

Happy 236th birthday, United States, July 4!

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the Columbus Federal Voice

<http://federalvoice.defensesupplycentercolumbus.dla.mil/voice>

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Leader Changes

Pimpo assumes command of DLA Land and Maritime during ceremony

From the DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

Several senior leadership changes have occurred recently at DLA Land and Maritime, the most prominent being the arrival of new commander Navy Rear Adm. (Sel) David R. Pimpo.

Pimpo, a native of Strongsville, Ohio, comes to DLA Land and Maritime from Naval Supply Systems Command, Mechanicsburg, Pa., where he was deputy commander for fleet logistics operations. He was scheduled to assume command from Army Brig. Gen. Darrell



Navy Rear Adm. David Pimpo

Williams during a July 2 ceremony. Full coverage of the change of command will appear in the July 18 issue of the *Voice*.

Pimpo was commissioned in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps after attending the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, R. I., and the U.S. Naval Academy, where he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1986. He also holds a mas-

ter's of business administration degree from the Darden Business School at the University of Virginia, and is a graduate of the Wharton Business School Executive Development Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

As commander, he will oversee the end-to-end integration of DLA's Land and Maritime supply chains delivering repair parts to all military services and direct the efforts of more than 3,400 associates at 54 locations worldwide. DLA Land and Maritime's core functions include purchasing mate-

riel, monitoring inventory levels, maintaining technical data, and assuring quality conformance of more than 2.1 million spare and repair parts. In 2011, DLA Land and Maritime sales exceeded \$5 billion and its procurements were \$3.9 billion.

In addition, Air Force Col. Steve Foss recently arrived as the new DLA Land and Maritime Chief of Staff. He replaces Army Col. Ryan Kivett, who retired in May after nearly 25 years of service.

Mark Brown has been selected as the new director of the

Procurement Process Support directorate.

Brown, a retired Navy captain, served in numerous positions during his previous service with DLA Land and Maritime from 1994 to 2005, including as chief of staff, director of Readiness and Business Operations, director of the Product Test Center and deputy director of the Land and Maritime directorates. He most recently was working for contractor Cherokee.

He replaces Dan Bohn, who retired from federal service in March.

Government contractors recognized by DLA for quality performance

By Tony D'Elia

DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

DLA Land and Maritime recognized about 180 of its suppliers at a June 13 award ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom in Columbus, Ohio. Many were repeat winners of the Automated Best Value System Award.

Winning the ABVS Award means that each firm has supplied a product the government can be confident in using. Firms that qualify as ABVS award winners have met the stringent quality and delivery requirements established by the Defense Logistics Agency. The ABVS, a comput-

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DLA PHOTO BY CHUCK MORRIS

Ruta Supplies Inc. of Dover, N.J., president Scott Adler (right) and director of operations Janice Bolcarovic accept the new Material Cost Reduction Partner Award for small businesses from DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams during a June 13 award ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom in Columbus, Ohio. Oshkosh Defense won in the large business category as about 180 DLA Land and Maritime suppliers were honored at the ceremony.



DLA PHOTO BY LAURA SANMIGUEL-FEARING

DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams says farewell and discusses the organization's support to the warfighter during his June 26 town hall meeting in the Building 20 auditorium. It was Williams' last town hall meeting with associates before he departs for a tour of duty as the chief of staff of Army Materiel Command at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala.

Williams discusses warfighter support, recognizes associates at town hall

By John Foreman

DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

In his last town hall meeting with associates June 26, DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams said he is very thankful to have been the commander of DLA Land and Maritime for nearly two years.

"This is an organization that first does the mission really, really, really well. And then you see all the special recognitions and all the special things that we do for the installation and the community. It's that special balance that makes you all the great organization that you are," Williams said.

Williams, who is leaving for a tour as chief of staff at Army Materiel Command, said "Columbus has gone through a fair amount of transformation over the last two years, and it just seems never to quite stop. Because when I first got here, we still had the Philadelphia detachment and were at the end of bringing in our 12 detachments.

"As many of you know, we've just recently lost two of the Army detachments at Tobyhanna and Anniston as well as two Marine Corps detachments at Barstow and Albany. So we're down to seven detachments now and we've gone to a high of over 3,500 people to a little over 3,100 strong.

"So we've had quite a bit of transformation over the last couple of years and despite it all, you've continued to provide just exceptionally outstanding support to the warfighter."

Williams then noted the business support statistics for both the land and maritime supply chains and how exceptional the last three months have been in support of Operation Full Press.

"We've made significant inroads in support of

Federal employees, families enjoy multicultural unity, fun



DLA PHOTO BY CHUCK MORRIS

Attendees at Multicultural Day and Fun Fest could visit with military veteran heroes (from right) original Tuskegee Airman Don Elder, Army Brig. Gen. Jim Abraham (Ret.), and Navy Cmdr. Rob Doremus (Ret.). They were introduced to the crowd during the opening ceremony, along with Air Force Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Ed Mechenbier, Air Force Col. (Ret.) Maurice Cea and original Tuskegee Airman Hiton Carter.

From the DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

Federal employees from across the Defense Supply Center Columbus installation and their family members braved the heat to enjoy the sights, sounds and food at the 13th annual Multicultural Unity Day and Fun Fest.

During his opening remarks for the June 21 event, DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams said the day had two purposes, with the first being to recognize diversity and the second to have fun.

"Today we recognize that our greatest strength is our ability to work together to meet a common goal to support

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[PLEASE SEE TOWN HALL, PAGE 4](#)

Commentary

Synergistic partnership can transcend conflict to benefit everyone involved

By Robert L. Boggs

DLA Land and Maritime Human Performance Division



Robert L. Boggs

“Most conflicts are two-sided. The 1st alternative is my way, the 2nd alternative is your way. By synergizing, we can go on to a 3rd alternative—our way, a higher and better way to resolve the conflict...” - Dr. Stephen Covey, *The 3rd Alternative*

Next to Dr. Seuss, my all-time favorite doctor is Stephen Covey. His right-minded way of valuing others made him one of my favorite go-to experts whenever dealing with the human side of business. Covey once again makes significant inroads into human performance when he shares his thoughts on conflict resolution and how we can get to synergy.

In his book “*The Third Alternative*,” he points out that people with the 1st and 2nd-alternative mindset are unable to get to synergy until they admit that synergy is a possibility: “2-alternative thinkers see only competition, never cooperation; it’s always “us versus them.” 2-alternative thinkers see only false dilemmas; it’s always “my way or the highway.” 2-Alternative think-

ers suffer from a kind of color blindness; they can see only blue or yellow, never green...To arrive at a 3rd alternative, I must first practice self-awareness and value the different viewpoint that you represent. Then I must seek to understand that viewpoint thoroughly. Only then can we move up to synergy.”

We get to the 3rd alternative (our way) through a process called synergy. Synergy is what happens when one plus one equals 10 or 100 or even 1,000. The path to a higher and better way is through 3rd alternative thinking. To get to that better way, Covey emphasizes the need to see or be aware of the other person.

Covey says, “When I see you, I see a whole human being unlike any other, a person of innate worth, endowed with talents, passions and strengths that are irreplaceable. You are more than your ‘side’ in a conflict. You deserve dignity and my respect.”

We know that synergy is not the same thing as compromise. In a compromise, everybody loses something when attempt-

ing to resolve a conflict. Synergy goes beyond conflict resolution into conflict transcendence. We go beyond the 1st alternative (my way) and the 2nd alternative (your way) into a 3rd alternative (our way). When we make the transition to the 3rd alternative, people get excited because they’ve found a better way.

Synergy is observable. When we see a team doing remarkable work that we know individual members cannot do alone, we are witnessing synergy. Each member of a team retains their individuality; yet, when the team members work together as a group, they are greater than the sum of the parts.

Covey makes a very succinct analogy between synergy and music: “A musical chord is made up of several notes played at once. The notes do not lose their individual character, but together they create a synergy—a harmony—that single notes cannot produce. Like musical notes, synergistic people do not lose their identity; they combine their strengths with the strengths of others to produce a result far greater than anything either could achieve alone...without synergy your work will

stagnate. You’re not going to grow, and you’re not going to improve.”

Borrowing from Covey’s musical analogy, if we see individuals as musical notes, we have ample evidence that when individuals join with others in harmonious ways, we can observe the advantages gained from their synergy. Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs together created great synergy that has revolutionized how we access information through their work at Apple. John, Paul, George and Ringo were individually talented musicians who together made (in my opinion) synergistic inroads into popular music. We can also see similar examples of synergy in sports. Herb Brooks, the ice hockey coach popularized in the Disney movie “*Miracle*,” led the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team to victory over the seemingly invincible Russian team. He created a team that was greater than the sum of the parts. To do this, Herb Brooks had to get his players to stop thinking in 1st and 2nd alternative ways. The individuals on the team had to move to 3rd alternative thinking (our way) to accomplish what many perceived rightfully as a miracle.

“When I see you, I see a whole human being unlike any other, a person of innate worth, endowed with talents, passions and strengths that are irreplaceable. You are more than your ‘side’ in a conflict. You deserve dignity and respect”

Dr. Stephen Covey
Author, The Third Alternative

When we reach for a 3rd alternative, we see others in their entirety. We practice self-awareness and we value different viewpoints. We go from a win (my way) or lose (your way) form of conflict resolution to conflict transcendence (our way) and synergy. A 3rd alternative mind-set applies to all aspects of life. We can use 3rd alternative thinking at home, work and at play. The path to synergy is open to those who think inclusively and value the opinions of others and treat others with the dignity and respect they deserve.



DLA PHOTO BY CHUCK MORRIS

Wojton selected DISA Associate of the Quarter

Zack Wojton (right) receives the DISA Columbus Associate of the Quarter award from site director Rob Reed. Wojton is an IT specialist in DISA’s Windows Support Branch.

Obituaries

Lloyd Wayne Bowen

Lloyd Wayne Bowen, 46, died June 15. Mr. Bowen worked for many years at DESC and retired from DSCC.

Michael James Breneman

Michael James Breneman, 52, of Newark, died June 15. Mr. Breneman worked at Newark AFB and DSCC.

Jean E. Landon

Jean E. Landon, 58, of Dayton, died June 12. Ms. Landon was a former DESC employee.

Sarah A. “Sally” Miceli

Sarah A. “Sally” Miceli, 95, died June 24. Ms. Miceli was retired from DSCC.

Lulabell Coleman Phillips

Lulabell Coleman Phillips, 83, of Dayton, died June 12. Ms. Phillips was retired from DESC following many years of service.

Betty A. (Brown) Taylor

Betty A. (Brown) Taylor, 86, of Dayton, died June 15. Mrs. Taylor was a former DESC employee and retired from the U.S. Postal Service after more than 38 total years of federal service.

Thank yous

My family and I are thankful for the outpouring of support we received at the passing of my father, William Rouse. Though there is nothing anyone can do to remove the pain, your support does ease the loss. Knowing that you care enough to offer your support has provided more comfort than we can ever express. Thank you. John Rouse, DLA Land and Maritime

To submit a thank you for publication in the Columbus Federal Voice, e-mail the thank you to dla.land.and.maritime.public.affairs@dla.mil.

Briefs

E-cycle event

set for July 17

The MWR Office on the DSCC installation has scheduled an e-cycle event for 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 17, with drop off at Building 16.

Items that will be accepted include CRT computer monitors, computer hard drives, laptop and desktop computers, digital cameras, camcorders, cell phones, video equipment, cables and connectors, printers and scanners. Items that will not be accepted are CRT televisions and anything with refrigerants.

The event is open only to federal employees who work on the DSCC installation.

More information is available at www.dsccmwr.com or by calling 614-692-2430.

CPR AED classes

available

Federal employees on the DSCC installation who would like to become certified in CPR and in the use of an Automated External Defibrillator can register for a class by calling the

Health Unit in Building 21 at 614-693-5104.

Class spaces are limited and associates should check with their supervisor before scheduling to insure they can attend. Those who schedule are expected to attend as a reserved space cannot be refilled at the last minute.

Classes will be held in Building 20, C Pod basement, Room 006 and will be available on the following dates: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Aug. 21 and Sept. 5 and 20 or 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 8 and 21 and Sept. 20.

Martin to be recognized

at NAACP convention

DLA Land and Maritime associate Flora Martin, a contract specialist in Maritime Supplier Operations, has been selected by the Department of Defense, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, as the DoD 4th Estate recipient of the 2012 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award.

Martin and other DoD award recipients will be honored during the NAACP Conference, 38th Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Military

Awards Dinner July 10 in Houston, Texas.

The award was instituted in 1975 in recognition to the contributions of Roy Wilkins, who established the NAACP Armed Services and Veterans Department in 1969. The award honors military members and DoD civilian employees who supported overseas contingency operations and demonstrated role model qualities and core values of their military service or organization.

Martin was also the winner of this year’s central Ohio defense federal community Carter G. Woodson Award.

Food collection drive

will be held in July

DLA Land and Maritime will participate in the Feds Feed Families 2012 Food Drive Campaign during July this year. DLA Land and Maritime previously participated in Operation Feed in the spring.

Feds Feed Families is much like Operation Feed with donations going to local food banks. The major difference is the time of year in which food is collected.

During the summer months, food banks traditionally encounter lulls

It’s A Date

July 2012

- JULY 4 – Independence Day
- JULY 19 – DLA Land and Maritime Town Hall, 1 p.m., Building 20 auditorium
- JULY 20 – Armed Services Blood Program blood drive, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Building 20 Pod C basement
- JULY 22 – Parents Day

August 2012

- AUG. 3 – Armed Services Blood Program blood drive, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Building 20 Pod C basement
- AUG. 5 – Friendship Day

in the level of giving. To help the food pantries stock up to meet critical needs for their services, the DoD installations will be collecting non-perishable food donations during the summer.

Volunteers will still be needed to assist with the campaign. Call Vern Shaw at 614-692-8886 for more information.

DSCC installation pauses to celebrate Army's 237th birthday

By Tony D'Elia
DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

A packed Buckeye Room was the scene of the 237th U.S. Army birthday celebration June 14 at DLA Land and Maritime.

"Since 1775 close to 50 million Americans have raised their right hands to serve the U.S. Army," said Milton Lewis, executive director, Contracting and Acquisition Management at DLA Land and Maritime, reading the words of Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell K. Williams. "They took the oath, like all of us did, to protect and serve this nation. They took the oath to defend the Constitution and the ideals represented by the flag, which we are also honoring today."

Williams, who had planned to attend the ceremony, was suddenly called away on DLA business. The Army birthday is traditionally celebrated at the same time as Flag Day.

This year's Army theme is, "The strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of

our Army is our soldiers. The strength of our families and that's what makes our Army strong."

Lewis traced the path of the U.S. Army over the globe where "soldiers marched for the cause of democracy."

"America celebrates the lives of all those soldiers who have made this Army great and who have built it to be the strongest army in the world," Lewis read.

A birthday message from Gen. Raymond Odierno, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, was one of several videos played before the traditional cake-cutting. In that ceremony, Army Specialist Danielle Williamson of the Ohio National Guard, located on the Defense Supply Center Columbus installation, was the youngest soldier present, and the oldest was retired Master Sgt. Michel L. Ward, a supervisory customer account specialist in Land Customer Operations.

Also contributing to the ceremony was Dan Law, who provided the invocation, Annette Peaks, who sang the national



DLA PHOTO BY CHARLES MORRIS

Above, the Army birthday traditional 5-K Fun Run kicks off June 14, the day of the 237th U.S. Army Birthday celebration on the DSCC installation.

Right, Milton Lewis (center), executive director, Contracting and Acquisition Management at DLA Land and Maritime and a retired Army colonel, is flanked by the oldest soldier, retired Master Sgt. Michel L. Ward, a supervisory customer account specialist in Land Customer Operations, and Army Specialist Danielle Williamson of the Ohio National Guard, representing the youngest soldier, in the traditional Army birthday cake cutting.

anthem, and Bobby Mullins, the master of ceremonies.

The day's events celebrating the Army birthday also included an early morning 5-K "Fun Run" that kicked off at the DSCC Fitness Center.



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DLA Land and Maritime Commander

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- Small Business Administration
- Department of Interior
- National Weather Service
- Internal Revenue Service
- American Federation of Government Employees
- Veterans Administration, Chillicothe, Ohio Office

MCD

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warfighter,” he said, noting the seven different diversity groups represented in the diversity tent.

Like the previous year, Williams issued an executive order for everyone to have fun and be safe while enjoying Multicultural Day and Fun Fest with their families and co-workers.

“The fun we enjoy and share today will help to strengthen the common bonds between us,” he said.

Williams also thanked the Equal Employment Opportunity and Morale, Welfare and Recreation offices and their staff and the numerous volunteers who helped get the day organized for everyone.

The opening ceremony also included the introduction of several former POW/MIAs and original members of the Tuskegee Airmen who were in

attendance. The national anthem was sung by DLA Land and Maritime associates Lisa Griffin, Angela McCoy and Regina Westbrook, and a showcase of diverse talents such as African drumming by Tony West, the DSCC Police Honor Guard and the Saints Drumline.

The Welcome Tent led visitors to the games, musical entertainment, food and other activities that were part of the day.

Thousands of people followed Williams’ order to “have fun.” One new activity that drew a lot of attention was the “Survivor” team competition based on the reality TV show. A new zipline ride was a big hit and participants also enjoyed the return of old favorites like the dunk tank, food, thrilling rides, live entertainment, unique merchandise and a fun day out in the sun.



DLA PHOTOS BY LAURA SANMIGUEL FEARING AND CHUCK MORRIS

1. Members of the Saints drumline march down Roosevelt Lane in front of Building 20 to start the kickoff ceremony for Multicultural Day and Fun Fest. The Saints also performed on Stage 2 as part of the day's entertainment.

2. Cutting the ribbon to open Multicultural Day and Fun Fest were (from left) Whitehall Mayor Kim Maggard, DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams and his wife, Myra, and former Whitehall Mayor John Wolfe.

3. Ethan Ogle (left) and Thomas Henderson, grandsons of DLA Land and Maritime associate Glynis Spencer, try to drop their pigs in the basket to win a prize during their ride on the zipline ride.

4. Saluting the flag as the national anthem is sung during the opening ceremony are (from left) DLA Land and Maritime associates Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Donald Pastorcich, Air Force Master Sgt. Robert Aguilar, Army CW3 Donnet Anderson and Navy Lt.j.g. Nicholas Mader.

5. Uncle Sam and President Abraham Lincoln, a.k.a. retired DLA associates C.W. Hall and John Cooper, respectively, both made appearances at Multicultural Day and Fun Fest. Lincoln was one of the featured entertainment acts on Stage 2, telling stories about his life and presidency.

6. Katina Jennings and a member of her dance troupe perform on Stage 3 as part of Multicultural Day entertainment. Jennings and her troupe performed dance tributes to Etta James, Amy Winehouse and Whitney Houston.

7. DFAS Columbus employee Maggie Lehman considers her options while working on a tile puzzle that was part of the “Survivor” competition at Fun Fest June 21 on the DSCC installation. Other members of her team, the “Ninja Badgers,” were Jennifer Blackburn, Dean Feldstein, Aaron McGuire and Mikel Ogg.

8. “Living Statue” Mark Abbati pretends to hit the trigger button to send Navy Cmdr. Jonathan Holsinger, deputy director of Maritime Supplier Operations, into the dunk tank during Fun Fest.

9. Cold drinks such as those proffered at the giant lemonade booth were very popular on the hot, windy day at Multicultural Day Fun Fest.



Town Hall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

numerous weapon systems for both the Army and the Marine Corps,” he said, and displayed slides denoting the successful support factors.

Support on the Land supply chain side of the house has been great. “The readiness levels in support of Afghanistan have never been better,” he said.

“DLA’s customer satisfaction ratings from both the Marine Corps and the Army are high. And that comes from the mouths of the service representatives at DLA Army and DLA Marine Corps days, and the lion’s share of that recognition comes from the great work you are doing here at DLA Land and Maritime,” he stated.

The commander also recognized those in Maritime for their great support

of the Navy and the hard work they performed on the Inventory Management Stock Positioning initiative. He noted that the concerns over IMSP have not been with those using the system, but are coming from other factors. He said those working with the system at Norfolk have done an outstanding job.

Williams then took the

time to recognize those who have deployed overseas, those who have won special awards, those who he called local unsung heroes, and those who have supported the diversity programs on the Defense Supply Center Columbus installation.

He took time to recognize Deputy Commander James McClaugherty and acquisition executive Milt Lewis

for their support in running operations at DLA Land and Maritime as well as site director Kenny Youn and his deputy, Bob Genton, for their great support in managing the DSCC installation.

In closing, he thanked everyone for their phenomenal support and wished everyone the best that the future can bring.

Maritime Supplier Ops associate selected Supervisor of the Month

By Dan Bender

DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

An associate who oversees a team of buyers in Maritime Supplier Operations has been selected as the DLA Land and Maritime Supervisor of the Month for May.

Asha Johns, who supervises six associates who buy various items for the U.S. Navy, was recognized by DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams at a June 25 Supervisors Call.

Johns has worked for DLA for five years after graduating from the DLA Corporate Intern program in 2009.

She was recognized for her leadership abilities in working with several members of her team and helping them improve their production by 40 percent over three months and her team's overall production by 34 percent in that time.

Working with her team and seeing their growth and development is one of the best things about her job, Johns said.

"I strive to provide opportunities to help develop them, which will allow them to reach their full potential," she said. "Additionally, there is a great sense of community here because there are so many knowledgeable people who are willing to share information and give guidance whenever needed.

"I love my team and I love cranking out the work and getting results," she stated.

Her supervisor, Karen Kramer, said Johns "is highly respected by both her team and her managers. They find her extremely approachable, caring for each as individuals and driven to accomplish her team's mission, traits found in any great leader."

Johns was also lauded for her strategic focus on Williams' "Operation



DLA PHOTO BY CHUCK MORRIS
Asha Johns, an acquisition supervisor in Maritime Supplier Operations, receives the Supervisor of the Month award for May from DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams during a June 25 Supervisors Call.

Full Press" effort to improve warfighter support and her push to get additional training for her team members on long-term contracts.

Kramer noted that Johns was "fully engaged" with her team so that she could better anticipate any questions they might have and address any roadblocks that might arise.

"Ms. Johns is a firm believer in developing her buyers to their fullest potential, recognizing many will be future leaders of this organization," Kramer said.

Johns' professionalism in dealing with disciplinary issues and communicating with her team members to make sure they hear current information from her and not the 'rumor mill' were also commended.

Johns, a resident of southeast Columbus, has a bachelor of science degree in marketing from Franklin University and a master's degree in business administration from Ohio Dominican University.

In her time away from work, she enjoys cooking and shopping.

Hepker selected new Chillicothe Medical Center director

By Stacia Ruby

Chillicothe VA Medical Center Public Affairs Officer

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio –The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced the appointment of Wendy J. Hepker as the new director of the Chillicothe VA Medical Center. Hepker will oversee delivery of health care to over 20,000 veterans and an operating budget of \$185 million.

"We are excited to bring Mrs. Hepker on board as the new director of the Chillicothe VA Medical Center," said Jack Hetrick, Veterans Integrated Service Network 10 director. "Her sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the facility, the employees and volunteers, and most importantly, for the veterans we are honored to serve. We anticipate she will arrive at the medical center within the next 45 to 60 days to begin her appointment."

Hepker joined the VA 17 years ago and has held progressive leadership positions at the Northern Arizona VA Healthcare System; VA Southeast Network, Atlanta, Ga; Jonathan M. Wainwright VA Medical Center, Walla Walla, Wash.; and Spokane VA Medical Center, Wash. Most recently, she served as the deputy network director at the VA Southwest Health Care Network (VISN 18), Mesa, Az., which supported seven VA Healthcare Systems with more than 10,000 employees serving 365,000 veterans. She was responsible for an annual budget of \$2 billion.

Hepker holds a master of social work from Walla Walla College, College Place, Wash. She is also a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

With 1,350 staff and Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Athens, Lancaster, Marietta, Cambridge and Portsmouth, Ohio, the Chillicothe VA Medical Center is one of the most complex of the nation's 152 VA Medical Centers.

VA launches effort to recruit, hire mental health professionals

By Stacia Ruby

Chillicothe VA Medical Center Public Affairs Officer

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio – The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed an aggressive national mental health hiring initiative to improve recruitment and hiring, marketing, education and training programs, and retention efforts for mental health professionals.

To speed the national hiring process, VA developed the Mental Health Hiring Initiative, a multi-faceted, sustained national marketing and outreach campaign that includes targeted recruitment of mental health providers willing to take positions throughout the country, including in rural and highly rural markets, to serve all VA medical centers and community clinics.

VA has an existing workforce of 20,590 mental health staff that includes nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers. Currently the Chillicothe VAMC has 253 mental health clinicians and sup-

port staff that work locally supporting south-central and southeastern Ohio veterans.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki noted that "as the tide of war recedes, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to anticipate the needs of returning veterans."

The team at the Chillicothe VA Medical Center is already actively treating veterans through individualized care, readjustment counseling and immediate crisis services. VA has defined mental health recovery as a journey of healing and transformation enabling veterans with a mental health condition to live a meaningful life in their community of choice while striving to achieve their full potential. In a recovery-oriented system of care, mental health services are individualized, person-centered and strengths-based. These evidence-based services promote hope, responsibility, respect and partnership.

Mental health services at the Chillicothe VA are inclusive of inpatient, ambulatory, tele-health and commu-

nity-based care activities related to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental disorders, and associated social pathologies such as suicide prevention, homelessness and unemployment, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, mental health intensive case management, military sexual trauma, depression and alcohol abuse.

The Chillicothe VA staff has contributed to mental health excellence by expanding the use of tele-mental health services, which provides services to veterans at our community clinics in Athens, Cambridge, Lancaster, Marietta, Portsmouth and Wilmington.

To locate the nearest VA facility or Vet Center for enrollment and to get scheduled for care, veterans can visit VA's website at www.va.gov or contact the Chillicothe VA Medical Center at 740-773-1141. Immediate help is available at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net or by calling the Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (push 1) or texting 838255.

GOODS & SERVICES

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VEHICLE STORAGE

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All in One printer/scanner/copier, good condition, \$25, 614-692-1587.

Corner cabinet - 6-foot-tall, glass on top, \$150 obo, 614-692-8577 or 614-313-5856.

Kitchen table/desk - 44-inch round marble table, 4 metal chairs with gray upholstery, \$40; corner computer desk, oak color, pull out keyboard, one drawer and hutch, \$40, 614-755-4255.

Push mower - motorless, rotary cut, \$25, 614-668-0947 or 614-933-8559.

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The Columbus Federal Voice

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- A maximum of three ads per week will be accepted from one employee. Ads will run for no more than three issues, after which ads must be resubmitted. Please notify the Public Affairs Office if advertised items are sold.
- Free Ads must be submitted by one of the following methods: e-mail (publicaffairs.dscc@dla.mil); sent via interoffice mail to DSCC-DOEB, Bldg. 20, room B527N; mailed to The Columbus Federal Voice, P.O. Box 3990, ATTN.: DOEB, Columbus, Ohio 43218-3990; hand carried to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 20, Room B527N or faxed to 614-693-1563. Advertisers wanting to place a classified ad in other area Cox Newspapers must prepay the ad using a credit card (Visa, Master Card, Discover or American Express), cash, check or money order. All paid ads must be phoned by calling 1-800-214-0966, faxed to 937-225-2043 or e-mailed to ColumbusFederalVoice@coxohio.com
- Ads will appear in the Voice with home and/or work phone numbers, including area code. No names may appear in the free ad.
- Only free animal ads will be accepted. "Free" must be stated in the ad.
- Free real estate, rentals and homes for sale will be accepted only from military personnel who are PCSing. Ads must state PCS. Time share, resort and vacation properties are considered paid advertising.
- Ads appearing to promote a business are not accepted for the free ad program. Call 1-800-214-0966 to place business ads.
- All weapon ads including those considered antiques, collectibles or hobbies will be rejected.
- Privately owned tickets sold through the free ads must show the ticket price and may not exceed the face value of the ticket.
- Ads will appear on the Voice Web site and may also appear on the publisher's Web Site.

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Place your ad in the Springfield News-Sun or the Dayton Daily News by calling 1-800-214-0966

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Your cooperation is needed in order to continue to offer free ads in The Columbus Federal Voice. The publisher reserves the right to edit and/or reject ads which do not conform to the intent of the free ad policy, which is to provide federal employees and military personnel who work within the distribution area of The Columbus Federal Voice an opportunity to advertise personal property in which other employees or military personnel may be interested.

Columbus Guardsman named NCO of the Year at competition

By Army Sgt. Michael Carden

196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio — Physical fitness, marksmanship, land navigation, military bearing, Army Warrior Task proficiency and overall soldiering knowledge are all essential components of what it takes to be the best in the Army.

At the Ohio Army National Guard Non-commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year – Best Warrior Competition, held recently at Camp Sherman Joint Training Center, soldiers and noncommissioned officers from across the state competed to find out who the best warrior indeed was.

“Being competitive in nature is what we do in the military,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Whatmough, Ohio Army National Guard state command sergeant

major. “Every soldier and NCO came out and represented their organization with pride. They certainly exemplified the ‘Warrior Ethos.’”

At an award ceremony presided over by Whatmough, Staff Sgt. Heath Robinson, a medic with the 285th Area Support Medical Company and a Columbus, Ohio, native, was named OHARNG Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Spc. Jeremy Stotz, a cavalry scout with Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment and a Toledo, Ohio, native, was named OHARNG Soldier of the Year.

Both said they were excited about representing Ohio against other Midwestern state winners at the Army National Guard Region 4 Soldier and NCO of the Year competition at Camp Grayling, Mich. They also said they appreciated the opportunity to compete against the best.

“People don’t look at medics as someone who can go out and hump it.” Robinson said. “I wanted to represent my unit and show we could go out and do it.”

The competition started with the Army Physical Fitness Test, where soldiers tested their physical strength and endurance with two-minute timed events in push-ups, sit-ups and a two-mile run. From there, competitors transitioned into a live-fire range testing their rifle and pistol marksmanship proficiency.

Soldiers and NCOs were then tested on their land navigation skills, having to plot and successfully travel to five points in succession. Once all competi-



PHOTO BY ARMY SGT. MICHAEL CARDEN
Army Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Whatmough (left), Ohio Army National Guard state command sergeant major, pins an Army Commendation Medal on Staff Sgt. Heath Robinson, a medic with the 285th Area Support Medical Company and a Columbus, Ohio, native. Robinson was recently named Ohio Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, after winning the challenging three-day OHARNG Best Warrior Competition.

tors returned, they were quickly thrust into a battery of Army Warrior Tasks testing them on first aid, detainee operations, improvised explosive device identification and radio procedures. The day was capped off with a written 50-question general military knowledge test and then an appearance board where each soldier and NCO went in front of a

review board of sergeants major who questioned them on military bearing, appearance and general military knowledge.

Day two of the competition started at dawn with the last event, the ruck march, which saw competitors travel six miles on foot with a 35-pound rucksack and rifle as they attempted to finish as fast as possible, knowing that the scoring could come down to who had the best time in the final event.

Several sergeants

major who were there to observe and cheer on their soldiers and NCOs in the competition said they noticed the effort and the professional pride exhibited by all the competitors involved.

“It’s about the soldiers’ individual excellence,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Shepherd, command sergeant major of the 16th Engineer Brigade and a Gahanna, Ohio, native. “There are over 11,000 Army National Guard soldiers in the state of Ohio. To be out here competing with 12 or 15 of your peers, to get to this level, and then to be No. 1 in the state, not too many people get the opportunity to do that.”

Awards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

erized system, collects a vendor’s past performance data and translates it into a numeric score, ranging from zero to 100.

“We just wanted a forum where we can tell you ‘thank you’ for the phenomenal work you do,” DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell K. Williams told company representatives.

“We come to you with a number of different initiatives such as material cost reduction,” Williams said. “We talk to you about reverse auctioning and engineering initiatives we’re doing. And each and every time you have responded. We want to thank you for everything you do to support DLA and the warfighters.”

Williams noted that 179 of about 6,000 suppliers are being recognized, and for that reason, it is a “very special

group.”

To be eligible, vendors must have shipped 50 or more contract line items during a 12-month period. To qualify for a Gold Award, a contractor must have a perfect score of 100. A score of 99 to 99.99 earns a Silver Award, and 98 to 98.9 earns a Bronze Award.

In a new category, two firms were presented Material Cost Reduction Partner Awards. Oshkosh Defense of Oshkosh, Wis., won in the large business category,

and Ruta Supplies Inc. of Dover, N.J., was the small business winner.

“These award winners have really helped us support the warfighters,” said Milton Lewis, Land and Maritime’s executive director of Contracting and Acquisition Management.

“On behalf of all the men and women who serve in our armed forces, I thank you as well,” Lewis said. “The job you do means they can do the job the nation sent them to do.”