



Spotlight on DAU Learning Resources

DAU KNOWLEDGE-SHARING ASSETS TO SUPPORT THE CONTRACTING COMMUNITY

DAU offers a wealth of resources to the acquisition community within the framework of the DAU AT&L Performance Learning Model, described at www.dau.mil/plm/plm.asp. The PLM focuses on providing resources and maintaining a 24/7 presence for the workforce through online communities of practice and knowledge systems. Two collaborative resources that promote the 24/7 presence are the AT&L Knowledge Sharing System (AKSS) and the Acquisition Community Connection (ACC).

Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Knowledge Sharing System

The AKSS [www.akss.dau.mil](http://akss.dau.mil), formerly referred to as the Defense Acquisition Deskbook, serves as the single entry point for all AT&L resources and information and communicates acquisition improvement initiatives. The site contains links to mandatory and discretionary reference material; glossary and acronyms listings; the popular and legacy Ask A Professor™ function and database of frequently asked questions and professors' answers; news and publications; education and training; acquisition events; and other related Web sites. The AKSS leverages existing "golden sources" (a term used to refer to the original document owner, for example Washington Headquarters Services or the Hill Air Force Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) site). The AKSS serves as a repository for key policy and guidance information that is not readily available in a single site or location. John Hickok, director of knowledge sharing at DAU, emphasizes that "the vision of the AKSS is to serve as the gateway to the DoD 'enterprise' knowledge residing in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, the Services, agencies, and industry, so that it is accessible and shared to the maximum extent possible." The AKSS includes the Acquisition Community Connection and the Mission Support Contracting Community of Practice.

The Acquisition Community Connection

The ACC [www.acc.dau.mil](http://acc.dau.mil) is the collaborative arm of the DAU knowledge system that facilitates knowledge sharing and complements the AKSS. The knowledge-sharing cycle has four major steps: (1) knowledge draws members to the community; (2) total knowledge within the community increases; (3) knowledge sharing within

the community increases; and (4) knowledge creation is accelerated. The optimum goal is to connect practitioners with know-how across federal organizations and industry. While DAU supports the infrastructure and operation of the knowledge-sharing systems, several developments are the results of partnerships and provide a broader scope and increase audience relevancy. The ACC provides access to several career field communities of practice (CoPs) in addition to the Mission Support Contracting Community of Practice described below.

Mission Support Contracting Community of Practice (MSC CoP)

The MSC CoP [www.acc.dau.mil/msc](http://acc.dau.mil/msc) supports the contracting career field and is most active in establishing partnerships in support of legislative initiatives, emerging community developments, and internal development projects. On several occasions, legislative initiatives required the collection and dissemination of new policy information, training opportunities, and related learning assets with support and availability 24/7 to the contracting professional. This challenge is successfully implemented as shown by the continued expansion of the process and mission areas of the MSC CoP. An entire list of topic areas is available from the MSC CoP home page. The key to success is the involvement and support of interested parties—all Services, agencies, and industry. The key to successful deployment of a mission and process area is when the team comes together and shares ideas, experiences, visions, and plans for the growth and sustainment of the topic area. This provides a broader span of coverage to better serve the CoP's constituents. The Defense Acquisition University solicits your recommendations for the expansion of mission and process area topics as well as enhancement suggestions. If you're interested in sponsoring the development of a particular mission and process area, please contact msc@dau.mil.

Five of the more recent partnership process and mission area development efforts are:

- **Hurricane Katrina.** As the federal government was still assessing the destruction left behind by hurricane Katrina, DAU's Knowledge Sharing team was already eagerly at work developing a Hurricane Katrina Community of Practice (HK COP) [www.acc.dau.mil/katrina](http://acc.dau.mil/katrina). The goal was to develop a repository of ap-



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pllicable information and resources to support the acquisition workforce in the relief effort. The topic areas include policy and guidance information, emergency acquisition resources, training materials, and other supporting resources.

- **Acquisition Center of Excellence for Services.** The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), the General Services Administration (GSA), and DAU partnered in the development of the ACE for Services <<https://acc.dau.mil/ace>> as required by the Service Acquisition Reform Act. The goal was to provide a central clearinghouse of Service contracting best practices and guidance for both the public and private sectors. This development effort was supported by and included several agency and association team members. All agencies and participating associations were encouraged to share and leverage their specific best practices and lessons learned within the service contracting arena. The visions for ACE are to broaden and sustain the current service categories. This is a great opportunity to share your templates, best practices, and lessons learned, and to leverage the resources of other professionals.
- **Contingency Contracting.** The contingency contracting community of practice <<https://acc.dau.mil/contingency>> is increasingly more active and important in supporting the contingency contracting community worldwide. The goal continues to be providing a repository for learning assets, resources, and real-time information. To assist in building this knowledge repository, the community leverages class projects from the CON234 Contingency Contracting course with actual deployment and after-action reports. DAU currently has a multi-Service team restructuring the content and layout to better support the contingency community.
- **Proper Use of non-DoD Contracts.** The Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP), the General Services Administration, and DAU in partnership are currently conducting “Proper Use of Non-DoD Contracts” road shows. To support the effort after the road shows and to provide a resource vault, the CoP <<https://acc.dau.mil/usingnondodcontracts>> has proved to be an effective resource tool. The CoP includes a link to the DPAP Web site, which provides access to all Service-specific policy information. Also included is the GSA Federal Supply Services Center for Acquisition Excellence Virtual Campus, which provides access to online and classroom training as well as other learning resources to support its customer base.

- **Industry Feedback Forum.** Industry partners are encouraged to share their ideas and recommendations as well as provide support for the growth and expansion of the MSC CoP through the Industry Forum. The goal is to share experiences and resources between the private and public sectors.

The DAU knowledge-sharing goal is not to ensure that every member of our workforce knows everything. That's clearly impossible. The goal is rather to ensure that all members of the workforce know where to find the knowledge they need to perform better in support of the warfighter.

WORKFLOW PERFORMANCE LEARNING TOOLS (WPLT) TO SUPPORT THE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE

The objective of any WPLT is to simplify a specific task in a process and provide a tool that enables workers with the ability to perform a specific task more easily, quickly, and effectively. Our tool concept integrates formal learning assets and other aids into a comprehensive tool that not only supports the task but provides secondary training. Although a task or process may be complicated, the use of a WPLT should not. Generally, a complicated workflow process has the potential for being simplified with a well-planned, -developed, and -deployed WPLT resulting in a successful end product or outcome. As workers, we are too busy to focus on learning a new complex system; the focus should be on the required work task we are performing, not the system or tool we are using. DAU now offers two new WPLTs to support the logistics and contracting user communities.

Performance-based Logistics Toolkit

The PBL Toolkit, developed by DAU to assist program managers in designing and implementing PBL product support strategies, was launched in October 2005. It is accessible at <<https://acc.dau.mil/pbltoolkit>>. The Toolkit is aligned with DoD policy and provides program and logistics managers with a comprehensive set of resources and references for integrating PBL into the logistical support of a weapon system.

The Toolkit is based on a Web-based 12-step process model that guides users through the development, implementation, and management of PBL arrangements. Each step contains directions to support the successful completion of a key PBL implementation activity, identifies desired output, and brings together the best resources and materials applicable to each step of the process. Performance-based logistics is the DoD-pre-



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ferred product support strategy to improve weapons system readiness by acquiring a desired level of operational performance through capitalizing on integrated logistics chains and public/private partnerships. Its primary tenets are documentation of warfighter performance requirements as measurable metrics in performance-based agreements; designation of single-point accountability for performance with a product support integrator; and development of support metrics and accompanying incentives to ensure that the performance objectives are met. In short, PBL is buying performance, not transactional goods and services.

Pricing Support Tool

The objective of the Pricing Support Tool is to provide technical assistance, policy guidance, and refresher information primarily focused on assisting the contracting community in conducting cost or price analysis. This tool also describes analytical tools and techniques used in deriving fair and reasonable pricing. The target audience is contracting professionals who have completed DAU's basic and intermediate pricing courses. The Pricing Support Tool includes decision-tree technology for three types of pricing; commercial, modified commercial, and non-commercial. The Pricing Support Tool also includes descriptive text and special considerations about the three types of pricing models. The tool was launched in September 2005, and is available at <<http://pricingtool.dau.mil>>. To increase the visibility and awareness of the available DAU knowledge sharing resources and other learning assets, we offer the DAU Online Resources Tour, which is available from the DAU home page at <www.dau.mil> and <www.dau.mil/about-dau/virtual_tour/index.html>.

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

DAU and the National Defense Industrial Association will sponsor offerings of the Defense Systems Acquisition Management (DSAM) course for interested industry managers at the following locations during fiscal 2006:

- Feb. 27–March 3, 2006, Orlando Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Fla.
- May 1–5, 2006, U.S. Grant Hotel, San Diego, Calif.
- July 10–14, 2006, Colorado Springs DoubleTree Hotel and World Arena, Colorado Springs, Colo.

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 <<http://www.ndia.org>>. Industry students contact Phyllis Edmonson at (703) 247-2577 or e-mail pedmonson@ndia.org. A limited number of experienced government students may be selected to attend each offering. Government students must contact Bruce Moler at (703) 805- 5257, or e-mail bruce.moler@dau.mil prior to registering with NDIA.

Online registration is available at: <<http://register.ndia.org/interview/register.ndia?#September2005>>.

DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY 2006 CATALOG

The 2006 DAU Catalog has been posted at <<http://www.dau.mil/catalog>>. The version at this Web site is configured as a traditional .pdf file broken down by chapter and appendix as well as the catalog in its entirety.



Those interested may request a catalog on CD or in hardcopy (please specify) by contacting DAU's Student Services Office at student.services@dau.mil. Hardcopies are limited to one copy per request. Information in the hardcopy catalog is current as of Oct. 1, 2005. The catalog is updated online periodically throughout the training year, and new CDs are produced with each update. Currency of information contained in hardcopies and CDs should always be confirmed online.