

Employee Gains Insight From Navy, Marathons Experience

Finishes Marine Corps Marathon With Second Overall Finish

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Navy Lt. Gina Slaby, Defense Contract Management Agency Tucson contract administrator, running at the 2009 Cross Country Nationals. Slaby finished the 2010 Marine Corps Marathon as the second place overall female runner with a time of 2:45:58. (Photo courtesy of Navy Lt. Gina Slaby)

Members of the Defense Contract Management Agency come from every walk of life to serve America's warfighters. Each employee has a story to tell, and Navy Lt. Gina Slaby's story includes service to her country. She has served in the Navy at Diego Garcia and aboard the USS *Lake Erie* at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Now, as a contract administrator at DCMA Tucson, she assists with contract closeouts, payments and other contracting duties.

Inspired to join the military by her father's service in the Air Force, Slaby began running when she joined the Navy in 2005. Her training led her to begin running marathons, later joining the Navy Running Team. "My first marathon was the 2007 Marine Corps Marathon," Slaby said. "I had never run a marathon before and finished it in less than three hours. It was a huge sense of accomplishment."

On Oct. 31, Slaby was the first active-duty woman to cross the finish line at the 2010 Marine Corps Marathon and the second woman to finish overall, finishing in 2:45:58.

"My favorite part of the course is the finish line," Slaby said. "I love ending at the Marine Corps War Memorial with all the people cheering in the background."

Slaby trained for her first marathon while stationed at Diego Garcia, rising before the sun was up to avoid the excessive heat. "All these places (Diego Garcia, Pearl Harbor and Tucson) have been so hot that I've had to wake up at around 4:30 a.m. so I can get my workout in before the sun comes up," Slaby said.

She has also trained while aboard the *Lake Erie*, running laps on the ship. In the 2008 Marine Corps Marathon, she says that she "hit the wall around mile 22." In

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describing this experience, combined with her experience in her first marathon, she learned that, “Anything can happen. It is completely unexpected.” This is true both in her service and in marathons.

Since transferring to Tucson, she has brought the insight and commitment

she developed from these marathons to DCMA. But, this isn’t the only expertise that has helped her at DCMA. She has firsthand experience of the value DCMA brings to the warfighter.

“We were the warfighter,” she explained. “We launched missiles; we needed good quality equipment. DCMA, contract administrators, quality assurance and program managers — everybody has to come together and deliver support and services.”

One time where DCMA delivered for Slaby was while she was deployed aboard the *Lake Erie*. The *Lake Erie* participated in *Operation Burnt Frost* to destroy the disabled satellite USA-193 to prevent it from causing damage upon reentry. Slaby explained it wasn’t just the missile used to

destroy the satellite DCMA delivered; it was the entire weapons system and all the associated equipment that needed to be top of the line.

“Being a warfighter has helped me see the big picture of what DCMA does,” Slaby said.

Slaby will continue to support her fellow warfighters while serving at DCMA. She will also continue her own pursuits. Her current goal is to run in the Olympic trials, which requires a qualifying time of 2:46:00, roughly one minute faster than her performance at the Marine Corps Marathon. Confident that she can achieve this goal, Slaby’s next race is the Rock ‘n’ Roll Arizona Marathon in Phoenix in January. 📍



Sailors assigned to Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) man the rails pierside to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, upon completion of a deployment to the Western Pacific. Navy Lt. Gina Slaby, Defense Contract Management Agency Tucson contract administrator, deployed aboard the Lake Erie prior to her service with the agency. Her service with the agency has given her the hands on insight in the value DCMA provides warfighters. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class James Foehl, Navy Visual News Service)