

Sixteenth Annual International Defense Educational Arrangement (IDEA) Seminar



To be held at the
**Royal Military College of Science,
Shrivenham, United Kingdom**
June 14-18, 2004

The Sixteenth International Defense Educational Arrangement (IDEA) Seminar will be theme-based and will provide for your individual participation and positive information exchange and feedback.

The seminar is sponsored by IDEA, which consists of defense acquisition educational institutions in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Spain, and the United States.

Those eligible to attend are Defense Department/Ministry and defense industry employees from the five sponsoring nations who are actively engaged in international defense acquisition programs. Other nations may participate by invitation.

Invitations, confirmations, and administrative instructions will be issued after May 1, 2004.

Contact an IDEA Team Member for additional seminar information:

Comm (U.S.): **703-805-5196**

e-mail: **internationalseminars@dau.mil**

or **dau_intlseminars@msn.com**

Web site: **[http://www.dau.mil/
international/international.asp](http://www.dau.mil/international/international.asp)**

**The success of the
KC-135 GATM
program can be
traced directly back
to the building block
nature of the
program and
lessons learned
from earlier
KC-135 programs.**

input to the program was the verification of the safety and airworthiness of the system, but the discovery of deficiencies prior to operational test or operational use is a necessary method of ensuring the user does not get an unsafe or unusable system.

The dedication of the KC-135 GATM program to test and evaluation resulted in a capable system that has already easily passed operational test and evaluation. The program influenced the integration of operational and developmental test, and inspired the program team to implement a new acquisition best practice. Usually modern programs use combined test and evaluation to save test costs and to improve the test collaboration between operational and developmental test and evaluation. The KC-135 GATM program took test and evaluation to the next level by integrating the developmental tests and operational tests to improve the system prior to dedicated operational test. This collaboration ensured the program met the operational requirements and succeeded in dedicated operational test.

A Model for Success

The KC-135 GATM program is not a singular or unique program. It is representative of the types of programs that the DoD is working on now and those that it will fund in the future. What is unique is the general success in cost, schedule, and meeting user requirements—success that is directly attributable to the developmental environment, system safety emphasis, and early test and evaluation influence. Modern complex integration programs in the DoD that involve system of systems controlled by public agencies will succeed if they follow the model of the KC-135 GATM program.

Editor's note: The author welcomes comments and questions. He can be contacted at lionel.alford@wpafb.af.mil.