



September 2012

*Congressional
Research Service/DAU
Seminar*

*DAU Faculty Meeting
with Boeing Executive
Management School*

*Defense Acquisition
Research Symposium*

*DAU Receives Chief
Learning Officer
Learning in Practice
Award*

*Federal Acquisition
Regulation (FAR)
Fundamentals Course
Maintenance*

*Course Impact Pilot
Study*

News for Defense Acquisition University Stakeholders

On September 6, **DAU and the Congressional Research Service (CRS)** collaborated to host a seminar on Capitol Hill entitled **25 Years of Acquisition Reform: Where Do We Go From Here?** The seminar consisted of panel presentations and discussions from current and former senior leaders from government, academia, and public policy institutes. **The Honorable Frank Kendall, USD(AT&L)**, delivered the keynote address on current DoD efforts to improve Defense acquisition. Attendees included **Congressional staff members and senior leaders from DoD and the Government Accountability Office**. Highlights included discussions of whether the DoD acquisition system is “broken,” if previous acquisition reform efforts have produced the desired results, and proposed ways forward. **The results of this unprecedented seminar may help inform Defense acquisition policy, both on Capitol Hill and within DoD.**

On September 18, faculty from DAU’s **Defense Systems Management College (DSMC)** and executives of the **Boeing Executive Management School** discussed ideas for **building a better government/industry team, perspectives on the effectiveness of the Weapons Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, and the vision of future acquisition challenges**. These discussions were followed by sessions on DoD Workforce Enhancement and Certification and updates on DoD Financial Management.

On September 18-19, DAU hosted an acquisition research symposium, **Limits on Competition in Defense Acquisition**, at Fort Belvoir. **The Honorable Katrina McFarland, ASD(A)**, presented the keynote address. The symposium brought together **key DoD decision-makers with academic and governmental researchers** to present and discuss **leveraging analytical research into the use of competition as means of managing costs in the unique Defense acquisition market**. Researchers brought intriguing insights to bear on the subject, including the use of game theory, detailed financial modeling, and empirically-based analysis.

On September 20, **Acting DAU President Dr. Jim McMichael** was presented the **Gold Award for Learning Strategy** at the **Fall 2012 Chief Learning Officer Symposium** in Colorado Springs, Colorado. **The award, one of Chief Learning Officer (CLO) magazine’s Learning in Practice Awards, specifically cited DAU’s 2012-2015 Learning & Technology Roadmap**. The Award for Learning Strategy recognizes learning executives who have demonstrated exceptional business acumen combined with forward-looking vision in the development and execution of a learning strategy in support of their organization’s objectives during the past year. **Winners of the Learning In Practice Awards, which recognize transformational and visionary leaders in enterprise education, are industry leaders who truly champion innovation and transform it into learning and value for their organizations**. Other winners of this year’s Learning In Practice Awards include McDonald’s Corporation, Coldwell Banker, BAE Systems, IBM, Hewlett Packard, Lloyds Banking Group, Cigna, and Hilton Worldwide.

On September 24-27, DAU conducted the **first annual maintenance review of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Fundamentals Course (CON 090)**. The review included a comprehensive examination of course competencies and objectives, performance statistics and failure rates, content update protocols, optimum delivery methods, and recommended improvements, as well as a demonstration of the “Turning Point” Student Response System. **Numerous issues and action items were identified, which were outbriefed to Shay Assad, Director of Defense Pricing.**

DAU recently completed a **Kirkpatrick Level 4 course impact pilot study** on the **Program Manager’s Course (PMT 401)** and the **Executive Program Manager’s Course (PMT 402)**. On September 27, **Dr. James Kirkpatrick of Kirkpatrick Partners, LLC** briefed DAU on the study results. The survey and subsequent interviews verified that **both courses are achieving level 3 and level 4 results**. Both students and their supervisors provided examples of learning being applied in the workplace (level 3 outcome) and how it is contributing to positive acquisition program outcomes (level 4 outcome). **They placed a high value on the training they received in both PMT 401 and PMT 402**, and they felt the investment being made in future program managers and key acquisition leaders is extremely beneficial, providing these personnel with the training necessary to enable them to achieve the right acquisition outcomes. Dr. Kirkpatrick will provide a detailed report on the Level 4 study results by the end of October.