

## U.S. Army FY14 Acquisition Education and Training Announcements

U.S. ARMY ACQUISITION SUPPORT CENTER (SEPTEMBER 2013)

The FY14 schedule for U.S. Army Acquisition Education and Training (AET) opportunities has been finalized. All AET opportunities (except for Acquisition Leadership Challenge Program) will be announced through the Army Acquisition Professional Development System (AAPDS). To access AAPDS, login at the Career Acquisition Management Portal (CAMP) at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/>. Next, click on Career Acquisition Personnel and Position Management Information System (CAPP MIS). Once in CAPP MIS, select the AAPDS tab, and then select the Application Module link. Click on Apply and view all Army Director of Acquisition Career Management (DACM) available opportunities. For information on any program, go to the USAASC website at <http://asc.army.mil/web/access-acquisition-education-and-training-corner-3-10/>.

- Acquisition Tuition Assistance Program (ATAP) FY14 Announcement will open April 28 and close May 26, 2014. Anyone approved for funding during this announcement may start courses no earlier than Oct 1.
- The Competitive Development Group/Army Acquisition Fellows announcement is on hold for FY14. Because of the current hiring freeze, we have been unable to bring new fellows on board from the FY13 Announcement. If and when the hiring freeze is lifted, we will first work toward finalizing the FY13 board results prior to conducting another announcement.
- The Defense Acquisition University-Senior Service College Fellowship announcement will open Jan. 29 and close April 2, 2014. REMINDER: Applicants need to complete the Civilian Education System Advanced Course prior to the start of the Fellowship.
- The Defense Civilian Emerging Leaders Program announcement will open May 5, 2014, and close June 13. These dates are tentative as this is a DoD-scheduled program, and DoD has not provided specific dates.
- The Excellence in Government Fellows announcement will open June 12, 2014, and close July 15.
- The Naval Postgraduate School-Masters of Science in Program Management: Announcement will open Feb. 3, 2014, and close March 18.
- School of Choice (SOC): Because of the current fiscal environment, there will not be an SOC announcement in FY14. Should a command have an urgent need to send a high-performing workforce member to obtain his/her bachelor's or master's during duty time, please contact the AET Branch Chief, Scott Greene, at [scott.m.greene14.civ@mail.mil](mailto:scott.m.greene14.civ@mail.mil), to discuss options.

The FY14 schedule for the Acquisition Leadership Challenge Program (ALCP) follows. (Note that ALCP will not be announced using AAPDS. Please contact your command or organization acquisition career management advocate or organizational acquisition point of contact.)

DATE TION	OFFERING TYPE COURSE LEVEL	LOCA-
Jan. 13-15	ALCP I	Atlanta, Ga.
Jan. 15-17	ALCP II	Atlanta, Ga.
Feb. 24-26	ALCP I	Alexandria, Va.
Feb. 26-28	ALCP I	Alexandria, Va.
March 3-4	ALCP B	Aberdeen, Md.
March 17-19	ALCP I	Orlando, Fla.
March 19-21	ALCP I	Orlando, Fla.
April 28-30	ALCP I	Aberdeen, Md.
April 30-May 2	ALCP I	Aberdeen, Md.
May 19-21	ALCP I	Atlanta, Ga.
May 21-23	ALCP II	Atlanta, Ga.
June 9-11	ALCP I	Warren, Mich.
June 11-13	ALCP II	Warren, Mich.
June 23-24	ALCP B	Huntsville, Ala.
July 28-30	ALCP I	Huntsville, Ala.
July 30-Aug. 1	ALCP I	Huntsville, Ala.
Aug. 18-20	ALCP I	Atlanta, Ga.
Aug. 20-22	ALCP II	Atlanta, Ga.
Aug. 25-26	ALCP B	Atlanta, Ga.
Aug. 27-28	ALCP B	Atlanta, Ga.

## FY14 Acquisition Certification Changes

U.S. ARMY ACQUISITION SUPPORT CENTER (AUGUST 2013)

DoD Acquisition, Technology & Logistics career field certification standards are implemented on Oct. 1 of each fiscal year. FY14 changes are outlined in a table at <http://asc.army.mil/web/access-acquisition-education-and-training-corner-3-10/>. The changes in these 11 certification requirements become effective for the respective career fields on Oct. 1. For career fields not listed, there are no approved changes to date. To view the most current career field certification standards required for your current acquisition position, please access DAU's iCatalog at <http://icatalog.dau.mil/>.

## Nominees Sought for Verne Orr Award

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (SEPT. 26, 2013)

Gloria Kwizera

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS)—Air Force Personnel Center officials are accepting nominations for the 2014 Verne Orr Award.

The Air Force Association established this award in honor of former Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr to recognize

mission-oriented unit accomplishments and achievements that used personnel to their full potential in order to accomplish the mission.

The Verne Orr Award, which recognizes an Air Force unit's effective use of human resources, is open to all Air Force units and organizations regardless of size.

Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their major command, combatant command, field operating agency, or direct reporting unit for applicable suspense dates and additional information regarding nomination procedures.

Each major command, combatant command, field operating activity, and direct reporting unit may submit one nomination. Completed nomination packages are due to the Air Force Personnel Center by Jan. 7, 2014.

For more information on Air Force recognition programs and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

### Percentage of Veterans Hired for Executive Branch Increases

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE (OCT. 30, 2013)

WASHINGTON—The federal government's executive branch hired the highest percentage of military veterans in more than 20 years during fiscal year 2012, surpassing the previous high set in fiscal 2011, Office of Personnel Management officials announced today.

The numbers were contained in the report of Employment of Veterans in the Federal Executive Branch for Fiscal Year 2012, which also was released today.

The government hired about 195,000 new employees in fiscal 2012, compared to about 230,000 new employees in fiscal 2011—a reduction of more than 34,000 total hires. Some 56,000 of the fiscal 2012 hires, 28.9 percent, were veterans, officials said. This is a 4.9-percentage-point increase over the fiscal 2009 baseline of 24.0 percent, and about 0.6 percentage points higher than the 28.3 percent realized in fiscal 2011, they added.

In fiscal 2012, veterans represented 29.7 percent of the workforce. In fiscal 2009, about 25.8 percent of the workforce was composed of veterans.

President Barack Obama signed an executive order establishing the Veterans Employment Initiative in November

2009 to improve employment opportunities for veterans. Through the leadership of the Council on Veterans Employment, this initiative continues to produce positive results by recruiting and employing veterans, OPM officials said.

### AF Seeks DoD Civilian Award Nominations

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (NOV. 26, 2013)  
Gloria Kwizera

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—Nominations for the 59th Annual Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award are due to the Air Force Personnel Center by Feb. 25.

The award is the highest presented to DoD career civilian employees whose careers reflect exceptional devotion to duty and significant contributions of broad scope to DoD operational efficiency, economy, or other improvements.

Each major command, combatant command, field operating agency, and direct reporting unit may submit one nomination in each category. Organizations and base-level personnel must contact their major command, combatant command, field operating activity, or direct reporting unit for applicable suspense dates and nomination procedures.

For more information on Air Force recognition programs and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

### Secretary of State Announces Public-Private Veterans Partnership

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (OCT. 31, 2013)  
Cheryl Pellerin

WASHINGTON—Secretary of State John F. Kerry today announced a new public-private partnership intended to help veterans find international employment opportunities in the private and public sectors.

"The Veterans Innovation Partnership, VIP as we are calling it, is not about just what the State Department can do for veterans, it's really based on the notion that veterans can do a lot for the State Department and that we would be foolish not to try to reach out and harness the talent that exists," Kerry told an audience at the State Department.

Kerry, a Vietnam veteran, said he's always believed that military experience helps validate ways in which those with such experience can project America's values abroad.

"Through the VIP we hope to bring together U.S. government agencies and private-sector leaders to seek out those

who have served America and who are interested in international issues,” Kerry said.

The program will provide veterans with fellowship opportunities at the State Department and other partners in the effort, including USAID, the Overseas Private Investment Corp., and the Millennium Challenge Corp.

Through VIP, Kerry said, veterans get help finding international employment opportunities in the private and public sectors.

“We need more people like Corneal Hunter, who served with the Army in Operation Desert Storm and in Kosovo and who now brings his understanding of budgeting and management as a budget analyst in the State Department’s Bureau of Diplomatic Service,” the secretary said.

Kerry also mentioned Phil Schlatter, executive director of the Bureau of the Comptroller and Global Financial Services, whose 10-year career at the State Department was preceded by 22 years of military service that gave him experience at command levels and staff levels.

And Joan St. Marie, whose Air Force experience in disaster preparedness, shelter operations, and emergency management prepared her for her current role in the department’s Bureau of African Affairs.

“I am absolutely convinced of the enormous talent and capacity that veterans can bring to this department to augment what we try to do on a global basis,” Kerry said, “and do so with a unique credibility, a unique ability to validate both the values and the interest that we are trying to represent.”

The secretary expressed gratitude for partners who have signed up to work with the VIP program, including the University of Massachusetts in Boston and iRobot, a Bedford, Mass., robot design and manufacturing company founded in 1990 by Massachusetts Institute of Technology roboticists to make practical robots.

Kerry welcomed others from the private sector and civil society who wish to contribute to the VIP initiative.

“The bottom line is pretty simple,” he said. “I believe that those who’ve worn the uniform and gone through the training and the experience of leadership and partnership in so many different ways ... within our armed services all have shown that they know how to serve in one capacity and through that capacity have developed a capacity to be able to serve yet again on another front.”

Kerry said he wants the State Department, USAID, and the other VIP partners to welcome every veteran who is interested in the program.

“More than that,” he added, “we want to find them, we want to seek them out, and we want to put them back into service for their country, knowing that will make our country stronger and it will make our departments that much more effective.”

### **A Worthy Endeavor: Science at Sea**

*OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH (OCT. 31, 2013)*

David Smalley

ARLINGTON, Va.—Officials at the Office of Naval Research (ONR) marked another successful chapter in training new generations of scientists at sea Oct. 31, as the research vessel *Endeavor* returned to port in Narragansett, R.I., after its latest voyage.

As the Navy’s science and engineering workforce ages—50 percent will be retirement eligible by 2020—ONR has stressed the importance of providing sea-based experience and training to future scientists, including through the Chief Scientist Training Program, sponsored jointly with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System.

“We’re training the next generation of sea-going scientists, which is essential for the future of naval research,” said Tim Schnoor, a program officer at ONR’s Ocean Battlespace Sensing Department. “The training program is great for the Navy and nation, and an invaluable opportunity for graduate and post-doctoral ocean scientists to lead research teams and conduct vital research at sea.”

The scientists on R/V *Endeavor* conducted a range of experiments off the New England coast during the week-long event, including photography and filming of particles at work in the ocean, and analysis of ocean currents that could have a direct impact on the safety and effectiveness of naval operations.

In addition to the research itself, the program trains early-career scientists to manage the extensive workload demanded of chief scientists—those who lead teams of researchers at sea—including: organizing delivery of different research tools to the ship; supervising paperwork such as passports and customs forms for multiple people involved; learning vessel capabilities; and coordinating numerous details of the voyage with the ship’s crew.

"This program will help to facilitate years of cutting-edge ocean research—and help ensure that our investments in ocean science are carried out in the most effective, efficient, and safe manner possible," said Dr. Andrew McDonnell, assistant professor of oceanography at the University of Alaska, who took part in the voyage.

The effort aligns with the Chief of Naval Operations' Navigation Plan, which stresses the need to develop capabilities for future naval operations.

It also aligns with Chief of Naval Research Rear Adm. Matthew Klunder's support for scientific partnerships as a way to not only help reduce costs, but also share the benefits of multiple intellectual inputs. R/V *Endeavor*, for example, is based at the University of Rhode Island, but owned by NSF. ONR's six research vessels are also available for the program.

"We get a large payoff for a relatively small investment of time and resources," said Schnoor.

ONR has a long tradition of sponsoring sea-based training and scientific exploration. As far back as October of 1946, mere months after the command was established, 91 lucky science-inclined high school boys were selected for the first Navy Science Cruiser at-sea course.

"This program offers scientists opportunities to test compelling research ideas, work collaboratively, and acquire samples critical for developing future oceanographic field programs," said Dr. Clare Reimers, a professor at Oregon State and the program coordinator.

ONR provides the science and technology necessary to maintain the Navy and Marine Corps' technological advantage. Through its affiliates, ONR is a leader in science and technology with engagement in 50 states, 70 countries, 1,035 institutions of higher learning, and 914 industry partners. ONR employs approximately 1,400 people, comprising uniformed, civilian and contract personnel, with additional employees at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C.

For more news from Office of Naval Research, visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/onr/>.

### **FY13 Goes Out With a Win for Certification Requirements—FY14 Brings Renewed DACM Focus on Acquisition Workforce Professionalism**

*U.S. ARMY DIRECTOR, ACQUISITION CAREER MANAGEMENT OFFICE (NOVEMBER 2013)*

At the Q4 FY13 General Officer/Senior Executive Service (GO/SES) Acquisition Workforce Update meeting on Nov. 1, the Army Director of Acquisition Career Management (DACM) Lt. Gen. William N. Phillips and other Army senior leaders reviewed the outstanding achievements made by the Army Acquisition Workforce in meeting Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) statutory certification requirements in FY13. A whopping 95 percent of the workforce is certified or within the grace period—the highest rate ever. Additionally, 81 percent of the workforce is on track to meet the 80 Continuous Learning Points (CLPs) required by Sept. 30, 2014—the end of the 2-year cycle.

The intent of DAWIA is to ensure acquisition workforce professionalism. Phillips believes continued improvements can be made in the professionalism of this prestigious, 40,000-strong acquisition workforce. His renewed focus for FY14 is to achieve and maintain a certified/within grace period rate of 96 percent—with a concerted effort to reduce delinquencies among the "habitually delinquent" workforce members (84-plus months delinquent in their certification). The DACM also intends to pursue delinquencies among commands and organizations with a low density of acquisition personnel—this segment makes up 4 percent of the workforce.

FY14 DACM Certification Goals are:

- No less than a 96 percent certified or within grace period rate.
- Reduce habitual delinquencies (84+ months delinquent) by 50 percent (4QFY13 = 349; plan for 4QFY14 = 175).
- 100 percent of acquisition personnel attain the 80 CLP requirement by Sept. 30, 2014. The DACM will track progress by command to ensure that goal is reached.
- Achieve and maintain no higher than 1 percent for Defense Acquisition University "no shows" and 2 percent for class failures (FY13 no-shows = 1.8 percent; FY13 failures = 2.2 percent).

The Army Acquisition Workforce relies on a culture of improvement to ensure the needs of the soldier are continually realized. It takes a combination of teamwork, communication, and leadership involvement to make certain that acquisition workforce professionals meet the established standards. FY13 was a significant success for the workforce, and FY14 will raise us to even new heights.

### **AF Selects 6 Captains for Prestigious PhD Program**

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (NOV. 7, 2013)

Debbie Gildea

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—Three primary and three alternate program participants were selected for the 2014 Chief of Staff of the Air Force Captains Prestigious PhD Program, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

Primary selectees include Captains Peter Dyrud, Air Combat Command; Christopher Berardi, Air Force Materiel Command; and Kelly Elizabeth Atkinson, Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency.

Alternates include Captains Matthew Hammerle, Air Mobility Command; Philip Cho, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center; and Caleb Slayton, Air Force Special Operations Command.

“The panel assessed applicants based on job performance and academic experience, and some truly outstanding officers applied. It was a very competitive group and selection was far from simple,” said Tech. Sgt. Jason Franklin, the AFPC Officer Developmental Education section.

The purpose of the program is to develop a cadre of strategic thinkers who can be mentored and guided, Franklin said.

“Providing opportunities for intellectual development—coupled with other leadership programs—helps the Air Force prepare young officers to be strong joint leaders, able to communicate at a strategic level with civilian leaders across enterprises,” said Maj. Yulanda Bogany, the Officer Developmental Education section chief.

Officers selected for the program may pursue studies in history, political science, international relations, economics, philosophy, international business relations, international security studies, or political systems and theories.

For more information about the annual program and other personnel issues, go to the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

### **911 Officers, Civilians Selected for Developmental Education**

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (NOV. 14, 2013)

Debbie Gildea

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—More than 800 officers and 111 civilians were selected for intermediate and senior developmental education by the 2013 Developmental Education Designation Board, which con-

vened here Nov. 4, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced today.

Despite the government shutdown that delayed the board by a month, results were tallied and released within the timelines announced in March.

Go to <http://www.afpc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-131114-065.pdf> to see the selectee list.

“Developmental education helps develop strategic leaders who are able to train, equip, and lead the force through the challenges ahead. As a result, selection is a very competitive and deliberate process,” said Lt. Col. Calvin Daniels, the AFPC developmental education/force development branch chief.

This year, the process was even more complex than in years past because the Developmental Education team faced an intermediate developmental education or IDE “bow wave,” Daniels said. This year, 6,337 eligible officers were considered for 497 slots.

“We had 28 percent more people eligible for IDE consideration than in previous years, and 16 percent fewer seats because of reduced funding over the past few years,” Daniels said. “To overcome the bow wave, the Air Force sharply reduced the number of candidates that functional communities could vector to one candidate per development team. As a result, instead of sending more than 150 candidates to school, the Air Force will send 24.”

The “bow wave” situation—driven by fiscal restraints that limit the number of seats available—is expected to affect IDE selections for the next two years, the colonel added.

Civilian airmen are also selected for IDE and senior developmental education, or SDE, based on their potential to help guide the Air Force toward mission accomplishment, said Loretta Brown, the AFPC Civilian Force Integration Directorate leadership development branch chief.

“Intermediate and senior developmental opportunities are critical to ensure civilian leaders are fully integrated into leadership and decision-making teams,” Brown said.

Selection for civilian IDE and SDE slots is also very competitive, she added, explaining that 68 primary candidates and 43 alternates were selected out of 200 candidates.

"While the civilian workforce was challenged with furlough and sequestration, there was a 17 percent increase in applications from last year," Brown said.

Airmen selected for IDE and SDE will attend advanced training and senior leader development programs including Air War College, the Executive Leadership Development Program, and more.

For more information about the annual DEDB selection process and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

### **Comptroller: Instability Affects Readiness, Civilian Workforce**

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (NOV. 18, 2013)

Cheryl Pellerin

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department has assumed a substantial level of risk to military readiness and to its civilian workforce because of the long-term instability of its budget and the budget process, Pentagon Comptroller Robert F. Hale said here last week.

Speaking Nov. 14 at the Defense One Summit, the department's chief financial officer told interviewer Tom Shoop, editor in chief of *Government Executive*, that DoD had to cut \$37 billion in 2012—\$20 billion of that in its operating budget.

"Unfortunately, last year we also underestimated somewhat our wartime budget, so we faced a \$30 billion shortfall in our operating budget with six months to go—about 15 percent," he added. "And we did have to jam on the fiscal brakes."

DoD officials slashed facilities maintenance, froze hiring, laid off temporary and term workers, and made major cuts in training and maintenance, Hale said, causing the Air Force to stop flying and the Army to stop training brigade combat teams.

"That has taken a toll," the comptroller said. "We clearly have degraded readiness in the military right now."

Hale told Shoop that he likens defense to an insurance policy.

"What we've done is greatly raise the deductible," Hale said of the 2011 Budget Control Act's severe budget cuts known as sequestration. "If you never have to make a claim, you won't notice it. [But] if you have to make a claim, if there's a major contingency operation, I think we'll regret what we've had to do in terms of military readiness."

Hale said he also worries about the civilian workforce, 650,000 of whom were furloughed for six days this summer without pay and then again during the government shutdown in October. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel arranged for many DoD civilians to return to work during the shutdown, and all employees eventually were paid for the work days they missed in October.

"I think low morale, which is clearly the case right now in our civilian workforce, is going to hurt productivity throughout our support activities," Hale said, "so I'm quite concerned about our civilians, and I'm hoping things stabilize so we can treat them the way we want to."

Hale said if the department has to do "more bad things" to the civilian workforce, he's concerned DoD could lose its best employees and might not be able to recruit the best.

"We haven't been recruiting all that much because of the hiring freeze, but that's going to change," he said. "And I don't know what will happen when we compete with private industry in an economy that's beginning to pep up a bit, so it's a worry. I think it's a worry to all of us."

Uncertainty is one of Hale's biggest challenges, he told Shoop.

"At the moment we're looking at ranges, because we don't know where we're going to end up," Hale said. "We're not only facing uncertainty on the fiscal 2015 budget, but we're facing uncertainty on the fiscal 2014 budget, and we're a month and a half into the fiscal year."

The difference between the president's budget level and the sequester level required by the Budget Control Act is about \$50 billion in fiscal years 2015 and 2016, Hale said.

"We're trying to plan across that range," he added. "And we're taking a good guess at where we will end up in fiscal 2014, since it, too, could experience a range of ... at least plus or minus \$20 billion or \$25 billion. So [we have] enormous uncertainty—I think unparalleled. I've been at this a while, and I don't ever remember a time when we faced as much uncertainty as we do at this moment."

So far in fiscal 2014, which began Oct. 1, the Defense Department and every other government agency are operating under a continuing resolution instead of a budget for the full fiscal year.

"Continuing resolutions are tough—a kind of 'Groundhog Day' approach to budgeting when you can't figure out what

to do, so you do the same thing this month you did last fiscal year," Hale said. "Essentially, we have elected to start executing at the continuing-resolution level, which is around \$30 billion lower than our budget request, or even a bit below that because of the enormous uncertainty we face—particularly for the operating accounts where you spend a twelfth of the money every month."

The comptroller said his department wanted to be at a lower level so they didn't have to face a situation in two or three months when they'd have to jam on the fiscal brakes as they had to do last year.

"We need some budgetary stability out of the Congress," he said. "I hope it comes about."

### **Program Wants 5,000 Vets in Wireless Tech Jobs by 2015**

*AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (NOV. 20, 2013)*

WASHINGTON—Today, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy joined with a coalition of private-sector partners from the telecommunications industry to launch "Warriors 4 Wireless," a new nonprofit program aimed at connecting veterans and returning service members to jobs in the rapidly growing wireless telecommunications industry.

A White House release said the program includes stakeholders from Joining Forces—a national initiative that provides opportunities and support to military members and their families—as well as from the private sector, the federal government, the U.S. military, and industry trade associations committed to scaling successful training models for veterans with wireless-relevant skills.

Warriors 4 Wireless builds on a Veterans IT Training and Certification program, launched at the White House in April 2013 in response to a call to action by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama asking industries to make it easier for military service members and veterans to receive civilian training and certifications, according to the release.

Although the majority of IT specialists in the military receive training that is equivalent to their civilian IT counterparts, they typically do not have industry-recognized certifications that reflect the IT skills and expertise gained during service, the release said.

"The administration is committed to the care of all service members, veterans, and their families," Army Col. Rich Morales, executive director of Joining Forces, said in the release. "We are proud to support initiatives like Warriors for Wireless that play a critical role in connecting members of the

armed forces leaving military service to the jobs training and certification necessary to obtain many high-tech, high-skilled jobs in the private sector."

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler said in the release, "I wholeheartedly salute the Warriors for Wireless initiative aimed at connecting our Nation's veterans and returning service members to jobs in the rapidly growing wireless telecommunications industry. It's a win for the increasing number of Americans across our nation who rely on wireless networks at work and at home, and the exciting new opportunities that these networks are helping create in health care, education and every corner of our economy. Let's work together to make it a success."

The Warriors 4 Wireless program is designed to help address the shortage of skilled jobs for returning veterans while satisfying the wireless industry's immediate need for skilled tower-climbers to rapidly, efficiently, and safely deploy wireless telecommunications equipment and facilities.

The Warriors 4 Wireless pilot program was launched in Washington, D.C., in 2012, achieving an 86 percent job-placement rate for the more than 50 participating veterans, according to the release. Today's event will expand the pilot program to a nationwide initiative, with the launch of new partners and industry commitments.

Industry partners—including Cisco, American Tower, Dynis, and PCIA—are supporting Warriors 4 Wireless in a number of ways, including by providing industry-recognized technical and safety training and certifications to veterans, developing new curricula and skills-training modules, and connecting transitioning service members to available wireless-industry jobs across the country, the release said.

Among the new commitments announced at today's event:

- Dynis has trained and employed more than 50 servicemen and women through the Warriors 4 Wireless pilot program over the past year. Dynis will continue to support an expanded Warriors 4 Wireless program through equipment contributions and curriculum development, and by providing training opportunities, training instructors, and funding.
- MasTec is providing training facilities and instructors to support Warriors 4 Wireless, and has committed to connect 1,500-plus expected MasTec job openings in the first half of 2014 to veterans and service members participating in the Warriors 4 Wireless program.
- American Tower Company is partnering with Warriors 4 Wireless to help launch careers in the wireless industry for returning service members. ATC will provide participants access to select assets in the ATC tower portfolio for

training and certification and it is working to help connect program graduates with potential employment opportunities at ATC. Additionally, ATC is supporting the design and implementation of the Warriors 4 Wireless Training Program at Aiken Technical College in South Carolina.

- Futures, Inc., is providing the "US IT Pipeline" online platform, originally developed for the IT Training and Certification Program launched last April, which will be the centralized hub for matching and connecting service members with civilian training, certifications, and employment opportunities as part of the Warriors 4 Wireless program.
- Cisco is committed to helping train, connect, and hire veterans as they transition from the military to the private sector. Through support of the US IT Pipeline, Cisco will continue to work with Futures, Inc., and other Warriors 4 Wireless partners to provide training and access to high-skilled job opportunities to servicemen and women. Additionally, Cisco will provide support to help enable wireless employers and veteran job applicants to conduct virtual interviews from anywhere around the globe.
- *Outside Planet Magazine*, a telecommunications industry publication, is supporting the mission of Warriors 4 Wireless by donating media and advertising support to raise awareness about these efforts.
- In addition, Pricewaterhouse Cooper, T-Mobile, Novation, PCIA, the Wireless Infrastructure Association, CTIA, the Wireless Association, and the Competitive Carriers Association will also provide additional support and financial assistance to the initiative.

Tom Kalil, deputy director for technology and innovation at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, said, "Today's employers require a workforce equipped with 21st-century skills and training. Our men and women in the armed forces are uniquely positioned with the knowledge and drive to succeed, but may lack certain industry qualifications. We applaud this initiative aimed at enabling thousands of service members to earn industry-recognized credentials and translate their military experience into private-sector careers."

William Towery, a retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 who received Fiber Optics Installer/Technician certifications and other certifications through the Warriors 4 Wireless pilot program has a blog post that can be viewed at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/11/19/guest-blog-how-i-transitioned-high-tech-job-after-20-years-military>.

### New DoD Instruction Aims to Streamline Acquisition Process

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (DEC. 3, 2013)

Jim Garamone

WASHINGTON—In one of his last acts as deputy defense secretary, Ash Carter signed a memorandum putting in place a DoD instruction designed to streamline the acquisition process, Pentagon officials announced yesterday.

DoD Instruction 5000.02, entitled *Operation of the Defense Acquisition System* and signed Nov. 26, is an interim document put in place, "to create an acquisition policy environment that will achieve greater efficiency and productivity in defense spending and effectively implement the department's Better Buying Power initiatives."

The interim instruction replaces one signed Dec. 8, 2008.

One purpose of the new instruction is to include a number of statutes and regulations that have been passed and adopted since 2008, said Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics.

The body of law that has developed over the decades since the Goldwater-Nichols Act passed in the mid-1980s places an extraordinary and unnecessarily complex burden on program managers and staffs, he said.

Kendall has tasked Andrew Hunter, the director of the Joint Rapid Acquisition Office, to lead a team to suggest legislation to simplify the existing body of law and replace it with a more coherent and user-friendly set of requirements.

"We will work closely with the Congress as we develop this proposal over the next few months," he said.

The new 5000.02 is organized with the main body describing the steps and decision points in the acquisition process. While the acquisition outline will remain basically the same, the new instruction introduces two new decision points: the requirements decision point, and a development request for proposal release decision point.

The requirements decision point is the starting point for the requirements analysis and allocation system engineering process that culminates at the preliminary design review, Kendall said. This decision is also necessary to inform the request for proposal for the development phase.

The development request for proposal release decision point formalizes what acquisition professionals have already been doing, Kendall said.

"I regard this as the most important single decision point in the entire life cycle because the release of the engineering and manufacturing decision [Request for Proposal] sets in motion everything that will follow in the product's life cycle," he said.

Updating 5000.02 also provided an opportunity to integrate several of the Better Buying Power initiatives into the document, Pentagon officials said.

The interim instruction reinforces the importance and primacy of the acquisition chain of command, Kendall said. The bottom line is that acquisition executives, program executive officers, and program managers are responsible and accountable for the programs they manage.

"Everyone else has a supporting or advisory role," he said.

Kendall said the new 5000.02 will be in place in 180 days, but that "continuous improvement never ceases."

He encourages acquisition professionals with ideas to continue to make the acquisition process as efficient and effective as it can be.

### Civilian Deployment Training Continues at Camp Atterbury

CAMP ATTERBURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS (DEC. 4, 2013)

Army Maj. Lisa Kopczynski and Timothy Sproles

CAMP ATTERBURY JOINT MANEUVER TRAINING CENTER, Edinburgh, Ind.—Although military mobilizations are scaled down and unit deployments are no longer a primary mission set here due to the drawdown of troops overseas, hundreds of contractors from various agencies or contract companies from around the nation continue to deploy civilians to regions around the world from Camp Atterbury.

That mission is called the Individual Replacement Deployment Operations—better-known as IRDO. It is a world-class training program for deploying contractors and civilians who are authorized to accompany U.S. military forces in combatant commands operating overseas.



Civilian contractors participate in personal protective equipment familiarization classes at the Individual Replacement Deployment Operations complex on the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center in Edinburgh, Ind., Nov. 20, 2013.

Indiana Army National Guard photo by Timothy Sproles

IRDO is a six-day, 40-hour program of instruction that runs from Sunday through Friday. According to Indiana Army National Guard Capt. Matthew Limeberry, IRDO operations officer, the program is designed to meet all command theater entry requirements and validates personnel prior to deployment.

"What makes Camp Atterbury and the IRDO operation so unique is, first off, our walking campus," Limeberry said.

The operation also provides excellent customer service, he said.

"We give them [civilians] the individual detail that they would demand as you would walk into any store on the market, Limeberry said. "We greet them with a smile on day zero and we're by their side the entire time."

Lisa Mickles, who hails from Corinth, Miss., is a Department of the Army civilian assigned to the 59th Signal Battalion and stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska. She recently volunteered for the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce program and is now in Afghanistan supporting logistics operations.

Prior to her departure to Afghanistan, Mickles was asked about her time at Camp Atterbury.

"I am a firm believer, that if the nation calls on us or our warfighters need us, that civilians should deploy to assist them," she said. Mickles has deployed many times from other locations around the nation, she said, but this is her first visit to Camp Atterbury.

"Everything has run very smoothly," Mickles said. "They've kept us on a schedule, but it has been open and flowing so we've had time to do things we need to do in order to deploy."

Afghanistan-bound Otis Sutton, from Los Angeles, is a Department of Energy contractor working for Airscan Inc. He is also an Air Force veteran who served six years before departing the military in 2011. He very much wanted to be involved in military operations and believes his contract job offers him just that experience.

Sutton has deployed for other contractors before, he said. Atterbury's civilian deployment training program is organized, he added.

"How they divide the teams up is actually kind of beneficial in deconflicting a lot of the same activities we have to do," he said. "It really makes it easy to move through and get your requirements knocked out."

IRDO representatives recently took some employers through multiple phases of the civilian deployment processing system here, to include visits to the central issue facility, the medical, finance, and personnel processing sections, and the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle trainer.

One employer, Ivelina Konstantinova, a mobilization and deployment manager with Trace Systems in Tysons Corner, Va., said she was impressed with the operation.

Konstantinova said it was a great opportunity that the IRDO team proposed a seminar for deployment managers, which provided an overview of predeployment training for civilians and contractors.

"The team has done a marvelous job and I am very fortunate to come out and see what they did," Konstantinova said. "You cannot tell your contractors what to expect without having been through the same process. You can tell them all the information that is out there, but if you actually go through the process and know what you need to expect then you are better prepared as individuals and as a company."

Sheila Wines is a contract manager with Scitor Corporation in Reston, Va. She took the time to travel here to learn more about the training program and was pleased with how accommodating, well organized, and detailed it is.

"We had the opportunity and the privilege of walking in the steps of what our people would do when they are processing and getting ready to deploy," Wines said.