

Tacom chief of staff wins leadership award from Women in Defense

BY CHAD HALCOM
CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

Col. Jeanne Smith Hooper expected to learn about many things in her first year as a Michigan resident and as chief of staff of the **U.S. Army Tacom Life Cycle Management Command** in Warren. Legionnaires' disease wasn't one of them.

Hooper

"We were handling those issues

for about three weeks. In that time I learned more than I ever thought I'd need to know about Legionnaires'," she said. "But it was also a successful collaboration of several agencies on one problem."

Hooper, 46, became chief of staff in September 2009 after a prior assignment as assistant chief of staff in logistics for the First Armored Division in Wiesbaden, Germany. She oversees around 490 people in her current command.

Hooper was chosen to receive the 2010 Excellence in Leadership Award Nov. 5 during a black-tie gala at the **Royal Park Hotel** in

WID BLACK-TIE GALA

■ **Place:** The Royal Park Hotel, 600 E. University Drive, Rochester
 ■ **Time:** Nov. 5, 6-10:30 p.m.
 ■ **Tickets:** \$150 a person or \$1,500 for a table of 10 for members of WID-Michigan or the National Defense Industrial Association; \$170 per person or \$1,700 for a table of 10 for non-members.
 ■ **Contact:** Meeting Coordinators Inc., Troy, (248) 643-6590

Rochester, hosted by the **Women in Defense Michigan Chapter**.

She also took part in the joint operations team formed after an out-

break of Legionnaires' disease in July infected seven people at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, including six civilian Tacom employees assigned to the nearby Harrison Township base.

After a coordination between Tacom, the **127th Wing Michigan Air National Guard**, the **Army Public Health Command**, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** the **Michigan Department of Community Health** and other agencies, investigators traced the outbreak to one of two water cooling towers that are part of a climate control and air ventilation system on the base.

Nalco Co., an Illinois-based environmental testing, water pretreatment and analysis company with offices in Novi, performed cleaning services and received a contract for ongoing maintenance and inspection on the cooling towers. The Tacom personnel returned to Selfridge by mid-September.

Hooper, a Virginia native, said the new command is her first in Michigan and has been a lesson in communication among various military commands and even contractors that supply the Army.

"One thing I've gained is understanding of the (people on the) other side of the fence," she said.

"At the Army Materiel Command (which includes Tacom), you handle the logistics and material development needs of the total force, but it's a different language that we speak across the various Army commands and the large companies that supply to each of us. You have to learn sometimes to be an interpreter."

Nancy Loerch, president of the WID Michigan Chapter and executive vice president of Orion Township-based engineering consultant firm **Archetype Joint LLC**, said Hooper was chosen for the award in part because the chapter wanted to "make the war fighter a focus" in this year's event.

Hooper completed three tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom before coming to Tacom.

Women in Defense also will present during the gala three Horizon Industry Awards to individuals or teams for excellence of achievement for the defense or homeland security industries.

Crain's Detroit Business is a sponsor of the awards.

Finalists include a team from Ann Arbor-based fuel cell producer **Adaptive Materials Inc.** and an individual from **BAE Systems Inc.**'s U.S. combat systems division, which is consolidating its Michigan operations in Sterling Heights, for product development; individuals from Sterling Heights-based **Elmhirst Industries Inc.** and Troy-based **Unified Business Technologies Inc.** in business development; and a BAE Systems employee and a team of defense specialists from **Automation Alley** in Troy for supply chain development.

Chad Halcom: (313) 446-6796, chalcom@crain.com



Experience you can trust.

Dickinson Wright PLLC congratulates Henry M. Grix on being named **Detroit Area Best Lawyers Trusts and Estates Lawyer of the Year for 2010**.

Henry, a member in our Bloomfield Hills office, is part of the firm's estate planning, trusts and taxation practice. His integrity, professionalism and commitment to achieving his client's goals have earned Henry a high level of respect, both with his clients and his peers.

To learn more, contact **Henry M. Grix** at 248.433.7548 or hgrix@dickinsonwright.com.

www.dickinsonwright.com

More than 130 years of experience and award-winning client service

Ten offices and more than 260 attorneys serving thousands of national and international clients

More than 40 specialty areas of law, covering the legal spectrum

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC
global leaders in law.

BANKRUPTCIES

The following businesses filed for Chapter 7 or 11 protection in **U.S. Bankruptcy Court** in Detroit **Oct. 15-21**. Under Chapter 11, a company files for reorganization. Chapter 7 involves liquidation.

Dott Acquisition L.L.C., 414 East St., Rochester, involuntary Chapter 7. Doing business as **Deco Plate Manufacturing Co.**, **Dott Manufacturing Co.** and **Deckerville Plastics**. Assets and liabilities not available. Total petitioner claims: \$702,699.

Tom Kopsch & Associates Inc., 32268 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, voluntary Chapter 11. Assets and liabilities not available.

— Gary Anglebrandt