

AROUND THE REGIONS

Interview with Willie Jackson, SSCF Seminar Chair

Willie Jackson has been selected to serve as the seminar chair for DAU's Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF) program at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland. In this capacity, Jackson acts as the leader for the fellows, conducts liaison between DAU and the fellows and functions as the central point of contact for the fellows, receiving information from DAU faculty and staff as well as communicating with external partners on a variety of fellowship matters. Before his selection for the program, Jackson was the deputy product director at Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices Electronic Warfare (CREW), where he was responsible for research, development, fielding and fleet modernization of the CREW-2 Duke counter RCIED jammers.

What were your motivations for entering the program?

Prior to attending the SSCF, I was extremely busy running the day-to-day activities within my program management office. There was very little time to reflect on the larger or strategic issues affecting my profession. SSCF has afforded me time to reflect and delve deeper into strategic leadership issues, as well

as consider tactical cases that have strategic implications. Finally, SSCF has provided an opportunity to associate with and learn as much as I can from those with unique skills, backgrounds and experiences.

What SSCF activity do you most look forward to?

The activities that I most look forward to is meeting with our customers (CENTCOM, SOCOM, AF-RICOM, etc.) and industry partners to see things from their perspective. Additionally, my class and I are looking forward to learning more about our international partners and participating in the Gettysburg, WWI and WWII staff rides to broaden my awareness on strategic operations. I see this as an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

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

The SSCF is providing me with the opportunity to meet numerous senior leaders as well as equipping me with the tools that will enable me to comprehend the unique aspects of acquisition leadership required at the strategic level. Additionally, the SSCF is preparing me to be a well-rounded acquisition leader who can draw from my knowledge to assist my organization to solve problems effectively.

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

That would be time management, balancing of academic workload and family life. I know time management is one of those skills we all believe we have under control, mainly because we really don't and are not disciplined enough to take a closer look at the things we spend our time on.

Describe one takeaway from the past two months?

The opportunity to work with other acquisition professionals to study, analyze case studies and compare ideas with other professional of such a high caliber. Most importantly, the relationships established with other acquisition professionals across the Army.

Any additional thoughts?

First, I would like to thank the senior leaders within my organization for making this opportunity a reality. I am gaining a clearer understanding of the decision-making process and how national security decision making actually occurs.

PEO EIS Navy Tailored Training Focuses on Leadership

Capital and Northeast Region conducted the Navy Program Executive Office (PEO) Enterprise Information System (EIS) Acquisition Workforce Continuum Training, a semiannual targeted training held Aug. 18–20. Facilitated by **Justin Porto**, the course is a mission assistance event provided for PEO EIS personnel in acquisition levels I through III. The three days of presentations, learning and group interaction were kicked off by opening remarks from the deputy PEO, Capt. Paul Ghyzel. This iteration of the seminar featured a keynote presentation by **Rear Adm. Lenn Vincent** (ret.), DAU industry chair, on leadership in today's acquisition environment. In another presentation, **Steve Vozzola** (chief of staff of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence [C4I]), gave an

enlightening presentation on C4I initiatives. DAU's **Bruce Weyrick**, CIO Section 508 coordinator, gave an overview of Section 508 compliance to acquaint the new PEO EIS personnel with this important mandate. "An Industry Perspective on Professional Services" was presented by David Kriegman, president and CEO of Z2B, a consulting firm. Kriegman was executive vice president and chief operating officer of SRA International, and his insightful but practical observations were appreciated by the class. Additional presentations included the OPNAV perspective (N2/N6F) and an acquisition workforce/DAWIA update. All 15 attendees completed the Crucial Conversations Seminar taught by Porto as part of the training sessions. According to Ghyzel, DAU continues to bring the best speakers and up-to-date information with our training.