



U.S. ARMY TACOM LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
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## U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command

### News Release

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### Detroit Arsenal women earn national awards

WARREN, Mich. – The Detroit Arsenal's chapter of Federally employed Women brought home two second place awards last month following a ceremony during FEW's annual National Training Program in Dallas.

The FEW organization is a private advocacy group working to improve the status of women employed by the federal government. Great Lakes Chapter #071, comprised of an estimated 45 members affiliated with the arsenal, won the Chapter Fundraising Award and Chapter Special Project Award.

Criteria for the awards include a description of the project or program and its benefits to the chapter; and identifying costs, resources required to host or complete it, profit generated, and how it can be duplicated by other chapters.

This year's Chapter Fundraising Award recognizes the Great Lakes Chapter's ingenuity in aligning its fundraising efforts with a national non-profit organization devoted to helping civilian federal and postal employees. Several other chapters in the Great Lakes Region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) are now using this approach to raise money for local scholarship awards. The award is not based on the amount of money raised.

Leslie Wilson-Smith, senior logistics manager for competition management in TACOM's Ombudsman Office, was the Great Lakes Chapter's president until mid-July.

"Everyone who donated funds to us helped us earn this award," she said. "From my viewpoint, it was an enterprise approach where we had support from everybody."

The Special Project Award honors the chapter's support to HAVEN, Oakland County's only comprehensive program for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. It provides shelter, counseling, advocacy and educational programming to nearly 20,000 people each year. It is often in need of food, clothing, bath, toiletry and household items, items for babies and children, and gift





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cards for gas, groceries and major retailers.

"HAVEN allows us to collect things that women who are fleeing for their lives need," said Wilson-Smith. "We collect funds to buy gift cards that they might use for a place to eat or a place to shop. We collect items for babies and toddlers and for personal hygiene. We have donated boxes of items that have been donated across the enterprise. I liked the special chapter project this year because it allowed us to continue helping the community," she added.

Danielle Smith (no relation to Wilson-Smith), one of the volunteers for the HAVEN project, is a recent high school graduate and incoming pre-med freshman at Michigan State University. She is the daughter of Rene Koop, a financial management analyst in TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's Resource Management directorate and the Great Lakes Chapter's vice president. Danielle received a \$500 scholarship award from money donated through the chapter's award-winning fund-raising initiative.

Wilson-Smith explained how Danielle became involved with FEW.

"She came to me and said, 'Would you mentor me and can I partner with FEW and support the shelter?' Just think, at the time when she did her first initiative, she was in 10th grade going into the 11th. We thought, how important is it for someone of that young age to want to give back."

Danielle has volunteered with HAVEN for three years. Danielle's mother explained her daughter's willingness to help others.

"We remember where we came from because we have had challenges in our lives," said Koop. "We have had to stay with others and there are things we did not have. So I always told my daughter that if we ever got to a place where we could give back, we would share our resources."

According to Koop, Danielle's personal goal is to provide 10 baskets of donated goods per year; she collects items from such places as local doctor and dentist offices, classmates from school and used her own money to put together baskets for babies in need. She also supports FEW's coat drive for a local soup kitchen.

"I think it is good for her to be exposed to FEW and these other organizations to see that one person can make a difference," said Koop.

"Danielle is such a go-getter," said Wilson-Smith. "Her working with FEW allows us to mentor her and she partners with us. Some of the things she has done for us put us in a position to get this





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special chapter award. Being able to take what we have done from members, enterprise partners who donated and then taking this young lady who took this project into her community allowed us to have a great resource to do this -- donate to the ladies and children of the shelter, which we have done for over 10 years," she added.

According to its website, FEW is organized into 10 regions. The approximately 100 chapters in the U.S. and overseas provide a network of monthly programs, meetings, training workshops and special projects all tailored to the specific needs of the chapter member.

The TACOM Life Cycle Management Command is headquartered on the historic Detroit Arsenal, and the only active-duty U.S. Army installation in the tristate area of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. A global enterprise, its 19,000 military and civilian acquisition, logistics and technology professionals research, develop, procure, field, maintain, upgrade, modernize and sustain approximately 65 percent of the equipment an Army Brigade Combat Team uses.

The enterprise awarded in excess of \$6 billion in contracts in Fiscal Year 2015.

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