THE IMAGE

The Defense Mapping Agency Systems Center

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Aerospace Center Technical Director named St. Louis Top Federal Executive

James R. Skidmore

James R. Skidmore, Technical Director of the Defense Mapping Agency Aerospace Center, was honored as the Outstanding Federal Employee in the Manager/Executive category at the St. Louis Federal Executive Board's Annual Awards Luncheon held June 15.

Skidmore was cited for the Aerospace Center's successful response to numerous world-wide crises, his "on-time" and "on-target" actions in support of DMA's conversion to the Digital Production System, and his efforts to develop future agency leaders.

In his award nomination, Skidmore was called "an exceptional manager, technician and leader, who has the rare ability to combine these talents to continually improve a critical Defense Department Agency while being always mindful of the human side of the equation. His efforts, especially over the past two years, have made DMAAC a model in the Federal workplace."

Skidmore began his federal career in 1960 at the U.S. Army Engineer Topographic Laboratories at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He joined DMA in 1980 as a member of the Directorate of Programs, Production and Operations at Headquarters, Washington, D.C. Skidmore transferred to the Aerospace Center in 1982 and was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in 1984. He was named Aerospace Center's Technical Director in July 1987.

A native of Franklin, West Virginia, Skidmore earned his B.S. in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and his M.S. in photogrammetry from Syracuse University. He is married and has two children.

SC/SGG Develops DMA Action Plan 90-1

DMA has adopted World Geodetic System (WGS) 1984 as the geodetic system for all standard Mapping, Charting, and Geodetic (MC&G) products and services throughout the DoD. DMA Action Plan 90-1 constitutes the WGS 84 implementation methodology. The main objectives are:

(1) To delineate actions necessary and certify timely, efficient, cost-effective and technically accurate implementation.

(2) To designate procedural actions necessary to achieve optimum coordination and communication between DMA components and the users.

(3) To identify the requirements for maintenance of WGS 84 to increase its scope and effective operability as new data becomes available; and

(4) To meet the requirements of the 1990's and beyond through its future enhancement as an on-going implementation activity.

Implementation progress will be reviewed by a DMA-wide Implementation Group with the Chief of SC/SGG as its Chairperson.

Uncle Sam's Place Observes First Birthday

Child care facility associated with the DMA Louisville, KY office is helping to meet the critical child care and day care needs of federal employees.

Uncle Sam's Place, a child-care facility associated with the DMA Louisville, Ky., office, celebrated its first birthday here recently and the kids stole the show.

But the show belongs to the kids anyway. Their year-old center in the heart of downtown Louisville is helping to meet the critical child and day care needs of employees from some 33 federal and 14 non-federal agencies.

The birthday attracted federal, congressional and city officials, parents and employees alike. They crowded into the ground floor lobby, listened to speakers laud each others efforts and enjoyed punch and cake. But the real treats were the kids themselves. From their warm color-coded cubicles they greeted guests with wide eyes and grins.

The center, whose capacity is 70 children, is a testament to the vision and commitment of many, including DMA Louisville employees Sherry Squires and Karen Thomas. Squires, a branch chief in Imaging Analysis, and Thomas, a cartographer in the Production Support Office, were among those who exploited legal, financial and design resources to see a dream come true.

And true it came - on June 5, 1989 - after a year of "hard" ground work. Licensed by the state, Uncle Sam's Place operates from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday under a contract with the Jefferson County School Board, a recognized area leader in child care. The center's fee structure is very competitive with other area centers, charging $58 weekly per child between the ages of 6 weeks and 5 years. For parents enrolling two children, the weekly rate is $98.60.

A half dozen DMA employees currently use the center while others are on a waiting list. If second-shift care were available, noted Thomas and Squires, both of whom have two young children, the number of DMA employees using the center would likely double. The proposal is under review.

The Army Corps of Engineers commands the largest presence in the Louisville Federal Building and the Corps is the largest customer for the center, which has 3,200 square feet indoors and 3,360 square feet outdoors.

DMA Louisville employee Karen Ridgeway, a secretary in the Production Support Office, has two sons at the center - Joshua, 1, a creeper, and Jeremy 2, a toddler. The center, in space formerly occupied by the Department of Veteran Affairs, means convenience and affordable child care for the Alabama native.

"Being able to check on them periodically gives me peace of mind during work hours," Ridgeway said. Jeremy has asthma and has to take medication daily. "Knowing he receives his medication daily is a real comfort," she added.

Uncle Sam may well look at Uncle Sam's Place as an example of community pride, cooperation and commitment.

A break with the boys - DMA Louisville employee Karen Ridgeway looks in on sons Joshua, 1 and Jeremy, 2, creeper and toddler, respectively, at Uncle Sam's Place - a year-old child-care facility serving agencies in downtown Louisville. (Photo/Carl Goodman)

Progress and a Pause - DMA Louisville employees Sherry Squires (left) and Karen Thomas relax in the playground of Uncle Sam's Place, Squires served on the building renovation committee and Thomas on the board of directors of the center. (Photo/Carl Goodman)

Technology Links Medicine Between Nations

By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information Service

A doctor sees a patient, diagnoses the problem and writes a prescription. It happens every day. But what if the doctor is 6,000 miles away, looking at the patient on a television screen?

Doctors on the faculty of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences have acted out this scenario four hours every weekday between May and July. They are helping colleagues across the ocean with some of their more difficult cases involving rehabilitation, reconstructive surgery, physical therapy, public health, infectious diseases and mental health.

The nation's only military medical school is one of four U.S. university medical centers taking part in the project, called "Telemedicine Spacebridge." It provided consultative medical aid to casualities of the December 1988 earthquake in Soviet Armenia.

NASA proposed the project and is providing the funds and satellite communications equipment to link the U.S. medical center and the Armenian Republic Hospital in Yerevan, Armenia. COMSAT Corp. and INTELSAT donated satellite transponder time for the project.

The American doctors see their Armenian patients via one-way television screen originating from Armenia to the American medical centers. Telephones and fax machines make two way communication possible. U.S. Public Health Service Dr. (Capt.) James A. Peters, vice-chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, was one of 40 faculty members from that school participating in the program.

Peters said the definition on the television screen is remarkably good. "I looked at hepatitis patients and CAT scans on the screen and could see clearly," he said. (CAT scans, for computerized axial tomography, produce cross-sectional images with more information than ordinary X-rays.)

NASA proposed the project because it provided a way to give humanitarian help while testing how well the telemedicine technology needed for medical support of a planned space station will work. But Peters said there were other benefits from the project for DoD. The doctors involved in the project have already learned more about the effects of disasters on patients - which will allow them to help future earthquake victims in the United States as part of the National Disaster Medical System. In addition, the doctors learned lessons that will increase their wartime readiness.

If all parties agree, the project may be renewed.

Telemedicine Spacebridge is not the university's first experience in space medicine. Its faculty played a large role in designing the medical facility for a space station NASA hopes to deploy in the 1990s.

The project is the result of an agreement made March 9 in Moscow between representatives from NASA and the USSR Ministry of Health. Dr. Harry Holloway, professor and chairman of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Science Department of Phychiatry, was part of the U.S. team that negotiated the agreement. He is a member of U.S./USSR Joint Working Group on Space Biology and Medicine, which is concerned with exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes.

Holloway, who is coordinating the Telemedicine Spacebridge program at the military medical school, is enthusiastic about its possibilities.

"The Telemedicine Spacebridge is a unique opportunity for medicine to demonstrate its international humanitarian character," said Holloway. "It is a direct test of how medical expertise can be shared using the technology of satellite communication with physicians in any area of the world where there is severe need."

New Mailing Address for DMA Systems Center

The new official mailing address for the Defense Mapping Agency Systems Center became effective 20 July 1990. The new address is:

Director
Defense Mapping Agency Systems Center
8316 Lee Highway
Fairfax, Va. 22031-2138

Commanders Can Test For Steroids

By Tom Joyce
American Forces Information Service

Testing positive for anabolic steriods quickly slowed down the "fastest man alive" after the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee took away sprinter Ben Johnson's medal in the 100-meter dash after a test showed he had used the synthetic male hormones. Anabolic steroids help athletes build muscle mass, giving them an unfair advantage in competition.

Military personnel who use steroids for anything other than legitimate medical needs could find themselves in trouble as well. While there doesn't appear to be a signficant problem with steroid use in the military, a few commanders have inquired about their testing authority.

Sharon Cooper, director of domestic drug policy for the Department of Defense, said the services can test for steroid use if they see a need.

"However," she said, "commanders will have to go to an outside laboratory to do the testing. Military labs are not set up to do it."

Congress has requested that DoD begin random testing for anabolic steroid use among "high-risk" personnel, such as athletes and members of honor guards. The secretary of defense has indicated that a pilot program for command-directed steroid testing of certain target populations will begin. A policy should be developed and to the field in coming months.

In addition, a portion of drug-tested urine samples will go for more testing to determine the extent of steroid use in the services. Steroid samples will not identify the tested individuals.

Medical experts agree that military personnel who are using anabolic steroids are not fit for duty and represent a danger to themselves and their units. That's because steroids can affect behavior.

"Roid rages" - uncontrollable rage that can last up the three hours - are not uncommon. One female steroid user said she changed from a "soft, fawn-like creature" to a "raging bull" who threw her husband against the wall when he showed up late for supper.

There is no question that anabolic steroids are dangerous when used without proper medical guidance. "While they can promote rapid muscle growth," said Cooper. "they can also cause delusional behavior, liver damage, heart attacks and even death."

She said parents should be especially wary of children who might have begun to use steroids. Some signs of steroid use in adolescent males include growth of breasts, large muscle gains, increased acne on the back and abnormal aggressive behavior. Aggressive behavior and increased acne are also apparent in women.

The 1989 Omnibus Drug Act passed by Congress called for a mandatory six-year prison sentence for anyone selling illegal anabolic steroids to anyone under 18 years old. It also called for mandatory three-year sentences for those selling anabolic steroids to anyone over 18 years of age.

Military personnel using or selling anabolic steroids illegally are subject to punishment under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

On the Light Side

"OK. Take her down!"

Alcohol Fiction & Fact

Fiction: It takes a blood alcohol concentration of 0.10 to cause an alcohol-related accident.

Fact: At 0.05 percent blood alcohol concentration - that's three standard drinks - chances of having an accident double or triple.

Fact: Driving skills are affected at 0.02 blood alcohol concentration - about one drink.

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Editor, THE IMAGE
Mgmt. Support Division
Systems Center
12100 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 200
Reston, Va. 22090-3207

Director-Dr. Kenneth I Daugherty
Acting Public Affairs Officer/Editor-Allen Elrod

Graphic Designer-Lisa Gillogly, SDSVG