A Place of Honor

The Defense Logistics Agency Hall of Fame was created in 1998 to recognize the contributions of military and civilian employees who've served in a myriad of positions throughout the agency. These five former employees helped build the agency's reputation as a world-class logistics provider and were inducted into the Hall of Fame in July. They individually and collectively enhanced the nation's military readiness, said DLA Director Air Force Lt. Gen. Andy Busch during the induction ceremony.

Stephen Byus

Byus is a former DLA Land and Maritime employee and Navy reservist who was killed while deployed to Afghanistan in 2014. He left for Kabul in July, certain he could help the Afghan military improve its maintenance and supply systems. On Sept. 16, he was heading downtown to brief the Afghan minister of defense for logistics when he became the first DLA employee killed in the decade-long war.

It was Byus' first time off the U.S. compound, a decision made by then Navy Capt. James Liberko, the leader of six DLA employees who'd deployed for the Department of Defense-led mission. The team had been struggling to make Afghan army leaders understand the new supply system they wanted to put in place.

"Steve came up with a briefing that I thought was truly brilliant. He compared the supply system to a gas gauge and how it tells you how much gas you have, how many miles you've driven and when you'll need to fill up again. We were positive the Afghans could relate to it," Liberko said.

He was proud of Byus' work and offered him the chance to brief dignitaries at the Afghan Ministry of Defense, a task Liberko always did himself. But as they headed downtown during morning rush hour in a two-vehicle convoy, a red Toyota Corolla started following them. At a crowded intersection, the driver pulled between them and detonated 250 pounds of explosives. Byus died instantly, one day after his 12th wedding anniversary. He was 39 years old and a father of two: 9-year-old Alexandria and 6-year-old Jacob.

Byus joined DLA Land and Maritime as an intern in 2008 and had worked his way up to GS-12 by the time he deployed to Afghanistan. He had also served with DLA Disposition Services expeditionary disposal remediation team, part of the DLA Joint Reserve Force since 2002, first as an enlisted sailor, then as a Navy officer.

– Beth Reece

Richard Connelly

Connelly began his DLA career as an intern and quickly rose in rank to hold such titles as DLA comptroller; administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center, now DLA Strategic Materials; and director of DLA Support Services, now DLA Installation Support, and the Defense Energy Support Center, now DLA Energy.

Connelly is known for moving the agency from an appropriated funding model to the more business-oriented Defense Working Capital Fund. The effort required a lot of change management and served as an important lesson for Connelly in the dynamics of organizational change, he said.

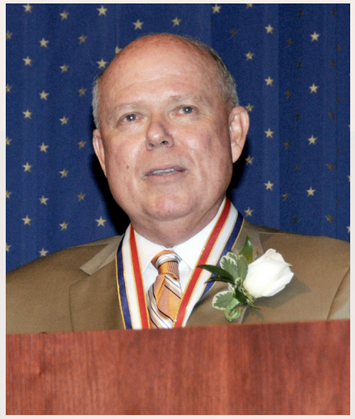
"The surprising part was how it became such an emotional issue; people do not like change," he said.

The Vietnam veteran was involved in many changes for DLA over the years, including the 20-year expansion that saw the agency assume responsibility for military depots and consumable items, absorbing all contract administration functions for the services, and, toward the end of his career, the Business System Modernization initiative.

Connelly was approaching retirement age when the director position of the Defense Energy Support Center became open. Having always wanted to lead that organization, Connelly said he decided to "throw his hat in the ring." When he was appointed as director in 2004, he stepped into managing the end-to-end supply chain responsible for purchasing and managing all petroleum resources used by the U.S. military.

- Sarah More

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Robert Dail



Dail was named DLA director during a critical time. The U.S. military was involved in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Defense Department leaders wanted the agency to use its recently completed Enterprise Business System to better deployed support warfighters.

"There was a lot of effort by the organization to look at its internal processes – how it operated and conducted business – and how it might need to change those processes," Dail said. "My charter [from DLA leaders] was to get out and use this capability to start providing DLA capabilities to the warfighting commands. We had to get some people forward and see if we could link our supply to the warfighters' demand."

Dail points to the implementation of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations as the agency's other biggest challenge and accomplishment during his tenure as director. Legislative directive transferred supply, storage and distribution functions from the military services to DLA.

"The change mandated that DLA change its culture. We were no longer managing wholesale, national-level inventory. We were managing retail inventory that had to be treated that way. It had to be responsive and filled at the rate expected," he said. "DLA learned a lot in the process. It helped change DLA's mission from the national level all the way down to where demand occurred. That was exactly where DLA needed to be."

– Jacob Boyer

Mae Devincentis

DeVincentis became the agency's first civilian vice director in August 2010. She began her 37-year DLA career as a GS-2 clerk at what was then called the Defense Personnel Support Center Clothing Factory and went on to have a hand in major innovations including the Prime Vendor Program and Enterprise Business System.

The Philadelphia native entered the world of information technology in the 1980s, when she joined the team responsible for creating the Defense Integrated Subsistence Management System. Used by the entire Defense Department, DISMS allowed business transactions that once took days and even months to occur in minutes.

Later, as a buyer working for the medical directorate in the 1990s, DeVincentis led the contracting effort to establish DLA's first pharmaceutical prime vendor, which she called one of the major highlights of her work in Philadelphia.

"We began to realize that stock wasn't moving out of the depots, that we were losing business. Lo and behold, we eventually learned that the Veterans Administration had come up with this innovative approach to buying commercial items called prime vendor, and they had marketed it to all of our customers," she said.

She and coworkers found copies of the VA's solicitation and figured out their business model. Within a couple months, DLA's first solicitation for its own enhanced version of a pharmaceutical prime vendor hit the streets.

From there she went on to help build DLA's Enterprise Business system, which many regard as DoD's most successful enterprise resource planning system. She later became DLA's chief information officer and director of DLA Information Operations, and served as for six months as director of DLA Logistics Operations before becoming the DLA vice director.

– Beth Reece

Ivan Hall

Hall's leadership as deputy director of land supplier operations at DLA Land and Maritime increased the readiness and survivability of warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is best known for implementing DLA's first three long-term contracts: General Dynamics Land Systems, United Defense Limited Partnership and the O'Gara Hess contracts.

"No one was doing long-term contracts at the time; it was kind of brand new, so it was challenging," he said. "Once we got them on contract, then we didn't have to go out and contract for each item. Every [national stock number] had a lead time of record, and the lead time on all those items went from almost 180 days down to 30 days, so we saved hundreds and hundreds of days of administrative lead time on each one," he said.

The awarding of the Fleet Automotive Support Initiative regional contract, which Hall considers one of his biggest accomplishments, soon followed. The unique five-year prime vendor support contract called for repairs and spare parts for different kinds of weapons systems, reducing lead times and creating significant cost savings.

"It impacted so many customers," he said. "It was a big-volume contract, and it impacted the whole logistics process."

Hall is also credited with sending the first DLA Land and Maritime product specialists to key Army industrial sites in 2008.

– Amanda Neumann

One Face

The face of Defense Logistics Agency Energy ...

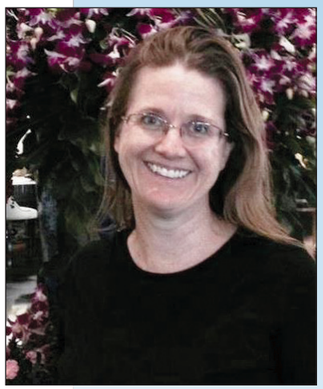
Andy Trask
Supply Planner
DLA Energy Pacific
Japan

Mission: To provide Japan-based United States military forces and government agencies the most effective and economical supply planning support through a close partnership with United States forces Japan, our defense fuel support point partners and our commercial suppliers.

Highlight: Being able to see the direct mission effect produced by my efforts in scheduling the movement of 360 million gallons of petroleum products annually to our DFSP partners.

Challenges: I was recently challenged with trying to maintain regional inventory levels with only one assigned shallow-draft tanker. Working through the DLA Energy Tanker Branch and Military Sealift Command, I was able to acquire another time charter tanker to augment our resupply mission. The teamwork demonstrated by many people within our organization to achieve this goal was impressive.

Future Plan: Continue to provide the best possible support to the warfighter. Eventually, I would like to be in a leadership position where I can have more influence to fix issues I see at my level, and make DLA Energy even better than it already is.



Kristine Davidson
Supervisory Customer Account Specialist
DLA Energy Pacific
Japan

Mission: To provide assistance and support to customer account specialist and exercise/contingency representatives across the Pacific area of operation.

Highlight: Building and understanding the CAS process for the region from the ground up – from requirements and system access to order close out.

Challenges: Our customers and CASs are spread out literally across half the globe and cover 15 time zones. By building and routinely using email groups for each subregion to share information and activity, it has served to reduce the isolation and time differential between issue and response.

Future Plan: To transition exercises and contingencies into a sustainment mode within the Enterprise Business System ... and to hopefully celebrate my grandmother's 100th birthday next summer!