

ONR Developing Technology Insertion Curriculum for New S&T Component of DoD's Acquisition Workforce

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The science and technology (S&T) component of DoD's acquisition workforce now has a new course targeted to its educational needs. Dr. Fred E. Saalfeld, Office of Naval Research (ONR), gave the opening lecture for "Technology Insertion in Systems Acquisition," (a new course that is expected to meet requirements for newly identified science and technology personnel as assignment-specific training, and should also be available to meet continuous learning requirements). Seventeen senior personnel (one from DARPA, 16 from ONR) attended the initial session, held at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Arlington, Va., June 29 through July 1.

The course presented an overview of the evolving role and required skills necessary for science and technology program managers to impact DoD's acquisition programs. Classroom discussions revolved around the DAWIA, how Department of the Navy (DoN) science and technology plays in the acquisition

process, fundamentals of systems acquisition management, integrated product and process development, legal and ethical issues concerning industry interface, and integrated product teams.

Navy Rear Adm. John F. Shipway, Direct Reporting Program Manager for Strategic Systems Programs, related some of the common concerns from the acquisition perspective and challenged students to improve on transition of science and technology products to acquisition. At course conclusion, a panel of Acquisition Program Managers and Science and Technology Program Officers provided their success stories and lessons learned concerning transition of science and technology products to acquisition.

In designing the "Technology Insertion in Systems Acquisition" curriculum, the Office of Naval Research, led by Navy Rear Adm. Paul G. Gaffney II, Chief of Naval Research, consulted with, and coordinated its efforts through, several Navy and defense acquisition career management executives: retired Navy Rear Adm. Leonard Vincent, former

Commandant, Defense Systems Management College (DSMC); retired Rear Adm. William Hauenstein, DoN Director of Acquisition Career Management; Paul Schneider, Principal Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition; and Dr. James McMichael, DoD Director of Acquisition Education, Training, and Career Development.

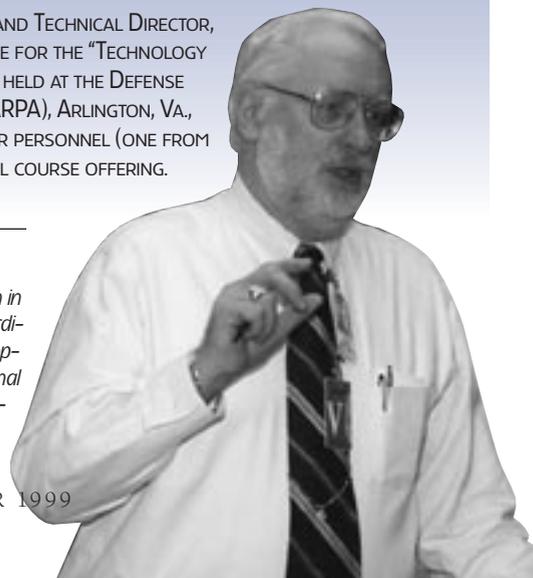
To ensure the most productive use of the three days students devoted to the course, ONR defined and made available prerequisite courses that involved distance learning:

- **Fundamentals of Systems Acquisition Course (ACQ-101).** A DSMC course offering, ONR posted ACQ-101 to the ONR Intranet, making it readily available for review by students prior to attending the course. DSMC professor Jim Sheldon facilitated the course session on systems acquisition management.
- **Integrated Product Team (IPT) Course.** Issued by the DoN Acquisition Reform Office and facilitated by DSMC professor, Navy Cmdr. John Kelley, ONR, posted the IPT Course to the ONR Intranet in addition to one other prerequisite on Integrated Product and Process Development.

Eventually, Gaffney plans to cycle all ONR science and technology managers through the course, which will be offered every two months.

Editor's Note: The author encourages questions or comments concerning this article. Contact him by E-mail at lukensw@onr.navy.mil.

DR. FRED E. SAALFELD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, ONR, IS PICTURED GIVING AN OPENING LECTURE FOR THE "TECHNOLOGY INSERTION IN SYSTEMS ACQUISITION" COURSE, HELD AT THE DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY (DARPA), ARLINGTON, VA., JUNE 29 THROUGH JULY 1. SEVENTEEN SENIOR PERSONNEL (ONE FROM DARPA, 16 FROM ONR) ATTENDED THE INITIAL COURSE OFFERING.



Lukens is an employee of the Office of Naval Research and Visiting Professor, DSMC. As program manager for the "Technology Insertion in Systems Acquisition course," he is currently coordinating with the other Services to assist in developing a DoD-wide course addressing the educational requirements for all science and technology personnel in the defense acquisition workforce.