

DAU fellows visit APG laboratories

By **DAVID MCNALLY**
Army Research Laboratory

Eight fellows from the Defense Acquisition University Senior Service College Fellowship Program met with U.S. Army Research Laboratory leaders at Aberdeen Proving Ground and toured facilities Feb. 4.

The participants are students in a 10-month program designed to develop effective civilian senior leaders for the DOD acquisition community.

"Most of the fellows are from Aberdeen Proving Ground," said James R. Oman, Capital and Northeast Region fellowship director. "It gives them a sense of some of the organizations that are here on post. It also gives them an opportunity to meet with senior members of the research community."

The group met for a working lunch with Human Research and Engineering Director Dr. Laurel Allender.

"She is in the senior executive service, so the fellows get an opportunity to interact with her and acquire insights, which will be of use to them when they go back into positions of greater responsibility upon graduation," Oman said.

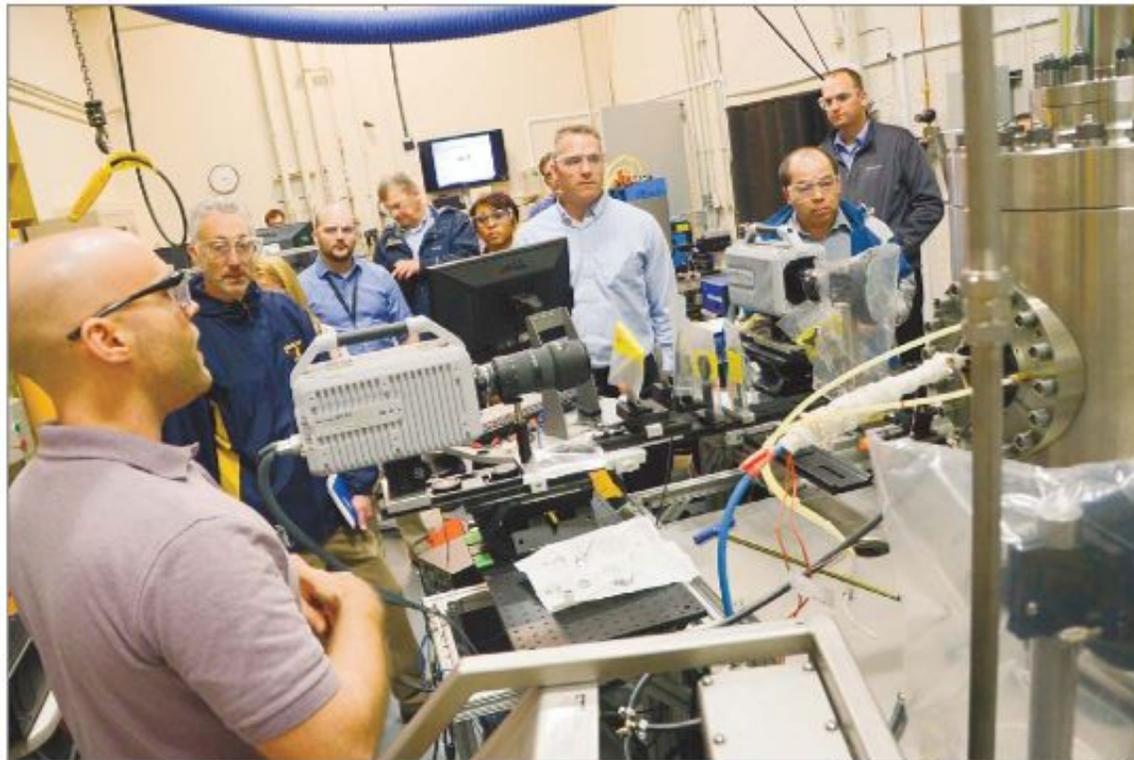
Allender said the DAU program is a valuable avenue for leadership development.

"Discussions ranged from learning to leadership to taking some time to laugh—each being important to individual growth," she said. "The singular commitment of the fellows, with their diverse backgrounds, to continued service to the Army is inspiring."

During the tour, the fellows received briefings from Army scientists on the overall mission of ARL, and the technical campaigns that comprise the laboratory's core competencies.

They saw the Army's innovations in additive and expeditionary manufacturing and talked with scientists about advanced polymer processing. At the Vehicle Research Laboratory, the fellows talked with researchers about adaptive airframe configurations and wind tunnel experiments. They also learned how researchers are exploring fuels and optimizing engine performance.

"This tour is always a highlight of the year for the fellows," Oman said. "There are a great deal of interesting things to see at ARL. We also took them to the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center



Photos by Conrad Johnson, RDECOM

(Above) Dr. Matthew Kurman, left, a member of the Engines Research Team, explains the team's mission to Defense Acquisition University fellows touring the Vehicle Research Laboratory at APG, Feb. 4. (Below) Christopher Kroninger, center, explains wind tunnel experiments to visiting Defense Acquisition University fellows during a tour of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory Feb. 4.

and will visit the Aberdeen Test Center on May 4."

The fellows are predominantly Army senior civilians in grades 14 and 15 who are acquisition professionals, certified Level-3 in one of the career fields. This is the seventh class since the program's inception.

"Of the six classes, we've graduated 47 fellows," Oman said. "Out of those graduates, we've had numerous fellows step into positions of significantly increased levels of responsibility as well as one that was selected for the senior executive service."

The course develops civilian acquisition leaders in preparation for roles as product and project managers, program executive officers and other key acquisition positions, according to the organization's website at <http://www.dau.mil/sscf>.

This group will graduate in May. Three fellows from the class have opted to pursue master's degrees in addition to the fellowship program.

"It's a great opportunity," Oman said.

