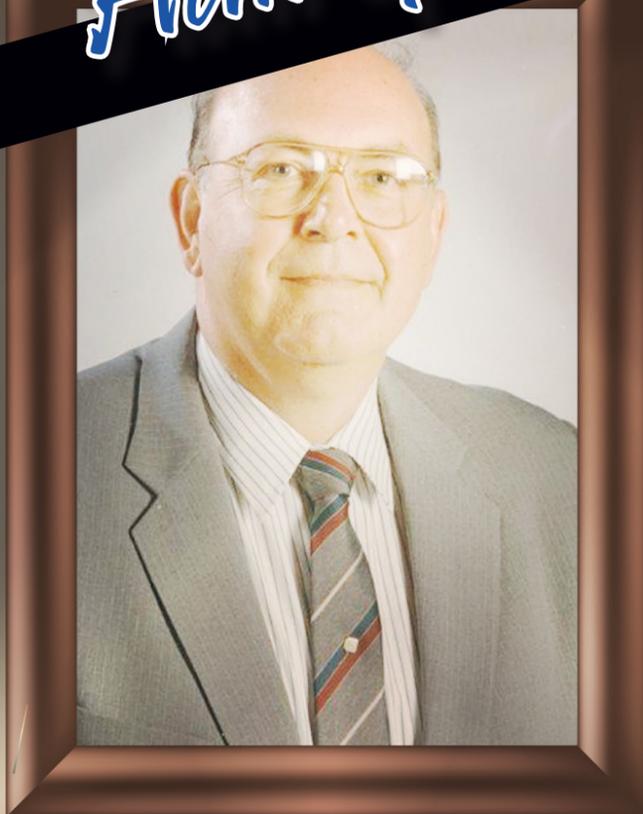


Edward Biddle

Hall of Fame Inductee

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By Tanekwa Bournes

Edward J. Biddle, a former deputy director of Defense Logistics Agency Energy Contracting and Production, then known as the Defense Fuel Supply Center, was inducted in the organization's hall of fame for his innovation and improvements he made for the workforce.

He began his career at DLA Energy in 1962 at the Defense Industrial Supply Center in Pennsylvania as a hardware procurement trainee. Three years later, he went to the Defense Personnel Support Center before coming to DLA after receiving another promotion. Biddle continued to work for DLA until he retired in 1998.

While at the inaugural DLA Energy Hall of Fame ceremony, Biddle said with pride, “I'm the oldest [honoree] and worked the longest at DLA.”

Before retiring, he left a big impact on

those around him and those his work impacted at other organizations in and out of the government.

Biddle assisted in the development and expansion of the Into-plane Aviation Fuels Program and other contracts in support of the military.

This effort included establishing the AIR CARD to centralize transaction accounting and payment for the use of electronic data interchange for the ship's bunker fuel and ground fuels.

He also helped develop procurement policies, procedures and contract provisions for the supply assurance program of exchanging Naval Petroleum Reserve crude oil for military products.

In addition to these efforts, Biddle presented the Department of Defense fuel position at a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Conference. His presentation caused member nations to review their petroleum support capabilities to assist host nation support during contingency operations.

Greg Andrienas, who worked with Biddle and considered him to be a “legend,” said Biddle was the original founder of the marketing office and set up Energy's first price escalation process during the 1973 oil crisis.

Biddle considered the crisis to be one of the

biggest challenges he faced while coming up the ranks. During this time, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries raised world oil prices.

“I called all the airlines to see how they were doing business since they were buying bulk petroleum the same way we were on a yearly period,” he said. “Then I made the suggestion to my boss that we could compete the price for one day and move the price with their price over a period since we could only pay fair market price.”

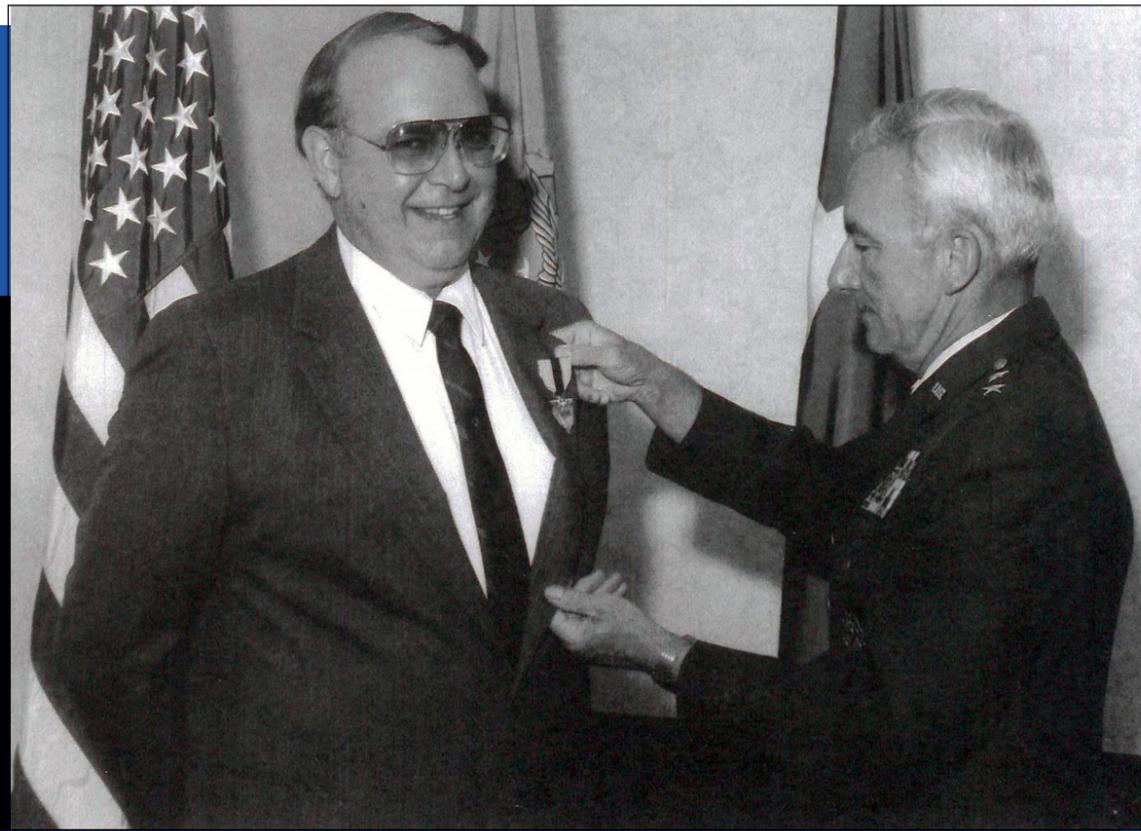
This action led to Navy Rear Adm. William Oller placing him as the chief of the newly developed market research office where he stayed for eight years.

“While in this position, several airlines contacted me and said that they were purchasing fuel the way we were after the crisis,” he said.

During this time, he visited the Pentagon to assist the Energy Policy office during congressional hearings to justify DLA purchasing fuel storage around the world.

Soon after he decided he was more comfortable staying at the organization and came back as the head of Direct Delivery Fuels. He traveled to Germany, Italy, the Philippines and other places in order to teach them how to purchase fuel and conduct business with DLA.

Edward Biddle, DLA Energy Hall of Fame inductee, receives an award during his time in the organization. Biddle worked at DLA Energy from July 1963 to March 1998. Courtesy Photo



Biddle was also concerned about what others within his division worked on.

“He could find and read any contract file in the Procurement Directorate and he would do so to answer a question during the weekend. He really knew the business,” Andrienas said. “He was four levels up, but he knew what the contracting officers, contract specialists and clerks were doing,”

Although he is well known for his work ethic, he is also known for caring about those around him. Andrienas said he remembers Biddle going for walks with a couple of his division chiefs during his lunch hour as a way to combine work and exercise.

Biddle also assisted in drafting legislation. The legislation helped give the Department of Defense flexibility in the petroleum marketplace during energy emergencies by permitting the waiver of certain procurement provisions.

He identified issues to improve capabilities during a crisis which he explained were: authority to purchase pipelines; authority to obtain market research data from other federal agencies; expanded authority to waive Federal Acquisition Regulation procedures as they relate to fuel acquisition; and authority for DLA to execute memorandum of understandings with other countries.

Biddle was responsible for several initiatives that dealt

with the Small Business Administration and the Office of Management and Budget.

The agreement with the agency and the SBA concerned procedures for a multimillion dollar reservation program worth \$170 million. The program allows for small disadvantaged businesses to compete in the marketplace and help companies access federal and private procurement markets.

In addition, Biddle worked countless hours to develop the acquisition workforce under the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act and was instrumental in hiring women and minorities. Under his direction, several women competed for and were selected to senior-level positions.

“Although some believe my work with assisting with purchasing bulk fuel and what I did on Capitol Hill as my biggest accomplishments, I see my work with hiring women and minorities as mine,” Biddle said.

Some of the people he assisted in hiring are still at the organization today while others still meet up with him and his wife several times a year.

Francis Pane, director of Bulk Petroleum Supply Chain Services, was hired after completing his time in the Air Force in 1997.

“One day, Mr. Biddle told me that my division chief was happy that she hired me,” Pane said. “He then told



me that he expected great things from me which really boosted my confidence since I was unsure if my prior contracting skills in buying weapons helped me in acquiring commercial fuel products.”

“One woman I placed in market research retired five years after coming onboard and then began studying to be a minister,” Biddle said. “When she passed, her daughter sent my wife and me a bound book of her poetry. She was a single mother raising five kids and was very talented once given the chance to succeed.”

He explained that looking back on his time at the organization for more than 30 years, assisting those around him were the most rewarding.

“I never gave much advice, but I wanted them to know that I would do anything they would do and that they had to be as responsible as I was for anything,” Biddle added.

Andrienas also said Biddle looked out for those he felt were young and talented.

Biddle hired one of the other honorees, Peschka, after he worked for him for three years and retired out of the military.

“He felt that he wasn’t experienced enough for the job, but I knew he was a hard worker and would excel as he had proven over the past three years in the organization,” Biddle said.

Now he’s being honored with me along with others who worked at the agency, he said.

“I never wanted an award if I thought someone else was being omitted from being honored because of me,” he said. “I know others think that what I did was amazing, but I saw it as only doing my job.” 

Biddle greets another DLA Energy Hall of Fame inductee at the McNamara Headquarters Complex, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, before the ceremony May 19. While in the organization Biddle served as deputy director of the Contracting and Production Directorate. Photo by Tanekwa Bournes