

## DAU and the Council on Occupational Education

The Council on Occupational Education (COE) hosted its annual meeting Nov. 3–6, in Phoenix, Ariz. Ms. Kelley Berta and Ms. Deborah Hempel led a workshop at the meeting specifically set aside for DoD and federal agency institutions either accredited by COE or in candidate status. Mr. Clifford Maxfield also represented DAU at the meeting.

The DoD/Federal Agency Community of Practice (CoP) was established in 2006 by representatives of several government learning institutions, including Dr. Sue Stein, the former Accreditation Liaison Officer for DAU. Ms. Berta was elected president of the DoD/Federal Agency CoP at the 2009 annual meeting. One of the first deliverables the community agreed upon during the meeting was a charter to formalize the group both as a community and in its relationship with COE and to articulate its mission and objectives. At the 2010 annual meeting, the community conducted a formal signing of the charter with Dr. Gary Puckett, President of COE. Another deliverable the group completed this year was a job description for Accreditation Liaison Officers (ALOs) at DoD and federal schools, a role that is sometimes obscure and can be overwhelming for new appointees.

For over a year, Ms. Hempel participated in a major undertaking to tailor COE's standards and criteria to the needs of government schools which was completed during 2009. In 2010, a new set of standards was published that take into consideration the special requirements and conditions of government schools. By honing the standards and criteria this way, the team has paved a smoother path for all federal schools now accredited by COE or pursuing accreditation with COE in the future.

The DoD/Federal Agency CoP is now compiling a list of responsibilities for the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) at these schools—usually the Commander/Commandant/Executive Director of the school. In the upcoming year, the community plans to reach out to the CAOs to help reinforce the importance of accreditation for their learning institutions and the need for their support of the ALOs in the accreditation process.

At DAU, we are fortunate to have the full support of senior leadership in the accreditation process, which is critical to maintaining our own status. Because of this, DAU has become a leading influence in the DoD/Federal Agency Community and is assisting other schools by maintaining an online CoP for sharing lessons learned, best practices, and other information specific to self-studies and site visits.



## CNE SSCF Program Fellows Visit the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC)

Capital and Northeast (CNE) Fellows, Steve Cooper, Ray Fontaine, Joe Forino, Dan Shearer, Dennis Teefy, Randy Young, and Stephanie Halcisak accompanied by CNE SSCF Director Jim Oman, visited the JRTC and Fort Polk, La., Nov. 16–17.

The purpose of the visit to the Army's premier Combat Training Center for contingency forces was to provide the Fellows with first-hand exposure to the JRTC; familiarize them with how the JRTC accomplishes its mission of conducting tough, realistic, multi-echelon, joint, and combined-arms training; observe the vital role that the JRTC plays in preparing individuals, leaders, and units for combat deployments; and provide the Fellows with points of reference to compare and contrast the JRTC with their earlier visit to the National Training Center.

The Fellows were welcomed by the Operations Group Chief of Staff and received the Command Brief which also provided a snapshot of rotational objectives, training methodology, the training environment, and scenario development.

While at the headquarters, the Fellows were briefed on the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization and learned about their mission and responsibilities that fit into the JRTC training environment.

The Fellows toured the Berry Battle Command Training Center and observed a combat support hospital conducting a command post exercise in preparation for and impending deployment into the United States Central Command area of responsibility.

The Fellows also had the opportunity to visit and hear from the Deputy Commander of the 162nd Infantry Brigade describe the unique mission of training combat advisors to assist Host Nation Security Forces.

The Fellows also visited and were briefed at the Leaders Training Program and at the Cubic Applications, Inc., facility which set the stage for their visit to the maneuver box where they went to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sword. At FOB Sword, they observed the Company Intelligence Support Team in action analyzing information from a wide variety of sources.

Afterwards, the Fellows met with senior intelligence and two senior Trainer Mentors (TMs) to hear their thoughts and perspectives. The Fellows gained a deeper appreciation for the complexity of the current battlefield, the key roles played by the Combat Training Center, and the importance of the TMs. The visit to the JRTC provided an exceptional and unique opportunity for the Fellows to view and consider the many leadership challenges faced by Army leaders.