

2005 Army Deployment Excellence Awards



By Mr. Charles K. Ledebuhr

The Army's Deployment Excellence Award (DEA) program witnessed a year of firsts in 2005. The program, established by the Army Chief of Staff in 2001 to recognize Active, Reserve, and National Guard Army units and installations for deployment excellence, has grown in participation every year since then. The Army's operational tempo, coupled with growing unit awareness of the DEA program, made it a banner year with the largest level of participation ever—fifty-eight units and installations—competing in the following categories:

- Large unit (battalion and above)
- Small unit (company and below)
- Supporting unit
- Installation (all Army)
- Operational deployment

For the first time, the Army Supply, Maintenance, and Deployment Award programs were combined into one ceremony—the Combined Logistics Excellence Award ceremony. Held on 19 May 2005 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., the ceremony was part of the Association of the United States Army Logistics Symposium and Exhibition. The Army Vice Chief of Staff, General Richard A. Cody, presented the DEAs to the honored units. He was assisted by the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, G4, Lieutenant General Claude V. Christianson, and the Army Chief of Transportation, Major General Brian I. Geehan. The awards banquet was highlighted with a speech by the Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston.

Also for the first time, the program recognized a division as the winner of the Active Army large-unit category. This year, the 10th Mountain Division—from Fort Drum, New York—competed and won as the Army's best large deploying unit, based on a nomination package prepared by the Division Transportation Officer. This groundbreaking action by the 10th opens the way for other divisions to compete as large deploying units. Another first was that a single state—Oregon—swept the National Guard large and small deploying categories. Oregon entered and placed two units in each category. The Joint Forces Headquarters—Oregon deserves a

hearty congratulation for this exceptional achievement and presents a challenge for other states to showcase the deployment success of their units.

The combination of an installation winner and a supporting unit winner with a common mission was another first for the DEA program. This honor was shared by Fort Hood, Texas, and the 4003d Garrison Support Unit. Fort Hood won in the all Army installation category, while the 4003d won the Reserve supporting unit category for its support of deployment operations at Fort Hood, Texas.

In the operational deployment category—which is open to all Army units that deploy on missions such as the Global War on Terrorism, peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, and other operational deployments—units can contend for either the large- or small-unit category. This year the first unit from overseas won in the operational deployment category. In fact, the 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, is the first unit from Korea to win any DEA. And although 2005 was a year of many firsts, representatives from combat, combat support, and combat service support units were in the winner's circle again. Command emphasis on deployment training, both collective and individual, was common to the winning units. Additionally, winning units treated deployment and deployment support as an operation, rather than as a logistics function.

Key dates for the 2006 DEA competition are as follows:

- Competition period: 1 December 2005–30 November 2006
- DEA operational on-site visits: 1 December 2005–1 February 2006
- Nomination packet due to unit's major command (MACOM): 1 January 2006
- MACOM nominations due to DEA board: 31 January 2006
- DEA board convenes: 6–17 February 2006
- Department of the Army (DA) releases message announcing semifinalists: 26 February 2006
- DEA validation teams visit: 1–25 March 2006
- DA releases message announcing winners: 1 April 2006

2005 Deployment Excellence Award Recipients		
Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Active Large Unit	10th Mountain Division Fort Drum, New York	84th Engineer Battalion Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
Active Small Unit	96th Transportation Company Fort Hood, Texas	Headquarters and Headquarters Company 89th Military Police Brigade Fort Hood, Texas
Active Support Unit	842d Transportation Battalion Beaumont, Texas	39th Transportation Battalion Kaiserslautern, Germany
National Guard Large Unit	2d Battalion 162d Infantry Regiment Eugene, Oregon	3d Battalion 116th Armored Cavalry Regiment LaGrande, Oregon
National Guard Small Unit	G Troop 82d Cavalry Regiment Redmond, Oregon	1186th Military Police Company Salem, Oregon
National Guard Support Unit	Camp Atterbury Edinburgh, Indiana	Joint Forces Headquarters—Illinois Springfield, Illinois
Army Reserve Large Unit	1179th Transportation Brigade Fort Hamilton, New York	1190th Deployment Support Brigade Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Army Reserve Small Unit	319th Transportation Detachment Dover, Delaware	281st Transportation Company Las Cruces, New Mexico
Army Reserve Support Unit	4003d Garrison Support Unit Fort Hood, Texas	139th Deployment Support Brigade Oceanside, California
All Army Installation	Fort Hood, Texas	Fort Drum, New York
Operational Deployment Large Unit	1st Battalion 38th Field Artillery Regiment 2d Infantry Division Camp Stanley, Uijeongbu, Korea	NA
Operational Deployment Small Unit	F Company 3d Battalion 69th Armored Regiment 3d Infantry Division Fort Stewart, Georgia	NA

DEA program guidance and evaluation criteria are available on the DEA Web site at <http://www.deploy.eustis.army.mil/DEA/default.htm>. For additional information, call your MACOM DEA point of contact or the DEA Program Manager, Mr. Henry H. Johnson, at DSN 927-1833 or commercial (757) 878-1833.



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