

DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY

LINK

July 22, 1996



*Summer in the city
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On the cover

Roxann Kelly of Procurement and Contracting reads to second grade students at Sigel School in St. Louis. Kelly was one of the volunteers helping with the Reading Connection program. See related story on Page 13. Photo by Jim Stepanik

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 Terence S. Meehan
Managing Editor - Carl Goodman
Acting Editor - Muriel Winder
Associate Editors - Don Kusturin
 Paul Hurlburt, Wells Huff, Jennifer Laflay
Designer - Rhonda M. Lee
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**Senate
 passes Defense
 Authorization Bill**

The Senate passed the DoD Authorization Bill (S. 1745) July 10 by a roll call vote of 68-31. This bill contains comprehensive language to establish NIMA.

The House passed its version of the DoD Authorization bill last month. The Senate and House will have to go to conference to reconcile the differences in their bills. NIMA is among the issues to be reconciled. The House version of the DoD authorization bill does not include language on NIMA.

When the conference committee completes its work, the authorization bill will be referred back to the two chambers for a vote. It is unusual for either House not to pass conferenced bills. When passed by each chamber, the bill will be referred to the President for his signature.

The Senate is also preparing to consider the Defense Appropriations Bill.

Meanwhile, the House National Security Committee (HNSC) held a hearing July 11 on Intelligence Reform, including NIMA. They will conference with the Senate Armed Services Committee, sponsor of the recently passed DoD Authorization Bill, to reconcile the differences in their respective bills.

DMA Ombudsman Kathleen Neary is available to help get answers to employees' questions about NIMA or DMA activities, or to pass along suggestions to the right office or team. She can be reached on e-mail or fax at (703) 275-8561.

Local meetings follow contract award

DMA began a series of meetings with local government officials and citizen groups after the Corps of Engineers announced that a multi-million dollar construction contract was awarded for the Agency's new consolidated printing and

the Arnold City Council. Although the facility is outside the Arnold city limits, the neighborhood immediately adjacent to the property is in the City of Arnold.

Army Col. James Stordahl, commander, Western Installations, told

to answer questions on issues as they evolved.

Larry Irvin, representing the Corps of Engineers, and Neal Vogel, from Fru-Con, also stated their desire to work with the community during construction.

Stordahl cited numerous examples of DMA employees' active involvement in their communities. This tradition would continue as DMA settled into its new home in Jefferson County, he told the 18-member council.

Jim Mohan, Command Information, provided an overview of DMA's mission, its products and services.

Ken Crist, chief of Transition Management Office (OCST), described the site and the new building and the role the new facility will play in meeting DMA's customer needs.

A similar session was held the following week in Hillsboro, Mo., with

members of the Jefferson County Commission.

During both sessions, local government officials asked about the impact of the construction on neighboring residents and the potential for noise after hours during construction. And, once the facility begins regular operations, they wanted to know the impact on traffic in the area, the potential for expansion of activities at the site and the potential for new jobs for the community.

The following week the group met with residents of the Briarwood Manor subdivision, immediately adjacent to DMA's 35 acre property. Traffic congestion, security at the property, environmental and safety issues were among residents' concerns.

All sessions were cordial and cooperative with participants agreeing that open communication was critical to the success of the project.

The groundbreaking is scheduled for July 28. Construction should be completed by late September 1997 and the building fully operational in March 1998. Employees with questions on this subject may contact Jim Mohan at (314) 263-4142 or by email. ■

—by Jim Mohan

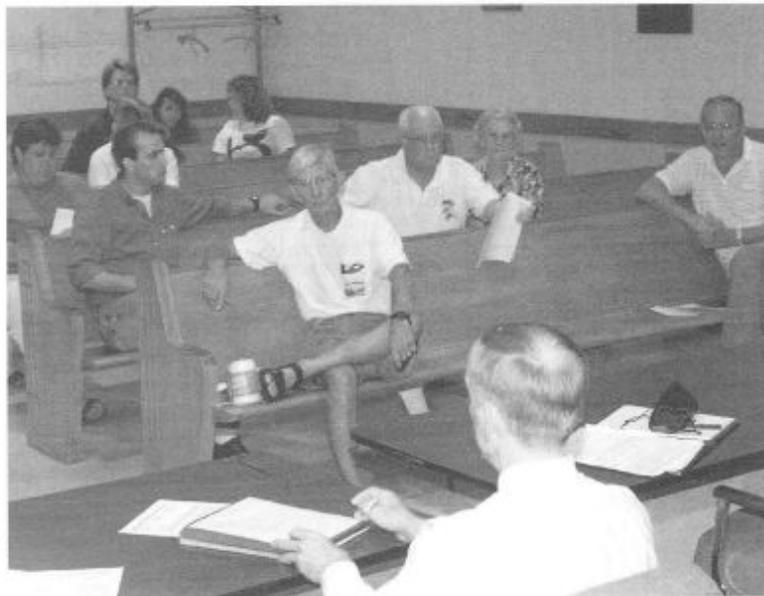


Photo by Jim Mohan

Citizens of Jefferson County, Mo., listen as DMA's Ken Crist answers questions concerning the consolidated printing and distribution facility near Arnold, Mo.

distribution facility in Jefferson County, Mo.

The \$33 million contract for the 250,000 square-foot facility, scheduled for completion in 1997, went to Fru-Con Inc. of Ballwin, Mo.

The first meeting included representatives of the company, DMA, the Corps of Engineers and

Arnold residents that DMA wanted to be a good neighbor both during the facility's construction and after it is operational. He said keeping the lines of communication open was important and that all groups involved in the construction, both government and the contractor, were accessible

DMA takes lead role in geospatial arena

The Defense Mapping Agency is taking the lead role as chair of a national team from the government and private sectors to develop a common way to produce, deliver and apply geospatial information to meet national security objectives.

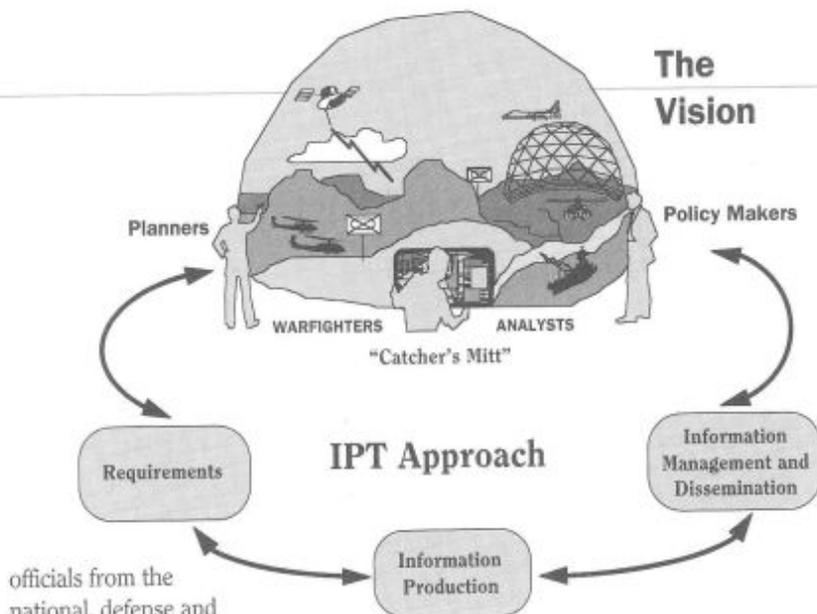
The history of the group, officially the Integrated Product Team (IPT), dates from a briefing of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by a former DMA director, Air Force Maj. Gen. William K. James. James, in December of 1992, focused on the challenge of providing timely, mission-specific geospatial information, in lieu of standard products, to its many customers.

The Pentagon briefing captured a vision developed by a working group under the direction of Acquisition and Technology Group director Roberta Lenczowski.

Keying on this vision, a Defense Science Board task force, in its report, "Defense Mapping for Future Operations," issued in September 1995, affirmed DMA's call for a geospatial framework of precise digital mapping data and spatial imagery to fuse, interpret and position all the information needed to form a clear picture of the battlefield—from intelligence and logistics to weather.

The task force recommended, among other things, the creation of an Integrated Product Team to manage the whole process.

The IPT was formally initiated in May 1996 by Air Force Maj. Gen. Philip W. Nuber, then DMA director, before an assembly in Bethesda of about 30 senior



officials from the national, defense and commercial communities.

Rear Adm. Jack Dantone, DMA's current director, has strongly endorsed the IPT.

The assistant secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff will have oversight of the IPT while a board of senior-ranking officials will provide guidance and direction.

Since its formation, a number of organizations representing defense and non-defense agencies, colleges and universities and commercial companies have volunteered for leadership roles or support of the team's activities, according to AT's Irv Buck.

The IPT's mission is to develop a common infrastructure for producing, delivering and applying geospatial information to support the full range of national security objectives, Buck said.

The IPT will address four key functional aspects of the end-to-end process: requirements; information generation; information management and dissemination; and information applications. In addition, the IPT will look at issues such as standards, interoperability, doctrine, force structure and training that are critical to successfully implementing the geospatial information vision.

To test the Geospatial Information Infrastructure (GII) and solicit feedback from the technical and user communities, the IPT will develop testbeds to

support a variety of exercises and demonstrations. The results will be a scaleable model of an end-to-end geospatial production, dissemination and exploitation system and a master plan detailing the strategy and resource commitments needed to fully implement the concept on a global scale.

The master plan will outline the steps necessary to field the GII by the year 2000, according to RP's Joe Obermeier. The plan will define the customer's operational, technical and system requirements; articulate specific development activities and major milestones; and, finally, provide the investment strategy needed to achieve the vision, Obermeier said.

Members of the geospatial community will be asked to participate in the IPT's activities either on a full- or part-time basis. Their support is essential not only to the success of the IPT's efforts, but the ability in the future to contribute to an information advantage demanded by our national security customers, the officials said.

The IPT will operate with a core integration team of 20 to 30 full-time dedicated personnel from the national security, defense, academic and commercial communities. Four focus teams of personnel temporarily assigned to the IPT will support a variety of demonstrations and exercises over the life of the IPT, estimated to be approximately 18 months. ■

Operation tests DMA products in the field

Unlike the products DMA produced for two previous exercises in the TOPOFORCE XXI series, the products for Operation LOPER were actually used in the field.

Army, Marine, Navy and United Kingdom forces tested the products during ROYAL DRAGON – a joint exercise of the U.S. Atlantic Command in North Carolina at Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg May 15 to June 14.

About 90 DMA personnel in Bethesda, Reston and St. Louis beat an April 15 deadline by three days by providing controlled imagery, elevation data and digital terrain data for Operation LOPER.

Army and Marine Corps topographic technicians “downloaded the DMA products from tactical communications links and used them to build their own products in the field,” said Army Lt. Col. Joe Kotch, the Acquisition and Technology Group’s Army Support Team coordinator for ROYAL DRAGON and associated technology demonstrations.

Focus on decision-makers’ needs

The focus of DMA’s effort was to produce better products for the decision makers, Kotch said.

“Commanders in the field are confronted with decisions that often have to be made under a lot of pressure. DMA walks a fine line between overwhelming the communication system with too much detail and providing the information that’s needed to quickly make effective decisions.”

The products created in the field fulfilled such unique requirements of the exercise as where to locate ammunition dumps and which roads to use in routing supplies.

To ensure that commanders received the right information, DMA sent a team to Fort Bragg before ROYAL DRAGON to meet with the

in a “hot wash” evaluation of the support provided, including DMA’s.

DMA’s Remote Replication System, installed in Fort Bragg’s Topographic Readiness Facility last fall, was used to create products for the exercise. DMA’s on-site representatives, Doug Ball and Eric Dorman, assisted Army technicians.



DMA on-site representative Doug Ball, left, highlights features of the Remote Replication System in the Topographic Readiness Facility at Fort Bragg, N.C.

exercise planners and technicians. Specifications for the Operation LOPER products were subsequently developed under the leadership of DMA Army Support Team physical scientist Jack Miller.

The DMA products provided for the exercise included Controlled Image Base, large-scale Digital Terrain Elevation Data, and a Mission Essential Data Set of Interim Terrain Data.

Ken Peterman, Data Generation supervisor in Reston, led the production effort, accomplished under a simulated 72-hour schedule. Susan Allersmeyer-Rosendale in St. Louis and Eli Rutstein in Bethesda assisted Peterman while Kevin Vermeulen in Reston managed rapid electronic distribution of the products.

At the start of ROYAL DRAGON, a DMA team returned to Fort Bragg to act as facilitators and participate

Through on-site participation, DMA’s Operation LOPER team refined their understanding of the most effective ways to get information to commanders. At the same time, they facilitated communication between the military topographic technicians and exercise commanders, Kotch said.

There will be a fourth TOPOFORCE XXI exercise: Operation KIRBY. Since a DMA *Link* reader noted the contributions of Army Maj. Gen. Herbert B. Loper, another reader may have information about Kirby. If you do, we’d like to hear from you. A hint – it is not DMA’s Col. Robert F. Kirby. ■

—by Paul Hurlburt

DMA tech liaisons: capable and on site

A group of computer-proficient agency cartographers has been deployed at the Pentagon and major commands since January, complementing the DMA support teams already serving customers on site.

The idea of DMA tech liaisons surfaced almost three years ago, according to Eric Hilberg, the team leader who coaches the group from one of Acquisition and Technology's Customer Support offices at headquarters.

"They need our information in great detail, on short notice, for places that can be anywhere in the world."

"We had the strong backing of DMA management," Hilberg stated. The concept, he said, was clearly identified in the Agency's Strategic Plan.

DMA currently distributes most of its digital products via "hard media," shipments of paper, CD-ROMs, 9-track reel-to-reel tapes or 8mm cassette tapes. Through its new GGIS Gateways, an increasing amount of digital information is being downloaded electronically from the DMA Data Warehouse in St. Louis (*DMA Link*, May 24).

The Agency's future mode of distribution calls for geospatial information products and services available at distributed data sites maintained by the Agency or by the customer. Hardcopy products also will be available. These distribution sites will have the capability of merging data, customizing and adding value to the result, and

providing on-site replication of standard and custom products. As the use of the Agency's distributed data and collaborative tools increases, on-site technical assistance becomes essential, a fact recognized by DMA and its customers.

"We started talking to the commands in the fall of 1994," Hilberg recalled. "They liked this idea."

With reinvention, implementing the tech liaison initiative became a dialogue between AT's customer support group and the program managers in the customer support division of Operations Group. Both groups agreed that the process of recruiting tech liaisons should go forward as quickly as possible and practical.

The first positions were advertised last fall. Eleven employees were selected, trained and sent to the field early this year. Ten more were added last month, and a third group is expected to be in place by November, raising the total to 30.

What does a typical tech liaison do? Hilberg, who succeeded Mark Shelberg as C³I supervisor when Shelberg was reassigned, listed these TL job objectives:

- Serve as focal points for GGI&S requirements and integrated testbed activities, such as those scheduled to occur during JWID'96 (*DMA Link*, June 24).
- Support customers in their use both of data sets and software tools like DMAMUSE™ that enable manipulation, development of tailored data sets and special products.

• Assist in developing methods for rapid generation of new data and intensification of existing data sets.

• Help identify new value-adding possibilities at the customer site.

• Perform analysis of local architectures and map servers to achieve maximum interoperability.

"The GGI&S techs are our ambassadors," said Ron Magee, DMA liaison to the Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. "With their help, we're becoming more pro-active. We're on a mission to find out needs, collect requests and solicit feedback that just wasn't possible in the past."

SOCOM, Magee noted, is like no other U.S. command. "They need our information in great detail, on short notice, for places that can be anywhere in the world."

In the past, Magee said, DMA sent special information in a digital format unfamiliar to the customer, inhibiting its use.

"That won't happen now," Magee said. "The tech liaisons sit down with them and show them how to make it work."

George Lycett, one of two tech liaisons assigned to Special Forces, confirmed this activity. A good example, he said, is familiarity with Vector Product Format and VPF symbology.

"We don't do the work for them," Lycett said. "Our mission is to educate, operate and maintain an environment we and the customer feel comfortable in."

Steve Bramow is DMA liaison to the U.S. Atlantic Command. Like the other geographic commands, ACOM has its special area of responsibility, the Caribbean. But its primary mission, according to Bramow, is seeing that forces are trained as joint forces. One of his tech liaisons, Pat

McManus, is assigned to ACOM's Joint Training, Analysis and Simulation Center in Suffolk, Va., just across the river from command headquarters at Norfolk. Bramow and Bill Hoskins, another ACOM tech liaison, work there.

"Actually, we all work together," Bramow said, "though McManus is right there at the center and has

McManus said. "If it hadn't been for my time there, I probably wouldn't be able to do some of the things I'm doing now."

For example, "There's a ship that belongs to the people over at the Little Creek base," he said. "They're getting under way later this month on a drug interdiction cruise, and they wanted a special map – two

new map printed and delivered on time.

Bramow acknowledged a steady use of the command's remote replication scanner, converting nautical maps into digital soft copies, adding additional data and added value. Another big item has been assistance in exercise control modeling. "For exercises like the



Photo courtesy USS Stennis

DMA liaisons tour the USS Stennis in Norfolk as part of their command orientation.

more hands-on work with their day-to-day activities."

The support teams also keep a close eye on each other. "I have a standing agreement with Ron Magee to keep him in the loop," said Bramow, noting that Special Forces receive exercise training at ACOM's joint training center.

Like Lycett, McManus worked in the Map Publishing Environment before his selection as a technical liaison.

"In MPE, there were times you had to come up with innovative solutions and custom products,"

nautical charts joined with data showing the 12-nautical-mile 'buffer zones' of territorial seas."

McManus used on-site scanning and replication equipment. The maps, of slightly different scale, were scanned, rectified and joined.

"The ArcInfo GIS software we use even has a buffer command. It works in meters, but will convert to the nautical mile equivalent," the tech liaison said.

The additional information was added, the results checked, and the

ones at Camp Lejeune, we do a lot of modeling."

"There's tremendous job satisfaction, both for the DMA liaisons and the tech liaisons, in being able to work directly with customers," he added. "It's a great place to be." ■

— by Wells Huff

MPE's reputation for responsiveness grows



Photo by Tom Barash

Landsat image maps, city graphics and briefing graphics are among the products produced on the Map Publishing Environment in Bethesda by (from left) Dennis Walker, Maureen Currie, Felicia Thompson and Stephen Hannaher.

Cartographers in Bethesda's Map Publishing Environment are finishing products directly from data extracted on the Digital Production System.

The trial production of 1:50,000-scale Topographic Line Maps in June further boosted the MPE's reputation for flexibility and quick response.

The system has been operational in St. Louis and Bethesda for five years. (For other examples of the MPE's versatility, see "MPE takes on a life of its own" in the April 22 *DMA Link*.)

Pressed into production during Desert Storm while still undergoing testing, the MPE provided satellite imagery in a map format for immediate use by commanders. The Landsat

Image Maps originated on the MPE were the first of many crisis and programmed products DMA cartographers and lithographic specialists have produced with the system.

In Bethesda, the MPE is often used to produce TLMs at various scales, city graphics, and briefing graphics.

A year after Desert Storm, an MPE team in Bethesda produced a city graphic of Split, Croatia, using a "map-to-map" technique. First, an existing city graphic was scanned into digital files on MPE equipment. Then cartographers at MPE workstations color separated the files and added new information as a separate file to update the graphic. Finally, monochrome reproduction negatives — one for each color, including the new information in purple — were produced by lithographic specialists on the MPE's laser film writer. From these negatives, press plates were made directly to print a new city graphic with the updated information overprinted in purple.

By 1993, MPE cartographers in Bethesda were compiling and finishing city graphics from scratch, based on digital source received electronically, or on magnetic tape, from the stand-alone Alternate Imagery Exploiter (AIX) or Feature Extraction System (FE/S). In 1995, cartographers in St. Louis teamed with Bethesda in producing city graphics.

For the most part, DMA products are produced on the MPE with commercially available software, said Dennis Walker, a system production leader for CENTCOM and SOUTHCOM. One exception is custom software written by the Intergraph Corp. to translate FE/S output into a form the MPE can read.

Although simpler than software used with the Digital Production System, the MPE "off-the-shelf" software gives the system more flexibility, Walker noted. Data from

popular packages like ARC/INFO can be imported easily, as long as it's in a readable format.

Recently, MPE team members imported files from an outside source to update a graphic of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"It saves us time and effort if there are digital files out there that we can use," Walker said. "The data could be roads, drainage, power lines. The GIS (geographic information systems) department at Camp Lejeune already had some of these files, so we didn't have to recapture the data."

Cartographers at MPE workstations can also create their own digital files by "heads down" digitizing. The technique involves moving a cursor over a manuscript on a georeferenced tablet and clicking at selected points, which are then collected into a file.

Heads-down digitizing is a labor-intensive activity.

"We did more of that in the past," Walker said. "Nowadays, we're more likely to use a tape (of digital files) produced either within or outside of DMA."

The MPE's flexibility makes it especially good for crisis work when lead time for planning must be curtailed and readily available sources used.

Pointing to a city graphic produced for the Haiti operation, Restore Hope, Walker said, "We produced this product in less than 36 hours, after it was upgraded from a committed project to crisis."

Also geared up for crisis work, DMA printers can use output from the MPE to print thousands of copies of a chart in a couple of days.

The trial production of 1:50,000-scale Topographic Line Maps from data extracted on the DPS is an extension of the MPE's crisis potential, said Walker, who is the MPE lead for the project.

The experiment began over a year ago when data extracted on the DPS Data Extraction Segment (DE/S) in Bethesda was translated for the MPE on the AIX. Networked to the MPE, the AIX has software to translate data into a vector format recognizable by the MPE.

Normally, the DE/S data would have been finished on the DPS Product Generation Segment (PG/S), Walker said.

The MPE's flexibility makes it especially good for crisis work...

"The purpose of the experiment was to compare DPS production in the PG/S phase with the MPE. The idea was that the MPE could be used in a crisis for color separation and finishing. Then we could send the product on as a standard job. If it worked, it would provide another avenue for use in a crisis."

Last month's experiment bypassed the AIX as well as the PG/S.

Software written by a DMA programmer in St. Louis, Eric Pounders, was used to translate DE/S data from Reston directly into a readable format for MPE product finishing in Bethesda.

With all three production sites involved, the experiment reflected the spirit of the new "one DMA."

The results are being analyzed, Walker said.

"A key issue is to accurately record the time it takes to accomplish the different processes on both systems."

One thing seems sure. As the MPE passes its five-year milestone, its reputation for flexibility and quick turnaround continues to expand. ■

—by Paul Hurlburt

2 teams, 2 individuals receive FEB awards

Two DMA teams and two individuals were recognized by the St. Louis Federal Executive Board at its annual awards ceremony.

The Agency's recipients were selected from 147 individuals and 51 teams nominated for awards in 11 categories. Army Col. James R. Stordahl, chairman of the FEB and commander, Western Installations, presented the awards.

In the large agency category, DMA's CD-ROM Reengineering Team and the Satellite Geodesy Support Team each received an award for Outstanding Team Performance.

The CD-ROM Reengineering Team was cited for reengineering the CD-ROM replication and distribution process that reduced cycle time from 88 days to 36 days and saved \$200,000. Bonnie Williams of the Operations Group accepted the award on behalf of fellow team members Jane Dickerson, Antoinette Hamel, Gary Brown, Herschell Riggs and Tom Mann.

The Satellite Geodesy Support Team (SAGEST) was cited for process improvement actions that improved customer service and resulted in savings of \$2.7 million. The SAGEST produces the precise ephemeris (positions in time) used by the Air Force to test the broadcast ephemeris of the Global Positioning System. Anticipating customer requirements for a more timely product, the SAGEST began producing a GPS ephemeris daily instead of weekly. The GPS precise ephemeris, produced by the SAGEST, is an integral part of the DMA's geodetic positioning program.

The SAGEST also operates seven GPS satellite tracking stations. Taking advantage of technology advancements in hardware and communications, the team planned and imple-

mented a strategy to transition its worldwide tracking network from a manned operation to a remote operation out of a control center in St. Louis.

Accepting the award on behalf of the SAGEST was Michael Full of the Source Management Division.

"Our team has worked hard to improve and deliver our products to our customer," Full said. Other team members include Ray Burnham, Mary Carroll, David Chase, June Cornman, Thomas Creel, Keith Ellis, Brian Hagan, David Hansen, Steve Hohensee, Kim Kangas, Nathan Kemling, Damian Kopcha, Tobias Megraw, Dennis Morgan, Kevin Morgan, Frank Mueller, Larry Rowe, Dana Sparling, Brian Tallman, Dave Thomas and Robert Wong.

In the category of Outstanding Administrative or Technical Employee, Janice Albert of Source Management Division, Geopositioning Branch, received an award for developing a database that eliminated duplication and saved users one to two hours a day. Also 42 peers rated her in a survey as "number one in timely and effective mission accomplishment." Her peers judged her on such criteria as "helps others to develop and improve their performance," "contributes to positive work environment," and "shares and promotes mutual

respect through open communication."

In the category of Outstanding Trades and Crafts Employee, Donald Feager, an experimental machinist in ATECW, Acquisition and Technology Group, was recognized for providing easier workstation access to employ-



Photo by Jim Strpanek

ees using wheelchairs. "Among Don's co-workers and team leader, his name is synonymous with dedication and commitment," said Bill Klunk of ATECW. Feager also brought DMA considerable savings over contract prices, nominating officials said. ■

—by Jennifer Lafley
and Paul Hurlburt

HR to automate many services

The DD Form 1556 "Request for Training" is the most time-consuming document in the federal government, rumor has it. Whether it's true or not, Sue Crone of Data Generation East spends many hours working on them for the 1,200 employees in her section.

Overall, Human Resources processed more than 4,500 of the forms last year. "It's not just the form, it's the carbons and having to do the whole thing on a typewriter — it is a very slow process," Crone said.

But soon those days will be coming to an end.

Last month, HR representatives briefed administrative personnel in Bethesda on a new automated system that will streamline many of the forms required for action and training. The forms will be available either by desktop computer or at employee kiosks located throughout DMA work sites.

HR will offer the new automated services within the next few months, starting in phases.

"The whole process will be much quicker and easier for employees to deal with," said Ron Fitzgerald, assistant director for human resources technology. In fact, once the system is working, employees can type in their name and much of the information needed will be filled out for them automatically.

"It will eliminate the mistakes made on hardcopy forms that hold up the process of getting things done by doing more electronic processing," Fitzgerald said.

An additional benefit for administrative personnel is that many of the changes to employee records can be done by the individual and sent electronically to the Regional Service Center in St. Louis.

"Right now, whenever we have a personnel action, we have to fax it to St. Louis. We have so many employees it is very time-consuming," said Crone, who has spent many afternoons standing by the fax machine.

A real benefit for employees is that HR's new computerized systems will give them easier access to their own records. And, in the future, HR plans programs that will instantly provide information frequently requested by employees, such as benefit changes, leave balances and retirement computations.

"We are in the early stages here, but we hope to simplify the way we process them more quickly," Fitzgerald said. Also, to increase understanding and communication with HR, a new guide, "Human Resources PILOT," will be available in each business unit. The pilot outlines services and lists point-of-contact for more information. The first section, on personnel actions, job information and records, HR automated systems and ACE was sent to administrative personnel this month. The next section on employee benefits will be available in August.

Fitzgerald said it may take a while to get everything running smoothly. "But we have made a real effort to use the latest automation available to streamline services and make things less complicated." ■

— by Jennifer Lafley

DMA employee earns recognition



Alice C. Maroni, left, presents Shannon L. Kentner, CM, with the Intern/Trainee Meritorious Award at the American Society of Military Comptrollers meeting. Maroni is the society's national president and principal deputy under secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

For the second consecutive year, the American Society of Military Comptrollers has recognized a DMA Comptroller employee for professional excellence.

Shannon L. Kentner, Programs and Budget team member, received the Meritorious Award in the major command headquarters or higher category for Intern/Trainee during the society's annual meeting. Until her recent promotion, Kentner held a developmental position in CM's Programs and Budget Division. She was cited for excellence in preparing precise and clear budget justification material to support DMA appropriations.

Her professionalism greatly contributed to the successful justification of the resources needed to accomplish the DMA mission, according to the citation.

John Hamre, under secretary of Defense (Comptroller), personally requested DMA to staff a booth at the society's Professional Development Institute to demonstrate its commercial purchase card ACCESS data base. This data base is used to reconcile purchases with billings.

In his opening address, Hamre applauded DMA's significant innovative contributions through the partnership of its financial and contracting communities. He praised DMA as a leader in process improvements, citing the in-house-developed purchase card management system and endorsing it for use throughout the Department of Defense.

Hamre encouraged all of the PDI attendees to meet with DMA representatives Debbie Loudon and Matt Worrick of Procurement and Contracts to learn how to obtain and use DMA's innovative system.

For three days, the DMA representatives demonstrated the ACCESS data base which was primarily developed by Donna Clark, Loudon and Dan Collins, also from PC, to hundreds of interested DoD officials and members of the comptroller community.

DMA also contributed to the institute's professional development goals by conducting a training workshop entitled "Understanding Defense Agencies." Two workshops were led by Cynthia Bogner, DMA Comptroller, and Dr. Linda Furiga, Defense Logistics Agency Deputy Comptroller. The workshops stressed how defense agencies support the mission of the DoD. ■

— by Kim Powers Roivas

Summer in the city

While temperatures around the St. Louis area climbed to record-setting levels, another record of sorts was set recently when the call went out for volunteers for a special summer session of the Reading Connection program.

Fifteen new faces joined 16 veterans in the program that brings together DMA employees with children in kindergarten through fifth grades.

Principal Gerald Arbini asked the volunteers to continue a summer reading program that helps students improve their vocabulary and enjoyment of reading. The employees signed up for the reading-aloud program.

The Agency has been a part of the Reading Connection program for two years. One of the new readers is Bill Fiedler of the Stereo Extraction Branch. He was recruited by Margaret Laatsch of the Digital Information Branch, whose enthusiasm for the program led him to sign up.

"From the reports I've heard, it's a very enjoyable experience," Fiedler said.

Stephanie Moses of Information Generation, a two-year veteran of the program, echoes the same sentiments.

"We had lots of fun," she said. "It is really something to see how caught up in the stories the kids get. You have their rapt attention. They really look forward to us coming."

John Armocida of the Targets Branch expressed delight with the new members of his team.

"You have some great new volunteers who should be returning in the fall," he said. "Lisa Hudson, Regional Analysis I Branch, and David Ninneman, Point Positioning Data Base Branch, have both been enthusiastic volunteers with innovative ideas and boundless energy. It has been a real pleasure working with them..."

"David has embraced the reading concept and introduced the kids to interactive reading," Armocida added. "His approach really gets the kids involved, should keep them actively listening and sparks their interest."

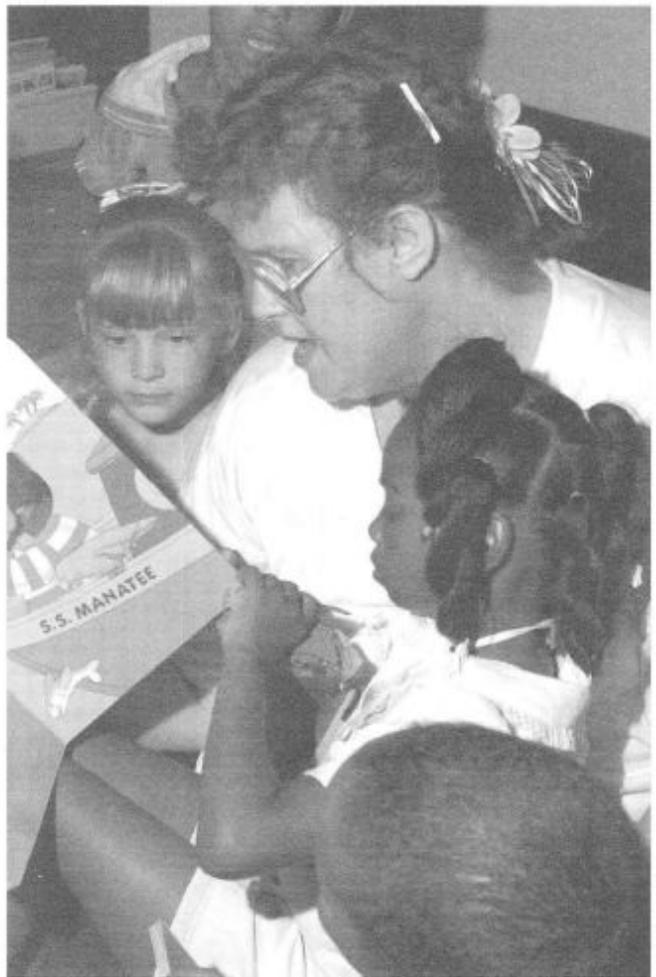
Armocida said that Hudson has implemented some innovative ideas in her reading approach, including using sign language. She also convinced Cynthia Fenton to host a field trip to Kirkwood Park, where she will join two classes for an hour of reading stories.

"Hudson even managed to obtain carpet samples for the children to sit on during story hours. She should have been a teacher," Armocida said.

Besides the fun, there is another reason employees take part in the program.

"If this program helps one child get interested in reading, his or her chance to graduate from high school and college is increased," said Stephanie Moses. "If this program accomplishes that for one kid per class, the program is worth it."

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the Reading Connection for the 1996-97 school year, can contact Sharon Smith, CIW, 263-4142. ■



Sigel School students gather around Reading Connection volunteer Lisa Hudson.

Photo by Jim Stepanik

—by Sharon Smith

JOCAS II allows better tracking of job costs

A new and improved version of the Job Order Cost Accounting System will be installed soon at DMA by the Agency's Finance, Cost, and Economic Analysis Division working with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

JOCAS II, based on a cost accounting system developed by the Air Force, works with standard accounting, payroll and supply systems. It will track costs through the use of Job Order Numbers, allowing managers to better determine the production costs of a product, the service costs associated with a process, and costs identified to a specific customer.

The installation of JOCAS II was approved last year by the DMA Director. The scheduled installation date is the week of Aug. 26. The hardware will operate in St. Louis and will be accessed via telnet from Macintosh and DOS computer systems. Personnel from

DFAS's JOCAS II Program Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, will do the installation.

JOCAS II is being installed to meet Congressional mandates for more detailed reporting of cost data relating to production efforts through auditable financial statements. DMA's current financial system tracks costs by fund type, element of expense and resource center/cost code. It cannot track costs by product, service, process or customer.

When the new accounting system is in place, each employee will keep track of the time worked on a specific project, product, process, customer, or charged to leave, using Job Order Numbers created for this purpose. Timekeepers will input employees' time charges by JON into the payroll system. JONs will also be used to record costs of contracts, materials and supplies.

With the new system, business unit managers will be able to use cost data for budgeting and cost control, performance measurement, determining reimbursements, program evaluations and making economic choice decisions. The ability to monitor costs will help DMA remain competitive with civilian efforts.

Within DMA, two working groups have been established for the implementation phase of JOCAS II – a working group comprised of a CMC Cost Team and representatives from DMA business units and an executive management group.

More information will be provided on JOCAS II before the August installation. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Diane Henry or Louis Velez, DSN 235-8483; or Teri Rose or Louise Goolsby, DSN 693-4791. ■

— DMA Finance, Cost and Economic Analysis Division



Hats Off



Photo by Jim Stepanik

The entrance to Building 36 in St. Louis is bright with flowers, thanks to employees of the **Source Analysis Information and Services** division. Using their own funds, employees purchased the plants and completed the planting on their own time. "We decided that it would be good for our team spirit," said Jane Dickerson, division team leader. The flower bed of red, white and blue annuals will be maintained by employees.

Honors have come to DMA's Air Force **Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Green** and **Staff Sgt. Shelia Pedersen**, recently named Outstanding Airmen by the St. Louis chapter of the Air Force Association.

Green's citation named him a superior senior NCO with natural leadership ability to motivate personnel.

Pedersen was honored for her work as noncommissioned officer in charge of Stock Control for the Agency's Directorate of Logistics. When a systems failure deleted all purchase descriptions in the contracting system, Pedersen took charge and reloaded more than 300 purchase orders, without delay.

The two were honored at the AFA's Spirit of St. Louis Chapter's 21st Annual Airman of the Year Banquet. ■

NEWS CLIPS

Data specialist carries Olympic torch

The opportunity to carry the Olympic Torch came June 29 in Durham, N.C., for Reston's Ron Bryan.

Carrying the torch right up to the steps of Duke University, Bryan was surrounded by a police motorcade and escort cyclists while a helicopter hovered above.

"Now I know how celebrities must feel," Bryan said. He was caught by surprise when he saw the large crowds that showed up to greet the cyclist and ask for his autograph. His ride stretched over 13 miles with an additional five as an escort for another cyclist. Bryan started in Cary, N.C., and ended in Durham.



Bryan

"While we were in the towns we went slow, but as soon as we got away from the crowds we really picked up the pace, up to 30 mph," Bryan said. Although the ride was easy for Bryan, who typically cycles over 200 miles in a weekend, his unusual bundle caused some problems. He could feel the flame of the 3.5 pound torch on his leg on the 100-degree afternoon.

Bryan carried the torch on the back of a specially-built bicycle made for the cyclists selected to participate in the cross-country trip to carry the torch to Atlanta.

"I was excited when I was selected to participate, but nothing prepared me for the impact of being a part of the Olympics — it was really special."

(Ron Bryan was misidentified as Paul Bryan in the June 24 *Link*.)

Education program seeks volunteers

The Presidential Classroom for Young Americans, a nonpartisan, nonprofit civic education program, is seeking volunteers from government departments, agencies and the military to work with exemplary high school juniors and seniors experiencing Washington, D.C.

The qualifications include a bachelor's degree, good communication skills, high energy level and an interest in working with both youth and adults. The 1997 program will

cover 11 one-week sessions starting in January and ending in July.

Volunteers are expected to devote their full time to the program. Each class covers seven days and evenings, from Saturday to Saturday, 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Volunteers will reside at the Sheraton Washington Hotel throughout the week. Hotel accommodations are provided.

DMA employees interested in volunteering or needing more information should contact Peter Shepard, Human Resources at (703) 275-5923. Application deadline is Oct. 18.

Reston zip code changes

The U.S. Postal Service has assigned a new zip code to DMA Reston effective July 1.

The new zip is 20191-3449. DMA employees should update their directories and databases to include the new zip code.

Reston employees should only change the zip code on the return address portion of pre-printed or franked envelopes, not the zip code information on the letterhead.

Skeet team ends season

The DMA St. Louis Skeet team recently ended the 1996 season.

The team, Air Force Capt. Kallen Bailey, 2nd Lt. Paul Wilkerson, David Cain and Mike Putnam, finished competitively with 12 teams from the Scott Air Force Base, Ill., area.

RETIREMENTS

36 Years

McFarland, David

31 Years

Distler, Richard
Principe, Lillian A.

20 Years

Hansberry Wright, Canisius M.

6 Years

Van Dusen, George R.

Military

Mazur, Joachim P., Army Sgt. Maj.

Clark, Doretha M., Marine Corps
Master Sgt.

Cabarle, Douglas E., Navy Chief
Petty Officer

July 22, 1996

It's summer, play it safe.



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