

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 Jan. 23-28, 2011, at the Sandpearl Resort in Clearwater Beach, Fla. 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 O4-O6 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. 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.

ACC Reaches Significant Milestone

Jill Garcia

The Defense Acquisition University Acquisition Community Connection website (<https://acc.dau.mil>) achieved a significant milestone on Aug. 21, 2010: the enrollment of its 100,000th member.

The ACC is an online community of practice centered on acquisition-specific topics that supports a completely voluntary member base made up of acquisition professionals across DoD and industry. Community members are able to interact and share lessons learned and experiences to support job performance, access information relevant to their jobs, avoid duplication of effort, and advance the connection of people and ideas.

The ACC includes a number of Web 2.0 features to enhance collaboration, participation, and discovery, among them a robust personal networking feature and profile feature that integrates a Facebook-like functionality; tag clouds that give users the ability to add to a user-contributed discovery capability; along with many other features to ensure that knowledge sharing continues to keep pace with the potential of evolving collaborative technologies.

Garcia is a knowledge project officer with the Defense Acquisition University, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Engineering Intern Training Program

On July 16, 2010, DAU met with Patti Martin and Michael Whitt of the Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., to discuss reinstating a 2-year Engineering Intern Program. The program would include 12 months at the Army Materiel Command's Logistics Leadership Center, followed by specialty-specific training in various engineering disciplines (e.g., reliability and quality). The program would be similar to DAU's previous efforts at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., for contracting and at the Program Executive Office-Aviation for rotorcraft engineering. DAU will develop a statement of objectives for this effort and support it as a Section 852 initiative.

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 summer 2010, the following additional partnerships were added to the database:

DAU and TUI University

Through this partnership, the Defense Acquisition Workforce can apply to TUI University and transfer certain DAU completed course credits to a variety of TUI's online programs at the bachelor and master degree levels, with relevant concentrations such as project management, logistics management, public management, managerial/governmental accounting, quality management, strategic leadership, IT management, and others. Defense Acquisition Workforce personnel enrolled at TUIU will benefit from year-round enrollment, convenient academic calendar with 8 semester sessions per year, reduced tuition through the TUIU Military Discount Program or the TUIU Federal Tuition Assistance Program, no cost for textbooks with free access to cyber library, no application fee, and no-obligation anytime-anywhere credit transfer evaluation.

DAU and University of San Francisco

DAU and the University of San Francisco have developed a dynamic partnership to offer 100 percent online training to Defense Acquisition Workforce personnel. Students who have attained Level II or III Life Cycle Logistics certification may be eligible to receive credit toward one class of the three required classes to achieve a master certificate in the following University of San Francisco master certificate program: Master Certificate in Supply Chain Management.

DAU and AACE® International

Through this strategic partnership and cooperative agreement, DAU and the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE®) International will continue to build on the expertise of both communities in terms of estimating, cost engineering, scheduling, and earned value management (EVM)—collectively known as “project controls”—within DoD and the defense industry.

DAU and Jacobs Technology

Jacobs Technology's Advanced Systems Group Quantico Operations and DAU have signed a strategic partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Through this strategic partnership and MOU, Jacobs will provide DAU with classroom and meeting facilities free of charge to augment DAU local resources. Specifically, Jacobs will offer alternative classroom/meeting spaces for DAU and government-sponsored training events at the Quantico Operations conference facility.

DAU and Villanova University Alliance

DAU and Villanova University have developed a dynamic partnership to offer 100 percent online training to Defense Acquisition Workforce personnel. Students who have attained Level II or III certification may be eligible to receive credit toward one class of the three required classes to achieve a master certificate in the following Villanova University master certificate programs:

- Master Certificate in Applied Project Management
- Master Certificate in Government Contract Management
- Master Certificate in Lean Six Sigma

DAU West Region Steps Up to the TriZenter Challenge

The Defense Acquisition University is recognized as one of the most forward-leaning training organizations in the world. As a corporate university, it strives to find innovative ways to deliver learning assets to the Defense Acquisition Workforce—and by every measure succeeds. Over the years, the university has actively researched, tested, and procured new systems and applications to enhance the learning experience. More recently, one tool DAU has acquired is TriZenter. TriZenter is an innovative presentation system that gives one individual with one computer the power of three screens. To date, DAU faculty have used TriZenter successfully to deliver numerous briefings and presentations during conferences and symposia. One classroom course even has a “TriZenterized” version—ACQ 201B.

Recently, the West Region conducted a TriZenter Challenge in an effort to build better awareness and knowledge of the system and to push the envelope on its application. The challenge was coordinated by Andrew Gepp who teaches the TriZenter version of ACQ 201B and has a solid understanding of the capabilities of the system. Other outstanding instructors from the West Region stepped up to the challenge: Larry Adams, Jim Caltrider, Don Goddard, Howard Harris, and Greg Schlauch. Wilton Perry provided software and hardware training to the participants.

In developing a TriZenter version of a lesson in a course, the five TriZenter Challenge participants made it extremely difficult to select a champion, in that each flexed the power of the presentation system in various ways and collectively demonstrated its greater potential for deployment to additional courses.

Several take-aways emerged from the challenge. First, all who were involved recognized that TriZenter has exceptional potential. However, each participant also noted that it requires extensive resources and training to meet the perceived delivery expectations. As one of the instructors very appropriately commented, “TriZenter is more than thinking in threes.”

Another outcome from the challenge was demonstrating that additional courses could benefit from delivery with this system. The limiting factor in developing and deploying more TriZenter-ized versions of courses would not be the creativity and curriculum development skills of the developers, but instead, the availability of TriZenter resources.

Direct feedback and anecdotal information from ACQ 201B TriZenter courses offered in the West Region indicate students are excited and receptive of the technology. Initial use

of TriZenter’s instructional geography increases the interest, retention, and recall of the information. Based on the results of the TriZenter Challenge, DAU may very well expand the use of TriZenter, subject to the availability of resources, to further its reputation and designation as a premier corporate university.

Requirements Management Curriculum Update

Responding to a Congressional mandate to train the Requirements Management community of military and civilian personnel, the Defense Acquisition University has created a comprehensive set of online and classroom courses. These include: three online continuous learning modules, one distance-learning course; a 1-week resident course; and an executive-level overview.

- CLM 041. Capabilities Based Planning describes the framework that unites strategic guidance, the three elements of defense acquisition, and the operational “here and now” elements of Global Force Management and Adaptive Planning.
- RQM 110. Requirements Management is a distance learning course on Core Concepts for Requirements Management. This course covers the requirements manager’s role within “Big A” acquisition and examines the requirements generation process from end-to-end, highlighting the intersection between acquisition, resources, and requirements.
- CLR 250. Capability-Based Assessments (CBA) explores CBA history, context, and procedures.
- CLR 252. Developing Requirements investigates how to document CBA results as Key Performance Parameters (KPPs) and as Key System Attributes (KSAs).
- RQM 310. Advanced Concepts and Skills for Requirements Managers is a capstone classroom course for Requirements Managers that goes beyond facilitated discussions, exercises, and case studies. In-class computer simulations let students organize a CBA study team, prioritize project development milestones, respond to a rapid response situation, and coordinate requirements documents. Turning Point handheld clicker “voting” technology is used during facilitated class discussions and evaluations.
- RQM 403. The Requirements Executive Management Overview (REMO) provides general/flag officers/senior executives with an understanding of the role of the requirements manager within “Big A” acquisition.

Additionally, DAU has created a Requirements Community of Practice at: <https://acc.dau.mil/requirements>—an online 24/7 resource that provides information resources and an interactive discussion forum. The FY 2011 schedule provides six offerings of RQM 310 with an expectation of 10 offer-

ings in FY 2012. Regional campus support will be solicited to meet future demand.

For questions or comments, contact Dr. Chuck Court, DSMC Requirements Management Department Chair, Charles.Court@dau.mil.

Student Information System (SIS) Gathers Steam Toward Implementation

The procurement process is underway for a commercial off-the-shelf Student Information System (SIS) technology that will allow Defense Acquisition Workforce members to manage all of their acquisition processes such as registration and certification tracking in one place. With the SIS procurement process in full swing, preparation has begun for the next phase of the SIS project—Implementation.

SIS core team members are executing the planning function by gathering information about current systems and processes. The team is conducting student surveys and gathering thousands of responses from the Defense Acquisition Workforce about their likes, dislikes, and suggestions for system improvements. The SIS team is also visiting each of the Services as part of a discovery effort to document current processes, explore opportunities for improvement, gather lessons learned, reaffirm requirements, and begin change management. In turn, the SIS team has started and will continue interactive sessions with faculty and staff members at all the Defense Acquisition University Regions and business units to address their aspirations for this strategic initiative. In reviewing how processes are currently managed, the team hopes to understand “as is” functionality and lessons learned from the current systems, while also building a foundation of knowledge to prepare for the new “to be” SIS environment.

The team began their one-on-one interactive sessions with Student Services to find out how they interact with the existing systems for tasks such as sending welcome letters and overseeing registration. The review of key functional areas continued when the SIS team had a similar review session with Schedule Management. In each instance, the collaborative sessions sought to understand the complex processes that underpin these departments and to identify opportunities for standardization, streamlined tasks, and broader visibility.

Outside of campus, the SIS team continued its ongoing dialogue with the Component Directors, Acquisition Career Management (DACM) teams. In these sessions, key workflows reviewed included waitlist management and approval cycles. Discussions with the DACMs also concentrated on

the importance of human-system interactions and ensuring that the user experience was informative and productive.

The regions have also figured prominently in these early stage discussions. In the early summer, SIS team members travelled to the Mid-Atlantic Region where they were given a survey of regional operations from members of the staff including faculty, training technicians, scheduling and student services representatives, and the associate dean for outreach. The tour of regions will continue over the coming months as the SIS team makes its way to every region.

The General Services Administration released the project’s request for proposal on Aug. 6, and proposals were received in September. The team will continue to prepare and plan for implementation until contract award, which is anticipated late in the 1st quarter of FY 2011.

ACC Software Upgrade

The Acquisition Community Connection (ACC) software (called Ecco) is scheduled to be upgraded on Oct. 1, 2010. The software upgrade will transition the ACC (<https://acc.dau.mil>) from version 2.0 to 3.1.1 and introduce many new social networking capabilities that will greatly enhance the user’s experience with the ACC. Some of the new features are highlighted below:

Ecco 3.1.1 Features

- A robust Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed capability provides a simple and dynamic way to pull and integrate content into other knowledge sharing assets like the Defense Acquisition Portal (DAP) and Ask a Professor (AAP), and allow users to subscribe to specific content they are interested in receiving.
- Filter-based navigation of content allows users to view and filter content and members by popularity, member assigned value, and most recent contributions, across multiple time frames (24 hours, 7 days, 30 days, all the time).
- Content history and versioning provides a “wiki-like” capability, allowing for side-by-side comparison of text edits and the ability to roll back to previous versions.
- Highly visible and simplified solicitation of member participation (questions and answers, contributions), and feedback on content “helpfulness” fosters member interaction and engagement—user interface is much more oriented toward member participation.
- Tighter integration with Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (MOSS) provides greater integration with other knowledge sharing assets, like DAP, AAP, and Best Practices Clearing House.