

2006 Army Deployment Excellence Awards



By Mr. Charles K. Ledebuhr

Competitive year 2006 proved to be another stellar performance of the Deployment Excellence Award (DEA) Program, with great units and installations setting the pace in deployment operations. The Army's operational tempo, coupled with increased awareness of the DEA program, resulted in the largest level of participation ever. The program saw significant gains, particularly in the operational, supporting, and installation categories.

This year's award ceremony was held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center on 18 May 2006. Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G4, Lieutenant General Ann E. Dunwoody presented the awards to all of the honored units. The Army Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G3, Major General Michael W. Symanski, and the Commanding General, United States Army Transportation Center, Brigadier General Mark Scheid, assisted in the presentation of awards.

General Benjamin S. Griffin, Commanding General, United States Army Materiel Command, provided remarks at the banquet and challenged units and installations to maintain their high deployment standards. Before the ceremony and banquet, unit representatives had the opportunity to tour the Pentagon, the Capitol, and the National Mall.

In the DEA program, Army units compete by component (Active Army, United States Army Reserve, and Army National Guard) in categories of large unit (battalion and above), small unit (company and below), and supporting unit. Installation and operational deployment categories are Armywide. The operational deployment category is open to all Army units that deploy on operational missions like the Global War on Terrorism and peacekeeping. Units can contend for either the large-unit or small-unit award. The Army's up-tempo and strong major command (MACOM) involvement brought a number of new units and installations into the competition.

The Installation Management Agency had the best showing ever with the largest number of installations competing. The winner for the second year running was Fort Hood, Texas. Its outstanding support to nine overlapping deployments, coupled with the challenges of dealing with Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, resulted in an extremely strong showing.

In a very close competition, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, a newcomer to the competition, was the runner-up in the installation category. The Fort Bragg installation team received

strong endorsements from its diverse customer base and demonstrated its outstanding capabilities to support scheduled and no-notice deployments.

The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command swept the Active Army supporting-unit category with the 832d Transportation Battalion, Jacksonville, Florida, winning and the 838th Transportation Battalion, Rotterdam, Netherlands, coming in a close second.

Eighth United States Army, Korea, a winner last year in the operational deployment category, continued to excel with the 305th Quartermaster Company, Yongsan, Korea, winning the Active Army small-unit category and the 728th Military Police Battalion, Daegu, Korea, being selected as runner-up in the Active Army large-unit category.

The United States Army Network Enterprise Technology Command had its first winner with the 40th Signal Battalion from Fort Huachuca, Arizona, winning the Active Army large-unit category.

The Army Reserve had a number of outstanding entries, including Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command at Fort Bragg, which was recognized as the best Reserve supporting unit. The command formed movement support teams with internal assets and supported a complex operation involving 19 different special operations units, 1,200 Soldiers, and 160 short tons of cargo. The teams ensured that deploying Army Special Operations Forces met deployment timelines, prepared timely and accurate movement data, and properly used transportation assets.

The National Guard also had some standout units, including Joint Force Headquarters, Florida National Guard, St. Augustine, Florida. The headquarters, selected as the National Guard's best supporting unit, supported the deployment of 29 units and 1,800 Soldiers in support of the Global War on Terrorism, while simultaneously conducting military support to civil authorities during four major hurricane recovery operations.

The 2007 DEA competition is now open for Active Army, United States Army Reserve, and Army National Guard units and installations. To participate in the DEA program, a unit is required to have executed or supported a training or contingency deployment during the competition year. All units and installations are encouraged to plan now to compete in

2006 Deployment Excellence Award Recipients		
Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Active Army Large Unit	40th Signal Battalion Fort Huachuca, Arizona	728th Military Police Battalion Daegu, Korea
Active Army Small Unit	305th Quartermaster Company Yongsan, Korea	IHC, 5th Special Forces Group Fort Campbell, Kentucky
Active Army Supporting Unit	832d Transportation Battalion Jacksonville, Florida	838th Transportation Battalion Rotterdam, Netherlands
United States Army Reserve Large Unit	483d Transportation Battalion Vallejo, California	1190th Deployment Support Brigade Baton Rouge, Louisiana
United States Army Reserve Small Unit	828th Quartermaster Company Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania	401st Transportation Company Battle Creek, Michigan
United States Army Reserve Supporting Unit	HHC, United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command Fort Bragg, North Carolina	643d Area Support Group Fort Polk, Louisiana
Army National Guard Large Unit	1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment Indianapolis, Indiana	224th Engineer Battalion Fairfield, Iowa
Army National Guard Small Unit	D Company, 113th Aviation Regiment Reno, Nevada	41st Adjutant General Company Salem, Oregon
Army National Guard Supporting Unit	Joint Forces Headquarters - Florida St Augustine, Florida	Camp Atterbury Edinburgh, Indiana
All-Army Installation	Fort Hood, Texas	Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Operational Deployment Large Unit	426th Brigade Support Battalion 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Fort Campbell, Kentucky	NA
Operational Deployment Small Unit	B Company, 1-35 Armor Battalion 1st Armored Division Baumholder, Germany	NA

this elite competition. What's the prize? Two representatives from each winning and runner-up unit—in each category—will receive an all-expenses paid, four-day trip to the Washington, D.C., area to accept the unit's award. The trip includes travel, per diem, lodging, and ground transportation, as well as time for shopping, tours of the area, and a photograph taken with the Army Chief of Staff.

Significant dates for the 2007 competition are as follows:

- Competition period: 1 December 2005–30 November 2006. Submit packets through command channels.
- MACOM nomination packets are due to the DEA evaluation board: 31 January 2007.
- DEA board screens MACOM unit packets to select semifinalists: 5–16 February 2007.
- DEA teams visit selected semifinalists and conduct on-site observation of deployment practices: 1–25 March 2007.
- Army G4 selects and announces the winners via a Headquarters, Department of the Army, message: 9 April 2007.
- DEA awards are presented at the Chief of Staff, Army (CSA) Combined Logistics Excellence Award Ceremony/Banquet: 17 May 2007.

The 2006 DEA winners did a number of things to stand out in the competition. First, they selected an appropriate category—the category that best fit the deployment event. Units planning to compete in 2007 should consider the deploying unit categories that historically have the fewest number of units competing and may offer the greatest opportunity. The 2006 winners also fully documented and explained their deployment event. Remember that the board only knows what you tell them, so include a complete description of what your unit accomplished during the deployment phase. Each packet has specific requirements. Make sure you address all of them, and support the verbiage with pictures—they really help. The DEA program guidance and evaluation criteria are available on the DEA Web page at <<http://www.deploy.eustis.army.mil/Default.html>>. For additional information, contact the DEA Program Manager, Mr. Henry Johnson, at commercial (757) 878-1833 or DSN 927-1833.

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