



THE INNOVATOR

IN FULL BLOOM: RESEARCH, REJUVENATION, RESILIENCE

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 15
MAY 2024

KOCH'S CORNER

Spring is in full swing at DLA R&D! This issue highlights R&D is in full bloom as we research, rejuvenation, and build resilience. We started with annual visits to MSC partners, focusing on this year's theme *"Plans, Projects, and Priorities."* These visits are critical for supply chain resilience.



David Koch,
Director, R&D
Enterprise
Service Activity

In April, we had a team-building offsite at DLA Troop Support, focusing on *"Trust, Discipline, and Commitment"* alongside DSCO partners. Our PMs visited industry, academia, and government partners nationwide, including:

- Dr. Senthil Arul and Ms. Martina Johnson celebrated the 10th anniversaries of LIFT and MxD at the Hill.
- Dr. Imes Chiu, Dr. Gloria Edwards, and Ms. Martina Johnson shared ManTech projects at the POST conference in Hawaii.
- Ms. Martina Johnson joined a DoD leadership panel at New Mexico State University for TTPTTP.
- I delivered a keynote address, "How Manufacturing Technology is Critical to Surge: at the inaugural Defense Industrial Base Conference (DIBCON) in Oklahoma City.

Looking ahead, our R&D Roundup on May 15th at DLA HQ and our first hackathon on June 24 promise an exciting summer. We're also launching an AI-focused brown bag series in July. Stay tuned for more details on these events via DLA's social media, HQC bulletin, or email logistics.research@dla.mil for more event details.



MSC Visits



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PARTNERSHIPS

Building Deliberate Alliances

As spring blossoms, DLA's Research and Development (R&D) team embarked on annual visits to MSC, participated in Google Next '24 conference, and represented R&D at the Supply Chain Alliance Conference & Exhibition, where our Program Managers engaged with industry, academia, and government.

Google Next '24 Conference

Problem Sourcing Workshop with Troop Support Medical Supply Chain

Land and Maritime Supply Chain Alliance Conference, Columbus OH



DLA R&D MISSION

Develop and deliver new capabilities through applied technologies and innovative solutions to enhance warfighter sustainment

DLA R&D VISION

Premier Innovation for Global Warfighter Mission Readiness

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

7 - 9 ● DIBCON | OK

15 ● R&D RoundUp

JUNE

4 - 5 ● Pentagon / MII Days

24 ● R&D RoundUp

JULY - AUGUST

10 ● AI Summer Brown Bag Series

SEPTEMBER

10 ● Industry Collider Day 5th Year





»»» SUBNET PROGRAM TACKLES “PLANET VS. PLASTICS”

April’s Earth Month theme was “Planet vs. Plastics.” This theme spread awareness to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in plastic production by 2040. R&D’s Subsistence Network (SUBNET) program, led by Dr. Gloria Edwards, is doing their part to minimize the plastic packaging used in military food products through the following projects:

- **Investigation of Performance Metrics for Meals-Ready to Eat (MRE) Sustainable Packaging Options.** Focuses on sourcing and testing alternative sustainable MRE packaging solutions to replace the current multi-laminate foil retort packaging used in MREs.
- **Biodegradable Cellulosic Biopolymer to Replace Plastics for Military Food Packaging and Food Service.** Minimizes environmental footprint through biodegradable and sustainable food packaging solutions.

DLA R&D is committed to delivering innovative, sustainable solutions in support of our nation’s Warfighter!

Finance Corner

The J68 Finance Team is primed to receive the balance of our funding and continues to reap the benefits of automation. Our total anticipated budget of \$94M; \$46.4M ManTech, \$16.6M LOG with an additional \$31M in Congressional Adds, provides fertile soil from which the Program Managers can grow and nurture their programs. We continue to expand our Robotic Process Automation (RPA) efforts which have yielded a bountiful harvest of manhours that allow us to get down in the weeds to resolve issues in invoicing, receipt processing, and vendor partner engagement. The spring winds should deliver our final funding by early May perfect timing for J68 to reach peak bloom!!! So, from your Finance Team EXECUTE, EXECUTE, EXECUTE!

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

»»» ADVANCED PLANNING: NURTURING INNOVATION FROM SEED TO HARVEST



Successful innovation, like a bountiful spring harvest, centers on advanced planning and preparation. The R&D Strategic Planning team serves as a cornerstone which aligns its objectives with advanced planning to cultivate fertile ground for pioneering ideas. Just as crucial is the act of contracting, parallel to sowing seeds, where careful selection and coordination are paramount. Utilizing tools like the Contract Action Tracking System (CATS), J68 PMs plan, collaborate, execute, and track contract actions with DCSO-P. Presently, some of the FY24 seeds that were planted are blooming as others are producing great fruits.

In preparation for FY25, the soil is being readied for planting, and the FY26 flower beds tilled. This goes to show that synchronization between planning and contracting processes is vital for R&D. The alignment advance planning and contracting enables PMs to anticipate technical needs, supporting agency priorities and emerging requirements, all while striving toward program execution goals amid dynamic landscapes.

THIS MAY, DLA R&D CELEBRATES ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



2024 Theme: Advancing Leaders through Innovation



Dr. VJ Jain, SBIP



Dr. Senthil Arul, DLIR



Dr. Imes Chiu, SCM-S



Ms. Julie Tsao, MUST

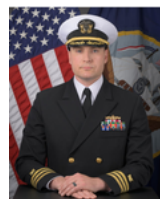


Welcome
Christopher (Chris) Garduño
ERP



Joseph (Joe) Plair
ERP

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS



Farewell, CDR
Aaron K. Smith,
Deputy Chief,
R&D



Farewell, LCDR
Sean Mercier,
Deputy Chief,
R&D