About the Speakers

**Lieutenant Colonel Christopher L. Foster, Commander DCMA Milwaukee**

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Foster is the commander for Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Milwaukee, which is a joint service defense acquisition organization responsible for the leadership, operations and control of approximately 97 civilian and 2 military personnel, spanning three states; Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana (approximately 83,000 square miles). Colonel Foster’s responsibilities include leading and managing the efforts for contracts management and acquisition life cycle support to all DoD Services and Agencies for 3,000 contracts valued at $41 billion. DCMA Chicago covers 300 contractor production facilities and is responsible for the cost, schedule, performance and operational readiness support to Program Managers, Buying Commands and the Defense Logistics Agency. Supported Programs include DoD ACAT I Programs like the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle and Family of Medium & Heavy Tactical Vehicle Programs; Joint Munitions; Navy Propulsion Systems; and Soldier support systems.

In addition, the command supports end-to-end product lines shipped directly to the warfighter in support of theater requirements and is a central stakeholder in coordinating contractor, DCAA, DFAS, & Prime/sub-tier supplier actions in support of the DoD Acquisition Enterprise.

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**William Hughes, Attorney & Shareholder – Husch Blackwell**

For more than 20 years, Bill has advised and defended employers in connection with employment discrimination matters, terminations, retaliation claims, sexual harassment claims, allegations of failure to accommodate a disability and wage claims. He has represented clients in proceedings before the Equal Rights Division, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and other administrative agencies, as well as in state and federal courts. Bill is a member of Husch Blackwell’s Technology, Manufacturing & Transportation team. Bill has been an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin School of Engineering, where he taught "Legal Aspects of Engineering" for several semesters. Prior to joining the firm, Bill was an attorney for the U.S. Air Force. He is a retired lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Air Force Reserves.
Eric Ness - WI District Director, US Small Business Administration (SBA)

Eric Ness is the District Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Wisconsin District with locations in Madison and in Milwaukee. As District Director, Eric is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs throughout Wisconsin. Eric joined the SBA in 1990 as a Commercial Loan Officer where he had the opportunity to work in both processing and liquidation of loans. He has served as Finance Chief and Assistant District Director for Economic Development. In December of 2001, Eric assumed the position of Wisconsin District Director. Prior to coming to SBA, Eric worked for Impact Seven as a Business Analyst and was General Manager of Western Wisconsin Development Corporation in Northwestern Wisconsin. Eric graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Degree in Agricultural Engineering and later obtained a Master’s in Business Administration from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Phil Bail, President – Phil Bail & Associates

Philip G. Bail, Jr. is the Owner of Phil Bail & Associates, a veteran-owned small business (VOSB). Phil is a retired Air Force Contracting officer. He has also worked for more than twenty years in both the aerospace and hazardous waste disposal industries as Purchasing Manager, Manager of Major Subcontracts, Director of Government Contract Administration, and Small Business Liaison Officer (SBLO).

As a warranted contracting officer in the United States Air Force, Phil Bail negotiated with major aerospace companies, construction contractors and service providers, always getting the best price for the American taxpayer.

After retiring from the Air Force, he worked in private industry and successfully challenged poorly written solicitations and statements of work, lodged protests to the General Accountability Office (GAO), and filed and received equitable adjustments for an aerospace manufacturer and a hazardous waste disposal company approaching $12 million dollars.

Phil has dedicated himself to full-time consulting – helping both small business and large business clients improve their bottom lines whether it’s implementing a compliant small business program, effectively managing awarded contracts, or interpreting contract requirements.

Emily Constantine, Associate – Husch Blackwell

Emily is a member of the Technology, Manufacturing & Transportation group at Husch Blackwell. She represents employers in a broad range of employment law and litigation matters in state and federal district and appellate courts and before administrative agencies, including the Wisconsin Equal Rights Division, National Labor Relations Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She also has represented employers in labor arbitrations.

Emily has handled claims involving breach of employment contract, family and medical leave, noncompetition agreements, discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), retaliation, unfair labor practices, and wage and hour claims. She also advises employers on legal and practical considerations associated with reductions in force, employment and severance agreements, employee discipline, workplace investigations and drug testing, social media policies and labor relations.
Nathaniel T. Millsap Jr., Director, Industrial Security & Technology, Fincantieri Marinette Marine

Mr. Nathaniel T. Millsap Jr. ("Nate") is the Director of Industrial Security & Technology for Marinette Marine Corporation, a subsidiary of FINCANTIERI S.p.A, the fourth largest shipbuilder worldwide. Under the trade name of Fincantieri Marinette Marine, FMM is the current shipbuilder of the U.S. Navy Littoral Combat Ship Freedom class variant. FMM is FOCI mitigated under a Special Security Agreement. Holding responsibility for the company’s Industrial and Physical Security, Export Compliance, and Information Technology departments, Mr. Millsap’s position encompasses the role of Facility Security Officer, Technology Control Officer, and Empowered Official. His staff is responsible for all aspects of NISPOM, SSA, and U.S. export controls compliance.

Jason Rathsack, Supervisor of Contracting Operations – MCWA

Defense Contract Management Agency, Milwaukee MCWA

Mr. Jason Rathsack serves as a Supervisor of Contracting Operations for Team MCWAA. DCMA Milwaukee is responsible for contract administration of approximately 1,500 active Department of Defense (DoD) contracts and grants in Wisconsin, Northern Indiana, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Mr. Rathsack previously served as an Administrative Contracting/Grants Officer with DCMA Milwaukee and a Contract Price/Cost Analyst with DCMA Chicago providing direct support to DoD contracting officers in review and recommendations associated with proposal analyses, review of contractor business systems, cost accounting standards, and incurred cost disputes. Mr. Rathsack’s Team is responsible for a range of administrative duties as laid out in FAR 42.302 including but not limited to negotiation and settling provisional billing rates, forward pricing rates, final costs on flexibly priced contracts, and administration of DoD Grants where cognizance is delegated.

Prior to serving DCMA, Mr. Rathsack performed cradle to grave contract specialist duties for the US Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), and the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA). Mr. Rathsack is an active member of NCMA and has served on the NCMA WI Chapter Board for 7 years, most recently elected Vice President. Mr. Rathsack has a DAWIA Level III Certification in Contracting, a B.S. in Economics/Business, and a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from UW Milwaukee where he previously served as President of the MPA Alumni Chapter.

Daryl Zahn - Manager, Contracts and Compliance - DRS-Power & Control Technologies:

Daryl Zahn, CFCM, is Manager, Contracts and Compliance for DRS-Power & Control Technologies, which is located in Milwaukee, WI. In 1998, Daryl joined Eaton Navy Controls Division as Naval Projects Coordinator. Eaton Navy Controls was purchased by the DRS Corporation in 2002 and changed the name to DRS Power & Control Technologies (DRS-PCT). At that time, Daryl was promoted to Senior Contract Administrator where he administered both prime and subcontracts for US Navy programs. Daryl was promoted to his current position within DRS-PCT to Manager, Contracts and Compliance in May 2011. Daryl is an active member of the Wisconsin chapter of NCMA, having held board positions as Secretary and Vice President. Daryl was elected NCMA-WI chapter President as of July 2015.
Wisconsin Procurement Institute (WPI)

The Wisconsin Procurement Institute (WPI), a non-profit organization established in 1987, is an outgrowth of then Congressman Les Aspin’s efforts to help Wisconsin businesses win federal contracts, especially defense contracts. WPI’s mission is to assist Wisconsin businesses in creating, developing and growing their Federal, State and Local Government sales, revenues, profits and jobs. For additional information, please click here.