REENGINEERING OF AWARDS NOMINATION PROCESS CONTINUES

The Department of the Navy (DoN)'s Acquisition Reform Office is working with the Acquisition Reform Team Working Group (ARTWG) to apply their lessons learned from last year's awards submission process to this year's submission of nominations. Awards include the 1998 David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award, Defense Acquisition Executive (DAE) Certificates of Achievement, Defense Certificate of Recognition for Acquisition Innovation, and ASN (RD&A) Certificate of Excellence Award nominations.

Last year marked the first time that the DoN used a database-backed web site to accept nominations for the ASN (RD&A) Certificate of Excellence Awards. This approach eliminated rekeying of submission information, but more importantly, it provided the ARTWG members an in-process view of the submissions received on demand.

The annual David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award was established by the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition & Technology) in 1996 to recognize organizations, groups, and teams that have demonstrated exemplary innovation and best acquisition practices. DoN nominations are due to the ARO no later than January 6, 1999 in order to be considered for the DoN down select to five teams. The primary judging criteria for selecting recipients are based on reducing life cycle cost, making the acquisition system more efficient, responsive, and timely, integrating defense with the commercial base and practices, promoting continuous improvement of the acquisition process, and accomplishing specific goals associated with acquisition reform initiatives.

Two DoN teams—the Marine Corps' Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle Program and the New Attack Submarine Program Office (PMS 450)—were recipients of the 1997 David Packard Award. Details about their achievements can be viewed on the AR web site [http://www.acq-ref.navy.mil/thrust_com.html]. DoN teams are encouraged to consider the detailed award criteria available on the web site and contact their respective ARTWG representatives regarding the specific nomination process.

ASN(RD&A) TEAM RELEASES 1998–2003 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Naval Research, Development, and Acquisition Team released their 1998–2003 Strategic Plan describing it as "an evolutionary departure from our strategic plan published in 1996." This newly released strategic plan focuses on the DoN's commitment to achieving long-range modernization and recapitalization goals of our Naval forces. The continuing vision is to be "the world's best acquisition and life-cycle support organization."

The strategic plan focuses on providing better equipment and services, cheaper, smarter, and faster. It reduces the number of goals to four: 1) improving warfighter satisfaction, 2) shaping and training an efficient and effective acquisition workforce, 3) reducing cost and cycle time for delivering equipment and services, and 4) lowering the total ownership cost of equipment and services.

Meeting the challenges of modernization and recapitalization hinges on the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA), with its promise of dramatic increases in military capability by leveraging new technology with new operational concepts and organizations. The RMA must be coordinated with the goals of the National Performance Review, Government Performance and Results Act, and Revolution in Business Affairs (RBA). To make this coordination successful requires carrying the acquisition reform revolution beyond procurement into logistics, finance, and other key business areas.

The ASN(RD&A) Team plans on developing relevant strategic goals and a supporting performance management plan using an iterative process. The Team recognizes that achieving their vision requires partnership with the Chief of Naval Operations, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Assistant Secretary for Financial Management and Comptroller, operational commanders, Navy Comptroller and Navy/Marine Corps planning, programming, and requirements communities, and industry. The goals, strategies, and measures of success are detailed in the full text version of the plan available on the AR web site [http://www.acq-ref.navy.mil/thrust_ap.html].