

The 9th Annual DOD Contract Management Update **- Virtual -** ***Hosted by The Contracting Academy (TCA)***

May 2 – 3, 2023
1:00PM - 4:00PM Central

About the Speakers



Kelli Zagata, Director, Subcontracting and Small Business Compliance Center, DCMA

Ms. Kelli Zagata became the Director, DCMA Subcontracting and Small Business Compliance Center, as of July 2022. She previously performed as Deputy Commander, DCMA New Cumberland, responsible for planning and evaluating the activities, programs, and operations of a Geographic CMO as well as oversight of the organization's technical and managerial activities, and functioning as the senior civilian technical authority on contract administration and program management, supervising all operations and staff elements. She is also the Contract Maintenance Capability Co-Lead.

Past assignments within the Department of Defense include:

- DCMA New Cumberland: Deputy Commander
- DCMA HQ, PM&BI: Senior Acquisition Analyst, US Army
- DCMA Business Capabilities Framework: Contract Maintenance, Co-Lead
- DCMA Americas – Ottawa, Canada: Contract Operations Director DCMA Americas – Ottawa, Canada: Contracting Chief
- DCMA Process Development Office: Business Process Reengineering Analyst DCMA New Cumberland:
- Administrative Contracting & Grants Officer
- DCMA Philadelphia: Contract Administrator
- Defense Commissary Agency Europe – Dexheim Germany: Program Specialist
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- DCMA Philadelphia: Contract Administrator
- Defense Commissary Agency Europe – Dexheim Germany: Program Specialist

In addition to her work with the DoD, Ms. Zagata's private sector experience includes positions where she served as a Contracts Director for public, state and federal accounts from 2005 to 2008.

Ms. Zagata earned an MBA in Acquisition and Contract Management from the American Graduate University and a BS in Business Administration from University of Maryland, University College - Europe.

Kelli is a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps and is DAWIA, Contracting – Professional and Engineering & Technical Management – Foundational, certified. She is Lean Six Sigma, Green Belt certified and a member of the National Contract Management Association. She also holds a Certified Professional Contract Management certification granted by NCMA.

Her awards and decorations include the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, The DCMA International Outstanding Personnel of the Year Award, the DCMA Mentoring Award, the DCMA Core Values Award, the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and the Civilian Award for Public Service.



Marie Gapinski, U.S. Army TACOM, Office of Small Business Programs

Marie Gapinski was born in Detroit Michigan, holds a BA from Wayne State University in Business Management with emphasis in production manufacturing. Ms. Gapinski has been a Warranted Contracting Officer and Supervisor most of her career at the US Army Tank Automotive Command, TACOM, in Warren, MI. She is Level III certified in Contracting.

In January of 2011, she became the Associate Director of Small Business Programs for TACOM at the Detroit Arsenal.

With 39 years of Government Contracting experience, she has a wealth of knowledge to share and has been recognized by the Army Material Command as the Small Business Individual of the year from 1999 - 2010. Ms. Gapinski is a recipient of the Department of Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for her work with the modernization and integration of business processes for the Contracting Command as well as the Commander's award for Civilian Service for her efforts in organizational change and fielding of an enterprise resource planning tool to TACOM employees. During 2018-2021, she was responsible for developing training sessions for Acquisition and Logistic Associates in our Continuous Process Improvement Project to not only familiarize participants with the mission of the Office of Small Business Programs but to streamline the process and reduce administrative lead times by data modeling the acquisition process. Her efforts were recognized by the Commanding General and the Director of the Integrated Logistics Supply Center.

Serving in various contracting positions within the Command, her work experience includes the M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, Counter-Mine and Bridge Launchers, Tactical Vehicles including the High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), Medium Trucks, Boats, Trailers, Construction and Services.

Prior to her current position, she served as the Acquisition Lead in the Project Manager Office for the Logistics Modernization Program.

During the Pandemic, she worked with DAU on Small Business Podcasts, and provided a virtual presence for the office to meet and work with Small Businesses.

Marie enjoys hunting, traveling, and crafting Traditional Native American artwork.

Aaron Zeitlow, Senior Auditor, Defense Contract Audit Agency, Chicago Branch Office, Oshkosh Suboffice

Aaron Zeitlow is a Senior Auditor with the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA). He joined DCAA in 2017 and currently works in the Oshkosh Suboffice of the Chicago Branch Office. Before DCAA he worked as an internal review auditor for the Alaska National Guard. Aaron received his undergraduate degree in Accounting from the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Jason Rathsack, Senior Contract Specialist, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA)

Jason Rathsack is a Senior Contract Specialist with DCMA Central Region (CR). DCMA CR oversees 10 Contract Management Offices responsible for providing acquisition insight to DoD in support of over \$500B in contracts across 23 states. Mr. Rathsack previously served as the Group Lead, Business Operations for DCMA Milwaukee, which is responsible for contract administration of approximately 1,500

active Department of Defense (DoD) contracts and grants in Wisconsin, Northern Indiana, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Mr. Rathsack's previous positions include serving as an Administrative Contracting/Grants Officer with DCMA Milwaukee and a Contract Price/Cost Analyst with DCMA Chicago providing direct support to DoD contracting officers in review and recommendations associated with proposal analyses, review of contractor business systems, cost accounting standards, and incurred cost disputes. Mr. Rathsack also performed cradle to grave contract specialist duties for the US Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), and the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Mr. Rathsack is an active member of NCMA and has served on the NCMA WI Chapter Board for 7 years, most recently elected Vice President. Mr. Rathsack has a DAWIA Level III Certification in Contracting, a B.S. in Economics/Business, and a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) from UW Milwaukee where he previously served as President of the MPA Alumni Chapter.



Wisconsin Procurement Institute – An APEX ACCELERATOR

- **Benjamin Blanc, Government Contract Specialist**
- **Marc Violante, Director, Federal Market Strategies**

APEX Accelerators mission is to serve as the axis for existing and new business to strengthen the defense and government industrial base by accelerating innovation, fostering ingenuity, and establishing resilient and diverse supply chains. WPI is celebrating 35 years of service – each year WPI services to all 72 Wisconsin counties, provides technical support to over 1200 businesses and hosts / supports over 100 education / training / conference opportunities.

Event Moderator: Aina Vilumsons, President and Executive Director, Wisconsin Procurement Institute

