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Acquisition Excellence

MRAP Program Manager receives Meyer Award

Earning a first-time Department of Defense (DoD) award is always nice, but when it's named for the leader who mentored your dad, yourself and your sons, it's extra special. That's exactly what happened to Paul Mann, Joint Program Manager for the Mine Resistant Armor Protected (MRAP) vehicle program at Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC). He is the first recipient of the Rear Admiral Wayne E. Meyer Memorial Award, presented at the Pentagon in September.

"No other individual in our Department has made a bigger impact for the warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan than Paul Mann," said Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. "His efforts and the vehicles his team delivers have directly led to the saving of countless lives and our ability to accomplish our objectives in this time of war."

"Paul Mann and the entire MRAP team have done an outstanding job," said Brigadier General Michael Brogan, Commander, MCSC. "That and Paul's professional relationship with Admiral Meyer made him the perfect selection for the inaugural presentation of this new award. We are very proud of Paul and his entire team. This is a great honor."

The Meyer Memorial Award, created this year to honor extraordinary members of the acquisition community, is named for the father of the Navy's Aegis weapons system who passed away in September. Meyer was a "Senior Advisory Group Chairman" on three major projects Mann led from 1996 to 2005. Mann's last day with the Admiral was in Bath, Maine, in October 2008 at the christening of a Navy guided-missile Aegis destroyer named for Meyer. The commissioning of *USS Wayne E. Meyer* (DDG 108) is schedule to take place Oct. 10 at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia.

"Admiral Meyer visited my father in the early 1970s when dad was a Master Chief Fire Control Technician in the Navy," said Mann, a resident of Stafford, Va. "Dad and I both served as civil servants delivering Aegis ships and training their crews to use their missile systems. Admiral Meyer was, is and will always be the 'Father of Aegis.' His genius and love for the Navy cannot be overstated."

Mann's program management philosophies mirrored Meyer's in setting the benchmark for an atmosphere of urgency, cooperation and mutual support. The MRAP program is the highest priority acquisition program in the Department of Defense. It started in October 2006, and under Mann's leadership the program devised and

executed a rapid acquisition strategy through competitive prototyping, delivering the first vehicles to theater just months after the program's start. Since then, the program has delivered more than 16,000 MRAP trucks along with the support necessary to test, field and sustain the vehicle fleet around the world.

Today the MRAP program remains agile as attention shifts from Iraq to Afghanistan and its vastly different terrain. In coordination with the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command and U.S. Transportation Command, the program delivered the first MRAP All Terrain Vehicles (M-ATV) to Afghanistan earlier this month.

"Admiral Meyer's dedication and commitment to really big outcomes for the Navy are inspirational and contagious for our entire MRAP team," Mann said. "I can honestly say that many of the achievements in the Joint MRAP Enterprise was enabled by the training and mentorship he generously shared with me, and by extension our entire Joint MRAP team. I am deeply humbled by this recognition and will share it with the numerous teammates who continue the mission to keep our warfighters safe."

By Bill Johnson-Miles, MCSC Corporate Communications. Navy Commander Victor Chen, Public Affairs Officer for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, contributed to this article.



Paul Mann, Joint Program Manager for the Mine Resistant Armor Protected vehicle program, receives the Rear Admiral Wayne E. Meyer Memorial Award from Sean Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. *(Pentagon photo)*



On a beautiful day in Bath, Maine, in October 2008, Rear Admiral Wayne Meyer (left) and Paul Mann enjoyed a treasured moment together during the christening of the Navy ship named for Meyer. "This picture is worth millions to me," Mann said. "His ship is literally and figuratively on his shoulders. He is a legend. His ship will sail for

decades. His fleet of Aegis ships represents the most capable warships ever built on the planet - pretty cool.”

(Mann photo)