60th ANNUAL

Honor Awards PROGRAM

2008

United States
Department of Commerce

Sixtieth
Honor Awards Program

Herbert C. Hoover Building
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.

November 18, 2008

Introduction
Honorable John J. Sullivan
Deputy Secretary

Presentation of Colors
Armed Forces Color Guard

National Anthem
Paul Bell

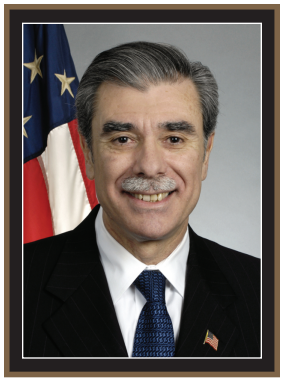
Address
Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary of Commerce

Announcement of Awards
Jeffery K. Nulf
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration

Presentation of Gold and Silver Medals
Secretary Gutierrez assisted by Department Officials

Closing Remarks
Honorable John J. Sullivan
Deputy Secretary

Soloist
Paul Bell



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Working for America and the American people is a responsibility that the men and women of the U.S. Department of Commerce carry out with great dedication. Their stories and the stories of their extraordinary achievement are remembered and recognized in our annual Honor Awards ceremony. This year's ceremony marks the 60th year in which the Department has honored its outstanding employees in this manner.

Our mission is to promote economic opportunity that fosters U.S. growth, jobs, and competitiveness in world markets. With one of the broadest and most challenging portfolios in government, we build for the Nation's future. Commerce personnel work to advance America's trade, technology, business development, environmental prediction and protection, and statistical research and analysis.

Fulfillment of these responsibilities touches the daily lives of all Americans. Through accomplishments as varied as issuing early severe weather forecasts, developing the world's best atomic clock, opening international markets to U.S. businesses and workers, and enhancing first responder communication, Commerce honorees have made important contributions to our Nation's strength, prosperity, security, and welfare.

President George W. Bush has applauded service as an integral part of the American character. In carrying out their duties, the public servants being honored here today have demonstrated a dedication to the highest standards of professional excellence, integrity, commitment and accomplishment.

I am honored to recognize and salute the talented recipients of the U.S. Department of Commerce 2008 Honor Awards.

Carlos M. Gutierrez

Gold Medal

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

Scot B. Gonzales
Richard P. Jereski
Christopher J. Tafe
Criminal Investigators

Bureau of Industry and Security

Special Agents Gonzales, Jereski, and Tafe are honored for exceptional investigative efforts that resulted in Chiquita Brands International Inc. pleading guilty to making substantial payments in support of an organization designated as a global terrorist. Chiquita's sentence included a $25 million criminal fine which is the largest fine ever obtained by Export Enforcement. This investigation has had a major impact on the fight against terrorist financing and has sent an important message to "corporate America" that funding terrorists can never be treated as a cost of doing business.

Silver Medal

LEADERSHIP

Wendy B. Hauser
Supervisory Criminal Investigator

Bureau of Industry and Security

Ms. Hauser is recognized for her continual guidance and dedication to the Office of Export Enforcement (OEE). Since her arrival at the Chicago Field Office, there have been numerous criminal prosecutions and multiple cases pursued through administrative remedies. She has increased the visibility, and viability of OEE with all law enforcement partners and increased office participation in counterproliferation task forces and counterintelligence working groups. She also served as the Acting Assistant Director, and Acting Assistant Director of Investigations for numerous months over the course of several years.

Elizabeth J. Scott
Supervisory Industrial Specialist

Betty Lee
Kimberly Orr
Microbiologists

Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is recognized for taking the lead on analyzing biosecurity issues involving synthetic genomics and oligonucleotide synthesis. They successfully convinced the Homeland Security Council to explore and further investigate whether proposed security regulations were technically feasible, necessary, or beneficial. The group combined diplomatic persuasion and technical expertise to introduce in the policy debate different and more effective proposals to address biosecurity concerns related to the synthesis of select agents that would not unnecessarily disadvantage industry.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Perry A. Davis
Jonathan V. Svendsen
Criminal Investigators

Export Enforcement

Glenn Kaminsky
Senior Attorney

Office of the General Counsel

Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is recognized for their diligence and thoroughness during the 7-1/2 year investigation of MTS Systems Corporation and 6 Indian parties. The investigation identified a diversion network to acquire U.S. technology to support India's unsafeguarded nuclear programs and license applications in which MTS knowingly omitted details of potential nuclear end-use. The group prevented the illegal export of $3,710,000 in nuclear-related equipment, denied export privileges of 6 entities for 80 years and prosecuted MTS, resulting in criminal and civil fines of $836,000.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Silver Medal

LEADERSHIP

Bobby D. Hunter
Economic Development Representative

Economic Development Administration

Mr. Hunter is recognized for his service following Hurricane Katrina's impact of the Mississippi's Gulf Coast that resulted in loss of life, catastrophic damage and severe economic dislocations. His unselfish commitment to directly assist impacted communities resulted in $8.2 million in EDA assistance for economic recovery of Mississippi's Gulf coast, creating or saving 1,074 jobs and supporting $180 million in private investment. As a result, the Mississippi's Gulf Coast long-term regional economic recovery was supported.

Joseph S. Spearman, Jr.
Economic Development Specialist

Economic Development Administration

Mr. Spearman is recognized for his leadership in helping to design an on-line Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) performance management system for EDA. Not only did he take the lead in performing this assignment, he did so in addition to his regular duties as program officer. The system designed by Mr. Spearman automatically generates each required RLF Semi-Annual report accurately and reliably. The time savings is 7 hours for preparation and 1.5 hours for actual data entry per report. The new system contains 25 key data entries, contrasted to a previous number of 197 entries, 29 of which were redundant.

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION

Silver Medal

LEADERSHIP

William G. Bostic Jr.
Chief, Foreign Trade Division

Stephanie B. Dunlap
Program Analyst

Joe A. Cortez
Jerome M. Greenwell
Supervisory Survey Statisticians

Dale C. Kelly
Assistant Division Chief for
Data Collection

Ian Russell O'Brien
Statistician

Joey Morales
Omari S. Wooden
Survey Statisticians

U.S. Census Bureau

J. Patrick Heelen
Senior Attorney

Roxie Jamison Jones
Chief, Counsel for Economic Affairs

Office of the General Counsel

U.S. Census Bureau

Economics and Statistics Administration

The Export Regulation Team is recognized for its excellent leadership in simplifying the export clearance process and submission of the Shipper Export Declaration information. Significant improvements were made to the quality of trade statistics, while meeting U.S. national security and the Department of Commerce trade data collection goals. The mandatory use of the Automated Export System reduces burden on the export community by reducing costs to file, made filing more user-friendly, and improved the efficiency and accuracy of the Census Bureau's data collection process.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Trudy A. Suchan
Chief, Information Resources and Dissemination Branch

Marc J. Perry
Chief, Population Distribution Branch

James D. Fitzsimmons
Assistant Division Chief, Geographic Studies and Information Resources

Anika E. Juhn
Geographer

U.S. Census Bureau

Economics and Statistics Administration

This group is recognized for the development, planning, production, review, publication, and dissemination of the Census Atlas of the United States. This is the first comprehensive population and housing atlas produced by the Census Bureau since the 1920s. Through the efforts of the book's four Census Bureau authors, the Census Atlas permanently documents, in an informative and visually-appealing way, the geographic patterns of data from Census 2000 and earlier censuses.

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Brian C. Monsell
Supervisory Mathematical Statistician

U.S. Census Bureau

Economics and Statistics Administration

Mr. Monsell is recognized for his contributions to the development of the U.S Census Bureau's X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment software, which is used by national and international statistical offices and central banks around the world. His contributions include programming much of the software, providing extraordinary support to users from the public and private sectors, and making contributions to the methodology, all over a period of more than sixteen years.

William L. Peil
Chief, Data Capture Staff

Paul R. Friday
Chief Information Technology Engineer

U.S. Census Bureau

Economics and Statistics Administration

The Integrated Computer Assisted Data Entry (ICADE) group is recognized for developing a technology which has improved the operations of the Data Capture Processing Areas in the National Processing Center. ICADE is a highly innovative system for the capturing, tracking, and scanning of respondent data using Key From Image Technology. It provides digital imaging of respondent questionnaires which are then processed by a combination of imaging algorithms, Optical Character Recognition, and automated data presence keying. The system has significantly reduced the overall data capture costs and the timeframe from check-in to data analysis.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Robert A. Marske
Chief, Customer Relations and Outreach Branch

U.S. Census Bureau

Economics and Statistics Administration

Mr. Marske is recognized for outstanding leadership in implementing an innovative customer service approach that has made the conduct of the Economic Census more efficient in working with the nation's largest companies to facilitate the collection of their data. Mr. Marske has made great strides in moving towards the overall response rate targets set by senior managers. These contributions have had a long-lasting impact on the Census Bureau's mission to be the leading source of quality data about businesses in serving the needs of policy makers, the business community, and academic research.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

Silver Medal

LEADERSHIP

ACF Team

Market Access and Compliance

Manufacturing and Services

Trade Promotion and U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service

International Trade Administration

The Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) Team is recognized for developing and executing a highly-successful forum in which approximately 1,000 people from the region participated, including 30 Ministers, 3 U.S. Cabinet members, and 2 Vice Presidents. The ACF program redefined the topic of competitiveness in the Americas. Furthermore, in the collapse of the Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations, the ACF created a new framework for economic cooperation among the 34 countries of the Hemisphere.

Damon Greer
International Trade Specialist

Manufacturing and Services

International Trade Administration

Mr. Greer is recognized for implementation, interpretation, and outreach efforts for the U.S.-European Union Safe Harbor Framework. The Safe Harbor is the United States' groundbreaking strategy to comply with the European Union's Directive on Data Protection. He speaks with authority on complex issues such as international privacy policy and its impact on U.S. industry. His dedication, commitment, and perseverance have played a critical role in ensuring the continued flow of personal data worth billions of dollars with our largest trading partner.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Robert Beadle
Alexis Haakensen
Eric W. Lenz
International Trade Specialists

Dean W. Woodard
Supervisory International Trade Specialist

Manufacturing and Services

International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for concluding a landmark Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development agreement on official aircraft finance after more than three years of negotiations. The agreement eliminates several controversial financing practices, decreases the risk of trade disputes, and creates a level playing field by ensuring that export competition is based on price and product quality rather than financing. Some $7-$10 billion annually of official financing for aircraft exports will be governed by the rules, which set an example of multilateral cooperation for emerging aircraft manufacturing countries.

Sally C. Gannon
Judith Wey Rudman
Supervisory Import Policy Analysts

Joseph Spetrini
Deputy Assistant Secretary for AD/CVD Policy and Negotiations

Ronald Lorentzen
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations

Samantha Biondo
Senior Import Policy Analyst

Sarah Keyes
Import Policy Analyst

Dana Griffies
Administrative Specialist

Import Administration

John McInerney
Chief Counsel for Import Administration

David W. Richardson
General Attorney

David Mason
Supervisory Attorney Advisor

Office of the General Counsel

International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for negotiating an innovative and market-stabilizing amendment to an established agreement between the United States and Russia on imports of Russian uranium products. The amended agreement will allow Russia to make sales of commercial uranium products directly to U.S. utilities while, at the same time, facilitating a long-term source of supply for U.S. electric utilities and minimizing disruption to newly-developing U.S. uranium enrichment plants. The group demonstrated creativity and perseverance in the complex negotiations leading up to the signed amendment.

Ana Guevara
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Services

Helen Marano
Director, Tourism Development

Isabel Hill
International Trade Specialist

Brian Beall
Policy Analyst

Manufacturing and Services

Caroline Katzin
Special Counsel to Secretary

Jennifer Lee
Commercial Representative

Jing Ding
Commercial Assistant

Trade Promotion and U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service

Rebecca Karnak
International Trade Specialist

Market Access and Compliance

William Yue
Senior Counsel

Sarah Loss
Attorney Advisor

Office of the General Counsel

International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for negotiating an historic U.S.-China MOU on Group Leisure Travel. In cooperation with State, DHS, NSC and Treasury, the group crafted creative trade solutions to open a significant market to expand U.S. travel exports. With Chinese travelers forecasted to triple by 2020, an infusion of Chinese tourists to the United States will significantly improve the U.S. balance of trade with China and increase the competitiveness of U.S. businesses.

Boris Popovski
Commercial Specialist

Trade Promotion and U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service

International Trade Administration

Mr. Popovski is recognized for his tireless work over the past year to open the Serbian market to U.S. franchises. Mr. Popovski embarked on an initiative to educate and train Serbian entrepreneurs about the benefits of purchasing U.S. franchises that resulted in previously unrealized demand that directly benefited U.S. exporters while accomplishing both Departmental and ITA goals of advancing U.S. international and commercial strategic interests and to enhance U.S. competitiveness in international markets.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

LEADERSHIP

John F. Iglehart
Regional Director, Dallas National Enterprise Center

Minority Business Development Agency

Mr. Iglehart is honored for his exemplary work associated with the Gulf Coast recovery and rebuilding efforts while he managed the Minority Business Development Agency's (MBDA) Dallas and Atlanta National Enterprise Centers. Mr. Iglehart's untiring work helped promote and manage the Gulf Coast recovery and rebuilding efforts while MBDA performance goals were exceeded and the performance of both the Dallas National Enterprise Center and the Atlanta National Enterprise Center increased under his leadership.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

James C. Bergquist
Till P. Rosenband
Physicists

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for exceptional creativity in developing new types of atomic clocks with world-leading performance. The team developed the world's best atomic clock, based on a single mercury atom, twenty times more precise than the current U.S. time standard. They also developed the world's only atomic clock based on the principles of quantum computing, only a few percent less precise than the mercury clock, and certain to improve significantly. These clocks will enable innovation in telecommunications, navigation, remote sensing, and many other technologies.

William E. Burr
Supervisory Electronics Engineer

David W. Flater
Alan H. Goldfine
John M. Kelsey
John P. Wack
Computer Scientists

Barbara Guttman
Supervisory Information Technology Specialist

Nelson E. Hastings
Electronics Engineer

Sharon J. Laskowski
Supervisory Computer Scientist

Mark W. Skall
Chief, Software and Systems Division

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for their achievement in developing standards and guidelines that enable a new generation of voting equipment to be more usable, accessible, reliable and secure. The new standards are a comprehensive set of rigorous, scientifically-based requirements that balance competing interests. The standards provide the ability to test voting equipment to ensure their integrity. These standards have been adopted by at least 39 states, each of which is using them to transform the way elections occur in areas such as usability, security, and accessibility.

John M. Butler
NIST Fellow

David L. Duewer
Peter M. Vallone
Research Chemists

Margaret C. Kline
Biologist

Janette W. Redman
Physical Science Technician

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for developing a suite of tools relied upon to assure accurate assessment of human identity based on DNA obtained from crime scenes or mass disasters. These tools include advanced DNA measurement methods and data interpretation and the development and dissemination of standard reference materials, databases, and tutorials. The group is also recognized for its outstanding outreach through service on expert panels that oversee the use of DNA analysis in mass disasters (e.g., Hurricane Katrina, the World Trade Center collapse), military operations, and criminal investigations.

Stephen I. Kerber
Daniel Madrzykowski
Fire Protection Engineers

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for advancing the science and understanding of positive pressure ventilation and wind-driven fires and transferring this knowledge to the fire service, arson investigators, and codes officials. This research combined both experimental and modeling components to understand and document how wind impacts fires in structures and how positive pressure ventilation can improve the safety and effectiveness of fire fighters. The research has led to implementation of better firefighting tactics and will lead to decreased injuries for fire fighters and building occupants.

Carl J. Williams
Chief, Atomic Physics Division

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Williams is recognized for a research program in theoretical applied quantum physics that has advanced NIST's measurement mission by improving the accuracy of atomic clocks; enhancing the quality of atomic reference data; inventing new methods for laser control of atomic and molecular processes; elucidating ultracold atomic and molecular dynamics; and, finding new tools for quantum computing and communication vital to national security. His research group is a world leader in this field. Dr. Williams is a founding co-director of the Joint Quantum Institute of NIST and the University of Maryland.

Silver Medal

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Kevin G. Brady
Supervisory Computer Scientist

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Mr. Brady is recognized for outstanding professional excellence and initiative in identifying and filling critical automation needs at NIST that could not be met with off-the-shelf software. He created several unique web-based automation systems, all the while excelling at his formal duties of running a group that develops supply chain standards for the electronics industry. His contributions to NIST automation are saving both time and money, and are providing many intangible benefits such as preserving institutional memory and establishing a comprehensive publications repository.

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Andrew J. Allen
Physicist

John E. Bonevich
Metallurgist

Robert F. Cook
Supervisory Physicist

Vincent A. Hackley
Michael R. Winchester
Research Chemists

Debra L. Kaiser
Chief, Ceramics Division

Leonard F. Pease III
Chemical Engineer

Andras E. Vladar
Electrical Engineer

Rebecca A. Zangmeister
Chemist

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for developing and producing the first nanoparticle reference materials in the 10 nm to 60 nm size range. The gold nanoparticle reference materials are essential for calibrating instruments used for physical and dimensional characterization of nanoparticles; qualifying pre-clinical biomedical research methodologies; developing in-vitro assays to measure biological response to nanomaterials (e.g., cytotoxity, hemolysis); and, assessing environmental, health, and safety hazards of nanoparticles.

Uwe Arp
Charles E. Gibson, Jr.
Ping-Shine Shaw
Howard W. Yoon
Physicists

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for developing, validating and disseminating the world's most accurate standards for the measurement of ultraviolet radiation important in materials processing, semiconductor manufacturing, and space sciences. To achieve this, the group advanced the science of synchrotron radiation measurements to provide an ultraviolet radiation source with a known absolute output based on fundamental laws of physics. The resulting absolute ultraviolet radiation standard proved to be the best in the world in a recent comparison with other national standards laboratories.

Ravikiran Attota
Mechanical Engineer

Richard M. Silver
Physicist

Michael T. Stocker
Electronics Technician

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for transformational advances in semiconductor overlay metrology. Achievements include the first calibrated overlay standards used to develop reference metrology at the Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology consortium (SEMATECH) and to improve metrology tool uniformity in industry. The researchers pioneered widely used in-chip overlay targets and invented sub-resolution supertarget technology, supported by fundamental optical microscope design changes. These innovations will enable ten times greater density in processor and memory chips at the 45 nm node and beyond.

Alan Mink
Electronics Engineer

Xiao Tang
Supervisory Physical Scientist

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for extraordinary creativity, insight, and technical excellence in the development of the world's most capable system for exchange of cryptographic keys with security based on the laws of quantum physics. The group led in the engineering of an optical fiber-based quantum key distribution system whose speed far exceeds all others while enabling communication up to 50 kilometers or more. Essential to this achievement were the development of polarization compensation systems, photon frequency up-conversion devices, and special-purpose, high-speed communications hardware.

Andrew K. Persily
Supervisory Mechanical Engineer

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Persily is recognized for contributions to the increased protection of building occupants against airborne chemical and biological releases through the development and application of measurement science and predictive tools related to building airflow and contaminant transport. His technical accomplishments have led to new technologies and practices. Both public and private sector buildings have benefited from this effort through safer and more secure buildings including iconic structures such as the U.S. Capitol and the Pentagon.

Stephen A. Wise
Chief, Analytical Chemistry Division

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Wise is recognized for outstanding contributions in advancing organic analytical methodology through pioneering research in analytical separation science, and his critical involvement in the development of Standard Reference Materials (SRMs) for organic chemical analysis. He has been involved in the certification of 100+ SRMs which are used worldwide for validation of analytical methods and for quality assurance of analytical measurements to support environmental, food/nutrition, and clinical diagnostic measurements.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Gold Medal

LEADERSHIP

David Holst
Chief of Staff

Michael Annis
Steve Brodet
Physical Scientists, AUV Program

Rob Downs
AUV Project Manager

David Elliott
Navigation Response, Team 2 Lead

Kevin Kirsch
Injury Assessment Coordinator

Jason Rolfe
Vieques Program Manager

LT Briana Welton
Mid Atlantic Navigation Manager

Diane Wehner
Regional Resource Coordinator

National Ocean Service

LT Jake Yoos
Commissioned Officer,
NOAA Ship *RAINIER*

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

This group is recognized for leadership in integrating National Ocean Service's (NOS's) respected nautical charting techniques with mapping technology and applying that suite of skills and tools to locating unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the coastal waters of Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. The Vieques UXO Project was conducted as part of NOS efforts to restore the island's coastal and marine resources impacted by decades of live-fire training conducted by the U.S. military. UXO were identified and mapped, and the resulting products will be used to clean up and restore marine resources and improve Vieques public safety.

David F. Reid
Physical Scientist

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Dr. Reid is honored for developing and leading a multiyear, bi-national research program on ballast-borne invasive species risk from "NOBOB" (no-ballast-on-board) ships, which threatened both the Great Lakes ecosystem and transoceanic maritime commerce. Saltwater flushing was identified as a practicable, enforceable procedure that was adopted by U.S. and Canadian regulators for enhanced protection of the Great Lakes ecosystem. It significantly reduces risk while providing the maritime commerce industry with a new management practice to strengthen its environmental stewardship.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Patrick Flynn
James Cassin
Michael Henry
Special Agents

Susan Williams
Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The team is honored for coordinating and executing a joint investigation with U.S. federal and foreign law enforcement agencies that identified and apprehended two international wildlife smuggling rings. Their efforts exposed one Ukrainian kingpin, three United Kingdom smugglers, and nine primary U.S. smugglers with illegal proceeds exceeding $1,500,000. To do so, the team established international protocols for intelligence gathering and information sharing between international wildlife law enforcement agencies.

Weather Forecast Office, Dodge City, Kansas

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

WFO Dodge City is honored for providing forecast warning services to residents of Kansas during the May 4-6, 2007, severe weather outbreak. A total of 31 tornadoes occurred during this period, including an EF5 tornado that devastated the city of Greensburg, Kansas. WFO Dodge City issued a tornado warning for Greensburg 26 minutes before the tornado entered the south side of town and emphasized the danger in a Tornado Emergency Message issued 12 minutes before the tornado struck the town. Every tornado which occurred during this period was preceded by a warning with an average lead time of 16.3 minutes.

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Felix Kogan
Physical Scientist

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Dr. Kogan is honored for developing a space-based system to assess vegetation health and the severity of drought globally. After a significant amount of empirical research, he accomplished this system by innovatively merging observations from different spectral regions of a NOAA satellite instrument. He also transferred this capability to users in over 10 nations and trained users to apply the system locally. Policy makers in these nations and officials at international agencies are now empowered to take actions to prevent or reduce the effects of potentially devastating droughts.

Richard D. Methot
Research Fishery Biologist

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Dr. Methot is honored for developing the Stock Synthesis 2 (SS2) model that is widely used nationally and internationally to conduct fish stock assessments. Requiring less time to produce more accurate fish abundance estimates, it is adaptable to many fisheries and facilitates identification of maximum catch quotas that still sustain the fisheries. Developed to address the 2004 GAO Report: *Pacific Groundfish-Continued Efforts Needed to Improve Reliability of Stock Assessments*, it is used from Alaska to California, in Australia, and in the Pacific, and in 2008, the Atlantic east coast.

Peter D. R. Moeller
Research Chemist

National Ocean Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Dr. Moeller is honored for leading an interagency team that discovered and characterized a new group of toxins produced by the toxic microbe Pfiesteria. His leadership of this multi-year research was characterized by his scientific expertise, professional tenacity, and skilled partnering. Dr. Moeller's pioneering work paved the way for the development of reliable assays to detect and track such toxins and other bioactive agents in marine and coastal waters, and to harness them for public health and economic benefit through potential use in drug therapies.

HEROISM

CAPT Mark P. Ablondi
Commanding Officer, Marine Operations Center – Pacific

Michael C. Borries
John C. Hegre
Steven A. Ralson
Maintenance Mechanics

William Brandenburg
Supervisor, Facility Operations Specialist

James R. Schell
Environmental Protection Specialist

LCDR Douglas R. Schleiger
Associate Director for Operations, National Marine Mammal Laboratory

LT Daniel M. Simon
Operations Manager, Marine Operations Center – Pacific

CDR Frank A. Wood
Chief, Operations Division, Marine Operations Center – Pacific

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for responding to a four-alarm fire that erupted beneath the pier at NOAA's Marine Operations Center, Pacific on July 5, 2006. Upon receiving notification, these individuals immediately responded to the scene. There, they acted instinctively, identifying and removing hazardous materials; evacuating government vehicles and vessels; rescuing sensitive governmental records; and providing critical chemical and facility information to the fire department. The following days, these individuals worked tirelessly to quickly restore the operational status of the Center.

Silver Medal

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

NOAA's Open Rivers Initiative Team

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The team is honored for conceiving and implementing the Open Rivers Initiative (ORI). ORI works with local communities to remove dams and other river barriers, eliminate safety hazards from dilapidated structures, and redirect local funds from maintenance and insurance costs to augment recreational opportunities. Removal of barriers in rivers and streams immediately provides migratory fish access to critical upstream spawning and rearing habitat previously blocked for decades. These removals also eliminate public safety hazards and liability and maintenance costs for local communities.

Lisa Taylor
Geophysicist

John Campagnoli
Computer Specialist

Paula Dunbar
Joy Ikelman
Kelly Stroker
Physical Scientists

Susan McLean
Supervisory Physical Scientist

Robin Warnken
Oceanographer

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami challenged NOAA to strengthen worldwide tsunami warning, research, and mitigation. This dedicated team met that challenge by acquiring data and developing methodology and products that enabled better tsunami forecasting and more hazard-resilient communities. Their coordination and collaboration with federal, state, and international partners resulted in 21 coastal digital elevation models, 37 deep-ocean reconnaissance maps for DART® buoy deployments, the first tsunami hazard assessment for all U.S. coasts and a 400% increase in the tsunami data archive.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

David J. Hofmann
Director, Earth System Research Lab, Global Monitoring Division

James H. Butler
Russell C. Schnell
Physical Scientists

Thomas J. Conway
Edward J. Dlugokencky
Steven A. Montzka
Chemists

James W. Elkins
Kenneth Masarie
Physicists

Pieter P. Tans
Senior Scientist

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for creating the NOAA Annual Greenhouse Gas Index that enhances the connection between scientists and society by providing an easily understood standard that can be followed annually. Greenhouse gas (GHG) increases are, with "very high confidence" (9 out of 10 chances - IPCC 2007), the cause of observed climate warming. However, warming estimates have model uncertainties which are much larger than those of GHG measurements. In this work, an index was developed that was directly related to climate change but with small uncertainty.

Edward O'Lenic
Chief, Operations Branch,
Climate Prediction Center

Dan Collins
Jon Hoopingarner
Zoltan Toth
David Unger
Yuejian Zhu
Meteorologists

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The team is honored for collaborating with Canada and Mexico to develop and implement the North American Ensemble Forecast System (NAEFS). The NAEFS combines state-of-the-art weather forecast tools developed at the Meteorological Service of Canada and the U.S. National Weather Service. Combined, these tools provide weather and climate forecast guidance for the extended range that is much higher quality than previous operational guidance. This has contributed to all-time record high skill scores for Climate Prediction Center's extended-range temperature forecasts and to North American temperature forecasts, seamless across national boundaries.

Monterey Bay
National Marine Sanctuary

Channel Islands
National Marine Sanctuary

National Ocean Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Monterey Bay and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries are honored for successfully reaching the Latino constituent base in local California sanctuaries about issues facing marine resources. MERITO (Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans) staff works directly with diverse and underrepresented communities through adult school presentations, family expeditions, and school-based programming focused on ocean issues. MERITO has been highly successful and very well received due to intense dedication and hard work by the MERITO Team.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Kameron Behnam
Electronics Engineer

Institute for Telecommunication Sciences

Mudumbai Ranganathan
Computer Engineer

Stephen Quirolgico
Computer Scientist

National Institute of Standards and Technology

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The group is recognized for the development of a test tool which has been used by industry to accelerate the development of a Public Safety interoperability interface, the Project 25 Inter-Rf SubSystem Interface. The tool is used by industry to verify whether or not communication interfaces between different first responder radio systems are working. Components within the test tool have also been leveraged in commercial product developments within the public safety communications industry.

LEADERSHIP

Edward Davison
Deputy Associate Administrator for Domestic Spectrum Management

Darlene Drazenovich
Telecommunications Manager

Charles Glass
Robin Haines
Vernita Harris
Christopher Hofer
Brandon Mitchell
LiChing Sung
Telecommunications Specialists

Paul Najarian
Electronics Engineer

Office of Spectrum Management

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The team is cited for achieving all U.S. objectives at the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference resulting in global adoption of international rules supporting our country's existing and future radio spectrum needs on land, at sea, in the air, and in space. The team ensured protection of existing critical radio services necessary for our country's national and economic security. Their superb leadership furthered U.S. technological advances on a global scale and opened the way for deployment of new technologies and services to improve the lives of people in the U.S. and global communities.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Gold Medal

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

David Bowsher
Deputy General Counsel

Jennifer Nist
Chief Counsel for Regulations

Office of the General Counsel

Jane Luxton
General Counsel

Mary Beth Ward
Deputy General Counsel

Joel La Bissonniere
Assistant General Counsel for
Ocean Services

Jeffrey Dillen
Deputy General Counsel for
Ocean Services

Brett Grosko
Pamela Lawrence
Attorney Advisors

Office of the Under Secretary

James Lecky
Director, Office of Protected Resources

National Marine Fisheries Service

David Kaiser
Federal Consistency Coordinator

National Ocean Service

Office of the General Counsel

The group is recognized for providing exceptional legal and programmatic support in securing the first-ever Presidential exemption under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Action was taken in response to a court order enjoining critical Navy training exercises off the southern California coast found to violate the CZMA. The team facilitated exhaustive mediation efforts between California and the Navy, determined that the exercises posed no significant risk to marine mammals, and secured a CZMA exemption from the President authorizing the training exercises to occur because they are in the United States' paramount interest.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Silver Medal

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Patricia K. Derr
Mathematician

Carol N. Rice
Program Analyst

Office of Systems Evaluation

Susan I. Crismon
Auditor

Office of Audits

Office of Inspector General

The group is recognized for evaluating the enumeration process for American Indians living on reservations—a decennial operation that has long been overlooked despite poor historical outcomes. The team identified significant opportunities to improve process and procedures in the Census Bureau's modified approach for enumerating this population in the upcoming decennial census, and offered realistic, cost-effective solutions for improving the count in time to impact the 2010 Census.

Frederick J. Meny
Electronics Engineer

Martin C. Trocki
Computer Scientist

Office of Systems Evaluation

Office of Inspector General

The group is recognized for identifying critical weaknesses in the Department's oversight approach for the next-generation Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite series (GOES-R), which had put the program at risk for significant cost overruns and schedule delays. This multibillion-dollar satellite system upgrade—a joint project of NOAA and NASA—is the first for which NOAA and the Department have management and oversight responsibility. The team's work was instrumental in strengthening management and oversight of this major acquisition.

EXTERNAL AWARDS

ARTHUR S. FLEMMING AWARD

John M. Butler
NIST Fellow

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Butler was recognized for his contributions in advancing forensic science and human identification using DNA measurement science. Among his many contributions, the development of new short tandem repeat (STR) markers is expected to revolutionize the field of DNA forensic science. This milestone contribution is the direct result of Dr. Butler's achievements in developing new DNA tests to aid in the World Trade Center victim identification effort from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, and since then, has been used to aid in identification of victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Eric L. Shirley
Supervisory Physicist

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Shirley was recognized for fundamental theoretical advances in solid-state physics and optics. He has advanced the first-principles calculation of the electronic structure of crystalline insulators and semiconductors to allow the highly accurate prediction of their optical properties from the far-infrared to the x-ray spectral region. He has developed efficient approaches in the solution of the equations describing excited states in solids. His advances have made accurate optical diffraction corrections accessible to experimental scientists developing infrared radiation standards.

Taner Yildirim
Physicist

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. Yildirim was honored for a pioneering approach that combines first-principles, theoretical computational calculations with neutron scattering measurements to identify and exploit key properties in new and technologically important materials. His innovative, quantum-mechanical methodology is fundamentally altering the approach to research problems and provides a new paradigm for addressing critical issues in materials science. He has invented ways to enhance hydrogen storage in a variety of solid-state materials, potentially surmounting the most serious obstacle to the hydrogen economy.

Many thanks to those individuals who contributed so much to today's program.

Special thanks to:

Office of Human Resources Management Incentive Awards Program Manager
Michael R. Osver

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Intern
Stephen Ramos

Incentive Awards Program Officers of the Department

Cheryl Woodard . . . . . BIS

Glenn West . . . . . Census

Michael Barber . . . . . EDA

Christine Agoo . . . . . ITA

Roberto Lopez . . . . . MBDA

Amy Cubert . . . . . NIST

Jennifer Heyob . . . . . NOAA

Azalea Nunnally . . . . . OIG

Armed Forces Color Guard

Multimedia Division