

APG SSCF program graduates sixth class

By **JIM OMAN**

Defense Acquisition University

Eight graduating fellows received their Senior Service College Fellowship program diploma during a ceremony held at the Mallette Hall Auditorium on APG North (Aberdeen) May 19.

The ceremony celebrated the completion of the 10-month program of study focused on leadership and acquisition. Diploma recipients were Matthew Lee, Bill Leonard, Gary Lichvar, Ayo Omololu, Lisa Sanders, Oral Walker, Randy Wheeler and Jennifer Worton.

In her welcoming remarks, ceremony host Joanne S. Schoonover, dean of the Defense Acquisition University's Capital and Northeast Region, congratulated and recognized the fellows on their accomplishments and hard work. She also thanked the APG community for its continuing strong support of the fellows and the SSCF program.

"We applaud the work that will set you up for your future endeavors in serving the armed forces," she said.

Keynote speaker Stephen D. Kreider, Program Executive Officer, Program Executive Office Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, PEO IEW&S, congratulated each of the fellows for participating in the fellowship program and acknowledged their dedication and hard work.

He emphasized the importance of using their newly acquired skills to become capable leaders who are comfortable and effective in operating in a new environment as they return to the workforce.

Kreider closed by asking each member of the Class of 2015 to identify, what would be their legacy. He asked each graduate to consider, what and how they would they give back in terms of their investment in other people. He challenged each of them to "reinvest in the lives of others."

The graduation ceremony was attended by 75 friends, family members, SSCF alumni, and distinguished guests which included five locally serving members of the Senior Executive Service (SES), Kreider, Schoonover and Dr. Jean Russell, regional academic director for Webster University.



Photo by Sean Kief

Eight graduating fellows received their Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF) program diploma during a ceremony at APG May 19. Pictured, back row from left, James Oman, SSCF Capital and Northeast Region director, SSCF graduates Ayo Omololu, Bill Leonard, Gary Lichvar, Randy Wheeler and Oral Walker; center row, from left, Jennifer Worton, Matthew Lee, and Lisa Sanders; front row, from left, Joanne Schoonover, SSCF Capital and Northeast Region dean, Dr. Jean Russell, Webster University regional academic director and Stephen Kreider, program executive officer of PEO IEW&S.

Over the course of the ten-month program, the fellows heard from multiple senior leaders, including general officers, SES members, and political appointees; conducted industry and governmental organization visits; and went on a wide variety of warfighter-focused visits including the National Training Center, U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. European Command.

The SSCF program included the

completion of the following courses: Program Managers; Leading in the Acquisition Environment; Forging Stakeholder Relationships; and Leader as Coach. The fellows also completed a National Security module taught by faculty members from the U.S. Army War College Department of National Security and Strategy.

The fellowship culminated with a trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where the fellows participated in a battlefield staff ride with historian, retired Col.

Dr. Paul Jussel, professor of Military History and Strategy at the U.S. Army War College. The staff ride emphasized lessons on effective leadership, as well as demonstrated aspects of leadership, and how one determined leader can make a significant difference.

For more information about the Senior Service College Fellowship program, contact Ben Metcalfe at benjamin.metcalfe@dau.mil or call 410-272-9471.

BY THE NUMB#RS

May is National Mental Health Month

May is National Mental Health Month, an observance that raises awareness about mental illness and related issues in the United States.