

---

# Spotlight on DAU Learning Resources

## DAU AND NDIA TO SPONSOR DEFENSE SYSTEMS ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT COURSE OFFERING FOR INDUSTRY MANAGERS

DAU and the National Defense Industrial Association will sponsor an offering of the Defense Systems Acquisition Management (DSAM) course for interested industry managers Sept. 8-12, 2008, at the Loews Annapolis Hotel, Annapolis, Md.

DSAM presents the same acquisition policy information provided to DoD students who attend the Defense Acquisition University courses for acquisition certification training. It is designed to meet the needs of defense industry acquisition managers in today's dynamic environment, providing the latest information related to:

- Defense acquisition policy for weapons and information technology systems, including discussion of the DoD 5000 series (directive and instruction) and the CJCS 3170 series (instruction and manual)
- Defense transformation initiatives related to systems acquisition
- Defense acquisition procedures and processes
- The planning, programming, budgeting, and execution process and the congressional budget process
- The relationship between the determination of military capability needs, resource allocation, science and technology activities, and acquisition programs.

For further information see "Courses Offered" under "Meetings and Events" at <[www.ndia.org](http://www.ndia.org)>. Industry students contact Phyllis Edmonson at 703-247-2577 or e-mail [pedmonson@ndia.org](mailto:pedmonson@ndia.org). A limited number of experienced government students may be selected to attend each offering. Government students must first contact Bruce Moler at 703-805-5257 or e-mail [bruce.moler@dau.mil](mailto:bruce.moler@dau.mil) prior to registering with NDIA.

## CONTINUOUS LEARNING MODULE REQUEST PROCEDURES

The Defense Acquisition University e-Learning and Technologies Center (e-LTC) and the Learning Capabilities Integration Center (LCIC) are pleased to announce a new DAU Web site for Continuous Learning Module (CLM) requests at <[http://clc.dau.mil/clm\\_index.asp](http://clc.dau.mil/clm_index.asp)>. The site provides step-by-step procedures, useful references, and other needed information to assist the requestor. For example, the site contains content samples, references, process business rules, proposal forms, and other tools. DAU's intent is to provide the defense acquisition, technology, and logistics workforce an accessible DAU Web site to more effectively communicate the CLM request process

to DAU faculty and staff. The DAU CLM site addresses new developments, major revisions, maintenance, and hosted requests.

## CENTER FOR SIMULATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH (C-STAR) OPENS AT DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY MAIN CAMPUS

As part of DAU's ongoing effort to "train as we operate," the new Center for Simulation, Training and Research (C-STAR) is focused on organizational team training in which teams of acquisition personnel from the same organization will move through training rotations together. DAU faculty is developing learning assets specifically designed to exploit this capability. The C-STAR is now operational at DAU's main campus at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The center features a number of cutting-edge technologies, including 40 state-of-the-art computers and two MERL Diamond-touch tables, which allow the user to interact with PC-based simulations using a touch screen. The main room will also feature a sufficient number of projection or display screens so that up to six groups can work in the center at any one time. Additionally, a gaming lab will explore the potential of using technologies such as gaming consoles as a way to interact with the AT&L workforce. Phase Two of the C-STAR build-out will be completed in fiscal year 2008. DAU's Phase Three plan includes such additions as telepresence, creating a live, face-to-face meeting experience over the network.

Similar sites are being planned for use at DAU locations across the country. The center will also be supporting the activities of the DAU's legacy Management Deliberation Center (MDC). For more information, contact Mark Oehlert at [mark.oehlert@dau.mil](mailto:mark.oehlert@dau.mil).

## ACKER LIBRARY UPDATES "DAWIA ANNOTATED—CURRENT LAW"

The Defense Acquisition University's Acker Library and Knowledge Repository recently updated "DAWIA ANNOTATED." The updated version includes annotations and footnotes showing the historical development of the original Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act and amendments to the act since 1990. This current version of DAWIA is a valuable resource to the DoD AT&L community since the full text of Title 10 on the Library of Congress's Thomas Web site is more than two years out of date (as of March 10, 2008). For access to the current version of Chapter 87 (DAWIA) of Title 10, United States Code, click on <[www.library.dau.mil/DAWIA\\_internet.htm](http://www.library.dau.mil/DAWIA_internet.htm)>.

## Spotlight on DAU Learning Resources

### BRINGING BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED TO LIFE: THE DOD BEST PRACTICES CLEARINGHOUSE

Many government organizations have attempted to develop systems to capture best practices or lessons learned, but have fallen short of success. As programs are asked to do more with tighter budgets and schedules, it becomes crucial to avoid past mistakes. However, finding appropriate best practices is not always easy. Rarely is there evidence about expected outcomes resulting from a particular best practice to aid in its selection within a given context. In many cases, guidance based on experience is missing, and the gap between “what is a best practice?” and “how do I implement it?” addressed in detail or at all.

The Defense Acquisition University’s knowledge management team has partnered with elements of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, to leverage research conducted by the Fraunhofer Center for Experimental Software Engineering (University of Maryland) and CSC to carefully design a new tool that achieves a Congressional mandate to improve software development, while at the same time meeting an emerging need in support of the larger DoD acquisition workforce.

The vision for this new system—the DoD Acquisition Best Practices Clearinghouse, or BPCh—is to provide an integrated set of processes, tools, and resources that enable users to share experiences and identify practices through evidence of practice effectiveness in environments like their own. On Feb. 29, that vision was finally realized with the public launch of BPCh.

Located at <<https://bpch.dau.mil>>, BPCh also completes a planned “system of systems” called the Acquisition Knowledge Management System (AKMS), which in addition to BPCh, is composed of the Acquisition Community Connection (ACC), the Acquisition Knowledge Sharing System (AKSS) and the ACQUIRE search site. Each of these systems are jointly sponsored and supported by the Office of the Under Secretary of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and DAU.

BPCh is designed to help improve DoD’s systems acquisition processes by allowing users to select and implement proven acquisition, development and systems engineering practices appropriate to their individual programmatic needs. Rather than recreate or repost information, BPCh is designed to link to as many existing resources as possible

that not only identify practices, but how to implement them.

BPCh adopts an evidence-based approach, in which supporting evidence and practices for programs undergo a system of recommendations and vetting by government, industrial and academic members comprising a “practice providers network.” The value added that BPCh provides is that stored evidence is contextualized, guiding users to lessons and practices relevant to their program, type of problem, or specific environment, which helps them learn from practical results—both good and bad—and may be applied in their environment. BPCh users have immediate access (with suitable caveats) to source materials from which vetted recommendations will be built.

Vetted recommendations help form a practice’s ultimate “maturity rating,” indicated by a bronze, silver or gold rating in the system. Bronze-level practices are nominated by experts and user communities, and have received a preliminary check for applicability. While the detailed evaluations continue, the initial evidence is provided to aid users in making informed decisions. For example, a bronze-level practice would typically be simply identified in a practice listing, or minimally, consist of a few supporting details or minor evidence that describes what types of programs have used the practice and how it was applied.

Silver-level practices have been selected as promising enough to commission experts in the practice area to summarize key information. Users can see at a glance what they should know—and they can always see the source of the practice summary by following pointers to more in-depth practice evidence than is available at a bronze-level practice. A silver-level practice would also include an easy-to-read summary of key information prepared by an expert in the given practice area.

Gold-level practices have been through a rigorous analysis by a committee of experts in the practice area itself as well as by user representatives. Information on gold-level practices contains the best and widest-ranging experiences that are available to the user. Gold practices have a fully detailed summary and a vetting certification assuring that



## Spotlight on DAU Learning Resources

the information has been checked for both accuracy and usefulness.

As with any knowledge-sharing tool, it is imperative that users always read a practice's entire summary because there may be examples where results for a project type are not ideal. Users should also bear in mind that additional and new evidence will continue to be added to existing practices recorded in BPCh, describing results in new contexts, with summaries updated as needed to reflect the new knowledge.

Visit BPCh at < <https://bpch.dau.mil> > for more information on this new tool, and if you have more questions please contact Mike Lambert, BPCh program manager, at [michael.lambert@dau.mil](mailto:michael.lambert@dau.mil), or John Hickok, DAU director of knowledge management, at [john.hickok@dau.mil](mailto:john.hickok@dau.mil).

### NEW CONTINGENCY CONTRACTING SIMULATION MODULE AVAILABLE

Say you're a newcomer to the military and the Department of Defense, placed in a contingency position. You know you will be deploying soon to support an exercise, simulating a warzone so you can get a better handle on how best to accomplish the contingency contracting mission. You have also been told by your training representative you are scheduled for the mandatory Defense Acquisition University Contingency Contracting course in six months.

Then, bang! You get the call to move out. In two weeks, you find yourself on the ground in a remote corner of the world. What's more, you have to purchase most supplies from the local economy. What language do they speak here? What currency is used? What are the local customs? How will you deal with U.S. contractors vying for some of the action?

Hopefully that won't happen to you, because you can take CLM 039 Contingency Contracting Simulation: Barda Bridge. This robust module steers the Contingency Contracting Officer (CCO) through pre-deployment, initial deployment to the warfighting zone and build-up phases, and concludes with a final major project—employing critical decision-making skills—before returning the CCO to the home station. Get all this in a two- to three-hour simulation and be better prepared for your role in supporting the warfighter as a CCO. For more information, contact the professor of Contract Business Management at [cbm@dau.mil](mailto:cbm@dau.mil).

### Defense Acquisition University Strategic Partnerships

Through the years, the Defense Acquisition University has established strategic partnerships with universities and colleges, defense-sector corporations, professional associations, other government agencies, and international organizations. Such partnerships with academic institutions allow DoD AT&L workforce members to transfer DAU course work toward college and university degrees and certificates. Partnerships with industry, professional societies, government agencies, and international organizations focus on sharing training materials, tools, modules, and training opportunities. A complete database of DAU Strategic Partnerships can be found at < [www.dau.mil/about-dau/partnerships.aspx](http://www.dau.mil/about-dau/partnerships.aspx) >. In March 2008 another partnership was added to the database:

DAU and Aeronautical Systems Center validated their mutual long-term commitment to provide improved learning support and knowledge management to the overall acquisition, technology, and logistics community within ASC with the signing of a memorandum of agreement on March 25, 2008. ASC Commander Lt. Gen. John L. "Jack" Hudson, USAF, and DAU Midwest Acting Dean Carl D. Hayden signed the Learning Organization Agreement at the ASC Headquarters, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. DAU Midwest has an established Learning Organization Agreement with the ASC Contract Pricing division, which was signed in December 2007. The existence of this agreement and the positive effects it had on the Contract Pricing division led to the ASC Acquisition Excellence Directorate pursuing an agreement for all of ASC. ASC and DAU will work together to jointly develop training and curriculum, such as an introductory class on Acquisition Program Baselines; increase access to each organization's knowledge management systems such as the AT&L Knowledge Sharing System site and ASC Acquisition Excellence site; share best practices; exchange information on relevant management policies, tools, processes, and databases; participate in joint research projects; and provide subject matter expert guest lecturers when available.