

Monmouth MESSAGE

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Top civilian leaders earn major award

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The Secretary of the Army recently approved the nominations of two CECOM's finest to receive the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service.

The Honorable Togo D. West, Jr., Secretary of the Army presented the awards to **Robert F. Giordano and Dr. Rudolf G. Buser** at the annual "Secretary of the Army Awards Ceremony" held last month in Washington, DC. The award consists of a certificate signed by the Secretary of the Army, a gold medal and a rosette.

The award is the highest honorary award for civilian employees of DA. To be eligible for the award, nominees must have established a pattern of exceptional achievements that effected large-scale savings or were of major significance in advancing the mission of DA, Department of Defense (DoD), and the Federal Government. They must also have provided outstanding leadership of the administration of major Army programs resulting in highly successful mission accomplishments or in the major redirection of objectives or accomplishments to meet unique or emergency situations.

Giordano was recognized for his accomplishments as the Director of the Research, Development and Engineering Center (RDEC), U.S. Army CECOM, covering the time period of July 1993 to May 1996. His responsibilities included managing a highly technical organization involving over \$900 million in funding annually and a workforce over 2,200.

This award recognized Giordano for directing and executing research and development programs including: command and control; communications; intelligence; electronic warfare; night vision; countermine;

* His establishment of a modeling and simulation plan for digitization of the battlefield will save the Army money since independent modeling and simulation efforts have been combined into a single effort.

The list goes on and on confirming Giordano's abilities as a top leader in today's Army.

Giordano resides in Wall Township with his spouse, Audrey. They have three children.

Buser, a recent retiree from the government, and president of RGB and Associates, Inc., was nominated while serving as director of the CECOM RDEC's Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate (NVESD) at Fort Belvoir, Va. from 1989 until June 1996.

During this time he was responsible for all aspects of electro-optical technology and systems development for the Army. Particular emphasis focused on; focal plane array technology, optical device development, image processing, modeling and tactical lasers.

More recently, he was responsible for all CECOM sensor activities including; radar, combat identification, platform protection, radiac systems, mine detection and neutralization, countersurveillance and deception, and physical security.

Buser was cited for:

* His exceptional commitment to the development and fielding of advanced sensors and sensor suites to dominate the 21st Century Digital Battlefield. His organization consistently realized an annual investment income exceeding \$300 million and has a 650 strong workforce of scientific and engineering talent.

This group is recognized throughout the national and international communities as

leaders in all sensor related fields of endeavor including; thermal imaging, image intensifiers, laser, radar, aided target recognition, camouflage, countermine, sensor fusion, platform protection sensors, sensor modeling and systems/subsystems technologies.

Buser's management and technical capability have brought NVESD to the forefront in research and development within the Department of Defense, industry and academia. His work has provided the sensor technology necessary to meet critical requirements of military, and commercial markets.

* The most significant endorsement of Buser's contributions to the Army mission came out of the accolades received during Desert Storm operations. The advantage of the systems developed by NVESD was evident during the war.

* Through cooperative agreement of information exchange and technology transfer, Buser has reached out to world communities. Technology demonstrations provided the first look at the significant opportunities the sensor technology has to commercial markets and the opportunities "Commercial Off the Shelf" products have within military sensor efforts.

He has taken the sensor technology developed for Army systems and applied it to state level programs. Work included transferring technology to New Jersey and Virginia for; transportation, education and medical infrastructure, search and rescue, police surveillance, wildlife preservation, fire prevention and other related efforts.

Buser and his wife Dr. Waltraut Buser also live in Wall Township. They have four children and five grandchildren. ❁

ecting and executing research and development programs including: command and control; communications; intelligence; electronic warfare; night vision; countermine; power sources; radar; combat identification and the software supporting these systems.

Giordano was cited as an outstanding achiever, noteworthy accomplishments include:

- * Providing an overall strategy and plan for the integration of the Command's Advanced Technology Demonstrations. This plan addresses the insertion of technology into new and existing military systems. It has been accepted by Army leadership as a viable road map to digitization of the battlefield.

Under his leadership a Digital Integrated Laboratory was created, integrating RDEC laboratories with other government agencies and commercial industry. This testbed allows for the demonstration, testing and integration of dispersed platforms and systems.

- * The development of the Second Generation Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) technology combines four infrared receivers into a common system, resulting in significant savings of life cycle costs.

- * Successful efforts in integrating CE-COM technologies with ongoing efforts at Battle Laboratories, resulted in decreased development costs over the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) period.

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Maj. Gen. Gerard P. Brohm congratulates Robert F. Giordano, director, Research, Development and Engineering Center, on his receiving the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service.