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Deirdre Sumpter

APG Senior Service College Fellowship graduates first class

Story by
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APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Senior Service College Fellowship program graduated its inaugural class of eight fellows, as friends, family and co-workers cheered them on, during a ceremony May 19 at Top of the Bay.

The Defense Acquisition University developed the SSCF program to provide leadership training for civilians to prepare them for senior acquisition leadership roles.

The SSCF program provides ten months of acquisition and leadership training, developing government civilian acquisition leaders, GS-14 and above, for critical senior leadership roles such as Product and Product Managers, Program Executive Officers and other key senior acquisition positions.

The SSCF program was implemented at APG after the successful implementation of SSCF programs in Huntsville, Ala. in 2006 and in Warren, Mich. in 2007.

The graduation program opened with the national anthem played by the U.S.

Army Materiel Band.

Jim Oman, director of APG's SSCF who served as narrator for the program, welcomed attendees and introduced distinguished guests.

Academic Director of Military Programs, Office of Academic Affairs, Webster University, Dr. Richard St. Clair, Dean of the Capital and Northeast Region, Bob Daughtery, and Executive Director of the U. S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, James Streilein, who served as the keynote speaker.

During Daughtery's remarks he said the SSCF program was designed to give civilians the same leadership skills that their uniformed peers have had the opportunity to learn.

"We couldn't ask for a better first class," Daughtery said. "The placement by the organizations is evident of that. They are all going to positions of greater responsibility, taking with them the leadership skills that they have learned over course of the year."

Daughtery said that the program requires dedication and hard work from the fellows.

"You really have to develop yourself

as a student, a leader, and as a person," he said.

Daughtery said that program was an opportunity for fellows to network with one another, and to build a support system as they go on to positions of power within their organization.

"They can look at this (program) fondly and also professionally in the years to come."

Daughtery thanked Parker Bennett, program coordinator and Oman for their work.

"Jim has cemented this Senior Service College as part of the firm foundation of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Community," he said. We look forward to being a part of this community for many years to come, serving this community."

During Streilein's remarks, he said that in the past the Army did not provide leadership training like the SSCF program to civilians.

Streilein said that most civilians did not receive any formal training before being selected for senior leadership.

"Getting thrust into a leadership position, without a lot of training was kind of a tough road," Streilein said, of his own experience of becoming a civilian in a leadership position.

Streilein said that he thinks that the Army is moving forward by providing senior leadership training for civilians.

"I hope you see this as just the beginning," Streilein said to the fellows. Now you have to take the skills you have, and apply them."

He said that what keeps him going everyday is the work that Army acquisition does to support the troops, to ensure that their equipment is working in the field.

"We are an Army at war and there are big challenges ahead, but I am sure with the kind of training you have taken in the past year, you will continue to make great contributions to Army acquisitions," Streilein said.

After the ceremony, Deirdre Sumpter, an SSCF program graduate who also received a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership from Webster University, remarked that she was proud of her classmate's achievements.

"No words can describe your feelings when you achieve your goals," Sumpter said. "It was an intense program but it was worth it in the end."

Sumpter added that as a result of the education and training she received she

has been promoted to a division chief in her organization, the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command.

About the SSCF program

The SSCF program provides ten months of acquisition and leadership training, developing government civilian acquisition leaders, GS-14 and above, for critical senior leadership roles such as Product and Product Managers, Program Executive Officers, and other key senior acquisition positions.

The program contains core elements on acquisition leadership, personal leadership, global leadership, research, program management and national security. It also includes interaction with both government and private industry via on-site visits and workshops, as well as with executive-level guest speakers from throughout the government and industry.

The program's curriculum focuses on developing a broad understanding of the defense acquisition process in addition to the effects acquisition policies and practices have on America's national industrial base, economic well being and security

strategy, as well as on global security markets.

APG's SSCF inaugural class began the program on July 27, 2009. Fellows who complete the program are awarded a SSCF diploma and receive certificates for the Program Managers Course, (PMT 401), Leading in the Acquisition Environment, (ACQ 450), Integrated Acquisition for Decision Makers.(ACQ 451) and Forging Stakeholder Relationships(ACQ 452). With the completion of additional courses, fellows may also be awarded a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership degree from Webster University.

For more information about the program, call 410-436-5761.

Diploma recipients

- Medhat Abuhantash
- Rick Cozby*
- William Gilbert*
- Dr. Corde Lane*
- Chris Manning
- Sharon Meirose
- Anthony Subrizi
- Deirdre Sumpter*

*Received a Masters of Arts in Management and Leadership from Webster University.