

Army's Top Deployers Receive Excellence Awards



By Mr. Henry H. Johnson

"Today's enemy lives on battlefields in the darkest corners of our world, and that requires an ability to rapidly deploy to remote underdeveloped and harsh locations with very little notice. ... Over the past two years, nine out of ten of our active divisions have rotated to Iraq or to Afghanistan, and over 50 percent of our Reserve Component soldiers have been activated in support of current operations. ... Deployment excellence is measured in a variety of ways, including accurate deployment data and training, equipment preparation, organization, and innovation and excellence in support to deploying units. A unit's ability to deploy is a critical measure of readiness and is central to the ability of our Army to accomplish its mission."

These words were spoken by Lieutenant General Claude V. Christianson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, G4, keynote speaker at the Army's 2004 Deployment Excellence Award (DEA) ceremony on 22 June 2004 in Washington, D.C.

The Army Chief of Staff established the Deployment Excellence Award program in 2000 to recognize active, Reserve, and National Guard units and installations for outstanding deployment accomplishments. The program is open to any unit or installation that has deployed or supported a training or contingency deployment during the competition year (1 December – 30 November). Units and installations can participate in the following categories:

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

Eligible units and installations participating in one of the first four categories submit self-nomination packets to their major command (MACOM). The MACOM then forwards its top unit packet selections to an Army-level evaluation board, which determines semifinalists within each category. A team of deployment specialists then visits those selected units and/or installations, validates their deployment practices, and determines the best in each category. Each unit's scores (from the board and site validation visit) are then combined and sent to the Department of the Army (DA) G4 for approval and announcement of the winners.

The operational deployment category (introduced in 2003) involves units (active, Reserve, and National Guard) that have to deploy in support of operational missions like the Global War on Terrorism, peacekeeping rotations, and humanitarian relief. Requirements are as follows:

- MACOMs nominate specific deploying units based on their history of deployment excellence, and a team from the Deployment Process Modernization Office observes and scores the deployment preparation and submission of deployment data included.
- Units can contend for either the large-unit or small-unit award.
- Submission of nomination packets is not required, and the unit is not required to do anything other than deploy.

Key dates for the 2005 DEA competition are as follows:

- Competition period: 1 December 2003 – 30 November 2004
- DEA operational on-site visits: 1 March 2004–9 February 2005
- MACOM nominations to DEA board: 31 January 2005
- DEA board convenes: 14–25 February 2005
- Semifinalist list forwarded to DA: 8 March 2005
- DA releases message announcing semifinalists: 11 March 2005
- DEA validation teams visit: 15 March – 15 April 2005
- Winners list forwarded to DA: 19 April 2005
- DA releases message announcing winners: 22 April 2005
- Awards presentation ceremony: 1 June 2005

For additional information, visit the Deployment Process Modernization Office Web site at <http://www.deploy.eustis.army.mil/DEA/default.htm> to download or to view the awards evaluation criteria, checklists, and sample nomination packets.



Mr. Johnson, a transportation system specialist at the Deployment Process Modernization Office, Fort Eustis, Virginia, is currently serving as the Deployment Excellence Award Program Manager.

2004 Deployment Excellence Award Recipients		
Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Active Large Unit	53d Movement Control Battalion (EAC) Fort McPherson, Georgia	11th Signal Brigade Fort Huachuca, Arizona
Active Small Unit	Headquarters and Headquarters Company 7th Transportation Group Fort Eustis, Virginia	469th Transportation Detachment 24th Transportation Battalion Fort Eustis, Virginia
Active Support Unit	842d Transportation Battalion Beaumont, Texas	831st Transportation Battalion Port of Salalah, Oman
National Guard Large Unit	2d Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment Lynchburg, Virginia	1st Battalion, 162d Infantry Regiment Forest Grove, Oregon
National Guard Small Unit	82d Rear Operations Center Lake Oswego, Oregon	Company B 52d Engineer Battalion Lake Oswego, Oregon
National Guard Support Unit	1067th Transportation Company Phoenixville, Pennsylvania	Florida State Area Command St. Augustine, Florida
Army Reserve Large Unit	1192d Transportation Terminal Brigade New Orleans, Louisiana	1394th Deployment Support Brigade Camp Pendleton, California
Army Reserve Small Unit	Headquarters and Headquarters Company US Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command Fort Bragg, North Carolina	1190th Deployment Support Team 1190th Deployment Support Brigade Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Army Reserve Support Unit	2125th Garrison Support Unit 82d Airborne Division Fort Bragg, North Carolina	307th Quartermaster Battalion Salt Lake City, Utah
All Army Installation	Fort Stewart, Georgia	Fort Bliss, Texas
Operational Deployment Large Unit	2d Battalion 227th Aviation Regiment 1st Cavalry Division Fort Hood, Texas	NA
Operational Deployment Small Unit	Charlie Company 121st Signal Battalion 1st Infantry Division Kitzingen, Germany	NA
Operational Deployment Small Unit	Bravo Company 65th Engineer Battalion 25th Infantry Division Schofield Barracks, Hawaii	NA