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SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2015 WINNERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DISTINGUISHED RANK AWARD

Charles A. Allen, *Deputy General Counsel (International Affairs), Department of Defense*

An advisor to successive leaders in the positions of Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense, he's conducted immediate, thorough legal analyses before Combatant Commander-developed counterterrorism concepts of operations are considered by the Secretary and ultimately the President.

Dealing with the strategically important Northern Distribution Network logistic support to Coalition forces in Afghanistan, he and his team were indispensable in negotiating crucial access agreements with key countries, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan.

Jane A. Axelrad, *Associate Director for Policy, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services*

Led the FDA's response to a national fungal meningitis outbreak, the intensive negotiations with Congress to improve the agency's ability to oversee compounding facilities, and the agency's implementation efforts. She has been described as a "force of nature" by some.

Nancy A. Berryhill, *Deputy Commissioner for Operations, Social Security Administration*

Responsible for operational leadership of the Federal income assistance programs and services with approximately 60 million beneficiaries and recipients receiving over \$800 billion in disability and retirement benefits each year. She leads over 46,000 employees in 1,200 field offices, 28 Call Centers, 7 Processing Centers, and 6 international Federal Benefits Units.

Directed the development and implementation of the *my* Social Security portal, the premier platform for self-service for the public with a comprehensive and clear suite of services and robust authentication and anti-fraud protections.

Dr. Scott G. Borg, *Head, Antarctic Sciences Section, Division of Polar Programs, Directorate for Geosciences, National Science Foundation*

Leadership and oversight of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet drilling project to extract a 68,000 year old ice core that embodies the highest resolution record of climate ever recovered.

Leadership and oversight of the successful international ANDRILL geological drilling partnership to recover records of ocean conditions near the Antarctic ice sheet during critical times of climate change over the last 50 million years.

Sharon W. Bryson, *Deputy Director and Acting Director, Office of Communications, National Transportation Safety Board*

Directs the media communications, government affairs, safety advocacy and family assistance responses to over 1400 accidents the NTSB investigates each year.

Transformed the Transportation Disaster Assistance program, which ensures that victims and family members affected by major transportation accidents receive appropriate disaster services and information. The program's model has been adopted by local, state, and federal disaster response agencies, several nations, and most recently the United Nations body of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

James E. Buchanan, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State*

Designed highly effective multi-disciplinary teams to address the ISIL threat in Iraq and Syria, another to support the Russia/Ukraine crisis, and a third that is focusing on Africa and the threat from Boko Haram - teams that provide single points of contact to Ambassadors, Assistant Secretaries, and other policymakers who turn to them around the clock for answers to breaking events

Ensures that ten analytic offices charged with covering "all countries, all issues, all the time" for every region of the world provide the timeliest and most insightful intelligence analysis possible to the Secretary and through the Intelligence Community's program known as the President's Daily Brief.

Dr. John D. Burrow, *Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, Department of the Navy*

Responsible for the development and direction of investments for Naval warfighting capability. Everything that a Marine on the ground wears, uses for personal protection, works with, shoots and rides in, are products of his ingenuity, drive, and leadership.

Developed and delivered to Afghanistan mobile, armored medical trauma bays capable of deploying forward with units in combat within four-and-a-half months of the request.

As the Marine Corps' acquisition executive for the next Generation Enterprise Network, the world's largest intranet with over 750,000 users, he managed the transition from the previous network without interrupting daily network operations that supported the Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dr. John M. Butler, *NIST Fellow, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce*

The recognized worldwide expert in development and critical evaluation of ground breaking DNA analysis methods for human identity testing, his methods have been adopted internationally by the law enforcement, legal and defense communities and his research has led to the world wide acceleration and automation of the DNA testing process, transforming forensic DNA into the powerful and accessible tool that it is today.

Recognized internationally for his work on short tandem repeat markers, which led to the development of new DNA tests for the Y-chromosome to aid work with sexual assault evidence, disaster victim identification and genetic ancestry testing.

Created new DNA tests that improve recovery of information for degraded DNA samples to aid missing persons investigations and disaster victim identification. They are recognized worldwide for enabling additional connections to be made between remains recovered from disasters like the World Trade Center collapse.

Discovered and demonstrated that smaller pieces of DNA could be used for identity testing and profiles can be generated in fully automated fashion with greater than thousand fold improvements in sensitivity and speed. This pioneering approach is now used around the globe, as it allows analysis of smaller pieces of DNA from miniscule, degraded samples such as aged bone or even a single hair.

Dr. Patrick H. Conway, *Deputy Administrator for Innovation and Quality in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Chief Medical Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)*

Leads all health care delivery system reform efforts for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services – with over 100 million beneficiaries - including innovation, quality, and improving the US health system. CMS decisions affect \$2.7 trillion of US spending.

Led the development and implementation of outcome measures across programs that drive improved patient care, with central line infections decreasing nationally by more than 50%.

Has led a second Center at CMS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, the primary federal leader of our nation's health care delivery system reform efforts.

Robert F. Corbin, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Petroleum Reserves, Department of Energy*

Manages the largest and lowest cost petroleum reserve in the world, 691 million barrels, with a market value of \$70 billion.

Jack R. Craig, Jr., *Director, Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center, Department of Energy*

Enabled safe completion of environmental cleanup projects at former nuclear weapons production facilities under budget, ahead of schedule, and in compliance with environmental regulations.

As Acting Manager of the Savannah River Operations Office, stabilized and disposed of legacy plutonium and uranium materials; received and managed spent nuclear fuels from research reactors in the U.S. and around the world, and treated and disposed of 37 million gallons of radioactive liquid wastes.

Greg Delwiche, *Deputy Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy*

Lead negotiator of the historic 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords, successfully aligning four formerly adversarial Northwest tribes, multi-State and Federal parties in a 10-year, \$1B partnership and commitment to funding numerous fish and wildlife restoration programs.

Dr. Janet S. Fender, *Chief Scientist and Science Advisor to the Commander, Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Department of the Air Force*

Her patented invention of Optically Phased Laser Arrays demonstrated effective modular combination of lasers to produce ultra-high power on target.

Built \$1B consortium with funding from the National Science Foundation, industry and university research groups, entrepreneurs, and government agencies.

The International Commission on Optics presented Dr. Fender a recognition award for her role in developing the Optic Suitcases, an optics teaching kit distributed to schools across the US, Europe, Africa and South America.

William H. Gerstenmaier, *Associate Administrator, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, NASA*

Led NASA's return of the shuttle fleet to operation, overseeing 21 flights to complete assembly of the ISS and repair the Hubble Space Telescope making it more powerful than ever.

Rochelle F. Granat, *Assistant General Counsel for General Law, Ethics and Regulation, Department of the Treasury*

Leadership integral to defining legal frameworks to establish the multiple organizations mandated by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010.

Provided legal support to design and implement human resource policies and procedures for the rapid recruitment of a new and specialized workforce statute creating TSA, which was provided unusual flexibility to establish the terms and conditions of employment for security screeners. Her advice was vital to the establishment of a legally defensible screener assessment process.

When Congress mandated a 6,000 person reduction in the screener workforce, she was instrumental in development of a unique competency-based reduction-in-force process which ensures fairness and avoided litigation.

Collaborated with counsel and policy officials of multiple financial regulatory agencies to develop equitable and legally sound procedures and policies to integrate employees into the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau from five different agencies with different compensation, benefits and hiring authorities and collective bargaining postures as well as overlapping statutory schemes.

Judith A. Hagley, *Senior Level Attorney, Tax Division, Department of Justice*

Spearheads the Government's appellate litigation in the tax shelter arena.

Her legal brief (and oral argument) in the case of *Coltec Industries*, which claimed a loss deduction of \$378 million, persuaded the court of appeals that economic substance doctrine remains a viable legal principle that is necessary to prevent taxpayers from subverting the legislative purpose of the tax code by engaging in transactions that appear to meet the letter of the law but otherwise lack economic reality.

In the case in which *Merck & Co.* sought a refund of \$500 million involving interest-rate swaps, she persuaded the court of appeals that the funds the taxpayer had received as a result of two transactions were immediately taxable in full as loan proceeds from foreign subsidiaries. The decision is now cited as a leading case offering a cautionary tale with respect to efforts to repatriate foreign income through such swaps.

Richard K. Hartley, *Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Department of the Air Force*

His initiatives led to the highest ever Air Force acquisition portfolio probability of success, with cost growth risk down \$19B across an \$87B portfolio, a 90% decline in five years.

Thomas D. Homan, *Executive Associate Director for Enforcement and Removal Operations, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security*

Completed full nationwide deployment of an original automated federal biometric information sharing capability and expanded the number of fugitive operations teams, resulting in the removal of more than 325,000 criminal aliens of which 40 percent were convicted of an aggravated felony or multiple felonies.

Kevin K. McAleenan, *Deputy Commissioner, US Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security*

Oversees counterterrorism, customs, immigration, anti-smuggling, trade compliance, and agriculture protection operations at 20 major field offices, 329 ports of entry, and 70 international locations in more than 40 countries.

Teresa A. McKay, *Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service*

Director of the largest finance and accounting operation in the world. During Fiscal Year 2014, the Agency paid more than 6.3 million soldiers and civilians, made 5.8 million travel payments and paid 1,270 separate funding accounts. She is also trust fund manager for \$424 billion in foreign military sales and \$772 billion in military retirement and health benefit funds.

Allen Middleton, *Deputy Director, Defense Health Agency, Office of the Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)*

Manages the Department's medical budget – now at \$53 billion for military health care costs - ensuring that the medical readiness of the combat forces is maintained and improved, and that the health care needs of 9.7 million Americans – particularly wounded warriors – are met.

Dennis Miotla, *Chief Operating Officer and Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Nuclear Energy, Department of Energy*

Led major advancements in nuclear energy facilities and construction by creating a 10-year life extension program for a unique facility for US and international users to study the long-term impacts of radiation.

In 2003, to address the then high cost of alternative fuels, the then-Secretary announced the creation of a premier national laboratory dedicated to nuclear energy research and charged him with building the Idaho National Laboratory.

Promoted and led the creation of a user facility that enables the full-scale testing of nuclear equipment control systems under cyber-attack.

Worked closely with National Nuclear Security Administration to relocate and re-establish a classified nuclear threat reduction program from another closing site. That program is now training hundreds of domestic and international first responders to deal with incidents involving improvised and engineered nuclear devices.

Walter Mugdan, *Director of Region 2's Emergency and Remedial Response Division, Environmental Protection Agency*

Protected public health by reducing diesel and nitrogen oxide emissions through a ground-breaking partnership with the Port Authority of NY and NJ, the states of NY and NJ and private shipping companies.

The original architect of a successful enforcement approach combining incentives for settlers and disincentives for parties that refuse to settle Superfund cases.

John B. Nerger, *Executive Deputy to the Commanding General, US Army Materiel Command*

Only civilian deputy to a 4-star general in the Army. Leads a predominantly civilian workforce, including two-thirds of the Army's engineers, scientists and contract experts.

Instituted transformation business processes which resulted in the command being listed in the Oliver Wright company's international database of Class A Capable companies; the achieved results were described as "incredible."

Led multiple transformational reorganizations, among them moving 93 stand-alone base-level logistics elements from another Army organization into the Army Materiel Command, where he unified them into a single organization while driving cost down by \$200 million.

Resized the command by reducing the workforce by over 10,000 in two years without taking adverse action.

Responsible for overseeing 170,000 contract actions annually valued at over \$50 billion, 15% of the total spent on contracts by the entire federal government.

Responsible for one of the most challenging logistics endeavors, returning 44,000 vehicles and 107,000 equipment containers from Afghanistan, preserving \$30 billion dollars' worth of equipment for future use.

Susan K. Pascocello, *Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Agency for International Development*

Led work to conceptualize, design and establish the Global Development Lab, to harness innovation, science and technology and tackle the most difficult issues facing international development.

Led work with the Lab to develop a new procurement and collaboration instrument, the Development Innovation Accelerator, which allows for co-creation of research and development projects with experts and world-class institutions.

Connie L. Patrick, *Director, Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, Department of Homeland Security*

Leads the Nation's largest law enforcement training organization, providing basic and advanced training to 95 federal partner organizations and more than 65,000 officers and agents each year from federal state, local, tribal, and international law enforcement organizations.

Chairperson of the INTERPOL Group of Experts on Police Training.

Led the refocusing of many training programs and the creation of new ones to meet emerging needs, including anti/counter-terrorism, flying armed, intelligence awareness, and critical infrastructure protection. Ensured training addressed critical national issues such as human trafficking, drug-endangered children, and countering violent extremism.

Led a more than 700% increase in active shooter response training focused particularly on the state and local law enforcement community.

Initiated development of the Practical Application Counterterrorism Operations Training Facility with a new Simulation Laboratory, the Technical Operations Training Facility, the Intermodal Training Facility, Forensic Science Training Complex, "Danis City," a 35 acre Urban/Suburban Training Facility; an Avatar Based Interview Simulator, and an After Action Review System.

Lisa Phelan, *Chief, Washington Criminal I Section, Antitrust Division, Department of Justice*

Instrumental in coordinating the Division's investigation with parallel auto parts investigations by antitrust enforcers in the European Commission, Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea and Mexico.

Dr. Peter J. Reynolds, *Senior Research Scientist, Physical Sciences, Army Research Lab*

Designed and led the programs that resulted in the creation of exotic new forms of matter at ultra-cold temperatures, millions of times colder than outer space, with impact on the creation of the world's accurate atomic clocks, and quantum logic gates as the building blocks of future quantum computers.

His work on quantum Monte Carlo provided a novel method for highly precise computation of electronic structure of molecules and materials, exceeding the precision of all previous tools.

The programs he managed for DoD led to five Nobel Prizes and to the development and demonstration of the first atom lasers; quantum simulation as an approach to solving otherwise computationally intractable problems; and the first quantum logic gate.

Craig R. Schmauder, *Deputy General Counsel (Installations, Environment & Civil Works), Department of the Army*

Directed one of the most diverse and politically-charged litigation portfolios in the Federal Government involving the successful resolution of Army liabilities and equities disputes in excess of \$500 billion.

Alan R. Shaffer, *Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering), Office of the Secretary of Defense*

Simultaneously filled the role of a congressionally confirmed ASD position for a total of 51 months while maintaining the position of Principal Deputy.

Instrumental in the initiation of the joint Air Force (DARPA) X-51 hypersonic demonstration program and in continuation of the program which allowed for its achievement of over 200 seconds of sustained hydrocarbon fueled scramjet combustion in flight, the first time anyone had demonstrated repeatable hypersonic flight.

Robert E. Slockbower, *Director of Programs, Southwestern Division, US Army Corps of Engineers*

Initiated implementation of the \$11B Iraq Reconstruction Program, including construction of 2700 projects and completed 1100 projects with a value of \$4.6B.

Led the national effort to support the DHS Secure Border Initiative, which resulted in over 400 miles of pedestrian and vehicle barriers being constructed in less than two years; at the peak of construction, two-and-half mile of fence were erected per day.

Led the delivery of vital BRAC defense facilities infrastructure, planning, designing, and constructing over 675 major facilities worldwide while simultaneously delivering critical construction requirements in support of ongoing war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Instrumental in the delivery of new world-class hospitals at Fort Belvoir and Joint Base San Antonio.

Dr. Elizabeth R. Southerland, *Director, Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency*

Lowered human health risks from swimming in the nation's beaches by developing new national bacteria water quality criteria and requiring a notionally consistent trigger to advise the public of unsafe swimming conditions.

Kathryn M. Turman, *Assistant Director, Office for Victim Assistance, Federal Bureau of Investigation*

Revolutionized the FBI's approach to victim services, developing a comprehensive program to ensure that victims of terrorism and mass violence their families receive immediate and long-term assistance; it is a model for law enforcement agencies worldwide.

Created the Victim Assistance Rapid Deployment Team, expanding the FBI's capacity to respond to mass casualty crimes.

Richard C. Visek, *Deputy Legal Adviser Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State*

Identified legal bases under which the US could interdict the loaded oil tanker seized from Libya by rebels. Laid the legal foundation for the President's approving a successful Navy SEAL team operation that boarded and seized control of the tanker and then returned it to its rightful owner so that its oil could not be delivered to terrorists or the murderous Syrian regime.

Pushed forward agreements that enabled the United States to open a needed health unit in Liberia and provide for the evacuation of health care workers infected with Ebola.

Dr. Jun Ye, *NIST Fellow, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce*

Numerous best in the world innovations in laser science, including the world's most stable lasers, development of laser frequency combs deep into the extreme ultraviolet, yielding a tabletop system with coherence 10,000 times better than multibillion dollar acceleration facilities.

Demonstrated the world's first human-controlled chemical reactions.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS of 2014 DISTINGUISHED RANK AWARDEES
RECOGNIZED AT BANQUET**

Robert Cardillo, *former Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Intelligence Integration, ODNI*

Led and managed a vast array of complex intelligence matters for the President, senior national security policymakers, combatant commanders, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and members of Congress.

Responsible for the content, editorial quality and delivery of the President's Daily Brief.

Matthew Olsen, *former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, ODNI*

Led the Intelligence Community effort to detect, disrupt and defeat terrorists and their associated groups. Served as lead briefer to the President during regularly scheduled counterterrorism threat sessions.

Led the Intelligence Community's efforts to identify the perpetrators of the Boston marathon bombings.