

DoD Change Acceleration and K Highlighted at D

Former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform) Stan Soloway, flanked by senior Department and industry officials, announces the successes of the Change Management Center at a special Pentagon press conference on Dec. 15, 2000.



Change Agent Leaders from across the Defense Department's acquisition, technology and logistics community, as well as other federal agencies and commercial industry converged on Fort Belvoir, Va., Dec. 15, 2000, for the first DoD Change Management Summit and Training Session. The Summit demonstrated how the adoption of commercial best practices and knowledge management techniques, accessible through the Department's Commercial Business Environment (CBE) portal, are changing the way the Department does business and accelerating actions in support of DoD's Revolution in Business Affairs.

First of its kind, the Summit provided an opportunity for 150 acquisition professionals to learn about the activities and successes of the Department's Change Management Center (CMC) and consider ways to use the CMC capabilities to achieve similar results in their own organizations.

Beginning with a press conference "simulcast" from the Pentagon, former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform) Stan Z. Soloway announced the findings of a recent Inspector General's report highlighting the suc-

cess of the CMC's Strategic Supplier Alliances (SSA) initiative. SSAs are revolutionizing the way organizations such as the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) are contracting with their key suppliers by bringing commercial best practices to defense procurement efforts. Navy Rear Adm. Daniel Stone, Defense Logistics Agency, and senior executives from participating companies were on hand to answer questions from the press. SSAs are providing a significant "Win-Win" opportunity and will provide support to the Warfighter "Better-Faster-Cheaper."

Following the press conference, Summit participants were introduced to the CBE portal, which offers an integrated portfolio of resources to effect change across the Department, including the commercially proven CMC Rapid Improvement Team (RIT) process, knowledge management tools to create effective communities of practice, and innovative Action Learning Workshop programs. Each of the summit sessions showcased successes achieved by the CMC over the past year and provided opportunities for participants to apply these case studies to their own organizations.

The Summit concluded with a Senior Leadership Panel, including Soloway, CMC Lead William Mounts, and Defense Reform Initiative (DRI) Deputy Director Mary Margaret Evans. The panel outlined a vision for the CMC that includes a partnership with the Defense Acquisition University to create a corporate university approach to education, as well as future efforts through DRI to maintain and expand Department-wide access to the CMC.

One participant, Margaret Proctor, a contracting officer with the Army, commented, "The summit gave me a new way of looking at the issues we face on a daily basis and how positive change can be completed in less time. I have already recommended the Change Management Summit to my co-workers."

Attendance at the Summit qualified defense acquisition professionals for continuing education credit. Because of overwhelming response to the first Summit, a second event will be repeated at Fort Belvoir Feb. 13, 2001. For more information about the upcoming summit, and how to receive your continuing education credits, contact cbeinfo@meridianksi or visit www.acq.osd.mil/ar/cbe.

Knowledge Management Efforts December Summit



Mary Margaret Evans, Defense Reform Initiative, Dr. James Edgar, Department of the Army, and former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform) Stan Soloway discuss the future of change initiatives in the Department at the closing Senior Leadership Panel.



The active sharing of best practices and lessons learned was a primary goal for Summit organizers. Pictured: Participants in a breakout session discuss ways to streamline contracting procedures using the tools provided by the Change Management Center.