

## AROUND THE REGIONS

### Aberdeen Proving Ground SSCF Fellows Visit Gore-Tex Manufacturer

Fellows from the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Senior Service College Fellowship Program (SSCFP) visited W. L. Gore and Associates, a leading innovator of waterproof, breathable fabric and producer of military field jackets, Feb. 27. The fellows included Matt Lee, Bill Leonard, Gary Lichvar, Ayo Omololu, Lisa Sanders, Oral Walker, Randy Wheeler and Jennifer Worton. They were accompanied by **Jim Oman**, APG SSCFP director, and **Ben Metcalfe**, APG SSCFP coordinator.

As part of their Webster University management courses, the fellows were aware of Gore's reputation for innovative management, problem solving, organizational culture and change management. The visit to Gore included a capabilities center tour, which consisted of a guided and facilitated walk-about that highlighted Gore's history, including their continuous growth through the decades. The tour ended with a series of displays featuring many of Gore's current products. The fellows found the descriptive displays, the questions and answers and the ensuing discussion that spanned and described Gore's many innovative products highly informative.

Gore has four focus areas, all connected through the common link of fluoropolymer expertise: the medical division; the fabrics division, which showcased the Gore-Tex line, used extensively in shoes, clothing and gloves; the electronic division; and the industrial division, which featured Gore Filters, aerospace cables and similar materials.



APG Fellow Ayo Omololu examines the Gore-Tex field jacket.

Following the orientation and tour, the fellows received a broad overview presentation. This traced the evolution of Gore from its founding in 1958 to its current status as a private company with more than 10,000 associates and as a manufacturer of a wide variety of products with more than \$3 billion in sales. Throughout the morning and during the working lunch with multiple senior leaders—representing product management, market development, sales, strategic communications and human resources—numerous topics were discussed, largely focusing on human resources, culture and innovation.

After lunch the fellows visited the Elk Mills 5 facility. There the fellows observed and listened to several associates describe how materials and products are examined and subjected to an extensive series of tests. The exhaustive tests include visual examination, washing, wearing, comfort and the “rain room.” Throughout the day, Ladd Martel, sales leader for Gore Military Fabrics, accompanied the fellows and shared his knowledge and insights acquired during more than 30 years as a Gore associate.

All of the fellows found their visit to Gore to be time well spent and a tremendous learning experience. The many invaluable points gathered during the wide-ranging discussion, in combination with the briefings and exposure to multiple processes, will undoubtedly be useful to the fellows as they make the transition to alumni and move into positions of greater responsibility.

### DAU President Officially Re-Opens CNE Classroom 53

DAU President James Woolsey formally re-opened CNE classroom 53 (CR 53) in a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 22, capping off a year-long renovation of building 205. CR 53 contains the latest in educational technology to facilitate learning. The new classroom configuration includes an integrated audio-visual system and video conferencing capabilities for distance learning and inter-region collaboration. Additionally, each student table is equipped with large monitors to facilitate group interaction and the ability to project group presentations to the master classroom screen. Other features of CR 53 include placement of video screens at the front to enhance safety, minimize disruptions and provide clear sight lines for every student. Additional building renovations are ongoing at the CNE Fort Belvoir campus, which will provide more high-tech classrooms in the future for the training of the Defense Acquisition Workforce.



Director of Operations Leo Filipowicz, President Woolsey and Capital and Northeast Region Dean Joanne Schoonover.