

An Interview with Lori Remeto—SSCF Fellow 2013-2014

What were your motivations for entering the program? There were several reasons this program appealed to me. I was interested in acquiring additional knowledge and skills in acquisition, life-cycle management and leadership. I was motivated by the opportunity to meet and network with a diverse group of individuals that were extremely knowledgeable in their field. And lastly, the program would better position me for future professional opportunities.

What SSCF activity do you most look forward to? The activity that I look forward to the most is the international trip to Europe in the spring of 2014. My class will have the opportunity to visit sites of Strategic National Interest and participate in WWI and WWII staff rides during our visits to Germany, Belgium and France. This opportunity is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and will put many of the events that occurred during this timeframe into a more meaningful perspective.

How is SSCF preparing you to achieve your long term goals? The SSCF is a rigorous 10-month program with an emphasis on defense acquisition and leadership. The program is designed to provide the participants with the right tools for their future leadership roles within the Department of Defense. The intensive leadership and acquisition training partnered with the mentoring program are key facets of this program that are preparing me for my long-term goals. Upon completion of the program, I will have developed intellectually into



areas that are new to me, expanded my understanding of the acquisition process beyond my previous job's perspective and enhanced my leadership skills.

What do you expect to be your biggest challenge during the SSCF program? The biggest challenge for me during this 10-month course will be finding the right balance between the challenging workload associated with this course and my home commitments. Time Management will be a critical skill that I will need to utilize to reach my course objectives.

Describe one takeaway from the past two months? The class has had several opportunities to hear from guest speakers who provided their perspective on the current and future challenges that DoD faces and how the future leaders will need to be adaptable to these challenges and understand that the traditional approaches and techniques to solve these problems may not be applicable.

Any additional thoughts? I am honored to have been selected to attend this fellowship college. My classmates are extremely knowledgeable in their fields and bring a very interesting perspective to each and every activity. I have enjoyed my first two months of the course and look forward working to the course activities and opportunities that I will experience in the next eight months.

Blast off at NIRPS

“What do rocket scientists and DAU have in common?” At least that was the question on several peoples’ minds as the university hosted a meeting of the National Institute for Rocket Propulsion Systems (NIRPS) during Labor Day week. As the meeting progressed, it became increasingly apparent that the two groups have more in common than one would initially suspect. For the better portion of the previous decade, the U.S. rocket propulsion industrial base has been threatened by long-term industry downsizing, a shortage of new solid and liquid propulsion systems, inability to attract younger engineers and scientist and decreasing government budgets. The collision of these factors has produced tangible risks to the nation’s ability to develop, test and deploy various rocket systems. NIRPS—a collaborative venture among the DoD, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), private industry and academia—was formed in response to a statutory requirement to enhance existing synergy in the propulsion community and produce better, more cost-effective results for the U.S. taxpayer.

The meeting brought together experts from NASA, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army and DoD and featured a day of discussions and facilitated dialog led by DAU-South Associate Dean for Outreach and Mission

Assistance **Rick Gallman**. As chairman of the group, it was Gallman’s responsibility to manage the flow of conversation and ensure that all voices were equitably represented in the discussion.

Though many of the participants came from divergent backgrounds and had different objectives in attending, the meeting did produce consensus on the future objectives of the organization. As NIRPS moves away from its inception phase, its participants will continue to seek a larger, more stable organization to assist with its ongoing development.

This continuing development holds great potential not only for the rocket propulsion industrial base, but also for DAU. As NIRPS improves integration and collaboration with DoD, it will begin impacting acquisition programs and policy.



NIRPS Internal Review Team Members Rick Gallman, DAU; Dr. Patricia Gore, MDA; Ted Bujewski, OSD.