sixth annual

2007

SERVICE *to* AMERICA MEDALS

"The purpose of life is not to be happy.
It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate,
to have it make some difference that you
have lived and lived well."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

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SERVICE to AMERICA MEDALS

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Each and every day, the American people rely on our federal government to confront a myriad of challenges. Our government's ability to address these issues and serve the public effectively depends on the performance of our federal workforce. Simply put, good government starts with good people.

In 2002, the Partnership for Public Service created the *Service to America Medals* to tell the stories of those good people doing remarkable things in federal service. Highlighting the achievements of our most outstanding civil servants not only helps these unsung heroes get the recognition they deserve, but it also inspires others to serve our country in government.

The Partnership owes a debt of gratitude to multiple individuals and organizations, which have made this program possible.

First, we thank our corporate sponsors for their commitment to celebrating government's best, in particular our Founding Sponsor, Siemens, and National Sponsor, DuPont.

We also want to thank the distinguished members of our selection committee for making the tough decisions with so many worthy finalists to consider.

Most important, the Partnership wants to thank the 1.9 million members of our federal civil service. While only a small handful of federal employees receive medals, this program is a celebration of all the men and women who have sacrificed for our country and who go to work each day in service to America.

Sincerely,

Max Stier
President and CEO
Partnership for Public Service

★ ★ ★

2007 Finalists

Career Achievement Medal

Dr. John Mather
Senior Project Scientist
James Webb Space Telescope
NASA
Silver Spring, Maryland

Dr. Walter Oleszek
Senior Specialist in Legislative Process
Congressional Research Service
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

Dr. David Vesely
Chief of Endocrinology
Diabetes and Metabolism
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Tampa, Florida

Call to Service Medal

Nicole Faison
Director, Office of Public Housing Programs
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Washington, D.C.

Markus Garlauskas
Chief, J2 Estimates
U.S. Department of the Army
Republic of Korea

Myroslava Gongadze
Journalist and Anchor
Voice of America's Ukraine Service
Broadcasting Board of Governors
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Konrad Lehnert
Physicist, Office of the Director
National Institute of Standards
and Technology
Boulder, Colorado

Brian Waud
Foreign Affairs Specialist
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, D.C.

Citizen Services Medal

Dinah F. B. Cohen
Director, Computer/Electronic
Accommodations Program (CAP)
U.S. Department of Defense
Falls Church, Virginia

John Doll and David Freeland
Commissioner for Patents (Doll)
and Chief Information Officer (Freeland)
Patent and Trademark Office
Alexandria, Virginia

Wallace Fung and Henry Chao
Chief Technology Officer (Fung)
and Deputy Director, Information Services
Design and Development (Chao)
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Baltimore, Maryland

David Williams
Director, Earned Income and Health Coverage
Tax Credits
Internal Revenue Service
Washington, D.C.

Homeland Security Medal

Terrence Bohan
Special Agent Criminal Investigator
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives
Front Royal, Virginia

Max Mayfield
Former Director, National Weather Service
National Hurricane Center
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.
Miami, Florida

Tracy Mustin
Director, Office of Second Line of Defense
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Leonard A. Smith
Chief, Department of Molecular Biology
U.S. Army Medical Research
Institute of Infectious Diseases
Fort Detrick, Maryland

★ ★ ★

2007 Finalists

International Affairs Medal

Brenda Brown Doroski and John Mitchell
Directors, Partnership for Clean Indoor Air
Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C.

Edward Peter Messmer
Special Assistant to the Ambassador
U.S. Department of State
Beirut, Lebanon

Dr. Michael K. Trimble
Supervisory Archaeologist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis, Missouri

Dr. John F. Vertefeuille and Brian D. Wheeler
Chief of Party (Vertefeuille)
and Deputy Director (Wheeler)
Global AIDS Program, Nigeria
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Abuja, Nigeria

National Security Medal

Dr. William Baker
Chief Scientist, Directed Energy
Air Force Research Laboratory
Kirtland AFB, New Mexico

Carol Dumaine
Founding Director
Global Futures Partnership
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Anh Duong
Science Advisor, Deputy Chief of Naval Ops
for Information, Plans and Strategy
Naval Surface Warfare Center
Indian Head Division
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Robert O. Slater
and the NSEP Team
Director, Natl. Security Education Program
U.S. Department of Defense
Arlington, Virginia

Justice and Law Enforcement Medal

Chris Dishman
Policy Analyst, Office of Supply Reduction
Office of National Drug Control Policy
Washington, D.C.

Michael Ethridge and Team
Director, Laboratory Services
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives
Ammendale, Maryland

Dr. John S. Morgan
and the President's DNA Initiative Team
Deputy Director for Science and Technology
National Institute of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Vernan W. Roberson
and the Operation Global Con Team
Special Agent
U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of Inspector General
Atlanta, Georgia

Science and Environment Medal

Dr. Raymond Carruthers and Dr. Jack DeLoach
Research Ecologist (Carruthers)
and Research Entomologist (DeLoach)
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Albany, California

Frazer Lockhart
and the Rocky Flats Clean-up Team
Manager, Rocky Flats Project
U.S. Department of Energy
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dr. Douglas R. Lowy and Dr. John T. Schiller
Laboratory Chief (Lowy)
and Senior Investigator (Schiller)
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland

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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Service to America Medal honorees. Your commitment to public service, your innovative spirit, and your initiative help make our nation stronger, safer and more secure.

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To each and every nominee and to tonight's medal recipients: We salute you and your extraordinary accomplishments.

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President and CEO
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U.S. Department of State

Kevin Reilly
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University of Wisconsin System

Christopher Shays
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Connecticut

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Max Stier
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John Warner
U.S. Senator
Virginia

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Executive Director
Global Markets Institute
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Fareed Zakaria
Editor
Newsweek International

Let public service be a proud and lively career. And let every man and woman who works in any area of our national government, in any branch, at any level, be able to say with pride and with honor in future years: I served the United States government in that hour of our nation's need.

President John F. Kennedy

Dr. Douglas R. Lowy and Dr. John T. Schiller
National Institutes of Health

Saving Women's Lives

Dr. Douglas Lowy and Dr. John Schiller whose discovery made the HPV virus vaccine possible.

Papillomavirus, polypeptide and virion aren't exactly terms that most folks bandy about during conversations at the office water cooler. Thankfully there are those who do — people like Drs. Douglas Lowy and John Schiller, two scientists who discovered a way to generate infection fighting antibodies and made a vaccine against the virus that causes cervical cancer possible.

Cervical cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in women worldwide, killing roughly 230,000 women each year. In the United States, about 10,000 women are diagnosed annually and 40 percent of them die from the disease. It is not typically associated with genetic predisposition, as with many other forms of cancer, but rather linked to human papillomaviruses (HPV), a group of viruses that include more than 100 different strains or types.

More than 30 of these types are sexually transmitted, and HPV infection is the most common STD in the nation. While most HPV infections exhibit no symptoms and clear up without treatment, some infections can persist and lead to cancer. With the help of population

studies, scientists discovered that virtually all cases of cervical cancer are caused by infections from one of about 15 strains of HPV, most often HPV16.

Once the scientific community established the connection between HPV and cervical cancer, Lowy and Schiller, who had been studying the molecular biology of HPV, began searching for ways to boost the human body's immune response to this cancer-causing infection.

Lowy and Schiller discovered that a particular papillomavirus protein, L1, could self-assemble into non-infectious virus-like particles (VLPs) that closely resembled the outer surface of the actual virus and were highly capable of producing an antibody response that inactivated the corresponding virus. Moreover, they found that the L1 of the main HPV16 isolated in labs at the time could not form VLPs because of a mutation. Once they were able to track down non-mutated forms of the virus, they found that the L1 could readily form VLPs that trigger the immune system to produce protective antibodies.

Lowy and Schiller are the first and second inventors on government-owned patents covering these discoveries, which are now licensed to Merck & Co., Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline for commercial development of HPV VLP vaccines. Subsequent human trials of multi-type-VLP vaccines by the two companies demonstrated nearly 100 percent protection against the abnormal growth of cells on the surface of the cervix caused by HPV16 and HPV18, the two types that cause 70% of cervical cancer. In addition, the Merck vaccine prevented most genital warts, which are caused by two other strains of HPV.

Merck's vaccine, called Gardasil, earned FDA approval in 2006 for treatment of females ranging from ages nine to 26. GlaxoSmithKline applied for FDA approval in 2007. These vaccines are expected to decrease the risk of cervical pre-cancer or cancer by at least 70 percent, thereby substantially affecting women's health.

While the introduction of Pap tests to detect cancers at an early stage has prevented an epidemic of cervical cancer in the United States and other wealthy countries, effective screening and treatment is not widely available throughout most of the world. In fact, 80% of cervical cancer cases occur in developing countries. At the heart of Lowy and Schiller's efforts is their steadfast commitment to promoting public health on a global scale. In addition to their service to the World Health Organization, they are helping manufacturers in India to produce the current generation vaccine and to bring to clinical trials two distinct second-generation prophylactic HPV vaccines that are potentially cheaper to produce and deliver.

Lowy and Schiller's 20-year partnership has been a boon to the nation's health and for the advancement of scientific discovery.

A Gift from the Heart

Dr. David Vesely has written 296 peer-reviewed publications, but three hormones he discovered are his greatest contribution to the field of medicine.

Medical doctor, doctor of philosophy, professor of internal medicine, molecular pharmacology and physiology, and chief of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism — Dr. David Vesely's curriculum vitae reads like the directory of an entire hospital wing.

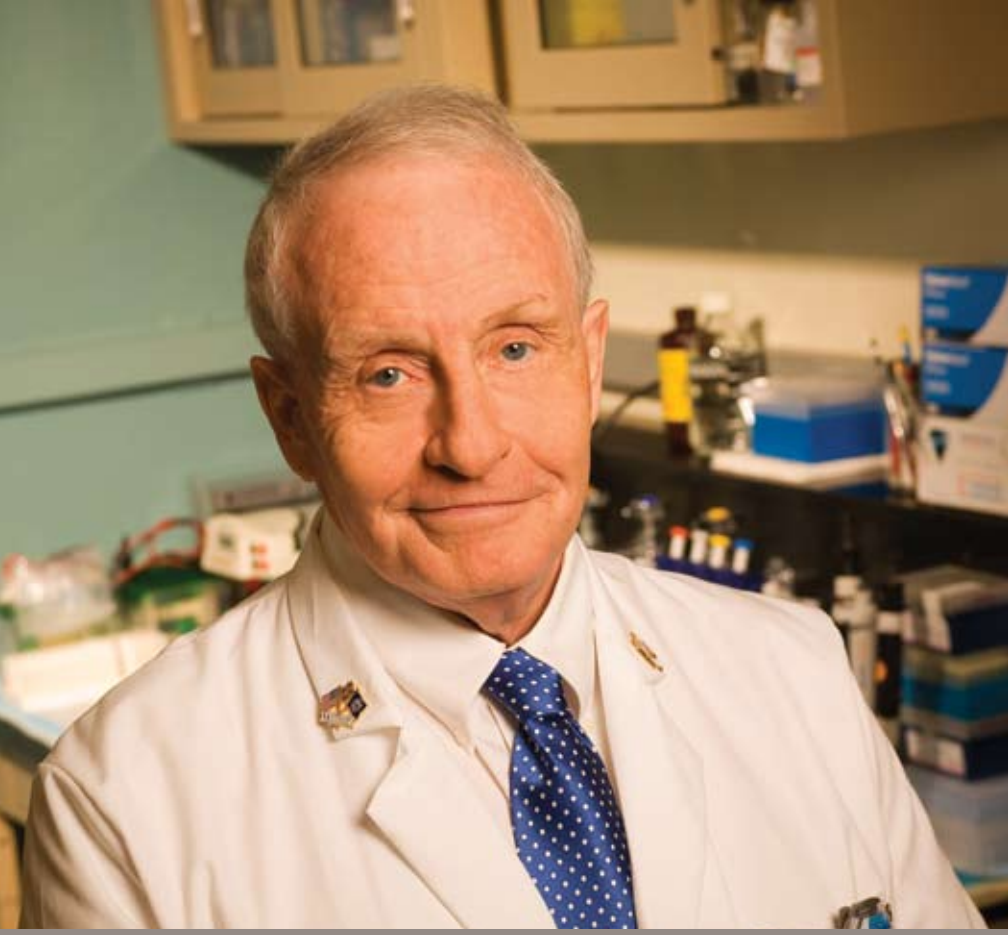
For 25 years, Vesely has served his nation on the frontlines in the fight against some of humanity's deadliest diseases. During that time, he has discovered three hormones made by the heart that have had tremendous beneficial effects in the treatment of congestive heart failure, kidney failure and cancer. Within a 24-hour timeframe, the hormones are capable of eliminating up to 97 percent of human pancreatic, prostate, breast, colon, and kidney adenocarcinomas.

Many of the most common forms of cancer — breast, colon and prostate cancers — are adenocarcinomas, which are cancers that begin in cells that line certain internal organs and that have gland-like properties. Pancreatic adenocarcinoma is the most lethal of all cancers. Even with surgery and current cancer chemotherapy, people who have the disease are expected to live only four months after the cancer takes hold.

Vesely's work has shown that up to 80 percent of human pancreatic adenocarcinomas growing in laboratory mice can be cured. Even in human pancreatic cancers that are not cured, the volume decreases to less than 10 percent of the volume of the untreated human cancer. In this case, the mice do not succumb to cancer, but rather continue to live a normal lifespan.

The death of Vesely's wife, Clo, in 2002 from breast cancer spurred him to expand his cancer research. As a result, Vesely found that two of the cardiac hormones he discovered were capable of eliminating two out of every three human breast carcinomas growing in mice, with the third hormone eliminating 50 percent.

Vesely's path of discovery can be traced back to his home state of Nebraska, where he was a member of Creighton University's class of 1967. Next, he pursued an M.D. and Ph.D. at the University of Arizona, completing the two degrees in three years. In 1969, he received a prestigious National Institute of Health scholarship, which at the time was awarded to only two people.



DR. DAVID VESELY
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Vesely now serves as chief of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism at the James A. Haley Veterans' Affairs Medical Center in Tampa, Florida. The center cares for more than 1.5 million patients each year, making it the nation's busiest outpatient veterans' medical center, and has earned national distinction as a Diabetes Center of Excellence, one of only two in the entire VA medical system.

In addition to his work at the center, Vesely is a professor of medicine, molecular pharmacology and physiology at the University of South Florida's College of Medicine. Throughout his career, he has been recognized as an outstanding supervisor and teacher. Vesely has been a mentor to the young endocrine faculty, endocrine fellows, residents and medical students on how to practice the highest quality, compassionate medical care. He also mentors two postdoctoral fellows, an M.D. and an M.D./Ph.D.

He has also compiled an impressive portfolio of written work, with 296 peer-reviewed scientific publications and three books to his credit. He has received the Outstanding Teacher Award three times and has frequently been the featured speaker at major national and international scientific conferences.

Vesely's accomplishments are extremely important to the nation as congestive heart failure is becoming an epidemic and cancer, in addition to its devastating health effects, is a huge financial burden to individuals, families and the nation as a whole. If the human trials that he will conduct succeed, Vesely will have revolutionized cancer treatment.

NICOLE FAISON
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

No More Risky Business

For 13 years, America's housing department had a home on GAO's notorious high-risk list. Then Nicole Faison came along.

When you work at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), you get to know a few things about undesirable addresses. And in Washington, D.C., the last place anyone wants to reside is on the Government Accountability Office's "high-risk" list. This is the home of the federal government's most troubled programs — the ones that feed the stereotypes about waste, fraud and abuse. HUD's rental assistance program was on this dubious list for 13 years; the operative word being was. Nicole Faison helped to eliminate more than $2 billion in improper payments within the program. Thanks to this 36-year-old, the program has been removed from the high-risk list, allowing it to be recognized for the people it helps, not the money it wastes.

HUD administers two multi-billion dollar rental assistance programs: public housing in which residents live in federally operated buildings and the Housing Choice Voucher program, formerly known as Section 8, which gives recipients vouchers that can be used to pay rent at certain private housing facilities. A 2001 study showed that HUD made billions annually in improper rental assistance subsidy payments. The amount of money paid to ineligible tenants would have been enough

to house approximately 55,000 additional families. A primary source of the problem was the inability of housing program administrators to accurately and consistently verify tenant-reported (or unreported) income, which allowed individuals to underreport their income and receive aid that should have gone to someone more in need.

For Nicole Faison, this problem was hardly abstract. She once worked for the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. In this job, she often suspected people were misreporting their income, but she did not have a tool that would enable her to check. She was attending business school at night and was so interested in the topic that she wrote her master's thesis on how to develop an income verification system.

In 2002, Faison took a job with HUD, and she got a rare opportunity to put many recommendations from her thesis into practice. She was charged with developing HUD's upfront income verification tool, known as the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system. This system allowed housing administrators controlled access to income data in existing federal databases. This information could be used to verify amounts and sources of beneficiaries' income, including wages and federal benefits. Most importantly, this tool enabled program administrators to identify income, and its sources, that had not been disclosed by tenants. By improving the ability to determine program eligibility and ensure that recipients receive the proper level of assistance, the EIV system has helped to dramatically reduce and deter fraud.

Faison personally developed the instructional guide for the program and provided program administrators with hands-on training sessions to understand how to incorporate this new technology in the day-to-day administration of rental assistance programs. Her workshops emphasized reducing fraud and improper payments. She also provided training to special agents in the Inspector General's office.

In 2006, HUD successfully deployed the EIV system to more than 4,100 public housing authorities nationwide, making it available to everyone who administers HUD's public housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs for more than 4 million households.

The program is making a difference beyond everyone's expectations. As a result of the EIV tool, HUD was able to reduce the total of improper payments by more than $2 billion, a decrease of more than 60 percent. Consequently, HUD became the first agency to achieve green status for "Eliminating Improper Payments" on the President's Management Agenda scorecard, and HUD's rental assistance programs were taken off the GAO's high-risk list.

Nicole Faison helped transform HUD's rental assistance programs from high-risk to high-impact. Thanks to her work, more eligible, low-income families who need housing assistance are receiving it, which is certainly the most gratifying recognition she could ever hope to receive.

Leveling the Playing Field

Having overcome congenital heart disease, Dinah Cohen has helped thousands conquer obstacles in their own lives.

Dinah Cohen knows more than a little something about overcoming adversity. She is the daughter of Holocaust survivors, and she was diagnosed with congenital heart disease when she was a young girl. Her life experience clearly prepared her well to lead the Department of Defense's program to help its employees with disabilities thrive in the workplace. Under her leadership, the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP) has filled more than 60,000 requests — making it the world's largest assistive technology program — enabling persons with disabilities to lead more productive, fulfilling lives.

CAP levels the playing field for people with disabilities by providing assistive technology and services free of charge to federal managers. More specifically, CAP buys, pays for and delivers the hardware, software and services people with disabilities need to function in the workplace. This assistive technology helps workers access telecommunications, computers and electronic information and ranges from Braille terminals to specialized keyboards for people who cannot use conventional ones. These resources allow individuals with disabilities to compete in the workplace by eliminating cost and nuisance factors that have been prohibitive of employment in the past. The program has proven to be wildly popular, earning 95 percent customer satisfaction ratings.

CAP is as much a resource for federal managers as it is for workers with disabilities. Cohen opened the CAP Technology Evaluation Center as an assessment and demonstration facility in the Pentagon. This facility is a resource for senior federal leaders, managers and employees to see the power of assistive technology. It has hosted demonstrations, training and assessments for more than 20,000 visitors to see the range of technology and services that are available for individuals with disabilities. It is so widely recognized as one of the most effective ways our government helps its workers with disabilities that President Bush visited the facility in June 2001.

Under Dinah Cohen's leadership, one of the organizing principles of the program has been to always keep moving forward and keep looking for ways to do more. Cohen has always lived up to this creed.

In 2000, CAP was granted the authority to provide assistive technology and services to any federal employee. Since that time, Cohen has established partnerships with 65 agencies outside of DoD. The most notable new expansion of the program was to work with wounded service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. CAP was not originally

DINAH F. B. COHEN
U.S. Department of Defense

intended to serve service members who were disabled in combat, but Cohen saw this as a logical extension for the program. With a background as a rehabilitation counselor, she spent a lot of time in military hospitals where she met service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with debilitating injuries. It was obvious to her that CAP had the tools they would need to re-enter the workforce. She wanted to help these young men and women transition from deployment to employment, so she took action. As Cohen said, "There was nothing that said I couldn't give them the assistive technology, since they are DoD employees. So I did."

However, she did have to make one change to the rules. The law said the DoD would have to take the equipment back after these service members left the military. Clearly, this made no sense, so Cohen, with senior leadership, lobbied Congress to change the law and succeeded. As of spring 2007, CAP had filled more than 2,400 requests for assistive technology for wounded service members, bringing the total number of services from CAP since its inception to more than 57,000.

Dinah Cohen didn't just lead a program that has had a transformative impact on the lives of tens of thousands of people, she built it. She was CAP's first director, getting hired in 1990. As emotionally taxing as her line of work can be, the odds say she should have moved onto another challenge by now. But Dinah Cohen's whole life has been about beating the odds, and she will continue to do so and help others to do so as long as she's heading the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program.

Second Line of Defense

The first line of defense against nuclear terrorism is to secure nuclear materials at the source. With a threat this serious, one line of defense is not enough.

There is no doubt that terrorists are actively working to get their hands on radioactive or nuclear material. As head of the Second Line of Defense Program, Tracy Mustin provides a significant counterweight to these efforts and makes a strong and central contribution to defending the U.S. homeland. Under her leadership, the program has placed more than 425 portal monitoring devices at more than 100 border crossings, airports and seaports in more than 40 countries to detect illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological material.

The first line of defense against nuclear terrorist attack is to secure the nuclear material at the source. Our government has multiple efforts dedicated to this important goal, but given the seriousness of the threat, and the information available about nuclear smuggling, this first line of defense is clearly not enough. It is also necessary to ensure that materials cannot be readily transported across international borders, and this is the work of the Second Line of Defense.

The first component of Mustin's Second Line of Defense Program is the Core Program, which places radiation portal monitors at land borders, airports and small seaports in carefully chosen locations. The program was initially focused in Russia, and this work remains a priority. Recently, Ms. Mustin's program secured an agreement with Russian officials to equip all of Russia's official international border crossings, including airports, seaports, railways and land crossings, with radiation detection devices to prevent nuclear smuggling in or out of the country. This project will be completed six years ahead of schedule.

Beyond Russia, and again due to Mustin's strong leadership, the program has grown to include a number of surrounding nations including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Turkey, Slovenia and Slovakia. The result will be the protection of hundreds of additional border crossings against nuclear smuggling. Mustin also worked closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency and Greek authorities to enhance security at the 2004 Olympic Games.

TRACY MUSTIN
National Nuclear Security Administration

Mustin also heads the Megaports Initiative, which uses the same technology as the Core Program to screen cargo at major international seaports. When trucks carrying containers drive into the gates of a growing number of major international ports, they must now drive through monitors deployed by Mustin's program. The Megaports Initiative achieves three main objectives. It deters terrorists from using the world's seaports to ship illicit materials; it detects nuclear and radioactive materials if they are shipped via sea cargo; and it interdicts harmful material before it is used against the United States or one of our allies. The Megaports Initiative is now working at 23 ports in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and South America.

There are very few people in the world who could so effectively lead these important efforts. It requires technical expertise, program management expertise, diplomacy skills, and the ability to work with multiple federal agencies and stakeholders in the U.S. and abroad. Not only is there broad international participation in this effort as a direct result of Mustin's leadership, but other countries are now donating funds to the Second Line of Defense.

Mustin has succeeded not only because of her considerable skills, but also through plain hard work. She has traveled personally to more than 30 nations as the head of this program, and she is away from her home and family roughly half the year. She wishes these sacrifices weren't necessary, but perseveres nonetheless, recognizing that there is no bigger threat to our country than nuclear terrorism. Tracy Mustin has unquestionably played an important leadership role in fighting this threat.

EDWARD MESSMER
U.S. Department of State

Power to the People

When Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers in July 2006, it sparked an armed conflict. Edward Messmer made sure it didn't spark a humanitarian crisis, too.

In July and August of 2006, the staff of the U.S. embassy in Beirut found itself at the center of a major conflict when Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers, provoking a 34-day armed conflict. The embassy received a great deal of attention for its work to evacuate 15,000 Americans who were in Lebanon, but this was just one of the many things the embassy did to mitigate the damage inflicted by the conflict. None was more important than the work done by Edward Messmer to help get vital fuel past blockades and into Lebanon, maintaining power across the country. His extraordinary efforts were directly responsible for averting a health catastrophe, which would have compounded the war's already high price.

Once the 2006 conflict began, a naval blockade was established around Lebanon. As a result of this blockade, fuel stocks quickly plummeted at the country's three primary power plants in Tripoli, Sidon and Beirut. The plants were soon left with only a few days' worth of reserves. Since the water and sewer plants all ran off of the power grid, a continued interruption in the fuel supply would have meant no water for essential services, hospitals and schools.

Serving as the acting chief of the political section at the embassy, Edward Messmer quickly identified this looming problem. While identifying the problem was important, he made it his personal mission to avert the developing crisis.

Messmer had to address multiple logistical and political issues to get fuel past the blockade. First, the ship owners who carried the fuel didn't want to risk running the naval blockade. Insurers would not insure the ships without guarantees of protection. The Israeli forces wanted assurances that the fuel stocks would not be diverted to Hezbollah. The U.S. Navy needed convincing that its escort was necessary. Finally, he would have to secure funding from the government of Lebanon.

For three straight weeks, Messmer coordinated, persuaded and guided all of these disparate parties. He was in continuous contact with the Lebanese government, U.S. embassies in Cyprus and Israel, ship owners, insurers and various offices in the Pentagon and the State Department.

Messmer's already daunting task was complicated by many factors. First, and most obvious, all of these events were taking place in the middle of a war. Second, he had other duties including assisting the ambassador in cease-fire discussions with Lebanon's prime minister and directing a round-the-clock operations center in the U.S. embassy to keep Washington informed. On top of all that, Lebanon's Minister of Electricity was a member of Hezbollah, who was not in the habit of making information readily available to the U.S. Embassy. Messmer solved this challenge by establishing a rapport with mid-level ministerial officials to create an alternative to normal channels.

His efforts finally paid off with the initial shipment of 56,000 tons of fuel to the about-to-shut-down power facility just north of Beirut. This delivery enabled the country's entire electrical grid to remain operational until a series of successive follow-on deliveries, totaling nearly 300,000 tons, were delivered over the next several weeks. When the fuel finally arrived in Beirut, the stocks had dwindled to near vapor.

Not only did Messmer's work help avert a humanitarian crisis, it also took away a potential propaganda tool from Hezbollah, which could have blamed the fuel crisis on the United States and its allies.

Edward Messmer says this whole effort was especially gratifying for him because many Lebanese were caught in the middle between Hezbollah and Israel, and the United States was there for them. "We were able to do what America can do best … help those less powerful than us," said Messmer. In the end, the United States was able to do what it does best because one of its best and brightest — Edward Messmer — was doing what came naturally to him. The people of both Lebanon and our country should be thankful for his service.

Giving Heat to Cold Cases

DNA evidence has changed the way law enforcement solves crimes. Dr. John Morgan and his team have changed the way law enforcement uses DNA.

Between 1977 and 1993, 13 young women were strangled to death in Jackson County, Missouri. Forensic evidence showed that the murders were committed by the same suspect, but for more than a decade, the killer was able to elude the authorities. In 2004, lab technicians analyzed a blood sample that had been sitting on a shelf since 1987. DNA evidence from this sample identified 53-year-old Lorenzo Gilyard as the murderer. The blood sample was finally analyzed as the result of work being carried out by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). The NIJ, which is the research, development, and evaluation component within the Office of Justice Programs, created a new program to help analyze millions of backlogged DNA samples nationwide. This program has uncovered critical evidence to solve thousands of cold cases and has dramatically enhanced the capacity of local law enforcement to use DNA evidence as a crime-fighting tool.

Due to the popularity of television shows like CSI, everyone in America knows that the tiniest bit of DNA evidence can help solve the most difficult cases. But one of the biggest national scandals that few people have heard of was the backlog of unanalyzed DNA evidence in state and local labs. Hundreds of thousands of pieces of DNA evidence that could have solved cases remained untouched for years. In one instance, 12,000 rape kits — evidence collected from victims through an intrusive medical exam with the expectation that it will be used to help identify the assailant — were found collecting dust in a warehouse in Queens, New York.

In 2002, Congress approved the first federal funds to help clear out these backlogs. Dr. John Morgan and his team were charged with developing and administering this program, but they set out to do more than just create a grant program that states and localities could use to support their forensic work. They understood that DNA is the most significant new tool for solving crimes since the fingerprint, so they created a program that would improve all aspects of how DNA technology is used by state and local law enforcement.

The White House and Congress eventually committed hundreds of millions of dollars to support the President's Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology initiative, and its impact has been astounding.

The NIJ has provided funding and technical assistance to support analysis of more than 2 million samples from convicted offenders, clearing out the backlog in state and local labs that existed in 2003. To link

DR. JOHN S. MORGAN and the President's DNA Initiative Team
U.S. Department of Justice

offender DNA samples to crimes, evidence and biological material from crime victims must also be analyzed. The NIJ's programs also funded analysis on DNA samples from more than 60,000 cases. Thus far, the Justice Department has documented more than 16,000 "matches" as a result of this testing. These include matches of crime scene evidence to offender samples, as well as matches of crime scene evidence to other crime scene evidence, providing law enforcement with important links between cases. The NIJ also provided $4 million for post-conviction tests to help exonerate the innocent.

NIJ's strategy called upon states to pass laws requiring the collection of DNA samples from all persons convicted of a felony. Forty-three states have passed such a law.

More than $100 million has been provided to expand the capacity of state and local crime labs, so more DNA testing can be performed in-house, helping to prevent the development of any future backlogs. Training continues to be provided to persons involved in collecting, analyzing or using DNA evidence in the criminal justice system.

DNA evidence has changed the way law enforcement solves crimes, and Dr. John Morgan and his team at NIJ have changed the way that law enforcement uses DNA. These efforts have already directly contributed to the arrest of thousands of criminals, and thanks to the capacity-building component of their work, those arrests represent only a small fraction of the number of crimes that will eventually be solved due to the President's DNA Initiative.

Living the American Dream

Decades after escaping one war, Anh Duong helped her adopted country win another.

When Anh Duong was 15 years old, she took a literal leap of faith, faith in the United States of America. And ever since that day, she has committed herself to giving back to the country that gave her so much.

Anh Duong fled Vietnam as a teenager, rushing from a helicopter to a boat until finally jumping onto a U.S. Navy ship, which transported her family to the Philippines where they were assigned to a refugee camp. Her family was eventually given political asylum in the United States, and decades after escaping that war, Anh Duong helped her adopted country win another. She is recognized as the "scientist who developed the bomb that helped win the war in Afghanistan," and that is just one of her many contributions during her 24 years in federal service.

Once the decision was made that an international coalition was going to invade Afghanistan in response to the attacks of September 11th, military planners determined that new weapons were needed to penetrate the tunnels and caves being used by terrorists and to avoid violent tunnel-to-tunnel combat between coalition and Taliban forces.

Duong's team of nearly 100 scientists and engineers quickly went from concept to development and deployment of the United States' first thermobaric weapon — a device that creates shock waves that can cause caves and tunnels to implode. Weapons this sophisticated have been known to take years to create. Duong's team got the job done in 67 days. These bombs would prove instrumental in the U.S.-led coalition's swift overthrow of the Taliban.

When asked about her work, Duong is always adamant that she wishes the United States never had to go to war. "But if war is inevitable," she says, "If we're going to send troops, we want to make sure that a lot of them will come back. And we better equip them with the best weapons." She added, "Foremost in my mind is coming up with ways to protect our troops."

With her impressive track record, it was no surprise that Duong was chosen to lead this effort. She has worked for the federal government ever since graduating from college in 1983. Her first job was working at the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) in Indian Head, where she formulated the materials that launch projectiles out of the barrel of big naval guns. From 1991-1999, she managed all Navy basic exploratory research and advanced development programs in high explosives.

ANH DUONG
Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Division

In 1999, she took the job as the head of all NSWC Indian Head's technical programs in explosives and undersea weapons. It was in this position that she led the development of the thermobaric bomb. She has also done critical work to improve the safety of explosives on Navy ships.

Altogether, Anh Duong successfully led the development and transition of a total of 10 high performing explosives into 18 different weapons, which is an unrivaled record in the field. Her accomplishments have earned her the Dr. Arthur Bisson Award for Naval Technology Achievement by the Chief of Naval Research; being featured in the book *Changing Our World: True Stories of Women Engineers*; recognition in the documentary film *Why We Fight*; as well as the Discovery Channel's special *Future Weapons*.

In 2006, she was put in charge of technology issues for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations and for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, made famous by the CBS television series, *NCIS*. In this capacity, Duong is creating mobile, modular battlefield forensics labs for war fighters. This technology will enable U.S. forces to use DNA and other forensic evidence to better identify the perpetrators of terrorist acts and catch the "bad guys" before they have a chance to strike again.

In short, Anh Duong embodies the American Dream. Duong says, "We as immigrants only succeed because of the opportunities we are given." She is remarkably grateful for those opportunities and she has used them to build a better life for herself, but more importantly, to build a stronger America.

FRAZER LOCKHART and the Rocky Flats Cleanup Team
U.S. Department of Energy

Mr. Clean

Some people said cleaning up the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons facility couldn't be done. Frazer Lockhart and his team not only proved the skeptics wrong, they proved the skeptics wrong ahead of schedule and under budget.

The federal government created the Superfund program in 1980 to clean up the country's most dangerous abandoned toxic waste sites. Out of the hundreds of environmental hazards on the Superfund list, the Rocky Flats plant outside of Denver, Colorado was among the worst of the worst. Rocky Flats was a nuclear weapons production facility that manufactured plutonium triggers for nuclear warheads for nearly 40 years. In 1989, it was shut down after a raid by the FBI and EPA discovered multiple pollution violations. Some people suggested that Rocky Flats should be a "sacrifice site," meaning cleanup was impossible and should not even be attempted. As recently as 1995, a cleanup effort was estimated to cost $37 billion and take 70 years to complete. Frazer Lockhart and his team at the Department of Energy managed to prove the skeptics wrong. Working with contractors, local officials and his federal colleagues, Lockhart led the effort to successfully remediate Rocky Flats in just 10 years, at a cost of $7 billion.

If the fact that the project was completed decades ahead of schedule and billions of dollars under budget were not astounding enough, consider the following. According to the Department of Energy, the cleanup team removed more than 21 tons of weapons-usable nuclear materials; decontaminated and demolished 800 structures, comprising more than 3 million square feet; drained 30,000 liters of plutonium solution; stabilized and packaged 100 tons of high-content plutonium residue; performed environmental cleanup actions at 130 sites; dispositioned millions of classified items and excess property; and safely shipped more than 600,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste to a safe disposal site — enough to fill a string of railcars 90 miles long.

The project was the largest and most successful cleanup ever conducted by the Department of Energy, and Lockhart recently received EPA approval for over 95% of the formerly restricted land to be officially removed from the Superfund list. The majority of the 6,200-acre site is scheduled to be transferred to the Department of the Interior and will become a national wildlife refuge.

There were many keys to the success of the project. The first was collaboration between federal officials and local authorities and residents. Due to the history of problems at Rocky Flats, Lockhart and his team had to go the extra mile to rebuild trust within the surrounding communities. They were completely transparent in their dealings, sharing both good news and bad. Lockhart said the trust that was built was invaluable when it came to tackling the tough issues.

Another key was the innovative contract and contract management. DOE contracted with Kaiser-Hill, LLC to do the vast majority of the cleanup work. Lockhart structured an incentive-laden contract that said the contractors would receive a significant fraction of any savings that resulted from their doing a good job.

Not surprisingly, the Rocky Flats project has already received a great deal of recognition. The American Council of Engineering Companies named the project its Grand Award winner in the environmental category. The American Academy of Environmental Engineers named it Project of the Year, as did the Project Management Institute. It also received the 2006 Secretary of Energy's Project Management Improvement Award. It has also been the subject of numerous papers and even books.

In the end, perhaps the greatest accomplishment of the Rocky Flats cleanup project is that it shows what is possible with collaboration between the public, private and nonprofit sectors. If they can come together to convert this environmental eyesore and security risk into a wildlife refuge, converting a public liability into a community asset, it proves that we can overcome any environmental challenge if local communities, businesses and government work together.

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