

## The Program Manager's Course (PMT 401)

**PMT 401** is DAU's rigorous, executive-level, in-residence, case-based course which lasts nine weeks. It is designed for highly motivated, experienced acquisition practitioners, specially selected for their potential as leaders of major acquisition programs, integrated product teams, and major command division chiefs. PMT 401 is a demanding course that relies on a Three-Step Learning Process:

- Individual study and preparation per case (1–2 hours);
- Active participation in small (6–8 person) group discussion (20 minutes per case);
- Active participation in large (24–32 person) group discussion (80 minutes per case).

The Program Manager's Course is constructed around eight overarching themes involving primarily case studies of real life acquisition-related challenges and dilemmas that provide each learner the opportunity to practice:

- Leading a program in a rapidly changing environment;
- Leading program management operations in different acquisition phases;
- Working effectively with higher headquarters;
- Working effectively with industry;
- Achieving and maintaining excellent customer relations;
- Applying appropriate tools for the evolving information environment;
- Working effectively with external organizations; and
- Leading joint and international programs.

PMT 401 also hosts a Capitol Hill workshop to provide the fellows with an overview and understanding of the U.S. Congress and the legislative process. This workshop is designed to offer attendees an overview of current U.S. public policy issues by providing an in-depth analysis of Congressional politics, decision-making, and their implications to the DOD and the nation. This provides fellows with the opportunity to discuss current issues of interest – on and off the record – with political experts and leading authorities who have experience in all aspects of the national policymaking process and the potential consequences to U.S. national interests in the coming years.

By statute, program executive officers (PEOs), PEO deputies, Acquisition Category (ACAT) I & II program managers (PMs), and ACAT I & II deputy PMs (DPMs) are required to complete an advanced program management curriculum beyond Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Level III certification. OSD (C3I) has directed that ACAT IA PMs and DPMs complete the same advanced training curriculum. PMT 401, together with DAU's Executive Program Manager's Course (PMT 402), fulfills that advanced training requirement.

