

13th Annual End of Year NCMA-WPI Federal Contractor Update - VIRTUAL

*Hosted by – National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Great Lakes
Chapter and National Contract Management Association (NCMA) WI
Chapter and Wisconsin Procurement Institute (WPI)*

January 28, 2021

About the Speakers



Lieutenant Colonel Susan M. Depisstyer (Styer) Commander, DCMA Milwaukee

Lieutenant Colonel Sue Styer is a native of Random Lake, Wisconsin. She entered the Army Reserves in September 1988 as a Hospital Food Service Specialist and was assigned to the 452nd General Support Hospital, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In January 2001, she graduated from the Army's Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Georgia and was commissioned into the Quartermaster Corps. Sue is a graduate of the Army's Quartermaster Officer Basic Course, the Logistics Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff College, Acquisition Officer's Basic and Advanced Courses, and Airborne School. She is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level III certified in Contracting, Level III in Program Management, Level I IT and is a certified member of the United States Army's Acquisition Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel Styer's assignments include Platoon Leader (FWD) and Executive Officer, 542nd Maintenance Support Company, Fort Lewis, Washington; Assistant S4, 1st Special Forces Group (A), and Assistant Support Operations Officer, 1st SFC (A) Group Support Battalion, Fort Lewis, Washington; Executive Officer and Plans Officer, Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan; Contingency Contracting Officer and Team Leader, 603rd Contingency Contracting Team, and Deputy Policy Chief, 413th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; Chief of Operations (FWD) and Contracting Support Operations (FWD), 408th Contracting Support Brigade, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, she served as an Assistant Product Manager, Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army Increment II, Fort Belvoir, Virginia and is currently the Commander of the Defense Contracting Management Agency, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Lieutenant Colonel Styer holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in both Criminal Justice and Sociology from Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin, and a Master of Science Degree Health and Human Performance with concentrations in both Exercise Science and Public and Community Health from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee. Sue's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, the Armed Forces Reserve-Army Ribbon with Mobilization Device and Bronze Hourglass, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral four, the Parachutist and the Combat Action Badges, and Canadian Jump Wings. Lieutenant Colonel Styer is married to Major (R) Jeffrey Styer of Ephrata, Pennsylvania.



Daryl Zahn, CFCM

Senior Manager, Contracts and Compliance, DRS Naval Power Systems, Inc.

Daryl Zahn, CFCM, is Manager, Contracts and Compliance for DRS Naval Power Systems, Inc., 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.

Jason Rathsack

Group Lead, Business Operations MCWA, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Milwaukee

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.



Eric Ness

WI District Director, U.S. 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.



William Hughes

Partner, Husch Blackwell

Bill Hughes is a shareholder in the Milwaukee office of Husch Blackwell LLP. He is a member of the firm's Construction Services Team and has expertise in all aspects of construction and public contract law. Bill represents construction managers and prime and subcontractors, on construction issues, including the drafting and negotiating of construction contracts. He has extensive experience in the award, protest, and litigation of competitively bid and publicly awarded contracts, and he counsels federal contractors on all aspects of government contracts including the Federal Acquisition Regulations, audits, bids, changes, costs, claims, intellectual property rights, terminations and negotiations. He also has extensive arbitration and litigation experience representing clients in recovering damages or defending against claims on both private and public contracts. As a former U.S. Government attorney, Bill is one of the few Wisconsin attorneys with the experience necessary to represent clients in matters involving federal contract law.



Brian P. Waagner

Partner, Husch Blackwell

With more than 20 years of experience as a trial lawyer and commercial litigator, Brian represents contractors in bid protests and in litigation involving complex claims and disputes.

He also advises clients on contract compliance and administration issues, corporate due diligence matters and allegations of False Claims Act violations. Brian represents clients in the construction, healthcare, technology and energy industries.



Nathaniel Millsap

Director, Security & Cyber, Fincantieri Marinette Marine

Nathaniel T. Millsap Jr. (“Nate”) is the Director, Security & Cyber for Fincantieri Marinette Marine and holds responsibility for the Information Technology, Export Compliance, and Security Departments. Nate focuses on cybersecurity, classified information management, U.S. export controls and advocating the use of technology to support strategic decision-making. He also actively supports a member of the President’s National Infrastructure Advisory Council as their substantive point of contact. Nate’s Security team was a proud recipient of the 2017 Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency’s James S. Cogswell Award. Prior to joining Fincantieri in 2011, he served as the Program Manager for Government Contracts and Security at Cree, Inc. and was previously an active duty U.S. Navy Intelligence Officer. Nate earned an M.S. in Management from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and a B.S. in History from the U.S. Naval Academy.



Richard Deschauer

Senior Director of Contracts and Compliance, DRS Naval Power Systems, Inc.

Richard Deschauer is the Senior Director of Contracts and Compliance for DRS Naval Power Systems, Inc., managing pre- and post-award contract activities for three facilities.

Rich received his undergraduate degree in Economics from New Jersey’s Montclair State University. He was commissioned in the U.S. Navy through Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island and received a Master of Science degree in Acquisition and Contract Management from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey California.

Prior to his years working with DRS Naval Power Systems, Inc., and the legacy company, Eaton Navy Controls Division, Rich began his career in service to our country as a member of the US Navy. Aside from numerous sea tours, Rich served as the Deputy Director for Special Acquisitions with the Defense Fuel Supply Center, Defense Logistics Agency, in Alexandria, Virginia. He was the Contracting Officer for DoD’s worldwide strategic fuel storage where he negotiated Government-to-Government agreements for fuel storage in the Middle East and Africa. He also served as the Director of Contracts at the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Oakland, California, providing contract support for all Navy activities and ships on the West Coast and in Pacific fleet. Rich was the Deputy Director for Contract Management at the Naval Supply Systems Command, responsible for contract policy and resource management of the Navy’s Field Contracting System. There Rich established and managed both the Navy’s Contingency Contracting program and the Navy’s purchase card program. Rich was also instrumental in developing and deploying the Navy’s electronic commerce portal, NECO. For Rich’s final tour in the Navy, he was the Director of Business Operations for the Defense Contract Management Agency’s in-plant office at Boeing Aircraft and Missile Systems in St. Louis. He was the senior on-site Government contracting official for the facility.

Rich is a member of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA). He has held various leadership positions, including president of the St. Louis Gateway chapter, and is designated a Certified Professional Contracts Manager (CPCM) and an NCMA Fellow. Rich has held Level III Certification in Contract Management under the standards of the Defense Acquisition Work Force Improvement Act (DAWIA); is a former designated member of the Department of Defense Acquisition Professional Community and is a standing member of the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC) Alumni Association.



Sean Ketter

Vice President, Supply Chain Operations, Global Procurement and Supply Chain, Oshkosh Corporation

Sean Ketter is responsible for overall supplier performance, business process management, technology and supply chain risk management strategies for Oshkosh Corporation globally. Sean's focus is creating and deploying common processes to understand and improve how Oshkosh Corporation and its global supply base work together.

In addition, Sean oversees the Supply Chain function for Oshkosh Corporation's manufacturing operations located in Leon, Mexico.

Since joining Oshkosh Corporation in 2006, Sean has lead successful initiatives such as creating Oshkosh Corporation's first Supplier Development function, launching the Oshkosh Supplier Network (OSN), leading the M-ATV supplier launch in 2009, helped lead the introduction of advanced quality planning globally, the start up of the JLG's facility in Tianjin, China, supporting major market recoveries in access coming out of the great recession, and the development of the GPSC Supplier Academy. He is currently sponsoring two major efforts to modernize Oshkosh Corporation's supply chain technology infrastructure and a global supply chain risk management process.

Before joining the company, Sean served in various roles with John Deere. Positions included Strategic Sourcing, Product Development, Quality and Supplier Development. Sean hold's a bachelors degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering and a masters degree in Manufacturing Systems Engineering both from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.



Nick Cucci

Director of Business Development, PDT, an Astronics Company

Nick Cucci is Director of Business Development at PDT, an Astronics Company. PDT is an award-winning product development firm behind the design and manufacturing of next-generation C5ISR equipment. Nick works with forward-thinking clients, from disruptive startups to Primes and DoD, helping translate innovation opportunities for new products across industries. In addition, Nick's cross-functional defense team works on advanced R&D projects and emerging technologies for the future Warfighter. Nick actively supports the National MS Society, USA Hockey, and Chicago's startup ecosystem. Nick holds a Bachelor's Degree and MBA from Robert Morris University with highest honors.



Megan McKinney

Business Development, Army Programs, Beacon Interactive Systems

For over 20 years, Megan McKinney has honed her expertise within the commercial, aerospace and defense industries, and built customer relationships with federal government and federal prime clients.

Since July 2020, Ms. McKinney has been part of the business development team at Beacon Interactive Systems. At Beacon, Ms. McKinney helps deliver game-changing digital capabilities and mission critical systems to the Department of Defense, supporting the warfighter and driving Mission Readiness across the sustainment lifecycle. Prior to Beacon, Ms. McKinney has held leadership positions in business development, marketing and sales including SupplyCore, Banneker Industries, Monogram Systems and others. Ms. McKinney is an active member of defense industry associations and is currently serving as Vice-Chair Chapters on the National Defense Industrial Association's (NDIA) Member Leadership Council (NMLC), and NDIA Great Lakes Chapter Board Member (Co-founder 2009, President 2015-2020). Ms. McKinney is also a member of the Association of the United States Army's (AUSA) Redstone-Huntsville Chapter.



Aina Vilumsons

CEO, Wisconsin Procurement Institute

WPI Assists businesses in creating, developing and growing their sales, revenue and jobs through Federal, State and Local Government contracts. WPI offers: Individual Counseling at our offices, at client's facilities or via telephone/GoToMeeting; Small Group Training through workshops and webinars; Conferences to include one-on-one or roundtable sessions. Last year WPI provided training at over 100 events and provided service to over 1,200 companies.