

SSCF Holds Commencement Ceremony for Fifth Graduating Class at Aberdeen

Eight graduating fellows received their Senior Service College Fellowship program diploma in a ceremony held May 21 in the Mallette Hall Auditorium, at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md. The ceremony celebrated the completion of the 10-month program of study focused on leadership and acquisition.

The event was attended by more than 65 friends, family members, SSCF alumni, and distinguished guests including one general officer and six locally serving members of the Senior Executive Service. Participating in the ceremony were guest speaker, Lt. Gen. Michael E. Williamson, principal military deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) and director, Acquisition Career Management and **Judy Fleming**, acting dean, Capital and Northeast Region, DAU. Diploma recipients were Jerry Cook, John Crone, Thomas Haduch, Stacey Kerwien, Matthew Maier, Adam Parlow, Lori Remeto and Michael Stanka.

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Fleming, the ceremony host, explained in part the importance of the fellowship program, noting that “the program permits participants to focus on developing their leadership skills and equips them for positions of greater responsibility.” Fleming congratulated the fellows on their accomplishments and thanked the APG community for its continuing strong support of the fellows and the SSCF program.

In his keynote address, Williamson described the instrumental role played by the acquisition community in supporting the warfighter, discussed the importance of civilian education and highlighted the mark that each of the graduates would make on the workforce as senior leaders. Williamson closed by collectively and individually congratulating the fellows for participating in the fellowship program and for their dedication and hard work.

Over the 10-month program, the fellows completed the Program Managers Course (PMT 401), Leading

in the Acquisition Environment (ACQ 450), Forging Stakeholder Relationships (ACQ 452), Leader as Coach (ACQ 453) and a national security module taught by Professor Len Fullenkamp, Department of National Security and Strategy, U.S. Army War College; heard from multiple senior leaders including numerous general officers and SES members; conducted industry and governmental organization visits; and went on a wide variety of warfighter-focused visits, including to the National Training Center, U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. European Command—to name but a few of the program’s activities. The fellowship culminated with an enterprise get-together at Gettysburg, Penn. (see story on following page.) There the fellows participated in a battlefield staff ride with historian Professor Len Fullenkamp and learned about the importance of leadership and how one determined leader can make a significant difference.

SSCF Welcomes Class of 2015 at Aberdeen *by Jim Oman*

The opening day for the SSCF program at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md., July 28, represented the official welcome for the fellows in the class of 2015. This is the sixth class held at APG, where the fellows will undertake 10 months of study. A centralized selection board chose the nine APG fellows from among numerous applicants to the academically rigorous program. The candidates were identified and endorsed by their respective sponsoring command. The command endorsement was based on the candidates’ demonstrated past performance and, more important, on their potential to assume positions of greater responsibility within the Defense Acquisition Workforce.

The class of 2015 fellows are **Joseph Garcia**, Program Executive Office (PEO) Intelligence, Electronic Warfare & Sensors; **Matthew Lee**, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM), Software Engineering Center (SEC); **William Leonard**, PEO Command, Control and Communications (Tactical); **Gary M. Lichvar**, U.S. Army CECOM SEC; **Ayodeji Omololu**, CECOM Logistics and Readiness Center; **Lisa Sanders**, Special Operations Research, Development and

Acquisition Center, U.S. Special Operations Command; **Oral Walker**, PEO Combat Support/Combat Service Support; **Randolph L. Wheeler**, U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity; and **Jennifer F. Worton**, Joint PEO for Chemical and Biological Defense.

The upcoming academic year promises to be another superb experience for the new class. It will continue to be characterized by adult learning in a small seminar and, in the words of famed British military theoretician, Maj. Gen. J. F. C. Fuller, will be an experience in which “we shall teach other: first because we have a vast amount of experience behind us, and secondly, in my opinion, it is only through free criticism of each other’s ideas that truth can be thrashed out....”

Provided under the auspices of DAU, the SSCF program focuses on leadership and acquisition management. It prepares senior civilian acquisition leaders for roles as product and project managers, program executive officers, and other key acquisition positions.

AROUND THE REGIONS

Senior Service College Fellows Visit Gettysburg Battlefield

The fellows from the Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF) hailing from the three sites—Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Huntsville, Ala.; and Warren, Mich.—met in Gettysburg, Pa., May 6–8. The purpose of their visit was to conduct a staff ride of Gettysburg National Military Park and to participate in the course wrap-up discussion marking the end of the academic year. In the afternoon of May 6, Col. Len Fullenkamp (U.S. Army, Ret.), professor of military history and strategy, Department of National Security and Strategy, U.S. Army War College, delivered a presentation on the Gettysburg campaign that focused on the grand strategy and strategic level.

Professor Fullenkamp's presentation in tandem with a previously viewed Gettysburg movie, as well as a reading of Shelby Foote's *Stars in Their Courses: The Gettysburg Campaign, June-July 1863*, provided the fellows with a contextual overview of the events of the battle in preparation for the SSCF capstone staff ride on the Gettysburg battlefield.

On May 7, the fellows visited the Gettysburg National Military Park and participated in a day-long staff ride, team-building event that focused on strategic leadership. The staff ride provided the unique opportunity for every member of the fellowship to “walk the hallowed ground” and reflect on leadership, selfless service, and sacrifice. The day culminated in a dinner at the hotel, where the fellows shared their insights, observations, and “take aways” gleaned from the day spent on the battlefield.

On the final day at Gettysburg, May 8, Mike Roche, Warren SSCF program director, led a facilitated discussion about the most significant leadership lesson that each fellow had learned throughout the entire 10-month academic year. The Department of Defense Leadership Development Model provided the framework for the fellows. Each of the cross-regional teams examined a leadership area and addressed a specific competency, and the team members individually related it to an element of the fellowship and provided a planned application in their follow-on assignments after graduation. The exercise reinforced the highlights of the fellows' past 10 months and personalized some of the concepts that the fellows had been exposed to throughout the academic year.

In addition to the educational success of the staff ride, course wrap-up exercise and ensuing discussion, the field visit also offered a final collaboration opportunity for the members of the 2014 fellowship cohort before their graduation.



Members of the 2014 SSCF Enterprise visit the monument to “The High Water Mark of the Confederacy” during their visit to Gettysburg National Military Park on May 7.

Feds Feed Families

Federal Employees Help Knock Out Hunger

June 1 – August 27, 2014

This summer, federal employees came together to nourish communities nationally. The U.S. Agriculture Department, once again, led the Feds Feed Families campaign, which ran from June 1 through August 27. All federal agencies, including field components, were invited to participate.

The donations from the Feds Feed Families Food Drive are especially important, because they come at a time of year when donations traditionally decline.

Since the campaign began in 2009, federal workers have donated and collected 24.1 million pounds of food and other nonperishable items to support families at risk of hunger across America. Last year, nearly 9 million pounds of food were collected.

As we write, the figures for this year's campaign are not yet available, but we understand the campaign once again proved successful. Thank you for helping our neighbors through your generous food donations.

DAU Campaign Coordinators

Lynn Cheek—Coordinator

Sgt. Sharon Green—Co-Coordinator

Ralph Hill—Team member

PS1 Jung Chang—Team member



Ralph Hill, Tatiana Rubio, PS1 Jung Chang, Nelly Navia, Charity Byrd, Mr. Woolsey, Susanne Morrison and Lynn Cheek.