

U.S. Army FY14 Acquisition Education and Training Announcement

U.S. ARMY ACQUISITION SUPPORT CENTER

The FY14 schedule for the Acquisition Leadership Challenge Program (ALCP) follows. Please contact your command or organization acquisition career management advocate or organizational acquisition point of contact.

DATE	OFFERING TYPE COURSE LEVEL	LOCATION
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.

DARPA Young Faculty Award Members Get Hands-On Look at How Military Technology Supports Troops

DARPA NEWS (May 2, 2014)

Preserving and expanding the technological superiority of the U.S. military requires sustaining a pipeline of talented scientists, engineers, and mathematicians who pursue high-risk, high-payoff fundamental research in disciplines that address critical Department of Defense (DoD) and national security needs. DARPA's Young Faculty Award (YFA) program supports that goal by helping promising tenure-track faculty members better understand the federal research and development process generally and Department of Defense (DoD) and national security research needs in particular.

"Not only does the YFA program give participants the opportunity to engage with DoD and DARPA, but DARPA also gets the opportunity to interact with the next generation of academia and see what these innovators are doing at the cutting edge of technology," said Bill Chappell, acting office director for DARPA's Microsystems Technology Office.

In addition to funding, mentoring from DARPA program managers and networking opportunities, the program provides opportunities for recipients to go on military site visits. A small group of YFA scholars recently took such a trip to the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (NSWC Crane) and the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center (MUTC) in Indiana. The YFA scholars took advantage of the opportunity to engage with military organizations that directly support technology transition and nontraditional training missions.

As visitors to NSWC Crane, in Crane, Indiana, the YFA recipients gained a more thorough understanding of the

technology support and transition assistance provided to sailors, ranging from quality control in small arms and night vision equipment to larger system upgrades in radar and platform sensors. The group toured several of the directorates at NSWC Crane, including the Special Missions Center, the Electronic Warfare Center, and the Strategic Missions Center, where they engaged with technical experts to understand the rigorous level of oversight and life-cycle maintenance that goes into high-tech systems upon which U.S. warfighters rely.

By interacting with NSWC Crane personnel, YFA members gained insights into how technology is applied to address issues identified by warfighters in the field.

"The close interaction with the dedicated and professional military personnel has allowed us to identify new potential collaboration opportunities," says 2012 YFA recipient Dario Pompili of Rutgers University.

The visit to MUTC near Butlerville, Indiana, gave the award-ees a chance to see some of the urban training simulation capabilities in action. Overseen by the Indiana National Guard, MUTC provides a realistic training environment that mimics conditions that warfighters might encounter during ground operations. Scenarios include shanty towns and disaster areas, religious and educational districts, a flooded city, a collapsed parking garage, as well as residential neighborhoods that are representative of cities around the world. Trap doors lead to underground caves and tunnels.

MUTC is currently used as a training center for tactical teams from government and military entities facing deployments to potentially dangerous locations. These organizations include the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, special operations forces, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"Muscatatuck is an amazing site for experimental robotics work—I can't wait to bring my research there," said Edwin Olson, a 2013 awardee from the University of Michigan. Olson intends to return to the facility in August 2014 for testing and evaluation of autonomous systems he is developing through his DARPA award.

The YFA recipients who visited NSWC Crane and MUTC and the title of their ongoing, DARPA-sponsored research are:

- Jonathan Hauenstein, North Carolina State University – Numerical Algebraic Geometric Methods for Data Analysis

DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE ACHIEVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT AWARDS FOR 2014

On May 19, 2014, the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition Technology and Logistics announced the call for nominations for the 2014 Defense Acquisition Workforce Achievement and Development Awards. This awards program advances the Better Buying Power 2.0 objective of improving the professionalism of the total acquisition workforce through increased recognition of superior acquisition management.

According to the USD(AT&L) memo, "the 2014 Individual Achievement Award recognizes our top performers in each of the 16 acquisition functional categories. New categories this year include Small Business, Earned Value Management, Requirements, and Services Acquisition. The 2014 Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Award recognizes field organizations for their excellence in creating a highly qualified and professional workforce. Eligibility and selection criteria for both awards, along with administrative procedures and the application form, are provided at [https://acc.dau.mil/adl/en-US/706681/file/77055/05-19-14%20-%202014%20USD\(AT_L\)%20Def%20Acq%20WF%20Awards%20Call%20for%20Nominations.pdf](https://acc.dau.mil/adl/en-US/706681/file/77055/05-19-14%20-%202014%20USD(AT_L)%20Def%20Acq%20WF%20Awards%20Call%20for%20Nominations.pdf).

"The selection criteria include specific emphasis on how accomplishments contribute to achieving Better Buying Power objectives. Nominations must be endorsed by the Component Acquisition Executive and submitted electronically by **August 1, 2014**. Nominations should be sent to achievement.award@dau.mil for the Individual Achievement Awards and to development.award@dau.mil for the Organizational Development Awards. Additional information will be provided at <http://www.dau.mil/acqawards>. It is important that we continue to recognize the outstanding contributions of our acquisition, technology, and logistics professionals. Award winners will be honored at a ceremony in late 2014, and recipients will be highlighted in a Pentagon display for one year. Thank you once again for nominating individuals and organizations most deserving of recognition."

The Life Cycle Logistics career field is, of course, one of the 16 award category objectives. Again, nominations must be endorsed by the Component Acquisition Executive and submitted electronically by **August 1, 2014**.

Posted by Bill Kobren, DAU Director, Logistics & Sustainment Center, May 20, 2014.

- Edwin Olson, University of Michigan – Mutual Modeling for Human/Robot Teaming with Minimal Communications
- Dario Pompili, Rutgers University – Towards Real-time Vital Sign Data Processing in Mobile Computing Grids for Advanced Operational Neuroscience
- Walter Voit, University of Texas, Dallas – Smart Polymer Devices for Chronic Multifascicular Microstimulation
- Fuzhong Zhang, Washington University in St. Louis – Bio-synthesis of Non-Natural Fatty Acids for the Production of Chemicals and Advanced Biofuels

Lists of YFA recipients are available on the DARPA website at http://www.darpa.mil/Opportunities/Universities/Young_Faculty.aspx. Tenure-track faculty interested in applying are encouraged to frequent <http://www.fbo.gov> and <http://www.grants.gov>.

Majors, Major-selects May Be Eligible For Executive Leadership Program

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MAY 6, 2014)
Debbie Gildea

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—Active duty majors and major-selects interested in the Department of Defense 2014-2015 Executive Leadership Development Program must submit their application packages by May 31, Air Force Personnel Center officials said May 6.

The program provides a new approach to training civilian employees by including military participants and inter-agency partners that parallel certain aspects of selected military training, said Tech. Sgt. Jason Franklin, AFPC officer developmental education.

"Military participants contribute a vital perspective on the missions, operations, culture, and customs of the military," Franklin said. "These shared experiences enrich both mili-

tary and civilian participants who are being groomed for further leadership roles.”

Participants function in a simulated environment where they focus on real-life situations that involve short deadlines and require thoughtful decision-making.

“Candidates must be receptive to a unique training methodology, able to assume responsibility for their own learning, and be able to conceptualize and analyze problems effectively,” Franklin said. “This program is designed specifically for highly motivated officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership ability, commitment to public service and integrity, and who have an interest in moving into senior management positions.”

Military members remain in their current assignments throughout the program, with the exception of 75 days that are spent in training, briefings and trips to learning environments.

Because participation is not associated with a permanent change of station, those selected will not incur an additional active duty service commitment.

In addition to grade requirements, applicants must have completed Squadron Officer School and intermediate developmental education, and must have successfully commanded a flight or higher level organization.

Participants’ home units are responsible for travel and per diem costs, so applications must include a recommendation statement from the first colonel with a valid senior rater identifier or equivalent in the chain of command acknowledging awareness of that fact.

The Air Force selection board will convene in June to identify three primary and three alternate Air Force nominees, who will represent the Air Force at the DoD selection board in July. Selectees will be notified and will participate in a program orientation in August, and the first event will be held in October.

For more information about the program, including complete eligibility requirements and application instructions, go to <https://mypers.af.mil/>, select “search all components” from the search drop down menu, enter “Active Duty Officer Developmental Education and Special Programs” in the search window. Select the page and scroll down to the Executive Leadership Development Program section.

Official: DoD Values Civilian Employees’ Contributions

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (MAY 7, 2014)

Terri Moon Cronk

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department greatly appreciates the contributions of its civilian employees as it works toward achieving more efficiency across the workforce, a senior personnel official told a Senate homeland security and governmental affairs panel yesterday.

Paige Hinkle-Bowles, deputy assistant secretary of defense for civilian personnel policy, appeared before a subcommittee hearing on efficiency and effectiveness of federal programs and the federal workforce.

“We are wholly committed to the readiness, capability, and efficiency of our total force to accomplish [DoD’s] mission,” she said. “Our people, to include our valued civilian workforce, are a central element of the department’s ability to serve the nation.”

While the nation has faced challenging times in the past few years, DoD’s civilian employees continue to demonstrate resilience and a staunch commitment to DoD’s mission, she noted.

One of the more recent high-profile impacts on the workforce was the involuntary furlough of civilian employees last year as a means to garner savings to meet sequestration mandates, Hinkle-Bowles said. But based on a 2013 Office of Personnel Management survey, she added, DoD leadership confirmed that the morale of its civilian workforce had been declining before the furloughs, likely due to continued pay freezes and limited budgets.

“Survey responses indicated that our workforce’s satisfaction with pay, opportunities for growth and advancement, and the resources available to get the job done have declined from previous years,” Hinkle-Bowles said.

But news from the survey was not entirely negative, she said.

“[DoD civilian employees] continue to be strong in personal commitment to achieving the mission, looking for ways to do the job better, work/life balance, and job satisfaction,” Hinkle-Bowles said.

While DoD has in place strategies and systems to enhance its civilian personnel workforce, officials are concerned that about 13 percent of its civilians are eligible to retire, and another 30 percent are expected to be eligible to retire within the next five years, Hinkle-Bowles said.

"We are closely monitoring these trends, recognizing the potential loss of critical skills and knowledge," she said. "To mitigate long-term consequences, we continue to use available resources and authorities to hire into critical skills. We also continue to lead the federal government in new veteran hires, retaining their capabilities and valuable skill sets within the department."

The Defense Department "values the work our civilians perform in support of our military," she added, noting that department officials recognize civilians' commitment to getting the job done, even during challenging times.

"Going forward, [DoD] is engaging and shaping our civilian workforce to increase efficiencies, ensuring that the workforce is motivated and has the skills needed for the future," Hinkle-Bowles said.

Department of Defense Finance Management (FM) Certification Program

U.S. ARMY DACM NEWS (MAY 2014)

DoD is implementing a new finance management (FM) certification program that will require Army Acquisition Workforce members to achieve the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) business-financial management certification before beginning the DoD FM certification. Those affected must maintain both DAWIA and DoD FM certifications for the duration of their FM careers. The affected positions will be dual-coded, indicating the requirement for a certification in both.

The implementation of this program is underway and is expected to culminate in early fall. The U.S. Army Materiel Command, the U.S. Army Medical Command, the Army Training and Education Center, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are a few of the Army command elements that are responsible for servicing FM workforce members who require dual-coding in both acquisition and finance management. This competency-based program directly affects approximately 800 Army Acquisition Workforce personnel in positions coded as occupational series 05xx with financial management occupational specialties.

The DoD FM certification process is automated and housed in the web-based Learning Management System (LMS), which lets users track certification progress, including administration, oversight, validation and audit-ability. LMS was designed to document and track FM workforce member work experience and developmental assignments; display individual course requirements and achievements; and house certification standards/continuing education and training (CET) hours.

The Acquisition FM workforce is required to obtain both continuous learning points (CLPs) and CET hours. Although calculation and time lines differ in how CLPs and CETs are accumulated, overlapping training hours or double-dipping is acceptable (i.e., all acquisition CLPs maybe counted toward FM CETs). Commands are responsible for ensuring that the DAWIA business-financial management workforce members are included in the organization's FM certification efforts.

Business managers and G-8 Office managers are encouraged to visit the DoD's FM Certification website at http://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/FMCertProgram/Standard_DoD_FM_Briefing.pdf to familiarize themselves with the training and tools available to the FM careerist.

A Unified Team: The Newest Army Acquisition Fellowship Graduates

U.S. ARMY ACQUISITION SUPPORT CENTER (MAY 19, 2014)

Tara Clements

FORT BELVOIR, Va.— Thirteen members of the 2011 Competitive Development Group/Army Acquisition Fellowship (CDG/AAF) were recognized at a graduation ceremony at Defense Acquisition University here hosted by the Army Director, Acquisition Career Management (DACM), Lt. Gen. Michael E. Williamson.

"What an amazing success," said Williamson. "The reason you were identified [for this program] is your ability to learn and grow. Take the experience you've had here back with you and find opportunities for others to become the next set of leaders," he added.

The CDG/AAF is a three-year developmental program designed to develop future Army acquisition leaders by offering selected applicants expanded training, leadership, experiential, and other career development opportunities. Since its inception in 1997, the program has provided board-selected individuals with essential leadership training and developmental assignments to leverage opportunities for future selection into critical acquisition and key leadership positions.

The fellows graduating Monday began their journey together on March 11, 2011, and through the process, created a "cohesive bond" and "a unified team of 13," according to Renee Kelly, one of the graduates.

"Once we all settled in and met the rest of the year group, something magical happened and we all just clicked," said Kelly during her address at the ceremony. Mentoring one another, editing reports, and helping each other through ad-

ministrative challenges were just a few of the areas for which the group relied upon each other to achieve their mutual goal and graduate from the program.

But it wasn't met without challenges. Sequestration and civilian furloughs impacted training events, rotations, and mandatory Defense Acquisition University courses. "We had obstacles along the way, but we persevered—never giving up. Failure was not an option," added Kelly.

Following 36 months of classes, institutional training and executive leadership training experiences, the fellows received their certificates of graduation ready to apply what they've learned at their respective agencies.

Contracting Panel Addresses Initiatives, Challenges

ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MAY 20, 2014)

ARLINGTON, Va. —Army and industry leaders discussed the important role of contracting in support of future forces in a panel here May 20.

The "Contractors in Support of Force 2025" panel took place during a Sustainment "Hot Topic" Forum, hosted by the Association of the United States Army.

Chaired by U.S. Army Materiel Command Deputy Commanding General Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, the panel included leaders from Army Materiel Command; the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology; the Joint Staff; and industry. The leaders shared current initiatives and challenges across the Army contracting community, before addressing questions from an audience of current and retired military and industry.

"We have proven over the last 13 years that contracts are critical to our ability to mitigate our risk, and we can count on our contracting partners to be with us on the battlefield," said McQuiston. "Contracting is a way of the future. It is in every one of our contingency plans."

Panelists addressed various topics related to contracting, including Better Buying Power initiatives, the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, and optimizing the entire Industrial Base—Organic and Industry. A recurring theme was the topic of training, for both contracting officials and those with requirements.

McQuiston discussed the Operational Contracting Support Joint Exercise, known as OCSJX, which brings together various organizations across the joint contracting community, including the requiring activities, as one initiative to bridge the gap in training.

"The best contracts happen when requiring activities are involved through the entire process," McQuiston said. "OCSJX shows the entire contracting community coming together; the framework is there now that wasn't 13 years ago."

Panel members also addressed contract costs, another common theme throughout the discussion.

Lt. Gen. Michael Williamson, military deputy/director, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, stressed that contracting officials need to focus on contract maintenance and close-out as much, if not more, than just the contract award.

"We're getting better at the contract award, but contract administration and close-out is where we'll gain the most cost savings," McQuiston agreed.

She concluded by asking industry to continue to partner with the military to get better at contracting.

"We use low price, technically acceptable contracts, and look at a best value approach to contracting," McQuiston said. "We're open to innovation and bold ideas, even in contracting strategies, and that's where we need your help."

Eligible Officers May Apply for Advanced Degree, Experience Programs

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MAY 21, 2014)

Debbie Gildea

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas—Eligible active duty officers interested in 2015 advanced academic degree and experience broadening opportunities can now apply for various developmental programs, Air Force Personnel Center officials announced.

Some officers may also be eligible to apply for instructor pipeline programs with the U.S. Air Force Academy and Air Force Institute of Technology.

"The Advanced Academic Degree and Special Experience Exchange Duties program helps us deliberately develop airmen by focusing on the right education, training, and experience at the right time in their careers," said Sophia Barnard, with the AFPC staff and special duty assignments branch. "It also helps us foster warfighting competencies in world-class leaders.

Available programs include the Air Force Institute of Technology or Naval Postgraduate School, Education with Industry, Space Lift Education and Crossover Program, Space

Acquisition Exchange Program, Acquisition and Intelligence Experience Exchange Tour, Acquisition and Logistics Experience Exchange Tour, Comptroller Operation Logistics Tour, U.S. Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School, Program for Acquisition and Contracting Exchange, Logistics Career Broadening Program, Financial Management and Contracting Exchange Program, Missile Operations and Missile Maintenance Exchange Program, and the Information Officer Engineering Exchange.

Officers must submit a completed Air Force Form 3849, PME/AFIT/RTFB Officer Worksheet, to the appropriate agencies by suspense dates identified in the 2015 AAD/SPEED Guide, available on the myPers website.

For more information and complete application instructions, go to the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil/>, select "search all components" in the drop down menu, and enter "AAD/SPEED" in the search window.

AMC's Lt. Gen. McQuiston Addresses Depot and Arsenal Executive Leaders

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (May 27, 2014)

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.—Army Materiel Command's deputy commander Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston delivered the keynote May 21 as the Depot and Arsenal Executive Leadership Program recognized its graduates at the Kenan Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School.

The event was attended by senior military officials, state government officials, corporate leaders, and faculty who support and sponsor the program.

Now in its 11th year, DAELP is designed to provide an academic and industrial experience that prepares depot commanders for their role as leaders and managers of organic industrial base facilities. The Army Materiel Command established the program and since its inception has evolved to include participants from all of the military services, the Defense Logistics Agency, and the private sector.

"The Depot and Arsenal Executive Leadership Program provides a unique opportunity to learn and participate in the best practices in a study-work program designed for DoD and industry leadership," McQuiston said.

DAELP is organized and administered by the Institute for Defense and Business and delivered in conjunction with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School.



Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston
Deputy Commander, Army Materiel Command

DoD photo

DAELP provides participants with management concepts as well as specific business tactics and strategies for effective leadership of large industrial complexes. The comprehensive educational experience, spanning seven months, is comprised of the following elements:

- Three weeks of in-residence academic instruction at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;
- A one-week series of benchmarking site visits to fellow depot and arsenal facilities as well as leading corporations;
- An online Lean Six Sigma for Executive Champions certification offered in partnership with North Carolina State University; and
- A two- to four-week corporate residency with leading private and public sector organizations.

Partner corporations include Letterkenny Army Depot, UPS, Daimler, General Dynamics, Alcoa, Mack, GE, AAR, BAE Systems, LMI, IBM, 3M, Jankel, Raytheon, Fluor, Battelle, Boeing, CAT, FedEx, Robbins Gioia, ATK, Pratt & Whitney, Sonoco, MDMC, Cisco, and Oshkosh Corporation.

The corporate residency serves as the integrative capstone for the program, allowing substantive information exchanges with executives across functional areas. This enables participants to identify industry leading practices that they can

Career Development

adapt and implement at their respective organizations to cut costs and improve efficiency.

Upon completion of their corporate residency, participants briefed a panel of military leaders, private sector executives and program faculty advisors regarding their executive corporate residency learning experience, with an emphasis on best practice replication. The panel included McQuiston; retired Lt. Gen. Kathleen Gainey, Cypress International and IDB executive fellow; Jim Brunke, Brunke & Associates and former Boeing Company vice president; and Frank Zardecki of Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Editor's note: This article was adapted from the *PRNEWS Wire*.