

AST 101 grows partners, improves service quality for T&E

ATEC news release

Army Evaluation Center leaders conducted a new ATEC System Team 101 course that concluded at Aberdeen Proving Ground May 11 and graduated personnel from two APG commands.

As with any technical workforce, it's critical to stay current with regulatory, technical and conceptual discussions pervasive in the test and evaluation field.

With that in mind, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command developed and conducted the pilot AST 101 in May 2011, and allowing students a chance to provide input on the course. Following ATEC mergers and survey results from the pilot, ATEC-AEC hosted a second course this spring with 21 students from ATEC-AEC and the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command filling the seats.

"The AST course provides the foundation necessary to become an effective AST chair or member," said Dr. Thomas Cao, Director's Initiatives Group director for ATEC-AEC.

It focuses on the roles and responsibilities of the AST, the technical and project management skills necessary to be an evaluator or analyst, references and resources for job assistance, and the opportunity to complete practical exercises relevant to the AST function, he added.

As a capstone, students participated in a panel discussion with Brian Simmons, ATEC executive technical director; David Jimenez, AEC executive director; and Bill Adams, director of the ATEC-Operational Test Command Methodology and Analysis Directorate, to allow them interaction with senior leaders and get their perspectives on multiple topics of interest, such as the budget and Army downsizing and their impact on T&E and also integrated testing.

AST 101 strives to grow partnership competencies and improve the overall quality of the services offered here, said Jimenez, who noted that the Base Realignment and Closure transformed APG significantly, bringing research and development and testing and evaluation together on one campus.

The course offering was briefed to senior leaders at CECOM and the Research, Development and Engi-

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Photo by Sean Kief

Maj. Gen. Nick Justice (left) was the guest speaker during the graduation ceremony for eight of the Senior Service College Fellowship fellows (right) at the Mission Training Center, C4ISR Campus, May 16.

SSCF holds commencement for third graduating class

By **PARKER BENNETT**
SSCF

Eight graduating fellows received their Senior Service College Fellowship diplomas during a May 16 ceremony at the Mission Training Center, C4ISR Campus.

The ceremony celebrated the completion of the 10-month program of rigorous study focused on leadership and acquisition.

The event was attended by more than 70 friends, family, and distinguished guests including Jim McCullough, dean of the South Region, DAU and four locally serving members of the Senior Executive Service.

Participating in the ceremony were guest speaker Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, assistant military deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology); Bob Daugherty, dean of Capital and Northeast Region, DAU; and Sean Coleman, regional director at Washington D.C., Webster University.

In his welcoming remarks, Daugherty explained "the program permits participants to focus on developing their leadership skills so that they can return back to the APG community as even greater assets."

Diploma recipients include Debra Abbruzzese, Ira "Jim" Hines II, Patrick Layden, Robert Lyons, Thomas Mokolinis, Sr., Stanley Niemiec, Undra Robinson and Thomas Stadterman.

In addition to the SSCF requirements, Hines also completed an additional five core courses to earn a master of arts degree in management and leadership from Webster University.

As part of his keynote address, Justice discussed the importance of civilian education. He remarked "education and

learning programs create a point where theory and behavior come together to create change so that our workforce can be the best from beginning to end."

Additionally, Justice congratulated the fellows on their hard work and willingness to step out of their comfort zones by participating in the program.

During the program the fellows completed the Program Managers Course (PMT 401), Leading in the Acquisition Environment (ACQ 450), Integrated Acquisition for Decision Makers (ACQ 451), Forging Stakeholder Relationships (ACQ 452) and a National Security Module taught by Dr. Jim Helis, chairman of the Department of National Security and Strategy, U.S. Army War College (USAWC). They also conducted numerous industry and governmental organization visits, heard from multiple senior leaders that included innumerable general/flag officers and Senior Executive Service (SES) members; and went on a wide variety of Warfighter-focused visits including the National Training Center, Joint Readiness Training Center, U.S. Central Command, and U.S. Special Operations Command.

During a trip to Germany, Belgium and France, the fellows conducted visits to strategic military command centers that included the geographical combatant commands, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, where they heard from multiple senior leaders. To provide reflection on the leadership lessons of the past, the Europe trip also included battlefield staff rides of the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne, Belgium, and the Allied Invasion in Normandy, France. Staff rides were led by USAWCs Senior Historian Profes-

sor Len Fullenkamp.

In addition to these activities, the fellows also conducted original research and completed a strategy research project, looking at various contemporary and pertinent issues within the acquisition community.

This year's fellows addressed such topics as the crisis in contracting, risk based approaches to test and evaluation, the Better Buying Power initiative, risk management tools, life cycle sustainment of commercial off the shelf support equipment, knowledge transfer loss in a Base Realignment and Closure Environment, contracting specialists, and the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009. Copies of the research projects will be available in June at www.dau.mil/sscf.

Graduating fellow Debbie Abbruzzese remarked that as a result of the SSCF program activities and off site excursions, "I now have a broader perspective on leadership and how the Army runs, which will be invaluable to me in my future position."

With the completion of the program, the fellows are returning to more challenging positions in their sponsoring organizations or have accepted positions of greater responsibility in new units.

The fourth SSCF class at APG will begin July 23 and includes nine fellows from the Research, Development and Engineering Command, PEO-Integration, U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Software Engineering Center, PEO-Ammunition, and U.S. Army Evaluation Center.

For more information about the program, visit www.dau.mil/sscf