



Conferences, Workshops & Symposia

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CONGRESSMAN SKELTON CALLS FOR IMPROVED PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION

Col. Randy Pullen, USA

WASHINGTON—A leading member of Congress made a call for transformation of the military's professional education system to ensure the Armed Forces retain their edge in the future.

Rep. Ike Skelton, the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, made this call as he delivered the closing address at the 2005 Dwight D. Eisenhower National Security Conference Sept. 28 in Washington, D.C.

Skelton, who has represented Missouri's Fourth Congressional District since 1977, was instrumental in the passage of the landmark Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. He has long been a strong supporter of the U.S. military and those who serve in it, with a keen interest in military education. He chaired a House Panel on military education from 1987 to 1988 and has advocated improvements in the Services' intermediate and senior-level educational programs. Two of his sons are military officers, one in the Army and one in the Navy.

In his remarks, Skelton praised the men and women of today's armed forces as they conducted operations at home and abroad.

"Our remarkable men and women in uniform are fighting the war in Iraq and the war against terror in Afghanistan," Skelton said. "They are pursuing terrorists all over the globe and they are cleaning up along the Gulf Coast.

"These campaigns and actions, like the scores of operations before them, demonstrate why our [service-members] deserve their reputation as the world's finest military."

Skelton then went on to say that while today's operations demand our focus, we must be careful to not be so myopic that we fail to see what else is out there, that "we must, therefore, look beyond Iraq.



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—Congressman Ike Skelton (D-Mo.)

Sept. 30, 2005

"If history is any guide," Skelton said, "we should expect that something out there is waiting for us that no one has imagined yet."

After discussing the challenges of today and the challenges yet to come, Skelton explained that the burden to meet those challenges will fall not on technology but on humans.

As good as military professionals are today, they must be even better, he said. He feared that although tremendous effort was being made to adopt technological transformation, he did not see the same commitment being made to advance the understanding of the art of warfare by servicemembers.

"While I do not pretend to understand the Future Combat System in all its complexity," he said, "I do know that it will be useless unless it is employed by those who understand how to use it effectively on the battlefield."

Skelton called for the joint professional military education system to be transformed in order to teach military leaders a deeper understanding of the operational art of war in order to master the complexity of the modern battlefield.

"Today, the system is adequate, but it needs to get better," he said. "It must be rigorous and robust. It must give students the intellectual tools they need to fight the next war—not the war they are fighting today. The time spent at professional military schools needs to be longer—not shorter."



Conferences, Workshops & Symposia



The Eisenhower National Security Conference is the culminating event of the annual Dwight D. Eisenhower National Security Series, a yearlong progression of seminars, workshops and conferences that address critical security issues under a unifying annual theme. The 2005 theme was "Shaping National Security—National Power in an International World." More information on the Eisenhower National Security Series and this year's conference can be found at: <http://www.eisenhowerseries.com/>. U.S. Army photograph.

Skelton said that human interactions in the broad range of regions that mark today's and tomorrow's battlefields would call for greater cross-cultural understanding at all levels. A way to develop this understanding might be to require future officer candidates to study a relevant foreign language as a pre-commissioning requirement.

He also recommended expanded mid-career graduate-level education opportunities, with officer and non-commissioned officer graduates of these programs going back into the operational force; and that the stigma against those who leave the operational world to pursue these opportunities—and thereby risk their careers—must be removed. He acknowledged that this was an exceptionally difficult philosophy to change under current personnel systems.

"I suspect you think I am describing the impossible," Skelton said. "Well, you are right."

"What really needs to happen is for the legacy machine-age personnel systems to be disassembled and put back together again in fundamentally different ways to meet the demands of the information age population they are trying to recruit, retain, train, and educate. It is tough to see how the Services are going to attract adaptive, in-

novative, agile people without adaptive, innovative, agile personnel systems to suit them."

To give officers more time to develop the expertise needed in modern warfare, Skelton advocated an increase in the size of the armed forces. Not only is this increase needed to meet the demands of today but "we need these additional forces to buy time in the present to prepare for the future."

Only with a deep bench, he said, could the demands of today be met, while also providing servicemembers the time to develop their expertise, broaden their professional military education, pursue civilian educational opportunities, and take time to reflect on what they learned and experienced.

But how can we increase the force to do this when the reality is that the Army is struggling to man its current levels, he asked. Public support for the war is decreasing, as shown by opinion polls, by shortfalls in recruiting and by declining numbers of those seeking admittance to the Service academies. If these and other trends continued, serious damage to the Army, with a corresponding threat to national security, could result.



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The Missouri congressman said that leaders at all levels must put greater emphasis on making a clear and compelling argument about why the youth of America should serve their country. He called on America's young men and women to answer the call to duty and urged all of the country's other leaders to make a similar call.

"Leaders at all levels, not just the recruiters in our neighborhoods, have a responsibility to ask our young people to serve our country," Skelton said. "We cannot expect America's sons and daughters to volunteer for the military just because they live in the greatest country the world has ever seen."

What must take place, he went on to explain, is that these potential recruits and their families must be led to understand why their service is necessary. This message goes beyond the war in Iraq, about losing the opportunity for representative self-government in that country, or about allowing a breeding ground for terrorism to flourish in the Middle East.

"This is about what is good for the long-term health and security of our nation," he said. "The best of America must continue to step up to serve, and we need them to come forward in greater numbers."

If they do not, the military will not be able to take time to prepare itself for the information age transformation, Skelton said, and what he called "the finest force in history" will atrophy to where it is unable to fight when next called upon to do so.

"The future of our country depends upon the next great generation of citizens who will answer the call to service," he concluded. "I believe that young Americans understand this, and they are willing to answer the call, but we must never take them for granted and fail to ask."

HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT FOR DEFENSE—HCMD 2006

The 2006 Human Capital Management for Defense Conference will be held Feb. 6–8, at The Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. This year's theme will be "Meeting Critical Demands Through Seamless Workforce Transformation." This cross-Service forum will bring together human capital managers throughout DoD to promote and achieve a successful DoD Human Capital Management workforce transformation. Learn from key Human Capital Management leaders who have

implemented successful workforce transformations. At HCMD's HR Technology Symposium Feb. 6, hear the most up-to-date case studies on how human resources technology is a critical part of a successful total human capital initiative. The main conference, Feb. 7–8, addresses challenges ranging from workforce planning and knowledge management to gap analysis and eliminating redundancies. Register for the conference online at <http://www.wbresearch.com/HCMDusa/index.html>.

22ND ANNUAL TEST AND EVALUATION CONFERENCE

The 22nd Annual Test and Evaluation Conference will take place March 6–9, 2006, in Jacksonville, Fla. This national conference will address the issues regarding Modeling and Simulation in the context of test and evaluation; outline what is at stake; present a synopsis of current policies regarding M&S, including the interplay between T&E and M&S; and include presentations from knowledgeable leaders from the T&E and M&S worlds to present and discuss how to make these two worlds work more effectively together in support of the nation's defense, both at home and abroad.

Who Should Attend?

The annual Test and Evaluation Conference is invaluable to those tasked with directing and executing system development programs for the Department for Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Energy, and other government departments tasked with various elements of our nation's security. Test planners, M&S users and developers, range operators, program managers, military personnel charged with system acquisition responsibilities, industrial professionals, and others under contract with the government to provide support to our nation's defenses will also benefit from this national conference. Register for the conference at <http://register.ndia.org/interview/register.ndia?#January2006>.

CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

The Chemical, Biological Individual Protection Conference & Exhibition will be held March 7–9, 2006, at the Charleston Area Convention Center in Charleston, S.C. Registration information will be posted as soon as it becomes available at <http://register.ndia.org/interview/register.ndia?#May2006>.



GUNS AND MISSILE SYSTEMS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

The 41st Annual Armament Systems: Gun and Missile Systems Conference will be held March 27–30, 2006, at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, Calif. This year's theme will be "Enhancing Our Capability and Evolving for Tomorrow," and will present topics that demonstrate how our nation's current gun, munition, and missile system technologies can be adapted and evolved to meet tomorrow's missions and operations. Register for the conference at <http://register.ndia.org/interview/register.ndia?#May2006> >.

DOD PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE

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

NATIONAL CONTRACT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (NCMA) WORLD CONGRESS 2006

The NCMA World Congress 2006 will be held April 10–12, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, Ga. This year's theme will be "Achieving High Performance in Global Business: Leadership, Outsourcing, and Risk Management." At World Congress 2006 you'll discover networking opportunities; career fair (bring your résumés); exhibit hall with vendor demonstrations; and over 120 concurrent track sessions, including Executive Leadership, e-Business, Contract Law, Commercial Contracting, and Knowledge Management. Register for the NCMA World Congress 2006 at <http://www.ncmahq.org/meetings/WC06/registration.asp> >.

22ND ANNUAL NATIONAL LOGISTICS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

The 22nd Annual National Logistics Conference and Exhibition will be held April 17–21, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Miami at Miami Convention Center, Miami, Fla. Share insights with senior DoD leadership, top industry executives, project directors and program managers, information technology providers and developers, government policy makers and regulators, defense contractors and design professionals, third party logistics providers, and equipment suppliers and manufacturers. Scheduled sessions will include Quadrennial Defense Review 2006 and Logistics Transformation, Net Centric Warfare—Role of Logistics, Logistics Research, Development and Systems Support Technologies, Achiev-

ing Supply Chain Asset Visibility and Accountability—RFID and UID, Military Service Logistics Leadership Fireside Chat, and Joint Logistics Leadership Fireside Chat. Register online at <http://register.ndia.org/interview/register.ndia?#May2006> >.

7TH ANNUAL NDIA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE/DOD TECH EXPO

The 7th Annual National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Science and Engineering Technology Conference/DoD Tech Expo will be held April 18–20, 2006, at the Buena Vista Palace, Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Registration information will be posted as soon as it becomes available at <http://register.ndia.org/interview/register.ndia?#May2006> >.

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> > .

TOTAL LIFE CYCLE SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The Total Life Cycle Systems Management (TLSCM) Conference will be held July 10–12, 2006, at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C. The conference will emphasize DoD Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages (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> >.