

FROM THE COMMANDANT

We're extremely pleased to present Gary Smith, the Special Operations Command Acquisition Executive (SOCOM AE), as our cover story for this issue (p. 2). Since Gary's appointment as the SOCOM AE in 1991, we've had the pleasure of hosting him at the College on numerous occasions. His unique position as manager of the entire acquisition program for American Special Forces is a story you won't want to miss reading.

We have a new senior leader in the acquisition community, and DSMC can claim him as one of our own (p. 39). Effective July 7, Army Lt. Gen. Paul J. Kern became the new Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development, and Acquisition. A 1982 graduate of DSMC's Program Management Course [now called the Advanced Program Management Course], General Kern will also serve as the Director, Army Acquisition Corps. Please join us in welcoming him to the ranks of our DoD senior acquisition leaders.

Modeling and Simulation (M&S) is the predominant theme throughout this issue. We're extremely privileged in that Dr. Patricia Sanders, the Director, Test, Systems Engineering and Evaluation (DTSE&E) for the Department of Defense, wrote the lead article in this series (p. 72). Dr. Sanders is responsible for ensuring the effective integration of all engineering disciplines into the system acquisition process, including modeling and simulation.

Preceding Dr. Sanders' article, we announce the publication of an important document for DoD and its M&S community: *Simulation Support Plan Guidelines*, May 1997 (p. 69). These guidelines, along with Acting Under Secretary Longuemare's OSD "Study on the Effectiveness of M&S in the Weapon System Acquisition Process," provide a tremendous wealth of information on M&S use in current projects and programs.

From a cornfield in New Jersey to a simulation superstructure in Orlando, these M&S articles — solicited from a broad spectrum of all three Services, other government agencies, and the academic community — provide an excellent overview of current DoD use of M&S and its potential for the future.

Also in this issue we present an in-depth look at program stability (p. 59) from Dan Czelusniak, Director, Acquisition Program Integration, OUSD(A&T). Look for an upcoming interview with Dan in our November/December 1997 issue.

On June 16, we conducted a trial run of *PictureTel*, our new Video TeleTeaching (VTT) system (p. 40). This marks an important milestone toward achieving one of our major strategic goals — *Distance Learning* (1997 DSMC Corporate Plan). Our thanks to Rear Adm. George Wagner, Commander, SPAWAR, for his cooperation and support of our Technology-Based Education and Training initiative.

Also in this issue we bring you the proceedings of the 1997 Acquisition Research Symposium, a biannual event we co-host with the National Contract Management Association (p. 20). This year's event was held June 25-27 in Rockville, Maryland. On p. 48, you'll also find an article covering the Ninth International Acquisition/ Procurement Seminar sponsored by the International Defense Educational Arrangement (IDEA), in Mannheim, Germany, July 9-11.

Continuing our series of articles on the DAU consortium schools, this issue highlights the Naval Postgraduate School (p. 10) and DSMC's Western Region (p. 52).

By now, we've all learned of the White House nomination of Dr. Jacques Gansler as Dr. Kaminski's successor (White House Press Release, opposite page). While Dr. Gansler awaits Senate confirmation, the Principal Deputy Under Secretary, R. Noel Longuemare, continues as the Acting USD(A&T). Be assured we'll be publishing the new Under Secretary's programs, priorities, and future goals very soon.

Here at the College, we recently celebrated the graduation of 241 students from the Advanced Program Management Course (APMC 97-2). This class graduated on August 15, and on September 8 we'll be welcoming the students of APMC 97-3. Although we've conducted many graduations for our PMC and APMC students over the years, the satisfaction of knowing we're making a difference and our students are going out and achieving results, never wanes.

Secretary of Defense Cohen, in this issue (p. 16) speaks of not only a revolution in military affairs, but a revolution in the Department's business practices. DSMC graduates of the caliber of John Douglass and Paul Kern are among the first to emerge as leaders in this acquisition revolution. Many more of our graduates have yet to reach their zenith, but each of them is making a positive difference to DoD's acquisition process.

DAU and its consortium schools are now graduating the finest acquisition professionals in the world. For our faculty and staff, it's a tremendous sense of accomplishment, only surpassed by our desire to make a quality acquisition education accessible to as many members of the professional acquisition workforce as possible, as soon as possible.



**—Brig. Gen. Richard A. Black
U.S. Army
Commandant**