

Army Acquisition Corps Celebrates 10 Years!



In recognition of an exciting first decade, the U.S. Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) will commemorate its 10th anniversary during the week of the 1999 Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting Oct. 11-13. Since the inception of the AAC Oct. 13, 1989, when the Army Chief of Staff approved its creation as an organization of dedicated military and civilian acquisition specialists and leaders, it has had a tremendous impact on the Army's acquisition community.

Events

A series of events will precede the 10th anniversary celebration. These events will highlight the development of the AAC and showcase its progress in professionalizing the field of acquisition.

An AAC display commemorating the 10th anniversary will be on view at the AUSA meeting. In addition, career development guidance will be available at the AAC career development hospitality suite.

An AAC team will also participate in the *Army 10-Miler* Oct. 10.

Creation of an Association

The 10th anniversary commemoration will also serve to inaugurate the establishment of an association of acquisition professionals that will offer unique opportunities to its members. Initially, membership in the association will be open to all active duty military personnel, those individuals from the U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard serving in an Army Guard Reserve assignment, and all civilian federal employees. As a national association, it will be headquartered in Washington, D.C. It will also provide an opportunity to help preserve the heritage of the AAC. An important part of the association's role will be to publicize and reinforce Army acquisition goals and ensure that the lessons of history and the proud traditions of the Army Acquisition Workforce (AAW) are remembered by future generations.

Initially, Keith Charles, the Deputy Director for Acquisition Career Management, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, will serve as president of the association. "I'm very excited that acquisition is finally being recognized as a profession with its own professional society. I'll do all I can to support it," said Charles. The AAC's Acquisition Career Management Advocates will sit on the inaugural board as well as serve as regional chapter presidents.

Army Acquisition Corps Ball

AAC 10th anniversary activities will include the AAC Ball Oct. 10 in the main ballroom of the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Crystal City, Va. It will be a black-tie affair and is expected to draw many senior leaders from the acquisition community. Those traveling to

the Washington, D.C., area for the AUSA Annual Meeting are invited to attend.

The host of the AAC Ball will be Paul J. Hoeper, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and Army Acquisition Executive. The Master of Ceremonies will be Keith Charles. George G. Williams, President of COLSA Corp., will be the keynote speaker. Williams, a former recipient of the Department of the Army Excellence in Acquisition Management Award, enjoyed a distinguished career in acquisition and will be sharing his positive experiences with the AAC. Organizers anticipate more than 700 people will attend the function. Invited guests include personnel from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology; the Army Acquisition Executive; other Service Acquisition Executives; the Defense Acquisition Executive; personnel from the Army Secretariat and Army staff; senior program, project, and product managers; and program executive officers.

Entertainment will be provided by a U.S. Army field band, a musical group specifically formed for this type of event. The Military District of Washington will provide ceremonial support, and the U.S. Army Old Guard will present the colors. Special award presentations as well as charter memberships and chapter presentations are also planned for the evening.

Process Action Team

To help plan for the AAC's 10th anniversary commemoration, the Director for Acquisition Career Management, Army Lt. Gen. Paul J. Kern requested formation of a Process Action Team (PAT). Once organized, the PAT defined overall goals and objectives of the AAC's 10th anniversary, identified specific events, and recommended an implementation strategy.

A special Web site at <http://dacm.sarda.army.mil> was created specifically for the AAC's 10th anniversary. The new AAC Home Page provides the AAW information on the AAC 10th anniversary events and the acquisition professional association. For convenience, it also links to an online registration site for the AAC Ball.

To provide comments or recommendations to the PAT or to obtain additional information, contact Mary McHale in the Acquisition Career Management Office at (703) 604-7105, DSN 664-7105, E-mail: mchalem@sarda.army.mil.

