

### **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 March 22-26, 2010, at the Williamsburg Lodge in Williamsburg, Va. 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 two years. DSAM counts for 34 CL points, or 3.4 Continuous Education Units (CEU). 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
- 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](http://www.ndia.org)>. Industry students contact Michelle Hariston at [mhariston@ndia.org](mailto: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](mailto:Karen.Byrd@dau.mil) prior to registering with NDIA.

### **DAU Heads to Orlando**

The Defense Acquisition University is pleased to announce that the Global Learning and Technology Center's Orlando site officially opened during the first week of December 2009. This location now becomes the primary site for DAU's Games and Simulations initiatives, but will work closely with GLTC's headquarters at Fort Belvoir. Dr. Alicia Sanchez and Chris Paddock from GLTC will serve as DAU's representatives as the university forges partnerships with the University of Central Florida, Advanced Distributed Learning's Orlando Co-Lab, and Team Orlando. This site will not only serve as the Games and Simulations center, but also as a testbed of technologies that will be vetted at the GLTC Orlando site for transition to the Fort Belvoir Teaching and Learning Lab, as well as to all DAU campuses.

The new Orlando site represents DAU's commitment to providing its learners with topnotch training and meeting learners at their points of need. New technologies introduced via the Orlando site will be evaluated and tested for their suitability to DAU's unique challenges in a controlled environment. As DAU's reach expands, it is anticipated that technologies like games, simulations, virtual desktops, and cloud delivery of learning assets will further enhance access to DAU's learning and instructional assets.

### **DAU Introduces New Intermediate Information Acquisition (IRM 202) Course**

A dual pilot of Intermediate Information Systems Acquisition (IRM 202), a new certification course, was conducted at both the Defense Acquisition University Capital Northeast (CNE) and South Region campuses in October 2009. The IRM course, which includes a set of extensive applications-oriented courses, will replace both the existing IRM 201 and Intermediate Software Acquisition Management (SAM 201) courses as the new Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Information Technology (IT) Level II certification course. The new IRM 202 was jointly developed by a team of IT instructors from the Defense Acquisition University's CNE, West, and South Regions, assisted in their efforts by a number of other interested parties from within and outside of DAU.

## 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 DoD Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (AT&L) 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 <http://www.dau.mil/aboutDAU/Pages/partnerships.aspx>. In winter 2009, two additional partnerships were added to the database:

### DAU and the International Centre for Complex Project Management

Frank Anderson, president of the Defense Acquisition University, and Stephen Hayes, chief executive officer of the International Centre for Complex Project Management (ICCPM), signed a partnering agreement on Nov. 19, 2009, at DAU. The ICCPM's goal is to "advance both the knowledge and practice of complex project management and accelerate the development of individual organizational and global abilities to better manage modern complex projects." ICCPM seeks to bring together the global community of project managers in dialogue to better understand why and how complex projects are different through a structured research and executive development agenda. The organization has partnered with a broad array of government, industry, and academic institutions worldwide to promote and provide collaborative products and resources to assist in achieving better complex project outcomes. The partnership recognizes the synergy to be gained through joining DAU's training, research, and mission assistance experience with complex U.S. defense projects together with ICCPM's international network of expertise and innovative research agenda. Together, the two organizations expect to advance the understanding of the essential elements of complex projects, develop joint solutions and learning assets, and improve global performance on the most challenging and demanding projects and programs. The partnership will entail sharing information through participation in global roundtables and focus groups, cooperation on mutually beneficial research projects, and co-development of improved education and training courses and modules.

### DAU and George Mason University

As part of DAU's research program, the Global Learning and Technology Center has commissioned George Mason University to conduct a research project to help DAU become a more effective and efficient provider of learning products. Graduate students from the GMU College of Education will conduct a one-year study to assist DAU with the use of advanced educational technologies and methodologies. They will be part of the Instructional Design and Development Immersion Program, a unique educational program at GMU that allows a team of students to spend one academic year (two semesters) totally immersed in a research project. They will be exclusively focused on DAU's enterprise from all aspects—business model, organization, learning products (courses, continuous learning modules), knowledge sharing resources, and implementation (product delivery). They will analyze specific DAU courses and continuous learning modules, acquisition workforce technology needs, and curriculum competencies to better understand DAU's mission.

Ultimately, GMU will deliver a prototype tool that will help DAU course designers and course managers select the most appropriate technologies for incorporation into specific learning products and to develop the most appropriate implementation strategies for getting a particular technology into a specific course. This project was initiated in September 2009 and will be completed in June 2010. The project manager at DAU is Dr. Paul Alfieri, and the lead professors at GMU are Dr. Nada Dabbagh and Dr. Kevin Clark.

The goals of the new course are threefold:

- To update the IRM 201 and SAM 201 courses and incorporate the information and processes from the regulations, directives, and guidance released throughout fiscal year 2009—a year characterized by numerous authoritative changes in the acquisition system.
- To provide IRM 202 students with not only the class materials needed to better understand the acquisition system but with practices that reinforce the lesson materials by placing students in lifelike acquisition scenarios. The scenarios not only reinforce the lesson's learning objectives, but they also provide students with artifacts designed to be used by students as templates to guide them through the acquisition process as they gain new job experiences and responsibilities over time.
- To combine the IRM 201 that provides the macro view of IT acquisition with the SAM 201 that provides the details of software acquisition. This combined course will eliminate redundancies and duplications between the IRM 201 and SAM 201 courses. IRM 202, when fully deployed, will free up approximately 33 instructor weeks across DAU, saving more than \$1 million annually in student TDY costs, and will reduce the Level II onsite classroom time for the IT career field by one week.

### **Marshall Eubanks of the South Region Earns National Recognition**

*Samuel Parks*

Earlier this year at its national conference, the Society of Cost Estimating and Analysis recognized Marshall Eubanks, the Defense Acquisition University South Region assistant dean of academics, for his work in the development of a national certification program for cost estimators and analysts. As a member of the development team, Marshall was responsible for reviewing the entire professional certification exam for applicability, appropriateness, and accuracy.

The entire review process required approximately one month and yielded an extremely thorough and comprehensive examination that addresses foundational knowledge, the practical application of foundational knowledge, advanced analysis, and in-depth case studies. The new format for this professional certification represents a crucial advancement for the organization as well as the cost community in general. This new certification program is part of a growing trend within the cost community to recognize cost estimating and analysis as an independent functional area of expertise.

Marshall and other members of the development team were recognized for their hard work, steadfast attention to detail, and efforts to improve the cost community as a whole.

### **Space Acquisition Community of Practice**

The Defense Acquisition University has launched a Space Acquisition Community of Practice. This CoP provides a forum for practitioners to interact, share knowledge/experiences, avoid duplication of effort, advance connection of people/ideas, remain current on developments, assist with top-down communications, and solve problems. DAU established this site to “share” its “ware” and to make sure the space acquisition community has immediate access to the learning assets they need to sustain and enhance their overall performance.

As users navigate through the virtual space, DAU anticipates that they will find the Space Acquisition CoP a useful tool, providing resources, updated directives, and access to other space acquisition professionals within the community. Users can also calibrate their acquisition actions and decisions or find extra help in the context of daily space acquisition duties. The university welcomes participation and constructive feedback. Ultimately, this site's success depends on relevant, timely, accurate, and comprehensive content, contributed by space acquisition professionals and associated subject matter experts. Review the Space Acquisition CoP at <https://acc.dau.mil/CommunityBrowser.aspx>.

### **Service Acquisition Mall**

The Defense Acquisition University has launched the Service Acquisition Mall at <https://sam.dau.mil/>, which is an initiative to provide training and knowledge sharing for the acquisition community involved in service acquisition. SAM uses the seven-step service acquisition process outlined in the mall. It will contain functional information based on broad service categories depicted by the stores in the mall. SAM 1.0 is the initial step in developing tools, training, and functional knowledge available through the net. The Knowledge Based Service or Advisory and Assistance Services (A&AS) store is the first to contain some functional information. The university's goal is to include sample performance objectives and standards for various types of services that will provide acquisition teams with a good start in developing effective performance work statement requirements. Additional functional content and training will be deployed as it is developed.