

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Noel A. Acevedo

TITLE: Director for Technical Management, Supervisory Electronics Engineer, PM DCATS

HOW LONG AT PEO EIS: Two years

AWARDS / EDUCATION / OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS TO NOTE: Army Superior Civilian Service Medal, David Packard Excellence in Acquisition, QSI, various Performance awards, and various Letters of Appreciation. **Education:** B.S. Electrical Engineering, University of Puerto Rico (Mayaguez Campus) M.S. National Security Strategy, National War College, Fort McNair. **Other Achievements of Note:** Defense Leadership & Management Program Graduate (2009); DAWIA Certified Acquisition Professional Level 3 (Program Management, Science & Technology, Test & Evaluation, Life Cycle Logistics, Information Technology, and Engineering); Army Civilian Space CADRE Member; Professional Investment Group, San Diego, CA (Plank Owner, Trader and Vice President); 30 year marriage to my dear wife, Rosamelia.



1. WHAT DO YOU DO AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO THE SOLDIER?

I have oversight of all technical efforts in Project Manager Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (PM DCATS). My team promotes strategic planning, the Joint Information Environment and new technology initiatives for the future. We participate at the Army Strategic Portfolio Analysis Review, various Department of Defense (DoD) satellite communication working groups, and acquisition Analysis of Alternatives efforts. I am a champion for configuration management because documenting a baseline appropriately streamlines cost and schedule. I am a fan of systems engineering because that's how we know if the product is specified right and if it was built right. I believe in describing the operational environment so we know why we do the things we do. PM DCATS provides transport infrastructure to the 18 Army gateways, Network Command facilities (and the Signal Commands), and to the other DoD Services and inter-agencies. The Army communicates through equipment that PM DCATS provides.

2. DESCRIBE HOW AND WHEN YOU CAME TO WORK AT PEO EIS.

After three years at the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, as Chief of the Systems Integration Lab, I wanted to come back to the acquisition community. I had an itch to expand my technology base and also for a new program. I have always been a computer, communications, command & control acquisition professional. Because I worked radio frequency communications in previous Navy civilian positions PM DCATS gave an opportunity as staff.

3. WHO ARE YOUR ROLE MODELS?

My mentors: Gregory Lee, Frank Criste, Bob Martin, and MG R. Mark Brown, USA (retired), Ms. Diane McCoy – former Defense Information Systems Agency Component Acquisition Executive and first African American woman Senior Executive Service in DoD who taught me the art of oversight. Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, the great champion of DoD IT. GEN Ben Griffin, USA (retired) for his sense of humility and caring for soldiers. Gen. Peter Pace, USMC (retired) because he cared about warfighters. Hon. Gordon England, former Deputy Secretary of Defense, for his code of ethics. Lt. Gen Robert Milligan, USMC (retired) who demonstrated how new paradigms replace the status quo. Lt. Gen Frances Wilson, USMC (retired) who encouraged me at the senior service college. My National War College class of 2007 Committee 2 brethren because we challenged and helped each other. My mother Josefina who taught me to work hard. Mother Theresa of Calcutta for her sense of humility, service and sacrifice. St. Francis of Assisi, patron of my hometown. Last, but certainly not least, our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CULTURAL TRADITION?

Celebrating the holidays a la Puerto Rican and the Patron Festivals (like a state fair). Learning about diversity and other traditions allows me to understand and appreciate how to harness our differences into positive synergy.

5. ADVICE TO THE NEXT GENERATION?

Never forget who you are and where you come from. Acquisition is an "us" thing, not an "us vs. them" thing. Be on the side of knowledge and eventually you will hover into the side of wisdom. Keep your eye on the target. Learn how to listen well. Learn how to answer yes or no questions with a plain yes or no, only fill the blanks when asked. Communicate difficult concepts with simple words and analogies. Always know where you are so you know where you're going to. Never deny anything just because you can, always justify using a non-personal reason. Don't sweat the regulations but do share and talk about fencing with big ethical issues and as a backup ask yourself if your parents would approve of your decision. Embrace and appreciate diversity. Learn a foreign language. Read the classics. Have fun. Family is always first but take care of yourself so you can take care of others.