

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT))
Principal Military Deputy (PMILDEP) Award for Writing
Call for Submissions

CHALLENGE: Army Acquisition is operating in a new environment. As the United States draws down from major conflicts and manages the ongoing ramifications of sequestration, public conversation surrounding acquisition is being driven by Members of Congress, think tanks, and the media with only limited input from the Workforce itself.

PROPOSAL: The ASA(ALT) PMILDEP Award for Writing is established to help shape the public dialogue regarding Army Acquisition through critical writing. Maximum participation is encouraged, especially by members of the Defense Acquisition Workforce as key stakeholders. Any topic related to Army Acquisition is welcome, with emphasis on publishable essays that:

- 1) Address solutions for navigating the current environment; or
- 2) Discuss the way ahead for building the Army of the future from an acquisition perspective.

A publishable essay must demonstrate:

- Critical Thinking;
- Introspection; and
- Creativity.

All pieces should connect the acquisition process to the impact on the Soldier in field.

TOPICS: Authors may write on U.S. Army Acquisition in the following categories:

- Lessons Learned;
- Future Operations;
- Acquisition Reform/Better Buying Power; or
- Innovation.

Essays with a joint, interagency, or integrated operations emphasis are eligible.

SUBMISSIONS: Submission must be received by September 15, 2014, along with a short biographical statement to Ms. Karen Kurtz at karen.d.kurtz2.civ@mail.mil or (703) 545-0803. Submissions shall be 750 – 1500 words. Four (4) award winners will be selected (one in each category) and submitted for publication in Department of Defense (DoD) and non-DOD related media with four (4) additional pieces selected for honorable mention. All publication-worthy pieces will be made available online.

ELIGIBILITY: Essays must be original, not previously published (including online), and completed during the Fiscal Year 2014. Concurrent submissions will be accepted. Two or more authors may coauthor an entry. Only unclassified essays will be accepted. Eligibility is open to any author writing on Army Acquisition topics (both DoD and non-DoD personnel are eligible).

EVALUATION PROCESS: Once essays are submitted via email, no editing or revision is allowed. Entries will be evaluated by a review board to determine the *finalists*. Each entry will be awarded points based on:

- 1) Persuasiveness;
- 2) Clarity and strength of argument;
- 3) Innovation;
- 4) Relevance to current or future environment; and
- 5) Feasibility.