



Defense Acquisition University

Alumni Association

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER



JAN 2017

President's Message



Greetings for January 2017.

As we start a new year, I ask that you all consider the following:

First, the Association is in the process of implementing a new DAUAA website – www.dauaa.org. So far lots of growing pains so bear with us as we continually improve the basic site.

Second, we co-sponsored an outstanding hot topic forum at Scott Hall on 16 November. The forum was sponsored by Ms. Roberta Tomasini of the DSMC faculty – who is well renowned for her expertise on DoD financial management issues. The guest speaker was Ms. Kate Kaufer, a Professional Staff Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee Defense Subcommittee. The topic of Ms. Kaufer's presentation was: "State of the Congressional Budget: Current Appropriation Status and the Role of the Budget Process." Ms. Kaufer gave a lively and well-received presentation attended by about 150 physical attendees and another 150 VTC and DCS attendees. We hope to have Ms. Kaufer back in the fall of 2017 when the congressional budget process is again in full swing. Her slideshow – and others from previous forums - is available on the DAUAA website at the following link: <https://dauaa.org/training/>.

Third, our next hot topic training forum is shaping up for 15 February when we will have a presentation by Ms. Robin Brown, the DoD lead for Diminishing Manufacturing Sources & Material Shortages (DMSMS) and Obsolescence located at the Defense Standardization Program Office (DSPO). DSPO is physically co-located with DLA in the McNamara Building at Ft Belvoir, but reports to OSD Systems Engineering. She also has participated as a member of the DoD DMSMS Working Group for which she won the DoD DMSMS Individual Achievement Award in 2013. She will be joined by Mr. Ethan Plotkin, CEO of GDCA, which is one of the world's leading manufacturers of so-called "obsolete" embedded products. They look forward to taking part in a DAU hot topic training forum and continuing to leverage their past experience to mitigate DMSMS issues across the Services. More to follow on this hot topic training forum in January.

Fourth, as mentioned previously in this column, we are also actively into planning speakers and topics for the next DAU Acquisition Training Symposium to be held on Tuesday, 4 April, 2017. In the plenary session, we will have a keynote speaker and an industry panel. The latter will examine the state of industry when considering it as part of the defense force structure. We have also accumulated about 14 new classroom topics for the Symposium. The theme for the Symposium is: "The Future of Defense Acquisition – Improvement from Within!" See you there and at our bi-monthly hot topic training forums that are co-sponsored with DAU.

Finally, I want to thank our members for their continued support of the DAU Alumni Association. Without their support, we would not be able to continue to present outstanding DAU hot topic training forums, co-sponsor the highly successful annual DAU Acquisition Training Symposium, and support the DAUAA LinkedIn Group. To aid in recruitment, a link for membership applications can be found at: <https://dauaa.org/on-line-membership-application/>. Please provide this information to your acquisition professional colleagues who are not currently Alumni Association members. We want (and need) them for the Alumni Association to be a viable organization! The low cost to join remains at \$25 per year, or \$60 for 3 years.

- Bill Bahnmaier, President, DAUAA

About Bill Bahnmaier, DAUAA President: Bill Bahnmaier is a retired Marine and a former (retired) instructor at the Defense Acquisition University (DAU). In his last tour of duty as a Marine he was a major system PM of the Marine Corps Assault Amphibian. Since retirement, Bahnmaier works as an official volunteer at DAU and also is a part time consultant and instructor on defense acquisition matters. He and his wife Peggy reside in Alexandria, VA. They have 9 nephews and nieces and 18 great nephews and nieces.



DoD Breaking News

A Senate staff member confirmed in an article in Breaking Defense News, that the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Acquisition Technology and Logistics (AT&L) post will continue through 2017, according to language in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act to be unveiled. But the OSD AT&L position will disappear and is split in February 2018, and is renamed the USD R&E (Research and Engineering) and will remain #3 in the Department. At the same time (02-18) a second position is created — USD Acquisition and Sustainment. All current political positions under AT&L have been abolished," the staffer wrote in an email.

http://breakingdefense.com/2016/11/pentagons-top-acquisition-job-gone-reshaped-in-defense-policy-bill/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Early%20Bird%20Brief%2011.30.2016&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Military%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief. (Copy and paste into your browser)

[Acquisition Staffing Among Major Challenges at GSA](#)

Hiring, retention, and development of the workforce at the Federal Acquisition Service are among the top management challenges at GSA, according to the annual assessment by the IG's office there. FAS "requires a robust and well-qualified acquisition workforce in order to award and administer increasingly complex acquisitions and successfully implement FAS's new major initiatives," said a report.

(28 November, 2016, Federal Manager's Daily Report)

[Debunking Two Myths About Learning Evaluation and Alignment](#)

By Marina Theodotou, ATD, November 23, 2016

Myth 2: In the Real World, Learning Alignment Cannot Be Achieved Learning alignment can be complex. Evidence shows that organizations that evaluate learning consistently are able to better align their learning goals to their strategic goals and move the dial. One such organization is the Defense Acquisition University (DAU), which during the past decade has made significant strides in learning evaluation.

[Developing Top Leaders: 5 Crucial Skills](#)

By Brett Walker, Training Industry, November 28, 2016

Why is the percentage of untalented managers so high? The problem may be the promotion strategies that most organizations use. It's hard to find a professional who would say no to being promoted to manager. We are all striving to excel in our careers. To most professionals, moving up the ladder into management feels like a natural next step – even if they don't actually have the talent or skills to lead

[Weapon System Requirements: Detailed Systems Engineering Prior to Product Development Positions Programs for Success](#)

By GAO, November 17, 2016

"GAO's analysis of nine case studies identified four factors that frame the challenge posed by a given weapon system's requirements: acquisition approach, technology status, design maturity, and system interdependency. Systems engineering is the primary means for determining whether and how that challenge can be met. A key point in systems engineering where this match can be assessed is the preliminary design. As shown establishing a preliminary design through early detailed systems engineering portends better program outcomes than doing so after program start. GAO's analysis of selected Department of Defense (DOD) programs illustrates the relationship among the four factors, systems engineering, and program outcomes."

19th Annual NDIA Systems Engineering Conference

Notes by Dave Floyd, DAUAA Membership Committee Member

Dave Floyd, DAUAA Membership Committee Member and DAUAA BoD Director at Large, along with Jim Sutton, DAUAA BoD Director at large, shared in manning a DAUAA booth at the NDIA Systems Engineering Conference. Attendance at the conference was free for Dave and Jim based on a quid pro quo arrangement between the DAUAA and NDIA which authorized DAU to man a booth at the NDIA conference and for NDIA to man a booth at one of the DAU annual symposiums.

The 19th Annual NDIA Systems Engineering Conference was held from 24-27 October, 2016 at the Waterford Hotel in Springfield, VA. Attendance included approximately 400 representatives from Government and Industry. There were twelve different tracks with over one hundred presentations and three senior level panel discussions, all on systems engineering topics, presented at the conference.

A highlight from the conference included the following:

Keynote Presentation

Mr. Stephen Welby, Assistant Secretary of defense for Research and Engineering

- People are our most important asset
- Cost Effectiveness (Affordability) is key
- Innovation needs to influence strategy
- Harness Advanced Technology

Current Systems Engineering Challenges

- Pace of Delivery
- Time to Market
- Life Cycle focus
- Developing flexible designs for systems
- Safeguarding critical information
- End-to-End Mission focus
- Rigorous system development planning

Future Systems Engineering Challenges

- Autonomy/Artificial Intelligence (e.g., unmanned ships such as SEA HUNTER, aircraft, vehicles)
- Synthetic Biology (e.g., biology as technology)
- Healthcare/diagnostics
- Increased emphasis on prototyping

**A Big and Gracious Thank-You
From Marcus Haskell**

DAU, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the Bryant Alternative High School (BAH) food & monetary donation program that ended today. To all of those that contributed at the BAH donation box that was on the table at the Rock the Quad and to those that contributed this week, on behalf of the Mrs. Millard, the BAH Principal a gracious and sincere THANK YOU. I would also like to thank Wayne Glass and Bill Bahnmaier and the DAU Alumni Association for matching what we had collected in the box (154.00) which allowed us to start off the Thanksgiving donation drive with 308.00. From there things just got even sweeter. Today after the DAU volunteers fed the Students and Staff at BAH I was very pleased to present Mrs. Millard with 1050.00 worth of Giant gift cards that she in turn will pass out to some of the Students and their Families that are in need so they can have a wonderful Thanksgiving also. This amount was almost double of what we have ever given at the Thanksgiving Luncheon and Mrs. Millard was really ecstatic and overwhelmed with the generosity that YOU, DAU has shown our Partner High School. Everyone who donated should really feel good today because today, we helped others who may be a little less fortunate than we are and they appreciate what we do for them, KUDOS to you All.

Last but not least, I want Thanks to everyone also you donated food items that will also be provided to the Families of the BAH families, with a special thanks to Debbie Gonzalez for being the logistician on gathering up and delivering the food items to BAH. Thank You So Very Much,

Marcus

Marcus Haskell
Deputy Director, Operations Support Group

DAU HOT TOPIC FORUM

STATE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET

WHEN: 16 November, 2016

WHERE: DAU Howell Auditorium, Scott Hall (building 226)

WHO: Ms. Kate Kaufer, Professional Staff Member (PSM) supporting the Senate Appropriations Committee subcommittee on Defense (SAC-D)

Ms. Kaufer addressed the congressional enactment process, with a focus on the appropriation process. She also provided a status on the FY17 appropriation process. We had over 200 folks in attendance in Howell Auditorium and over 100 at the various DAU campuses around the country.

To view Ms. Kaufer's slides, go to <https://dauaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/HTFPrezNov2016.pdf>

Notional Schedule of Upcoming Hot Topic Forums
(Held at DAU Scott Hall, Bldg. 226, 1130-1300)

Date	Focus Area	Target Speaker Community	Speaker
15-Feb-17	Obsolescence	DoD Leadership	TBD
22-Feb-17	DAG and DAU		TBD
22-Mar-17	Agile Culture	Information Technology	TBD
17-May-17	Commercial Solutions Openings and OTs	OSD Leadership/ Industry/ DCMA	TBD
19-Jul-17	Warfighter Issues/Requirements	Service/ COCOMs/ JROC	TBD
20-Sep-17	Technical Issues in Acquisitions	Academia/ OSD/ Industry	TBD
15-Nov-17	Congressional Budget	OSD Leadership	TBD

(No cost training events hosted and presented by the Defense Acquisition University (DAU))

Upcoming DAU “Lunch n Learns”

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (CT)</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan-11	1130-1300	Depot Maintenance and 50-50
Jan-25	1130-1300	Decision Making in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous (VUCA) World
Feb- 1	1130-1300	Integrated Baseline Review
Feb- 8	1130-1300	DoD Operating and Support Costing Basics
Feb-22	1130-1300	No LnL Session – Holiday Week
Mar- 1	1130-1300	Reliability and Maintainability
Mar- 8	1130-1300	Framing Assumptions
Mar-29	1130-1300	POM Development

The presentations are offered via DCS at:
<https://conference.apps.mil/webconf/3rdQtrDAULunchnLearn> (Enter as a Guest)
 Register for session(s) at: <http://go.usa.gov/H2sA>

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