

THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE DSMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*A Forum for Continuing Professional Growth
Within the Acquisition Community*

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The objectives of the Defense Systems Management College Alumni Association (DSMC-AA) are to provide its members with a forum for continuing their professional growth within the acquisition community; and to augment their exposure to acquisition expertise from the Department of Defense (DoD), the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC), other association members, other government agencies and industry. Today, these objectives continue to relate to progressive acquisition reform.

Changing Laws and Regulations

Over the years, the many DSMC graduates continued to manage a DoD acquisition system that develops and acquires the best weapons systems in the world. For the past 2 years, faced with significant changes to our security requirements as a nation, DoD has been reforming our acquisition system to adjust to declining defense

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budgets and develop technology more effectively using more commercial opportunities. Attending the DSMC-AA sponsored events helps members keep abreast with and understand changes to laws and regulations that impact upon their effectiveness to viably perform in the acquisition arena.

Program Managers Symposium

Each year the DSMC-AA hosts a showcase event with the Program Managers Symposium. This year, the 12th offering, focuses on "Implementation of Acquisition Reform," and will be held at the Fort Belvoir main campus July 17-19, 1995. Organizers of this spectacular gathering hope to feature Honorable John M. Deutch, Deputy Secretary of Defense, as the keynote speaker. Secretary Deutch is expected to speak on "Reengineering Defense Acquisition." Mrs. Colleen A. Preston, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform, is invited as Banquet Speaker to address the topic of "Acquisition Reform — The First Year." The symposium presents a host of high-level acquisition experts, including the Service Acquisition Executives: Mr. Gilbert F. Decker (Army), Mrs. Nora Slatkin (Navy), and Mr. Clark G. Fiester (Air Force), who will form a panel to provide the Service views of acquisition reform.

The symposiums also host a series of 90-minute workshops on current trends and initiatives in the acquisition arena. Attendees usually share many experiences and develop new points of contact with colleagues from

various organizational elements within our world of acquisition management. Social events associated with the symposium will also be a part of the agenda. In addition to daily luncheons with guest speakers, attendees can enjoy informal discussions with many of the distinguished speakers at a scheduled formal banquet. This year an added feature will be a Job Fair offering opportunities for those in pursuit of professional change.

Access to Other Acquisition Professionals

The DSMC-AA provides members with a national association and a network to access other professionals in the field of systems acquisition. Local area chapters are established in the Capital Area (Metropolitan Washington, D.C.); Dayton, Ohio; and the Tennessee Valley (Huntsville, Ala.). The Capital Area Chapter hosts monthly lunch-time seminars on timely acquisition subjects. These seminars are well attended.

DSMC-AA Newsletter

The DSMC-AA publishes the quarterly *DSMC Alumni Association Newsletter* to inform members on matters affecting the College and the acquisition community. The newsletter provides information on membership activities, feature articles on current acquisition events, and is one of the primary vehicles for providing members with a listing of free course offerings on campus in conjunction with the Program Management Course (PMC) electives program. The PMC classes invite DSMC-AA members to participate in elective classes that penetrate deeper into many of the subjects covered in the PMC curriculum. These well-attended, popular electives, which are structured similar to the format used by the Program Managers Symposium workshops, are well received by our members and lauded as informative and beneficial.

The newsletter also includes a feature section entitled, "The Acquisition

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tion Spotlight," which brings visibility to some of our members and highlights notable successes in their acquisition careers. The newsletter also strives to provide colorful stories concerning specific events and accomplishments of as many of our members as is practical.

Continued Professional Involvement

The benefits of DSMC-AA membership extend beyond the scope of a national symposium, local chapter seminars, electives and meetings. Membership in the association provides opportunities for continued professional involvement and participation in defense acquisition activities.

As the focus of DSMC evolves from exclusive "defense" acquisition management activities into more commercial applications of the program management concept and function, DSMC-AA members will continue to grow and keep abreast of these changes through participation in DSMC-AA sponsored events. They will be able to maintain contact with other members through the use of the membership directory, and DSMC-AA membership will facilitate awareness of timely updates on evolving acquisition policy, procedures, issues and lessons learned.

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