

The 10th Annual DOD Contract Management Update

May 16th, 2024 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

About the Speakers



MAJ Tom Cayia – Site Director, Defense Contractor Management Association (NCMA) in Oshkosh, WI

Major Tom Cayia currently serves as the Site Director for the Defense Contract Management Administration Office in Oshkosh, Wisconsin where he leads a team of trusted acquisition professionals committed to delivering value to our Warfighters throughout the acquisition lifecycle. MAJ Cayia is selected to assume command of the DCMA Milwaukee Contract Management Office in June 2024.

MAJ Cayia commissioned as an Army Infantry Officer in May 2007. Upon completion of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, MAJ Cayia was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado where he served as a Rifle Platoon Leader and deployed to Kandahar Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from May 2009 to June 2010. MAJ Cayia's other operational deployments include Kuwait in 2013 as Commander of Bravo Company, 67th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and more recently as a Warranted Contracting Officer in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq in 2016.

MAJ Cayia's first acquisition assignment was with the 923rd Contracting Battalion at the Detroit Arsenal. Prior to joining DCMA in 2020, MAJ Cayia served in the 902nd Contracting Battalion where he performed duties as a Warranted Contracting Officer and acting Battalion Commander.

MAJ Cayia earned his Bachelor's Degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana and attained a Master's in Business Administration from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. MAJ Cayia's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and Parachutist Badge.



Joseph Jackson – Branch Chief, Tactical Multi-Site Support and Systems Pricing Group, Army Contracting Command, Detroit MI

Mr. Joseph Jackson is Branch Chief for the Tactical/Multi-Site Support and Systems Pricing Group in the Army Contracting Command – Detroit (ACC-DTA) at the Detroit Arsenal. In this capacity, he is responsible for Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled (HMMWV), Family of Heavy Tactical Vehicles (FHTV), Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV), Depots and Arsenals which include Construction Projects, Facility Upgrades, Technology Upgrades and Manufacturing Equipment/ Tooling as well as a Technical Pricing team for all of ACC-DTA

Mr. Joseph Jackson deployed to the Army Corp of Engineers, Kansas City, MO as a member of the COVID-19 Crisis Management team as the Deputy Chief of Contracting Office and Branch chief of Business Operations. He provided senior level employees recommendations regarding policies and program guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. He was responsible for supporting all the contract efforts to support the Corp of Engineers in the Northwest

Missouri region. Additionally he is responsible for the operations of the contracting and accomplishment of the strategic goals.

ACC-DTA ensures warfighting readiness for the Soldier by providing contracting and acquisition support for ground combat, tactical vehicles, small arms, chemical/biological systems, and associated services. It is comprised of more than 600 civilian and military personnel located at six geographic sites. Mr. Jackson became the Chief in the MRAP/Force Projection/Armaments/DTA Pricing Group in September 2011. Prior to this assignment he served as the Chief of Pricing for the Deployment Support Division and before that he served in a number of Program Management leadership roles, including Alpha Contracting Leader for Future Combat Systems with the Army and Cruise missile engines and engineering services while employed with Williams International. Pricing Leader for the Future Combat System.

Mr. Jackson started his career at TACOM in October 1982 as a Supply Clerk Co-op Student in the Logistics Division. He worked in various pricing positions including work on the AGT 1500 engine and X1100 transmission for the M1 Abrams Tank until June 1990 with the Army when he received cost estimating job at Cadillac Gage Textron. Mr Jackson also worked as a senior Cost/Price analyst for Parker Aerospace.

Mr. Jackson is a high performing employee with 30 years of experience with the Army and 12 years in private defense industry experience. He has 42 years of experience in the pricing field and 5 years in program management.

He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Oakland University (1989) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Oakland University (1984). He is Level 3 in Contracting and is also a member of the Acquisition Corps. He received the AMC Small Business Program Award in 2001.



Brad Lee – Quality Assurance Specialist, Department of the Army, Join Program Office in Detroit MI

Brad is a native of Smyrna, Tennessee. He entered government service with his enlistment into the Navy in November 1988 in the Naval Cadet Flight Program and attended Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida. After completing primary flight training in the T-34C at Corpus Christi, Texas, he graduated to rotary-wing flight training in Milton, Florida. Upon graduation, he received a commission as an Ensign and was assigned to HSL-43 in San Diego, California to fly the H60B Seahawk. Follow-on assignments included: Enrollment at San Diego State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics, VT-6 in Milton, Florida as a Primary Flight Instructor in the T-34C, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Command in San Antonio, Texas, as an Operational Test Pilot in the T-6A Joint Primary Aircraft Trainer, Naval Surface Warfare Officer School in Newport, Rhode Island as an Instructor, HSL-46 in Jacksonville, Florida as a Department Head and Detachment Officer in Charge, and as the Chief Functional Test Pilot for production and retrofit of the T-6A aircraft at the Beechcraft facility in Wichita, KS – where he retired after 20 years of Naval service in December 2008 as a Lieutenant Commander.

Deciding to continue his service, Brad accepted a Program Management position with Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in July 2009, where he managed the surveillance of several major acquisition programs being produced by Oshkosh Defense, LLC. Those programs

included numerous tactical-wheeled vehicles such as: the Family of Heavy Tactical Vehicles (FHTV), the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV), the MRAP-All Terrain Vehicle (MATV), the Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR), the Logistics Vehicle Support Replacement (LVSR), and the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV). Brad continued in this role for 14 years until accepting his current position with the Department of the Army supporting the Joint Program Office in Detroit, Michigan as a Quality Assurance Specialist.

He is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level III certified in Program Management and Level II in Production Quality Management.

Brad's military awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Bronze Star, the Aerial Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, The Air Force Organizational Ribbon with Bronze Star, the Navy E ribbon with Silver E, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Bronze Star, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, the Navy Sea Service Ribbon with three Bronze Stars, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, and the Navy Pistol Marksman Ribbon with Silver E.



TSGT James Pitcher – Lead Contract Management Federal Programs, Scale AI

The Scale Generative AI Platform leverages enterprise data to customize powerful base generative models to safely unlock the value of AI. The Scale Data Engine consists of tools and features to collect, curate, and annotate high-quality data, in addition to robust tools to evaluate and optimize models. Scale powers the most advanced LLMs and generative models in the world through world-class RLHF, data generation, model evaluation, safety, and alignment

Scale is trusted by leading technology companies like Microsoft and meta, enterprises like Fox and Accenture, Generative AI companies like Open AI and Cohere, U.S. Government Agencies like the U.S. Army and the U.S. Airforce, and Startups like Brex and OpenSea.



Buckley Brinkman – Executive Director/CEO, Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing & Productivity

Buckley Brinkman Executive Director/CEO Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing & Productivity Leading the organization since June 2011, Brinkman brought more than 25 years of transformational manufacturing leadership to WCMP, with a breadth of experience in helping companies drive growth, world-class competitiveness and performance excellence. Experienced in Lean, Six Sigma, supply chain management and turnaround planning, he led efforts to save dozens of operations in the U.S. by finding new ways for them to compete.

Throughout his career, Brinkman provided executive leadership to companies ranging from \$5 million to more than \$4 billion in sales. He revived the North American operations of the world's largest playing card company, led the turnaround of a prominent trade bindery, and catalyzed the profitable turnaround of a recycled paperboard mill. Brinkman is an industry thought leader who has authored several white papers on innovation, corporate culture, business strategy and other topics.

Brinkman served as president and chief operating officer of U.S. Music Corp., an Illinois-based musical instrument manufacturer; as chief operating officer of Minneapolis-based Manchester Companies, where he received the Turnaround of the Year award for his work with a medical device manufacturer; and as president of Vallon, LLC, a Minneapolis-based interim executive placement firm. Most recently, he served as executive director and CEO of the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP).

A Wisconsin native, Brinkman holds a Business degree from the University of Wisconsin and an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

The Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing and Productivity (WCMP) engages with partnerships and initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels. We continually provide the best available support and resources to help manufacturers reach their goals. Collaborating with the UW-Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center (MOC) and the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP), the WCMP helps small and medium-sized manufacturers across the state grow and thrive in an increasingly challenging business environment. The WCMP continues to adapt to changing conditions by identifying and evaluating our optimal mix of partners and the roles they play: strategic, operational and/or financial. Successful partnerships align with the WCMP in resource expectations, desired outcomes and key success metrics.



Sean Ketter – Vice President, Global Procurement & Supply Chain, Oshkosh Corporation

Sean Ketter is responsible for overall supplier performance, supply chain compliance, risk management and technology for Oshkosh Corporation. Sean leads the creation and deployment of common processes to understand and improve how Oshkosh Corporation and its global supply base work together. Sean is also leading a global effort to develop a more intelligent supply chain focusing on people, processes, and technology.

Since joining Oshkosh Corporation in 2006, Sean has led successful initiatives such as launching the Oshkosh Supplier Network (OSN), the historic M-ATV supplier launch in 2009, the introduction and adoption of advanced quality planning, the startup of the JLG Tianjin facility, the development of the GPSC Supplier Academy and oversaw the supply chain operation for Oshkosh Corporation's newest facility in Leon, Mexico. He is currently leading the largest process and technology modernization initiative in the company's history.

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

Sean serves as a member of WEDC's Transformational Productivity Initiative (TPI) steering committee, is an executive board member of the University of Wisconsin School of Business' Erdman Center for Operations and Technology Management and serves on the board of directors for the Wisconsin Procurement Institute.



Jennifer Stewart – Executive Vice President for Strategy and Policy, National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) (virtual presentation)

Stewart has eighteen years of public service, including over twelve years of work in senior national security positions. She served as the chief of staff to the secretary of defense and was responsible for leading the secretary of defense’s executive staff and providing counsel and advice to the secretary on all matters concerning the Department.

Previously Stewart served as both the majority and minority staff director at the House Armed Services Committee. In this capacity, she was the principal staff advisor responsible for the formulation, passage, and enactment of annual defense authorization legislation, which covers all programs and activities at the Department of Defense as well as the national security programs at the Department of Energy. She was also responsible for the strategic planning and execution of all committee oversight and legislative operations.

Prior to her tenure as staff director, she served as senior advisor to General (ret.) Joseph F. Dunford, J.R. during his first term as chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this role, she was responsible for facilitating his relationships across the interagency and with Congress. Ms. Stewart started her career working in the U.S. House of Representatives to include serving as the policy advisor on all national security matters for Speaker Boehner.

Jason Rathsack – Senior Contract Specialist, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA)

Mr. Jason Rathsack is a Senior Contract Specialist with DCMA, Central Region. DCMA Central Region oversees 9 Contract Management Offices responsible for providing acquisition insight to DoD in support of over \$500B in contracts across a region that includes 23 States. Mr. Rathsack has served in a number of leadership roles with DCMA Milwaukee to include Business Operations Group lead for DCMA Milwaukee leading a team of contracting personnel in (3) offices covering parts of (3) states. More recently, Mr. Rathsack had led the contracts team for the resident office at DCMA Oshkosh and 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 Central Region Team serve as the functional experts 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, contractor business systems, and administration of DoD OTs/Grants. Mr. Rathsack serves on DCMA’s Product Acceptance and Proper Payment (PAPP) Business Capability Board responsible for creating policy, training, and tracking Agency performance for contract financing, contractor payments, product acceptance, and transportation.

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 10+ years to include prior President and 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.



Wisconsin Procurement Institute – An APEX ACCELERATOR

APEX Accelerators mission is to serve as the axis for existing and new business to strengthen the defense and government industrial base by accelerating innovation, fostering ingenuity, and establishing resilient and diverse supply chains. WPI is celebrating 35 years of service – each year WPI services to all 72 Wisconsin counties, provides technical support to over 1200 businesses and hosts / supports over 100 education / training / conference opportunities.



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