

Twentieth Annual Commander's Awards celebrate teams, teamwork



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NAVAIR Commander Vice Adm. Dean Peters recognized the teams and individuals who best exemplified improving speed and readiness at the twentieth annual NAVAIR Commander's Award ceremony here March 10.

Finalists were selected from 71 teams and individuals from across the command. During

the ceremony, awardees were also recognized for a small business advocacy award and for the Association of Naval Aviation Edward H. Heinemann Award.

"Ultimately, this is about the warfighter," Peters said. "It's about the pilot that advances the throttle to get the engine to respond, checking the navigation system and knowing that it's right, sending targeting information that's precise and accurate. It's about the maintainer on the

flight deck that's battling the wind and the sea states in order to complete their inspections and turn the aircraft around and get the aircraft launched and recovered and then, later, to do all the scheduled maintenance and unscheduled maintenance that's necessary. In other words, it's really not about us. It's about them. It's about the warfighter, it's about how we support them, and today's winners embody that spirit."

Edward H. Heinemann Award

This award is presented annually to an individual or group of individuals within NAVAIR who achieved or helped achieve significant improvement in the design or modification of an aircraft or an aircraft system.



The CH-53K Engine Integration Tiger Team mitigated engine exhaust gas reingestion issues on the CH-53K King Stallion. Exhaust issues are a common challenge for three-engine helicopters, including the CH-53E Super Stallion. The program office was determined to prevent similar issues on the CH-53K from becoming a burden on the fleet. The team used computational modeling methods, flight test data and systems engineering tools to identify the root cause and design modifications that will eliminate reingestion issues.

Small Business Advocacy Award

This award recognizes the team that promotes, practices and upholds the principles of NAVAIR's Small Business Program.



The Simplified Acquisition Procedures Team was instrumental in Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD), achieving a record year for small business programs. The team's fiscal year 2019 small business obligations were 50.4% above the previous fiscal year's small business obligations. Their outreach to requirement owners (including a roadshow and PM 101 training) increased their credibility and trust, resulting in improved small business results and a culture shift. The team expended many hours and supported much of NAWCWD's urgent earthquake recovery acquisitions (which continue to this day). Although not required, the team completed the urgent earthquake recovery requirements, obtaining competition and awarding 89% of the dollars to small businesses.



Most Impactful Supervisor

Holli Galletti, Patuxent River

Galletti developed and championed innovative ideas effectively to improve and streamline processes and create an environment that fostered innovation, experimentation, efficiency and speed.



Best Performing Fleet Readiness Center Shop

FRC Southeast F414 Engine Production Team, Jacksonville, Florida

This team's rapid response to an increase in the Naval Aviation Enterprise Engine Readiness Goals was directly responsible for the sustainment of the F/A-18 E/F's mission-capable Super Hornets throughout 2019.



Platform Team with Highest Readiness

RQ-21A Blackjack Team, Patuxent River

This team has exceeded the Chief of Naval Operations' readiness goals by maintaining mission capability and full mission capability over the past 12 months at rates of 78.6% and 67.3%, respectively.



Best Improvement in Readiness

F/A-18 E/F and EA-18G Program Office, Patuxent River

This program office redefined its readiness landscape successfully, exceeding the 80% mission-capable requirement for all three of its platforms, making exceptional contributions to naval aviation's warfighting readiness and leading change across the enterprise.



Highest Impact Reduction in Business Transactions

Command Re-Utilization and Disposal Team, China Lake, California

This team demonstrated extraordinary commitment by removing 51,868 items, worth \$158 million, from asset accounting books in 2019 and sending 608,825 pounds of scrap for recycling.



Best Improvement in Procurement Cycle-Time

F/A-18 and EA-18G Program Office Super Hornet Multiyear Procurement IV Team, Patuxent River

This team responded to the call to continually drive down cost and maximize efficiency in government procurement.



Most Significant Expansion and Transition in Technical Development

Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile Team, Patuxent River

This team demonstrated a significant expansion and transition in technical development by achieving early operational capability on the Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft 11 months ahead of threshold schedule, filling a warfighting capability gap and addressing urgent warfighting requirements.



Most Innovative Use of Technology for Warfighter Benefit

Counter-Unmanned System Team, Patuxent River

This team, part of the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division's Cyber Warfare Dept. Cyber Solutions Division, provides overall program management of all product support elements for C-UxS, including manpower, training, readiness and sustainment in support of currently fielded and planned systems.



Most Collaborative IPT Lead

Phillip Behrman, Patuxent River

Behrman's efforts capped a 29-month effort to replace the legacy MH-60S gunner seat, which had a detrimental effect on aircrew long-term health and was directly responsible for medical grounding, degraded mission performance and a growing number of chronic spinal/thoracic injuries among aircrew.

