

SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

THE AMPHITHEATER RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

September 29, 2015

INTRODUCTION Kevin E. Mahoney Director, Office of Human Resources Management

> PRESENTATION OF COLORS Armed Forces Color Guard

> > NATIONAL ANTHEM Joel Silberman

ADDRESS Honorable Bruce H. Andrews Deputy Secretary of Commerce

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS Honorable Ellen Herbst Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration

PRESENTATION OF GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS Deputy Secretary Andrews assisted by Department Officials

> CLOSING REMARKS Kevin E. Mahoney Director, Office of Human Resources Management

> > SOLOIST Joel Silberman



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 67th Annual Honor Awards.

For more than a century, the U.S. Department of Commerce has been driving the nation's economic growth and competitiveness. We are a customer-service organization that works closely with communities and the Nation's workers to ensure that everyone has access to the tools, technology, and data needed to grow businesses, maximize jobs and opportunities for the American people. President Obama has said that "public servants play an instrumental part in helping to lay a strong foundation for our nation's progress".

The outstanding public servants we honor today have been instrumental in promoting a prosperous, innovative, and safe America. They have promoted programs and policies that accelerate U.S. exports, cutting-edge research, creativity, a digital and data-enabled economy, and environmental stewardship.

The leadership and extraordinary achievements of these talented and dedicated men and women exemplify their commitment to excellence, our nation's progress, and to keeping "America Open for Business."

It is with great pride that I salute each one of our 2015 Gold and Silver Honor Awards recipients. Thank you for your commitment and tireless efforts in helping us move closer to a more perfect Union.

Congratulations and have a wonderful evening.

Penny Pritzker



This award, the highest honorary award given by the Department, is granted by the Secretary for distinguished performance characterized by extraordinary, notable, or prestigious contributions that impact the mission of the Department and/or one operating unit and that reflect favorably on the Department.



SILVER MEDAL

This award, the second highest honorary award given by the Department, is granted by the Secretary for exceptional performance characterized by noteworthy or superlative contributions that have a direct and lasting impact within the Department.

To warrant a Gold or Silver Medal, a contribution must focus on qualitative and quantitative performance measures reflected in the Department's Strategic Plan and be identified in one of the following areas:

leadership

personal and professional excellence

scientific/engineering achievement

organizational development

customer service

administrative/technical support

heroism

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY



GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

James Brigham

Export Enforcement

Bureau of Industry and Security

Mr. Brigham is recognized for working tirelessly for more than 13 years to help dismantle a sophisticated smuggling ring involved in the illegal export of U.S.-origin commodities to numerous overseas destinations in violation of U.S. export control law. This advanced smuggling ring possessed tentacles in several overseas locations and through Special Agent Brigham's dogged pursuit of leads, overseas interviews, securing of evidence located overseas, and by conducting dozens of interviews this smuggling organization has been dismantled.

William Carter

Export Enforcement

Bureau of Industry and Security

Mr. Carter is recognized for technical abilities in the design, installation, and monitoring of a clandestine tracking device used to monitor the export of goods from the United States to a sanctioned country in the Middle East. The tracking device remained in operation for 10 months, during which it relayed crucial information that Special Agent Carter interpreted in order to identify the route and methods the proliferator was using. Todd Harris

Export Enforcement

Bureau of Industry and Security

Mr. Harris is recognized for conducting 10 investigations related to various aspects of a scheme to illegally export U.S.-origin Internet networking and security equipment to Syria, for use by the Syrian Government's telecommunication industry to monitor and identify members of the opposition movement protesting the Assad regime. His 3½ year investigation resulted in financial penalties of more than \$3 million and two additions to BIS's Entity List, restricting the named parties from receiving goods from the United States.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

Adam Roth Jonathan Carson

Export Enforcement

Parvin Huda Joseph Jest

Office of the General Counsel

Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is recognized for identifying two Iranian companies, FIMCO FZE and Crescent International Trade and Services FZE, as suspected procurement agents tasked to procure U.S.-origin goods for Iranian customers. Their extensive investigation unraveled the network of false endusers utilized by FIMCO, served search warrants, reviewed complex evidence, and ultimately discovered the culpability of the U.S. company, HETRAN Inc., and its President, Helmut Oertmann, and FIMCO. The investigation and prosecution resulted in multiple criminal convictions and administrative fines.



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Anthony Christino Alan W. Christian William Arvin

Export Administration

Elizabeth Abraham

Office of the General Counsel

Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is recognized for leading the innovative development and expeditious implementation of the most significant changes in export licensing policy toward Cuba in more than 50 years as part of the President's historic decision to begin to normalize relations with Cuba. The group's exceptional effort supports independent economic activity in Cuba and facilitates the free flow of information to, from, and among the Cuban people as a means of promoting positive change in Cuba. The group's work will help make the lives of ordinary Cubans easier, more free, and more prosperous.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

Office of Energy and Environmental Industries Global Markets, Europe, Middle East and Africa

International Trade Administration

Bureau of Industry and Security

The organizations are cited for developing and implementing targeted sanctions and supporting Ukrainian Government economic reforms as part of the U.S./EU response to Russia's occupation of Crimea and military destabilization of eastern Ukraine. Actions included devising sanctions on sectors, oligarch companies and occupied Crimea, targeting front companies for end-use checks, denying licenses, identifying unauthorized shipments destined for military end uses and users in Russia/occupied Ukraine and advocating and providing technical assistance for reforms to stabilize the Ukrainian economy.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Dennis Alvord Michele Bartram Dexter Fredericks Cynthia Martin

BusinessUSA

Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration

The group is recognized for its cross-agency collaboration with the VA OSDBU to give the over 21 million military veterans better access to government resources to start or grow a business. In under 90 days, BusinessUSA helped VA transform its Veteran Entrepreneur Portal and processes—while revamping BusinessUSA's own website, contact center, mobile app, and marketing—to create a simple, unified experience for veteran-owned businesses. In the first 9 months, VA saw a 78% increase in visits to its Entrepreneur Portal, driving 8,838% more vet visits and 9,576% more new vet users to BusinessUSA.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

David R. Ives

Office of Regional Affairs

Economic Development Administration

Mr. Ives is recognized for independently conceptualizing and leading the development of EDA's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Content Guidelines. The Guidelines are EDA's premier compendium of best practices for regional economic development planning, serving as a road map for 385 local Economic Development Districts (EDDs) and 50 tribal organizations across the Nation. As part of this project, he engaged extensively with hundreds of stakeholders to leverage feedback and create an entirely new policy framework by which EDA will support economic resilience.



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Economic Development Administration International Trade Administration

The organizations are honored for leadership in launching the first-ever Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE), which led a delegation of 45 business and government leaders from 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries on a tour of five U.S. cities in 4 days. The international delegation toured technology centers, innovation hubs, and investment zones to see some of the most innovative economic ecosystems and assets in the world. The Exchange facilitated the interpersonal and intergovernmental connections that led to investments and partnership opportunities for U.S. businesses and cities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Thomas A. Pellegrino

Office of Regional Affairs

Economic Development Administration

Mr. Pellegrino is honored for independently creating an analytical tool that supports the bureau's goal of efficient and effective oversight of critical programs and training others on its use. He took the initiative to create an alternative data base and analytical tool to overcome the loss of the primary database system utilized in the management of a \$700 million dollar bureau grant program. These actions resulted in the ability of the bureau to rebuild and maintain timely and accurate grant program oversight of grantee organizations. Hillary Sherman

Office of Regional Affairs

Economic Development Administration

Mrs. Sherman is honored for compiling numerous EDA guidelines into two policy and procedure manuals consolidated from unorganized, obsolete, and duplicative documents spanning more than 40 years. She quickly identified a lack of consistency in the application of organizational guidelines, reviewed all existing policy documents, gathered staff input, and drafted two reference manuals for the use of the entire organization. Her widely collaborative effort resulted in the publication of EDA's Policy and Operations Manual and the Grant Procedures and Best Practices Manual, which contributed to operational excellence and improved customer service.

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Paul W. Farello Kristy L. Howell Maria Borga Christopher A. Gohrband

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Economics and Statistics Administration

The group is recognized for a 5-year effort that culminated in the most significant restructuring of BEA's international accounts in 40 years. The results provide enhanced quality and detail to the data describing the economic relationships between the U.S. and the rest of the world. The improvements provide new detail on U.S. trade and investment positions as well as new insight into the global marketplace. Critically, the improved statistics close data gaps exposed by the global financial crisis and provide powerful new analytical tools for gauging future international economic events.



GOLD MEDAL SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Abraham C. Dunn Elizabeth Bernstein Bryn A. Whitmire Lindsey J. Rittmueller Anne E. Hall Tina C. Highfill Virginia Henriksen

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Economics and Statistics Administration

The team is recognized for innovation and technical achievement using commercial and administrative big data, leading to the first-ever set of estimates of spending and price changes by disease. These cutting-edge estimates blend survey data and billions of healthcare claims to provide a dramatically improved means to measure a sector that accounts for 17% of GDP. These data provide critical new perspectives on healthcare spending and prices, empowering researchers, policymakers, and consumers with new tools to evaluate changes in the health sector and the quality of medical care in the U.S.

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Laura L. Waggoner

U.S. Census Bureau

Economics and Statistics Administration

Ms. Waggoner is recognized for creating the National Boundaries Group (NBG) that brings together 25 Federal agencies to identify the national authoritative sources and integrators for geographic boundary data, standards, and uses, as well as the collection and management of boundaries that were previously only managed at the state and local level. Her voluntary efforts as ESA's sole representative resulted in unprecedented interagency coordination at the Federal level for an accurate geographic area boundary network for the Nation, resulting in cost savings for agencies using boundaries in numerous Federal programs.



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

David N. Beede Sabrina L. Montes Regina L. Powers Rodolfo Telles, Jr.

Economics and Statistics Administration

The group is recognized for work that represents the first systematic attempt to estimate the value of government data and to catalogue the ways in which government data improves economic performance. This research culminated in two major research reports, one on the value of government data generally and the second on the value of the American Community Survey. To develop these reports, the group conducted research at an exceedingly high level and developed groundbreaking evidence in an area that is one of the major pillars of the Department's strategic plan.

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION



SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Philip M. Steel Bei Wang James T. Fagan John G. Slanta Richard R. Moore, Jr. Paul B. Massell Vitoon Harusadangkul

U.S. Census Bureau

Economics and Statistics Administration

The group is recognized for developing innovative software to perform cell suppression for protection against disclosure in summary data tables. The new program handles large complex tables, and successfully minimizes the number of cell suppressions required while fully protecting the underlying data. This software is more powerful and sophisticated than any comparable cell suppression system available at other statistical agencies throughout the world. It has been successfully used to publish data from the Economic Census and several annual surveys.



SILVER MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

William H. Southwood Kim Maiden Vinod K. Kambham Hazem Eldakdoky Kevin W. Reid Vijay R. Jayaraman

U.S. Census Bureau

Economics and Statistics Administration

The group is recognized for outstanding achievements in the implementation of a new MS SQL Shared Service and Center of Excellence. This initiative instituted and enabled enterprise-wide standardization, consolidation and virtualization, in keeping with the Census Bureau's goal of creating cost savings from common tools and systems. This accomplishment has already generated savings of more than \$930,000 for the Census Bureau, and has a projected future annual savings in excess of \$500,000.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE



GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Isabel Hill John Terpening Mark Brown Ron Erdmann Richard Champley Jennifer Kirsch Curt Cottle

Industry and Analysis

International Trade Administration

The team is recognized for providing outstanding leadership in policy development by identifying the opportunity to unlock an interagency stalemate by making the economic case for extending visa validity for nonimmigrant travelers from China and overcoming competing interagency policy perspectives. The team developed the decisive economic argument carried forward by the Secretary and the NEC Director, demonstrating the potential benefits to the economy of this policy change: as many as 7.3 million Chinese travelers to the U.S. by 2021 contributing nearly \$85 billion a year to the economy.

Maureen Hinman

Industry and Analysis

International Trade Administration

Ms. Hinman is recognized for envisioning, developing, and implementing the Environmental Solutions Toolkit—an online tool, created with EPA, that allows foreign buyers to locate U.S. environmental solutions providers and access U.S. environmental approaches and regulations to specific environmental challenges. The Department will be able to use this tool as the model for future online buyers' guides for other sectors.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

Adam O'Malley Man Cho Jonathan Chesebro

Industry and Analysis

Danius Barzdukas David Nufrio Malcolm Burke Eric Sohn Takahiko Suzuki Gregory Taevs Gregory Briscoe

Global Markets

International Trade Administration

The team is recognized for extraordinary leadership in conceiving, developing, and advancing a government strategy to successfully bring the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC) into force, thus removing a major obstacle to civil nuclear trade. The CSC is a global civil nuclear liability regime that assures prompt and meaningful compensation in the event of a nuclear accident and facilitates international commerce thereby promoting civil nuclear trade and enhancing U.S. competitiveness, a global market estimated at \$740 billion over the next decade.



GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Bryan Larson Adam Klein Betty Alexandropoulou Jay Burgess Cherie Rusnak

Global Markets

International Trade Administration

The Greece Commercial Action Plan Team is cited for developing and implementing the Secretary of Commerce's commercial diplomacy model by incorporating U.S. companies in discussions with the Greek Government to address U.S. business concerns. The team's efforts resulted in \$2.45 billion in U.S. sales, resolution of defense offset contract issues, and payment of healthcare arrears. It also resulted in over \$2 billion in market opportunities for U.S. companies. The Secretary of Commerce has cited the Greece Commercial Action Plan as illustrative of her model for conducting commercial diplomacy globally.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Global Markets China Office

Global Markets

Industry and Analysis Advisory Committees and Industry Outreach National Travel and Tourism Office

Industry and Analysis

Office of the Secretary

Immediate Office of the Secretary

International Trade Administration

The organizations are recognized for leadership in "reimagining" the 2014 U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT). The Reimagining Team led the creation and implementation of a vision that strengthened U.S.-China relations. Reforms included adding five events, such as a travel and tourism program, to the formal negotiations schedule that expanded industry participation; prioritized nearly 100 policy issues among senior officials; implemented an early harvest concept to ensure earlier resolution of key issues; and introduced a joint U.S.-China fact sheet.



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Lisa Foss Paul Morris Michael Rollin Jennifer Warren

Enforcement and Compliance

International Trade Administration

Sapna Sharma

Office of the General Counsel

The team is recognized for its role in maintaining U.S. solar manufacturers' access to India's market by employing skillful advocacy to encourage the Indian Government to terminate a contentious antidumping investigation targeting U.S. solar exports. Had the allegations that were lodged against U.S. solar companies been accepted, the U.S. solar industry's access to an export market worth more than \$130 million annually would have been severely limited. The termination of this investigation allows U.S. firms and workers to compete on a level playing field.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

Korea OCTG Investigation Team

Enforcement and Compliance

International Trade Administration

The organization is recognized for meritorious performance in conducting the antidumping duty investigation of Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) from Korea. This investigation presented many novel issues requiring intense collaboration across several enforcement and compliance units to ensure accurate results. Imports from Korea were \$818 million in 2013. The results of this investigation resolved unfair foreign trade practices and had a profound impact on U.S. producers of steel tubular products, which employ more than 580,000 Americans. Alicia Robinson-Morgan Ludwika Alvarez Karen Burress Robert Telchin Saliha Loucif Pamela Green Maria Elena Rivero Kevin Boyd

Global Markets

International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for its extraordinary efforts towards implementing the President's U.S. Strategy toward Sub-Saharan Africa. The team worked tirelessly to successfully plan and execute several high level initiatives that support the Administration's Doing Business in Africa Campaign. The Office of Africa excelled with implementing back-to-back Departmental and White House priorities while facing substantial staffing and resource constraints.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY



GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Keith Bubar

Office of Acquisition and Agreements Management

Leah Kauffman Nathan Lesser Gavin O'Brien Timothy McBride N. Lucy Salah Murugiah Souppaya Karen Waltermire

Information Technology Laboratory

Kevin Kimball

Office of the Director

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Lauren Didiuk

Office of the General Counsel

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for establishing the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE) to accelerate adoption of cybersecurity standards and best practices. With industry partnerships, the NCCoE builds practical security reference designs that can be rapidly applied to the real challenges that businesses face today. This achievement includes the Department's first Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) and the Nation's first FFRDC devoted wholly to cybersecurity.



GOLD MEDAL SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING

Steven Jefferts Thomas Heavner

Physical Measurement Laboratory

National Institute of Standards and Technology

ACHIEVEMENT

The group is recognized for designing, constructing, operating, and continually improving the world's most accurate official time and frequency standard (atomic clock), the NIST-F2 laser-cooled cesium fountain primary frequency standard. NIST-F2 is the U.S. national standard for the second, is one of the most visible and widelyused assets of the Department of Commerce, substantially outperforms past atomic clocks, and is demonstrably the most accurate primary standard in the world.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

David A. Wollman Martin J. Burns John A. Teeter

Engineering Laboratory

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for leadership in the White House "Green Button" initiative, giving consumers the vital information they need to manage their own energy usage. Working closely with industry and other agencies, the team led the development of technology foundation for Green Button, including standards, testing, and technical support for implementers. With voluntary adoption by many utilities nationwide, more than 59 million U.S. customers now have Green Button data access to help them reduce their costs and promote a more sustainable environment.



SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Joseph Curtis

NIST Center for Neutron Research

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Curtis is recognized for conceiving, developing, and bringing to the public domain via a dedicated website, the SASSIE software and tutorial suite that has revolutionized the analysis of neutron and x-ray small-angle-scattering data from complex biological systems. SASSIE models biomolecules composed of thousands of atoms with such speed that all atoms can be included, thus avoiding the huge information loss of current coarse-grained methods. SASSIE's impact is such that an internationally funded consortium was created to extend it to the cloud and ensure its continued development.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Joseph Hodges

Material Measurement Laboratory

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Hodges is recognized for his global leadership in the development, application, and dissemination of cavity-enhanced laser spectroscopy methods and high-accuracy spectroscopic data for quantitative analysis of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, water vapor, methane, and oxygen. This work played a key role in enabling both space- and ground-based remote-sensing measurements of atmospheric carbon and other species that are required for robust, long-term investigations of climate change and air-quality monitoring. Marc Salit Jennifer McDaniel Sarah Munro

Material Measurement Laboratory

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for improving confidence in genome-scale measurements so that they can be used to reliably diagnose disease and develop treatments. Since microarray measurements were initially unreliable, the team formed a 100-member consortium to assist in developing new types of reference materials and software for determining microarray data quality. Due to the team's efforts, genomic data reliability can be assured, leading to the use of genome-scale measurements in disease diagnosis, in assessing the accuracy of gene sequencing and in tracking the origin of Ebola in West Africa.



GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Jennifer Moore David Bernhart Stephania Bolden Marta Nammack Lance Smith Alecia (Lisa) Van Atta

National Marine Fisheries Service

Ruth Ann Lowery Elena Onaga Cheryl Scannell

Office of the General Counsel

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for exceptional collaboration and achievement in developing new tools that incorporate climate change data to produce the factual basis and decision making framework to determine which of 82 corals warrant listing for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The group's accomplishments led to a final rule listing 20 new species of coral across two major ocean basins for protection under the ESA. The magnitude of this listing action is without precedent in the Department, increasing the number of listed corals under its purview 10-fold to 22.



Gold Medal

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Assimilation and Modeling Branch

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

National Centers for Environmental Prediction Central Operations Environmental Modeling Center

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The organizations are honored for success in transitioning an innovative weather research model into operations. The High-Resolution Rapid Refresh model increases resolution fourfold, giving forecasters and others highly localized guidance when hazardous weather looms. Development of a novel radar data assimilation procedure and new supercomputing capacity were critical to this success, and the ultimate outcome is that decision makers such as emergency managers and wind farm operators have more time to prepare for high-impact weather. This team's work will save lives and property.

Barbara French Catherine Sloan John Incardona Jana Labenia Cathy Laetz Tiffany Linbo Nathaniel Scholz

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is honored for exemplary support to the Department's National Resource Damage Assessment for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Using technological innovation, a complex experimental design, and utmost attention to detail, the group initiated collaborative studies to assess the impacts of crude oil on the embryos of tunas and other large fish that spawned in the spill zone. The work yielded a scientific basis for estimating losses to commercially valuable Gulf populations and a breakthrough discovery of why crude oil causes heart failure in fish. Global Climate and Weather Modeling Branch Production Management Branch Statistical Modeling Branch

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The organizations are honored for development and operational implementation of the 13-km Global Forecast System. Changes include increased horizontal resolution, improved data assimilation, physics and post-processing. The system will deliver more accurate predictions of the onset and location of high-impact weather associated with hurricanes, blizzards, excessive rainfall, heat, and cold. Only 2 weeks after implementation, the system outperformed all other global models in predicting the complex heavy snow distribution associated with the New England Blizzard of January 2015.

NMFS Bering Sea Research Team

National Marine Fisheries Service

OAR Bering Sea Research Team

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The teams are recognized for leading the most comprehensive integrated ecosystem assessment ever completed. More than 30 NOAA scientists partnered with the National Science Foundation, the North Pacific Research Board, academia, and Federal, State, and Tribal agencies to conduct field research and ecosystem modeling that links climate, physical oceanography, plankton, fishes, seabirds, marine mammals, humans, and economic outcomes. This state-of-the-art assessment revealed a 40 percent decline in the Nation's largest fishery during warm climate cycles and a 60 percent increase during cold ones.



GOLD MEDAL

HEROISM

Sean P. Campbell

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Mr. Campbell is recognized for saving the life of a fellow employee while hiking a steep rocky trail to a NOAA observatory in Colorado. At the peak, Mr. Campbell noticed that his co-worker was in distress with labored breathing, a weak pulse and fading consciousness. Immediately they began the descent and drive to get emergency medical care, during which his co-worker passed out three times and Mr. Campbell provided lifesaving first aid. The quick thinking and rapid response to this medical emergency by Mr. Campbell made the difference between life and death.

Todd Nickerson

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Mr. Nickerson is honored for rescuing a driver from an overturned vehicle during an unexpected icing of roads in New Bedford, MA. Arriving at the accident, he assessed the situation and injuries of the driver and ordered two motorists to direct traffic and call 911. The driver was suspended upside down in an unsteady vehicle with his head inches from a rising stream. Using his emergency glass cutting tool to break the driver's side window, Mr. Nickerson cut the driver out of his seat belt. He then assisted emergency personnel in putting the driver in a litter and hoisting him to safety. Jeffrey Pollack Grant Demesillo

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Messrs. Pollack and Demesillo are recognized for heroic actions that saved the lives of nine persons at sea. Responding to a mayday call while on patrol duties on a Department law enforcement vessel, they arrived on scene — some 2 miles out to sea in a remote area off the island of Oahu — to find that the 95-foot vessel had sunk in 8- to 9-foot seas, and major debris and oil covered the ocean surface. Three crew members were in the water and another six clung to a sinking life raft. Messrs. Pollack and Demesillo guided their vessel through the rough water and debris, and rescued all nine crew members.



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Zdenka Willis Jessica Snowden

National Ocean Service

John Murphy Kevin Schrab

National Weather Service

David Helms Pamela Taylor Martin Yapur

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service

Mark Vincent

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Felipe Arzayus

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for designing and implementing a first-of-its-kind-tool, the NOAA Observation System Integrated Analysis, to evaluate the Nation's and NOAA's Earthobservation investments as a prioritized portfolio integrated and linked to mission and societal areas. Their work included a comprehensive endto-end assessment of the impact and sufficiency of Agency-wide observation systems — an unprecedented 3-year effort with facilitated participation of more than 900 experts. This assessment underpinned the first National Plan for Civil Earth Observations published by the White House.



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Allan Coker Elizabeth Nelson Emanuel Antonaras Kelly Moran Kalamas

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for successfully completing a long-term undercover investigation involving the detection and infiltration of a ring of commercial fishermen and seafood businesses engaged in the illegal harvest and sale of falsely reported red snapper and grouper entered into interstate commerce along the Florida and Alabama coasts. This case sends a strong message that the Government will aggressively enforce the laws designed to ensure the reporting integrity that is critical to accurately monitor and successfully manage fish stocks. Zachary Goldstein David Michaud Lawrence Reed

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Amy Bennett Irene Parker

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service

Michael Kane Ben Kyger

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Ann Chun Emily Kilcrease

International Trade Administration

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for its work during a Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS) national security review of the sale of a key vendor supplying critical NOAA programs. Under tight timelines, the group served as Commerce's representatives to CFIUS as the Committee examined the transaction's effects on national security. Although the details of a CFIUS review are confidential, the group assessed the implications of the sale and helped draft contractual conditions allowing completion of the sale, while preserving U.S. national security.

Ritchie Graves Scott Carlon Dale Bambrick Bryan Nordlund

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for facilitating the design and implementation of an emergency fish passage to prevent loss of an entire year's run of salmon during repair of the Columbia River Wanapum Dam after the discovery of a 65-foot long crack in February 2014. Extended fish ladders and a plume-slide gave access to 790,000 adult salmon and steelhead over the 185-foot tall, 8,637-foot wide dam. Retrofitting exposed irrigation intakes with screens protected thousands of juvenile salmon, while preserving irrigation for orchards and vineyards that contribute millions of dollars to the state economy. Annarita Mariotti Gabriel Vecchi Rich Gudgel William Stern

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Jin Huang Huug van den Dool Qin Zhang Suranjana Saha

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The team is recognized for developing the North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), a research to operations transition project coordinated between OAR and NWS, with contributions from DOE, NASA, and NSF. The NMME system adheres to NOAA's operational launch schedules, providing the Nation with timely, credible seasonal forecasts that enhance decision making to protect life and property. The NMME has enabled pioneering research on seasonal predictability, stimulated model improvements at operational and research centers, and provided critical information for risk management.



SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Joseph Cione Erica Rule

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

CDR Nancy Hann CDR Kristie Twining LCDR Justin Kibbey James Roles Jeffrey Smith Steven Paul Andrew Hornbeck Joseph Bosko

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for achieving a major technological advancement by successfully conducting the first-ever air-deployed Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) mission into a major hurricane. On September 16, 2014, the Coyote UAS was released into the eye of Hurricane Edouard from a NOAA P-3 Hurricane Hunter aircraft. Data and subsequent analyses from this new platform provide unique and groundbreaking insights into the critical boundary layer region of the hurricane environment, which will increase and improve hurricane intensity forecasts. Kenneth Howard Jian Zhang Jonathan Gourley

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Luis Cano Mark Miller Scott Jacobs Rebecca Cosgrove Michelle Mainelli Cameron Shelton

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

This group is recognized for the successful transition of the Multi-Radar, Multi-Sensor (MRMS) system, which supports the Weather-Ready Nation initiative. The system provides critical real-time, low-latency, high-resolution products for severe weather warnings, model initialization, and flash flood prediction. The system creates and disseminates a suite of rapidly updating products used by the National Weather Service, and such external partners as the Red Cross, FEMA, FAA, and the private sector. MRMS provides a seamless depiction of national weather hazards and their evolution in real time.

Jeremy Mathis Christian Meinig Noah Lawrence-Slavas Scott Stalin Nicholas Delich Stacy Maenner-Jones

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is honored for undertaking the most extensive ocean acidification-observing project ever completed, using six independent observing platforms to measure ocean acidification in the sensitive habitats of the northern Gulf of Alaska. Two million measurements made over 5 months showed that ocean acidification, caused by rising atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, is exacerbated by regional processes unique to Alaska such as glacial runoff. The work is extremely important given the implications that ocean acidification could have for the multi-billion dollar fishing industry in Alaska.



SILVER MEDAL

HEROISM

Lauren Heesemann Joseph Hoyt Roger Mays

National Ocean Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

This group is honored for responding to an in-water cardiac emergency experienced by a Monitor National Marine Sanctuary volunteer. The group administered CPR, oxygen, and an automated external defibrillator (AED) within seconds of the individual being recovered from a dive training pool. The individual left the hospital a few days later with no neurological deficits and continues to volunteer in a non-diving capacity. Hospital staff attributes his survival to the rapid response and availability of resources, as well as the skills, knowledge, and outstanding preparation of this group.

Jerome F. Sheehan III

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Mr. Sheehan is recognized for single-handedly saving NOAA Ship *Bell M. Shimada* from an uncontrolled seawater leak. A hole in a pipe was filling the vessel with sea water at 100 gallons per minute, threatening to completely fill the bilge and inundate the engines. Mr. Sheehan assessed the situation, crawled under the deck plates and engines in 2 feet of cold seawater, and closed the sea chest — stopping the water just inches from the ship's engines. His quick actions and selfless determination to stop the flooding saved millions of dollars in equipment damage, response costs, and lost ship time.
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Frank Sanders Robert Achatz John Carroll Michael Cotton Roger Dalke Geoffrey Sanders

Institute for Telecommunication Sciences

Robert Sole

Office of Spectrum Management

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The group is recognized for taking initiative to innovatively perform and publish a major electromagnetic compatibility study (NTIA Technical Reports 14-499, 14-500, 14-506, 14-507, 15-510 and 15-512), advancing the Department's efforts to make additional spectrum available for wireless commercial broadband services to promote continued innovation and economic development. The work was used to develop new rules enabling new spectrum sharing in the 3.5 GHz band between Federal agencies that already use the band and commercial entities that intend to deploy new systems in the band.



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Edward Drocella James Richards Frederick Najmy

Office of Spectrum Management

Paul McKenna

Institute for Telecommunication Sciences

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The group is recognized for outstanding leadership in developing and implementing innovative techniques to enable new spectrum sharing opportunities between Federal and commercial users. The group led a joint NTIA, Department of Defense and Federal Communications Commission working group that spearheaded innovative collaboration methods to develop a specialized analysis model, enabling commercial access to 100 megahertz of Federal spectrum. This effort directly supported the President's goal of identifying 500 megahertz for wireless broadband services.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

Gary Patrick Wanda Covington-Ragsdale

Office of Spectrum Management

Charles Franz Soma Chary Eric Ruth Xiaoguang Zhao William Severe Yun Chen Lee

Office of Policy Coordination and Management

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The group is recognized for outstanding leadership and management in ensuring the accuracy, transparency, and availability of Federal agency spectrum relocation information to support the Advanced Wireless Service - 3 (AWS-3) auction. The group spearheaded a complex multi-agency review and publishing process of agency transition information, which enabled the repurposing of 40 megahertz of Federal spectrum for third and fourth generation wireless broadband for consumers. The results led to a successful auction conclusion of \$45 billion in gross proceeds to fund U.S. priority efforts.



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

John Quinlan Jeffrey Moon Matthias Schiller

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The group is recognized for exceptional effort and expertise in developing a detailed, flexible, and transparent model of FirstNet's financial condition and sustainability under alternative policy and technical scenarios. To address fundamental questions about FirstNet's business model and sustainability, the team developed a data-based model of revenues and costs under alternative technology deployment paths and state policies regarding opting into the network. The model has provided assurance of the soundness of FirstNet leadership's strategic roadmap for a public safety broadband network.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION



SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Robert Johnk Jaydee Griffith Mitchell Powell

Institute for Telecommunication Sciences

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The team is recognized for developing and using an innovative approach to measure buildingpenetration characteristics of radio signals, for inventing and implementing a compact, radio signal measurement system, and for developing an efficient and effective methodology for determining optimal configurations and designs for inbuilding communication systems for use by first responders. This work has enhanced the safety and effectiveness of America's first responders when they are working inside buildings.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL



GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Megan L. Rose Lynn Flanagan

Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Finance and Litigation

Office of the General Counsel

The group is honored for leading a litigation team to successfully settle a \$331.2 million FTCA claim made by Northrop Grumman Systems pertaining to the Government's alleged misappropriation of trade secrets for data developed under the National Polar-orbiting Environmental Satellite System program. The settlement saved the government \$256.2 million in claimed damages and eliminated the threat of disruption to access critical weather data. The accomplishment positively impacted communities' and businesses' ability to prosper in a changing environment and also had a direct effect on national security.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

David Sheppard

Office of Audit and Evaluation

Office of Inspector General

Mr. Sheppard is honored for building a fully functioning Office of Inspector General for the Denali Commission (DC-OIG). The departure of the former Inspector General prompted public discussion based on his recommendation that the Commission be sunset. Over a 9-month period, Mr. Sheppard was able to provide assurance of independent oversight of the Commission's operations, and public discourse about the Commission was reversed: from discussion on its efficacy and continued funding, to discussion on how it will proceed going forward.



GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Mona Haar Craig Yuen

Office of Investigations

Melanie Caesar-Danberg Peter Sima-Eichler Mikhail Batkhan

Office of Audit and Evaluation

Office of Inspector General

The group is recognized for diligently pursuing all leads and producing a high-quality public report that revealed USPTO's Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) paid paralegals with little to no assigned work, full-time pay for more than 4 years, including performance awards. The team interviewed nearly every PTAB employee, reviewed records and policies, and analyzed data. Their efforts resulted in a comprehensive public report and recommendations to improve management practices. The report was well received by the Department leaders and key members of Congress and led to congressional testimony by the IG and significant management reforms of the PTAB.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Brian Nysenbaum

Office of Investigations

Bradley Rogers

Office of Audit and Evaluation

Office of Inspector General

The group is recognized for pursuing all leads and producing a high-quality public report that dispelled allegations that managers in the Census Bureau's Philadelphia Regional Office instructed that unemployment data be systematically falsified to alter the unemployment rate before the 2012 presidential election. Using investigative techniques and analyses, the multi-disciplinary team presented a report with findings and recommendations to improve processes that was well received by the Department leaders and key members of Congress and led to congressional testimony by the IG.



SILVER MEDAL ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Allen Crawley Spencer Jackson Clark Morsbach Roseanne Sands Rashedus Sattar Ping Sun John Ward

Office of Audit and Evaluation

Office of Inspector General

The group is recognized for its outstanding performance in conducting a review that highlighted serious IT security weaknesses at two NOAA line offices—National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and National Weather Service (NWS). The team evaluated key security measures in place to protect mission-critical satellite and weather information that is processed, stored, or transmitted on five NESDIS and five NWS information systems.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Mary Critharis Charles Eloshway Matthew Kohner Summer Kostelnik Paolo Trevisan

Office of Policy and International Affairs

Mark Powell Maria Holtmann Bryan Lin Luis R. Tamayo

Office of the Commissioner for Patents

United States Patent and Trademark Office

The group is honored for building the Global Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH), a first-of-its-kind framework for improving the international patent system by promoting more efficient, higher quality patent examination. Global PPH leverages fasttrack procedures and work sharing among patent offices to streamline examination and make it easier and cheaper for applicants to obtain high quality patents in the U.S. and abroad. The USPTO currently receives about 600 PPH requests per month, with an average efficiency gain of over 25% and applicant cost savings of up to \$3100 per PPH application. Valencia Martin Wallace Janet Gongola NaThanya Ferguson Kathleen Kahler Fonda Mary C. Till Susy Tsang-Foster Kathleen Kerr Bragdon S. Thomas Hughes Cassandra Spyrou Christopher Grant

Office of the Commissioner for Patents

United States Patent and Trademark Office

The group is honored for sustained commitment to the comprehensive implementation of the First Inventor to File (FITF) provision of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, the most significant patent reform in more than 60 years. By developing a paradigm-shifting training program for patent examiners and stakeholders and establishing new procedures and tools, this group streamlined the examination of patent applications, helped foster innovation, and stimulated job creation. Successful implementation of FITF by the group aided harmonization of patent law to promote a more efficient global IP system.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



GOLD MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Kery Fries Robert Bahr Pamela Rinehart Randall Green Peter Toby Brown Mohamed Wasel Joseph Wong John Cottingham

Office of the Commissioner for Patents

Horatious Tanyi

Office of the Chief Information Officer

United States Patent and Trademark Office

This group is honored for developing an educational Patent Term Calculator for the public to estimate a patent's expiration date. The effort also included a software module that significantly increased the accuracy by which the USPTO calculates the Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) added to the end of a patent's term. The module also allowed for the automation of decisions for 8,000 PTA petitions; thereby saving the USPTO 35,000 hours of employee time. The public's ability to estimate a patent's expiration, including accurate PTA, impacts business decisions and the growth of the U.S. economy.



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Rinaldi I. Rada Jessica T. Stultz Robert D. Budens Pamela R. Schwartz Terrence M. Mackey M. Curtis Mayes Sumesh Kaushal Jolyn Eley

Office of the Commissioner for Patents

Meenal Gupta

Office of the Chief Information Officer

United States Patent and Trademark Office

The group is honored for its outstanding efforts in transitioning the entire Patent Corps to the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) system. The group was instrumental in developing training, outreach programs, new IT tools, and a transition process while overcoming many institutional, cultural, and logistical challenges to transition more than 8,500 examiners in a timely manner and within budget, despite an enormously challenging 2-year time frame and austere budget conditions. The use of CPC aligns the USPTO with other patent offices, thereby promoting international harmonization.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Mark Allen Cohen Elaine T.L. Wu Lubing (Larry) Lian

Office of Policy and International Affairs

Daniel Sullivan Janice Li Yong Chu

Office of the Commissioner for Patents

United States Patent and Trademark Office

The group is being honored for a multi-year effort led by USPTO to seek improvements to China's pharmaceutical patent regime, through the USPTO's relationship with China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), Vice President Biden's visit to China, meetings of the IP5, a forum of the 5 largest patent offices in the world, the U.S.- China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT), and working with U.S. industry. The group succeeded in changing China's examination and judicial practices for pharmaceutical patents by using the patent expertise of the USPTO, and the bilateral trade tools.



SILVER MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Amy Forest Brian O'Donnell

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Thomas M. Hedgpeth Martha Llewellyn Tanya Amos Cynthia C. Lynch Montia Givens Pressey Jason I. Roth

Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks

United States Patent and Trademark Office

The group is recognized for developing a process for notifying trademark owners of upcoming post-registration maintenance filing deadlines. Previously, the only notice provided by the USPTO of these deadlines was on the registration certificate. The notification process provides an invaluable mechanism for trademark owners to maintain their registrations and ensure statutory deadlines are met. The process also helps trademark owners avoid unnecessary expenses resulting from misleading solicitations from third parties. Many thanks to those individuals who contributed to today's program:

Incentive Awards Program Manager, Emeritus

Michael R. Osver

Incentive Awards Program Officers of the Department

Cheryl Woodard – BIS John Portell – EDA Glenn West – ESA Christina Agoo – ITA Morgan Frycklund – NIST Karen Robin – NOAA Anthony Calza – NTIA Joe Mroz – OGC Angela Singmore – OIG Debra Ginther – PTO

Special thanks to:

Multimedia Division Joel Silberman, Soloist Armed Forces Color Guard

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