



## From Weapons Systems to Wireless

Looks like it's my turn to let everyone know a little about myself. Similar to David, I am not good at talking about myself. However, I will do my best to share a little about my life and career with everyone.

I grew up in Pittsburgh, PA and graduated from Penn State with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science (I only needed 3 more credits for a minor in math, but I hated math, so I said no). While there I met my wife, of nearly 30 years, Toni. We have lived in Adamstown, MD for 15 years. We have 2 children, Danielle (24) and Lauren (21). Danielle graduated from the University of Maryland and Lauren will be graduating from the University of Louisville this spring. Lauren will be going on to Grad school there so she can continue swimming for their nationally ranked women's Swim Team. We also have 2 Corgis, Danielle has a cat, and when Lauren is home, we have her dog Moose as well. I like to spend time in Vegas playing blackjack, but just at the \$1 or \$3 tables. I rarely go higher than that limit, because I only play for the entertainment purposes. Toni, on the other hand, likes to spend time at the slots and video poker machines. She just got her second Royal Flush in 30+ years of playing earlier this year.

My career began at a company called Vitro doing weapons systems testing for ballistic missile submarines. This led to my first real IT work, as we put together one of the first bulletin board systems (TIES - Test Information Exchange System), to transfer data to one of the original IBM PCs using a bank of 1200 baud modems. This allowed the analysts to get the unclassified data and reports from the field much more quickly and efficiently than the US mail - as email didn't exist yet. While in this role, I also was involved with the infancy of networking, deploying the first network (Novell over coax) back in the days when you had to actually bind the network card driver into the network operating system for the server to make it work. I went out on a couple of submarine sea trials, the most memorable of which included a coworker being airlifted off of the submarine by helicopter after his son was diagnosed with a deadly illness. Luckily, he survived. After some software development projects, the network work, and even a mainframe software reverse engineering project, I eventually ended up running the network and help desk for Vitro's Test Department.

As part of the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC), I was asked to support the relocation of the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) from leased spaces in Crystal City to new spaces that were being built out at the Washington Navy Yard. Soon after some inevitable mergers, I worked with General Dynamics Information Technology where I met David and Kam. Part of the NAVSEA project included monitoring the remodeling and building out of the old 16" Gun Factory where these massive guns for US Battleships were manufactured. The IT side of the project that I was responsible for included the consolidation of 190+ existing networks that NAVSEA had into a single consolidated network that would support the security requirements of each organization. This work ended up being done in close partnership with Cisco and our team met with John Chambers and the senior leadership at Cisco multiple times. The design included the use of a new cutting-edge Cisco switch which had not yet been named. We had boxes on our design drawings that said, "Future Cisco Switch". For those who know Cisco products, these devices are now known as the Cisco 6509 series switches. We also deployed more than 4000 VoIP phones in the year 2001 which was the largest VoIP implementation, outside of Cisco itself, at the time.

I eventually led the relocation of the NOAA Satellite Operations Facility from the Suitland Federal Center in WWII hospital buildings to a new specially designed building on the same campus. The main floor for the employees is underground and the operations centers is in a large above ground area with the satellite

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### Kudos

Our DLA customer would like to recognize **Elzey Pounds** for his tremendous effort supporting the Central Lan Contract. They would also like to commend **Tom Murphy** for his great work promoting synergy throughout the contract.



Congratulations to **Jay Murphy** for his Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding work supporting the Network Streamlining Project!

Thank for making us shine!

*If you have someone you would like to thank or recognize, email your message to [news@synapttekcorp.com](mailto:news@synapttekcorp.com)*

### Reminders

We completed our Q3 Management Review Meeting at the end of October. Please see the attached [Objective Report for Q3](#). While we have maintained great results on many of the programs, we have a few reminders.

You are required to complete your timecard each day. You receive two reminders from Unanet and we ask that you please complete your timecard daily. Repeat offenders will be talked with.

Please remember to submit any new training certifications to [ISO@synapttekcorp.com](mailto:ISO@synapttekcorp.com). We will not only congratulate you, but also consider you for new roles in the pipeline.

Any comments or questions? Please email [ISO@synapttekcorp.com](mailto:ISO@synapttekcorp.com).

dishes on the roof. We monitored the progress of the building and pointed out design changes that needed to be made to accommodate the operations. We then moved the 7 operations centers to the new facility with no downtime. This included cranes to move the large satellite dishes to the roof of the new facility.



After that successful relocation, I was asked to run a program for the Department of Veterans Affairs that GDIT had been working to win for almost 2 years. Kam Jinnah was instrumental in getting the task, but he was leaving to start a new company. I agreed to run the program and we subcontracted a position to Kam's company to use him as the chief architect for the project - Synaptek's first revenue. We deployed the first 65 sites under this contract as a sub to another company for socioeconomic reasons, but then it was stopped.

A couple year later, the project started up again with Synaptek as a sub to Harris Corporation. As the sub, Synaptek had all the design, test, and validation work along with some other tasks. I joined Synaptek in May of 2012 to work with Kam and run the program again. This allowed Kam to phase out of the lead architect role so he could focus on growing the company. As a result, we deployed VA wireless at another 111 sites to complete the initial deployment and finished well ahead of the original schedule. This program was very successful for Synaptek as we ensured that the VA met their objectives and goals. Synaptek has grown significantly in the five years since I started. We have been awarded contract after contract. I hope this article gave you some insight on how my professional journey reached Synaptek. I intend to continue contributing to the growth of our company and am committed to working with my colleagues and our employees in pursuing their professional goals.

- Don James

## Employee of the Quarter: Darrel Mikoski

Synaptek would like to recognize Darrel Mikoski, AV/VTC System Architect supporting the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), as the Employee of the 3rd Quarter 2017. Darrel has been a member of the Synaptek family since May 11, 2016 and has directly contributed towards "Exceptional" service at DTRA according to the latest Contractor Performance Assessment Report (CPAR).

On June 22, 2017, Synaptek President, Dave Gauldfeldt, and Vice President, Warren McQueen, met with DTRA Contracting Officer Mr. Michael Awadallah and Contracting Officer Representative (COR) Mr. John Sheffer. Both were highly complimentary of the entire Team but noted that

daily interactions with Mr. Mikoski led to a well informed and satisfied customer. As a result of the Team's exceptional performance and particularly that of Mr. Mikoski, Synaptek was awarded three different AV/VTC contracts with DTRA in September, each having multiple task orders.

DTRA has also committed to changing its Agency-wide IT Services and Support (ITSS) contract from a Full and Open to Small Business set-aside. This significant change means that Synaptek can now prime a contract estimated at \$435M over 10 years. Mr. Mikoski's efforts have also helped with Synaptek's need for AV/VTC past performances. We have used the past performance for DLA JETS as well as Baton Rouge, Louisiana courtroom AV/VTC submissions.

Darrel conducts himself with professional acumen and a mission focus while planning and supporting short and long-term AV/VTC solutions. His knowledge of DTRA's environment allows him to provide thorough and detail-oriented services. In addition to his daily responsibilities, he is currently supporting installation activities within DTRA to remodel conference rooms at the Headquarters, Albuquerque, DLA, and Herndon facilities. Darrel has



**Saturday, December 16th**

**7:00pm - 11:00pm**

### Location/Time

The Westfields Marriott  
Chantilly, VA

### Parking Options

Complimentary onsite self-parking will be available. Shuttles will operate until 11:30 pm to take drivers to and from the self-parking lot to the hotel.

Valet parking will also be available for \$20 for the evening or \$30 overnight.

### Coat Check

Coat check will be available in the Hamilton Room.

## Year-End Tax Forms

Employees have the option to receive their W-2 form electronically or by mail. To review or change your delivery method please login to PayCom. Once there, select "My Payroll" on the left side of the screen and click on the tab that says "Year-End Tax Forms". From here you'll be able to change your W-2 delivery preference.



## Inclement Weather and Safety



also participated in writing proposals for opportunities with new customers based on his expertise. These new opportunities were something Synaptex was unable to pursue one year ago. This Employee of the Quarter is bestowed upon Darrel Mikoski for the professionalism and initiative he has exhibited for DTRA, Synaptex, and himself.



The lunch celebration of the award! From left to right: Warren McQueen, Darrel Mikoski, Dave Gauldfeldt, and Kamran Jinnah

## HQ Team Outing

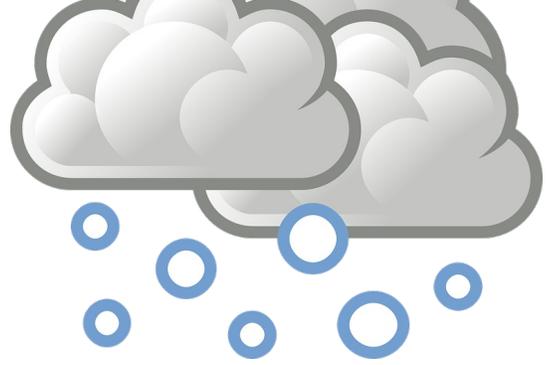
The HQ Team went out for some tacos during a lunch social!



Left to right: Sheila Andahazy, Dave Gauldfeldt, Marcus Campbell, Ruben Hormostay, Mario Mastrangeli, JR Romain, Kaitlyn Eber, Kearstin McGinnis, Toni Fisher, Sarah Keiper, and Warren McQueen

## NOLA Barcadia Event

The NOLA Team went to Barcadia where they were joined by special guest



Employees are encouraged to use discretion in deciding whether they can safely remain at or commute to/from work. If you are unable to work due to Government closure or travel conditions you are to use Paid Time Off/Personal Leave (PTO) for time missed. You are required to consult with your supervisor or Program Manager for any absence, late arrival and/or early departure in inclement weather situations.

**REFER  
YOUR FRIENDS.  
GET  
REWARDED.**

**DOJ- Washington DC**  
Principal Reviewer

**DLA**  
Network Engineer- Anniston, AL  
VTC Admin- Richmond, VA

**ETM- Crystal City, VA**  
Program Manager  
Senior Network Engineer  
Enterprise Management

**FTC**  
Windows Engineer

**NDU- Washington DC**  
SQL DBA/Developer

**PFFA- Falls Church, VA**  
Help Desk Analyst (2)  
Principal Systems Engineer  
Sr. Systems Application Engineer

**Stennis Space Center, Mississippi**  
Applications Systems Analyst/Programmer Lead  
Database Analyst(Lead & Intermediate)  
Software Systems Engineer ( Lead & Intermediate)

**Please email your referral  
resumes to:**

[careers@synaptexcorp.com](mailto:careers@synaptexcorp.com)  
or visit [Synaptex Careers](#)

## We want to hear from you!

Send us your news – babies, weddings, pets, trips and vacations, graduations, kudos to coworkers...

Kamran Jinnah!

Send all submissions to  
[news@synaptekcorp.com](mailto:news@synaptekcorp.com)



In attendance: Peng Sun (DOI), Stanley Asante (DOI), Jose Escoto (DOI), Kamran Jinnah, La'Rencia Patterson (VAMC), Eddie Chan (VAMC), Kellie Dorgan, Glenn Chauffe (VAMC), Scott Lamberston (VAMC) and Rebecca Murphey (DOI)



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## Employee Anniversaries

### 5 Years

Thomas Wulff

### 4 Years

Richard Shumway

### 3 Years

William "Beau" Hatfield

### 2 Years

David Carter



## Welcome New Employees!

John Delossantos, VA Wireless Group  
Ryan Hagan, VA Wireless Group  
Jonathan Lee, DLA JETS  
Anthony Long, ETM  
Whitney Maye, DLA JETS  
Mark Miller, VA Wireless  
Joshua Mommers, DLA JETS  
Karl Wycoff, DOJ