

DAU hosts seventh SSCFP graduation

By **JAMES R. OMAN**
Defense Acquisition University

Eight graduating fellows received their Senior Service College Fellowship Program diploma during a ceremony at the Myer Auditorium on APG North (Aberdeen), May 24.

The ceremony recognized and celebrated the completion of the 10-month program of study focused on leadership and acquisition. Diploma recipients were: Shauna Dover, Willie Jackson, Dr. Melanie Loncarich, Patrick Morse, Benjamin Pryor, Nicholaus Saacks, Daniel Schwartz, and Wing Young.

The event was attended by 75 friends, family members, SSCF alumni, and distinguished guests as well as several locally serving members of the Senior Executive Service. Participating in the ceremony were guest and keynote speaker, Gary Martin, Program Executive Officer for Command, Control and Communications – Tactical; Dr. Kristina Olsen, Regional Academic Director, National Capital Region, Webster University; and Joanne Schoonover, Dean, Capital and Northeast Region.

In addition to fulfilling the SSCF requirements, Jackson, Morse, and Schwartz also completed an additional five courses to earn a Master of Arts degree in Management and Leadership from Webster University. Olsen recognized their efforts with the presentation of Webster University diplomas and distinctive university coins.

In her welcoming remarks Schoonover, who served as ceremony host, congratulated and recognized the fellows on their many accomplishments, their continued hard work and thanked the APG community for its continuing strong support of the fellows and the SSCF program.

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

In his keynote address, Martin congratulated each of the fellows for participating in the fellowship program as well as acknowledged their hard work, dili-



Photo by Cory Hall, Defense Acquisition University
The graduates of the Class of 2016 APG Senior Service College Fellowship Program pose for a photo with the graduation ceremony keynote speaker, Gary Martin, Program Executive Officer for Command, Control and Communications – Tactical.

gence, and dedication. He stressed the importance of using their new skills to become more capable leaders who are comfortable and effective in operating in rapidly changing environments as they return to the workforce.

Martin asked each member of the class of 2016 to identify how they would give back in terms of their investment in other people. He concluded his remarks by challenging each of them to continue to grow and hone their recently acquired skills.

Over the 10-month program the fellows completed the SSCF curriculum focusing on program management, the

acquisition environment, leadership and national security. They also heard from multiple senior leaders who included numerous general officers, SES members, political appointees, and senior corporate leaders; conducted industry and governmental organization visits, and went on a variety of warfighter-focused visits including the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe; U.S. Central Command; U.S. Special Operations Command; U.S. European Command; Joint Readiness Training Center; National Training Center; and the Joint Multinational Training Command.

The fellowship culminated with an enterprise-wide get together at Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where the fellows participated in a battlefield staff ride with historian and retired colonel, Dr. Paul Jussel, professor of Military History and Strategy, Department of Military Strategy, Planning, and Operations, U.S. Army War College.

The Gettysburg staff ride emphasized several lessons on being an effective leader, as well as demonstrated the importance of leadership, and how one determined leader can make a significant difference.