February 9, 2016

Brigadier General Malcolm B. Frost
Office of the Chief of Public Affairs
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Sir,

It is my understanding that the Army will be naming a Master Communicator of the Year for 2015. I would like to recommend Col. Bill Bigelow for that title.

I've been covering Redstone Arsenal and the surrounding community for 16 years and in that time, I've dealt with dozens of Army Public Affairs professionals, both military and civilian.

Since he arrived as the Army Materiel Command's Public Affairs Director in the summer of July 2013, Col. Bigelow has been a breath of fresh air. He has opened previously closed doors and fostered clear lines of communication between the Army and the media. On his suggestion I keep his business card in my wallet right now.

As it has grown and changed, particularly since the last BRAC, Redstone Arsenal has become a mystery of sorts to outsiders. Now, with more than 70 diverse agencies on the installation, getting answers in a timely manner and finding the bottom line has become more difficult than ever. Col. Bigelow helps clear that confusion, acting as the voice of reason and always making himself available to the media.

Besides a few "seasoned" reporters like myself, the Huntsville media market also boasts some of the field's best up-and-coming talent. Redstone Arsenal is a challenging place for young reporters to cut their teeth. Col. Bigelow has been instrumental in schooling inexperienced reporters about the military structure, providing them vital tools in reporting important stories.

Perhaps one of the hardest lessons to learn about the military is the fact that everyone moves on. While I know Col. Bigelow's time at the Army Materiel Command and Team Redstone is limited, I take solace in the fact that he has instilled the same responsive values among the entire Army Materiel Command's public affairs team.

With that, I hope you consider bestowing the title of the Army's Master Communicator on Col. Bill Bigelow. In my eyes, there is none more deserving.

Sincerely,

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