



# THOUGHTS

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## Synapttek's Mission and Vision

Synapttek was founded in 2008 with a very specific vision. The founders had all worked together at a small business (SIGNAL), a midsized company (Veridian) and large system integrator (General Dynamics). At each level there were things that "worked". The small business had an impressive customer focus, and program managers were empowered to do whatever it took to satisfy customer requirements. At the mid-sized company, structures were put in place to provide better oversight - the right levels of management interaction provided more depth of resources to the customer, programs were no longer an "island" and an effort was made to leverage successful methods and technologies across multiple programs. The large system integrator (LSI) brought investment in process, best practices, and a focus on larger enterprise efforts in lieu of smaller programs. Unfortunately, as the corporations grew, so did the inevitable bureaucracy as did corporate loss of customer-focus.

Our vision was simple: to be able to do the jobs that had been historically performed by larger companies, but to do it with the agility that only a small company can offer. During our time with the LSI, we worked with some of the best technologies at many of the government's largest agencies. We realized we could bring the best of what we had learned at the LSI, working at the enterprise level, and apply that knowledge to our own business; all the while, emphasizing the agility, vigor and customer-focus that made the small business a customer favorite. As a result, we set out to become an agile small business that could address enterprise requirements.

We established the foundational elements to deliver on our vision. We made targeted investments in processes and technologies. We made investments in hiring and retaining the best key staff and provided training opportunities to grow our employees. We recognized and rewarded the success of our employees, and provided an overall benefit structure that exceeded that of our competitors'. This has helped us to retain our leading edge capable workforce.

Today, we have a differentiated offering in support of our partners when we subcontract, and our federal customers when we prime. It is good to know who we are and who you are not in this business environment. We are not the cheapest offering for commodity efforts. We are not looking to resell hardware and software in "ship and bill" single engagements. We are not the

## Family Picnic on Sunday!



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## Spotlight on AER



Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a private non-profit organization that has been helping soldiers for over 74 years with a wide variety of financial situations with no interest or fees. Examples include assisting soldiers deployed overseas with emergency travel funds to return home for an unexpected funeral or providing funds for vehicle repairs or providing assistance with college tuition.

"ivory tower" company that make observations and develop white papers in abstract. What we are is a collection of people with the knowledge, experience, capability and sheer-will to implement and support our customers' most critical mission systems. We are the Best Value choice for customers that need skilled professionals that can keep pace with today's changing environment. Our slogan, *Technology at the speed of thought* is not only a maxim; it describes our focus and agility of approach.

We still have a ways to go to fully master our vision, but we have proven the concept. We have supported some of the largest, most critical systems in the federal government. We have earned the trust of our customers to be able to consistently deliver on the enterprise level. We need to build on this experience, and continue to offer our customers excellence, agility and commitment to their missions. With your support, I see a bright future for Synaptex.

**David Gauldfeldt**

## Synaptex Awarded Seaport-e Vehicle

Synaptex has been awarded as a prime contractor on the SeaPort-e contract vehicle. This vehicle utilizes a web-based procurement portal to facilitate performance-based service, leverage buying power, improve intelligence and reduce cycle time. The ordering community of SeaPort-e was expanded in 2004 to include all Virtual SYSCOM activities.

SeaPort-e is the Navy's electronic platform for acquiring support services in 22 functional areas including Engineering, Financial Management, and Program Management. The Navy Systems Commands (NAVSEA, NAVAIR, SPAWAR, NAVFAC, and NAVSUP), the Office of Naval Research, Military Sealift Command, and the United States Marine Corps compete their service requirements amongst 2400+ SeaPort-e IDIQ multiple award contract holders. The SeaPort-e portal provides a standardized, efficient means of soliciting offers from amongst the diverse population of large and small businesses and their approved team members. All task orders are competitively solicited, awarded and managed using the SeaPort-e platform. Since nearly 85% of its contract-holders are small businesses, the SeaPort-e approach to acquiring services provides opportunity that fuels the Nation's engine of job growth. This award as a prime contractor puts Synaptex in a great position for success.

## Movie Night - August 1

**The Unknowns: A Living Documentary**

**Join us for a showing of this special movie featuring Synaptex employee Lonny LeGrand.**

**Monday, August 1 - 7:30pm  
Potomac Yard Stadium 16  
3575 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Alexandria**

Synaptex is contracted to provide a new IT Infrastructure that is highly available and protects Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Synaptex and our subcontract employees from QunTech Solutions have been working hard.

Our customer praised us saying, "**The Synaptex team inherited a project that had stalled and, in three months, was able to achieve the necessary traction and complete what AER had been working towards for five years.**"

Our Project Manager, Pearl Prince, facilitates requirements from the customer and provides overall direction to the Technical and Security Teams. Brandon Groenert is leading the system architecture effort and is supported by the System Administrator, Brian Richardson. Kristine Hawley is supporting the Team as a Technical Writer/Editor and has assisted AER with several business policies. Several Synaptex employees stepped up to offer part-time assistance—thank you Antwan Glover, Heng Liao, Chris Hartley and Brandon Lingerfelt for your support our network buildout. QunTech employees Alan McClelland and Mercy Oni have provided Security Services support which is expected to lead to an Authority to Operate (ATO).

The entire team believes in the humanitarian mission of AER and is proud to support them.

## Kudos Corner

**Darrin Snyder** passed the CISSP Exam! Congrats!

**Kaitlyn Jenkins** passed the Facility Security Officer (FSO) training - a total of 14 Exams! Well done!



## IT Department News

We have two new cloud partners, Red Hat and Oracle. We have migrated the Synaptexcorp.com website to new host provider offering increased speeds and security.

RSVP to [Events@Synaptেকcorp.com](mailto:Events@Synaptেকcorp.com)

\*Movie tickets for employees and one guest will be hosted by Synaptেক.

We will be meeting up at Hops Brewery after the movie.



### **529 Savings Plan with Dollar-for-Dollar Match!**

Take advantage of our 529 College Savings Plan with dollar-for-dollar match up to \$1,000 per year! Contact [Sai Pothuri](#) for more information.

## **Dicken Tsoi Celebrates 5 Years!**



### **Wireless Network Engineer**

#### **What has been your favorite project to work on?**

Starting from its pilot phase in 2008, I have taken up different tasks including system design, site survey, quality assurance, equipment configuration, network debug and client interface. By the completion of the project in 2015, we have delivered WiFi networks to 176 VA hospitals and covered more than 120 million square feet with 118,000 wireless access points. This project gave me the opportunity to work in an excellent team to build the wireless infrastructure that helps to serve men and women who sacrificed for our freedom.

**Favorite aspect of Synaptেক is:** team spirit and the willingness to share knowledge and support each other. Together we have overcome many challenges, and we put in our best to get the job done.

#### **Interesting fact about Dicken:**

I spent my early years in Hong Kong and Macau, and this is my 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the US. I came to the states for graduate engineering studies, and ended



### **SPF Claims Fall Short For Many Sunscreens**

According to a new study from Consumer Reports, 43 percent of sunscreen products do not live up to the sun protection factor (SPF) claims on their bottles.

Consumer Reports found that 13 out of the 35 sunscreen lotions tested had an SPF of less than 30, despite claiming to have at least an SPF of 30 on their labels. The majority of products that fell short on their SPF numbers did so by 10 to 15 points. However, some products were labeled as SPF 50, and were only found to have an SPF of 8.

The study found that sunscreens with active chemical ingredients like avobenzone and ecamsule performed better during testing than those with natural ingredients like zinc oxide.

For more information about the report and to see the top performers, click [here](#). To promote further sun protection, the American Academy of Dermatology encourages people to wear protective clothing when going outdoors and to stay in the shade when possible to reduce the risk of skin cancer.

up raising a family while working in the telecommunication field, wireless industry and network consulting business.

## Mitch Falk's 5 Year Anniversary!



### Sr. Architect

#### What has been your favorite project to work on?

The Veterans Administration allowed Synaptek to put in place an infrastructure that would allow future benefits to our Veteran's care. I also was able to meet and speak with many Veterans and hear some pretty outrageous stories. I enjoy speaking and meeting new people and this tasking allowed for a lot of that.

#### Favorite aspect of Synaptek is:

Being able to work a new adventure every day. It never is boring!!!!

**Hobbies outside of work:** Horses, fishing, family

**Family Life:** Wife and 5 kids aging from 20 - 7 months.

## Employee Anniversaries

Mitch Falk, 5 years

Dicken Tsoi, 5 years

Frank Amrhein, 4 years

Carl Langford, 4 years



## It's Not Too Late To Get Fit!

Check out Synaptek's Fitness Benefit  
[Click here for details.](#)



### Did you miss the Benefits Review Webinar?

[2016 Benefit Webinar Information](#)

Contact [Sai Pothuri](#)  
or [Patti Curran](#) with questions.

### We're growing! Help us find great talent and get rewarded.

#### FTC

**Network Engineer Sr Network Engineer  
Sr IT Systems Solution Architect**

#### FBI, Quantico

**Application Programmer**

#### FBI, Pocatello, ID

**System Engineer**

Please email your referrals' resumes:

[careers@synaptekcorp.com](mailto:careers@synaptekcorp.com).

### We want to hear from you!

Send us your NEWS!  
Family News - babies, weddings, graduations etc.  
Kudos to coworkers  
News from the Job Front  
Classified ads

Please send your submissions to  
[news@synaptekcorp.com](mailto:news@synaptekcorp.com).

## Giving Back

Robert Kennett, 3 years

Darrin Snyder, 3 years

Marlon Cabrera, 3 years

Krishna Beck, 2 years

Leon Faircloth, 2 years

Darian Jinnah, 2 years

Rossana Villalobos, 2 years

## Welcome to our New Employees

Jeffrey Mayhall, Sr. AV/VTC Technician, DTRA

Connor Wiles, Network Administrator, NDU

Joe Cochran, Intern, NDU

Chris Fleming, Lead Enterprise Architect, NDU

## Medical 125 Mobile App

Save time and hassles while making the most of your HRA and FSA health benefit accounts by quickly checking your balances and details. The secure app makes managing your health benefits easy through real-time access and intuitive navigation to all your important account information on the go! Powerful features of the app include:

### *Easy, Convenient & Secure*

- \* Simply login to the intuitive app using your same health benefits website username and password
- \* No sensitive account information is ever stored on your mobile device; secure encryption is used to protect all transmissions

### *Connects You with the Details*

- \* Quickly check available balances 24/7
- \* Access account details
- \* View charts summarizing account(s)
- \* Click to call or email Customer Service

### *Provides Additional Time-Saving Options*

- \* View claims requiring receipts
- \* Submit medical FSA and HRA claims
- \* Take a picture of a receipt and submit for a new or existing claim
- \* Using Expense Tracker, enter medical expense



Love biking or walking for a good cause? Be part of Team Synaptex at the **Tour de Cure DC** benefiting the American Diabetes Association. Contact Team Captain [Krishna Beck](#) for details! More info to come soon!

Submit volunteer opportunity ideas with local charities at [news@synaptexcorp.com](mailto:news@synaptexcorp.com).

information and supporting documentation to store for later use in paying claims via your health benefits website

\* Report a debit card as lost or stolen

More information is available on the [125 website here](#)



*YOUR CHOICE OF...*



*\$1,000 BONUS*

*OR*



*iPad Pro*

Incentive will be awarded at  
90 days from hire

[Current Opportunities](#)

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