



Conferences, Workshops & Symposia

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND NEWS RELEASE (FEB. 1, 2006) LEADERS MEET TO PLAN FUTURE

John Scaggs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—An acquisition, corporate, logistics, and sustainment “meeting of the minds” took place Jan. 26-27 to discuss Air Force Materiel Command’s path ahead and how the application of Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century can help.

Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command hosted 73 people from Air Force Materiel Command agencies, IBM, Deloitte Consulting, and Rand Corp., as part of the command’s fifth Sustainment Transformation Senior Leadership Conference.

The sessions provided attendees with a clear understanding of the sustainment transformation vision, concept of operations, and roadmap.

Air Force Smart Operations 21 is one of the tools Air Force Materiel Command will use to improve support to customers while simultaneously reducing required resources.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne launched this initiative to make the Air Force more efficient and effective. Gen. Bruce Carlson, Air Force Materiel Command commander, provided opening remarks and stated that we are going to change behaviors in the Air Force Materiel Command, and as a result of those behavior changes, Air Force Smart Operations 21 will become part of the command’s culture.

“The Air Force’s recapitalization challenge will drive what Air Force Materiel Command does for the next decade,” the general said. “The average age of our aircraft is more than 23 years. That increases operational and maintenance costs while decreasing readiness. The Air Force must modernize its fleet of aging aircraft if we are going to continue to fly, fight, and win America’s wars.”

The response to this challenge is Air Force Smart Operations 21, Carlson emphasized.

“We have pockets of continuous process improvement using tools like Lean at our air logistics centers,” he said. “But we must now take our efforts to an enterprise-wide level ... across not only our air logistics centers, but also the Air Force Research Lab and our product, test, and specialized centers.

“By examining our processes, which affect our strategic outcomes, and applying an analytic approach, which fo-

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—Gen. Bruce Carlson, USAF
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

cuses on continuous process improvement, we’ll produce dynamic Air Force-wide results through improved efficiencies,” Carlson said.

As the conference drew to a close, Carlson asked his commanders and directors to recommend two processes for improvement by Feb. 9. Commanders and directors will provide a progress update during Air Force Materiel Command’s spring commanders’ conference March 27.

The general stressed that he is committed to creating an environment that inspires trust, innovation, and a passion for achieving improved performance.

“My goal is unprecedented cross-functional integration that will yield previously unimagined success,” Carlson said. “I am counting on everyone within this command to take us there.”



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Air Force Materiel Command hosts senior leadership sessions to gain active participation, leadership, and commitment from the command's senior leaders. Cross-flow of information helps facilitate the increased understanding of sustainment transformation.

Scaggs is with Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs.

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND NEWS SERVICE (FEB. 3, 2006) SUCCESSFUL ACQUISITION TRANSFORMATION TIED TO RISK-BASED MANAGEMENT

John Scaggs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS)—Many acquisition stakeholders say acquisition programs take too long, cost too much, and lack credibility. The consequences, however, are unmistakable: they result in the cannibalization of programs to cover other priorities, and they delay modernization. Ultimately what this means is reduced capability to the warfighter.

These issues were the foundation of an acquisition transformation briefing by Barbara Westgate, executive director of Air Force Materiel Command, during the command's fifth Sustainment Transformation Senior Leadership Conference. Headquarters AFMC hosted the event Jan. 26-27.

The Air Force is becoming unaffordable, according to Westgate. Fiscal realities of the Global War on Terror and domestic needs such as Hurricane Katrina relief are resulting in fewer dollars for modernization within the Department of Defense and Air Force. This environment is driving changes in the way the Air Force does business.

"As the Air Force addresses emerging priorities, acquisition has become part of the shrinking 'discretionary' budget," said Westgate.

In 2005, a Department of Defense-sanctioned acquisition assessment led to common findings, previously identified by the Air Force acquisition community, and to subsequent proposals. With the findings and proposals in hand, AFMC, partnering with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition in the form of the Acquisition Transformation Action Council (ATAC), has created goals and objectives to transform acquisition processes.

"Our foundational initiative is risk-based management—we must change to a culture that meets commitments

by managing risk and reducing inefficiencies," said Westgate.

She explained that risk-based management is assessing and making decisions about programs based on a calculated level of acceptable risk.

"We plan to develop multi-dimensional risk measures," said Westgate. "This includes risk associated with cost estimates, technology maturity, dependencies within and among programs and components, the workforce, and contractor skills or capability."

The ATAC has created six acquisition-transformation teams, each with a separate focus, to organize the work ahead. The teams' focus areas are acquisition-risk oversight, test and evaluation, program stability, program planning, and leadership buy-in.

AFMC is heavily involved at all levels on these teams, including providing leadership and functional expertise.

"Over the next six to 12 months we also plan to establish policy and training that will help stabilize our programs," Westgate said. "We will also focus upon two areas of oversight we feel will have much benefit in reducing workload in the program offices: collapsing executive level reviews, and streamlining the acquisition strategy process."

She added that risk-based management will require tough decisions to likely reduce the number of acquisition programs.

"Additionally, we are looking to reduce the development cycle to six years, which means we may have to trade off some requirements and hold them to subsequent spirals where the technology will have matured," Westgate said.

"But risk-based management will serve as the center of gravity for our acquisition reform," she continued. "We believe that risk-based management will move our culture from a 'conspiracy of hope' to one that is success-based and meets commitments."

AFMC hosts senior leadership sessions to gain active participation, leadership, and commitment from the command's senior leaders, conference planners said.

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DOD MODELING & SIMULATION CONFERENCE

This year's Department of Defense Modeling and Simulation Conference will be held at the Wyndham Baltimore-Inner Harbor, May 1-5, 2006. The DoD M&S Conference is the premier conference bringing together government and military executives, strategic planners, and senior technical managers to enable the DoD M&S community to develop a common view of the state of M&S practice, expose members to the broader M&S community needs (shortfalls, issues, and challenges), and examine M&S gaps associated with policies, procedures, and practices within DoD. The conference also serves as an important forum for discussing and coordinating future plans, goals, and programs within the DoD M&S community.

For more information, visit the National Training Systems Association Web site at <<http://www.trainingsystems.org/events>> or contact Barbara McDaniel at (703) 247-2569.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

The National Small Business Conference will be held May 8-10, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Newport Hotel & Spa, in Newport, R.I. Small business plays a vital role in our nation's defense industrial base, and the mission of this conference will be to increase small business access to government contracts. Targeted primarily at an audience of small businesses already established in the federal marketplace, the conference will feature plenary session speakers focusing on the important role of small business in the defense industrial base, concurrent breakouts on a variety of specific related topics, and one-on-one "matchmaking" sessions.

Register for the conference at <<http://eweb.ndia.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=ndia&Webcode=EventList>>.

FULFILLING THE WARFIGHTER'S VISION 2006: CLOSING THE INFORMATION GAP

Fulfilling the Warfighter's Vision 2006: Closing the Information Gap will be held May 9-10, 2006, at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort and Golf Club, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Army Gen. John P. Abizaid, commander of Central Command, will speak on the real and immediate needs of warfighters for information.

This is a unique conference, because the point isn't how to do enterprise services, acquisition strategies, or business models. This conference is about reality: the im-

mediate need for information, real interoperability, and the crucial role of industry. This is an opportunity for warfighters to speak to the capability providers to tell them what's wrong and what is needed.

The target audience for this conference includes government agency employees, military services, and combatant commands who want to accelerate the process of moving technology into the field in a controlled, rational manner and who have budgets and programs impacted by net-centric operations.

Register for the conference at <<http://eweb.ndia.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=ndia&Webcode=EventList>>.

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

The Defense Industrial Base critical Infrastructure Protection Conference and Exhibition will be held May 9-11, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Miami, in Miami, Fla. The intent of this symposium and exhibition is for DoD, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and industry to address the challenges of building a resilient defense industrial base for the global war on terror and beyond. These efforts must include information sharing, interoperability, and the development and integration of high-quality decision support capabilities. Moreover, specific information-sharing protocols, procedures, and policy guidance that will enhance communication flow at all levels of government, industry, and commercial infrastructure providers are paramount to preparing and protecting providers of essential goods and services from a multitude of potential threats.

For more information, contact meeting planner Christy Goehner at cgoehner@ndia.org or call 703-247-2586.

OUS(DAT&L)'S BUSINESS MANAGERS' CONFERENCE—KEN KRIEG KEYNOTE SPEAKER

This year's Business Managers' Conference is scheduled for May 9 and 10, 2006, at the Defense Acquisition University, Fort Belvoir, Va. The theme of the conference is "Enabling Smart Business Decisions." The keynote speaker is Ken Krieg, under secretary of defense (acquisition, technology and logistics).

Sponsored by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) in cooperation with the Business, Cost Estimating, and Financial Management Functional Advisor, the annual conference is targeted toward senior DoD acquisition and comp-



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troller executives as well as PEO/PM/SYSCOM business managers and service headquarters program and business staff. It offers two full days of high-level speakers, training opportunities, and exhibits, with valuable information and demonstrations of a variety of tools for managing organizational challenges. The yearly conference is an excellent way to stay abreast of current acquisition and business initiatives and provides opportunities for wide-ranging discussions with key leaders. For more information, e-mail bmc@dau.mil or call (703) 805-5308. To register, go to <http://www.businessmanagersconference.com>. Information on previous Business Managers' Conferences may be found at http://www.dau.mil/conferences/Past_Conferences.asp and <http://bmc.ida.org/>.

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE-ITEC 2006

The International Training and Education Conference, ITEC 2006—now in its 17th year—will be held May 16-18, 2006, at ExCel London, the international exhibition and conference centre. ITEC is Europe's only conference and exhibition dedicated to defense training, education, and simulation exhibition of equipment and services. Participants will find that ITEC 2006 is the meeting place to network with international military and defense training experts. Register online at <https://www.itec.co.uk/page.cfm>Action=PreReg/PreRegID=9/t=m>.

DOD PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE

Plan ahead to attend the 2006 DoD Procurement Conference May 23-26, 2006, at the Marriott Grande Lakes in Orlando, Fla. Watch for details of the conference at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/about/conferences.htm>.

2006 ARMY IT CONFERENCE (AITC)

The Army Small Computer Program will be hosting the 2006 AITC June 5-8, 2006, at the Caribe Royale, Orlando, Fla. The Army's most powerful information technology conference attracts more than 500 Army, DoD, federal/ government employees, support contractors, industry representatives, and exhibitors for whom attendance is free of charge. The conference brings together the most important and knowledgeable people driving the Army's present and future IT requirements. This year's event is packed with exciting guest speakers from DoD and industry and includes an exhibition hall consisting of over 40 exhibitors showcasing the latest IT products and services available on

ASCP contracts. DAWIA members of the defense acquisition workforce can earn required continuous learning points by attending the 2006 Army IT Conference. For detailed information and online registration visit the ASCP Web site at <https://ascp.monmouth.army.mil> or contact Elisa Pallitto, (732) 427-6787, DSN 987-6787, or elisa.pallitto@us.army.mil.

INCOSE 2006 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Mark your calendars and allocate your budgets so you can be sure to join systems engineers from around the world at the Sixteenth Annual International Council On Systems Engineering (INCOSE) International Symposium, July 9-13, 2006, in Orlando, Fla. This year's theme is *Systems Engineering: Shining Light on the Tough Issues*. Register now at <http://www.incose.org/symp2006/>.

DOD DIMINISHING MANUFACTURING SOURCES AND MATERIAL SHORTAGES CONFERENCE

The DoD Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages (DMSMS) Conference July 10-13, 2006, at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C. The conference will emphasize DMSMS and will be a follow on to the DMSMS meetings. Registration information will be posted as soon as it becomes available at <http://register.ndia.org/interview/register.ndia?#May2006>.

ANNUAL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

The 9th Annual Systems Engineering Conference will be held Oct. 23-27, 2006, at the Hyatt Islandia in San Diego, Calif. Registration information will be posted as soon as it becomes available at <http://register.ndia.org/interview/register.ndia?#May2006>.

25TH ARMY SCIENCE CONFERENCE

The 25th Army Science Conference will be held Nov. 27-30, 2006, at the JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes, in Orlando, Fla. This year's theme will be *Transformational Army Science and Technology - Charting the Next 50 Years of Science and Technology for the Soldier*. This yearly event is sponsored by the assistant secretary of the Army (acquisition, logistics and technology). Watch for details of the conference and registration information at <http://www.asc2006.com/>.