

SSCF at Aberdeen Proving Ground Keeping Busy

March presented new and interesting opportunities for the Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF) at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md. To broaden their understanding of area industry, the fellows toured the manufacturing facilities of BAE Systems in York, Penn. The group was briefed on U.S. Combat Systems and Globalization & Manufacturing considering their impacts on BAE System's operational plans. Mel Nace, director of operations, provided an overview of the company and led a plant tour which was punctuated by multiple stops along the several active Bradley lines. Nace provided commentary on the introduction of various Lean Six Sigma methodologies that have greatly improved many areas of their manufacturing. The day concluded with a working lunch and a panel discussion involving the fellows and Bleile, Green, Nace, and several other key BAE Systems directors representing the areas of quality control, contracting, supply, and business development.

Immersed in the virtual environment, on March 2 the fellows went on an innovative staff ride delivery of Operation Anaconda provided by the Combat Studies Institute stationed in Fort Leavenworth, Kans. While comfortably seated in the APG DAU classroom, the fellows heard from Ricardo Herrera, supported by Dale Cordes, who used the unique medium of a virtual terrain visualization of the battlefield to provide an in-depth study on leadership, command and control, and the many combat decisions made during Operation Anaconda. Operation Anaconda represents the first conventional land battle fought by the United States in Afghanistan and occurred in March 2002. In preparation, the fellows read *Not a Good Day to Die* by Sean Naylor.

In addition to tours, speakers, leadership skills trainings and book reviews, the APG Fellows have been progressing in the development of their Strategy Research Projects (SRP). This year the fellows have been tackling issues of importance to the Army Acquisition community ranging from effectiveness of software sustainment to how understanding industry can lead to better contract negotiations. On Feb. 16, fellow Raj Malhotra briefed his SRP to approximately 20 members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) at the monthly APG leadership meeting. He discussed the research needed for his paper, "The Use of Succession Planning to Prepare Future Leaders in Selected Federal Agencies at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland." Malhotra asked for participation in the form of a survey from the SESs. He was provided with positive feedback and the group commented on the importance of his topic choice. As one of the SSCF program requirements, the SRP will constitute a significant portion of the APG fellows' remaining academic time leading up to the program graduation on May 18, 2011. Graduation will be held at the Mission Training Facility auditorium on the C4ISR campus on APG, Md., at 1000.

Mid-Atlantic Alumni Association Chapter Supports George Washington Carver Elementary Future Leaders of the World

The Mid-Atlantic Region Alumni Association Chapter recently kicked off its support of the George Washington Carver Elementary School located in Lexington Park, Md., by supporting its green initiative. Ray Blanton, owner of Finishline Builders, and Michelle Currier, a professor at DAU Mid-Atlantic, members of the Mid-Atlantic Region Alumni Association Chapter, donated their time to help Future Leaders of the World (FLOW) students at George Washington Carver Elementary School build birdhouses. The birdhouses will be painted at another session, and then will be placed around the fence line at the school. This project is one of many that Carver Elementary will partake in while qualifying to become a "green school."

The FLOW students meet every Monday after school for an hour and a half, and each student has a member of the community spend one on one time with them as a mentor.



Back row (l-r): Bob Owen, Ray Blanton (DAUAA), Ashley Folcik, Michelle Currier (DAUAA), Virginia Perry-Aldridge, Katerina Placek, Calvin Bell, De'Shawn Kittrell, and Paul Waxman.
Front row (l-r): Jameshia Robinson, Kalaya Bonds, Kayron Haynes, Josh Mills, and De'Quan Gantt.