

The poster features a blue background with a pattern of stars in the upper left corner. A large, faint '70TH' is visible in the background. The main title is centered and reads '70TH ANNUAL HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM'.

70TH ANNUAL
HONOR
AWARDS
PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018
HERBERT C. HOOVER AUDITORIUM

70TH HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

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

September 25, 2018

INTRODUCTION

Kevin E. Mahoney

Director for Human Resources Management

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Armed Forces Color Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Tishema Miller

REMARKS

Karen Dunn Kelley

*Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Performing the Nonexclusive Duties
and Functions of the Deputy Secretary*

ADDRESS

Honorable Wilbur Ross

Secretary of Commerce

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

Lisa Casias

*Acting Chief Financial Officer/Assistant Secretary for Administration,
and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration*

PRESENTATION OF GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS

Secretary Ross assisted by Department Officials

CLOSING REMARKS

Lisa Casias

*Acting Chief Financial Officer/Assistant Secretary for Administration,
and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration*



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

It is my distinct privilege and great pleasure to welcome you to the 70th Annual Honor Awards Ceremony recognizing the most outstanding workers at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

I am pleased to stand with the recipients of our Department's highest award for excellence.

The winners of this year's Gold and Silver Medal Honor Awards reflect the culture of the work environment at our agency: A devotion to the mission of creating economic opportunities for every American.

The accelerating adoption of advanced technologies and globalization means that we as a Department are adapting and changing. Our expertise in trade, technology, investment and data analysis is required to guarantee that the U.S. economy is competitive, vigorous, and growing. More is being asked of us than ever before.

The sacrifice our Honor Award recipients make for the success of this mission does not go unnoticed. Each of our honorees exemplifies the dedication, the professionalism, and the willingness to exceed all expectations in their commitment to serve their fellow workers and the American people.

Our winners are an inspiration to all of us.

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

Wilbur Ross
U.S. Secretary of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbur Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wilbur" being more prominent than the last name "Ross".



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 or more operating units.



SILVER MEDAL

This award, the second highest honorary award given by the Department, is granted by the Secretary for exceptional performance characterized by noteworthy or superlative contributions that have a direct and lasting impact within the Department.

To warrant a Gold or Silver Medal, a contribution must focus on qualitative and quantitative performance measures reflected in the Department's Strategic Plan and be identified in one of the following areas:

Leadership

Personal and Professional Excellence

Scientific/Engineering Achievement

Organizational Development

Customer Service

Administrative/Technical Support

Heroism

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY



GOLD MEDAL LEADERSHIP

Mark Crawford
David Boylan
Erika Maynard
Karen Swasey

*Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Export Administration
Bureau of Industry and Security*

Julie Al-Saadawi
Dilan Wickrema

*Enforcement and Compliance
International Trade Administration*

Christopher Rasmussen
Natalie Soroka

*Industry & Analysis
International Trade Administration*

Peter Klason

*Chief Counsel for Industry and Security
Office of the General Counsel*

The group is honored for showing great flexibility, resilience, and motivation in responding to an initiative by the Secretary of Commerce, to complete within 270 days, investigations on the effects of U.S. imports of steel and aluminum on national and economic security. In doing so, the group successfully held public briefings, responded to thousands of incoming correspondence and produced close to 100 versions of reports. The work of the group concluded that both steel and aluminum are critical elements of our Nation's manufacturing used in a variety of commercial and defense applications.



GOLD MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Todd Marr
Ari Kozlow
James Davis
Adrienne Frazier
Greer Nelson
Edward Cushen

*Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Export Enforcement
Bureau of Industry and Security*

The group is recognized for excellence in investigating the diversion of U.S. military technology. The investigative team targeted and uncovered a highly complex scheme that was designed to prevent detection, and obtain U.S. technology for the advancement of Russian and Chinese military and space programs. This investigation caused a major disruption of a network that sought controlled commodities in violation of U.S. trade sanction laws. The investigation resulted in the arrest and sentencing of two individuals and seizures totaling \$7.2 million.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

Michael Perry
Gina Makowski
Alan Berkowitz
Stephen Wilcox
Sarah Stalker-Lehoux

*Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Export Enforcement
Bureau of Industry and Security*

Zachary Klein

*Chief Counsel for Industry and Security
Office of the General Counsel*

The group is recognized for working diligently over the past 3 years on an investigation that successfully identified serious violations of U.S. export control laws, and prosecuted its violators. The defendants were arrested and convicted for illegally exporting micro-electronics to be used in support of foreign government security programs, military operations, and defense space programs in both Russia and Iran. As a result of the investigation, and the group's efforts, the proliferation network was dismantled and three individuals were arrested and sentenced to incarceration.

Philip Johnson
Joseph Cristofaro
Adam Roth
Markita Phillips
Daniel Maloney

*Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Export Administration
Bureau of Industry and Security*

The group is honored for developing novel relationships with international partners and businesses, as well as developing complex analytical techniques to identify and prevent the diversion of U.S. items to weapons of mass destruction and sanctioned programs in three countries. As a result, BIS was able to take regulatory and enforcement action that enhanced U.S. national security, as well as assist U.S. industry in proactively identifying nefarious actors.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

John Haberstock
Scott Dunberg
Scot Gonzales

*Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Export Administration
Bureau of Industry and Security*

Parvin Huda

*Chief Counsel for Industry and Security
Office of the General Counsel*

The group is honored for working tirelessly over 5 years on an international investigation to successfully identify violations of U.S. export control laws, and prosecute Harold Rinko, Ahmad Feras Diri, and Moawea Deri for these violations, resulting in four criminal indictments, an international extradition, two criminal convictions, a 37-month prison sentence, a 12-month home confinement sentence, and a probation sentence of 24 months. Special Agents John Haberstock, Scott Dunberg, Parvin Huda, and Scot Gonzales are recognized for their tremendous accomplishment.

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL CUSTOMER SERVICE

Erich Strassner
William Jolliff
Jessica Nicholson
Jon Samuels
Rachel Soloveichik
Ana Aizcorbe

*Bureau of Economic Analysis
Economics and Statistics Administration*

Giulia McHenry
Rafi Goldberg

*Office of Policy Analysis and Development
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration*

The group is honored for creating new statistics capturing the size and annual growth of the fast-changing and rapidly growing digital economy. Their economic measurement of high-tech goods and services and their groundbreaking research on “free” digital content give American businesses valuable insights to help them make plans, grow, and stay at the forefront of these evolving technologies. Their work illuminates the digital economy’s role in U.S. economic performance and sharpens the accuracy of BEA’s measurement of GDP, the premier gauge of economic growth.



GOLD MEDAL HEROISM

Mitchell Miles

*U.S. Census Bureau
Economics and Statistics Administration*

Mr. Miles is honored for exhibiting courage, while helping save four lives from a perilous white water rafting trip catastrophe. While traversing the Kern River with its Class IV, V, and VI rapids, he assisted in pulling four individuals aboard after their raft capsized. The last person he pulled aboard was turning blue and appeared lifeless. Once they reached the riverbank, Mr. Miles performed CPR and the young man was revived and subsequently airlifted for further treatment. Mr. Miles turned a potential tragic event into one of heroism and courage.

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION



SILVER MEDAL

ADMINISTRATIVE/ TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Edward Kobilarcik
Neala Jones
Ryan T. Harbold
Joanne Buenzli Crane
Lisa M. Blumerman

*U.S. Census Bureau
Economics and Statistics Administration*

Mark Daley
Jon Sweet

*Office of Acquisition Management
Office of the Secretary*

The group is honored for significant advances in the technical field of cost estimation applied to the 2020 Census Lifecycle Cost Estimate. The group collaborated to examine all aspects of the estimate to ensure that it reflected the best available inputs and methods. Their work yielded a product that is more accurate and credible than previous efforts. This improvement allows the Department to confidently seek the only resources necessary. It also provides an important benchmark in effectively managing the program for the constitutionally-mandated count that touches everyone in the Nation.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

P. Lee Smith
Carole Showers
Sally Gannon
David Cordell
Jill Buckles

*Enforcement and Compliance
International Trade Administration*

David Mason
Rebecca Cantu
Khalil Gharbieh
Lydia Pardini
David Richardson

*Chief Counsel for Trade Enforcement
and Compliance
International Trade Administration*

The team is honored for successfully negotiating with the Government of Mexico and Mexican sugar producers/exporters to amend the AD and CVD suspension agreements on sugar from Mexico. The team navigated through a shortened timeline, increased trade tensions, and intense pressure to achieve the desired outcomes. Covering \$600 million in trade from Mexico, the amended Agreements play a role in safeguarding the competitiveness of this economically important industry and in providing relief from unfair trade the U.S. industry needs to sustain its operations and compete in the marketplace.

Softwood Lumber Team

*Enforcement and Compliance
International Trade Administration*

The Softwood Lumber Team in E&C is recognized for its exceptional contributions to the strong enforcement of U.S. trade laws. In conducting the AD/CVD investigations of softwood lumber from Canada, two of the largest and most complex cases ever handled by Commerce, covering over \$5 billion in imports, the team demonstrated not only outstanding skills but also the professionalism and teamwork needed to deliver sound decisions under intense scrutiny and strict statutory deadlines. Additionally, the team completed these investigations in an expedited manner.

Self-Initiation Team

*Enforcement and Compliance
International Trade Administration*

The organization is honored for establishing a special unit, and developing the necessary framework, to successfully self-initiate antidumping and countervailing duty trade remedy cases; this resulted in the successful launch of AD/CVD investigations regarding aluminum sheet from China in November 2017. These were the first cases self-initiated by the Department in over 25 years. The successful deployment of this key trade enforcement tool has already impacted over \$600 million of imports from China.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

Global Markets China
Office of Business Liaison

International Trade Administration

The organization, which includes GM China – the Office of China and Mongolia in Washington, DC and the Foreign Commercial Service in China – and the Office of Business Liaison, is honored for designing and implementing a successful Secretarial Trade Mission to Beijing, China, in conjunction with the President’s first State Visit in November 2017. Twenty-eight U.S. firms from various sectors participated. This was the first and only trade mission led by Secretary Ross to date, which, at \$250 billion, had the highest value of deals ever signed during a Department of Commerce trade mission.

Christopher Blaha
Jeffrey Eversman
Cora Dickson
Jim Rice

Industry and Analysis International Trade Administration

Mark Ross

Enforcement and Compliance International Trade Administration

The group is recognized for developing and evaluating remedy options under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 for solar panels and washing machines. The team ran over 80 simulations to estimate potential remedy impacts on imports, domestic production, and overall U.S. consumption in the solar panel and washing machine markets. The cases required the team to weigh competing and conflicting producer, employer, and importer claims to identify a remedy in the U.S. economic interest. On January 23, the President announced remedies for both cases based on options recommended by the team.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

Chris Rasmussen
Anne Flatness

Industry and Analysis
International Trade Administration

The group is honored for its extraordinary dedication, expertise, and skill in analyzing U.S.–Produced Value in U.S. Imports from NAFTA. The group’s extensive data collection and manipulation allowed, for the first time, the examination of value added in bilateral imports focusing on manufactured products. The Secretary released the study in September 2017, and highlighted its results in a Washington Post op-ed. Their calculations provided the analytical basis for the U.S. position in the NAFTA Rules-of-Origin negotiations, especially for motor vehicles.

Office of Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia
U.S. Commercial Service – Russia

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

The U.S. Commercial Service’s offices in Moscow and St. Petersburg, and the Office of Russia, Ukraine & Eurasia in Washington, DC are honored for unwavering dedication and support of U.S. commercial interests in Russia given extraordinary political, security, market, and resource challenges resulting from the strained U.S.–Russian bilateral relationship. These challenges included the need to assist U.S. companies in complying with an expanding range of economic sanctions, and coping with the 60 percent forced reduction by the Russian Government in staffing at U.S. mission offices in Russia.



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL
EXCELLENCE

Advocacy Center
CS Turkey
GM Turkey Desk Officers

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

The organization is honored for implementing landmark programs, including three trade missions, securing two major Advocacy WINs and exceeding performance measures while facing historic adversity. The trade missions connected 30 U.S. companies with over 600 business and government officials. The Boeing Advocacy WIN for 25 new airplanes is valued at \$7 billion and the SpaceX Advocacy WIN for satellite launch services is valued at \$130 million. The perseverance to execute these programs, while going above and beyond for the U.S. business community, is a noteworthy accomplishment.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

Bradley Harker

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

Mr. Harker is recognized for making it possible for U.S. companies to sell liquefied natural gas (LNG) in China. The significance is the enormous obstacles that were overcome, including fierce global competition, Chinese buyers that value price over quality, and a complex marketplace where securing major energy contracts are fraught with complications and bureaucratic roadblocks. This accomplishment will result in billions of dollars of U.S. export sales, Chinese investments in the expansion of U.S. LNG capabilities, and the creation of at least 15,000 U.S. jobs, all leading to a reduction in the trade deficit.



SILVER MEDAL

ADMINISTRATIVE/
TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Monica Bogodai

Global Markets
International Trade Administration

Ms. Bogodai, Office Manager of the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service in Romania, is presented with the Department's Silver Medal for her exceptional and sustained contributions to increasing U.S. export market share in the fastest growing economy in Europe by simultaneously excelling at multiple roles and successfully advocating for U.S. companies. Her efforts have directly supported an annual increase in U.S. exports to Romania of over 37 percent, a shrinking trade deficit, and greatly improved bilateral relations with this key NATO ally.

GOLD MEDAL

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY



SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Adam Pintar

*Information Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

Emil Simiu
Marc Levitan

*Engineering Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

The group is recognized for technical innovations to develop new maps of wind speeds for the United States. The underpinning analysis was the first to realistically account for risk consistency, multiple storm types, and regional variation of wind climate. The group also worked to ensure that the new maps were incorporated into the American Society of Civil Engineers' national standard for the design of buildings and other structures for wind loads. This greatly improved the science-basis of the standard, enabling safe and more economical designs for buildings and infrastructure.

R. Joseph Kline
Daniel F. Sunday
Donald Windover

*Material Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

The group is recognized for the development and deployment of a new dimensional metrology method to solve a critical challenge for the semiconductor industry. The new method, Critical Dimension Small Angle X-ray Scattering (CD-SAXS), measures the shape of the three-dimensional nanostructures in semiconductor devices non-destructively, directly on production wafers at length scales needed to advance technology. Through close partnership with industry, CD-SAXS has now been actively adopted across the industry for next-generation device manufacturing.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Thomas Perkins

*Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

Dr. Perkins is recognized for creating the world's best atomic force microscope tailored to biological measurements, and using it to reveal 10 times greater detail than previously possible about the structure and dynamics of key membrane proteins. Membrane proteins are the gatekeepers of all cells, controlling which chemicals leave and enter cells, and are the target of half of all new drugs. Dr. Perkins's AFM technologies and results are already being applied to improve drug design and advance biomedical research on cancer and brain diseases, and to better understand normal physiology.

Randolph Elmquist
Dean Jarrett
George Jones Jr.
Marlin Kraft
Alireza Panna
Shamith Payagala
Albert Rigosi

*Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

The group is recognized for creating a The group is recognized for creating a primary resistance standard that can be deployed directly to U.S. industry and the world metrology community, ending the world's reliance on quantum resistors that are no longer available in the U.S. and that were too complicated for general use. The core of the new standard is a revolutionary quantum resistor, developed and manufactured by NIST, which eliminates the complexity and expense of the existing standard, delivering the same quantum accuracy at 1/10th the cost, in a convenient instrument, rather than a heroic science experiment.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

John Lehman
Michelle Stephens
Nathan Tomlin
Igor Vayshenker
Christopher Yung

*Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

The group is recognized for establishing the first primary standard to measure optical fiber-based laser power. The standard exploits the group's innovative coatings, which are the most light-absorbing, or blackest, material ever made, and the NIST-developed superconducting transition-edge thermometer. It drastically reduces the traceability chain for fiber-based laser power, will improve the uncertainty by a factor of four, and enables many hundreds of calibrations per year to support telecommunications, sensing, defense, and the development of future quantum networks.



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Roger A. Blalock
Christine A. Carson
Ellen L. Ryan

*Communications Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

Brian Burnham
Ruben Rodriguez

*Office of Facilities and Property Management
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

The group is recognized for cross-organizational leadership of NIST's first design-build project, resulting in a new state-of-the-art facility for the Communications Technology Laboratory. The team expertly united construction, administrative, and scientific experts identifying facility requirements while creatively using resources to meet mission needs. The team flawlessly executed the project with painstaking attention to detail, resulting in a fully functional mission-oriented research facility approximately 1.5 years faster, and saved 39 percent over the traditional design-bid-build methodology.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY



SILVER MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT

Nicholas Paulter

*Material Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

Lawrence Hudson
Ronald Tosh

*Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

The group is honored for its pioneering research and development of new objective methods to assess image quality in security X-ray systems and for writing a critical replacement to the associated ASTM F792 standard. This internationally-used standard is used by almost all security agencies around the world to set their acquisition requirements and validate the field performance of these systems. The team's accomplishment replaces the prior subjective assessment of X-ray imaging system performance with standardized methods, and validated test objects capable of addressing emerging threats.

Robert Williams
Michael Middleton

*NIST Center for Neutron Research
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

The group is recognized for leading a multiyear, multimillion-dollar effort to build and commission a liquid deuterium refrigerator system essential to preserving the cold neutron output required for scientific research after conversion to LEU (the basic ingredient used to fabricate nuclear fuel) in accordance with the national goal of ending civilian use of HEU (highly enriched uranium). Despite vendor default and loss of services, the team marshaled in-house resources to bring the system online in early 2018. Their efforts will allow installation of the liquid deuterium cryostat and ensure world-class performance after conversion to LEU.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Joey Boyd
Aaron Johnson
Iosif Shinder
James Filla
Mark Khalil

*Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

The group is honored for developing a novel one-tenth-scale smokestack simulator and associated gas-flow standards to enable accurate and traceable measurements of the turbulent and swirling gas flow found in industrial smokestacks, enabling the use of emissions' measurements for improving the efficiency of industrial processes, the accuracy of emissions' inventories, and the quantification of the effect of gas turbulence on flow measurements. The group is working with industry to compare the results to actual smokestack measurements and to disseminate the results to stakeholders.

Jose Aumentado
Konrad Lehnert
Raymond Simmonds
John Teufel

*Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

The group is recognized for first-in-the-world creation, characterization, improvement, and realization of the complex components that will form future practical quantum networks, to advance quantum computing and the rapid, secure, and widespread exchange of quantum information across networks. The group pioneered many of the world's first techniques to store, exchange, transmit, amplify, and readout fragile quantum information using quantum-based superconducting circuits and quantum-controlled micromechanical resonators.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Judah Levine
Jeffrey Sherman
Aaron Fein

*Physical Measurement Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

William Jenkinson
Joseph Boone
Joseph Luptak

*Office of Information Systems Management
National Institute of Standards and
Technology*

The group is recognized for launching the next-generation Internet Time Service (ITS) to meet increased demand and to improve security. ITS, one of the most frequently used services in all of the Federal Government, now serves 10 times more requests than before – about 40 billion daily. The service, essential to NIST’s mission of providing official U.S. time, was consolidated to three sites, each with new atomic clocks and improved Internet connectivity. This enables NIST to meet the growing demand for official U.S. time as required by the public and networked devices on the Internet of Things.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL LEADERSHIP

Office of Response and Restoration

*National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

The OR&R is recognized for innovative leadership in responding to coastal threats resulting from three Category 4 hurricanes in under 27 days during the 2017 hurricane season. The group provided atypical and prolonged scientific and information-management support to emergency responders across four states and territories to mitigate environmental threats posed by over 3,500 stranded and sunken vessels and debris. The OR&R provided an integrated common operating picture, and mitigated damage by developing and monitoring best management practices for the cleanup, speeding coastal community recovery.



GOLD MEDAL PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Frank Giaretto

*National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

Special Agent Giaretto is recognized for leading an operation that dismantled and brought to justice an international syndicate that illegally trafficked marine mammal ivory and black coral. The investigation by Mr. Giaretto was recognized nationally and remains at the forefront of recent "ivory ban" legislation adopted by the State of Hawaii, after it was identified as the third most prolific illegal ivory market in the Nation. The convictions and penalties achieved in this Federal prosecution had a resounding deterrence on wildlife trafficking in the Hawaiian Islands and across the Pacific.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Kyle Ward
Michael Annis
John Doroba
Michael Bloom
Jonathan French
Eli Smith
Joshua Bergeron

National Ocean Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

This group is honored for its outstanding dedication, expertise, and professionalism while volunteering at short notice and under challenging conditions to form the Mobile Integrated Survey Team. They overcame significant challenges and expediently responded to urgent U.S. Coast Guard requests for post-hurricane emergency hydrographic surveys to ensure critical ports and channels were free of obstructions for the resumption of safe maritime and humanitarian relief operations.

NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The group is honored for the emergency mobilization and deployment of state-of-the-art hydrographic survey systems throughout Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in the wake of Hurricane Maria. Over 3 weeks, group efforts resulted in reopening 18 port facilities, repairing 3 critical tide and weather observation stations, and recovering an oceanographic buoy broken free from its mooring. Environmental intelligence collected resulted in near real-time reopening of key ports and ultimately unabated access for vessels carrying medical, fuel, and other relief supplies to the region.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA is recognized for its exemplary service to the Nation during the 2017 hurricane season: the first year on record in which three Category 4 hurricanes (Harvey, Irma, and Maria) made landfall in the United States. NOAA mobilized assets and people across the Gulf Region to provide lifesaving science and services before, during, and after every storm. While protecting life and property from intense hurricanes, NOAA also continued with its normal mission. NOAA's people demonstrated skill and selfless dedication to NOAA's mission and the Nation during this unprecedented season.



GOLD MEDAL

SCIENTIFIC/
ENGINEERING
ACHIEVEMENT

Gregory Doucette

*National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

Timothy Davis

*Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

Stephanie Moore

*National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

The group is honored for radically advancing rapid and remote detection of harmful algal bloom toxins. A state-of-the-art, robotic Environmental Sample Processor (ESP) was developed, validated, and deployed, and for the first time, transmitted near-real-time measurements of toxins in water. Managers now use the ESP to ensure delivery of safe drinking water in Lake Erie and access to safe seafood in Washington State. Applications elsewhere are now coming online. This cutting-edge technology markedly advances the protection of economic and public health in U.S. coastal communities.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Office of Ocean Exploration and Research
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The CAPSTONE team is honored for the longest and most complex U.S. ocean expedition since the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838–1842. CAPSTONE involved 23 expeditions, 431 days at sea, more than 240 scientists, 25 interns, and 188 ROV (remotely operated underwater vehicle) dives resulting in 600,000 square kilometers of mapped seafloor, collection of more than 1,200 samples (including over 200 new or undescribed species), more than 16 million views of live video feeds by the public, and direct engagement of thousands of Pacific Islanders.

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and
Information Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NESDIS is honored for its tireless dedication and contributions by completing NOAA-20 and GOES-17 satellites, which launched on November 18, 2017, and March 1, 2018, respectively.

The team completed a highly complex, integrated operational mission-system development; readied the satellites and systems for launch and operations, including active engagement with a network of operational users; and delivered the satellites to orbit within cost, exceeding all technical requirements. Their excellence set the foundation for the next 20-plus years of weather forecasting for our Nation.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL CUSTOMER SERVICE

Southern Region, National Weather Service

*National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

The staff of the National Weather Service Southern Region is honored for delivering extraordinary lifesaving support and services during the 2017 hurricane season. Three major hurricanes – Harvey, Irma, and Maria – brought widespread destruction to the southern United States and much of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. While working under extremely difficult conditions, employees of the region provided critical, lifesaving information that saved countless lives.

California-Nevada River Forecast Center
Weather Forecast Office Hanford, CA
Weather Forecast Office Sacramento, CA

*National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

The nominees are honored for decision-support services and lifesaving warnings and forecasts during the historic and unprecedented precipitation and flooding of the winter of 2017. They provided on-site, direct support to decision makers, first responders, and the people of central California, and water and weather data to allow critical decisions to be made, including the evacuation of 200,000 people in the Oroville Dam emergency. Without their immense contributions, officials could not have had the information needed to make decisions that kept thousands safe and avoided extensive property losses.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL

HEROISM

Lisa M. DiPinto

*National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

Dr. DiPinto is nominated for her heroism in rescuing six people, adults and children, from a burning highway crash. Witnessing a horrible tractor-trailer crash on I-95, she drove around the crash debris, through the dense black smoke from the fire, and pulled to the side of the road to help. Dr. DiPinto then pulled four passengers from the burning tractor-trailer to safety, attended to them and the other two badly injured passengers, who had been thrown from the cab on impact, until the ambulances and emergency responders arrived. Thanks to her heroic actions, all six passengers survived.

Franklin Schwing
Jennifer Doerr
Jennifer Leo
Kristopher Benson
Robert Colton

*National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

Emma Hickerson

*National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

The group is recognized for extraordinary efforts during Hurricane Harvey to save lives and protect NOAA's Galveston Laboratory. They tirelessly protected the lab's 13 buildings, based at the U.S. Army's historic Fort Crockett. The lab has 55,000 square feet of research space and a 150,000-gallon seawater system (worth \$2 million) to support 60 endangered sea turtles reared to offset bycatch. The team also responded without hesitation to calls by local law enforcement and first responders for help. Using NOAA vessels, they rescued 24 residents trapped in homes threatened by rising floodwaters.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Lisa M. Manning
Margaret (Maggie) H. Miller
Chelsey N. Young

*National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration*

The group is recognized for its exceptional achievement in developing a streamlined approach to determining which of 81 marine species warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. The taxonomic diversity of species covered in the petition is without precedent in the Department. The group's accomplishments led to protecting 20 threatened or endangered marine species across 5 major taxonomic groups of species and 3 major ocean basins. It also led to international attention on a very diverse set of some of the world's most at-risk species.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION



GOLD MEDAL LEADERSHIP

Scott Jackson

*Office of Spectrum Management
National Telecommunications
and Information Administration*

Mr. Jackson is recognized for providing emergency communications support to Federal Government relief operations during the 2017 hurricane season. He deployed to Austin, Texas and San Juan, Puerto Rico, assisting in the coordination and spectrum support for incoming National Guard units, resolving conflicts between Federal entities and Texas and Puerto Rico Public Safety. He ensured interoperability between disparate first responders. He provided direction and guidance on spectrum management matters to support the missions of the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal agencies.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Christian Patton

*Office of Investigations
Office of Inspector General*

Special Agent Patton is recognized for his outstanding and productive investigative work. In one of his cases, he investigated a former Department of Commerce official for bribery, leading to multiple criminal convictions and over \$1 million in restitution. In another case, Special Agent Patton investigated several businesses for selling defective bulletproof vests, leading to a \$66 million settlement with the government. In a third case, Special Agent Patton investigated a political appointee for fraudulent use of services, leading to a public report and recovery of over \$4,000.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



SILVER MEDAL

LEADERSHIP

Jefferson Chao
Rami Dillon
Saji Ranasinghe
John Lau

*Chief Information Officer
United States Patent and Trademark Office*

The group is honored for successful early adoption of the Federal Cloud Computing Strategy for the Cloud First Initiative. The successful and continual usage of Public Cloud systems expands the bureau's infrastructure capabilities, leveraging industry-leading innovations while focusing on core bureau mission. The group went above and beyond to establish a new standard on managing hybrid cloud enterprise systems that established newer, cost-effective, technology-focused, and secure ways to meet emerging business needs.



SILVER MEDAL

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Iftekhar Azim
Britt C. Fucito
Jung Lee
Charles S. Lough
Darrell S. Moore
Mandy M. Moore
Carol J. Stout
Aarati Verma
Eunice L. Wang
Joan Z. Wang

*Chief Financial Officer
United States Patent and Trademark Office*

The FPNG team is honored for overcoming numerous obstacles to successfully deliver a modern fee processing system to the USPTO and its customers. FPNG replaced a 20-year-old legacy system that was increasingly unreliable, insecure, and difficult to maintain and upgrade. The FPNG team delivered to the USPTO a fee collection system that seamlessly integrates with patent and trademark business systems, and delivered to USPTO's customers an online interface that allows them to more easily and efficiently conduct business with the USPTO.

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

Department's Incentive Awards Program Manager:

Mary O'Connor

Incentive Awards Program Officers of the Department

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Gianna Marrone – ESA (BEA)

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Debra Ginther – PTO

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Mail and Multimedia Division

Honor Awards Ceremony Volunteers



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE