

Army civilians get Presidential Rank Award

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON – In a ceremony at the Pentagon Jan. 20, the secretary of the Army presented Presidential Rank Awards to 22 senior civilian employees, a number of who provided key services following Sept. 11.

Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey presented the awardees pins and a framed certificate signed by President Bush.

“An important component of Business Transformation is establishing a performance culture in which a concise set of measurable performance objectives are established by all senior civilians who, in turn, are rewarded when their objectives are achieved,” Harvey said. “The Presidential Rank awards are an important element of that reward system.”

The award winners are chosen by the president after being nominated and evaluated for their leadership in producing results or professional, technical or scientific achievement. It is considered the most prestigious recognition afforded to career professionals.

Five of the recipients were awarded the distinguished Presidential Rank Award:

- Kathryn A. Condon, assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, was personally involved in orchestrating emergency operations at the Pentagon following Sept. 11, 2001 and for security at the 2002 Winter Olympics. She also supported Army operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

- Terrance M. Ford, assistant deputy chief of staff for intelligence, was cited as a visionary and forceful advocate for significant intelligence initiatives. Ford directed development of a training course on tactical questions for use by Soldiers who are not involved in military intelligence.

- Dr. James R Houston, director, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, Miss., transformed seven independent laboratories into a single award-winning center providing critical support to the Global War on Terrorism. Houston led the development of innovative technologies to support Army war-fighters, installations, environmental quality, and water resource development.

- Janet C. Menig, deputy assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, oversees an annual operating budget of more than \$15 billion in support of all 181 Army installations worldwide. She completed 204 competitive source contract awards, and saved 656 million dollars annually. Menig also worked with conservation agencies to enhance Army operations while preserving natural habitats.

- M. Lynn Schnurr, technical advisor, Information Management Directorate, was cited as a driving force in identifying and solving technology issues that directly impact intelligence capabilities and support to force protection in the Central Command Theater. Schnurr helped develop a strategy to field a hand-held reporting device with substantial number of embedded technologies.

Seventeen employees were awarded the meritorious, Executive or

Senior Professional Rank Award:

- Dr. Richard W. Amos
- Dr. James C. Bradas
- Diane M. Devens
- Dr. Bhupendra P. Doctor
- Victor J. Ferlise
- Ernie H. Gurany
- Walter W. Hollis
- Vicky L. Jefferis
- Ronald G. Magee
- Daniel G. Mehney
- Dr. Herbert L. Meiselman
- Jerry V. Proctor
- Philip E. Sakowitz, Jr.
- Dr. James J. Streilein
- Kathryn T.H. Szymanski
- Edward C. Thomas
- Dr. Billy J. Walker

Only 1 percent of career employees receive the distinguished gold pin award, and only 5 percent receive the silver meritorious award. The award comes with a lump-sum payment of 35 or 20 percent of the employee's base pay, respectively.

“The challenges that they have helped the Army meet are different from those we faced before 9-11, as



JOHN REESE

Recipients of the Presidential Rank Award gather after receiving their certificates signed by President Bush. A very small percentage of career government employees are chosen annually to receive the distinguished or meritorious award.

we moved from a time of contingency operations into a dangerous and difficult period of continuous operations”

said Harvey.

A reception honoring the recipients followed the ceremony.

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