, leased a new switch for that location and restored Singapore connectivity within two days. In addition, Tech. Sgt. Flemming expertly handled all the logistical details associated with the DCMA Malaysia office closure and the DCMA Singapore office reconstruction to accommodate the personnel relocating to Singapore. Tech. Sgt. Flemming served as an outstanding ambassador of American values through his numerous contributions to his local multinational church, Parent Teachers Association and his children's intramural athletic programs. Tech. Sgt. Flemming and his wife, Eneida, have three daughters, Bridgette, Brittani and Brandi.

## **Staff Sergeant Danny W. Langford, U.S. Marine Corps**

*USMC Non-Commissioned Officer  
Best of Service*

Staff Sgt. Danny W. Langford continues his exemplary performance as a member of DCMA Japan's outstanding team. Working as a forward deployed quality assurance specialist (QAS), Staff Sgt. Langford reviewed, validated

and approved more than 3,000 over-and-above maintenance actions with a total value of over \$1 million. A dedicated Marine, he volunteered to deploy to a designated hazardous area in the Philippines to oversee a foreign military sales contract to support the Philippine Air Force in its war on terror. Functioning as a QAS, Staff Sgt. Langford monitors and validates U.S. funded depot-level repairs on Philippine Air Force C-130 aircraft. Additionally, he was deployed for 25 days to Iwakuni, Japan, to lead a field team consisting of five local contractors. During this time, he led the execution of 15 airframe changes on seven different aircraft. Due to his efforts, this work was completed nine days ahead of schedule. Staff Sgt. Langford serves as the lead Customer Service and Component Repair representative for DCMA Japan and is charged with executing quick-turn maintenance actions for the program office and operational end user. This program currently has 57 high-interest job orders in work with over 200 deliveries to date and a contract value of over \$600,000. Staff Sgt. Langford is an exceptional non-commissioned officer, who is maturing into an outstanding leader. Motivated to succeed with exceptional drive, he exemplifies the finest of DCMA. A 10-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Staff Sgt. Langford currently resides in Japan with his wife and daughter.

## **Master Sergeant Richard L. Rentze, U.S. Air Force**

*Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year and  
USAF Senior Non-Commissioned Officer  
Best in Service*

Master Sgt. Richard L. Rentze displayed outstanding leadership and dedication as aviation maintenance manager and as a primary member of the DCMA Northern/Southern Europe Aviation Program Team. Master Sgt. Rentze has proven himself by meticulously managing and coordinating maintenance procedures for five aircraft contracts valued at over \$35 million and participating in eight non-resident Aviation Program Team Surveys. He was handpicked to support the



*(Left, from top to bottom)* Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Flemming; Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Danny W. Langford; Air Force Master Sgt. Richard L. Rentze (All photos for this article by DCMA staff)

PEACE CAESAR F-16 Program Management Review as a consultant for safer and more effective maintenance operations, and he is actively engaged in assessing the aviation requirements of the \$1.4 billion United States Army Europe (USAREUR) Support Contract, covering the 93 countries in the USAREUR area of operations. His organization and execution of a multifaceted contract development meeting with DCMA and Joint Contracting Center representatives directly resulted in the development of a contract surveillance plan led by the Joint Contracting Center and supported by the Task Force Falcon G4 office, both located at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Master Sgt. Rentze coordinated several safety- and health-related processes directly impacting safe work environments and aircraft safety. These processes were the driving forces behind his procurement of 24 fire bottles for aircraft parking aprons, which provided increased fire safety protection. He assisted in developing procedures for mobile tool truck inventories, increasing maintenance efficiency by 30 percent. Master Sgt. Rentze's dedication to service is also prevalent in his off-duty endeavors. He is an active member of the Parent Teacher Association and supports the Family Readiness Group and Family Advocacy Program.

### **Gunnery Sergeant Ian E. Kubicki, U.S. Marine Corps**

*USMC Senior Non-Commissioned Officer  
Best of Service*

Gunnery Sgt. Ian E. Kubicki displayed outstanding technical skills and dedication to duty while serving as an industrial specialist and aircraft maintenance manager at DCMA Singapore in 2004. Gunnery Sgt. Kubicki directly contributed to the office's implementation of performance-based management through his support of DCMA's customers and accomplishment of their outcomes. He was instrumental to the success in reducing the aircraft depot maintenance turnaround time for the U.S. Navy. In the past year, his efforts contributed to a 25 percent reduction in the time required to complete aircraft depot maintenance. Gunnery Sgt. Kubicki was also the lead in responding to a customer's request for support in controlling costs. Through negotiations with the contractor on the labor hours required to complete additional work, he saved the customer over \$100,000. While serving as an aircraft maintenance manager, he was a critical component of the Aviation Program Team that

completed the first-ever ground operations survey in the Philippines. In addition, Gunnery Sgt. Kubicki supported the local community in Singapore through his activities assisting orphans and coaching youth sports.

### **Chief Petty Officer Stephen Christopher Smith, U.S. Navy**

*USN Senior Non-Commissioned Officer  
Best of Service*

Chief Petty Officer Stephen Christopher Smith was selected for his exceptional performance as aviation maintenance manager, Safety and Training chief petty officer, DCMA Lockheed Martin Systems Integration Owego. He has led teams of Department of Defense (DoD) civilian, military and contractor personnel, managing contracts exceeding \$6.5 billion, and his stewardship has resulted in his command's mission performance far exceeding Agency and customer expectations. He was handpicked to take on increased responsibility to guide the development and implementation of an MH-60R helicopter weapons system training course and was instrumental in training and evaluating over 80 operational and developmental flight test personnel. The MH-60R's recent successful entry into the Operation Evaluation and completion of Operational Test IIA phases were direct results. Chief Petty Officer Smith familiarized the commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force, Adm. Architzel, and several H-60 wing commodores with the MH-60 helicopter development program. His role is vital to the great reputation DCMA holds with its customers and others within DoD and Congress. Through his exemplary professionalism and extraordinary degree of dedication, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that every aspect of the Fleet introduction of the MH-60R is addressed. Chief Petty Officer Smith has 17 years of service. He and his wife, Sheila, have three children, Tasha, Scott and Kelsey.

### **Captain Joseph D. Kays, U.S. Air Force**

*Company Grade Officer of the Year and USAF  
Company Grade Officer  
Best of Service*

Capt. Joseph D. Kays demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication and motivation as the DCMA Lockheed Martin Delaware Valley Aegis project manager and the DCMA Iraq operations officer for 2004. His exemplary performance provided superb support



*(Right, from top to bottom)* Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Ian E. Kubicki; Navy Chief Petty Officer Stephen Christopher Smith; Air Force Capt. Joseph D. Kays

to the Aegis program by interpreting and reporting earned value data. As the contract management office's (CMO's) performance-based management coordinator, he analyzed multiple programs, ensuring the outcome-based support to the customer had valuable metrics to help the program office and DCMA focus on the high-risk, high-priority issues. In Iraq, Capt. Kays displayed remarkable calm and courage while coming under direct enemy fire from mortars, rockets and small arms. He brilliantly managed personnel and office actions, integrating the diverse efforts of his 40-person team to support the DoD and the Department of State. As a convoy commander, he led over 50 multivehicle convoys through hostile combat zones. Capt. Kays immersed himself in the Iraqi culture, learning to understand the needs and feelings of the Iraqi people. His efforts garnered him the reputation as a true American ambassador. As a dedicated church member, he facilitated church services by leading his congregation in prayers and readings and acting as an usher and Eucharistic minister. His commitment to the mission and to the forces deployed around the world fighting the war on terror was unwavering. Capt. Kays, originally from Virginia Beach, Va., is currently serving at DCMA Delaware Valley and is married to Susan.

### **Lieutenant Thomas D. Mutty, U.S. Navy**

*USN Company Grade Officer*

*Best of Service*

Lt. Thomas D. Mutty displayed outstanding professionalism and dedication to duty as DCMA Sikorsky Aircraft's Acquisition Systems integration officer and government acceptance pilot. During the many and sometimes extended absences of the MH-60S Helicopter Program Support Team's program integrator, he filled the leadership role, continuing an unparalleled communication channel within DCMA Sikorsky's team as well as with Sikorsky and Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR). His close interaction with NAVAIR has allowed Lt. Mutty to recognize problems early in the MH-60S/Anti-Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) programs and provide long-term solutions to mitigate possible risks, thereby increasing the quality of products delivered to the customer. He aggressively pursued training and qualification in five models/series of H-60 type aircraft. He was personally responsible for the safe, on-time delivery of seven AMCM aircraft, each valued at over \$11 million, in addition to the delivery of over 17 aircraft

to the Field, Fleet and Allied Nations. He facilitated the education of DCMA peers and subordinates on the MH-60S helicopter. He can be counted on to come through, whether it is in the air accepting or delivering aircraft or on the ground leading the Program Support Team in focusing on the customer. A former quality assurance officer, Lt. Mutty hails from Portsmouth, R.I.

### **Major Timothy A. Starostanko, U.S. Army**

*Field Grade Officer of the Year and USA Field*

*Grade Officer*

*Best of Service*

Maj. Timothy A. Starostanko, assigned to DCMA Boeing Space & Communications (Seal Beach, Calif.), displayed exceptional leadership and acquisition skills as the Future Combat Systems (FCS) team lead/program integrator as well as a deployed administrative contracting officer (ACO) in support of *Operation Enduring Freedom* in 2004. As a seasoned contingency contracting officer, Maj. Starostanko provided Task Force Phoenix with exceptional contracting support during his deployment in Kabul, Afghanistan. He successfully administered four separate and distinct Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) task orders in excess of \$65 million. Maj. Starostanko developed and implemented numerous contract oversight and cost reduction programs ultimately saving the U.S. government over \$11 million in contract costs. As the FCS team lead, he is responsible for Command, Control, Communication, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR); Integrated Simulation and Testing; and Supplier Management integrated process teams. His leadership skills coupled with his extensive acquisition experience have been assets to the program as well as to his CMO. He is an outstanding officer, and his sustained excellence as a leader, problem solver and great communicator is truly exceptional. Maj. Starostanko is an invaluable asset to the warrior, DCMA and the FCS program. A graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College, Maj. Starostanko is married with one son, and he and his wife are expecting their second child in the fall.

### **Lieutenant Commander Cledo L. Davis, U.S. Navy**

*USN Field Grade Officer*

*Best of Service*

Lt. Cmdr. Cledo L. Davis' performance as chief, Flight Operations; government flight representative (GFR); and



*(Left, from top to bottom)* Navy Lt. Thomas D. Mutty; Army Maj. Timothy A. Starostanko; Navy Lt. Cmdr. Cledo L. Davis

aviation safety officer DCMA Lockheed Martin Systems Integration Owego for 2004 has been exceptional. He is responsible for a combined team of DoD civilian, military and contractor personnel, managing contracts exceeding \$6.5 billion. His stewardship has resulted in his command's mission performance far exceeding DCMA and customer expectations. As a result of his continued superior performance, he was handpicked to lead several Aircraft Operations (AO) Inspection teams, as well as to instruct at the DCMA GFRs Training course and the annual AO training seminar. Lt. Cmdr. Davis' leadership, flight operations oversight and engineering test pilot skills have resulted in tremendous customer benefits, especially for the MH-60R Program. His experience has been consistently sought by NAVAIR Test, Systems Engineering and Air Vehicle Integrated Product Teams to solve demanding weapon systems integration and contractual issues. Through his exemplary professionalism and extraordinary degree of dedication, he has produced a "rock-solid, second-to-none surveillance program. His superb ownership of all GFR responsibilities is evident and is the benchmark standard for all DCMA GFRs," as stated by the DCMAE-AO Management Review inspection team. Lt. Cmdr. Davis has distinguished himself as a proven leader whose unyielding support of the customer is unsurpassed throughout DCMA. Lt. Cmdr. Davis and his wife have four children. They plan to travel to China this summer to bring a newly adopted daughter home.

### **Lieutenant Colonel Gerald J. Ven Dange, U.S. Air Force**

*USAF Field Grade Officer*

*Best of Service*

Lt. Col. Gerald J. Ven Dange distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service first as DCMA Redondo Beach commander and then as DCMA Southern Iraq commander from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2004. During this period Lt. Col. Ven Dange's superior leadership, professional abilities and technical skills contributed immeasurably to the success of both the mission of DCMA Santa Ana and the Contingency Contracting Administrative Services (CCAS) mission in Southern Iraq. He made significant inroads with customers by implementing teaming arrangements with System Program Office integrated teams that resulted in over \$550,000 in cost savings. While leading DCMA Iraq, he

established critical receiving procedures at Um Qasr Port, enabling badly needed supplies to enter that port for the first time since the onset of war. Lt. Col. Ven Dange supported the Iraq Theater Transportation Mission, the lifeblood of *Operation Iraqi Freedom*, providing for more than 80 percent of all cargo transiting for use by U.S. and allied military. During his tour, he also started an orphanage program at Al Hillah and was able to raise enough money to donate over 1,500 pounds of clothes, food and school supplies to the orphanages of Southern Iraq. Lt. Col. Ven Dange's expert direction and guidance were instrumental in achieving mission success in support of the warrior. Through his singularly distinctive accomplishments in leadership and job performance, Lt. Col. Ven Dange reflects great credit upon himself, the U.S. Air Force and DoD. The former DCMA field grade officer of the Quarter hails from Orange County, Calif., and is married to Tammy.

### **Technical Sergeant William E. Foster, U.S. Air Force Reserve**

*Non-Commissioned Officer Reservist of the Year  
and USAFR Non-Commissioned Officer  
Best of Service*

Tech. Sgt. William E. Foster displayed outstanding leadership and dedication as an ACO, Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC), Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, while deployed in support of *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. As a warranted contracting officer, Tech. Sgt. Foster successfully fulfilled responsibilities previously held by DCMA officers and rapidly became a key player on the contracting team. He was assigned as the administrator for the largest CFLCC task order — Theater Transportation — a contract valued at over \$1.2 billion. As the administrator, he was responsible for movement of supplies from the Kuwait Port to Camp Anaconda just north of Baghdad. In fulfilling those responsibilities and ensuring delivery, Tech. Sgt. Foster unflinchingly escorted supply convoys into dangerous areas, completing all missions successfully despite periodic mortar attacks. Just as significantly, Tech. Sgt. Foster continuously monitored contracting issues for errors, and his attention to detail significantly reduced overcharging. In one instance he discovered unauthorized transactions, which led to further investigations and the discovery of \$30 million in overcharges. Tech. Sgt. Foster has taken numerous efforts at self-improvement, including completion of law



**(Right, from top to bottom)** Air Force Lt. Col. Gerald J. Ven Dange; Air Force Reserve Tech. Sgt. William E. Foster

enforcement classes, college coursework and phase one of Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. In addition, he is a community representative for the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

**Master Sergeant Mark Brady,  
U.S. Air Force Reserve**

*Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Reservist of the Year and USAFR Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Best in Service*

Master Sgt. Mark Brady's outstanding professional skill, leadership and ceaseless efforts contributed to the success of several DCMA contract administration offices. While he was deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan, he supported the U.S. Central Command's (CENTCOM's) mission in support of *Operation Enduring Freedom*. As the contracting officer for the Army's LOGCAP Task Order, valued in excess of \$155 million, he established himself as a critical link between combat forces and contractor personnel. This ensured a seamless transition of authority from combat units to contractor support with zero mission degradation. Additionally, Master Sgt. Brady's diligent efforts to transition 438 military positions to contract operations made valuable resources available to the task force commander to fight the war on terrorism. He was also a member of CCAS Dallas and provided outstanding contract administration support to both DCMA Lockheed Martin and DCMA Boeing. Master Sgt. Brady has 14 years of service with the Air Force, and he and his wife have two sons, Mark Jr. and Daniel.



**Storekeeper 1st Class Ludwin Atangan,  
U.S. Navy Reserve**

*USNR Non-Commissioned Officer Best of Service*

Storekeeper 1<sup>st</sup> Class Ludwin Atangan displayed outstanding leadership, dedication and technical skills by providing contributory support to his DCMA command. He facilitated the move of the DCMA Sunnyvale office to the Lathrop facility by supervising unit personnel in the organization of supplies and equipment at the Sunnyvale warehouse, allowing better visibility and accountability of assets. Storekeeper 1<sup>st</sup> class Atangan supervised his reservist team in providing over 120 hours of general contract administration support to the DCMA Lathrop office. He organized a successful humanitarian effort by



soliciting, collecting, inventorying and shipping over 500 pounds of general supplies donated for the benefit of Kohi Safi in Afghanistan. As training officer, Storekeeper 1<sup>st</sup> Class Atangan increased unit readiness from 67 percent to 98 percent in just one year, facilitating mobilization on short notice. As a career counselor he mentored subordinates in all aspects of career development, and as a result of his personal interest in their success, unit members improved Navy-wide Exam results by 20 percent. During the most recent advancement exam cycle, unit participation was 100 percent. Although Storekeeper 1<sup>st</sup> Class Atangan wasn't mobilized, he displayed selfless dedication to duty by volunteering for deployment as a property management specialist in support of *Operation Enduring Freedom*.

**Captain Albert Bledsoe,  
U.S. Air Force Reserve**

*Company Grade Officer Reservist of the Year and USAFR Company Grade Officer Best of Service*

Capt. Albert Bledsoe demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and project management skills as the program integrator for Army Acquisition Categories programs, valued at over \$215 million. Capt. Bledsoe was directly responsible for programmatic and technical surveillance for the FCS Multifunctional Utility Logistics Vehicle Programs and program life-cycle processes. He supported all acquisition activities and agencies located across a multistate region. Capt. Bledsoe skillfully led a multifunctional team in establishing critical requirements documents, integrated master schedules and risk identification and mitigation plans. Capt. Bledsoe created an innovative quick-look report for critical programmatic problems, providing early insight into key issues. He led the team through challenging programmatic milestones and reviews, skillfully briefing senior leadership at all phases of his program's processes. Capt. Bledsoe developed a new information technology database for the FCS program, ensuring access and insight into an extensive range of programmatic issues. A Memphis, Tenn., native, Capt. Bledsoe was previously employed as a program manager for a Silicon Valley software company. He is currently located at DCMA Dallas.

*(Left, from top to bottom)* Air Force Reserve Master Sgt. Mark Brady; Navy Reserve Storekeeper 1<sup>st</sup> Class Ludwin Atangan; Air Force Reserve Capt. Albert Bledsoe

**Lieutenant Colonel Michael H. Morgan,  
U.S. Air Force Reserve**

*Field Grade Officer Reservist of the Year and USAFR  
Field Grade Officer  
Best of Service*

Lt. Col. Michael H. Morgan distinguished himself in performance as the deputy Joint Reserve Team leader, DCMA East. During his tenure, DCMA transitioned from a logistics organization into an independent combat support agency. He was the key as the command successfully raised from 0 percent to 100 percent the number of command deployment team members who perform contingency operations training, resulting in all command Reserve personnel being positioned to deploy. The output of this activity was multiple Reserve deployment assignments to the U.S. CENTCOM (Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Afghanistan), U.S. European Command (Bosnia, Georgia) and U.S. Pacific Command (Philippines). Lt. Col. Morgan was responsible for recruiting the first Agency non-commissioned officer for an ACO deployment assignment, thereby significantly increasing the available personnel resources for in-theater missions. He was activated to support *Operation Iraqi Freedom* to serve as the contingency contracting District representative. As the advisor to commanders on readiness and training at the Continental U.S. Replacement Center Fort Bliss, Texas, he was the on-site military member responsible for the final deployment of 300 DCMA military and civilians to and from the CENTCOM Area of Operations. He was the lead in a Command Bottom-Up Review to ensure Reserve forces' readiness capability. The result of this task force was the transformation of the Reserve focus at each of the 38 command locations, from an individual asset- and location-based program to a coordinated mission-based activity. He is the first O-5 member of the Agency to serve on the 2-Star Mobilization Assistant Joint Reserve Senior Advisory Staff, and he also serves on a national career field group tasked to advise active senior Air Force contracts O-8. Lt. Col. Morgan and his wife, Donna, have five children and five grandchildren.

**Commander Lockwood R. Eddy,  
U.S. Navy Reserve**

*USNR Field Grade Officer  
Best of Service*

Cmdr. Lockwood R. Eddy displayed exemplary leadership, initiative and professionalism as commanding officer of

the Naval Reserve DCMA West Combat Support Team Detachment by development and implementation of a comprehensive Combat Support Operations Center (CSOC) training program prepared and effectively implemented for DCMA West headquarters personnel. Additionally, he developed a program to evaluate, test and operate the disaster and recovery communications equipment that resulted in CSOC being 100 percent ready to mobilize and re-establish operations in the event of an emergency. As part of joint responsibility for maintenance of CSOC Situation Report files, his unit sorted, scrubbed and stored over 500 CMO Situation Report folders, maximizing organization, storage space and security for future contingency operations. To enhance the mobilization readiness of personnel under his command, he established a training program that ensures Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level 1 coursework completion within a normal three-year unit assignment for Navy Reserve personnel. Cmdr. Eddy implemented this unit training plan by obtaining quotas for classroom and online courses. This resulted in 100 percent of eligible unit personnel completing the requisite training. Cmdr. Eddy employs his outstanding leadership skills and professionalism in support of community affairs and military-affiliated activities.

**Lieutenant Colonel Lorenzo Evans,  
U.S. Army Reserve**

*USAR Field Grade Officer  
Best of Service*

During this period Lt. Col. Lorenzo B. Evans was called to active duty in support of *Operation Iraqi Freedom* and to backfill for the program integrator being deployed to the Middle East. His outstanding leadership, mission focus and program acquisition expertise were evident by his ability to lead a cohesive, 17-person FCS support team. Lt. Col. Evans was responsible for acquisition oversight for four integrated product teams responsible for the Army's highest priority development program. His superb execution and in-depth knowledge of the FCS Development and Demonstration phase enabled the lead program integrator, DCMA and program office to develop and implement a very aggressive milestone program plan. Lt. Col. Evans is also the CCAS Dallas team leader, and under his leadership over 80 percent of his team volunteered and were deployed in support of *Operation Iraqi Freedom* and the war on terrorism in 2004.



**(Right, from top to bottom)** Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Michael H. Morgan; Navy Reserve Cmdr. Lockwood R. Eddy; Army Reserve Lt. Col. Lorenzo Evans