



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY,
AND LOGISTICS

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
PRESIDENT, DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY
DIRECTOR, HUMAN CAPITAL INITIATIVES
DIRECTORS, COMPONENT OFFICES OF SMALL BUSINESS
PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: Announcement of the Fiscal Year 2015 Department of Defense Small Business
Vanguard Awards Program Winners

Last year, I established the Small Business Vanguard Awards program to recognize the exemplary contributions of Department of Defense (DoD) small business professionals or members of acquisition teams that influence small business participation in defense procurement. In FY2015, the Department procured 24.64 percent of all DoD prime contracting with small businesses and exceeded the Department's goal of 21.6 percent for the second consecutive year. This is a reflection of excellent performance by members of the acquisition workforce. The following five awards go to DoD individuals, teams, and components that demonstrated exceptional commitment to sustaining and improving the health of the defense industrial base.

The *Vanguard Award* goes to the Department of the Army as the DoD Component that best exemplified a commitment to Small Business Programs across a variety of activities, such as exceeding assigned goals, outreach, and senior leader commitment.

The *Revolutionary Leadership Award* goes to Mr. Douglas W. Packard, Defense Information Systems Agency, as the DoD individual whose leadership best advocated for the inclusion of small businesses in DoD procurements, overcame substantial challenges to small business participation in DoD contracting, and brought innovation to the Department through small business utilization.

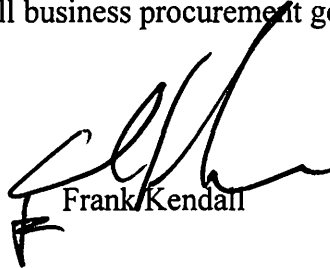
The *Mrs. Tracey L. Pinson Small Business Professional of the Year Award* goes to Mr. James R. Dean, Department of the Air Force, as the DoD individual who best embodied the small business mission to ensure a healthy and modernized industrial base by tirelessly advocating for small businesses in the spirit of the award's namesake.

The *Small Business Innovation Research Award* goes to Mr. David L. Sikora, Department of the Air Force, as the individual or team that best exhibited innovative approaches and outstanding support and implemented processes that significantly advanced the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

The *Verdure Award* goes to the Department of the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Office of Small Business Programs as the team that best demonstrated

innovative approaches to balancing the development of efficient buying methods and the utilization of small businesses.

The awardees will receive formal recognition for their achievements during the DoD Small Business Innovation Training Week, May 9-13, 2016, at the Sheraton Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia. I am particularly pleased with the commitment and professionalism of the FY 2015 Vanguard Awardees, and I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the entire acquisition community in support of achieving our small business procurement goals.



Frank Kendall