

NCMA – 5th Annual Dept. of Defense Contract Management Update

NCMA Wisconsin

May 15, 2018 – Oshkosh WI

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.

Jason Rathsack, Supervisor of Contracting Operations – DCMA Milwaukee

Defense Contract Management Agency, Milwaukee

Mr. Jason Rathsack serves as the Business Operations Group Lead for DCMA Milwaukee leading a team of contracting personnel in Milwaukee and Oshkosh WI as well as South Bend Indiana. Mr. Rathsack previously served as Supervisor of Contracting Operations for the Milwaukee Office. Prior to that, Mr. Rathsack 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, contract financing, 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, contract financing, 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.

Bryan Erickson, Contract Administrator – DCMA Milwaukee

Defense Contract Management Agency, Milwaukee

Erica Powers, Contract Administrator – DCMA Milwaukee

Defense Contract Management Agency, Milwaukee

Jessica Price, Senior Auditor

Defense Contract Audit Agency, Chicago Branch Office, Milwaukee Sub-office

Ms. Jessica Price is a Senior Auditor with the Defense Contract Audit Agency. She works in the Milwaukee Sub-office of the Chicago Branch Office. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and a Masters of Professional Accountancy with an Emphasis in International Business from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater. Jessica has a Financial Management Certification Level 2 and a DAWIA Acquisition – Audit Level 2 certification. She has worked for DCAA for over 8 years, most recently working on the Agency’s Incurred Cost Initiative to assist in reducing the incurred cost backlog. She has performed many types of audits of varying complexity at contractors throughout Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan as well as performing audits in a temporary duty status at contractors in Texas.

Linda Spencer, Supervisory Auditor

Defense Contract Audit Agency, Chicago Branch Office, Milwaukee Sub-office

Linda Spencer is a Supervisory Auditor with the Defense Contract Audit Agency. She received her undergraduate degree from Indiana University, a Bachelor of Business in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration from Western Illinois University. Linda is a Certified Public Accountant. She has worked for DCAA for 20 plus years. She has supervised auditors with varying experience levels performing an array of audits including incurred cost, bid proposals and systems audits.

Daryl Zahn, Manager, Contracts and Compliance

DRS Power & Control Technologies, Milwaukee

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1988 with a Bachelor’s of Business Administration degree, Daryl began his working career in the contract profession with Astronautics Corporation of America, a Milwaukee based avionics and electronics business working as Contract Administrator for Prime Contracts, Subcontract Administrator to Prime Customers, as well as Contract Administrator for commercial customers. 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 received a Master’s Certificate in Government Contracting from the George Washington University School of Business in May 2007. He earned the Certified Federal Contract Manager (CFCM) certification from the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) in April 2012. Daryl is an active member of the Wisconsin chapter of NCMA, having held executive board positions as Secretary, Vice President and President. Daryl remains on the NCMA-WI Chapter Board of Directors as Past President.