

SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

2013

## SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

#### THE AMPHITHEATER

RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

**JANUARY 8, 2013** 

#### INTRODUCTION

Frederick J. Stephens

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration

#### PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Armed Forces Color Guard

#### NATIONAL ANTHEM

United States Air Force Band

#### **ADDRESS**

Honorable Rebecca M. Blank Acting Secretary of Commerce

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

Honorable Scott B. Quehl Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration

#### PRESENTATION OF GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS

Acting Secretary Blank assisted by Department Officials

#### CLOSING REMARKS

Frederick J. Stephens
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration

#### **SOLOIST**

Paul Bell



#### MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY

Dear Commerce Team,

It's clear that Commerce Department employees are playing a key role in helping businesses create jobs as we build on the momentum of our economy. We're supporting American manufacturing, promoting U.S. exports, fostering innovation, investing in infrastructure, stewarding our environment, collecting and analyzing data and statistics, and much more.

This year's Honor Awards recipients provide excellent examples of how the dedicated public servants at Commerce are making a difference in our Nation. In the pages that follow, you can read about how they are reforming our export control system, improving the timeliness and accuracy of data we provide, saving lives through breakthroughs in weather forecasting, and more. In addition, you can see examples of employees who—in the course of their day-to-day lives—have distinguished themselves through acts of heroism.

Too often people overlook the broad, positive impact that public servants have on their daily lives. That's why these Honor Awards are so important: through them we salute your amazing accomplishments.

The Commerce Department is a powerful force for our economy and for our society as a whole. I commend all of the talented and devoted members of our "One Commerce" team, and I thank you for continuing to set—and achieve—the highest goals and standards.

Congratulations and thank you all for your continued service to our country.

Rebecca M. Blank Acting Secretary



#### **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

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Anne Rung
Office of the Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration

Jerry Harper
Office of the Chief Information Officer

Timothy Halton

National Institute of Standards

and Technology

Rob Bruner Sandra Giger National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Michael Palensky
Mark Hopson
Mark E. Markovic
U.S. Census Bureau
Economics and Statistics Administration

Greg Lower
Bureau of Economic Analysis
Economics and Statistics Administration

Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration

The group is recognized for its use of private sector strategies to drive down the costs of computers by 40 percent and improve services. They borrowed an approach used by the private sector: strategic sourcing. Previously, the bureaus bought computers separately. The effect was to break Commerce's buying power into hundreds of pieces, resulting in higher costs, vastly different prices and service levels, and duplication of effort. By going out to the market with the full purchasing power of the Department, using a common set of standards, the group transformed the way Commerce buys commodities.

## BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY



#### **GOLD MEDAL**

PERSONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Jonathan Barnes

**Export Enforcement** 

#### Bureau of Industry and Security

Special Agent Barnes is recognized for his tireless investigative efforts in dismantling an illicit diversion network that smuggled U.S. electronics valued at millions of dollars to the Galeria Page Shopping Center in Paraguay, a U.S. Treasury Department Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity. It is only through Special Agent Barnes' initiative and meticulous investigative activities that this case resulted in the conviction of three defendants, dissolution of the network's front company operations, and the seizure of over 250 potentially illicit shipments valued near \$119 million.

Andrew Corley Scott Anderson Tracy Martin Michael Hancock

#### **Export Enforcement**

Joseph Jest Eric Clark Greg Michelsen

Office of the General Counsel

Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is recognized for excellence in the still-unannounced investigation and prosecution of a major company and its subsidiaries. The group uncovered complex corporate schemes, designed to prevent detection, that used U.S. goods and technology, involved U.S. persons, and otherwise conducted prohibited business in Iran, Syria, Sudan, and Cuba in violation of trade sanctions laws. The case potentially involves the largest fine in Commerce history as well as criminal and administrative prosecutions.

Edward Hayden Stephen LaForest Richard Greene

#### **Export Administration**

#### Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is recognized for its unrelenting determination and superb investigative efforts in defeating a complex international conspiracy that violated U.S. export control laws by the illicit export of military and dual-use items to hundreds of end-users located in the People's Republic of China. This watershed investigation resulted in a criminal fine of \$15.5 million and the longest prison sentence for an individual in Department of Commerce history.

## BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

Hillary Hess
William Arvin
Willard Fisher
Timothy Mooney
Gene Christiansen
Alexander Lopes
Dennis Krepp
Darrell Spires

#### **Export Administration**

Peter Klason R. Elizabeth Abraham

#### Office of the General Counsel

#### Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is recognized for implementing the President's directive to fundamentally reform the Cold War-era U.S. export control system. The group revised the U.S. Munitions List and the Commerce Control List to facilitate the export of less sensitive military items to U.S. allies. These exports will enhance national security by improving interoperability and strengthening the U.S. defense industrial base.

Philip Kuhn
Jake Oakley
Michael Zaborowski
Jonathan Svendsen
Elizabeth Blanch
John Johnson
Sidney Simon
Jonathan Carson

#### **Export Enforcement**

#### Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is recognized for its relentless application of meticulous investigative analysis and methods that ultimately led to the disruption of a high-order foreign-government-supported nuclear procurement operation. This complex procurement network operated for a number of years, across and through multiple foreign nodes in a volatile geographical region. The work of this team led directly to the indictment of two individuals, the conviction of one, and the identification of numerous foreign firms that operated as proxies for a highly sensitive foreign government nuclear program.

## BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

Patricia Muldonian

**Export Administration** 

Rochelle Woodard

Office of the General Counsel

Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is recognized for its distinguished work with the Government of Mexico to develop an effective dual-use export control system. Members of the group diligently worked toward this goal, accommodating major changes in the plans and structure of the Government of Mexico. The group stayed current on the latest political and personnel developments, and evaluated multiple drafts of proposed laws and regulations. They formed a close bond with their Mexican counterparts that significantly impacted the success of the effort to create the dual-use export control laws and regulations.



Kent Benjamin
Marco DeAsa-Littig
Kirk Flashner
Deniz Muslu
David Peters
Mark Roberts

**Export Enforcement** 

#### Bureau of Industry and Security

The group is recognized for its effective collaboration with Task Force Quiet Storm partners in the Defense, Intelligence, Diplomatic, and Law Enforcement Communities to identify, target, and counter illicit procurement of U.S.-origin components for use in improvised explosive devices (IEDs) found in Iraq and Afghanistan. This was accomplished by: identifying networks dedicated to obtaining IED components; pursuing leads and supporting law enforcement cases; imposing export controls on violators via the Entity List; and taking coordinated actions abroad with other U.S. agencies that deter, disrupt, and cripple the activities of these networks.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION



Hillary Sherman-Zelenka
Rebecca Moudry
Kerstin Millius
Lauren Dupuis
Mitchell Harrison
Robin Bush
Jennifer Benz
Ed Hummel
Richard Berndt

Office of Regional Affairs

Brian Kelsey

Office of the Assistant Secretary

#### **Economic Development Administration**

The group is recognized for its substantial innovative achievements in developing and implementing the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge (Jobs Accelerator), an interagency initiative that exemplifies how the Federal Government can work collaboratively in an era of fiscal austerity to leverage existing Federal resources to support job creation. The initiative implements the Obama Administration's focus on a smarter use of Federal resources and creates an unprecedented platform for coordinating Federal economic development efforts.



#### **GOLD MEDAL**

LEADERSHIP

Jeff T. Behler William W. Hatcher Dennis R. Johnson Ralph J. Lee Mario Matthews Gabriel Sanchez

#### U.S. Census Bureau

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

This group is recognized for improving operational efficiency in creating a more flexible and high performing organization by reducing the number of regional offices from 12 to 6 and establishing a dispersed, skilled staff. The changes will allow the Census Bureau to deliver effective and efficient service and improve the agency's capacity to sustain current survey costs and provide new opportunities for data collection to other Federal agencies. The agency expects to save \$15–18 million annually as a direct result of the new regional office management structure for data collection.

Robert N. Rubinovitz

#### Office of the Chief Economist

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

Mr. Rubinovitz is recognized for his expertise, initiative, and dedication in working collaboratively with experts throughout the public and private sectors to analyze, quantitatively measure, and report on America's economic competitiveness and innovative capacity. As editor-inchief of the Report to Congress on these issues, Mr. Rubinovitz led efforts to address a diverse array of topics, including tax and trade policies, barriers to setting up businesses, manufacturing, research and development, intellectual property protection, and educational efforts in science and technology.



#### GOLD MFDAL

### SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Brian C. Moyer Nicole M. Mayerhauser Carol E. Moylan Lucas Hitt Aya Hamano

Bureau of Economic Analysis

William A. Ramos

Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

The group is recognized for conducting a comprehensive assessment of Puerto Rico's economic accounts and providing technical recommendations to the Government of Puerto Rico on statistical modernization. As a result of this assistance, Puerto Rico's economic statistics program will produce measures that better reflect economic activity, allowing for more effective planning by businesses and governments. This project is critical to the Island's economic development and was included by the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status as one of its primary recommendations.



#### GOLD MFDAL

### ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Colby Johnson William Foster Kristina Maze Chris Stein Chris Emond James Kim

#### Bureau of Economic Analysis

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

The group is recognized for a project that created an all-new system for producing and maintaining critical international corporate survey forms, the heart of the BEA international statistics program. The process has traditionally relied on proprietary software controlled by vendors that often resulted in delays, despite the time-sensitive nature of the work. The new system allowed BEA to bring survey production work in-house, providing tangible benefits: more design flexibility, tighter work-flow control, fewer editing mistakes, and shorter production cycles-all at significant cost savings.

John Studds
Giuseppe Mistichelli
Glenn Eanes
Mohammed Chaudhry
Brian Ridgeway
Christopher Butler
Phil Kanzleiter
Thomas Barrasso
Karen Todd
Robert Brown

#### U.S. Census Bureau

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

The group is honored for creating the secure, centrally managed generalized Centurion framework that provides the Census Bureau an extremely efficient means of creating and administering Internet data collection options for the American people and businesses. To date, more than 45 unique data collections have been offered, representing more than 250 paper-based forms, and more than 2 million invitations to report over the Internet have been offered to potential respondents.



Patrick J. Cantwell Vincent T. Mule Tamara S. Adams Steven W. Tornell Geraldine Burt Magdalena Ramos

#### U.S. Census Bureau

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

This group is recognized for leading the design and implementation of survey operations, and production of estimates for the 2010 Census Coverage Measurement (CCM) program. For the first time, the Census Bureau produced and publicly released estimates of the components of coverage of the decennial census, including correct and erroneous enumerations, and omissions. These results are being used (1) to evaluate the success of the 2010 Census and many of its individual operations, and (2) to provide needed information for early research in planning the 2020 Census.

#### Richard Denby

#### U.S. Census Bureau

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

Mr. Denby is recognized for spearheading the development of more timely and accurate local-area income and poverty estimates and for his leadership in establishing local-area estimates of health insurance coverage. A 4-year lag in the release of the income and poverty data was reduced to just 2 months concurrent with a 35 percent improvement in the median standard error. These estimates were the basis for allocating \$15 billion to school districts in FY12 and for identifying the populations eligible for free or reduced-price cancer screening. Improving these data have far-reaching impact.



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

J. David Brown

U.S. Census Bureau

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

Dr. Brown is recognized for his innovative approaches in analyzing administrative records relative to the 2010 Census population and housing results. Using multiple representations of the U.S. population, Dr. Brown employed regression analysis to resolve duplicates and assess data quality. With detail at the individual level, Dr. Brown studied the impact of demographic characteristics and matching techniques. His models explaining data quality and administrative records coverage issues have informed agency and Department of Commerce executive staff, National Academy of Sciences, GAO, and senior staff at other agencies.

David Langdon
Brittany Bond
Rebecca Lehrman
Jocelyn Burston
Cassandra Ingram
Sandra Cooke-Hull
Sabrina Montes

Office of the Chief Economist

Economics and Statistics Administration

The group is recognized for exemplary economic and statistical analysis in support of the Department's COMPETES report on U.S. competitiveness and innovation. After collaborating with a newly established Innovation Advisory Board to generate and capture formal input and advice from the private industry leaders, they conducted independent economic and statistical analyses and presented its views in a report to Congress. The report's compelling policy recommendations will be used by Congress, the White House, and virtually every Federal agency as they explore ways to improve America's economy.



Erich Strassner Thomas Howells

#### Bureau of Economic Analysis

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

The group is recognized for developing methodologies and systems leading to the successful completion of prototype quarterly statistics on U.S. GDP by industry. This achievement is a significant step toward providing policymakers and business leaders with effective real-time information to evaluate the economic performance of U.S. industries. These statistics offer a more detailed and precise view of the economy at the industry level, on a timely basis. Quarterly GDP-by-industry statistics are essential for understanding industry dynamics, especially during business cycles.



#### SILVER MEDAL

#### CUSTOMER SERVICE

Sharon D. Panek Slavea A. Assenova Jonathan E. Avery Frank T. Baumgardner Jacob R. Hinson Yolanda B. Langford Lindsey J. Rittmueller Ralph M. Rodriguez

#### Bureau of Economic Analysis

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

The group is recognized for developing the new Local Area Tracking System (LATS). This system provides regional economic analysts with quick and easy access to a wide variety of data about local economic dynamics produced by a broad array of independent sources. LATS has quickly become an invaluable tool in the development, review, and verification of regional economic statistics, ensuring accuracy and reliability. In addition, LATS provides a robust tool to improve the quality of customer service to data users seeking information about regional economies.



#### SILVER MEDAL

### ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Deborah Johnson

#### U.S. Census Bureau

#### Economics and Statistics Administration

Ms. Johnson is recognized for the support she provided in processing court-ordered back pay claims. A Sunday Differential lawsuit, filed against another agency, impacted NPC's part-time employees in two telephone centers, benefiting more than 550 people. Through her initiative and ingenuity, Ms. Johnson reduced the payment processing time from 2-1/2 years to 7 months and saved the Census Bureau an estimated \$235,600 in clerical claims processing.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION



Foreign Trade Zones Regulation Review

#### International Trade Administration

The organization is recognized for conducting a comprehensive regulatory review process that resulted in the successful issuance of new regulations for the Foreign Trade Zones program. Following extensive public outreach, including seminars in nine cities across the country, the group accounted for comments from a broad range of stakeholders and issued regulations that balanced contrasting viewpoints to add transparency, flexibility, and responsiveness to U.S. business needs.

Robin Layton Joshua Harris

#### Manufacturing and Services

#### International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for endorsing the Cross Border Privacy Rules. This innovative approach to reducing regulatory barriers to online personal data exchanges is an outstanding achievement for the Department of Commerce. It supports the National Export Initiative by decreasing regulatory barriers to trade, and the Department's privacy and innovation policies by advancing globally interoperable privacy regimes. ITA led the

U.S. negotiating team for these successful 5-year negotiations involving 16 APEC member economies.



Morgan Barr Katrice Kelly

#### Manufacturing and Services

Adam Boltik John Liuzzi Brian Woodward

#### Market Access and Compliance

Daniel Hylton

#### Office of the General Counsel

#### International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for its superior policy, analytical, and legal contributions to the successful conclusion of a historic trade deal. Following 10 years of negotiations, parties to the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) reached a deal to improve international rules governing purchases by governments, which typically represent up to 15 percent of GDP and comprise key sectors such as infrastructure. The agreement will expand market access coverage by between \$80–100 billion annually. The team's extraordinary efforts resulted in a major outcome for the U.S. economy.

### INTERNATIONAL TRADE **ADMINISTRATION**



#### SIIVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Jennifer Stradtman Jamie Ferman Ryan Mulholland Joanne Littlefair Megan Crowe

#### Manufacturing and Services

Michael Boyles Kelsey Scheich Renee Hancher

#### Market Access and Compliance

Patricia Harris Erik Puskar

National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for excellence in delivering high-level standards programs to reduce technical barriers to trade during the APEC 2011 USA Host Year. The team successfully organized 16 conferences that occurred over a 9-month period in addition to case studies and surveys that allow the United States to better understand the standards landscape in the APEC region.



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Justin Hoffmann

#### Manufacturing and Services

#### International Trade Administration

Mr. Hoffmann is honored for successfully leading the effort to create the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Tariff Tool, an online, public utility for U.S. industry. It allows companies to easily identify preferential FTA tariff rates for their products, as well as providing FTA tariff and trade summaries at the sector level. The FTA Tariff Tool promotes trade by providing U.S. exporters, particularly Small and Medium Enterprises, with areater information on the benefits of the FTAs. The tool has attracted positive attention from many private sector industry groups, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

Evangeline D. Keenan Laura K. Merchant Thomas W. Harley, Jr.

Import Administration

#### International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for developing in-house and implementing IA ACCESS, a comprehensive document records management system. The group transformed a critical business process by allowing outside parties in AD/CVD proceedings to file submissions using the Internet and enabling IA users to access the official file from the Internet. This system has led to efficiencies in process, operational costs, and improved customer service and access. It also provides secure off-site electronic back-up of files for continuity of operations in the event of fire, flood, or other type of catastrophe.

Bryan Larson Elizabeth Shieh William Brekke Yue Cao Xiaolei Wan

Trade Promotion and U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service

#### International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for creating and developing the U.S.-China Energy Cooperation Program (ECP). The ECP has been singled out by the Presidents of the United States and China as a key to the U.S.-China relationship on clean energy business development and deployment. This unique public/private partnership is driven by U.S. member companies working closely with the U.S. and Chinese Governments to help both countries achieve clean energy development and international trade objectives. It now serves as a model for similar programs in other major developing markets.



Peter J. Mohr Barry N. Taylor Edwin R. Williams

Physical Measurement Laboratory

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for creating the framework for the most significant redefinition of the International System of Units (SI) in 50 years. The framework put forward by this group moves the SI from artifacts established in the 19th century and arbitrary definitions to a natural set of units where the units are determined by constants of nature. The framework was adopted this past fall by the 24th meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM—the conference of the signatories of the Treaty of the Meter).



#### GOLD MEDAL

### SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Gene C. Hilton
James A. Beall
Kent D. Irwin
Carl D. Reintsema
Joel N. Ullom
Leila R. Vale

#### Physical Measurement Laboratory

## National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for creating the world's most advanced submillimeter camera, which is 200 times more sensitive than previous devices. Starting with their breakthrough inventions of superconducting detectors and superconducting amplifiers, the group designed and fabricated the camera's imaging array. The camera, called SCUBA-2, contains over 10,000 pixels, two orders of magnitude larger than previously built. It is installed on the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope in Hawaii, where it is carrying out surveys to provide revolutionary new understanding of galaxy, star, and planet formation.

Joseph P. Rice Leonard M. Hanssen B. Carol Johnson Maritoni A. Litorja Eric L. Shirley Allan W. Smith

#### Physical Measurement Laboratory

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for providing the measurement science and models, at the level of accuracy and in the time-frame required, to unambiguously assess the effect of the Sun on climate change. The NIST team, working with NASA-funded scientists, resolved a major discrepancy between satellite measurements of total solar radiation that challenged the credibility of a key climate data record, Total Solar Irradiance (TSI). Their accomplishment both improves the interpretation and thus the value of current satellite data, and protects the multimillion dollar investments in planned satellite launches.



Stephen S. Salber Bryan L. Faktor

## Office of Facilities and Property Management

Kent B. Rochford Thomas R. O'Brian Steven T. Cundiff

#### Physical Measurement Laboratory

## National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for sustained leadership in the successful design, construction, and commissioning of two mission-critical construction projects, representing the most significant additions to Boulder facilities ever undertaken: the NIST Precision Measurement Laboratory, a \$133 million LEED-certified highly sophisticated measurement facility; and the JILA-X Wing Laboratory, a \$35 million advanced research and teaching laboratory. The group led an extensive team of staff from across NIST, together with contractors and external stakeholders, in a highly collaborative effort to ensure success. These unique facilities will benefit the Nation through critical advances in measurement science.



#### SILVER MEDAL

### SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Nelson P. Bryner Anthony D. Putorti, Jr.

Engineering Laboratory

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for its sophisticated technical analysis advancing scientific understanding of the Charleston Sofa Super Store fire, including the unusually hazardous fire spread, smoke movement, and tenability conditions. The recommendations of the study are leading to safer building codes and improved firefighter effectiveness through improved training and tactics, which will reduce fire losses and improve the life safety of firefighters and building occupants in the United States.

Robert A. Fletcher
J. Greg Gillen
Marcela C. Najarro
Jessica L. Staymates
Matthew E. Staymates
R. Michael Verkouteren
Jennifer R. Verkouteren
Eric S. Windsor

#### Material Measurement Laboratory

## National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for developing a world class measurement science and standards program that supports the widespread deployment of trace explosives detectors throughout the U.S. for homeland security. New developments include innovative measurement techniques and instrumentation, advanced sampling technologies and protocols, inkjet-printed standards, documentary standards, screener training, and standard operating procedures including methods validation. Their untiring efforts have led to optimized contraband detection and greater confidence in the technologies used for national security.

Mark A. ladicola

Material Measurement Laboratory

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. ladicola is recognized for seminal metrological contributions to a joint Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)/ NIST study of the deformation of gusset bridge connections under high loads. Using digital image correlation, he provided FHWA scientists with needed high resolution strain data over an area of several square meters, which enabled critical failure modes to be identified. This data will be used to optimize models that predict performance of aging bridge structures, and help stakeholders intelligently prioritize repairs and replacement, critical under constrained budget conditions.

Thomas B. Lucatorto Steven E. Grantham Shannon B. Hill Lee J. Richter Charles S. Tarrio

#### Physical Measurement Laboratory

## National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for pioneering extreme ultraviolet (EUV) radiation measurement science and measurement services critical to the development of EUV lithography for manufacturing next-generation computers and electronic devices that are smaller and more powerful. The new measurement services provide the only capability in the world to quantify photoresist contamination of EUV optics under conditions close to those found in an EUV scanner, helping manufacturers avoid expensive damage to, and downtime of, multimillion dollar fabrication tools.

Michele M. Schantz John R. Kucklick

Material Measurement Laboratory

## National Institute of Standards and Technology

The group is recognized for its support of the Federal Government's natural resource damage assessment after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. They led the development of a quality assurance program and new Standard Reference Materials for the measurement of petroleum hydrocarbon markers. These efforts were critical to NOAA in assuring the quality and comparability of chemical measurements related to the assessment of the impact of this national disaster, which represents a crucial first step in the economic recovery of the Gulf region.



#### GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Christine Brunner Harold Opitz Billy Olsen Robert Hartman Robert Shedd John Halquist Pedro Restrepo Ronald Horwood

National Weather Service

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The team is recognized for leading the definition and implementation of the Community Hydrologic Prediction System (CHPS) through a unique and effective collaboration among River Forecast Center (RFC) managers, union and NWS Headquarters personnel, and the implementation contractor. The team met the aggressive schedule and goals for this top priority of the NWS Hydrology Program. The implementation of CHPS at all 13 RFCs opens up a new business model for collaboration with the other Federal water partners and delivers a new generation of water resources products to the public.

Bruce B. Collette

National Marine Fisheries Service

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Dr. Collette is honored for leadership in the first use of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List Criteria, the gold standard in assessing extinction risks, on marine species. Bluefin tunas were deemed critically endangered, and bigeye tuna and marlins as vulnerable. Embracing the results, the 2011 International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas adopted conservation measures for blue and white marlins, established permanent committees to promote linking scientific advice with management measures, and agreed to develop electronic reporting for catch of bluefin tunas.



#### **GOLD MEDAL**

### SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Leo Donner
Paul Ginoux
Jean-Christophe Golaz
Richard Hemler
Larry Horowitz
Yi Ming
Marcel Schwarzkopf
Michael Winton
Andrew Wittenberg
Bruce Wyman

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for original research and world scientific leadership in the modeling of atmospheric greenhouse gases and aerosols, and their interactions with climate. Their work has quantified the distinctive roles of various key human-generated gases and aerosols in global climate change. The state-of-the-art knowledge on aerosol effects in regional climate change (a key science uncertainty) has advanced, yielding policy-relevant information on the effects of emissions. NOAA's unique model results are inputs into national (NCA) and international (CMIP5, IPCCAR5) climate assessments.

Joseph Mulligan
Alexander Pozniak
J. Philip Green
Edward Vincent Tabor
Dejiang Han
Lakel Smith
Rhapsody Renee Smith Dearring
Walt Schleicher
Harry Douglas Whiteley
James Valenti

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is honored for improving the timeliness of Metop-A polar satellite data by 50 minutes on average (reduced from 100- to 110-minute average for full orbits). By collecting half-orbit data via a new Antarctic Data Acquisition ground station, numerical weather prediction models are more accurate. Ultimately, improved global weather forecast accuracy will reduce loss of life and increase economic benefits within the U.S. and worldwide. This effort involved careful international cooperation and particularly helps in the Southern Hemisphere, where few direct observations are available.

Dru Smith

National Ocean Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Dr. Smith is recognized for his visionary leadership and scientific advancements in the design, execution, and analysis of the 2011 Geoid Slope Validation Survey. By designing one of the most complex geodetic surveys in NOAA history, obtaining international cooperation, coordinating the efforts of 50 individuals, and analyzing the data, Dr. Smith proved that the stated 1-centimeter geoid accuracy goals of NOAA's GRAV-D project are achievable, and thus put the transition to a new vertical datum for the Nation on a solid scientific foundation.



**GOLD MEDAL** 

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Brian A. Connelly Mark M. Ziemer Steve D. Buan Mike DeWeese Joshua Scheck John Paul Martin

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for developing new tools for critical decision-making and for providing onsite support to Federal, State, and local officials during the epic Souris River flood of 2011. In addition, they initiated drone flights in a data sparse region, critical to forecast accuracy, and significantly improved coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by hosting them in River Forecast Center operations. They developed innovative techniques to accurately predict the magnitude and timing of the unprecedented flood wave to ensure officials safely evacuated 11,000 citizens well in advance of the recordsetting flood.



Lieutenant Joshua J. Slater

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

LT Slater is recognized for his heroic actions that resulted in saving a young family from drowning. LT Slater was on TDY assignment in Honolulu, Hawaii, helping teach an oil spill response class. One evening he came across a family struggling to stay afloat in a deep lagoon. Through LT Slater's vigilance and immediate response, he was able to rescue the family of three – a mother, young son, and daughter. After reaching the beach, he performed CPR on the unconscious mother, saving her life and turning a potentially tragic event into one of heroism and courage.

Douglas C. Birck Joseph E. Hannon

National Weather Service

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is honored for their quick and selfless actions assisting victims of an automobile accident while on their way back to the office after a maintenance trip. They came upon the accident just after it occurred. A car traveling at a high rate of speed had hit a tree and split into two sections. The section containing the occupants ended up in the river adjacent to the road. Mr. Birck, Mr. Hannon, and an Oregon State Trooper slid down the embankment, waded into the river, and held one of the victims above water until she could be freed from her seat belt and extracted from the car.



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Stephan Leeb Lawrence Reed Tonya Banks

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Richard Beeler Jeremy Warren

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

Charles MacFarland

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Julia Begley

National Marine Fisheries Service

Thomas Murphy

National Ocean Service

Gustavo Limon

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The team is honored for leading the complex effort that successfully delivered the Unified Messaging Service (UMS) to NOAA. This is the most significant information technology

advancement that NOAA has received in the last 10 years. UMS provides anytime, anywhere access to modern mail, calendar, powerful collaboration tools, and mobile device support, which increases productivity. Further, UMS will save the Federal Government millions of dollars by moving its messaging service to the Cloud.

Michael Rubino Susan Bunsick Kate Naughten Brian Fredieu Chris Botnick David A. O'Brien David Alves T. Diane Windham Jessica Beck

National Marine Fisheries Service

Christine Blackburn

Office of the Under Secretary

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The team is recognized for leadership and creativity in developing new Department and NOAA Aquaculture Policies that advance the domestic aquaculture industry and protect coastal and marine environments. Under media and Congressional scrutiny, the team reconciled wide-ranging stakeholder views to craft guidance that promotes business and employment opportunities to provide safe, sustainable seafood, and opens Federal waters to aquaculture. New aquaculture ventures are now underway, and National Ocean Council directives are making aquaculture a higher-level priority for the Administration.



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Navigation Services Division Hydrographic Surveys Division

National Ocean Service

NOAA Ship Ferdinand R. Hassler

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The organizations are recognized for their response to Hurricane Irene in the Hampton Roads area. The NOS/OMAO team anticipated Irene's impact on maritime commerce in the Chesapeake Bay and activated NOAA Ship Ferdinand R. Hassler, pre-positioned two Navigation Response Teams and the survey vessel Bay Hydro II, and coordinated with stakeholders to plan a response. After Irene passed, the team completed nearly 300 lineal nautical miles of survey work in less than 48 hours. This allowed the U.S. Coast Guard to reopen the port and restore more than \$5 million per hour in maritime commerce within days of the storm.

Storm Prediction Center

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The organization is recognized for providing exceptional forecasts and public service prior to and during a historic tornado outbreak across the southeast United States on April 27, 2011. Convective Outlooks were issued as much as 5 days in advance, warning of the potential for an outbreak over the region. Tornado Watches, mentioning the likelihood of life-threatening tornadoes, were issued before storms or tornadoes developed. Although the tornado outbreak resulted in 317 fatalities, emergency management officials believe many lives were saved because of the excellent forecasts and warnings.



#### SILVER MEDAL

### SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Maureen Kenny Edward Myers Michael Aslaksen Stephen White Stephen Gill Gerald Hovis Douglas Brown Manoj Samant

#### National Ocean Service

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for building and implementing the vertical datum transformation tool that allows bathymetric and near-shore topographic data to be seamlessly merged, regardless of which among 36 vertical reference systems was used to collect and store the data. The resulting enhanced interoperability between the maritime- and land-based components of national spatial data reduces the time and costs required to build integrated maps of coastal elevations for planning and response to natural hazards, to promote safe and efficient maritime commerce, and to enhance national security.

Vic Pizzo
Robert Craver
Doug Biesecker
Ann Newman
Michael Husler
John Ward
Justin Cooke
Christine Caruso Magee

#### National Weather Service

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is recognized for implementing the first space weather numerical prediction model, the WSA-Enlil, on the National Centers for Environmental Prediction supercomputer. In accomplishing this task, the group encountered several challenges that required them to quickly learn new technologies. The end result of this implementation allowed for Space Weather Prediction Center forecasters to not only issue more accurate forecasts of geomagnetic storms, but to also issue them with better lead time.



#### SILVER MEDAL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

WFO Birmingham, Alabama WFO Huntsville, Alabama WFO Jackson, Mississippi

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Weather Forecast Offices Birmingham, Huntsville, and Jackson are recognized for exemplary efforts to mitigate the loss of life during the devastating and unprecedented tornado outbreak of April 27, 2011. The level of customer service and decision support leading up to and during the event certainly saved many lives while the follow-up storm surveys, analyses, and documentation were critical to local, State, and Federal planning. The offices were widely praised for their accurate and lifesaving warning messages that warned for catastrophic tornadoes with an average of more than 22 minutes advanced notice.

WFO Springfield, Missouri

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The organization is cited for its exceptional forecast, warning, and decision support services provided to the residents of southwest Missouri during the May 22, 2011, severe weather and flood event. Four high-impact

tornadoes occurred on May 22, including a deadly EF5 tornado that destroyed nearly 20 percent of Joplin, Missouri. Weather Forecast Office Springfield issued an advance tornado warning specifically mentioning Joplin 24 minutes before the tornado entered the western part of the city. This timely warning saved thousands of lives across a 6-mile path of densely populated homes, businesses, and a major hospital.

WFO St. Louis, Missouri

National Weather Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The organization is recognized for years of exceptionally effective outreach activities; community preparedness; establishment of strong, trusted media relationships; and exceedingly effective warning operations both before and during the devastating EF4 tornado, which tore a 21-mile path through heavily populated St. Louis County on April 22, 2011. These activities all combined to produce a weather-ready community that heeded the warnings and quickly took lifesaving actions during the tornado. The result was an extraordinarily low number of injuries and no fatalities.

### NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION



Edward Drocella Ernesto Cerezo Gary Patrick Delmon Morrison Frederick Najmy

Office of Spectrum Management

Kathy Smith Milton Brown

Office of the Chief Counsel

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The group is recognized for outstanding leadership in developing and managing new processes for relocating Federal radio systems in accordance with the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act. The group coordinated the efforts of government and industry, resulting in relocation of Federal operations from the 1710-1755 megahertz band on time or ahead of schedule, and below projected costs, enabling early coordination and implementation of third and fourth generation broadband wireless services to U.S. consumers, and allowing the administration to capitalize over \$14 billion from auction proceeds.



Frank Sanders John Carroll

Institute for Telecommunication Sciences

Robert Sole

Office of Spectrum Management

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The group is recognized for identifying nationwide WiMAX radio interference to safety-of-life National Weather Service (NWS) NEXRAD weather radars, providing interference diagnostics to NWS, and providing solutions for the problem. The affected radars warn Americans of severe weather events. The group worked with NWS and industry to identify the problem and find technical solutions to it. The accomplishment ensures that NEXRADs across the country will function without interference while allowing continued deployment of new broadband WiMAX service for all Americans.

## NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION



Bernadette McGuire-Rivera Anne Neville Lynn Chadwick Brian Gibbons

Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications

Moira Vahey

Office of the Assistant Secretary

Jannet Cancino

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Percy Robinson

Office of the General Counsel

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

The group is recognized for envisioning a new standard for Federal/State partnerships that has far exceeded original program goals. The team engendered a culture of trust through technical assistance, public appreciation, and quick, visible responses to State recommendations. In addition, they organized a groundbreaking national network of State broadband leaders. These two innovations in organizational development have positioned States to leverage the digital economy for economic growth and the Federal Government to use data driven decision-making to distribute billions of dollars in annual investments.

## NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE



Kristen Scherber Angela Martin Katherine Burrus Man Nguyen Tim Stanback William McGahey Bryant Tolar

#### National Technical Information Service

The group is recognized for its stellar customer service, flexibility and innovation in support of the Department of Education Publications Distribution initiative. Their efforts contributed to the 12,208 orders; 30,372 lines; and 3,688,405 pieces shipped for November/December, During January/ February, there were 24,779 orders: 45,743 lines; and 6,825,027 pieces shipped plus 14,881,963 pieces received. This amounted to an increase of 51 percent in orders, 34 percent in lines, 46 percent in pieces, and 40 percent in receiving. From December through February, the warehouses processed 30 mass mailings for 186,000 addresses.

Tamika Ellis
Mellonie Covington
Angelo Callaham
Robert Stoupa
Pad Hosmane
William Browning
Won Cho
Gillian Gage
Timothy Neifert

#### National Technical Information Service

The group is recognized for its stellar customer service, flexibility, and innovation in support of the SSA SNO project. Their efforts contributed to the shipping of 288,011 alternative format notices (40,104 Braille; 49,913 Data CD; 11,249 Audio CD; and 186,745 Large Print). Given the level of personalized information, this project required the development of IT, infrastructure, Quality Assurance, and Quality Control processes.

### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Allen R. Crawley
Melanie Caesar Danberg
Erica Guéritot
Angela A. Hoffman
Spencer S. Jackson
Ronald C. Prevost
Jill W. Schamberger
Peter J. Sima-Eichler
Martin C. Trocki
Howard E. Veal

#### Office of Audits

#### Office of Inspector General

The group is recognized for its exemplary audit and evaluation work that focused on the challenges facing USPTO in meeting its mission of fostering innovation and economic growth. The recommendations resulting from the group's reports on the patent hoteling program, the patent end-to-end system acquisition, and initiatives to improve patent timeliness and quality provided USPTO with a comprehensive set of recommendations for improved efficiency, accountability, and transparency in its patent operations.



Daniel H. Coney

#### Office of Investigations

Benjamin Goldstein Robert O. Johnston, Jr. Ian M. Marenna

#### Office of Counsel

Nancy Barrere

#### Office of Acquisition Management

Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration

#### Office of Inspector General

The group is recognized for invigorating Department of Commerce suspension and debarment efforts through extraordinary partnership. Through the team's diligence and outreach, the Department has realized significant progress in developing a robust capability to suspend and debar deserving parties. As a result of their efforts, the Department recorded its first final debarment action in over 15 years, with more referrals on the horizon. The Department has now improved its policies and procedures, helping ensure that Federal agencies conduct business only with responsible parties.

### U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



GOLD MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

#### United States Patent and Trademark Office

The USPTO is recognized for its invaluable support of Administration and Congressional efforts leading toward enactment of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, the most significant and necessary reform and improvement of U.S. patent law in six decades. The USPTO made substantial contributions to the successful legislative process via its exceptional and professional technical assistance, research, drafting, consultations, and informational and explanatory briefings within the Administration and before Congressional staff.



**GOLD MEDAL** 

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Examination of Trademark
Applications Team

#### United States Patent and Trademark Office

The team is recognized for improving customer service by significantly improving the quality of examination of applications for trademark registration. Using input from external customers, quality has been re-defined to encompass the entire communication to the customer. A performance measure, guidelines, and incentive award for excellence have been implemented, with a focus on correct

decisions, clear, succinct, and wellsupported written actions, and maximum use of phone and e-mail for efficiency where possible.



GOLD MEDAL

**HEROISM** 

Yolanda Robinson Robert E. Childs

Office of the Commissioner

#### United States Patent and Trademark Office

The group is recognized for its exceptional responsiveness in providing lifesaving assistance to a colleague. While eating lunch, Ms. Robinson and Mr. Childs noticed their colleague beginning to choke. Immediately, they responded to the victim in medical distress, contacted 911 as well as USPTO Security, remained calm, and followed the key stages of protocol to assist a choking victim. This quick reaction by both Ms. Robinson and Mr. Childs prevented the choking incident from further escalating to a fatality.

### U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Irem Yucel
Andres Kashnikow
Deborah D. Jones
Mark J. Reinhart
Eric S. Keasel
Brian E. Hanlon
Robert Clarke
Caroline D. Dennison
Mary C. Till
Deborah A. Stephens

#### Office of the Commissioner

#### United States Patent and Trademark Office

The group is recognized for its exceptional performance in successfully implementing several processes to streamline and improve quality, accuracy, and reduction in pendency in published reexamination certifications. This effort included detailed process mapping, monitoring of data, setting targets, developing a pilot program to waive the period of time for patent owners' statements in exparte proceedings as well as creating a petition tracker for the efficient processing of reexamination petitions, all in alignment with the USPTO's strategic goal of optimizing patent quality and timeliness.

### 2012 PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARDS

Each year since the establishment of the Senior Executive Service (SES) in 1978, the President recognizes and celebrates a small group of career Senior Executives and Senior Professional employees with the Presidential Rank Award. Recipients of this prestigious award are strong leaders, professionals, and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry, and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service. These are the highest awards in the Federal civil service.

Presidential Rank Awards may be bestowed in two categories. Distinguished Executive and Distinguished Senior Professional Rank Awards recognize sustained extraordinary accomplishment. The Distinguished Presidential Rank is extremely prestigious as only 1 percent of career Senior Executives and Senior Professionals may earn this award each year. Meritorious Rank Awards recognize sustained accomplishment. Only 5 percent of career Senior Executives and Senior Professionals may receive a Meritorious Rank each year.

In 2012, the Department of Commerce had five 2012 Presidential Rank Award Recipients.

#### Distinguished Presidential Rank

William J. Fleming, former Director for Human Resources Management and Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of the Secretary. Recognized for leadership and innovation in managing the complex human resources of the Department of Commerce.

Joseph F. Klimavicz, Chief Information Officer and Director, High Performance Computing and Communications, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Recognized for advancing the NOAA mission by implementing statutory requirements pertaining to the acquisition, management, and use of NOAA's information and information technology resources to include NOAA's high performance computing.

Alexander E. MacDonald, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Laboratories & Cooperative Institutes (DAA/LCI) and Director, Earth Systems Research Laboratory (ESRL), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Recognized for his extraordinary role in developing a new global model and exploiting advances in computer technology to help U.S. supercomputing leadership and for outstanding leadership as both DAA/LCI and Director ESRL.

Michelle O'Neill, former Deputy Under Secretary for International Trade, International Trade Administration. Recognized for adroitly managing critical trade policy issues while serving as ITA's chief operating officer

#### Meritorious Presidential Rank

Roger Kilmer, Director, Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology. Recognized for work focusing on the agency strategic priorities related to manufacturing, innovation, and technology commercialization.

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

Office of Human Resources Management Incentive Awards Program Manager

Michael R. Osver and Ursula Snead

Incentive Awards Program Officers of the Department

Cheryl Woodard - BIS
Tanika Hawkins - EDA
Glenn West - ESA
Tina Agoo - ITA
Amy Cubert - NIST
Karen Robin - NOAA
Tony Calza - NTIA
Vicki Buttram - NTIS
Ann Carper - OIG
Debra Ginther - PTO

Special thanks to:

Paul Bell, Soloist Armed Forces Color Guard United States Air Force Band Mail and Multimedia Division

