



Lisa Marie Clark is director of Defense Contract Management Agency BAE Systems in Nashua, N.H. The office is a streamlined contract management office under DCMA Boston, and performs contract services for eight major programs. Seven of these are Acquisition Category I, or ACAT I, the highest rating for a program based on location in the acquisition process, dollar value and complexity. (Photo by Patrick Tremblay, DCMA Public Affairs)

Nashua - agency pride in the Northeast

Patrick Tremblay | DCMA Public Affairs

“I see myself as the conductor,” said Lisa Marie Clark, director, Defense Contract Management Agency BAE Systems. “The people here are the orchestra.”

The orchestra performs in Nashua, N.H., at the state’s largest employer. As a streamlined contract management office, DCMA’s Nashua team provides full contract administration services while reporting through DCMA Boston.

The office’s approximately 50-person team is functionally diverse and includes everything from Keystone interns to service members – a cross section of the agency nestled in the second largest city in the 41st least populated state.

CLARK

Clark’s background makes her ideally suited to direct a CMO like Nashua. She began as an Air Force contracting officer,

then followed that with acquisition work as an Air Force civilian that included a year on staff at the Pentagon. Coursework at the Naval War College and other assignments prepared Clark for her current role, which she likened to a dream job.

Even with a solid acquisition background herself, Clark is still quick to focus on her employees. “We’re very proud of what we do here, but we couldn’t operate without the right people.”

She said she is continually learning, and



Nashua profile: Gene Saucier

Gene Saucier is an industrial specialist at the streamlined Defense Contract Management Agency office at BAE Systems in Nashua, N.H. Everyday he puts more than 33 years of federal civilian experience to work analyzing the effectiveness of production practices at the contractor.

Saucier started his federal career as an electrician at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., and later worked at an Air Force plant representative office, or AFPRO. He's been with DCMA for the past 15 years.

Before he was a federal civilian, Saucier was a Navy aviation electronics technician who served as a combat air crewman on P-2

pointed out she just recently completed PQM 101 (Production, Quality and Manufacturing Fundamentals) through the Defense Acquisition University. "I didn't grow up in quality, and this is giving me a better understanding and respect for what Q people do."

Clark attributes much of the CMO's success to the mutual respect she and her staff have built with the contractor. "While we don't always agree with them, we've worked hard to develop a straightforward relationship." It's this daily interpersonal interaction that leads her to call acquisition a contact sport.

'WE DO IT ALL HERE'

DCMA BAE Systems performs contract services for eight major programs on which the contractor serves as either the prime or major subcontractor. Seven of these are Acquisition Category I, or ACAT I, the highest rating for a program based on location in the acquisition process, dollar value and complexity.

The major programs are joined by more

than a half-dozen other programs. Much of the work is on countermeasure systems for aviation platforms – automated systems designed to identify and defeat threats to airplanes and helicopters while in flight.

The nature of the contractor's business requires DCMA personnel to have knowledge of diverse functions and contract requirements. At the Nashua headquarters and a half-dozen other locations in southern New Hampshire, the team follows contracts from low-rate, high-complexity circuit cards to advanced composite manufacturing and other processes.

Agency specialists support programs from all services. Program integrators, engineers, software and industrial specialists assess risk; examine data; and monitor, influence, document and communicate progress throughout each contract's period of performance. Quality personnel review processes and procedures on assembly lines as well as cleanroom environments requiring special clothing to limit dust and other

particles. Administrative contracting officers, contract administrators, and cost/price analysts are involved in every action ensuring the contractor meets performance requirements as specified by the contract – on time and within cost.

Having the full spectrum of contract management at one office has been beneficial for many, including Air Force Maj. R. Jason Bartholow, who credits DCMA with providing a diversified range of experiences not found elsewhere.

As a captain, the engineering officer served with DCMA as a program engineer, program integrator, engineering team lead and as an agency representative in Afghanistan.

"It was a great experience to see boots-on-the ground contracting, and how it affects individual people out there," said Bartholow of his time in Afghanistan. Half his deployment was spent travelling in the southern part of the country, performing audits at U.S. and coalition forward operating bases in Helmand Province, an experience he called eye opening.

Bartholow was recently promoted, and

Neptune and P-3 Orion aircraft. It's a role that continues to influence how he approaches his work at DCMA.

"Industrial specialists influence on-time delivery," said Saucier. To get to on-time delivery Saucier has to have an intimate knowledge of industrial planning, production practices, organization, capacity, contracting and scheduling.

Saucier likes it that way. "I like the variety. I don't just track deliveries. I do other things like audits and performance-based payment reviews."

Lisa Marie Clark, DCMA BAE Systems director, said Saucier is great at his job. "Gene is responsible for keeping this contractor meeting its on-time metric."

Last year he was named the New Hampshire Federal Executive Association Employee of the Year for Customer Service, largely for his effort in clearing a backlog of progress payments.

"Gene single-handedly did a review of 33 progress payments, normally a three-year job, in six months," said Clark. "This was on top of his regular daily assignments."

The contract management office has only two industrial specialists covering a half-dozen contractor locations in the state. This keeps Saucier busy, but the Vietnam veteran recalls his Navy days to stay focused. "I remember waiting on parts to come in. It made my job real tough, and can put you in harm's way."

left DCMA for an assignment at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. He takes with him a deeper understanding of contracting than he otherwise would have had. "It's been interesting to learn the other side of contracting, after spending most of my career as a user of these products."

Clark said Bartholow will be missed, but knows she'll continue to have talented service members working alongside dedicated, experienced civilian employees

representing all the agency's functions in the Granite State.

"We do it all here," said Clark. 



Air Force Maj. R. Jason Bartholow, then a captain, at his Defense Contract Management Agency office in New Hampshire. (Photo by Patrick Tremblay, DCMA Public Affairs)



Robin Russell holds an optical component similar to those found on U.S. military helicopters. A quality assurance specialist, Russell has been with the Defense Contract Management Agency for 25 years – all of it at the streamlined contract management office at BAE Systems in Nashua, N.H. (Photo courtesy of BAE Systems)