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## USACE recognizes outstanding legal staff

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—The Afghanistan Engineer District-South has some of the best U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian employees. So, it came as no surprise that two of civilians in the legal office, Hank Iarrusso and Louis P. DiNatale, were recently recognized for their outstanding work.

Henry “Hank” Iarrusso, South District’s district counsel, was awarded the USACE Chief Counsel’s E. Manning Seltzer Award for outstanding contributions to USACE legal services. The E. Manning Seltzer Award recognizes an attorney who has made one or more special contributions to the Corps legal service mission through the development of a legal theory, a legal management innovation or practice, or outstanding performance in solving a legal or management problem.



*Hank Iarrusso, South District's district counsel, was awarded the E. Manning Seltzer Award for outstanding contributions to USACE legal service August 2011. (USACE Photo/Karla Marshall)*



*Louis P. DiNatale, paralegal specialist at the South District, was awarded the Keystone Award for outstanding para professional August 2011. (USACE Photo/Karla Marshall)*

Iarrusso was recognized for his extraordinary procurement actions and his numerous significant contributions to the USACE mission in Afghanistan. He ensured that all real estate and fiscal legal requirements were met as Iarrusso charted new areas of the law by providing legal guidance on Commercial Airlift Review Board certification, the Fly American Act and Civil Reserve Air Fleet legal requirements. Additionally, he was instrumental in resurrecting a seldom-used procurement tool—sealed bidding—at the district.

“There was a lot of work involved with the sealed bidding process,” Iarrusso said. “I want to thank the (Transatlantic) Division and our district team for all the work that went into developing and implementing the sealed bidding process throughout the district. We had to get about a half billion dollars worth of quality work accomplished, while protecting the government’s interest. These contracts go a long way to accomplishing the U.S. Army’s mission in Afghanistan.”

Sealed bidding employs competitive bids, public bid openings, and prompt contract awards to the offeror with the lowest-priced, responsive bid. Sealed bidding has worked well for many large military construction projects on bases in the United States,” Iarussso said. “Our ANA (Afghan National Army) projects are comparable with bases construction because of the standard types of facilities, such as barracks, dining halls and recreation facilities.” Also, the sealed bidding process helps diversify the district’s acquisition strategy, which benefits the overall USACE mission.

Iarrusso was also awarded the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, the Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal and the NATO Medal for his contributions while assigned to the district. He will return to the Huntington District Sept. 27, where he'll resume his position as district counsel.

Louis P. DiNatale was awarded the USACE Chief Counsel's Keystone Award for outstanding para professional. The Keystone Award recognizes the professionalism and indispensable role non-attorneys perform in the successful accomplishment of the Corps legal services mission. DiNatale is recognized for his extraordinary work with the Freedom of Information Act program at his home district, Louisville District.

In December 2009, DiNatale started his civilian employment with USACE after leaving a 24-year career with the U.S. Army. His first major task was to reduce the Louisville District's FOIA request backlog by 10 percent. With his co-workers, not only did they accomplish that task, but through the implementation of a new program the entire backlog was gone in just seven months.

"The program works and is still keeping pace with the FOIA requests at the Louisville District," said DiNatale. "Once I got the program on track, I went to other organizations to explain our process. I briefed our process to the (U.S.) Departments of Justice and Transportation, to the Internal Revenue Service and others."

"I had no idea that my performance was on that level. I just did what I thought needed to be done and I'm just grateful that the Louisville District Counsel, Janice Lengel, nominated me," DiNatale concluded.

DiNatale was also awarded the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, the Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal and the NATO Medal for his contributions while assigned to the district. DiNatale concluded his deployment to Afghanistan Aug. 27, and will resume his paralegal position at the Louisville District.

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USACE's Afghanistan Engineer District-South provides design and construction services throughout southern Afghanistan to support the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan. The work is carried out in Regional Commands South, Southwest and West with the goal of achieving counterinsurgency effects and bolstering the Afghan Government's services to its people.

Please visit <http://www.aed.usace.army.mil/AES/news.asp> for more news and features.