



# Federal Acquisition *INSIGHT*

August 2007



## From the Desk of the Director: Karen Pica

Continuous development and recognition of the federal acquisition workforce are essential to maintaining government missions. Therefore, we are focusing this edition of FAInsight on recognizing the achievements of your colleagues and highlighting learning opportunities for your professional development.

We are using your feedback to improve our website, our training and provide better customer

service. Please visit us at [www.FAI.gov](http://www.FAI.gov) to find out about any new training courses, learning seminars or awards for which you can nominate a colleague. We are looking for volunteers to help us put together some training for you on small business participation and how to build small business friendly requirements. If you would like to provide your input and expertise to help build this training, please send us an email at [questions@FAI.gov](mailto:questions@FAI.gov).

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## Around the Acquisition Workforce



By Tom Edwards

On June 19 and 20, 2007, FAI, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council (CAOC) and the Department of Defense (DoD) sponsored the Federal Acquisition Conference and Exposition (FACE) 2007. A capacity crowd of over 500 participants converged on the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC, for an inspiring Keynote Address by Paul Denett, the Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy. Citing "Lessons Learned in Performance Based Acquisitions," Mr. Denett overviewed best practices resulting from a greater emphasis on performance in contracting and presented his vision of the acquisition workforce of tomorrow, anticipating even greater levels of professionalism and accountability.

FACE 2007's breakout sessions supported the

conference's western theme, "Acquisition Frontiers: Blazing New Trails," with sessions entitled "Managing the Herd: Successful Practices in Contract Management and Administration" and "The Pony Express: Delivering Feedback on Contract Performance." Breakouts were organized into four tracks to recognize the variety of professional acquisition roles: 1) contracting officers, 2) program and project managers, 3) contracting officers' technical representatives, and 4) acquisition career managers. Sessions were repeated so participants could attend all the sessions in their track and explore topics in other tracks that interested them. Between sessions, participants were free to learn about the products and services of several dozen vendors in the "Trading Post." Please browse through the conference photos, including the Shine Awards ceremony, on the following pages and the FACE 2007 conference presentations at [www.fai.gov/resource/prespho.asp](http://www.fai.gov/resource/prespho.asp).

### FAI Board of Directors

- David Litman—Chair, DOT
- Molly Wilkinson, GSA
- Kay Ely, OPM
- Joanie Newhart, SBA
- Dr. Ed Hoffman, NASA
- Frank Anderson, OSD and DAU
- Chuck Gherardini, EPA
- Tom Essig, DHS



## Around the Acquisition Workforce

### FACE 2007 Conference Photos



The Federal Acquisition Management Team



FACE Conference Participants



Shine Awards Luncheon ◊ Federal Acquisition Conference & Expo ◊ June 19, 2007 ◊ Washington, DC

" ... As Administrator, I want to ensure that outstanding acquisition professionals are recognized for their contributions and that their best practices are made available to others. The federal acquisition community is responsible for managing \$400 billion each year to support the missions of hundreds of agencies, and members of this community continually excel in meeting mission goals while ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. The Shine initiative will increase the visibility of existing and new award programs that recognize federal employees or teams that demonstrate acquisition excellence ..."

Paul A. Denett  
Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy

At the Shine Awards Luncheon Ceremony, Paul Denett, Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), presented the Shine Awards to the winners and highlighted the purpose of the awards. This governmentwide initiative is aimed at improving the visibility of acquisition awards, recognizing acquisition excellence and sharing best practices with all.

For detailed information about these awards and the excellent acquisition practices exemplified please visit:  
[www.FAI.gov/workforce/awards.asp](http://www.FAI.gov/workforce/awards.asp).

## Around the Acquisition Workforce

### SHINE AWARDS



#### Ida Ustad Award for Excellence in Acquisition Award

This award recognizes a federal employee who demonstrates or embodies the concept of "contract specialist as business leader/ advisor." Sponsored by: GSA

<http://www.fai.gov/workforce/awards.asp>

*2007 Winner: Jean F. Todd, Army Corps of Engineers*



**2007 Ustad Winner:** Jean F. Todd, Army Corps of Engineers

#### Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) Award

This award recognizes outstanding use of ADR by federal agencies and private companies in acquisition-related disputes. Co-sponsored by: Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) and the Chief Acquisition Officers Council (CAOC). [www.adr.gov](http://www.adr.gov)

*2007 Winners: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons and Hensel Phelps Construction Company (private sector partner)*

#### Chief Acquisition Officers Council Acquisition Management Award "Innovations in Contract Management Award 2007"

The award recognizes excellence in innovative contract management approaches. Co-sponsored by: Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) and the Chief Acquisition Officers Council (CAOC). [www.caoc.gov](http://www.caoc.gov)

*2007 Civilian Winner: U.S. Department of Agriculture Procurement Operations Division, IT Services*

*2007 Defense Winner: U.S. Department of the Army Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan:*

#### Special Tribute: Commander Philip Murphy-Sweet

Among those recognized on this team is U.S. Navy Supply Corps Commander Philip Murphy-Sweet, who volunteered for this assignment and was killed by an improvised explosive device in Bagdad on April 7, 2007. He leaves behind a wife and three children. Present at the Shine Awards Ceremony to accept the CAOC award were Rear Adm. Kathleen Dussault, Col. Kermit Jones, Col. Casey Blake and Shay Assad. (See photo below.)



**2007 Defense "Innovations" Winner:** U.S. Department of the Army Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan

## Around the Acquisition Workforce



### Elmer B. Staats Young Acquisition Professional Excellence Award

The award recognizes a young federal acquisition professional, no more than 37 years of age, who has contributed significantly to acquisition operations or acquisition policy. Sponsored by: Procurement Round Table.

[www.procurementroundtable.org/awards.htm](http://www.procurementroundtable.org/awards.htm)

*2007 Winner: Christopher Gerfen, Deputy Chief, Contracting Division, USAF Electronic Systems Center, Hanscomb Air Force Base, MA*

### National Contract Management Association (NCMA)/ESI International Contracting Award

This award recognizes a government or commercial contracts professional who has contributed significantly to acquisition operations or acquisition policy. Co-Sponsored by: NCMA and ESI.

[www.esi-intl.com/public/contracting/contestrules.asp](http://www.esi-intl.com/public/contracting/contestrules.asp)

*2007 Winner: Robert A. Burton, Deputy Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy*

### Herbert Roback Memorial Award

The award honors a nationally renowned and distinguished American who has made a significant contribution to the betterment of public contract management through lifelong achievement in the public or private sector. Sponsored by: NCMA.

<http://www.ncmahq.org/awards/awardlist.asp>

*2007 Winner: Michael W. Wynne, Secretary of the Air Force*

### GSA Governmentwide Excellence in Performance-Based Service Acquisition Awards

This award cites federal employees who are leaders in the contracting environment and have transformed their organization through "best-in-class" practices in acquisition.

Co-sponsored by: GSA and The Performance Institute.

[www.excellenceinacquisition.org](http://www.excellenceinacquisition.org)

### Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Team Awards

The award honors outstanding FAR teams and/or individual team members who made significant contributions to the FAR process in the previous fiscal year. Co-sponsored by: Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) and the Chief Acquisition Officers Council (CAOC).

[www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement/2006\\_team\\_awards.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement/2006_team_awards.pdf)

*2007 Joint Winners: FAR Acquisition Law Team and FAR Acquisition Strategy Team*

### 2007 Joint FAR Team Winners:



FAR Acquisition Law Team



FAR Acquisition Strategy Team

## Around the Acquisition Workforce



### Shine Initiative

Please visit [www.FAI.gov/resource/prespho.asp](http://www.FAI.gov/resource/prespho.asp) for additional Shine Award Ceremony and FACE photos

#### Blanche Witte Memorial Foundation Annual Award

This award cites an individual working in the field of procurement and contract management who has uniquely performed one or more exemplary achievements. Sponsored by: National Contract Management Association (NCMA).

[www.ncmahq.org/awards/awardlist.asp](http://www.ncmahq.org/awards/awardlist.asp)

*2006 Joint Winners: Patricia Cotterell, Customer Service Director and Sharon Campbell, Small Business Program Manager, General Services Administration (GSA)*

#### David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Awards

The award acknowledges Department of Defense (DOD) civilian and/or military organizations, groups or teams who have made highly significant contributions which demonstrated exemplary innovation and best acquisition practices. Sponsored by: US Army Acquisition Support Center (USAASC)

<http://www.fai.gov/workforce/awards.asp>

*2007 Joint Winners: CM Flares Team and ICRM Team, U.S. Department of the Army*

#### E.R. "Dick" Alley, Jr. Award

This award honors a federal employee who has provided extraordinary achievement and sustained effort in utilizing the federal procurement system to create employment and training opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, AbilityOne Program. Sponsored by: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

[www.jwod.gov/jwod/about\\_us/Halloffame/alley\\_award.html](http://www.jwod.gov/jwod/about_us/Halloffame/alley_award.html)

*2007 Winner: Cindy Maltby, Program Manager, U.S. Department of the Interior, and OFPP (detailee)*



**2007 Alley Winner: Cindy Maltby, Program Manager, U.S. Department of the Interior, and Office of Federal Procurement Policy (Detailee)**

#### Contracting Workforce Competencies Survey By Linda Ott

With over 5000 contracting professionals providing input on 191 questions, that makes for **more than one million** pieces of data to sort and study. This significant quantity of data will enable FAI to establish a baseline of information on the contracting workforce from which to build solutions and gain insight into how well FAI is doing in preparing the workforce for the future.

Thank you again for your overwhelming response and participation. Look for more information in the next newsletter on the results of the 2007 Contracting Workforce Competencies Survey.

## Around the Acquisition Workforce

### GSA Celebrates the AbilityOne (formerly JWOD) Program during National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October

By Stephanie Lesko

"All of our citizens should have the opportunity to live and work with dignity and freedom. Every October, we observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month to recognize the talents, skills, and dedication of disabled Americans who are a vital part of our workforce."

President George W. Bush

#### National Disability Employment Awareness Month



National Disability Employment Awareness Month recognizes the workplace contributions and employment needs of Americans with disabilities. It is an ideal opportunity to recognize individuals with disabilities who work under the AbilityOne (formerly Javits-Wagner-O'Day or JWOD) Program and federal employees who support the AbilityOne Program. Federal agencies may commemorate the AbilityOne Program in various ways during October as well as throughout the year. Initiatives may include:

- Issue a Secretary Announcement recognizing the AbilityOne Program and National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Assist your Director or Commanding Officer in issuing a Memorandum of Support for the AbilityOne Program

- Hold a National Disability Employment Awareness Month event with the AbilityOne Program as one of the main sponsors
- Host an AbilityOne Vendor Fair or exhibit to showcase AbilityOne product and service capabilities
- Plan an "AbilityOne Appreciation Day" for your AbilityOne service crew (*e.g.*, janitorial staff at federal buildings, food service staff at military mess halls, administrative support services staff)
- Schedule a tour of a nearby AbilityOne-participating nonprofit agency for your agency's decision-makers and/or purchasing staff
- Offer AbilityOne training for purchase card holders and acquisition professionals (training kits are available from the AbilityOne Program) or arrange time for purchase card holders and acquisition professionals to take online training (see below)
- Link your Web site to the AbilityOne Program Web site ([www.abilityone.gov](http://www.abilityone.gov)) and
- Display AbilityOne information on posters and bulletin boards.

For assistance in planning an AbilityOne celebration during National Disability Employment Awareness Month please contact Stephanie Lesko, Public Affairs Specialist, at the AbilityOne Program at [slesko@jwod.gov](mailto:slesko@jwod.gov) or visit [www.abilityone.gov](http://www.abilityone.gov) for more information.

Complete AbilityOne training for Continuing Education Units (CEU's) at your desk at [www.FAI.gov](http://www.FAI.gov) or contact [abilityoneworks@jwod.gov](mailto:abilityoneworks@jwod.gov) to make arrangements.

## Around the Acquisition Workforce

### A Busy Summer for ACMIS By Gloria Sawyer

Agencies have been very busy over the past few months working to meet the July 1 deadline to have their workforce registered in the Acquisition Career Management Information System (ACMIS). On June 1, the Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI) implemented a new feature enabling Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives (COTR's), Program Managers (PM's) and other acquisition professionals to "self" register. This feature allows users to access the system and enter training, education and certification data without the assistance of the ACMIS agency administrator or Help Desk staff. Since June 1, the number of registered users has more than doubled – a good indicator that the self-registration process was well received. While 100 percent participation was not achieved by all agencies on July 1, a significant number of agencies and users will benefit from the data already collected. Agencies continue to make ACMIS a priority with progress being made each day. The FAI

Team continues to work with agencies to support automated conversions of data stored in agency legacy systems.

#### What's Next:

The FAI Team and representatives from the agencies are in the process of reviewing and approving major ACMIS enhancements, including:

- Improving the process for identifying users' roles and certification requirements
- Implementing a new design for the system
- Improving navigation and system functionality
- Removing the "Required Mandatory Training" table to facilitate manual registration for mandatory courses
- Ensuring that full Social Security Numbers (SSN's) are not displayed when entered by the user.

ACMIS users can look for these improvements in late August 2007. In addition, the FAI Team continues to work with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to enable the integration of completed training data to be captured by OPM's Electronic Human Resource Initiative (EHRI).

## Acknowledging Excellence: Acquisition Awards Update

### Nominations—Just Out:

Mark your calendars! Nominations for the 2008 Service to America Medals (Sammie) Awards will open September 20, 2007. For more information please visit <http://servicetoamericamedals.org/SAM/nominations/>

Nominations are due to Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) in October for the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Team Award. Please contact [jwise@amb.eop.gov](mailto:jwise@amb.eop.gov) for more information.

### Upcoming Award Ceremonies:

The Fifth Annual Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards – Finalist Reception will be on September 6, 2007, and

the award recipients will be unveiled at the Awards Gala on October 10, 2007. For more information please visit [www.govconawards.com/](http://www.govconawards.com/)

The 2007 Sammie awards will be presented during a black tie gala on September 19, 2007, at the Andrew Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. For more information please visit <http://servicetoamericamedals.org/SAM>

The Award Ceremony for the Third Annual Army Life Cycle Logistician of the Year Award will coincide with the Acquisition Community Project and Program Manager and Acquisition Director of the Year Awards on October 7, 2007. For more information, please visit <http://asc.army.mil>

## Acquisition Spotlight

### A-76 POST COMPETITION ACCOUNTABILITY TRAINING

The Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI) has produced an interactive online training module for understanding best practices in post competition accountability entitled the A-76 Post Competition Accountability Training. The training can be downloaded at [www.FAI.gov](http://www.FAI.gov) in September 2007. It explains the steps a federal government agency must take to successfully implement the results of a public-private competition.



The training illustrates best practices and lessons learned across the government and provides an educational tool for stakeholders in this phase of A-76 competitions. In the training you will see and hear Agency practitioners share their experiences and strategies for transitioning to new providers and administering the work they have been selected to perform.



## Training Updates "Q & A"

By Otis Langford

FAI has heard many questions lately on training and its availability. Here are some answers.

**Question:** When will the Fiscal Year 2008 contracting course offerings be available?

**Answer:** September 2007. Watch for updates under "What's New" at [www.FAI.gov](http://www.FAI.gov).

**Q:** How can I confirm that I am registered for a FAI class?

**A:** Log into the Federal Acquisition Institute Training Application System at [www.FAI.gov/resource/register.asp](http://www.FAI.gov/resource/register.asp) and select "Review Training Requests" on the left side of the screen. On the next page, you will be able to see the status of your training applications. An "R" next to the class you've requested indicates that you are enrolled in that class. Other codes are explained on the page.

**Q:** Where are classes held?

**A:** Go to [www.FAI.gov](http://www.FAI.gov) and click "Register for Courses". On that page you will find a list of where classes are held.

**Q:** Is training still available in FY07?

**A:** Yes, such as:

- *Performance Based Service Acquisition-Workshop for Teams.* (This course is open to teams only.)
- The new *Emergency Response and Recovery* course
- A variety of web training offerings include those for contracting officer representative / contracting officer technical representative (COR/COTR)

For more information about these courses select "Register for Courses" at [www.FAI.gov](http://www.FAI.gov).

Watch for information on FAI's new program and project management training at [www.FAI.gov](http://www.FAI.gov).



"A strong partnership between program and project managers and contracting professionals requires a common understanding of how to meet the government's needs."

Paul Denett, OFPP Administrator

## Tip of the Month: DAU Courses



Instructor-led training offered by the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) sometimes has seats available. In general, DAU courses have DoD quotas for each class in place up to 65 days before the class begins. On the 65th day, the class opens to non-DoD applicants.

If you can be flexible, you have the option of applying for a DAU course knowing that you will initially be waitlisted, but may obtain a seat if the class is not filled by the 65th day.

Thank you, everyone, for participating in the FACE conference.

## Upcoming Events

October 1: FAC-C Continuous learning maintenance requirements begin

October 16: FAI Board of Directors Meeting

October 18: IACMC Meeting

October 25: Acquisition Learning Seminar (ALS)

## Looking Ahead!

Please stay tuned for the October Edition of FAInsight which will feature the Contracting Workforce Competencies Survey Results, and National Disability Employment Awareness Month features.

We want to hear from you! How do you like our new newsletter format? Please let us know what we can provide to make it most useful for you and how we can support you and your training needs. Please contact [questions@FAI.gov](mailto:questions@FAI.gov) and visit [www.FAI.gov](http://www.FAI.gov).

## Thank you

*We thank guest authors for their contributions and views and present these as part of Federal Acquisition Insight for our readers' information.*

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*Or visit [www.FAI.gov](http://www.FAI.gov).*