

Call for Nominations for the 12th Annual Secretary of Defense Performance-Based Logistics (PBL) Award

*Bill Kobren
DAU Director, Logistics & Sustainment Center
(April 27, 2016)*

DoD has issued a call for nominations for the 12th Annual Secretary of Defense Performance-Based Logistics (PBL) Awards in an April 25, 2016, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (AT&L) memorandum.

According to the memorandum, "Performance-Based Logistics (PBL) is a key Department of Defense strategy for delivering integrated, affordable, performance-based product support solutions designed to deliver warfighter requirements and reduce cost. The tenets of PBL support Better Buying Power by incentivizing productivity and innovation in industry and government." The department instituted the PBL Awards to enhance PBL awareness and encourage PBL excellence. Prior winners have achieved superior performance for the warfighter while controlling cost growth, addressing long-term affordability, and promoting industry competition and innovation. Through the PBL Awards, the department recognizes organizations responsible for outstanding achievements in PBL development, implementation, and execution. The awards honor outstanding PBL performance in three categories: System Level, Subsystem Level, and Component Level. The winners in each category will be acknowledged at the Spring 2017 Office of the Secretary of Defense Product Support Manager Workshop, followed by formal presentation of the award at their command.

Nominations for this prestigious award are due by September 16, 2016. Detailed submission instructions and criteria are contained in the announcement memorandum, which is available in the "Award Winning Programs" section of the DoD Performance Based Logistics Community of Practice (PBL CoP) at <https://acc.dau.mil/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=527436>.

AEDC Hypersonic Analysis and Evaluation Team wins Air Force award

*ARNOLD ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX
PUBLIC AFFAIRS (JUNE 6, 2016)*

Raquel March

ARNOLD AIR FORCE BASE, Tenn.—The Arnold Engineering Development Complex Hypersonic Analysis and Evaluation Team recently received the Air Force Analytic Team of the Year Award for 2016.

The award recognizes the team's efforts in enhancing ground test capabilities and advancing the progress of multiple national defense weapon system development programs from Jan. 1, 2015, through Dec. 31, 2015.

The citation accompanying the award stated, "In developing and applying a revolutionary Mach sweep analytical technique to quantify hypersonic inlet performance, the team slashed the required testing by 40 percent."

The award also cited the team's development of an application of a new viscous-flow analytic process that was crucial to driving down developmental risk on a \$75 million hypersonic weapon system demonstration for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency test.

Throughout the year, the team streamlined a missile development effort by creating an analysis method using missile fin symmetry to increase ground test execution efficiency

Air Force Seeks Nominations for National Aerospace Awards

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (AUG. 2, 2016)

Kat Bailey

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—Air Force officials are accepting nominations for the Air Force Association's 2017 National Aerospace Awards through Jan. 6, 2017.

The aerospace awards recognize the most outstanding contributions to national defense in the fields of science and engineering relating to aerospace activity, flight in the atmosphere or space, and arts and letters; and distinguishes those who've significantly exceeded standard performance.

All Air Force military members, Department of the Air Force civilians, and units or groups of individuals are eligible to apply; however, each major command, combatant command, field operating agency, or direct reporting unit may submit one nomination for each award.

Nominations should be based on contributions that occur from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2016, and can include projects that were started more than a year ago, but were completed during the current calendar year.

Search for eligibility and application procedures on myPers with the keyword "Aerospace."

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, go to the myPers website at <http://www.af.mil>. Click on the Career Center link. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website at <http://www.retirees.af.mil/>.

by 300 percent. This method saved the program more than \$150,000, which was noted in the award.

The team includes leads Ben Mills and Calain Schuman; members Sarah Caskey, Joe Giuffrida, John Hopf, Andrew Hughes, Kyle Monsma, Rebecca Rought, and Joshua Webb; and Christopher Chinske from the 412th Test Wing, Edwards Air Force Base, California.

AFRL Research Psychologist Wins Award, SECAF Presents

711TH HUMAN PERFORMANCE WING (JUNE 8, 2016)

Gina Marie Giardina

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—A research psychologist from the 711th Human Performance Wing here received the 2015 Harold Brown Award from Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James during a ceremony June 6.

Dr. Lisa Tripp in the Airman Systems' Continuous Learning Branch received the award for her efforts in creating innovative and cost-saving training methods and platforms for the Air Force intelligence community.

"Being presented this award by the Secretary of the Air Force and the United States Air Force Chief Scientist is the highlight of my career," said Tripp. "This award represents a momentous achievement not just for myself, but for my team—a team dedicated to the mission of providing state-of-the-art research and development in the area of training for the Airman."

"Tripp has been a leader and key player in enabling the U.S. Air Force to support innovative C4ISR training techniques through research, invention, and innovation," stated Lt. Col. John Matuszak in Tripp's nomination package. "Her expertise and leadership have been crucial in developing new training methods and technologies to support the Intelli-

gence community with more effective training methodologies and capabilities.”

Matuszak was the Continuous Learning branch chief of the Warfighter Readiness Division at the time of nomination.

The Harold Brown Award, the highest award given by the Air Force to a scientist or engineer, recognizes significant achievement in research and development that led to or demonstrated promise of a substantial improvement in operational effectiveness for the Air Force.

“Unlike the fighter community, which has been using simulators for decades for mission rehearsal and training, the only comparable training for the intelligence community was on-the-job,” explained Tripp. “That means, the first time an analyst was likely to support an airman in a contact situation or combat search and rescue was on-the-job.”

Tripp went on to explain that after collecting data and interacting with operators in the intelligence arena, her team uncovered an area where they could improve training.

“We put together a team of program managers, training researchers, engineers, and domain subject matter experts to work together,” said Tripp. “The result is the Distributed Common Ground System Weapons System Trainer, a successful collaborative effort across major commands, including Air Force Materiel Command and Air Combat Command, to develop the first-of-its-kind trainer for the Air Force intelligence community.”

Matuszak went on to praise Tripp’s contributions and discussed the specific impact she made to not just training, but also the economic impact of her efforts as well.

“Through her expertise, intelligence analysts’ knowledge and experience with a variety of mission scenarios will be drastically increased while decreasing the amount of time required altering mission sets and training scenarios,” he said. “This is expected to save thousands of manhours and dollars annually.”

The Continuous Learning Branch is in the Airman Systems Directorate, which is one of three directorates in the 711th Human Performance Wing. Established under the Air Force Research Laboratory, the 711 HPW’s mission is to advance human performance in air, space, and cyberspace through research, education, and consultation.

The award is named after a physicist who served as Secretary of the Air Force from 1965 to 1969 and Secretary of Defense from 1977 to 1981.

The winner of the award receives a brass medallion embedded with a distinctive Lucite block, and a certificate signed by the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Tripp’s name will also be engraved on a plaque permanently displayed near the office of the Secretary of the Air Force in the Pentagon.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to work for a Service so committed to ensuring their research and development focuses not only on the technology, but on the airman,” said Tripp.

AF Announces Total Force Award

*SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMAND
INFORMATION (JUNE 24, 2016)*

Staff Sgt. Alyssa C. Gibson

WASHINGTON—Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James announced the annual General Mark A. Welsh III One Air Force Award during a retirement dinner held in honor of the award’s namesake in Washington, D.C., June 23, 2016.

This new Air Force-level award will be presented to the Service’s top total force team that demonstrates improved effectiveness, operational readiness, and mission accomplishment through integrated solutions.

During the dinner, James explained one of Welsh’s first obstacles was to restore the relationship between the active-duty, Air National Guard, and Reserve Airmen in the wake of sequestration. She also described how Welsh compared the impact of sequestration to a bomb burst that interrupted the harmonious formation in which the total force flew. However, he was confident the force would again fly as one.

“Today, just a few short years later, we are flying in formation once again and we’re flying like never before,” James said. “We’re working together from the flightline to the highest levels of the Pentagon. We truly are one Air Force ... General Welsh, based upon your contributions to our total force, and also as a tribute to your dad, Mick, I’m honored to announce the establishment of the General Mark A. Welsh III One Air Force Award.”

To be considered, annual award packages must cover accomplishments made by a team composed of at least two total force components from May 1 to April 30. They must justify the team’s best practices and explain how the procedures would be limited if performed by a single component,

how the team shared resources to achieve mission success, and how the process or procedure reduced barriers while maximizing the strengths of each component.

Total force leaders will facilitate the board and award points in three categories: contributions of an integrated team, scope of the impact to the total force, and leveraging a total force team.

The winning team will be recognized by the Air Force chief of staff during the annual Air Force Association Symposium in September, and have their names engraved on the One Air Force trophy.

"On behalf of every airman who has served in our United States Air Force, and every airman who will serve in the future, thank you, General and Mrs. Welsh, for all you've done in the past and how you've set us on a path for the future," said James.

The award will be managed by the Air Force Personnel Center, in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-2805, "Special Trophies and Awards."

DoD Announces Value Engineering Achievement Award Recipients

*DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS, PRESS OPERATIONS
(JUNE 29, 2016)*

The Department of Defense announced yesterday the recipients of the DoD Value Engineering Achievement Awards. Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering Kristen Baldwin, on behalf of Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Frank Kendall, led the ceremony in the Pentagon auditorium to recognize exemplary value engineering accomplishments. Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Baldwin presented awards to several military services and defense agencies: four to the Army, three to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, four to the Navy, one each to the U.S. Marine Corps and Air Force, five to the Defense Logistics Agency, one to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and three to the Missile Defense Agency. The DoD honored five individuals, eight teams, four projects/programs, and five organizations for their significant fiscal year 2015 value engineering-related efforts that resulted in cost savings or cost avoidances, quality improvements, or efficiencies to the DoD.

Value engineering was born out of innovative material and design alternatives that resulted from the material shortages of World War II. The DoD uses value engi-

neering to analyze supplies, services, buildings, and systems to achieve best value, or the best relationship between worth and cost consistent with required performance, quality, and safety of essential functions. Value engineering efforts reduce cost, speed delivery, and enhance the performance of the equipment and services provided to our fighting forces. The DoD realized \$3.1 billion in cost savings and avoidances in fiscal year 2015 and continues to use value engineering to help programs execute within their resources.

The individuals and teams recognized for their value engineering activities can be found at http://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/PDFs/DOD_FY_2015_VALUE_ENGINERING_ACHIEVEMENT_AWARD_RECIPIENTS.pdf.

Air Force Tech Research Director Earns DoD's 2016 Linsteadt Award

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING NEWS RELEASE (JULY 5, 2016)

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department named Kristen Schario as the 2016 George Linsteadt Technology Transfer Achievement Award winner, officials announced June 29 in Chicago according to a DoD news release.

The award from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering recognizes DoD government and non-government employees who have made outstanding efforts in support and execution of technology transfer partnerships that aid in migrating new technologies into or out of the department, that promote technology commercialization, and that license patented government inventions, the release said.

Schario was recognized during the 20th annual DoD Technology Transfer Training Workshop for her exemplary performance leading the Office of Research and Technology Applications at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Aerospace Systems Directorate based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

In presenting the award, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research Melissa L. Flagg said technology transfer is vital to the DoD mission of developing new technologies, promoting technology commercialization, and licensing patented government inventions.

"Ms. Scharios' performance ... embodies the vision and spirit of the Linsteadt Award," she said.

World-Class Research Facilities

The Aerospace Systems Directorate brings together world-class facilities, including a fuels research facility, structural



Kristen Schario, right, receives the 2016 George Linstead Technology Transfer Achievement Award from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research Dr. Melissa L. Flagg, during a ceremony in Chicago, June 29, 2016.

Courtesy photo

testing labs, compressor research facility, rocket testing facilities, supersonic and subsonic wind tunnels, flight simulation lab, and many other cutting-edge research labs, officials said. Among the technologies in development in the Aerospace Systems Directorate are scramjet engines, alternative fuels, unmanned vehicles, and hypersonic vehicles.

In her 24 years of dedicated service, Schario has become one of the Air Force's foremost experts on technology transfer, the release said.

In addition to managing and negotiating hundreds of partnership agreements with industry and academia, defense officials said Schario also has been an advocate for technology accelerators in the region. With her help, three start-ups have been formed in the past year to pursue commercialization of technologies developed at the Air Force Research Laboratory.

In recognition of her expertise, the release said, she is regularly invited as a guest speaker at regional and national symposiums on technology transfer as well as serving as a member-at-large on the Federal Laboratory Consortium Executive Board.

The award honors significant efforts comparable to those of George Linstead and other U.S. government professionals who developed the federal technology transfer process, officials said. Linstead was a pioneer of technology transfer at the Naval Air Systems Command China Lake Weapons Division in California and a promoter of technology transfer for laboratories in 17 federal departments and agencies.

Linstead and other technology transfer professionals initiated the DoD technology transfer consortium which later expanded to become the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer, the release said.

Awardees embody Linstead's vision and spirit, and other proactive DoD technology transfer support professionals who pioneered technology transfer, officials said.

Army Engineer Invents Lightweight Ballistic Combat Shirt, Wins Award

NATICK SOLDIER RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (JULY 19, 2016)

Jane Benson

NATICK, Mass.—When Army engineer Robert DiLalla set out to develop a new design for soldier protection, he knew he had to break the mold.

The result of his revolutionary approach, which focuses on the soldier as an athlete, is the game-changing, Ballistic Combat Shirt, a new lightweight body armor system.

"We set out with this science and technology effort to meet the needs of high-performance athletes, which is what soldiers are," said DiLalla, the team leader of the Infantry Combat Equipment Team at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center.

"I was really focused on the human. How can we do something that, without sacrificing protection, makes them feel like they are not wearing protection and improves their ability to do soldier tasks?"

DiLalla has been chosen as the recipient of the 2015 Maj. Gen. Harold "Harry" J. Greene Award for Innovation in the Individual-Civilian category. Named in honor of Maj. Gen. Greene, who served as senior commander at the Natick Soldier Systems Center, the award recognizes technological innovations that enhance Army readiness and soldier performance.



Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker (center) holds the Ballistic Combat Shirt, which was invented by Robert DiLalla (far left), an engineer and currently the team leader of the Infantry Combat Equipment Team at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center. Brig. Gen. William E. Cole (far right), former commander of the Natick Soldier Systems Center and former commanding general of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, looks on.

U.S. Army photo

"I am extremely pleased that Rob and his team were recognized with this prestigious award for their work on the Ballistic Combat Shirt," said Douglas A. Tamilio, director of Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center.

"This capability significantly increases the protection and flexibility of our personal protective ensemble, ensuring we are giving our soldiers the edge they need."

DiLalla partnered with co-inventors Protect the Force LLC, a South Boston firm with ties to the athletic apparel industry, to bring his solution to life.

"We needed to stop and reassess how we wear body armor," DiLalla said. "At the same time, we needed to improve in-

tegration, reduce complexity, and improve soldier performance."

The invention is a departure from the Interceptor Body Armor system, which was an advancement when it was developed for the Marine Corps in the late 1990s. Over the years, however, the armor system increased in complexity and bulk. As additional components were added, it became difficult for soldiers to put it on. In contrast, the Ballistic Combat Shirt is easy to don.

"So now instead of having to attach all of these components, you can throw it on like a goalie shirt in hockey," DiLalla said. "It goes on and you don't need a buddy to help you don the system. It's form-fitting so the soldiers like it. Instead of one

panel, the deltoid section is three panels. It's contoured so it stays with you. It moves with you. It has an improved range of motion..."

The Ballistic Combat Shirt is an integrated armor shirt that provides deltoid and thoracic protection, as well as improved neck protection.

"I think it benefits soldiers in a couple of ways," said DiLalla. "It provides protection, but it also enables them to do their missions better by giving them more range of motion, better articulation. At the same time, it's not complicated. They don't need to pull out a user manual. It's one shirt."

The shirt weighs less than the current Interceptor Body Armor system components it replaces and is less bulky.

"Our goal was to get it contoured, form-fitting, so that the soldier can do his job without feeling like the equipment is hindering movement," said DiLalla. "We successfully created a product that integrated five components into one, and we were able to reduce weight by 35 percent. It's lighter, form-fitting and more comfortable. It allows soldiers to feel like they are wearing regular shirts without sacrificing protection."

DiLalla's team also worked with U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine at Natick to ensure the new shirt wouldn't increase the soldier's thermal burden compared to the Interceptor Body Armor system.

"We did not want a close-to-skin shirt that can make you hot," said DiLalla. "There was a concern that it would trap body heat more than the current system, but what we found is that it is actually equal to, or in a few instances better than, the baseline."

The invention has been a hit with users. "The soldiers have spoken loud and clear with more than 90 percent user acceptance in multiple user evaluations," said DiLalla. "Typically, as we assess new body armor components, we'd consider 60 percent a successful number. So we were quite surprised..."

The technology is also applicable to the needs of law enforcement. "There are huge technology transfer possibilities," said DiLalla. "Protect the Force is already commercializing the product to better serve the law enforcement community. I feel extremely proud that not only are we better able to protect soldiers and other members of the military, but we can also better protect members of law enforcement domestically and abroad."

"As a soldier and the team's commanding general, I can't praise Rob DiLalla's achievement highly enough," said Maj. Gen. John F. Wharton, commanding general of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

"It really demonstrates how Army researchers are committed to developing cutting-edge capabilities for the joint warfighter. There's a bigger story beyond that, however, about how the command's partnerships with other organizations and connections to the warfighter positioned the team and gave them the reach into the greater science and technology ecosystem to make this innovation possible. It will also be key to transferring the benefits of this great new technology to first responders in support of the entire nation."

The idea, like most true innovations, was first met with some resistance. "You need to be responsible, but sometimes you need to take a risk to make progress," said DiLalla. "We needed to start clean and get rid of purely linear thinking, and I think some folks had a hard time grasping the concept."

DiLalla feels very humbled by being chosen for the Maj. Gen. Harold "Harry" J. Greene Award for Innovation. "It's been a long, tough road," said DiLalla. "We in the NSRDEC are very proud of what's transpired. I've been a tinkerer my whole life. I'm an engineer by degree, and I've always been a product person. I set out to do something novel, revolutionary, with the goal of improving soldier performance. It's been an incredible experience."

On the way to seeing his innovative idea come to fruition, DiLalla became a team leader at NSRDEC. He wants to instill this spirit of innovation in his team members.

"To create something revolutionary is hard work, but more importantly you have to believe you can do it," said DiLalla. "My goal now, as a team leader, is to mentor the great minds on my team to be creative and think out of the box and not to be purely formulaic. They need to feel empowered because they are absolutely capable of inventing the next great thing."

2015 Nuclear Operations Awards Winners Announced

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS (JULY 26, 2016)

WASHINGTON —Air Force officials recently announced the winners of the 2015 Nuclear Deterrence Operations Award and the Nuclear and Missile Operations Award.

The awards recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the airmen who have contributed to the nuclear deterrence operations and the officers who have made the most significant contribution to the nuclear and missile operations career field.

"The winners of the 2015 Nuclear Deterrence Operations Awards and the Nuclear and Missile Operations Awards have distinguished themselves amongst their peers while making a significant impact on nuclear deterrence operations," said Lt. Gen. Jack Weinstein, the deputy chief of staff for strategic deterrence and nuclear integration. "We are pleased to highlight their achievements. Congratulations to the winners as well as those who were nominated."

The 2015 winners are:

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Award

- Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Robert J. Gilsbach, 741st Maintenance Squadron, 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana
- NCO of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Christopher M. Coleman, 532nd Training Squadron, 381st Training Group, Vandenberg AFB, California
- Senior NCO of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. Michael J. Naquin, Air Force Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana
- Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Michael B. Hampton, 31st Munitions Squadron, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano AB, Italy
- Field Grade Officer of the Year: Maj. Robert M. Kochan, 31st MUNS
- Category I Civilian of the Year: JoNell M. Lutes, 91st Operations Support Squadron, 91st Missile Wing, Minot AFB, North Dakota
- Category II Civilian of the Year: Stephen D. Christensen, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Minot AFB
- Category III Civilian of the Year: William A. Hodgson, Air Force Inspection Agency, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
- Professional Team: United States Strategic Command ICBM Dynamic Targeting Team (Lt. Cols. David A. McMullan and Kary R. Schramm; Maj. Matthew T. Farrer, Daniel W. Shimonsky, Jeremy L. Haas, Benjamin D. Zatorski, Charles M. Whitworth, Eric S. Buss, Matthew D. Hargis; Capt. Lucas P. Lobo, Richard H. Morrison, Matthew E. Youmans, Adam N. Sheyko, Kenneth M. Jenkins II, Frank A. Timothy, Melissa D. Urbansky; Master Sgt. Jason G. Catchings; and Clay W. Dickinson, Doug T. Jackson, Frank W. Gorchau, Jr., Joshua K. Hoenshell, John N. Pruet, Jayson S. Lucas, and Gregory S. Taylor)

Nuclear and Missile Operations Award

- Operator of the Year: Capt. Ian M. Sylvester, 10th Missile Squadron, 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom AFB
- Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Carli E. Frasier, 90th Operations Group, 90th MW, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming

- Field Grade Officer of the Year: Lt. Col. Terrance J. Holmes, Headquarter Air Force Strategic Plans and Requirements, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

These nuclear professionals were selected from a diverse field within the Air Force's major commands, unified combatant commands, and other agencies including the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard.

The Nuclear Operations Awards program is administered and overseen by deputy chief of staff for strategic deterrence and nuclear integration, Headquarters Air Force in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-2870, "Nuclear Operations Awards Program."

Defense Logistics Agency Announces Superior Suppliers for 2015

DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS (JULY 27, 2016)

FORT BELVOIR, Va.—Today the Defense Logistics Agency announced its top performing industry partners for fiscal year 2015 as part of the Department of Defense's Superior Supplier Incentive Program.

The SSIP is an extension of the Department's Better Buying Power initiative and is designed to incentivize contractor performance by identifying suppliers with the highest rankings in areas such as performance, quality, and business relations.

"This program allows DLA to spotlight those companies that consistently perform well and deliver high-quality products to our warfighters—they should be proud of this distinction," said Matthew Beebe, head of DLA's acquisition directorate. "We also hope it serves as a reminder to both industry and government personnel of the importance of having ongoing, open, and honest dialogue about contractor performance."

DLA considered its top 150 parts and commodity suppliers with the highest spends within a particular supply chain that have done business with the agency over the past two years. To be eligible for consideration, companies—or their subsidiary business units—had to have DLA contracts with a proven record of performance, as well as an established rating in the federal Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System.

Of those considered, 42 companies were selected as DLA's superior suppliers based on the last three years of CPARS ratings, with the most emphasis placed on recent performance. The selected companies represent all of DLA's major supply chains, include nine small businesses, and collectively account for nearly \$16.7 billion in DLA contract expenditures annually. Suppliers were categorized into three levels based

on their performance and CPARS ratings: Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

DLA's superior suppliers for 2015 are listed in alphabetical order by performance level:

Gold

- AmeriQual Group, LLC
- AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation
- Burlington Industries, LLC
- Cardinal Health, Inc.
- DMS Pharmaceutical Group, Inc.
- Herndon Products, Inc.
- McRae Industries, Inc.
- Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation
- Peckham Vocational Industries, Inc.
- Science Applications International Corporation
- Source One Distributors, Inc.
- Sterlingwear of Boston, Inc.
- Tennier Industries, Inc.
- US Foods, Inc.
- The Wornick Company

Silver

- AM General, LLC
- American Apparel, Inc.
- Bell Boeing Joint Project Office
- Bethel Industries, Inc.
- Federal Resources Supply Company
- Graybar Electric Company, Inc.
- Lockheed Martin Corporation
- McKesson Corporation
- Proper International, Inc.
- Supplycore, Inc.
- Theodor Wille Intertrade AG
- Triumph Structures, Inc.
- Veyance Technologies, Inc.

Bronze

- The Boeing Company
- CPD Alaska, LLC
- Foster Fuels, Inc.
- General Electric Company
- Meggitt, Inc.
- Michelin North America, Inc.
- National Industries for the Blind
- PPG Industries, Inc.
- Raytheon Company
- Rockwell Collins, Inc.
- Sysco Corporation
- Textron, Inc.
- USFI, Inc.

- Y. Hata and Company, Limited

U.S. Army Engineers Award Civilian Of The Year

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (JULY 27, 2016)

WIESBADEN, Germany—Nicholas Kaechler, Office Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, U.S. Army Europe, was awarded the 2015 Outstanding Civilian Award this year for his exceptional technical support to USAREUR's European Reassurance Initiative and other engineer efforts across the European theater.

The U.S. Army Engineer Regiment annually awards the Lt. Gen. John W. Morris Outstanding Civilian Award to one Active Army civilian engineer in recognition of outstanding contributions and support to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the regiment, to include civil works, humanitarian, and community achievements.

The regimental awards were initially presented at the Engineer Regimental Ball and Awards Ceremony April 22 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; however, Kaechler was unable to attend the ceremony. Kaechler received his award from Brig. Gen. Phillip S. Jolly, deputy commanding general for Mobilization & Reserve Affairs, USAREUR, in a ceremony held in Wiesbaden, June 21.

U.S. Army Europe's Office of the deputy chief of staff, engineer, provides Army engineer expertise to Army Europe commanders, staff, units and sister services, and synchronizes engineer effort across the theater in order to fulfill requirements of the USAREUR campaign plan.

Eight AF Officers Chosen for 2017 DARPA Service Chiefs' Fellows Program

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (AUG. 3, 2016)

Kat Bailey

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—The Air Force selected eight officers for the 2017 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Service Chiefs' Fellows Program.

The 90-day program is designed specifically for highly motivated, active-duty officers with clear potential for operational leadership positions, said Master Sgt. Catrina Baskin, the Air Force Personnel Center workforce development section superintendent.

"The participants will provide valuable input into technology development efforts in addition to serving as liaisons between DARPA and the Air Force after they complete the program," Baskin said.

According to Baskin, DARPA's Service Chiefs' Fellows Program also exposes rising military officers to a unique organization that rapidly develops imaginative and innovative research ideas.

The 2017 participants include: Lt. Cols. Mark Bigley and John Wagemann; Majs. Zachary Augustine, Anna Gunngolkin, Jonathan Sawtelle, Brandon Westling, and Timothy Zens; and Capt. John Duray.