

John Bartenhagen

Hall of Fame Inductee

“We celebrate a legacy that you established in this organization that you have now since passed on.”



By Jonathan Stack

He stood on stage proud and with a smile from ear-to-ear as he accepted his induction into the Defense Logistics Agency Energy Hall of Fame.

John Bartenhagen was one of six former DLA Energy employees inducted into the organization's inaugural hall of fame during a ceremony held at the McNamara Headquarters Complex, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, May 19.

“It's an extraordinary honor [to be inducted into the hall of fame,]” said the former DLA Energy Facilities Management director. “I think of all the people I worked with over the years that probably deserve to be here as much or more so than I do and I'm just thrilled to be here.”

During the ceremony, DLA Energy Commander Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark McLeod spoke to the audience about the heritage of

the organization and the people that shaped it into what it is today.

“We celebrate a legacy that you established in this organization that you have now since passed on,” McLeod said. “It's passed on to the people that are sitting in this audience.”

Bartenhagen served in a number of key positions within DLA Energy such as his long-term assignments as the deputy director and director of the Facilities Management Directorate which will always be his lasting legacy.

His leadership in the Facilities Management Maintenance, Repair and Environmental Program and the Fuels Optimization Program blazed the trail for efforts that continue today to enhance the worldwide bulk petroleum infrastructure and distribution systems that support America's warfighters. Bartenhagen was a respected leader in the fields of engineering and petroleum logistics within the Department of Defense, and with unquestioned integrity his dedication to excellence was demonstrated in the many initiatives implemented by him that continue to have a positive impact on the fuels and logistics communities to this day.

During Bartenhagen's time as a leader in the Fuels Management Division, Lynn Currie, who is currently an engineer for DLA Installation Support for DLA Energy, had many opportunities to interact with him.

“Back in the years, when Mr. Bartenhagen worked for DLA's primary-level field activity for fuel, then called Defense Fuel Supply Center and later changed to Defense Energy Supply Center, from 1997 through 2004, I worked as an engineer for the Navy Service Control Point known as Navy Petroleum office,” Currie said.

Currie's responsibilities within NAVPET included automation lead engineer for Naval Installations in which she interfaced with Bartenhagen's Engineering division so that the Navy's installations could receive DLA Energy funding and support for the following programs: Automated Fuel Handling Equipment; Automated Fuels Service Station and Automated Tank Gauging.

In later years at NAVPET, Currie worked as a Navy's Maintenance, Repair, Environmental engineer and again interfaced with Bartenhagen's Engineering Division to develop and advocate for DLA Energy's Sustainment Restoration and Maintenance Program to support the Navy and Marine Corps' fuels infrastructure.

“What began as a \$100 million a year requirement has now grown into nearly \$700 million a year annual budget,” Currie said.

As deputy of the DLA Energy Facilities Management Directorate, Bartenhagen was instrumental in taking over the Navy's Pollution Control Equipment Program, she said.

When the Navy decided to no longer fund the PCE program back in the 1990's and since DLA Energy became the executive agent for DoD fuel, Navy transferred the PCE program, along with the Navy Petroleum office PCE program manager, Tyrone Hall, to the DLA Energy Facilities Management Directorate.

"Bartenhagen was a major proponent for the effort and advocated the new Automated Fuel Handling Equipment as a cost savings initiative for the military service fuel operators," Currie said. "[Automated Fuel Handling Equipment] was implemented by DLA Energy at Army, Navy, Marine Corps and finally Air Force fuel storage and distribution activities to improve overall facility controls, improve inventory accountability, provide fail-safe engineering for spill prevention and increase operational efficiency."

DLA Energy's program managers, Ty Hall and Dilip Patel, under the direction of Bartenhagen, led all of the engineering planning, design, installation and test, and life cycle support for this state of the art system.

"I recall that NAVPET was grateful to Bartenhagen's team in funding and supporting this ability to bring Navy fuel operations into the 21st century," Currie said. "Today, DLA Installation Support for DLA Energy continues to manage this vital program within its Engineering division."

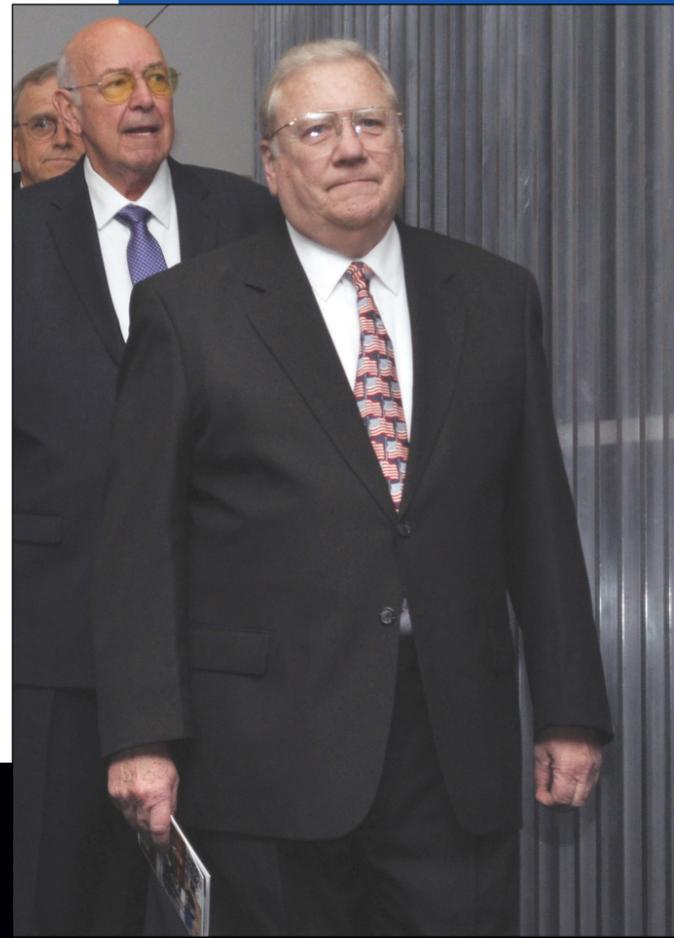
When Bartenhagen became the director of the Facilities Management Directorate, and Currie worked as a NAVPET engineer, there were instances when she may not agree with the DLA Energy Sustainment Restoration and Maintenance engineer's decision about a given project.

As the lead DESC decision maker for MRE funding, which at that time had a severe budget limitation, Bartenhagen often needed to negotiate with the military services and make some difficult decisions about which projects could be funded in a given year versus which projects would require deferral until future years.

"I recall that although our NAVPET organization may not always have been happy with the tough decisions that had to be made by Mr. Bartenhagen, I always remember him to be professional and courteous during the high-level discussions about the projects and always very fair in his final decisions," Currie said. "There were numerous times that Mr. Bartenhagen would advocate for the service's projects by requesting higher headquarters approvals for much needed fuel infrastructure funding."

Today, the DLA Energy SRM Program office manages what used to be Bartenhagen's program.

"In the early days, the [SRM] program consisted of just



John Bartenhagen, DLA Energy Hall of Fame inductee, leads the inductees into the organization's hall of fame ceremony May 19. Photos by Tanekwa Bournes

10-15 engineers managing projects worth about \$200 million a year and today, the program consists of over 50 DLA Energy program managers and DLA Installation Support for DLA Energy engineers managing projects worth over \$600 million a year," Currie said. "This critical program still serves the same vital mission to fund fuel facility infrastructure maintenance, repair, construction projects at military service installations storing DLA Energy petroleum products."

With all that Currie saw Bartenhagen do for the organization, she said she was extremely happy to see Bartenhagen, fondly known as "JB" and a mentor over the years to many "junior engineers" within DLA Energy, inducted into DLA Energy's Hall of Fame.

"Many of us engineers continue to work on his SRM and Automation programs ... initiatives begun over twenty years ago during the DLA Energy "JB" leadership years," she said.

Bartenhagen served DLA Energy from Sept. 13, 1981 to April 3, 2007. ^{ES}



(Right) Bartenhagen has a conversation with two other DLA Energy Hall of Fame inductees.

DLA Energy's Hall of Fame Digital Display

The Defense Logistics Agency Energy Kunkel Conference Room was selected as the permanent location for the Hall of Fame state of the art digital display exhibit honoring the inductees and a place for families to feel connected with their loved one.

"I had a vision for the DLA Energy Hall of Fame exhibit, but due to space and cost, we looked internally to our existing Kunkel Conference Room to preserve the legacy," said DLA Energy Commander Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark McLeod. "With a myriad of technology and innovation, the hall of fame now serves as a testimony to the inductee's achievements."

