



Search...



2016 11/7 Interview with Jim Shillingford by Jim Oman



1. What were your motivations for entering the program?

I was particularly interested in expanding and improving my leadership skills. As a deputy director at Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)–Energy, I was always so busy just doing my job, that I found it extremely difficult to find the time to attend training, especially in-class training. So, when this opportunity presented itself, I jumped at it! I have been in the program for almost three months now, and while it is academically challenging, I am confident that I will leave here a better leader and manger.

2. What SSCF activity do you most look forward to?

I would say the trip to Europe. In April, we will be traveling to Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Holland. I am a big military history buff, so I am excited about seeing some of the battlefields of World War I and II.

3. How is SSCF preparing you to achieve your long-term goals?

In addition to graduate-level college courses, we are also attending program management training, classes in communication, team building and various other leadership topics, plus each of the fellows has been assigned a senior leader mentor while they are in the program. Finally, and probably most important, are the relationships we are establishing with each of our fellow students. This combination of experiences and training will go a long way in preparing each of us to assume positions of greater responsibility upon our graduation.

4. What do you expect to be your biggest challenge during the SSCF program?

I would have to say that the Strategic Research Paper which is a 25-plus page research paper dealing with a topic or issue that is impacting the Acquisition career field. I consider this to be a daunting task given both the academic rigor of the program and the fact that I haven't written a research paper in more than 10 years. But even considering all that, I have to say I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to choose a topic that interests me and to have the time and resources to research and explore it.

5. Describe one takeaway from the past two months?

I'm tired (this is hard work!), but it's a good tired. As I have said, the program is academically rigorous, but the training we are receiving is absolutely priceless!

6. Any additional thoughts?

I am humbled. Humbled for being given the opportunity to attend a program with such high-caliber students and instructors. I would also like to thank DLA Energy and DAU for giving me this opportunity.

Like Comment ***

0 comments

There are no comments for this post.

Add a comment

Post