



Celebrating teamwork at annual NAVAIR Commander's Awards ceremony



NAVAIR Commander Vice Adm. Paul Grosklags, far left, addresses NAVAIR employees at the 16th annual NAVAIR Commander's Awards ceremony, held in Patuxent River, Md., June 8. The awards recognize technical, business and leadership excellence across all NAVAIR sites and teams. (U.S. Navy photo)

HEADQUARTERS, NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, PATUXENT RIVER, Md. — The 16th annual NAVAIR Commander's Awards ceremony, held here June 8, celebrated technical, business and leadership excellence in support of increasing speed to the fleet, delivering integrated and interoperable warfighting capabilities, and improving affordability.

This year, there were 50 nominations, representing a broad spectrum of programs and exemplifying the dedication, innovative spirit and drive for results that enable NAVAIR to accomplish its mission effectively on behalf of the warfighters, said Master Chief Michael Sekeet.

"To all of the winners and to everyone here today, thanks for all you do every day for naval aviation," said NAVAIR Commander Vice Adm. Paul Grosklags. "It is both humbling and gratifying to know that you are passionate about solving real, existing everyday problems that our Sailors and Marines face. At the end of the day, that's why we're here. There is no organization more dedicated to finding a solution than you."

The winners are, by category:



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Business Operations:

PMA-207 Commercial Derivative Fixed Wing Airlift/Operational Support Aircraft Team, led by Cmdr. Warren Crouch and James Thompson, Patuxent River

This team provides procurement and life-cycle support services for C-9, C-12, C-20, C-26, UC-35, C-37, C-38 and C-40 aircraft. Working collaboratively and creatively, this team harnesses the best of industry's public and private aircraft acquisition and sustainment practices to support the principles of acquisition reform and develop effective, efficient solutions to meet the warfighters' requirements.

Energy:

NAVAIR Energy Team, Facilities and Infrastructure Pillar, led by Franz Kury, Patuxent River

The Facilities and Infrastructure Pillar (FAIP) of NAVAIR's Energy Team works as a cross-competency, interdisciplinary, multi-site team to support the Navy's energy goals and enhance the capability of naval aviation systems through efficient, effective energy use. In the past year, the FAIP devised and updated its energy strategy, enhanced its measures and metrics, broadened and extended its energy project portfolio, improved means to promote awareness and cultural change, and partnered at the Navy level to improve toolsets and collaboration that will assist NAVAIR and the Navy. The FAIP worked with command, command investment leads and other competencies, along with Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Commander, Navy Installations Command and private industry, to build a broad-based project portfolio of energy-related direct investments. In the past year, the Naval Air Warfare Centers and Maintenance Level III Fleet Readiness Centers invested in more than 100 system upgrades in key focus areas to improve infrastructure energy efficiency. The FAIP's efforts and activities in the command resulted in an overall \$3.8 million reduction in fiscal year 2015 Navy working capital fund and major range test facility base overhead costs.

Logistics and Industrial Operations:

Fleet Readiness Center Western Pacific (FRCWP), led by Cmdr. Matthew Edwards

Headquartered at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, with detachment sites in Iwakuni and Okinawa, Japan; Guam; Korea and Malaysia, FRCWP provides responsive, affordable readiness for Navy and Marine Corps forces deployed worldwide, ashore and afloat. FRCWP delivers readiness through aircraft and support equipment depot maintenance. In 2015, FRCWP:

- Completed 29 aircraft planned depot events for 13 different squadrons
- Completed 573 urgent unscheduled aircraft repairs worldwide, supporting 77



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- squadrons, including 180 repairs on board deployed ships
- Performed nearly 700 engineering dispositions
- Overhauled or repaired 134 pieces of support equipment

Program Management:

P-8A Production Team, led Robert Holmes, PMA-290, Patuxent River

This team's program management and acquisition skills helped the P-8A Poseidon Production Program deliver 13 P-8A aircraft to the fleet in 2015 — one more than planned — and with all deliveries ahead of schedule by 30 days on average, with some aircraft delivered 60 days ahead of schedule. The team's work gave new warfighting capabilities to the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Fleet and met their P-3 to P-8 transition schedule by providing more than two squadrons of P-8A aircraft for squadron deployment requirements in 2015. Implementing a detailed, comprehensive "should cost" program plan, the P-8A Production Team's drive to lower cost and increase affordability resulted in \$311 million in savings, which enabled the procurement of two additional P-8A aircraft in January 2016.

Quality of Service/Customer Service:

Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft (MPRA) Urgent Operational Need (UON) 360 Team, led by Cmdr. Molly J. Boron, PMA-290M, Patuxent River

In response to a classified UON from the commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in April 2015, the MPRA UON 360 Team developed, integrated, installed, tested and delivered a new, unique airborne sensor capability, which provides a 360-degree video surveillance and recording capability around U.S. Navy patrol and reconnaissance aircraft. The team achieved key milestones in a short timeline, demonstrating a drive to deliver and deploy enhanced capability on MPRA with a rapid "speed to the fleet" focus. The team delivered an affordable product to the operational commander within six months of program start, resulting in improved situational awareness and safety of aircrews deployed in the western Pacific Ocean operating areas and serving as a deterrent in an increasingly contested theater of operations.

Research, Development, Test and Evaluation:

Next Generation Jammer (NGJ) Team, led by Adam Ferreira, PMA-234, Patuxent River

Responsible for the design, development and procurement of the NGJ capability, [the Airborne Electronic Attack \(AEA\) Systems and EA-6B \(PMA-234\) Program Office's NGJ Team](#) has exceeded expectations. From their innovative approach to the evolution of AEA to their acceptance as the pilot program in the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Better Buying Power Skunk Works initiative, the team will equip



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future warfighters with a state-of-the art technology to address emerging electronic warfare gaps and ensure kill chain wholeness against growing threat capabilities and capacity. The team's focus on speed to the fleet, improved affordability and platform integration proved relevant as the increased jamming capability is critical to sustaining the future missions of the Navy, other services and international partners.

Science and Technology:

NAVAIR Innovation Challenge Team, led by Antonella Thompson, Patuxent River

NAVAIR's Innovation Challenge Program is a new and creative construct that provides a unique professional development opportunity for the junior workforce to address mission-related technical issues in a vibrant, nurturing and enabling environment. The projects undertaken in the first cycle ranged from harvesting and storing sound energy from jet engines successfully to demonstrating that it is possible to obtain reliable, accurate data for structural health monitoring of metallic 3-D printed parts. One project examined technologies and innovative materials that could potentially allow future gearboxes to run without oil lubrication. The technical efforts resulted in multiple patent applications, technical reports and presentations to acquisition workforce stakeholders. The Innovation Challenge is evolving from an "experiment" to a Navy best practice.

Edward H. Heinemann Award for Outstanding Achievement:

TH-57 Avionics Upgrade Team, led by Robert Moran, Patuxent River

This award is presented annually to the group within NAVAIR who achieved or helped achieve significant improvement in the design or modification of an aircraft or aircraft system. This team, with the support of the Chief of Naval Aviation Training (CNATRA) Fleet Support Team, implemented an integrated solution to replace the obsolete very high frequency (VHF) radio and transponder, to provide a common communications and navigation suite in the TH-57B and TH-57C. This solution also meets the January 2020 Federal Aviation Administration mandate for automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast capability, providing modern VHF communications, navigation and GPS navigation capabilities to the rotary wing training fleet for CNATRA. From concept to engineering change proposal approval, this effort took only 10 months, and the estimated cost to implement the proposal was 20 percent less than the original budget estimate, allowing the team to use existing funds to resolve other TH-57 obsolescence issues.

T. Michael Fish Quality of Worklife Award:

Janna Roberts, Patuxent River

This award is named for the former head of NAVAIR's Research and Engineering Staff Office and Deputy Assistant Commander for Shore Station Management, recognizing a



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leader who improves productivity, retention, morale and innovation significantly. Roberts' volunteerism, fundraising and aggressive recruitment, transition assistance, career placement and resilient advocacy, has inspired the recovery and physical fitness of more than 5,000 wounded warriors and helped more than 924 hires of wounded, ill and/or injured service members to NAVAIR. [Read more about her efforts.](#)

Small Business Advocacy Awards:

- *Individual: Holli W. Galletti, Patuxent River*

Throughout fiscal year 2015, Galletti served as the principal deputy program manager for the H-60 Program Office (PMA-299). In this role, she became the lead for the program's small business initiatives and has become a steadfast advocate for small business in both the H-60 Program and across the Program Executive Office for Air Antisubmarine Warfare, Assault and Special Mission portfolio. Galletti began her efforts well before the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition's January 2015 "Tapping into Small Business in a Big Way" memorandum that formally assigned principal deputy program managers as the small business advocates responsible for identifying opportunities within their programs. In preparation for the MH-60's shift from production to sustainment, she led a deep dive into potential small business opportunities and shared the findings with the Office of Small Business Programs.

- *Team: Airborne Threat Simulation Organization (ATSO) Integrated Product Team, led by Eric Finn, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, Point Mugu*

Through early inclusion with NAWCWD's Office of Small Business Programs, market research and procurement planning, the ATSO Team identified capable small businesses for numerous contracts that were solicited or set aside to small businesses in fiscal year 2015. Instead of having one large prime contractor deliver turnkey airborne electronic attack systems, ATSO, as lead system integrator, manages more than 13 large hardware contracts to procure and integrate the required subassemblies. This approach established unique focus areas of hardware technology and maximized opportunities for small business participation as prime and subcontractors in NAVAIR contracts.

Grosklags also made special mention of two teams that exemplify good risk management: the Risk Management Framework and Cyber Warfare Detachment teams.



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Members of the PMA-207 Commercial Derivative Fixed Wing Airlift/Operational Support Aircraft Team, winners of the NAVAIR Commander's Award in the business operations category (U.S. Navy photo)



Members of NAVAIR's Energy Team, Facilities and Infrastructure Pillar, winners of the NAVAIR Commander's Award in the energy category (U.S. Navy photo)



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Employees from Fleet Readiness Center Western Pacific, winners of the NAVAIR Commander's Award in the logistics and industrial operations category (U.S. Navy photo)



Members of the P-8A Production Team, winners of the NAVAIR Commander's Award in the program management category (U.S. Navy photo)



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Members of the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft Urgent Operational Need 360 Team, winners of the NAVAIR Commander's Award in the quality of service/customer service category (U.S. Navy photo)



Members of the Next Generation Jammer Team, winners of the NAVAIR Commander's Award in the research, development, test and evaluation category (U.S. Navy photo)



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Members of the NAVAIR Innovation Challenge Team, winners of the NAVAIR Commander's Award in the science and technology category (U.S. Navy photo)



Members of the TH-57 Avionics Upgrade Team, winners of the Edward H. Heinemann Award for Outstanding Achievement (U.S. Navy photo)



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Janna Roberts, center, winner of the T. Michael Fish Quality of Worklife Award (U.S. Navy photo)



Holle Galletti, center, winner of the Individual Small Business Advocacy Award (U.S. Navy photo)



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Members of the Airborne Threat Simulation Organization Integrated Product Team, winners of the Small Business Advocacy Award (U.S. Navy photo)