



JOINT IED DEFEAT ORGANIZATION NEWS STORY



ATTACK THE NETWORK — DEFEAT THE DEVICE — TRAIN THE FORCE

Former JIEDDO Vice Director Receives Civil Service Award

By: Kara Ewell
JIEDDO News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In recognition of his role as JIEDDO’s vice director and contributions to the counter-IED mission, Dr. Robin Keesee received the Department of the Army’s Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service Award.

According to Capt. Doug Borrebach, the deputy director for resources and requirements, much of JIEDDO’s foundation was set by Keesee.

In 2006, JIEDDO’s first director, retired Army Gen. Montgomery Meigs, established the position, deputy to the director, to lead the technology development efforts and be the continuity between military commanders.

As vice director from June 2006 to February 2010, Keesee directly influenced the development and execution of JIEDDO counter-IED best practices including enhancing the rapid acquisition of tools, identifying viable technologies, standing up the Counter-IED Operations/Intelligence Integration Center, improving training across the services and furthering the weapons technical intelligence through the exploitation of IEDs. He provided leadership to 1,200 members of JIEDDO’s military, government, civilian and contracted workforce and executed



Dr. Robin Keesee, JIEDDO's former vice director, helped lay the foundation for the counter-IED mission. (Photo by Tanekwa Bournes, STRATCOM)

more than 130 key counter-IED initiatives and programs.

During the ceremony, Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center executive manager Ken Comer highlighted Keesee’s career, calling him a “dean of the quiet, unassuming research and development enterprise who created magic.”

Keesee’s skill for deciphering which capabilities could be realized on the battlefield and his unique talent enabled technology discovery, while his human factors and



Frank Larkin, former COIC director, presents Dr. Robin Keesee with the civil service award. (Photo by Tanekwa Bournes, STRATCOM)

systems engineering background challenged industry to raise the levels of technology development required for the counter-IED fight. He critiqued aspects of new technology ideas in the best interest of the warfighter down-range.

Upon receiving the award, Dr. Keesee thanked those for celebrating his service and recounted the early years of JIEDDO.

“It was an exciting time. The people who came to JIEDDO were by and large passionate patriots who were focused on the mission. There was almost a complete absence of the military cast system. Ideas were ideas,” he said. “Regardless of typical joint, acquisition challenges, JIEDDO solutions progressed and I was able to focus on what was right from the soldier’s perspective.”

Joined by his wife and son for the ceremony, Keesee’s passion to service was driven by having a son deployed in military service.

“JIEDDO today is one that is being talked about as a key enabler in our national security progress. That doesn’t happen instantly. It is a follow-on to things that have been done in years prior,” said Frank Larkin, former COIC director.

###