

DCMA CENTRAL WELCOMES ARMY COL. JEFFREY GABBERT AS NEW COMMANDER

By Sam Rousso, DCMA Public Affairs

Army Col. Jeffrey Gabbert, first commander of the agency’s new Central region, likens the process of standing up a new command to competing in the Boston Marathon.

After pointing out that there are a series of hills on the route of the 26.2-mile race, he said you come to a certain point where “you have run 18 miles, and your legs are tired and your mind offers many bad escapes, but, really, you now have three choices: (1) you can quit and earn the mark of “DNE,” did not finish; (2) you can walk and possibly finish with an inferior effort and time; or (3) you can recognize all the training you have done to get to this point and honor the support your extended family has shown to help you obtain this goal, knowing that once to the top of Heartbreak Hill at the 21-mile mark it is all downhill to the finish line.”

Gabbert poses the question, which option would you choose? Personally, he prefers option three and encourages all DCMA employees within the Central region to join him on the journey to standing up the Central region.

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Army Col. Jeffrey Gabbert, DCMA Central commander, has been working to stand up the Central region, a journey on which he encourages all employees in that region to join him.

and contractor who are on-point defending our nation,” he said.

Gabbert, who has commanded DCMA Huntsville since summer 2009, is currently splitting his time in both Chicago (headquarters of the Central region) and Huntsville.

“I currently spend Monday through Thursday in Chicago and Fridays in Huntsville,” he said. “This battle rhythm seems about right.” Gabbert points out that his current working arrangement only

works because of the extraordinary employees at both locations.

He is emphatic about his expectations of his new command and says his expectations mirror those of the director.

“Our mission is to provide contract administration services to the Department of Defense Acquisition Enterprise and its partners to ensure delivery of quality products and services to the warfighter, on time and on cost,” he

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said. “To this end, our employees must do the right thing every day. They must execute a proactive and aggressive strategy to influence contractor performance and success.”

Gabbert said the agency is putting in place metrics to instill disciplined processes and measure its performance. If everyone, including himself, is held accountable for his or her performance, there is no doubt in his mind the Central region, along with the agency, will meet its mission and its value to the entire DoD.

Gabbert said he has a set of priorities that he feels will help the division reach this milestone quickly.

“First, we must ensure the workforce is knowledgeable of the changes taking place and why,” he said. “Second, we must do our part to embrace the valued employees who are affected by the realignment and help them make the transition to their new positions. Third, each [contract management office] must fully execute its assigned tasks in accordance with the published transition checklist.”

Simultaneously, he said the division must execute the agency’s plan to become fully operational in August, a milestone accomplishable by retaining many of the systems, policies, processes and procedures previously developed.

Like any great learning organization, Gabbert says he doesn’t want to throw out the good just to bring in the new. To the contrary, he said he will adapt the good and relevant processes, programs, systems and procedures to the new regional structure. 🌐

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