

LNOs ENABLE AGENCY'S DIRECT SUPPORT CAPABILITIES TO COMBATANT COMMANDERS

By David A. Green, DCMA EUCOM/AFRICOM Liaison

Have you ever wondered how the Defense Contract Management Agency stays connected to combatant commanders? How the agency ensures its capabilities can meet those commanders' long-term plans and immediate crisis requirements? How we quickly get information from those commanders' staffs across the DCMA enterprise? The answer to all these questions is the same — the agency's network of military and civilian liaison officers to those combatant commands.

DCMA, as a combat support agency, has established LNOs with combatant commands as required by Department of Defense Directive 3000.06 and other DoD enterprise partners to integrate with adaptive planning, exercises and combat operations. LNOs are under the operational control of the DCMA Combat Support Center, which is responsible for the management of DCMA contingency support planning and execution including contingency contract administration services.

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Bryan Russell (right), Defense Contract Management Agency U.S. Central Command liaison officer, was recently presented the CENTCOM commander's coin by Gen. David H. Petraeus for his support to the command. (DCMA photo)

contingency planning, execution and joint exercises. LNOs also assist with integration of DCMA capabilities into existing/developing combatant command operational contract support policies and doctrines and facilitate operational coordination/communication between the commands and DCMA.

As a combat support agency, DCMA has a special outreach to

engage with and provide direct support to combatant commanders. The LNO mission is to be the eyes and ears of DCMA and to provide smooth and continuous information flow between DCMA senior leadership and the commanders.

More specifically, the LNO's role is to provide collaboration for the combatant commander's operational contract support and planning by

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proactively supporting course of action decisions and advising on contingency operations to ensure proper mission analysis and identification of DCMA requirements ahead of time. This is accomplished by performing the following type of actions:

- participate in combatant command exercises and real-world missions and review operational and contingency plans to identify DCMA support
- provide smooth and continuous information flow between DCMA senior leadership and combatant commanders
- assist through participation in exercises and review and comment on strategic direction initiatives and documents and participate in meetings and committees, conferences, task forces, etc., as required
- assist with the integration of operational contract support for contingency operations and educate the combatant commander on DCMA's contingency contract administration services capabilities
- coordinate warfighter requirements with DCMA for sourcing

The face-to-face communication with combatant command planners reviewing operation plans and concept plans together not only delivers a better end product but also allows DCMA a voice in how LNOs contribute to mission success.

The current LNOs are Bryan Russell (Central Command); Navy Cmdr. Regina Roberts (Pacific Command); David Green (European Command/African Command); Army Maj. Reginald Martin (Southern Command/Special Operations Command); Air Force Maj. Tom Pina (Northern Command); and Howard Bishop (Logistics Civil Augmentation Program). They work in the logistics section within combatant commands and provide direct support to the mission, integrating DCMA into concept plans and operation plans. They also help to keep DCMA leadership informed on new requirements that can affect our operational mission.

“It's an opportunity for DCMA to speak directly to the COCOM [combatant commander] to deliver that difference DCMA brings to better enable the customer in mission success,” said Bryan Russell, CENTCOM LNO. For his support to CENTCOM, Russell was presented with the CENTCOM commander's coin by Gen. David H. Patraeus.

At the combatant commands, DCMA LNOs contribute immensely to keeping the agency informed of situations occurring during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions. LNOs have the responsibility of advising their combatant commanders of agency assets around the globe.

During Operation Unified Response, DCMA stood up its initial response team to prepare for deployment to support the DoD mission and provide assistance to the populace of Haiti. The disaster gave the agency an opportunity to assess its strengths and weaknesses when it comes to preparing for a rapid deployment. Maj. Reginald Martin, SOUTHCOM LNO, provided the agency with situation reports, general orders and fragmentary orders, which assisted the agency in preparing the response team for movement. Although the team didn't deploy in support of the operation, it was an excellent opportunity for the director to assess DCMA's capabilities as a combat support agency.

LNO Howard Bishop keeps the LOGCAP program manager linked to DCMA leadership and current on how effective, on-time support is delivered by DCMA.

The LNO program is relatively new and is in the process of growing with the implementation of policy, training requirements and educational opportunities to become better planners. It is just one of the many ways in which DCMA is changing to meet new requirements and customers' needs. 🍌