

# - The Reticle -

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## About M1

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Mission1st Group, Inc. (M1) is a CVE-verified Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) established in 2003. Our technical professionals design, develop, implement, and manage turn-key solutions promoting mission success. As confirmed by our highly evaluated performance on military programs throughout Southwest Asia (SWA), we emphasize value added-services, risk mitigation, seamless integration, implementation excellence, and ease-of- maintenance after project completion.

M1 knows Warfighter success relies on network availability. To meet these needs, we proclaim, "When it's mission critical, it's Mission1st."



Dr. Robert Ashe, Richard Zareck II, and Michael Farissier

## 2016, a Year of Victories and Changes

BY: Richard Zareck II, President and CEO

This is a special time in M1's history as we celebrate 13 years in business. I began this journey in 2003 and have spent the time since fortifying our brand. We have become synonymous with supporting the Department of Defense (DoD) and civilian industry. M1 accomplishes this mission by doing what others can't or won't in the most austere places worldwide. Over the past 13 years, M1 has:

- Increased our workforce from one to over 100 employees worldwide
- Become a leading expeditionary provider of DoD IT solutions in austere environments in SWA
- Expanded our presence globally, with major clients in Europe, North America, and Asia

Looking ahead, we are focused on advancing our growth, while increasing our brand's strength. M1 is competing for new work to complement our past achievements. I am incredibly excited about this journey and truly believe that we are bound for greatness.

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SFC Fuentes, Ervin "Pete" Dennis, SFC Woodland, CW3 Williams, and Charlie Mackey

## SWA Honorable Mentions

Network and Communications, Engineering and Installation Support (NCEIS)  
By: Gordon Thomas, Senior Director of Operations

The M1 SWA team deployed four engineers to Kandahar, the second largest city in Afghanistan and one of the oldest known human settlements. There, they supported 335th Theater Signal Command soldiers by uninstalling the last Modular Communications System (MCS) in the Theater of Operation.

The M1 team, led by Ervin Dennis, included Toney Anderson, Charlie Mackey, and Kenyatta Colbert. 335th Theater Signal Command leadership selected these employees to perform the vital task before the New Year, due to their retrograde operation knowledge and experience in Theater.

They removed multi-ton ballistic shielding; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment and supporting ductwork. Items were cleaned and packed into shipping containers. M1 removed, inven-

toried, and packaged interior communication servers, routers, and switches.

During this effort, the site came under an attack from Taliban insurgents. This event included ground fire, suicide bombers, and rockets. During the attack, which lasted over 24 hours, they maintained a protective posture. Even under the dangerous conditions, M1 still completed the mission a week ahead of schedule.

COL Danny Magpantay, the 335th Theater Signal Command G3 Officer in Charge (OIC) commended our employees for their effort. This saved the government thousands of dollars in labor costs. M1's actions also allowed the MCS equipment to be used to support Warfighters on the battlefield with vital communications in the future.

We do what others can't  
We go where others won't  
We succeed when others don't

## Quality Update

M1 is one of only 680 US companies with CMMI Maturity Level 3 appraisals for Services and Development. Less than 3% of CMMI maturity level 3-appraised companies worldwide have dual appraisals. We are pursuing CMMI ML 5, preparing for a March 2017 appraisal. This, when added to our ISO 20000-1:2011 and ISO/IEC 27001:2013 pursuits, as well as the coveted ISO 9001:2008 registration, moves M1 even further into the realm of elite qualified companies.

## In the Community

M1 Volunteer Opportunities

By: Dave Henderson, Operations Manager

M1 is not just an organization made up of many veterans supporting service members in tough locations, we're also an organization who support non-profits helping Warfighters transition home. This year, M1 proudly donated laptops to the Veterans Multi-Service Center in Philadelphia. IT Manager Jeff Higgins made these laptops, valued around \$10,000, fit for duty.

Since 1980, the Veterans Multi-Service Center "has served those who have served." Last year, the organization provided housing for over 500 veterans and their families, placed 300 veterans in jobs, and served approximately 175,000 meals. They accomplished this while offering comprehensive services to ensure individualized assistance and support through a dignified and holistic approach.

Additionally, M1 donated four color printers and six laptops to Sayre Junior High School. Principal Jaime Eberle struggled to secure funds for computer equipment in the school's library. Councilman David Oh, At-Large Councilman for the City of Philadelphia, presented M1 with an award citation for our generous contribution.

M1 also gives back to the community in other ways. For the past four Decembers, the Princeton Headquarters spent their lunch break at the Atrium Senior Living of Princeton singing classic Christmas carols for the patients, staff, and visitors. Facility Security Officer Michael Ellis played the guitar and led the team in song.

We provide comfort to injured warriors by regularly donating to the Wounded Warrior Project. This project honors and empowers wounded warriors by raising awareness, helping injured members aid and assist one another, and providing programs and services to warriors, their families, and caregivers.



Mike Ellis, Jeff Higgins, Dave Henderson, Allison Antonison, Janice Porter, Angie Rivera-Sturtevant, Patrick Ridings, Amy Miele, and Mike Brukiewa

## Security

Is there a problem?

By: Ben Boyd, FSO

“You have a reporting problem.”

“A reporting problem?”

“Yes, we know your location and what you do. Other facilities near your location have reported an abundance of issues. So, things are happening, but they’re not being documented. You have a reporting problem.”

The best thing an intelligence agent can do is capture information or act without anyone noticing. Being an intelligence operation target and never knowing it is the worst that can happen to a cleared individual. You may ask yourself, “Were there clues? Was it something I clicked? Was it something I said? Did I see someone?” Often, we give strangers the benefit of the doubt. We think, “They were standing there. They were lost. They probably had a badge while we kindly held the door for them.”

Thanks to hacks, foreign nationals possess lists of personnel with security clearances. Now it’s more than “see something, say something.” It’s “I know I am a target. Can I see the intelligence official?” It’s no longer “I’m only a small part without access to a lot of information; they’d be going after someone different.” If you’re trying to gain an economic advantage for your country, would you try to acquire information from a person paranoid about talking to anyone or even looking at the wrong email? Or would you pursue the individual who thinks, “They probably want someone else, but not me?” We’d chase the vulnerability, the one who doesn’t see it coming!

Remember to report anything suspicious. M1 staff has reported incidents the DoD, FBI, and other intelligence agencies have found useful. In other countries, we probably have people who want to know which individuals are watching Americans. ISIS has changed the intelligence landscape with a myriad of economic espionage possibilities. Please remain vigilant and report any suspicious persons or activity to FSO Mike Ellis or myself.

## M1 Recognitions: I3MP Awards

On January 20th, Engility — our prime contractor — recognized several M1 employees for supporting the Product Director Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program (PD I3MP) during the past two years. Ken Lacy, from Engility, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Thanh Truong, Ramon Rodriguez, Richard Baker, Maurice Hammond, and Latisha McCracken.

According to the I3MP customer, M1 personnel’s “unwavering dedication has been an invaluable asset to the I3MP team. Their efforts have contributed significantly to information technology infrastructure modernization and lifecycle management process. Their adaptability to a dynamic environment, commitment to the I3MP vision, and their drive to achieve excellence, has been instrumental to ensure mission success. Job well done!”

Mr. Santiago, the M1 I3MP Site Lead, said, “It has always been a pleasure to see our team members recognized for their invaluable contributions for PD I3MP. From day one, and over the past two years, the PD has always praised our hard work and professionalism. The M1 team has always exceeded in their tasks, going above and beyond the call of duty!”



Important Announcement for ADP Workforce Now® clients who use Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 or 10: Effective early 2016, Microsoft® will no longer support Internet Explorer® versions 9 and 10 ending all active technical support and security updates. Although ADP Workforce Now will still operate on these versions, ADP recommends that you upgrade to a current supported browser to take advantage of the latest improvements and security updates offered by Microsoft.



Pat Ridings and Pat O'Connor

## OCONUS Benefits Open Enrollment:

Open enrollment for OCONUS based employees will take place in December 2016. During open enrollment, employees will have a chance to enroll, drop, or change benefit elections. You must show proof of any additional insurance coverage if you are dropping your current M1 benefits. Stay tuned for more information regarding open enrollment dates for 2016.

## Business Development

### BD Accomplishments

By: Patrick Ridings, Proposal Manager

In January 2013, M1 began its long pursuit of the Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS) contract vehicle. As a prime contractor, we strategically formed partnerships with industry-leading companies to enhance our robust technical capabilities. After three full proposal submittals and two opportunities to address Government questions, the contracting office rewarded M1's dedication to the Program Executive Office (PEO) Enterprise Information System (EIS) mission with one of four EITS indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts in March 2015. Through this vehicle, which has a \$249 million ceiling, we are eligible to provide PEO EIS – well as its subordinate organizations and customers, with project/product management; business process reengineering; and enterprise design, information technology (IT), integrated logistics, and general program support for activities inside and outside the continental United States.

The EITS IDIQ award paved the way for M1 to bid on several task orders (TOs), including IT Contracted Advisory and Assistance Services (CAAS) for Project Director (PD) Enterprise Services (ES) in November 2015. After addressing Government questions in December, we received a \$35 million contract award in January 2016 with a five-year performance period. The IT CAAS TO provides advisory and assistance services for PD ES objectives. M1 supports legacy enterprise system migration; comprehensive integration master schedule development; and strategic communications development, implementation, and deployment. Additionally, we complete service operations governance and enterprise integration, business/technical management, and acquisition management actions.

EITS and the IT CAAS TO were not the only wins M1 recently achieved. The Government awarded 49 Enhanced Solutions for IT Enterprise (E-SITE) IDIQ contracts. M1 partnered with three awardees – Enterprise Information Services, Inc.; Responsive Innovative IT Enterprise (RI2TE) Joint Venture (JV); and Xcelerate Solutions – as a subcontractor. Avid Technology Professionals, LLC; S2 Analytical Solutions; and WiSC Enterprises, LLC comprise the RI2TE JV. We will aid these prime contractors in providing program, web content, property, security, and risk management; program planning; technology assessment, technology evaluation, systems engineering, operations support, storage, web, acquisition, maintenance, remote diagnostic, administrative, IA, testing, verification, and training services; network operations and administration; and Sensitive Compartmented Information personnel and information security support for the Defense Intelligence Agency. The 49 contracts have a \$6 billion ceiling.

The Government awarded 17 Better Buying Support Services (B2S2) IDIQ contracts in September 2016. As a subcontractor, M1 aided Millennium Corporation with their proposal submission in 2014 and 2015. Through this vehicle, we have the opportunity to offer PEO Intelligence Electronic Warfare and Sensors with technical, program, acquisition, logistics, and business services through potential TOs. The 17 B2S2 contracts have a contract ceiling of \$249 million.

M1 also received a TO subcontract through DataPath, Inc.'s (DataPath's) Satellite Communication (SATCOM) Support Services (SS) award. We will aid DataPath in providing Program Manager Warfighter Information Network-Tactical with field support services for a variety of satellite terminals in the United States, as well as Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Djibouti, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Kingdom, and United Arab Emirates.

As a small business, M1 is pursuing two large IDIQ opportunities: IT Enterprise Solutions Services (ITES-3S) and ENCORE III. M1 submitted our ITES-3S proposal in March 2016 and ENCORE III proposal in October 2016. ITES-3S supports PD Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software, and Solutions' enterprise-level IT integration and service management mission for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) agencies around the world. The contract vehicle has a \$12.1 billion ceiling. ENCORE III provides the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) with the ability to offer the military, DoD agencies, and other Federal organizations with global IT capabilities. ENCORE III has a contract ceiling of \$17.5 billion. Our teammates for these IDIQs include large and small incumbent contractors, as well strategic partnerships with industry leaders.

M1 proudly continues to grow our business through the EITS, IT CAAS, E-SITE, B2S2, and SATCOM SS wins. These achievements would not be possible without the dedicated work of all M1 employees.

Future proposal endeavors include the South West Asia Theater Signal Service Support opportunity, which continues the 335th Signal Command aid we provide through the current Network, Communications, Engineering, and Installation Support contract. M1 also seeks to win other large contract vehicles in 2016 and 2017. This includes two of General Services Administration's government wide acquisition contracts, Alliant 2 and Veterans Technology Services (VETS) 2, as well as PEO Command, Control, Communications-Tactical's Global Tactical Advanced Communication Systems and Support II (GTACSII) IDIQ. Alliant 2, VETS 2, and GTACSII will enable M1 to expand its customer base while providing the same quality services the Government needs and expects from us.



Lauren Miller and Laura Reid

## Marketing at M1

Lauren and Laura joined the M1 team in September. Since then, they established a marketing department to expand customer reach and support business productivity. An improved capabilities brief and social media accounts are a start to many more exciting initiatives, such as an updated version of the M1 website in 2017!



## Finance

How to Make John Denuto's Day  
By: John Denuto, Business Analyst

After three years of employment at M1, I still get asked the question: "What do you do?" This can come from a co-worker, friend, or even my 10-year-old daughter. Although my title is Business Analyst, I still have to elaborate on what occurs in my back corner cubicle at Princeton Headquarters (besides listening to the bathroom towel dispenser on the other side of the wall). So, what does a Business Analyst do? At first, I wasn't so sure but after listening to the explanation from our fearless human resources leader, my role became clearer to me. My daily tasks consisted of analyzing contracts billing/tracking, reconciling insurance and American Express bills, and expensing miscellaneous projects for reimbursements. Hence, the title was born.

Out of these responsibilities, expenses seem to be the hot topic of conversation amongst those who submit on a regular basis (I believe a sense of frustration is more appropriate). Everyone wants to be reimbursed in a timely manner, however, many expense reports have to be returned for editing. Here are a few important notes to keep in mind when submitting an expense report:

1. Receipts, receipts, receipts! These are not just limited to the paper receipts you receive after buying gas. Receipts can also include final airline itineraries, hotel/car rental invoices, or items purchased

online. Never use anything that says "estimate" or "travel confirmation" as proof of payment because neither show how the payment was made. For anyone using non-billable methods, itemized receipts for restaurants are a must-have.

2. Know the limitations on what is reimbursable. If you are not sure, send me an email. I'm always happy to help.

3. Use the tools offered in CONCUR. This website offers currency conversions, per diem rates for TDY, and automatic mileage reimbursement calculations. CONCUR generates maps to assist with mileage. Always remember to put in full addresses.

4. Use World Travel to get the lowest fares allowed.

5. Submit invoices no later than 30 days after costs have been incurred.

Please don't hesitate to ask any questions. This will save everyone time.



John Denuto

## Ten Year Service Award Recipients

Ramon Rodriguez 4/2016, Systems Architect Sr., Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Andrew (Drew) Garlick, 9/2016, NCEIS Contract, Kuwait

General Dan Balough, Advisory 11/2016, Princeton, NJ

Michael Farissier, 01/01/2017, CFO, Princeton, NJ

## Five Year Service Award Recipients

Angelo Basile 6/2016, Mechanical Engineer II, Princeton, NJ

Janice Porter 08/2016, HR Generalist, Princeton, NJ

Joe Butner 11/2016, Program Analyst, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Michael Ellis 11/2016, FSO, Princeton, NJ

## Congratulations Newlyweds!



Michael Brukiewa and Amy Miele

## Welcome 2016 New Hires

Shawn Bride, Eng Net Jry, 1/1

Julio Ortiz-Davila, Program Analyst, 2/1

Christopher Grant, Program Analyst, 2/16

Ramona Kester, Program Analyst, 2/16

Christina Wasikowski, Program Analyst, 2/16

Alecia Harris, Program Analyst, 2/24

Marcos Zavala, Program Analyst, 2/24

Raquel Fitzkee, Program Analyst, 2/26

LaShane McCrea-Reid, Program Analyst, 2/26

Edwin Owusu-Prempeh, Eng Net Sr Lead, 2/28

Donald Thomas, Bus Proc Reng Sr, 2/29

Richard Lindholm, Program Analyst, 3/17

Janet Tepera, SME Acq, 3/21

Dylan Lamarre, WAN Sys Net Arc, 4/15

Chau Nguyen, Eng Voice Sr, 4/17

Jessica Cook, IA Eng, 4/25

Elias Mourany, Dir Fed Bus Stgy & Dev, 4/25

Yun Kim, Business Proc Reeng Sr., 5/2

Elizabeth Waggoner, SME Acq, 5/9

Sammy Catledge, PM, 5/16

Dianna Kerns, Program Analyst, 5/16

Edgar Gutierrez, Eng Net Sr, 5/27

Rosanne Cattanach, Program Analyst, 5/31

Spencer Chambers, Graphic Artist, 6/27

Kevin Schehl, BD Associate, 7/11

David Headquist, Eng Net Sr, 7/17

Sergio Alvarez, Tech/Prop Int, 7/20

Laura Reid, BD Associate, 9/1

Lauren Miller, Prop Dev Admin, 9/6

Gwendolyn Baird-Wiggs, Rqmt Mgr, 9/13

Maria-Dawn Young, Log/Jry, 9/27

Edward Skirvin, IA Sec Off, 10/13

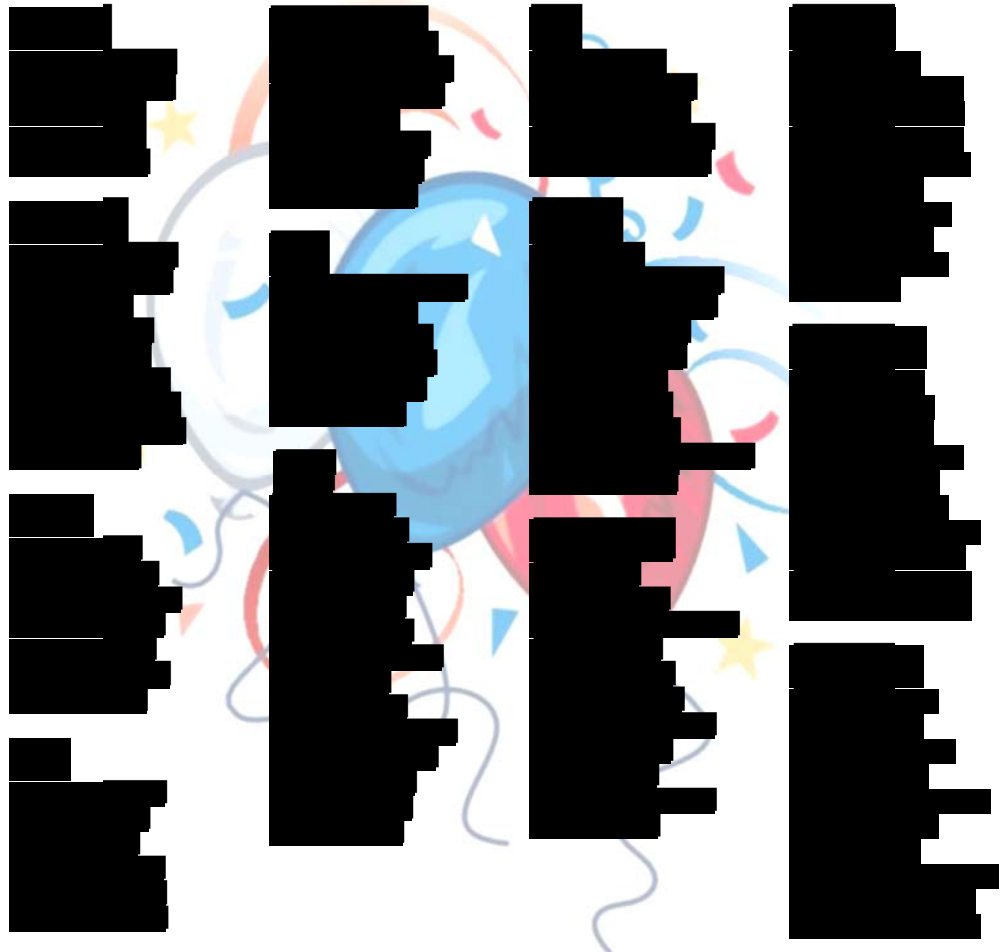
Marcus Bernardez, Eng Sys Jry, 10/31

Kenneth Bass, Prn Eng III, 11/1

Robert Bradbury, Eng Net Jry, 11/1

Michael Brooker, Eng Sys Jry, 11/2

## Happy Birthday to Everyone at M1!



## Department of Veterans Affairs

In May, M1 received its official letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs verifying M1 as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB). This process was accomplished through the Veteran Administration's Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) and took about four months to complete. As a VA-verified business, M1 is now able to fully compete for all SDVOSB set-asides and submit a prime bid on the VETS2 IDIQ.



## Leadership Highlights

NSA Commercial Solutions for Classified (CSfC) Trusted Integrator  
By: Justin Schmidt, Southeast Regional Manager and Erick Grindlinger, Network Specialist

The National Security Agency's (NSA) Commercial Solutions for Classified (CSfC) program allows for the use of commercially available technology to secure classified information on unclassified networks. Traditionally, such information can only be secured by government controlled cryptographic items. However, this technology lags far behind commercial market solutions. CSfC is founded on the principle that properly configured, layered solutions can provide adequate protection of classified data. This new approach enables the use of WiFi, smart phones on classified networks, secure communication with foreign nations, and numerous other conveniences ubiquitous in the commercial sector. This approach protects classified information from unauthorized access. By leveraging the latest commercial solutions, the CSfC program allows for rapid fielding of new technologies with Trusted Integrators (TIs) leading the way.

M1 is proud to serve as a TI. TIs assist government agencies with CSfC lifecycle implementation. These integrators are qualified to assemble and integrate components according to a high level design known as a Capability Package. They test resulting solutions, provide evidence to the Authorizing Officials (AOs)/Designated Approving Authorities (DAAs), maintain solutions, and are the first line of response in troubleshooting or responding to security incidents.

NSA requires diverse teams to design, test, and implement CSfC solutions to reduce risk and increase overall system security. To this end, M1 leverages experience with a wide range of listed CSfC components and maintains relationships with other CSfC experts. We have direct experience with CSfC Capability Packages (Campus Wireless Local Area Network, Virtual Private Network, and Mobile Access) as well as extensive experience with CSfC-related and/or enabling technologies. These include Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), Windows Domain/Active Directory, Virtual Machine/Hypervisor, routing, wired and wireless networking, Voice over IP (VoIP), and associated systems and configuration management technologies, processes, and procedures. Each implementation of a Capability Package must be tailored through a series of decisions.

M1 is dedicated to identifying the best systems and the brightest talent to produce the best solution for the Government's requirements. We are proud to participate in an unprecedented program such as CSfC. From systems engineering to program management, M1 prides itself in successfully tackling the toughest jobs with highly certified teams.

## Have News for the Newsletter?

Email:  
[marketing@mission1st.com](mailto:marketing@mission1st.com) with any new updates, announcements, pictures, or other ideas for the next newsletter.

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