



July 2, 2013

## Annual NAVAIR Commander's National Awards celebrate employee excellence

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NAVAIR Commander Vice Adm. David Dunaway, center, kicks off the 13th annual NAVAIR Commander's National Awards ceremony at Patuxent River, Md., June 27. The awards recognize employees' technical, business and leadership excellence. (U.S. Navy photo)

NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, PATUXENT RIVER, Md. — Hundreds of NAVAIR employees were recognized for their technical, business and leadership excellence at the 13th annual NAVAIR Commander's National Awards ceremony June 27.

"This is an opportunity for us to celebrate the great things we are doing in our organization," said NAVAIR Commander Vice Adm. David Dunaway. "These are the things that are going to get us through the near-term future."

The seven honorary NAVAIR Commander's awards recognize team excellence in support of NAVAIR's three focus areas — increase speed to the fleet, consistently deliver integrated and interoperable warfighting capabilities, and improve affordability — and in support of NAVAIR's key enablers — leadership at all levels, a skilled and diverse workforce, and the technology and infrastructure needed to execute the mission.

Dunaway was joined by Fleet Readiness Centers Commander Rear Adm. CJ Jaynes, Command Master Chief Bret Joel, NAVAIR Deputy Commander Garry Newton, Deputy Assistant Commander for Test and Evaluation Gary Kessler and Deputy Assistant



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Commander for Research and Engineering Anthony Cifone.

The winners are, by category:

**Business Operations** — NAVAIR's Service Requirements Review Board Data Fusion Team, led by Capt. Mark Goodrich, improved integration and interoperability by linking data from multiple acquisition information systems, increased affordability by realizing significant contracted service cost reductions and contributed to speed to the fleet by automating and streamlining the team's processes and business rules.

**Quality of Service and Customer Service** — The In-Service H-53 Heavy Lift Helicopters Avionics Engineering Team, led by Lt. Cmdr. Kimberly Riggle, demonstrated outstanding performance in support of the CH-53E and MH-53E. The team's impact in the areas of cost, schedule, aircrew survivability/safety, and operational suitability and readiness ensured the in-service H-53 fleet remains relevant during expeditionary, joint and combined operations.

**Logistics and Industrial Operations** — The Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) Southeast F414 Engine and Module Team, led by Donald A. Dunlap, exceeded all expectations in meeting an aggressive production schedule, providing engine modules to support fleet units. By implementing continuous process improvements and taking a proactive approach, their efforts became best practices and were shared throughout FRC Southeast.

**Program Management** — The PMA-209 Air Combat Electronics Team, led by Capt. Tracy Barkhimer, initiated innovative methods to meet customer requirements, enable interoperability and maximize affordability. Their innovative efforts resulted in tens of millions of dollars' worth of savings to platform customers through various avionics equipment reuse programs, such as the AYK-14 Standard Airborne Computer and the Aircraft Mission Computer and Display Reuse Programs.

**Research, Development, Test and Evaluation** — The T-45 Engine Safety Risk Recovery Team, led by Robert Blodnikar, delivered increased speed to the fleet and improved affordability by developing, qualifying and fielding a solution to catastrophic low pressure turbine blade failures in fewer than six months. Their efforts kept fleet assets available, which prevented a potential shortfall of 20 aviators in the training pipeline and saved more than \$5 million by implementing innovative testing capabilities and processes.

**Science and Technology** — The Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment Compact Swaging Machine (CSM) Team, led by Jim Raemis, worked tirelessly to provide a product to the fleet that affords a dramatic increase in quality of life for Sailors. The team worked successfully with limited budgets without sacrificing fleet safety or supportability, allowing the CSM program to progress from its concept and feasibility testing in fiscal year 2007 to the level of maturity that prepares it for prototype demonstration in fiscal year 2014.



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**Energy** — The Aviation Energy Conservation Team, led by Richard Kamin, made tremendous contributions to Navy energy goals to enhance warfighter capability and improve affordability through programs designed to increase aircraft fuel efficiency and reduce fuel consumption without adversely impacting the mission. The team's successes in 2012 included demonstrated operational efficiencies that will save the fleet more than 10 million gallons of fuel annually.

During the ceremony, Dunaway also presented the NAVAIR Small Business Advocacy awards, the Edward H. Heinemann Award — sponsored by the Association of Naval Aviation — and the T. Michael Fish Quality of Worklife Award.

**Small Business Advocacy Award Team Category** — The Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division Training Systems Contract (TSC) III Acquisition Team, led by Greg Dougherty, successfully awarded the TSC III with a maximum ceiling amount of \$2 billion. By incorporating the requirements of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, the team increased opportunities for small business. The team also collaboratively applied lessons learned and demonstrated initiative, resourcefulness and innovation.

**Small Business Advocacy Award Team Category** — The Air Combat Electronics Program Team (PMA-209) has created a business culture that considers small business concerns and supports early integration of small business professionals in NAVAIR acquisitions. PMA-209 supports 25 small business innovation, research and small business technology transfer initiatives and recently initiated an effort that allows small businesses to develop software for Department of Defense aircraft. The team's approach has resulted in \$72 million going to small businesses.

**Edward H. Heinemann Award for Outstanding Achievement** — The Unmanned Combat Air System Demonstrator (UCAS-D) Integrated Test Team, led by Lt. Cmdr. Brian Hall, Matthew Funk and Daryl Martis, significantly advanced UAS integration with naval aircraft carrier operations by executing the first successful shore-based arrested landing and shipboard taxi testing of the X-47B aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). This testing resulted in the full qualification of all shipboard-installed systems for the command and control of UAS in the carrier environment — also a first in naval aviation history.

**T. Michael Fish Quality of Worklife Award** — Capt. John P. Feeney, Naval Aviation Training Systems program manager, makes his employees' quality of worklife a top priority in his leadership decisions. He has positively changed the naval aviation training systems culture through inspired leadership, communication and organizational improvements.

In his concluding remarks, Dunaway said, "I cannot think of a team I'd rather be working with than the team here. These are extraordinary teams doing extraordinary work in an extraordinary time."



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Lt. Cmdr. Greg Linsky, left, and the Services Requirements Review Board Data Fusion Team, winners of the Commander's Award for Business Operations. (U.S. Navy photo)



Team lead Lt. Cmdr. Kimberly Riggle, left, and the In-Service H-53 Heavy Lift Helicopters Avionics Engineering Team, winners of the Commander's Award for Quality of Service/Customer Service (U.S. Navy photo)



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Team lead Capt. Tracy Barkhimer, left, and the PMA-209 Air Combat Electronics Program Team, winners of the Commander's Award for Program Management (U.S. Navy photo)



Team lead Robert Blodnikar, left, and the T-45 Engine Safety Risk Recovery Team, winners of the Commander's Award for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (U.S. Navy photo)



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Team lead Jim Raevis, left, and the Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment Compact Swaging Machine Team, winners of the Commander's Award for Science and Technology (U.S. Navy photo)



Team lead Richard Kamin, left, and the Aviation Energy Conservation Team, winners of the Commander's Award for Energy (U.S. Navy photo)



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Team lead Capt. Tracy Barkhimer, second from left, and the PMA-209 Air Combat Electronics Program Team, winners of a Small Business Advocacy Award (U.S. Navy photo)



Edward Heinemann, far left, with team leads Lt. Cmdr. Brian Hall, Matthew Funk and Daryl Martis of the Unmanned Combat Air System-Demonstrator Integrated Test Team, winners of the Edward H. Heinemann Award for Outstanding Achievement (U.S. Navy photo)



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T. Michael Fish Quality of Worklife Award winner Capt. John Feeney, center, with T. Michael Fish, left, and NAVAIR Commander Vice Adm. David Dunaway (U.S. Navy photo)