

NAVFAC Employee Wins Navy Award for Supporting Midwest Small Businesses

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GREAT LAKES, Ill. (NNS) -- Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Midwest's environmental director received a Navywide award Aug. 22 for his efforts to ensure that small businesses receive their fair share of environmental contract work in the Midwest.

Mark Schultz, environmental business line coordinator for NAVFAC Midwest and environmental director for Navy Region Midwest, was recognized as co-winner of the Department of the Navy's Oreta B. Stinson Small Business Advocate Award for 2012, one of the Navy's annual Excellence in Acquisition awards.

"What a tremendous achievement," said NAVFAC Commander Rear Adm. Kate Gregory in congratulating Schultz. "The fact that Mark not only personally ensures that small business opportunities are identified, but has also ingrained these priorities in the culture of NAVFAC Midwest's environmental business line processes and personnel, is a testament to his commitment to his people and organization."

Thanks to Schultz's efforts, in 2012 the command contracted with small businesses for more than 80 percent of its \$9 million in environmental work throughout the Midwest. That work included laboratory support, regulated waste management and other compliance services, restoration projects and other specialized technical environmental services.

NAVFAC Midwest Deputy for Small Business Jan Kaiser said Schultz was nominated for nurturing among his staff a culture of embracing small business opportunities. "He sets a personal example by attending business outreach events, supporting inclusive acquisition strategies, and using partnering efforts to help contractors provide high-quality services at a fair price," said Kaiser.

"Mark and the environmental group under his lead have been steadfast supporters of the NAVFAC Midwest small business program," she added. "They've played a major role in helping the command exceed all its small business goals for the last two years while delivering critical, high-quality environmental services to our Navy and Marine Corps supported commands. Mark really deserves this award for his dedicated commitment."

"I'm honored to accept this on behalf of our environmental and acquisition teams," said Schultz, who has served as a Navy environmental manager for more than 25 years. "They've put in a great team effort over the years, doing a lot of hard work."

This environmental work was a significant portion of NAVFAC Midwest's overall work done through small businesses in 2012. More than 1,100 of its 1,350 contract actions for environmental, construction and facilities support services went to small businesses, including \$11 million awarded to small businesses owned by service disabled veterans and \$32 million to those owned by women.

"Navy leadership has supported efforts to set aside contracts for small business concerns and seek out firms who are in various socio-economic categories such as small disadvantaged businesses, woman-owned small businesses, historically underutilized small businesses, and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses," said Kaiser.

Kaiser added that NAVFAC Midwest's efforts contributed to the entire NAVFAC enterprise setting record achievements in the categories of service-disabled veteran-owned and woman-owned, as well as the category of small disadvantaged business. As a result, NAVFAC was honored with the Navy Secretary's Cup award for excellence in small business achievements and initiatives.

NAVFAC Midwest provides civil engineering, public works and environmental support to Navy, Marine Corps and other Department of Defense activities across the 16 states that comprise Navy Region Midwest, and also serves as the single, centralized provider of facilities support services to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve across the United States.

The command's 800 professionals include civilian architects, engineers, acquisition specialists, environmental specialists, public works tradespeople and administrative personnel, as well as active-duty Civil Engineer Corps officers and Reservists.

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