



From the Acquisition Support Center Director

On Jan. 3, 2008, Dean G. Popps became the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT) and Army Acquisition Executive (AAE). As the Acting ASAALT, he serves as the Senior Procurement Executive, the Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Army and the Army's Senior Research and Development Official. Mr. Popps also assumes principal responsibility for all Army logistical matters and continues serving as the ASAALT Principal Deputy, a position he has held since July 24, 2004. We wish Mr. Popps the very best as the Acting ASAALT/AAE. Under Mr. Popp's leadership, our workforce will continue to get the much-needed products to our Nation's Soldiers, as quickly as possible, as they bravely fight the global war on terrorism.



Human Capital Development Plan

These are exciting times for Army contracting as the Army transitions to an expeditionary force that will provide contracting support across the full spectrum of Army operations. Contracting support's future is a strong link between the generating and operating forces that will support a wide variety of operations. Expeditionary contracting has evolved to provide initial contingency and sustainment contracting support with a CONUS reachback capability. The Modified Table of Organization and Equipment will expand to support expeditionary operations and combatant commanders' daily operations. By working closely with the Department of the Army G-3 Director of Force Management, we have bolstered operational structure by adding 3 contracting support brigades, 5 contingency contracting battalions, 3 senior contingency contracting teams and 48 additional contingency contracting teams. Furthermore, we are expanding our acquisition contracting to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Military Construction), the Defense Logistics Agency (Material), the U.S. Army Materiel Command (System/Materiel/Base Operations) and the Special Operations community. The end state is a strategically developed and employed acquisition structure that will support the Army's requirements across Joint operations.

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center continues to work closely with DOD and the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) in addressing acquisition workforce issues. Recently, DAU has been focusing on competency assessments for all acquisition career fields (ACFs). Many of you may have received e-mail invitations from the Center for Naval Analysis to participate in the competency assessment for your particular field of expertise. I encourage you to complete this assessment. It takes less than an hour to complete and it's your opportunity to help identify workforce capabilities and gaps that can be addressed by training or other means.

The Army continues to work closely with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (USD(AT&L)) in planning *Section 852, 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund*. When implemented, this fund will assist the Army and other services in supporting the recruitment, retention and development of our valuable acquisition workforce. More information on this topic will be shared in the future.

The USD(AT&L) Human Capital Strategic Plan is amended annually to reflect its strategic focus on people and the goal to develop and maintain a "high-performing, agile and ethical workforce." This plan provides a summary of DOD and service accomplishments and initiatives that support this goal. I suggest that you visit this document and its updates at <http://www.dau.mil/workforce/hcsp.pdf> to learn more about DOD acquisition workforce characteristics as well as some best practices that may be applied within your own organization. For more information, contact Mary McHale at (703) 805-1234/DSN 655-1234 or mary.mchale@us.army.mil.

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