



Vy Nguyen received the Department of Homeland Security Test and Evaluation Professional of the Year award at a ceremony June 28, 2016, for her work on the H-65 Dolphin's automatic flight control system and avionics upgrade. Pictured from left are Chip Fulghum, DHS deputy undersecretary for management and chief financial officer; Russell Deyo, DHS undersecretary for management; Nguyen, an engineer for the Coast Guard H-65 conversion and sustainment program; and Debra Cox, executive director of the DHS Office of Program Accountability and Risk Management. Photo courtesy of Mike Beaty, DHS Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer.

Acquisition Update: Coast Guard H-65 Engineer Wins DHS Award

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Vy Nguyen, a general engineer for the Coast Guard's H-65 short range recovery helicopter conversion and sustainment program, received the Department of Homeland Security Test and Evaluation Professional of the Year award for her work on the Dolphin's automatic flight control system and avionics upgrade at a ceremony June 28, 2016, at the Nebraska Avenue Complex Chapel in Washington, D.C.

Nguyen's nomination for the DHS Program Management Award noted her professionalism and willingness to go beyond the requirements to ensure the program delivers the best system possible. She determined the Coast Guard should perform a threat and vulnerabilities assessment to evaluate the security of the Dolphin's avionics. The suggestion was noteworthy because whereas other armed services require a threat and vulnerabilities assessments, the Coast Guard had never before performed such an assessment for any of its aircraft.

"With the recent cybersecurity events in the news, the Coast Guard is pushing for systems capable of securely operating within the cyber domain," Nguyen said. "The H-65 does not connect to any networks, so in order to frame a system security test, we have to

define our cyber domain. We want to understand what threats are out there, what capabilities they have and whether they present a risk.”

Collaboration was crucial to Nguyen’s process, and she sought knowledge from outside of CG-9 to improve her work. She brought Coast Guard Intelligence into the threat assessment to help understand the nature of cyberthreats and their capabilities. She also established a team of stakeholders that included engineers, pilots, safety and oversight experts and technical specialists. “Having all of those people talking is very important,” Nguyen said. “The end goal is to deliver a modern, capable and sustainable H-65 helicopter to the fleet.”

Nguyen also brought in the Navy’s Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force to serve as an independent evaluator. “COMOPTEVFOR will conduct an operational assessment to make sure that what we built meets the mission requirements.” Nguyen said. “The results of that test will give DHS the information they need to authorize the Coast Guard to begin initial production.”