



THOUGHTS

Newsletter Issue No. 29

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Be Willing to Challenge Yourself...

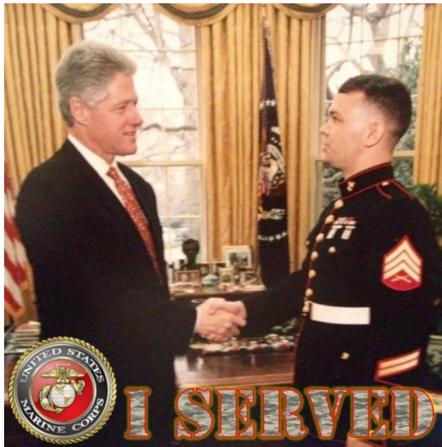
We are pleased to announce that TekSynap has just been awarded a maximum \$435,000,000 indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity (ID/IQ) contract for agency-wide core information technology services and support (ITSS) for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) in support of the Information Integration and Technology Services (I2TS) Directorate and the Chief Information Office (CIO). This is a five-year base contract with one five-year option period, the maximum dollar amount is for the life of the contract, including a five-year option period. The bids were solicited through the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website, with 13 offers received. Work will be performed at Fort Belvoir, VA; however, DTRA maintains a global mission, and TekSynap personnel will be required to work at locations other than Fort Belvoir, including Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, NM. Performance is expected to be completed September 2028. Task Order 1 is being awarded at \$68,556,828 for **IT service provisioning and operations services**. Task Order 2 is being awarded at \$43,964,556 for **cybersecurity support services**. Task Order 3 is being awarded at \$19,472,853 for **test, transition, and integration support services**. Task Orders 1, 2, and 3 will have a one-year base and four one-year options. The award didn't happen by chance and is the result of a lot of good people working very hard to demonstrate solid performance and capture our customer's trust. This win will provide new career growth opportunities for our employees so please check our website if you are interested.



The last few articles highlighted Dave and Kam's journey in Information Technology and how TekSynap got started. In that spirit, I'll provide a brief history that led to the above award. In high school, I took a household electricity class that introduced me to serial and parallel circuits. I liked it so much that when I enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, I chose to become a fixed wing Aircraft Electronic Countermeasures Systems Technician. It is the military occupational specialty (MOS) that allows aircraft to deceive enemy radar and protect the pilots and aircrew.

However, in the early 90's the military was undergoing a significant drawdown and my MOS was closed to re-enlistment so I had to make a lateral move. After interviewing for air traffic control and a couple careers in the Intelligence field, like Image Interpretation Specialist

and Translator/Interrogator, the only thing that was available was Information Technology. Truth be told, I was nervous because computers were foreign to me. But with the responsibility of a growing family, I took the leap and shipped off to Mare Island, CA where I learned how to fix Honeywell AN/UJK-65 mini-computers and associated peripherals. The hard drives must have weighed 30 lbs each and it took an entire rack to get less than what you have in your phone today. In my last assignment, at the Presidential Helicopter Squadron HMX-1, I became a Certified Banyan Engineer (CBE) which set me up for a contractor job with Kajax Engineering at the Army Material Command (AMC). AMC was a Lotus Notes organization that wanted to transition to Microsoft Exchange so I led the engineering effort to accomplish that and became very proficient at messaging. I then became a Defense Message Systems (DMS) Engineer at Signal Corporation and ultimately ended up at the Pentagon deploying DMS for the Air Force. My supervisor Ralph Volk, who worked for Dave Gauldfeldt, challenged me to step out of my technical role and start "selling" our services. With some encouragement from Ralph, I convinced our Air Force customer to hire Signal Corporation to deploy Windows XP to the Air Force Pentagon and I became a Project Manager. I then took that one person prime contract and pursued a contract with Air Force Pentagon Communications Agency (AFPCA) and turned it into a \$50M contract. I stayed with Signal Corporation, which became Veridian and then General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) for 14 years.



Bill Clinton and Warren McQueen circa 1997

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Kudos

Kudos to [Kay Stephens](#) for continuing to impress the customers she works with daily. She's been recognized for her positive outlook, outstanding customer service and spirit many times!

Congratulations to [Patrick Miller](#) who has received appreciation for the great job he is doing onsite.

Hats off to [Steve Sokhan](#) who received kudos for addressing wireless concerns onsite at DLA.

Thanks for all your hard work!

If you have someone you would like to thank or recognize, email your message to the news@teksynap.com.



SAVE THE DATE TekSynap Holiday Party

Saturday, December 8
7:00 - 11:00 pm

Join us for a spy themed Holiday Event at the new International Spy Museum location in Washington, DC! Be sure to check your TekSynap email for updates.



During that time, I was fortunate enough to work with Dave and had similar successes with the FBI and now DTRA. I joined TekSynap over 4 years ago because I knew that Kam and Dave were implementing the old Signal Corporation model of business wherein the employees felt more like family than numbers. One piece of advice I offer my kids is to surround yourself with people that are smarter than you are. By doing so, you will be challenged to improve yourself and will ultimately perform better. I have found that within TekSynap and am continuously accepting challenges from Kam and Dave that provide new opportunities for our employees.

Warren McQueen

Welcome to ADP Workforce Now

ADP, our newest HR tool, is officially available to all employees company-wide! This platform has replaced Paycom.

The TekSynap office has been diligently working to make the transition from Paycom to ADP as smooth as possible. With any road worth taking, we hit a few bumps; but, we are proud to finally share it with you.

As employees, you'll be able to view your Personal and Employment Profiles, which store your worksite location, contract code and Business Unit (among many other facts)!

You can also upload required employee documents directly into your ADP Employee "Cloud". We've setup categories for your certifications/licenses, resume, memberships, etc.

We also hope the system brings a feeling of community amongst us as TekSynap employees. We'll be sharing information about the company directly in the Homepage of the portal. Another fun feature is the ability to share team profiles with new hires to establish connection from day one. We will be continuing to look for more ways to use the system to better bond with you all on contract sites. We're excited to share this with you and hope you enjoy it!



LOGGING IN

All employees will receive an email from hr@teksynap.com with instructions on how to login to ADP Workforce Now. **Google Chrome and Firefox will be the best browsers to use.**

Upon logging in, you will be prompted to sign the latest versions of our company policies, please do so. Also, please confirm your personal and employment information is correct. If there are any discrepancies, please let us know by emailing hr@teksynap.com. After, feel free to explore the Resources tab and don't forget to add a profile picture for yourself!

If you any questions or have trouble logging in, please reach out to hr@teksynap.com.

Employee Spotlight - Dicken Tsoi

Last month, Dicken Tsoi, celebrated 7 years with TekSynap!



What projects have you worked on with TekSynap?

The VA WiFi
Pentagon JSP
Department of Commerce
National Defense University
Army War College

Which has been your favorite project to work on?

The VA WiFi project is the one I worked on for the longest time and it is still my favorite.

What's your favorite aspect of TekSynap?

We have a team that helps each other out and handles our work with great professionalism and integrity.

What do you like to do outside of work?

My wife and I both enjoy going to concerts and traveling.

Washingtonian's Great Places to Work Application

If you live in the DMV area, you may have seen the Washingtonian's Best Places to Work logo at a number of different companies. Well, this year TekSynap is proud to have submitted an application to win a spot onto the list!

In early October, our DMV-area employees will receive a link to a separate and short employee survey asking questions about TekSynap, our benefits, etc.. Once the survey is received, we need a 40-50% participation rate.

Winners will be announced in March of 2019!



TekSynap Flash Briefing on Amazon Echo

Listen to the TekSynap Newsletter via Amazon Echo! Follow the instructions below to set-up your flash briefing.

1. Open the Alexa App
2. Select "Home"
3. Select "Settings"
4. Select "Flash Briefing"
5. Select "Get more Flash Briefing Content"
6. In the Search Window enter "TekSynap"
7. Select "Enable"
8. Ask Alexa for your Flash Briefing



Security Update

Keep Your Accounts Secure

A strong password is your first line of defense against cyber attacks.

- Never give out your password to anyone.
- Don't use the same password across multiple accounts.
- Use a pass phrase (a full sentence is harder to guess than a single word).
- Don't post it in plain sight.
- Use numbers, capital letters and symbols.
- Don't fall for "phishing" attacks.
- Don't use personal facts that are easy to guess - birthday, family names, anniversary date.

Where did you go for your 5-year anniversary vacation?

We went on a river cruise on the Danube, and after that, we spent 10 days traveling in Germany, France and Austria.

What is something you can tell us that not everyone would know?

We have four kids and now two are working and the other two in college. It took us a lot of hard work bringing them up, and now with an empty nest we can travel a bit more. I sure could use another 5-year vacation soon.

Accolades for NDU

Congratulations to our team at NDU for being awarded a 3-year Authority to Operate (ATO), which is the highest level ATO possible. The NDU-P, Chief Operating Officer (COO), and Chief Information Officer (CIO) formally thanked the team for their efforts earlier this month.

From Left to Right: Alex Perkins, Stephen Davis, Corey Howell, Robert Ritch, Anita Isaac, Darrin Synder, Brandon Groenert and Fred Taylor.



Join our Emmy Challenge!

The 70th Annual Emmy Awards will be live on Monday, September 17th! The Emmys recognize excellence in the **television** industry.

Join the TekSynap Emmy Challenge by emailing events@teksynap.com. The team will enter you in the challenge and will provide you a competition form. The form will list all the nominations. You'll be asked to submit your predictions back to events@teksynap.com by **September 14**.

The winner will receive a \$50 gift card to Amazon!



Employee Appreciation at Nationals Park

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at Nationals Park earlier this month to watch the Washington Nationals beat the Cincinnati Reds (6 - 2).

Baby on Board

Congratulations to Bryant and Aubré Huber who recently welcomed new daughter, Eleanor "Ellie" Huber, to the family on July 23rd, 2018!



REFER A FRIEND — AND BE REWARDED —



DLA Jets

LAN Network Engineer - New Cumberland, PA
IT Support Specialist - Philadelphia, PA
IT Support Specialist - Dayton, OH
IT Support Specialist - Tracy, CA

DTRA

System Engineers - Ft. Belvoir, VA
System Administrators - Ft. Belvoir, Herndon and Reston, VA
Network Engineers - Ft. Belvoir, VA
Network Administrators - Ft. Belvoir, VA
Information Assurance Engineer - Ft. Belvoir, VA

Please email your referral resumes to:

careers@teksynap.com
or visit [TekSynap Careers](#)

We want to hear from you!

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

Send all submissions to the [Newsletter team](#).





Linked in

"Follow" us for the latest news and info!



Employees who Lunch together...

Our Battle Creek, MI employees enjoyed a much needed lunch together earlier this month! Thank you, Alex Peake for visiting.

From Left to Right:
Steve Sandum,
Steven Platte, Alex
Peake, Steve Bigcraft
(NES), Brent Powell
(NES), Derek Stein



Employee Anniversaries

6 Years

Anita Isaac
Edward Stroebel



2 Years

Christopher Fleming
Jay Murphy
Adam Cruea



1 Year

Lindsey Dale
James Brown

Welcome New Employees!

Jesse Grider, Kirtland
Jovani Gutierrez, VA Group Zero
Reginald Washington, DLA JETS
Meg Hall, VA Group Zero
Evan Jones, DLA JETS
David Reed, DLA JETS
Ryan Hinkle, DLA JETS
Mark Pint, DLA JETS
Garth Collins, DOJ
Ryan Fitzgerald, Schriever
Thomas Owens, DLA JETS
Jacqui Soltero, HQ

