

DAU, DSMC Open Fort Monmouth Mid-Atlantic Region

Taking Acquisition Education Directly to the Workforce

NORENE L. BLANCH

The Defense Systems Management College (DSMC), in collaboration with the Defense Acquisition University (DAU), took one step forward toward their goal of taking education to the Acquisition Workforce with the opening of the DSMC Mid-Atlantic Region at Fort Monmouth, N.J., April 11, 1997.

This permanent classroom provides DSMC, and other DAU consortium schools that teach courses at Monmouth, a quality teaching environ-



PICTURED FROM LEFT: AIR FORCE COL. SAM BROWN, DEAN, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS DIVISION, DSMC; VICTOR FERLISE, DEPUTY TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS COMMAND, FORT MONMOUTH; DONNA RICHBURG, ACTING DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION REFORM; ARMY BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, DSMC COMMANDANT; SUELLEN PHAIR-BACK, DIRECTOR, DSMC MID-ATLANTIC REGION; AND RICHARD KELLY, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, FORT MONMOUTH.

Blanch is an Editorial Assistant and contributing Editor, Program Manager magazine. She also supports the Acquisition Review Quarterly journal. A 1996 graduate with honors of the Defense Information School's Basic Journalism Course, Blanch works in the Visual Arts and Press Department, Division of College Administration and Services, DSMC.

ment for the large acquisition workforce population in this area. This is also the first step in the DSMC Corporate Plan to take more acquisition education and training to the workforce.

Closing One Door, Opening Another

Base Realignment and Closure initiatives resulting in population shifts within the acquisition workforce, led to a decision to close DSMC's Central Region in St. Louis, Mo., slated for August 1997, and select another site in order to meet the increasing demand for acquisition courses and make them

more accessible to acquisition professionals.

The DSMC Mid-Atlantic Region, under the leadership of Director, Suellen Phair-Back, was officially opened after a ribbon cutting ceremony held at Fort Monmouth's Armstrong Hall.

Victor Ferlise, Deputy to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Command, Fort Monmouth; Donna Richbourg, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform; and Army Brig. Gen. Richard A. Black, DSMC Commandant; addressed the students and guests in attendance at the Mid-Atlantic Region's first course offering—the Intermediate Systems Acquisition Course (ISAC).

In her keynote address, Richbourg cited Fort Monmouth as a logical choice for the location of the Mid-Atlantic Region because the area is internationally known for its defense industry.

“With the opening of the Mid-Atlantic Region,” said Richbourg, “it now becomes the hub for over 10,000 DAWIA [Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act] personnel located nearby at Picatinny Arsenal, Lake-

hurst Naval Air Warfare Center, and the Defense Personnel Support Center in Philadelphia.”

Support From Our Senior Leaders

She continued by sharing several key acquisition issues discussed by Dr. Paul G. Kaminski, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, during his testimony before a House Armed Services acquisition subcommittee, March 14, 1997. Among other issues, she referred to a specific concern that surfaced during his testimony, which reiterates a primary concern of our OSD senior leadership, DAU, DSMC, and the other consortium schools—that because our DAWIA acquisition workforce is getting smaller, we need to improve their training.

“Today's opening of the DSMC Mid-Atlantic Region means we're paying attention and achieving results. We're going to not only meet increased demand for acquisition courses in this region,” she affirmed, “but also save TDY costs for the large segment of the acquisition workforce located in close proximity.”

“DAU and DSMC are heavily involved in the move toward distance learning and continuing education. They're working hard to put in place the delivery systems and technology that will drive distance learning and computer-based training,” she continued.

“DSMC plans to package continuing education into modules appropriate to distance learning. The College will use infrastructures already established at hubs and satellites, like the new Mid-Atlantic Region, to provide continuing education vital to the efforts of the professional acquisition workforce.”

Region Opening a Team Effort

Black, DSMC's Commandant, closed the ceremony by describing how courses like ISAC give members of the acquisition workforce from various functional areas the opportunity to add to the learning environment by



FORT MONMOUTH, N.J.—HOME OF THE ARMY'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS COMMAND AND DSMC'S NEW MID-ATLANTIC REGION.

sharing their expertise with other class members. This concept impacts the students by giving them a more complete perspective of the acquisition process and results in them becoming a more rounded acquisition professional.

As the workforce population shifts, the idea of being more knowledgeable in different functional areas becomes vital as the requirement for the acquisition professional to take on added responsibilities increases in an effort to work *better, faster, and cheaper*.

But this thinking does not stop in the classroom. The concept of groups of people coming together for a common goal was demonstrated by key person-

nel, such as David Scibetta, Deputy Dean, Division of Administration and Services, DSMC; Wilson (Chip) Summers, Associate Dean, Academic Programs Division, DSMC; and Richard Kelly, Director of Personnel and Training, Fort Monmouth.

This team effort made the successful establishment of the DSMC Mid-Atlantic Region possible as this group of individuals worked together to develop the appropriate memoranda of agreement, course infrastructure, and facilities.

In addition, Black recognized the efforts of Myrna Bass who heads the DSMC Learning Resource Center at

the main Fort Belvoir campus, in transferring more than \$12,000 worth of training material to the MOS library at Fort Monmouth.

In the face of a constantly changing and evolving acquisition workforce, DAU and DSMC are extending the classroom beyond tradition through the establishment of hubs, such as the DSMC's Mid-Atlantic Region. These two organizations are willing to step forward and take full advantage of new technology to provide distance learning and continuing education that meets the immediate needs of the acquisition professional where they need it most—*in the workplace*.

Suellen Phair-Back, Director, DSMC Mid-Atlantic Region



Suellen Phair-Back has over 17 years' experience as a Department of Army civilian. The majority of her assignments were spent in two program management offices.

During her assignment with the Program Management Office for Mobile Subscriber Equipment, she was part of the team that developed the acquisition documents, part of the evaluation process, and played a major part in fielding the system generally held to be the most successful Army acquisition ever. She concluded her eight-year assignment as the Chief of the Logistics Management Division.

At the Program Management Office for MILSATCOM, Phair-Back served as the Chief of the Readiness Management Division, the organization responsible for acquiring satellite systems for the Army. During this period, she was a member of the Overarching Integrated Product Team for the Secure Mobile Anti-Jam Reliable Satellite Terminal (SMART-T), which received the Packard Award for acquisition excellence.

In addition to her employment with the Federal Government, she has been an adjunct instructor in the Business Management and Marketing Department of Monmouth University for over 12 years.

Prior to her government service, Phair-Back held positions with major defense contractors: Bell Telephone Laboratories, ITT (Europe), and LTV Aerospace.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Science from Kean College of New Jersey, graduating summa cum laude, and an MBA from Monmouth University, where she was awarded membership in the Delta Mu Delta Honors Fraternity.

She is married to retired Army Col. John Back, who is now a program manager with a contractor supporting CECOM.

FORT MONMOUTH, N.J.

— Home of DSMC's New Mid-Atlantic Region

April 11, 1997

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—Donna Richbourg

Acting Deputy Under
Secretary of Defense
(Acquisition Reform)

THE FIRST COURSE OFFERING AT DSMC'S NEW MID-ATLANTIC REGION IS THE INTERMEDIATE SYSTEMS ADVANCED COURSE (ISAC). PICTURED ARE THE FIRST CLASS OF ISAC STUDENTS, MEMBERS OF THE DSMC STAFF AND FACULTY, AND CECOM REPRESENTATIVES.

PICTURED FROM LEFT: ARMY COL. JOSEPH P. MURRAY, MILITARY ASSISTANT TO THE DUSD(AR); DONNA RICHBOURG, ACTING DUSD(AR); ARMY BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, DSMC COMMANDANT; AIR FORCE COL. SAM BROWN, DEAN, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS DIVISION, DSMC; WILSON (CHIP) SUMMERS, ASSOCIATE DEAN, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS DIVISION, DSMC; NAVY CAPT. BOB VERNON, DEAN, SCHOOL OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT DIVISION, DSMC.



...DSMC's New Mid-Atlantic Region

PRIOR TO THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION OPENING, CECOM PRESENTED AN OVERVIEW BRIEFING OF U.S. ARMY CECOM AND THE C⁴IEWS ACQUISITION COMMUNITY. PICTURED FROM LEFT: DONNA RICHBOURG, ACTING DUSD(AR); VICTOR FERLISE, DEPUTY TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY CECOM; ARMY BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, DSMC COMMANDANT; KATHRYN SZYMANSKI, GENERAL COUNSEL, U.S. ARMY CECOM.

EDWARD THOMAS, DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION, TEAM C⁴IEWS, FORT MONMOUTH, N.J.



“Courses like ISAC give members of the acquisition workforce the opportunity to add to the learning environment by sharing their expertise with other class members.”

—Brig. Gen. Richard A. Black
U.S. Army
DSMC Commandant



DONNA RICHBOURG, ACTING DUSD(AR),
DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS.