





A R T M E N T O F C O M M E

# SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



# SIXTY-NINTH HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

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THE HERBERT C. HOOVER BUILDING AUDITORIUM  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW

September 26, 2017

## INTRODUCTION

Kevin E. Mahoney  
*Director for Human Resources Management*

## PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Armed Forces Color Guard

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Joel Silberman

## ADDRESS

Honorable Wilbur Ross  
*Secretary of Commerce*

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

Honorable Ellen Herbst  
*Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration*

## PRESENTATION OF GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS

Secretary Ross assisted by Department Officials

## CLOSING REMARKS

Kevin E. Mahoney  
*Director for Human Resources Management*

## SOLOIST

Joel Silberman



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings! It is my privilege to welcome you to the 69th Annual Honor Awards Ceremony at the Department of Commerce.

Today we honor exceptional Commerce staff for their dedication to excellence and to the success of the Department.

The Department has had a century-long history of creating conditions for economic growth and opportunity for all Americans. Committed public servants have doggedly fulfilled their mission to empower American businesses and communities by giving them the tools, technology, and data they need to innovate, prosper, and create jobs.

Each of our honorees displays extraordinary dedication. They go above and beyond the call of duty to deliver the best possible service to the American public.

Their areas of expertise are vast, ranging from trade and investment to science and engineering to business and community development to cutting-edge technology and data analysis.

It is with great admiration that I commend each of our 2017 Honor Awards recipients and thank them for their service to the Department and to our country.

Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbur Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wilbur" and the last name "Ross" clearly legible.

Wilbur Ross

U.S. Secretary of Commerce



## 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

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## GOLD MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Chantal Lakatos de Alcantara

*Export Administration*

*Bureau of Industry and Security*

Ms. Lakatos de Alcantara is honored for negotiating and implementing the Commerce equities of India's Major Defense Partner status with the United States. Her efforts resulted in significant changes to export control policies toward India that expand commercial, civil, and military trade with India, and increase efficiency and transparency in the licensing process as well as enhance the overarching U.S. – India strategic partnership.

Edward Hayden

*Export Enforcement*

*Bureau of Industry and Security*

Special Agent Hayden is recognized for his part in a 5-year investigation of HK Potential Electronics LTD. This investigation led to dismantling a Chinese procurement network responsible for procuring controlled FPGA integrated circuits for the Chinese military and preventing counterfeit FPGA integrated circuits from being integrated into U.S. military guidance systems. SA Hayden's efforts led to the arrest and guilty plea of three Chinese nationals lured to the U.S. as part of an undercover operation. Two individuals were sentenced to 15-months imprisonment and one was sentenced to 12-months imprisonment.



## SILVER MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Richard Fitzpatrick  
Ari Kozlow  
Brent Wagner  
Patrick Tirling

*Export Enforcement*

*Bureau of Industry and Security*

The group is recognized for a 3-year investigation of a U.S.-based Russian procurement front company proven to have smuggled millions of dollars of controlled electronics to Russian military defense contractors. The investigation included physical surveillances, countless interviews, email search warrants, physical search warrants at a house, businesses, and storage lockers, detaining shipments prior to export, seizing bank accounts valued at approximately \$6 million, and arresting the procurement organization leader who ultimately pled guilty to the charges and agreed to pay a \$500,000 penalty.

# BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

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Juventino Martin-Vargas

*Export Enforcement*

*Bureau of Industry and Security*

Mr. Martin-Vargas is recognized for outstanding investigative work, which resulted in the arrest and conviction of Bilal Ahmed for procuring and illegally exporting materials to support Pakistan's Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) Satellite, UAV, military and space programs. Utilizing sophisticated criminal investigative techniques, Mr. Martin-Vargas gathered evidence uncovering Ahmed's scheme of procuring items from unsuspecting U.S. vendors for Pakistan. These efforts had a direct impact on national security by disrupting Pakistan's ability to advance its military and space programs.

# ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION

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## GOLD MEDAL LEADERSHIP

Lucia S. Foster  
Shawn D. Klimek  
Barbara A. Downs  
Annetta M. Titus  
Christa D. Jones  
Cheryl A. Grim

*U.S. Census Bureau*

*Economics and Statistics Administration*

The group is recognized for creating the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers. The FSRDCs provide, for the first time, a secure means of access to restricted-use microdata from all participating Federal statistical agencies. They have transformed Federal statistical data use and analysis through four areas of change: governance, metadata management, technology, and customer experience management. By increasing access, the group increased the data's usability for research and ensured that independent researchers are able to provide insightful analyses about America's people and economy.



## GOLD MEDAL CUSTOMER SERVICE

Michael Armah  
Kyle Brown  
Brendan J. Leary  
Gregory Prunchak  
Jason W. Chute  
Stephen P. Holliday

*Bureau of Economic Analysis*

*Economics and Statistics Administration*

The group is honored for producing and disseminating more accurate early readings of quarterly GDP, the most comprehensive measure of the U.S. economy's health. They accomplished this by analyzing and identifying data to be incorporated earlier into the GDP monthly estimates in each quarter. They collaborated with data providers, engaged stakeholders, and created new ways for the public to access the data. It is significant because U.S. leaders, global investors, business executives, and the American people rely on GDP data to make informed decisions about policy, investing, hiring, and more.

# INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

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## GOLD MEDAL LEADERSHIP

Morgan Barr

*Industry and Analysis*

*International Trade Administration*

Ms. Barr is recognized for successfully managing the Department's inaugural review of Miscellaneous Tariff Bill duty suspensions under new legislative requirements. This process entailed the management of over 100 staff to review an unprecedented 2,600 petitions within the shortest time period ever dictated by Congress, as well as intensive coordination with multiple government agencies. The review identified those petitions that included products for which there is a competing domestic production, thereby preventing harm to domestic producers, while enhancing competitiveness of U.S. industry.



## GOLD MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Global Markets  
Industry and Analysis

*International Trade Administration*

The organizations are honored for their collaboration in support of the United States' historic "Partner Country" status at the 2016 Hanover Fair. The organizations provided outstanding leadership across the interagency in this Presidential event; they exceeded all expectations in delegation recruitment of U.S. companies and economic development organizations; they strengthened bilateral relations through policy events with an important ally and trade partner, Germany; and they displayed unprecedented cooperation and innovative problem-solving across business units.

# INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

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Isabel Hill  
Jennifer Aguinaga  
Brian Beall  
Julie Heizer  
Curt Cottle

## *Industry and Analysis*

Jing Liu  
Hector Maldonado  
Jing Wei  
Rebecca Balogh

## *Global Markets*

### *International Trade Administration*

The team is recognized for outstanding leadership in securing the first-ever U.S. – China Tourism Year as a presidential initiative and successfully executing a year of events designed to leverage government’s focus and give lift to industry efforts to capture more of the Chinese outbound travel market. As the top forecasted growth market for travel and tourism, Chinese visitation is critical to achieving the goal by 2021 of welcoming 100 million international visitors to the U.S. annually, who are estimated to spend \$250 billion.

Mark Russell  
Jay Carreiro  
Patrick Levy  
Genard Burity  
Carolina Epifanio

## *Global Markets*

### *International Trade Administration*

The CS Rio Team is honored for its innovative efforts in bringing success to U.S. companies bidding on Rio 2016 Olympic projects. To succeed in Rio, companies needed the right team and the right strategy. The CS Rio Team crafted an ambitious plan and worked tirelessly to create the very best conditions for success. As a result, U.S. companies have left an indelible mark on the Rio 2016 Games, winning public tenders in excess of \$150 million. CS Rio’s Olympic Opportunity Strategy will serve as a template for future mega-events both in terms of commercial advocacy and interagency cooperation.

# INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

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Steel Investigations Team

*Enforcement and Compliance*

*International Trade Administration*

The Steel Investigations Team is recognized for conducting the AD and CVD investigations of various steel products from 10 countries. Covered imports from the 10 countries were almost \$5 billion. These investigations presented novel and challenging issues, with some being conducted on a truncated schedule, and under intense scrutiny from Congress, the U.S. steel industry, and senior USG leaders. The Team's thorough analyses and collaborative efforts helped offset many unfair trade practices and ensured a level playing field for U.S. steel workers and manufacturers.



SILVER MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

George Tracy

*Global Markets*

*International Trade Administration*

Mr. Tracy is recognized for creating the International Expansion Blueprint (IEB), a client engagement methodology, based on Project Management Institute, Agile, and Six Sigma best practices. The IEB fulfills the Department's mission of creating the conditions for economic growth and opportunity in the most effective and efficient way. This comprehensive plan is specific to a company's export operations and helps them to transition from random export expansion to leveraging the full arsenal of resources to address all aspects of international business expansion.

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

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## GOLD MEDAL SCIENTIFIC/ ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Piotr A. Domanski

*Engineering Laboratory*

Andrei F. Kazakov  
Mark O. McLinden

*Material Measurement Laboratory*

*National Institute of Standards and Technology*

The group is recognized for performing a systematic and exhaustive search for the next generation of refrigerants. Current refrigerants are potent greenhouse gases and are being phased out globally. The industries that produce refrigerants and use them in refrigeration systems require new fluids to meet demanding efficiency, reliability, and safety requirements. The team applied its combined expertise in chemistry, thermodynamics, and refrigeration to screen 60 million molecules, identifying the 27 best candidates for the next generation of refrigerants.

Patrick Egan  
Jay Hendricks  
Douglas Olson  
Jacob Ricker  
Gregory Scace  
Jack Stone  
Gregory Strouse

*Physical Measurement Laboratory*

*National Institute of Standards and Technology*

The group is recognized for revolutionizing pressure measurement technology by their invention of the Fixed-Length Optical Cavity (FLOC) that redefines gas pressure in terms of fundamental constants. FLOC replaces the previous standard of 375 years with a single device that is 100 times faster, 20 times smaller, 10 times more precise, 100 times lighter, and 2 times more accurate. The new FLOC delivers a traceable standard and sensor for U.S. industry and the world metrology community that eliminates the need for mercury, an environmental neurotoxin.

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

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Michael D. Janezic  
Ari D. Feldman  
Sheryl M. Genco  
Azizollah Kord  
Daniel G. Kuester  
John M. Ladbury  
Duncan A. McGillivray  
Adam J. Wunderlich  
Wen-Bin Yang  
William F. Young

*Communications Technology Laboratory*

*National Institute of Standards and Technology*

The group is recognized for successfully developing a new test methodology and performing complex radiated measurements to quantitatively assess the impact of LTE wireless signals on the performance of GPS receivers operating in the RNSS L1 frequency band in less than 1 year. This breakthrough has helped industry evaluate future wireless communications technologies that may be deployed in this frequency band and has assisted the spectrum regulators (FCC and NTIA) in their efforts to develop future spectrum policies.

Luis Miaja-Avila  
William R. Doriese  
Ralph Jimenez  
Galen C. O'Neil  
Kevin J. Silverman  
Daniel S. Swetz  
Joel N. Ullom

*Physical Measurement Laboratory*

Bradley K. Alpert

*Information Technology Laboratory*

*National Institute of Standards and Technology*

The group is recognized for developing first-in-the-world research tools able to make stop-action X-ray measurements of light interacting with molecules on near-instantaneous time scales. Using their innovative table-top system, they obtained results with 10 times better time resolution than is available at large X-ray synchrotron facilities costing hundreds of millions of dollars, and collected X-rays with 10 to 100 times better efficiency. The group's work enables fast turnaround measurements of materials for photonics, energy storage, and industrial catalysis.

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

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John E. Schiel  
Paul C. DeRose  
Catherine A. Mouchahoir  
Srivalli Telikepalli  
Abigail H. Turner

*Material Measurement Laboratory*

*National Institute of Standards and Technology*

The group is recognized for developing the first-of-its-kind monoclonal antibody protein reference material, NISTmAb, which ensures the consistent, high-quality manufacture of state-of-the-art protein drugs used to treat intractable medical conditions such as cancer, autoimmune disorders, and infectious diseases. NISTmAb, the world's most highly characterized protein reference material, is a global benchmarking tool for the new manufacturing technologies.



SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/  
ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

John Bollinger

*Physical Measurement Laboratory*

*National Institute of Standards and Technology*

Dr. Bollinger is recognized for accelerating the coming "second quantum revolution," which will reshape the economy with a new generation of products that exploit the strange and powerful properties of nature at the smallest scales. Success will rely on controlling and manipulating dozens of entangled particles simultaneously, rather than just a few which has typified research to date. Dr. Bollinger was the first in the world to succeed at creating a quantum entangled state using hundreds of particles, where each particle is separately identified and its information can be independently read.

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

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Joseph Falco  
Jeremy Marvel  
Will Shackelford

## *Engineering Laboratory*

### *National Institute of Standards and Technology*

The team is recognized for their technical leadership in the development of ISO/TS 15066, the first international technical specification for safe operation of collaborative industrial robot systems in workspaces shared with humans. Through comprehensive development of innovative testbeds, sensors, and artifacts, coupled with thorough experimentation and formal analyses, the team provided critical test methods, metrics, and empirical data for assessing the safety of robot-human interactions, helping to ensure safe introduction of new productivity-enhancing technologies in manufacturing.

Andrew Slifka  
Elizabeth Drexler

## *Material Measurement Laboratory*

### *National Institute of Standards and Technology*

The group is recognized for providing the ASME hydrogen pipeline code committee the scientific basis for revising its code, reducing the material and labor required for new hydrogen pipelines while maintaining safe operation. The work showed that higher strength steels could be used in hydrogen with no reduction in fatigue performance. These new guidelines enable reductions in material cost between 30-45%, with associated labor cost reductions. The result is the cost of new hydrogen pipelines has decreased between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 per mile.

# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

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Xiaoyu Alan Zheng  
Richard Silver  
Johannes A. Soons

*Physical Measurement Laboratory*

Sushama Singh

*Office of Information Systems Management*

*National Institute of Standards and Technology*

The team is recognized for developing the first open-access research database of microscopic firearm marks on bullets and cartridge cases. State and Federal forensic laboratories, academia, and industry have embraced the database as a critical tool to develop the scientific basis for firearm identification. The database provides previously inaccessible data that strengthens firearm forensics and develops robust statistical approaches to objectively characterize the weight of evidence that ensures the fair administration of justice, potentially affecting thousands of court cases every year.

# NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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## GOLD MEDAL LEADERSHIP

Mark S. Paese  
Mary Ann Kutny  
Charles T. Wooldridge  
Mara J. Browne

*National Environmental Satellite, Data and  
Information Service*

Katherine E. Sharpless

*National Institute of Standards and Technology*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

The group is recognized for exceptional leadership in developing a set of open data sharing principles that will improve access to government supported scientific data, inform negotiations of international science and technology agreements, promote more open sharing of scientific data by U.S. partners around the world, and increase returns from Federal investments in science and technology. These principles demonstrate the U.S. commitment to increasing access to government-supported scientific data, which expands opportunities to apply new scientific knowledge to global challenges.



## GOLD MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Marta Nammack  
Shannon Bettridge  
Phillip Clapham  
Angela Somma  
Nancy Young  
Paul Wade

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

Ruth Ann Lowery  
Briana Dema

*Office of the General Counsel*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

The group is honored for exceptional professional achievement in science, law, and policy to promote species recovery by determining a new Endangered Species Act listing status of the humpback whale. The group analyzed highly technical scientific data, developed novel policy approaches, and articulated a compelling legal case to confirm the conservation success of nine populations of humpback whales and focus greater conservation attention on the needs of five other populations still in greatest danger of extinction.

# NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



## GOLD MEDAL SCIENTIFIC/ ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Brian Cosgrove  
Edward Clark  
Donna Page  
Thomas Graziano  
Cham Pham  
Mary Mullusky  
Simon Hsiao  
Steven Earle  
Rebecca Cosgrove  
Scott Lindsey

*National Weather Service*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

The group is honored for development and accelerated implementation of the first-ever, operational, continental-scale National Water Model in a high-performance computing environment, to significantly enhance NWS Impact-Based Decision Support Services. The team addressed requirements, modeling, supercomputer operations, post-processing, and dissemination to expand NOAA's water forecasts from 4,000 to 2.7 million USGS stream gauge locations nationwide. The team led this complex and collaborative effort with a number of academic and Federal partners, including NCAR, UCAR, CUAHSI, NSF, and the Federal IWRSS partners.

Michael W. Fitzmaurice, Jr.  
Jesse Reich  
Christopher O'Connors  
Joy Hargraves

*National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

The group is honored for commissioning into operations the first Medium Earth Orbiting Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) Mission Control Center and Ground Stations in the world. This new lifesaving MEOSAR system vastly improves the capabilities of the current International Cospas-Sarsat system by utilizing the distress signal relay capabilities of the Global Navigation Satellite System launched by the United States, the European Commission, and the Russian Federation.

Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite – R Series Program

*National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

The organization is cited for their tireless dedication and contributions by completing the GOES-R satellite, which launched on November 19, 2016. The GOES-R Team completed a highly complex, integrated operational mission-system development; readied the satellite and system for launch and operations, including active engagement with a network of operational users; and delivered the GOES-16 satellite to orbit within cost and meeting all technical requirements. Their excellence sets the foundation for the next 20+ years of weather forecasting for our Nation.

# NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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James R. Ott

*National Weather Service*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

Mr. Ott is honored for developmental work that identifies wind compression events at major U.S. airports. His algorithms provide FAA decision makers the information required to meet stringent arrival separation distances between aircraft during the approach and landing phase of flight at four of the busiest airports in the world. His program has a direct impact on the FAA's overall safety mission for the flying public affecting over 3,000 aircraft during any high wind event.



GOLD MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Jamie Rhome  
Jennifer Sprague

*National Weather Service*

Jesse Feyen

*Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research*

Douglas Marcy

*National Ocean Service*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

The group is honored for leading a multi-year and multi-office effort to implement cutting-edge National Weather Service products that better inform the public, media, and emergency officials about impending tropical cyclone storm surge – the deadliest hurricane-related hazard, responsible sometimes for hundreds to thousands of U.S. deaths. This innovative product will reduce the loss of life associated with hurricane-related storm surge.

# NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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## SILVER MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Atuatasi-Lelei Peau  
Lisa Symons  
Dana Wilkes  
David Lott  
Catherine Berg  
Ruth Yender

*National Ocean Service*

Clifford Edwards

*Acquisition and Grants Office*

Duane Smith

*Office of the General Counsel*

Murray Bauer

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

The team is honored for removing a 62-ton grounded vessel from a sensitive coral reef in American Samoa. The removal took only 4 months to complete despite multiple challenges, including the vessel being laden with various pollutants and tons of dry cement; the vessel's highly remote location; and continual rough seas and hazardous weather conditions. The team worked collaboratively with the local community, village leaders, territorial and Federal partners from across the Western Pacific, and the private sector to remove the vessel from the reef that is home to not only protected species (e.g., green sea turtles), but resources the community depends upon for their livelihoods (e.g., spiny lobster).



## SILVER MEDAL SCIENTIFIC/ ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory  
Acoustics Program

Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory  
Engineering Development Division

*Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research*

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

The organizations are honored for the successful construction, deployment, and recovery of a deep-ocean mooring system to record ambient sound at Challenger Deep, Mariana Trench, the world's deepest oceanic area. This success demonstrates the value of relatively low-cost ocean-sampling methods to recover key data from otherwise inaccessible deep-sea regions. Analysis indicates both anthropogenic and natural sound sources are common at Challenger Deep, providing essential baseline data to evaluate future noise trends and their ecosystem impacts.

# NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

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## GOLD MEDAL LEADERSHIP

Fiona Alexander  
Vernita Harris  
Ashley Heineman  
Ryan Carroll  
Suzanne Radell

### *Office of International Affairs*

Kathy Smith

### *Office of Chief Counsel*

Juliana Gruenwald  
Stephen Yusko  
Kate Geldaker

### *Office of Congressional and Public Affairs*

Jeremiah Kline

### *Office of the General Counsel*

### *National Telecommunications and Information Administration*

The group is honored for navigating a variety of complex challenges while under intense scrutiny from Congress and the international community, resulting in the successful completion of an 18-year effort to privatize the Internet DNS. The group performed exceptional services to the Department by transitioning stewardship of the IANA functions as a means to solidify global support for multi-stakeholder Internet governance as opposed to intergovernmental control. Use of the multi-stakeholder approach protects the free and open global Internet, bolsters innovation, and advances U.S. leadership in the digital economy.



## GOLD MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

James Mitchell  
Mouncef Belcaid  
Peggy O'Connor  
John Quinlan  
Matthias Schiller  
Paul Madison  
Patrick Schwinghammer  
Brian Kassa  
Brian Hobson  
Terrie Callahan

### *First Responder Network Authority*

### *National Telecommunications and Information Administration*

The group is honored for executing a complex acquisition and innovative public private partnership model to incentivize a commercial partner to deploy the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. The approach features a \$100 billion contract with annual repayments to achieve financial sustainability, coupled with a 25-year performance period focused on innovative public safety communication. The team deconstructed the classic Federal acquisition model and rebuilt it using an objectives-based approach that answers the decades-old problem of fragmented first responder communications.

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

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## GOLD MEDAL

### PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Michael Maraya  
Jeffrey Bepko  
Rose Bernaldo  
William Rogers

*Office of the Chief Information Officer*

*Office of the Deputy Secretary*

The team is honored for reducing the risk to life and property for the American people by restoring Department of Commerce national security systems to an acceptable security baseline. The team identified the cybersecurity requirements for these systems; selected, implemented, and assessed cybersecurity controls to meet those requirements; and used those results to obtain a valid authority to operate (ATO). Achieving an ATO averted a shutdown of Commerce national security systems, which would have placed American lives and property at risk and prevented several Department bureaus from fulfilling their missions.

# OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

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## GOLD MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

John T. Masterson, Jr.  
Joseph V. Jest  
Adrienne Frazier  
Brian Volsky

*Chief Counsel for Industry and Security*

*Office of the General Counsel*

This group is being recognized for its outstanding achievement in the successful prosecution of the Chinese telecommunications company ZTE Corporation for its illegal export of controlled electronics items to Iran and North Korea, and for its multiyear effort, orchestrated by ZTE senior management, to destroy evidence and hide illegal transactions. As a result of this group's litigation skill and tenacity, ZTE pled guilty to criminal and administrative charges totaling \$1.19 billion, with the U.S. Department of Commerce receiving \$661 million, the largest settlement in Bureau of Industry and Security history.



## SILVER MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Gwenann Manseau  
Samantha Yoon

*Chief Counsel for International Commerce*

*Office of the General Counsel*

The group is honored for extraordinary contributions in promoting the commercial rule of law in China, benefiting U.S. companies and promoting stronger and more cooperative U.S. – China relations. Fulfilling two commitments between the two Presidents, they organized an exchange to address longstanding concerns about excess industrial capacity in China and a Dialogue to improve the transparency and predictability of the Chinese judicial system.

# OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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## SILVER MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Mikhail Batkhan  
Melanie Caesar Danberg  
Peter Sima-Eichler

### *Office of Audits and Evaluations*

Stephen Ravas

### *Office of Investigations*

### *Office of Inspector General*

This group is honored for OIG's investigation into time and attendance abuse within USPTO's patent examiner corps. Their cutting-edge analysis—merging and analyzing massive data sets from multiple sources for more than 8,000 patent examiners—revealed that hundreds of examiners submitted hundreds of thousands of unsupported hours. This work resulted in sweeping USPTO policy changes to prevent and detect time and attendance abuse.

# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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## GOLD MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Jacqueline M. Stone  
Jerry Lorengo  
Daniel Sullivan  
Pinchus M. Laufer  
Brandon Fetterolf  
Gary B. Nickol  
Susy Tsang-Foster  
John-Yusef Menkaure

*Office of the Commissioner for Patents*

*United States Patent and Trademark Office*

The group is recognized for developing and implementing Patents 4 Patients, an innovative pilot program that expedites examination of patent applications for cancer therapy inventions. The program supports the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative by enabling inventors of cancer immunotherapies to establish rights to their inventions in half the time that would typically be required. The early grant of intellectual property rights facilitates delivery of groundbreaking new cancer therapies to the clinic by empowering inventors to confidently invest in their inventions.



## GOLD MEDAL CUSTOMER SERVICE

Mark R. Powell  
Maria T. Holtmann  
Jessica N. Patterson  
Don Levin  
Nelson C. Yang

*Office of International Patent Cooperation*

Mark Brightwell  
Rey F. De Jesus  
Farhan Shaikh

*Office of the Chief Information Officer*

Hai K. Luong

*Office of Patent Information Management*

*United States Patent and Trademark Office*

The group is honored for leading the world's largest patent offices in creating the Global Dossier, a set of services enabling efficient management and examination of patent applications filed in multiple offices. Through the group's negotiations with other offices and working closely with all stakeholders, Global Dossier is now being used around the world. It creates efficiencies that will result in savings for applicants that can be invested in more innovation, contributing to growth in IP-intensive industries that account for more than 30% of American jobs.

Many thanks to those individuals who contributed to today's program:

*Department's Incentive Awards Program Manager, Emeritus:*

Michael R. Osver

*Incentive Awards Program Officers of the Department*

Audra Griner – BIS

Ryan Yalung – ESA

Matthew Hundemann – ITA

Morgan Frycklund – NIST

Cynthia Davis – NOAA

Kimberly Deare – NTIA

Mary Ann Millard – OCIO

Gwen Green – OGC

Ann Eilers – OIG

Debra Ginther – PTO

*Special thanks to:*

Joel Silberman, Soloist

Richard Houston, Writer/Editor

Armed Forces Color Guard

Mail and Multimedia Division



