

Acquisition Research Symposia and the DAU Military Research Fellows Program

Looking for a Better Way

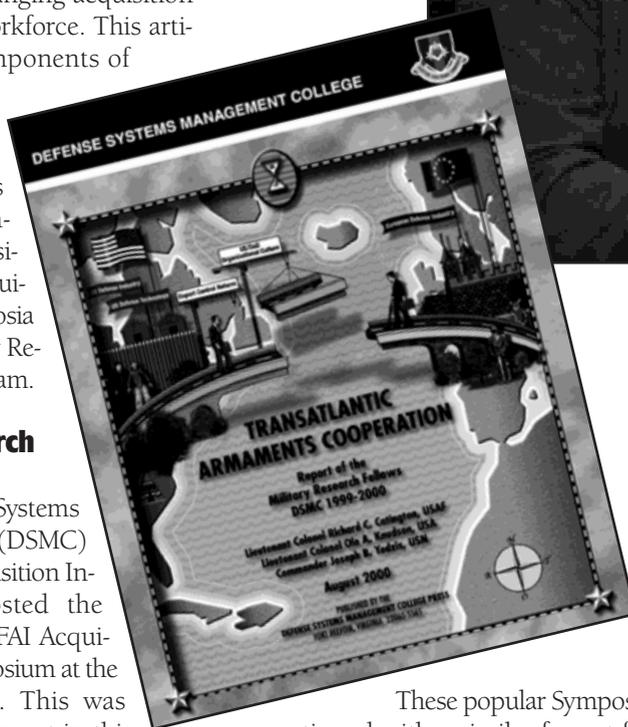
ALBERTA LADYMON

When David Packard articulated a research mission for the Defense Systems Management School in the early 1970s, he envisioned a research program that would improve the DoD acquisition process and its management. Over the last 30 years the School's, and later the College's research program has not only fulfilled Packard's vision, but also evolved and changed to fit the needs of a changing acquisition environment and workforce. This article looks at two components of DAU-DSMC's research program that remain popular, unique opportunities to dialogue and improve the DoD acquisition process: the Acquisition Research Symposia and the DAU Military Research Fellows Program.

Acquisition Research Symposia

In 1979, the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC) and the Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI) co-hosted the eighth annual DoD/FAI Acquisition Research Symposium at the Naval War College. This was DSMC's first involvement in this continuing series of highly successful biennial research symposia. Later, DSMC began co-hosting the Acquisition Research Symposium with the National Contract Management Association (NCMA).

Paul McMahon, DAU's Director of Research/Strategic Partnerships, reviews a previously published Military Research Fellows Report with the 2000-2001 Military Research Fellows. From left: McMahon; Air Force Lt. Col. Warren Anderson; Army Lt. Col. John McGuinness; and Navy Cmdr. John Spicer.



These popular Symposia continued with a similar format for the next 20 years. They called together the latest research papers on defense systems acquisition management issues for presentation to the community. Additionally, they offered a dynamic forum for dialogue among key professionals

working on vital issues facing the changing acquisition community.

Typical Acquisition Research Symposium attendees, both national and international, included senior officials, program managers, staff officers and researchers/acquisition professionals from the Department of Defense, federal civilian agencies, military, academe, and industry.

Sponsoring these Symposia was the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics). Each Symposium carried a theme and sub-theme reflecting the ongoing and future implementation of the acquisition reform process.

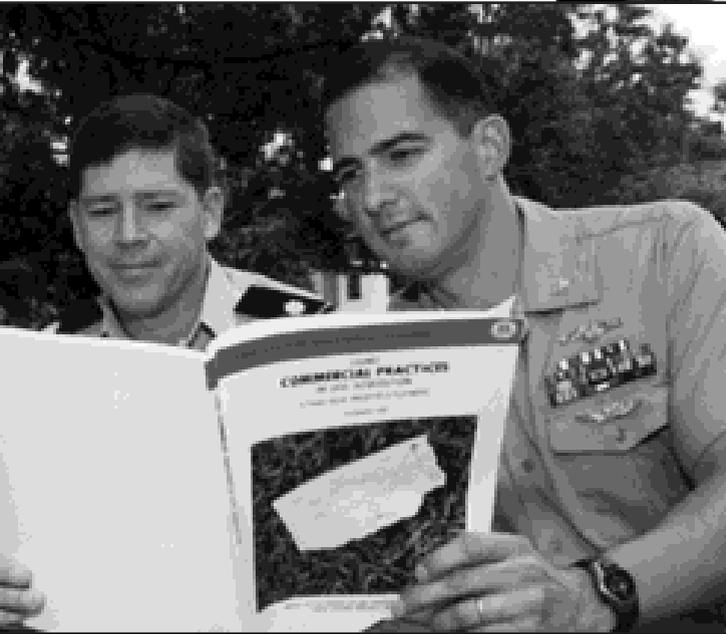
Throughout the years, many distinguished people from academia, govern-

ment, and industry have supported these Symposia. Some of the more notable speakers, panelists, and presenters have included:

- D. Kenneth Richardson, former Executive Vice President, Operations, Hughes Aircraft Company
- John D. Rittenhouse, former Senior Vice President, GE Aerospace and Chair, Defense Science Board Acquisition Streamlining Task Force



Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) Dave Oliver delivers the keynote address at the 1999 Acquisition Research Symposium.



- Gerald Cann, former Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition)
- Steven K. Conner, former Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition)
- Mary Ann Gilleece, Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips
- Deidre A. Lee, former Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget
- Stan Z. Soloway, former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform)
- Dr. Steven Kelman, Professor, Harvard University
- Deborah L. Wince-Smith, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy
- Colleen A. Preston, former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform)
- Hazel R. O'Leary, former Secretary, Department of Energy
- Army Lt. Gen. Paul J. Kern, former Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition)
- Air Force Maj. Gen. Claude M. Bolton Jr., former DSMC Commandant and former Air Force Program Executive Officer for Fighter and Bomber Programs
- Navy Rear Adm. David P. Keller, SC, former Commander, Defense Logistics Support Center, Defense Logistics Agency, and the list goes on and on.

A typical Symposium features a series of speakers and panelists addressing the entire audience on a wide spectrum of topics and issues. Throughout the course of the 2½-day Symposium, 24-32 papers are presented to the attendees in a series of six breakout sessions. The papers

are solicited well ahead of the Symposium and are submitted by researchers throughout the acquisition community.

Changes in the political arena and within the acquisition community resulted in postponement of the scheduled June 2001 Symposium until 2002. The DAU Home Page (www.dau.mil) will be updated regularly as the information becomes available.

DAU Military Research Fellows Program

Chartered by the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition) in 1987 to enhance DSMC capabilities, the Military Research Fellows Program provides professional military education to selected Fellows and develops new and innovative concepts for systems acquisition management. This joint fellowship program is a unique opportunity for selected Fellows to supplement DAU-DSMC research goals and to impact the defense acquisition process. The program begins in August each year and continues through June of the following year. Part of the program includes an opportunity for education at a premier business university such as the Harvard University School of Business, where the Fellows complete the 12-week Program for Management Development (PMD). The remainder of the program is spent at the DAU-DSMC Fort Belvoir campus where they conduct research, write the report, and offer a series of briefings throughout DAU and the acquisition community.

Every year, each of the Services nominates one candidate to attend the DAU Military Research Fellows Program. All Fellows must have at least a master's degree in a discipline associated with acquisition management, have achieved the rank of O-5 or GS/GM-14 for Army civilians, and have documented experience and performance in positions that develop an understanding and expertise in acquisition management. Once selected, the Fellows work together as a research team to develop and produce research findings that illuminate an aspect of systems acquisition management. Research Reports are published upon program completion. Throughout the years

these reports have been used in various DAU-DSMC courses, assisted numerous program offices with current issues, and assisted both government and industry to initiate change within their organizations. These reports bring to light the quality of research that directly supports the needs of the acquisition community.

Topics are selected each year by the Director of Research, based on the forecast needs of the acquisition community for the next year. The Services select their

nominees based on the selected topic area. This allows the Services to nominate officers with both a level of expertise and high interest in the topic, which further enhances the program for DAU and the Services.

Beginning in 1994, published Fellows Reports became available online at http://www.dsmc.dsm.mil/research_main.htm or from the Strategic Planning Action Group Research Department at (703) 805-5406. Prior reports are available in very limited quantities. Copies

are also available for checkout in Acker Library at the DAU Fort Belvoir campus. A list of the report titles follows.

- *Transatlantic Armaments Cooperation* – 2000
- *Program Management 2000: Know the Way* – 1999
- *Simulation Based Acquisition: A New Approach* – 1998
- *A Model For Leading Change: Making Acquisition Reform Work* – 1997
- *Navigating The Digital Environment: A Program Manager's Perspective* – 1996
- *Modernization in Lean Times: Modifications and Upgrades* – 1995
- *Systems Acquisition Manager's Guide for the Use of Models and Simulations* – 1994
- *Virtual Prototyping – Concept to Production* – 1993
- *NDI Acquisition – An Alternative to "Business as Usual"* – 1992
- *International Cooperation – The Next Generation* – 1991
- *Europe 1992 – Catalyst for Change in Defense Acquisition* – 1990
- *Using Commercial Practices in DoD Acquisition* – 1989

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Defense
Resources
Management
Institute

Defense Resources Management Course

Course Objectives

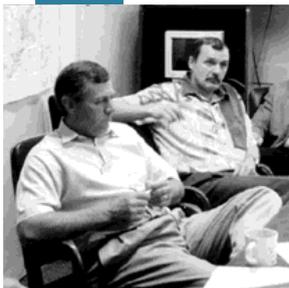
Develop an understanding of resource management concepts, principles, and techniques

Who Should Attend?

Managers working in all fields concerned with resource allocation

Who is Eligible?

- Military Officers (active or reserve) O-4 and above
- Civilian DoD, GS-11 and above
- Equivalent ranking military & civilian officials of other nations



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DSN 878 210-2104/2306
Comm 831 656-2104/2307
mandrews@nps.navy.mil

Calendar Year 2001

Four-week Sessions
May 21-June 15
August 20-September 14

Fore more information

www.nps.navy.mil/drmi/

