DEFENSE ARJ EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Welcome to this very special issue of the *Defense Acquisition Review Journal.* About six months ago, the DAU Alumni Association (DAUAA), along with the DAU Research Department, initiated the annual Hirsch Research Paper Competition for the DoD acquisition community (including all members of the Defense Acquisition Workforce, the DAU faculty, and the entire commercial defense industry). The theme for research papers in the 2008 competition is: ***"Defense Life-Cycle Management – Sustaining DoD Weapons Systems."*** This theme is consistent with the next annual DAUAA Acquisition Community Symposium, which will be held at Fort Belvoir, VA, on April 15, 2008. To increase interest in this competition, the DAUAA offered prize money for the top papers. Therefore, in addition to the Hirsch Award, the top three papers will win $1000, $500, and $250 respectively. A panel of subject matter experts reviewed all submitted research papers and selected the top three winners. The winners will be officially recognized at the DAUAA Acquisition Community Symposium, and cash prizes will be presented there. This research paper competition results from a special relationship between the DAU Alumni Association, the DAU Research Department, and the *Defense Acquisition Review Journal*. I am extremely pleased and proud to publish the three winning papers for the first annual Hirsch Research Paper Competition in this issue of the Defense ARJ.

The 1st place winning research paper for the 2008 Hirsch Research Paper Competition is "The Future of Integrated Supply Chain Management Utilizing Performance Based Logistics," by LCDR Wes Griffin, USN. This paper focuses on the potential cost and readiness benefits of utilizing two industry best practices: Sense and Respond Logistics (S&RL), and Performance Based Agreements.

The 2nd place winning research paper is: "Joint Attack Munition Systems (JAMS) Project Office Improving Support to the Warfighter," by Barry Beavers and William Ruta. This paper examines how the JAMS Project Office improved support to the warfighter with its implementation of the Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) organizational concept. The authors discuss both organizational structure changes and process changes within the JAMS Project Office to enable implementation of the LCMC organizational concept.

The 3rd place winning research paper is: "Employing Organizational Modeling and Simulation of the KC-135 Depot's Flight Controls Repair Cell," by Maj Matthew A. Paskin, USAF; Maj Alice W. Treviño, USAF; Dr. Geraldo Ferrer; and Col John T. Dillard, USA (Ret.). This research effectively employs computational organizational modeling techniques to identify improvement opportunities with the KC-135 Depot Repair process. The authors conclude by presenting organizational design alternatives for decision makers to enhance the flight controls repair process.

The fourth research paper in this issue also covers the same theme of life-cycle management and sustainment of DoD weapons: "Stryker Suitability Challenges in a Complex Threat Environment," by Dr. Paul Alfieri and Dr. Don McKeon. This research paper addresses how suitability issues influence supportability and operational availability in a dynamic, high-tempo, asymmetric combat environment. The Stryker System is still relatively new and was deployed extremely rapidly to meet an urgent combat need. While the system is performing well, the costs to sustain the required levels of readiness and performance are high, and yet to be fully determined.

The fifth research paper in this issue is "Independent Program Oversight: An Answer for Major Weapons Systems' Success?" by Emory Miller. This article presents a thoughtful examination of the relationship between program oversight and program success in DoD weapon programs. The author explores the governmental decision-making processes for major acquisitions.

The sixth research paper in this issue is "The Life Cycle of Innovations," by Jerome Collins and Joseph Moschler. The authors provide insight into the relationship between creativity, innovation, and implementation. Finally, and most importantly, the last step of this process, diffusion of these innovations into organizations, is a leadership challenge that should be addressed at the appropriate level.

With this issue, Defense ARJ says goodbye to two talented visual information specialists: TSgt James D. Smith, USAF, and SPC. Kelly Lowery, USA. Their creativity and artistic expertise have been evidenced throughout many issues of the journal in charts, graphs, and most notably, in many of the article lead photographs. TSgt Smith has also been responsible for a number of the journal covers. The contributions of TSgt Smith and SPC Lowery have been greatly appreciated, and we wish them all good fortune in their future endeavors.

Dr. Paul Alfieri
Executive Editor
Defense ARJ

SPC Kelly Lowery, USA, is a visual information specialist at the Defense Acquisition University. With over 3 years of service with the Army, she has served in the Washington, D.C. area and is preparing for a tour of duty in South Korea. SPC Lowery was recently named DAU's Junior Enlisted Person of the Year. In 2001, she graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a Bachelor's degree in graphic design.

Technical Sergeant James D. Smith, USAF, is a Visual Information Craftsman and the Noncommissioned Officer In Charge of the Visual Arts and Press Department at the Defense Acquisition University. His extensive experience includes the design, development, and production of print-related media and interactive multimedia. TSgt Smith conceived and designed the last 5 covers for the Defense ARJ and the majority of the article lead graphics, frequently also doing the photography. In addition, he provided illustration support for Defense AT&L magazine, DAU's other periodical. During his 12 years of service, TSgt Smith has served in several other career fields, notably intelligence and aircraft maintenance. With the Air Force deletion of his current career field, TSgt Smith will retrain as a Chaplain's Assistant after completing his current assignment.

BIOGRAPHY