

# DoD Ergonomics Working Group NEWS



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## Prestigious Keynote Speakers for Ergonomics Conference

The DoD Ergonomics Working Group is proud to announce the Plenary Session Keynote Speakers for this year's Ergonomics Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Addressing our attendees on Monday, August 11th, at 2:30 p.m., are **Raymond J. Fatz**, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, and **Connie DeWitte**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety.

Mr. Fatz will speak on the "Role of Ergonomics in the Health and Safety of Military and Civilian Workers," and Ms. DeWitte will address "Championing Best Practices."



**Raymond J. Fatz** (Ray) became the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health on August 18, 1996. He provides executive leadership for all Army environment, safety and occupational health

programs including Army National Guard and Reserve activities. His responsibilities span a global organization that includes over a \$1 billion annual environmental program and oversight for the safety and occupational health of over 1.2 million soldiers and Army civilian employees worldwide.

Mr. Fatz works with key personnel in the Army, the DoD, and other Federal and state agencies in developing and advocating Army policies for environment, safety and occupational health programs in accordance with Presidential Executive orders, public laws, state and local standards, DOD directives and the Army mission.



**Connie DeWitte** began serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety on September 24, 2001. Ms. DeWitte advises and represents the Secretary of the Navy and Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment) regarding

Navy and Marine Corps safety, occupational health, and fire protection policies and issues. Her responsibilities include coordination with the Office, Secretary of Defense, and the other Military Departments to develop DoD-wide safety policies that are equitable, effective, and consistent with Department of Navy mishap reduction strategies.

From 1994-2001 she was Chief of the Safety and Occupational Health Office for Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a major command of the U.S. Army. She successfully advocated maximum leadership for and command-wide commitment to safety and occupational health, in this 37,000 person, high-hazard exposure organization.

*Continued on page 2*

**Raymond J. Fatz continued**

Mr. Fatz is the Army Principal for Chemical-Biological treaties and has served as chairman of the International Safety and Health Experts Group, which developed policies and operational procedures for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) activities. He represented the United States in The Hague, Netherlands, as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Preparatory Commission of OPCW, which was established under the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention to verify compliance with the terms of the Convention.

Mr. Fatz also serves as the DoD Executive Agent for the:

- Defense Occupational Health Program
- Formerly Used Defense Sites
- Curation
- National Defense Center for Environmental Excellence
- Low-Level Radioactive Waste, Environmental Information Technology Management Program
- Environmental Technology Annexes to the US/German Data Exchange Agreement

In addition, he provides leadership and management oversight of the U.S. Army Environmental Policy Institute.

Mr. Fatz holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland and completed graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Fatz has held various headquarters and field assignments in the Department of the Army and served on active duty from 1967-1970.

Mr. Fatz' awards include the Presidential Rank Award as a Meritorious Senior Executive, Army Exceptional Civilian Service Award and the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award. He is also a member of the Order of the Military Medical Merit.

**Connie DeWitte continued**

During her tenure the accident rate was reduced by 50 percent. The Fiscal Year 2000 employee lost time rate of .81 incidents per 100 worker years denotes a remarkable break-through of the psychological barrier of one incident per 100 worker years. This rate is half that of most military organizations (twice as good). Chief of Staff, Army, presented four safety awards to the organization over the past 5 years.

She served from 1990-1994 at the Pentagon in the Army Safety Office, an office of the Chief of Staff, Army. She was responsible for developing Army-wide policy in radiation, range, nuclear reactor, explosives, transportation, joint exercise, and system safety, and automated information systems development. She successfully integrated safety concerns into planning, operations, logistics, and personnel policy.

Ms. DeWitte began her DoD safety career in 1975, building a solid technical foundation as an Army safety and occupational health intern, then specialist, during a decade with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Carson, Colorado. She provided expertise for tactical field exercises at the National Training Center and for Return-of-Forces-to-Germany exercises. She was named Fort Carson Employee of the Year in 1982.

From 1985-1988 she served as Safety and Occupational Health Manager, U.S. Army Support Command, Hawaii, at Fort Shafter. She transformed a laissez-faire safety program into a viable, dynamic, highly visible program, widely respected throughout the command. During her 3-year tenure the accident rate was reduced 30 percent.

Ms. DeWitte, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in German and French from the University of Minnesota. She received a Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University, Pentagon Campus in 1993. She attended the Federal Executive Institute in 1995. Awards include the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and two Commander's Awards for Civilian Service.

For detailed information on this **REGISTRATION-FREE** conference, go to <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/fhp/>