BOWIE, MD — Lieutenant General Bruce T. Crawford, Army CIO/G6 (center), joins Lieutenant Colonel Wesley N. Knight, Professor of Military Science (left), and three new U.S Army Officers during a special cake cutting event at Bowie State University (BSU) following the University’s Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Commissioning ceremonies this week.

National BDPA’s Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter also welcomed another High School Computer Competition (HSCC) alumna and CompTIA certified Computer Science graduate to our Tech Industry. Ms. TurKenya Herring (left), shown here rocking her school’s colors, led the National Capital Region’s top coding team to their third National HSCC Championship as their coach.

— Source and photos: Bowie State and BDPA-DC
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Air Force Launches Space Pitch Day for Start-Ups

ARLINGTON, VA (AFNS) -- The United States Air Force has long been a leader in space and a catalyst for cutting-edge technology. But the Air Force doesn’t get there – or stay there – alone, which is why senior officers and officials, including Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett, were in San Francisco Nov. 5-6 for Space Pitch Day, an event designed to find new partners, innovative technologies and products while fast-tracking development.

By the end of the two-day event, 30 pre-selected companies were awarded on-the-spot contracts with the Air Force worth a total of $22.5 million.

“We have to ‘flip the script’ on how we buy things in order to remain competitive with our adversaries and that’s what Air Force Space Pitch Day does,” said Lt. Gen. John F. Thompson, commander, Space and Missile Systems Center, Air Force Space Command and program executive officer for space, the event’s host.

“Space Pitch Day allowed us to seed strategic investment in potentially game-changing capability,” Thompson said. “It demonstrated new ways to inform Air Force strategic investments, accelerate new technology and rapidly acquire capability for our warfighter.”

As in previous Pitch Day events, the Air Force came to San Francisco with a government credit card and a desire to sign on-the-spot contracts and provide same-day payments. The event featured a two-tier reward structure, with successful companies initially eligible for contracts up to $750,000.

This version of Pitch Day also had a new feature in which some of the companies were selected to compete for more lucrative contracts.

The San Francisco event focused on finding products and technologies connected to specific goals, including:

- Early missile detection and warning
- Space situational awareness
- Space communications
- Space visualization
- Multi-domain command and control
- Data mining
- Operations within electronically contested environments
- Artificial intelligence
- Responsive launch systems
- Space logistics
- Protection of critical space assets

The event marked another example of the Air Force’s new push for reforming the way products and services are identified and bought. Supporters insist the effort is reshaping the traditional and often hidebound defense industrial complex by bringing in new partners and innovations.
BDPA, formerly known as Black Data Processing Associates, was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1975 to promote professional growth and technical development to those in or entering information and communications technology (ICT) career fields and related industries.

Now in its 44th year (Volume XLIV) National BDPA (NBDPA) and participating local BDPA Chapters publish daily and weekly blogs with quarterly or monthly newsletters. For bdpatoday or web banner advertising rates, publication schedules, and online calendars with Industry events, contact regional offices or local BDPA Chapters by visiting bdpa.org or bdpatoday.com.
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