

Lt. Col. Terrece Harris, Product Manager for Improvised Explosive Device Defeat/Protect Force (PdM IEDD/PF) has been named the 2012 Secretary of the Army Product Manager of the Year.

Over his tenure as PdM, Harris has managed a sizeable portion of the Army's IED detection and defeat portfolio, including the Self Protection Adaptive Roller Kit (SPARK), Jackal, Rhino and Cyclone. These products play a pivotal role in protecting the lives and limbs of countless Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. As part of Project Manager Close Combat Systems (PM CCS), Harris has lead his team through numerous traditional and rapid response programs, executing challenging procurement actions under urgent and compelling conditions.

From July 31 to November 7, 2011, Harris deployed to Afghanistan to take a personal, hands-on role in the delivery, fielding and sustainment of these critical counter-IED products. As PM CCS Forward at Bagram Army Airfield, Afghanistan, Harris was responsible for leading the effort across the combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan.

While in Afghanistan, Harris assisted in fielding the Jackal IED Pre-Detonation System, the newest member to the family of IEDD equipment, to forces in Iraq. The Office of the Secretary of Defense had charged PM CCS with procuring the Jackal system under the Rapid Acquisition Authority. Within 15 days, the PM CCS team established a contract with the industry partner and, within seven months, fielded 250 Jackals to theater.

Harris also served as the Project Executive Office Ammunition (PEO Ammunition) Senior Representative in theater. Harris' leadership was essential in executing an effective transition of field support activities from one contractor to another without degrading performance or adversely impacting support to the Soldier. Harris managed the contractor logistics support (CLS) transition between SPARK contractors flawlessly. Based on a requirement to compete a new contract, a new vendor was selected to replace the in-theater contractor that had been used for four years. Of the \$150 million contract awarded, Harris executed \$46 million of these funds and managed the transition of more than 100 field service representatives (FSRs) in and out of theater while overcoming a condensed transition timeline. This extensive changeover included ensuring a transfer of existing inventory as well as exchanging pertinent information to maintain combat readiness. As the PM CCS leader on the ground in Afghanistan, Harris drove the execution of this complex transition with no degradation to the mission.

Harris was also honored with a 2012 Firepower Management Award from the Picatinny Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). Presented annually by NDIA, the Firepower Awards recognize individuals from both government and industry who have made distinguished contributions to the armaments community and national defense.

Harris has proven to be adept and skillful at managing a diverse range of programs, from IEDD to non-lethal and EOF capabilities. He has successfully navigated the complexity of both traditional and rapid acquisition programs, at times while actively stationed in a war zone. "By employing accelerated acquisition strategies, strong partnerships and an open attitude toward collaboration, Harris has been able to field and sustain thousands of IED defeat and non-lethal systems worldwide with the sole purpose to save and protect Soldier's lives," said Col. Steven F. Cummings, Project Manager Close Combat Systems. "Harris is one of the most

dynamic and charismatic Product Managers in PEO Ammunition. His can-do attitude, dedication to duty and innovative problem-solving skills are central to our ability to deliver the most robust capabilities available to allow our Soldiers to respond as necessary, complete the mission and return home safely.”