AFCEA BETHESDA HONORS INDIVIDUALS FOR AGENCY-WIDE IT CONTRIBUTIONS

Finalists announced for the 2017 InnovateIT Awards

Bethesda, Md. – May 4, 2017 – The Bethesda Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) today announced the finalists for the 10th Annual InnovateIT Awards program. The awards honor individuals or groups whose contributions in information technology have significance beyond their organizations. The contributions represent achievements that advance business and citizen interaction, leading to improved effectiveness, cost-savings and leadership that meet national priorities and serve as a model of excellence government-wide. Winners will be announced at a luncheon on June 1, 2017 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

“These finalists – from both government and industry – have dedicated themselves to using information technology in innovative ways to improve the government and how it serves our nation’s citizens,” said AFCEA Bethesda President Shannon Hagy. “AFCEA Bethesda is thrilled to highlight the excellent work done by these innovative leaders, and we congratulate them on their accomplishments.”

The 2017 InnovateIT Award finalists include:

Outstanding Achievement Award – Civilian

- Ray Coleman, Chief Information Officer, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Sarah Fahden, Verification Program Chief, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
• **Victor Karcher**, Director, Data Warehouse Program, Federal Data Solutions, Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), *Office of Personnel Management*

Outstanding Achievement Award – Department of Defense
• **Stacy Cummings**, Program Executive Officer, Defense Healthcare Management Systems PEO, *DHMS Program Executive Office*
• **Mark Goodge**, Chief Technology Officer, *Military Health System*
• **Col. Edward Prem**, Personnel Information Systems Directorate, *U.S. Army*

Outstanding Achievement Award – Citizen
• **Kevin Hagen**, Director, Corporate Responsibility, *Iron Mountain*
• **Roger Krone**, Chairman and CEO, *Leidos*
• **John Poling**, Chief Solutions Architect, *Bart & Associates*

Emerging Leader of the Year – Government
• **Michael Batlogg**, Risk Officer, *Securities and Exchange Commission*
• **Samantha Kouril**, IT Program Manager, Risk Management Agency, *Department of Agriculture*
• **Jimmy Mehra**, Director, System Configuration and Delivery Automation Division, *U.S. Patent and Trademark Office*

Emerging Leader of the Year – Industry
• **David Ruskin**, Deputy Program Manager, *Salient CRGT*
• **Brandon Shreckhise**, Program Manager, FCC, *The Ambit Group*
• **Bryan Zissel**, Federal Account Manager, *Nutanix*

Technology Trailblazer
• **Tony Cossa**, Director of Cloud Strategy and Policy, Office of the Chief Information Officer, *Department of Agriculture*
• **Ken Fang**, President, *Mobomo*
• **Leslie Johnston**, Director of Digital Preservation, *National Archives and Records Administration*

Mission Excellence Enabler
• **David Record**, Senior Advisor, *Department of State Office of Language Service*
• **David Simeon**, Chief, Innovation and Technology Division, myUSCIS Product Director, *U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*
• **Ian Sturken**, Web and Cloud Services Manager, Enterprise Application Architecture Co-Lead, *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*

Data Dynamo
• **Erica Kain**, Assistant to the Director, Food and Nutrition Services, *Department of Agriculture*
• **Erich Petre**, Software Development Manager, Engineering, *U.S. Postal Service*
• **John Scalia, Jr.**, Chief of Forecasting and Analysis, Prisoner Operations Division, *U.S. Marshals Service*

Workforce Development Trendsetter
• **Andrea Ippolito**, Lead, Innovator's Network, VA Center for Innovation, *Department of Veterans Affairs*
• **Jeanie Layton**, Senior IT Specialist and Mission Advisor, *Defense Intelligence Agency*
• **Sean Spann**, Chief Technology Officer, *Buchanan & Edwards*

Security Forerunner
• **Rami Dillon**, Senior Information Systems Officer (SISO), Director of the Cyber Security Division (CSD), *U.S. Patent and Trademark Office*
• **Shon Lyublanovits**, Director, IT Security Subcategory, ITC Office of Category Management; and **Giovanni Onwuchekwa**,
Finalists were selected by a committee of current and former AFCEA Bethesda Chapter board members and executive steering committee members. “We received an impressive number of qualified nominations from many large, small and cabinet-level agencies, as well as from their industry partners. These finalists have implemented leading ideas and solutions through a variety of innovative initiatives, providing exemplary models of excellence,” said Jake Brody, President-Elect, AFCEA Bethesda, and Managing Director, Accenture Federal Services.

ABOUT AFCEA BETHESDA
Founded in 1998, the AFCEA Bethesda Chapter is an educationally based, non-profit organization which encourages greater government/industry partnerships and information exchange. The Chapter fosters networking among peers in government and industry and focuses on U.S. Civilian Agencies. The Chapter holds monthly breakfast meetings, provides annual scholarships and holds an annual charity gala, A Night for the Children, which benefits the House of Ruth, Hope for Henry Foundation and Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund. AFCEA International has designated the Bethesda Chapter as a “Model Chapter of the Year” each year since 2000. For additional information please visit www.afceabethesda.org.

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