

Senior Service College fellow talks opportunities

Defense Acquisition University

As the seminar chair for the Senior Service College Fellowship Program at APG, Willie Jackson serves as the leader for the fellows and works as a liaison between the fellows and the Defense Acquisition University. He also serves as the central point of contact for the fellows, receiving information from DAU faculty and staff, and communicating with external partners on a variety of fellowship matters.



Jackson

Prior to his selection for the program, Jackson was the Deputy Product Director at Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices Electronic Warfare (CREW) where he was responsible for research, development, fielding and fleet modernization of the CREW-2 Duke counter RCIED jammers.

In this Q&A, Jackson talks about what motivated him to attend the Senior Service College Fellowship Program and how the program is helping to sup-

port his long-term career goals.

What were your motivations for entering the program?

Prior to attending the DAU-SSCF I was extremely busy running the day-to-day activities within my program management office. There was very little time to reflect on the larger or strategic issues affecting my profession. DAU-SSCF has afforded me the time to reflect and delve deeper into strategic leadership issues as well as consider tactical cases which have strategic implications. Finally, DAU-SSCF has provided an opportunity to associate with and learn as much as I can from those with unique skills, backgrounds, and experiences.

What SSCF activity do you most look forward to?

The activities that I look most forward to is meeting with our customers (CENTCOM, SOCOM, AFRICOM, etc.) and industry partners to see things from their perspective. Additionally, my class and I are looking forward to learning more about our international partners and participating in the Gettysburg, World War I, and World War II staff rides to broaden my awareness on strategic operations. I see this as an once-in-a-

lifetime opportunity.

How is SSCF preparing you to achieve your long-term goals?

The SSCF is providing me with the opportunity to meet numerous senior leaders as well as equipping me with the tools that will enable me to comprehend the unique aspects of acquisition leadership required at the strategic level. Additionally, the SSCF is preparing me to be a well-rounded acquisition leader who can draw from my knowledge to assist my organization to effectively solve problems.

What do you expect to be your biggest challenge during the SSCF program?

That would be time management, balancing of academic workload and family life. I know time management is one of those skills we all believe we have under control, mainly because we really don't and are not disciplined enough to take a closer look at the things we spend our time on.

Describe one takeaway from the past two months?

The opportunity to work with other acquisition professionals to study, analyze case studies, and compare ideas with other professionals of such a high caliber. Most importantly, the relation-

ships established with other acquisition professionals across the Army.

Any additional thoughts?

First, I would like to thank the senior leaders within my organization for making this opportunity a reality. I am gaining a clearer understanding of the decision-making process and how national security decision making actually occurs.

Senior Service College Fellowship Program

The SSCFP is a nationally-recognized, Army-sponsored program designed to develop strong, effective senior leaders for the Department of Defense Acquisition community. SSCFP announcement, call for applications for selection/attendance to attend the class of 2016-17, which starts on July 25, 2016, is expected to run from Dec. 2, 2015 through March 9, 2016.

Program announcement information will be posted on US Army Acquisition Support Center website at <http://asc.army.mil/web/>. For more information, visit the DAU website at www.dau.mil/sscf/Pages/apg.aspx or contact James Oman at james.oman@dau.mil or 410-272-9470.