

DAU and NDIA to Sponsor Defense Systems Acquisition Management Course Offering for Industry Managers

The Defense Acquisition University and the National Defense Industrial Association will sponsor an offering of the Defense Systems Acquisition Management course Sept. 12-16, 2011, at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead, Atlanta, Ga. The course is targeted for industry program managers, assistant program managers, systems engineers, industry personnel serving on DoD integrated product teams, and other personnel who must interface with DoD program offices involved in program development and execution. The result of successful completion of this course is a comprehensive understanding of the environment and driving forces affecting your DoD counterparts that will significantly increase your awareness and effectiveness in dealing with programmatic issues.

The course is also open to a limited number of DoD personnel in grades 04-06 and GS 13-15, tuition-free. Government students should already be certified at Level II to obtain maximum benefit from this course. Government employees and supervisors may apply the DSAM course towards fulfillment of the DoD requirement for acquisition workforce personnel to earn 80 continuous learning points every 2 years. DSAM counts for 34 CL points, or 3.4 continuous education units. DSAM presents the same acquisition policy information provided to DoD students who attend the DAU courses for acquisition certification training. It is designed to meet the needs of defense industry acquisition managers in today's dynamic environment, providing the latest information related to:

- Defense acquisition policy for weapons and information technology systems, including discussion of the DoD 5000 series (directive and instruction), and the *Defense Acquisition Guidebook*;
- Defense acquisition reform and initiatives;
- Defense acquisition procedures and processes;
- The planning, programming, budgeting, and execution process, and the congressional budget process; and
- The relationship between capability needs determination, resource allocation, science and technology activities, and acquisition programs.

All course materials will be provided to students on CD-ROM. It is highly recommended that students bring a laptop computer to the class. If you do not have access to a laptop, please contact the respective meeting planner as soon as possible. There will be a limited number of laptops available for use through NDIA, so please call early.

For further information, see "Courses Offered" under "Meetings and Events" at www.ndia.org. Industry students contact Michelle Hariston at mhariston@ndia.org or 703-247-9478. A limited number of experienced government students may be selected to attend each offering. Prospective government students must first contact Karen Byrd at 703-805-3728 or e-mail Karen.Byrd@dau.mil prior to registering with NDIA.

Upcoming Changes to Contracting Curriculum for FY2012

A memorandum released on March 25, 2011, notifies the contracting workforce of changes to the Contracting curriculum and Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certification standards, effective Oct. 1, 2011. The effort involves changes to existing course assets and development of new learning assets. Additionally the transition plan provides information for the workforce and Defense Acquisition Career Managers to facilitate a smooth transition to the new certification standards. The memo is located in its entirety in the Workforce Policy section of the Defense Acquisition University website at [www.dau.mil/doddacm/Shared%20Documents/USA001329-11-DPAP\[1\].pdf](http://www.dau.mil/doddacm/Shared%20Documents/USA001329-11-DPAP[1].pdf).

Forty Years of Developing Acquisition Professionals

The Defense Acquisition University will celebrate 40 years of developing acquisition professionals throughout 2011. The need for acquisition training, however, emerged more than a half century ago. Due to the complexity of modern weapons systems after World War II, the government could no longer rely solely on its arsenals and shipyards to meet the needs of the warfighter. These complex new weapons contained subsystems typically developed and produced by various defense contractors, placing the government in the role of program manager—a role that required a new and different skill set. Government teams found themselves unprepared to face these new demands, resulting in major cost overruns, slipped schedules, and performance shortfalls. The threat of a loss of public confidence loomed.

The advent of complex weapons systems highlighted a need for specialized training. Several major studies commissioned by both Congress and the president sought ways to resolve the acquisition challenges related to these modern weapons systems. Much of the research recognized the need for a competent, trained, and educated civilian and military acquisition workforce.

Since the inception of the Defense Systems Management School in 1971, through the transition to the Defense Systems Management College in 1976 and the consolidation with 11 other Service schools in 2000 to form the Defense Acqui-

sition University, a constant goal remained: the creation of outstanding acquisition professionals.

Over the years, as these training organizations transformed into the present-day Defense Acquisition University, its dedicated personnel have taken pride in offering best-in-class acquisition training to a workforce that has now exceeded 147,000 members.

During the next few months, the entire Defense Acquisition Workforce is invited to participate in commemorating this milestone through special events and communications, sharing of stories and memories, the unveiling of the DAU History Wall, and a website chronicling DAU's history and forging its future. DAU's celebration will culminate with several exciting events to take place during the DAU Conference in October. These events will be publicized as they are finalized.

From the Global Learning and Technology Center

The Global Learning and Technology Center, which manages DAU's Virtual Campus, reports the following honors/updates on its course delivery through the AtlasPro Learning Management System program.

Computerworld Honors Program

Defense Acquisition University has been named a Laureate in the 2011 *Computerworld* Honors program. The DAU case study was titled "Defense Acquisition University Delivers Training to the Defense Acquisition Workforce Through the AtlasPro Learning Suite." The *Computerworld* Honors program, founded in 1988, recognizes organizations and individuals who have used information technology to promote and advance public welfare, benefit society, and change the world for the better. The *Computerworld* Honors awards were presented at the Annual Laureates Medal Ceremony and Gala Awards on June 20, 2011, at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

Atlas2

The Global Learning and Technology Center team is working on deployment of Atlas2, the new version of Atlas. Atlas2 is a significant transformation after many years of rapid growth in learning delivery supported by the AtlasPro Learning Management System. Atlas2 is expected to go to production later this year. Implemented using the latest technical architectures. It will provide improved scalability and usability, new features and configurability, leading to proportional lowering of ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

To minimize DAU's program risk in changing from Atlas to Atlas2, and to help with each individual's learning curve, both Atlas and Atlas2 will run concurrently for several months.

During this time, the students, faculty, and staff who use Atlas will be able to transition seamlessly between Atlas and Atlas2 with a "single click" of the mouse. The Global Learning and Technology Center will hold information sessions in the coming months to communicate the functions and features of Atlas2.

On average, AtlasPro processed about 3,000 enrollments per day in FY 2010, or a total of 1,103,600 enrollments in FY 2010 for Continuous Learning modules, Distance Learning, and classroom courses offered via DAU's Virtual Campus. These data represent a 14 percent growth in enrollments over FY 2009.

Defense Acquisition University Launches Better Buying Power Gateway

On April 25, the Defense Acquisition University launched the Better Buying Power Gateway on the Defense Acquisition Portal at <https://dap.dau.mil>. This site serves as a central point of access to the latest information on BBP efficiency initiatives, which were outlined in Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Dr. Ashton Carter's Sept. 14, 2010, memorandum to the Defense Acquisition Workforce. Additionally, the current "Better Buying Power" site located in the Acquisition Community Connection Special Interest Area, has also been updated to provide a wider membership with added collaborative capabilities, such as asking a BBP-related question and commenting on specific initiatives. The goals of these sites are to make BBP information widely available and quickly accessible, and to provide a venue for the Defense Acquisition Workforce to obtain clarifications on BBP instructions and guidelines, as needed. Users can browse these sites by going to the BBP Gateway at <https://dap.dau.mil/bbp> or the BBP Public Site at <https://acc.dau.mil/bbp>.

Defense Acquisition Research Website Goes Live

A new website for the DAU Center for Defense Acquisition Research (<https://acc.dau.mil/research>) is now "live." The site serves as a focal point for the entire Defense Acquisition Enterprise. It showcases research published under the *Defense Acquisition Research Journal*, as well as research published by DAU partner organizations in the defense acquisition community. A new section, the Defense Acquisition Professional Reading List, provides reviews of books intended to enrich the knowledge and understanding of the acquisition professional. The website spotlights upcoming research events and symposia, and provides links to resources for carrying out research in defense acquisition.

DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Through the years, the Defense Acquisition University has established strategic partnerships with universities and colleges, defense-sector corporations, professional associations, other government agencies, and international organizations. Such partnerships with academic institutions allow Defense Acquisition Workforce members to transfer DAU course work toward college and university degrees and certificates. Partnerships with industry, professional societies, government agencies, and international organizations focus on sharing training materials, tools, modules, and training opportunities. A complete database of DAU Strategic Partnerships can be found at www.dau.mil/aboutDAU/Pages/partnerships.aspx. In recent months, DAU has added the following additional partnerships to the database:

Regent University and DAU

In March, Regent University Dean of the School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship Dr. Bruce Winston and DAU Vice President James McMichael signed a strategic partnership agreement with DAU, whose mission is to train the Department of Defense acquisition workforce throughout all career stages. The partnership provides advanced standing for graduates of the DAU program manager's course who enroll in Regent's master's in organizational leadership or master's in government (public administration) programs. Various other DAU courses will also transfer for credit toward Regent graduate and undergraduate courses. More information on the partnership is available at www.regent.edu/military/partners/home.cfm.

Institute for Defense and Business (IDB) and DAU

DAU and the Institute for Defense and Business signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on DoD weapon system product support and life cycle management, training, education, research, and curriculum development. Signing the memorandum were IDB President Mark C. Cramer and McMichael. The partners agreed to:

- Study trends in acquisition and sustainment logistics management across the entire weapon systems life cycle (from requirements generation to disposal), and present principles in a consistent and unified framework;
- Enhance the quality, effectiveness, and relevance of life cycle management curricula offered by DAU and the IDB;
- Promote applied research on challenges faced by the defense industry to incorporate best practices into life cycle management curricula; and
- Provide access to life-cycle specific research and professional development opportunities for life cycle management faculty.

For more information on the IDB, contact Theresa Raines, director of industry relations for the IDB: e-mail Raines@idb.org or call 919-969-8008.

Trident University and DAU

DAU and Trident University have established a strategic partnership agreement to provide additional educational opportunities for students of both institutions. Through this agreement, the Defense Acquisition Workforce personnel can transfer certain DAU completed course credits to a variety of TUI's online programs at the bachelor's and master's degree levels. Defense Acquisition Workforce members who are students at TUI will be notified of which DAU courses they can transfer toward TUI degrees. As the majority of TUI students are military personnel, DAU programs will be offered as another option for their career development. Learn more about the partnership agreement at www.trident.edu/military-students/programs-partnerships/defense-acquisition-university-partnership.