



## From the Acquisition Support Center Director

**O**ur Nation is entering its 8th year in the global war on terrorism.

Our Soldiers have performed brilliantly, literally facing life and death situations while defending our country from the persistent conflict of terrorism. Since 1973, the Army has been an all-volunteer force.

Describing this all-volunteer Army as a “national treasure,” Secretary of the Army Pete Geren said, “These Soldiers go on when most would quit, risk or give everything, and step up when most would step back.” The Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (AL&T) Workforce plays a critical role in keeping this national treasure the best fighting force in history. We must remain committed to providing our Soldiers with the best weapons systems, technology, and logistics as quickly as possible so they can continue to be the world’s premier fighting force. The AL&T Workforce can be proud in knowing that our steadfastness and dedication to duty is an integral component of the Army’s success in accomplishing the awesome mission of defending our Nation.



### Section 852 Catalog of Opportunities

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center (USAASC) has fervently been preparing the Army’s catalog of opportunities in response to the enactment of *Section 852* of the *National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, Public Law No. 110-181*. Principally important to this act is the establishment of the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund (DAWDF). This fund allows DOD to recruit, hire, develop, train, recognize, and retain its acquisition workforce with an estimated budget exceeding \$3 billion. On Aug. 5, 2008, the Service Acquisition Executives (SAEs) and their staffs met with Dr. James I. Finley, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology. The Army SAE, along with the other services, gained incremental approval and supplemental funding. For the Army, this meant a partial deployment of its initiatives. This approval resulted in the first allocation of Army funds toward the FY08 total of \$69.6 million.

USAASC will ensure that the AL&T Workforce is kept apprised of future efforts related to the Army’s implementation of the *Section 852* DAWDF via future *Army AL&T*

Magazine and *Army AL&T Online* articles. In the future, the Army’s catalog of opportunities will be available on the USAASC Web site. For more information, contact Kelly Terry at (732) 532-1406/DSN 644-1406 or [kelly.terry@us.army.mil](mailto:kelly.terry@us.army.mil).

### Business Transformation and Acquisition Certification

On May 3, 2008, an important memo was signed by the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for AL&T and the Director for Acquisition Career Management. The memo, which can be viewed at [http://asc.army.mil/docs/policy/Bus\\_Trans\\_Acq\\_Cert\\_Standards\\_Memo.pdf](http://asc.army.mil/docs/policy/Bus_Trans_Acq_Cert_Standards_Memo.pdf), requires that by the beginning of the FY09 1st quarter, all addressees must include business transformation and acquisition certification standards in assigned military and civilian support forms and performance evaluations. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that business transformation principles and concepts and the linkage to strategic map initiatives are included in their subordinates’ support forms. Likewise, nonsupervisory employees must show linkage to strategic maps/initiatives and include business transformation activities in their objectives.

Military and civilian AL&T Workforce members are required to be certified to the required level (I, II, or III) within 24 months of assignment in their positions. This memo directs that supervisors monitor and support the achievement of both position certification and continuous learning points (CLPs). Employees and supervisors will document certification and the progress toward attaining CLP requirements on the Individual Development Plan (IDP). The memo provides additional details on these standards and identifies points of contact to answer questions. I encourage you to carefully read and implement the directives in this memo. For more information, contact Mary McHale at (703) 805-1234/DSN 1234 or [mary.mchale@us.army.mil](mailto:mary.mchale@us.army.mil).

### Core Plus

The Defense Acquisition University (DAU) has developed Core Plus, a competency model that provides a road map for the development of acquisition workforce members to go beyond the minimum certification standards required for their position. Core Plus identifies appropriate learning activities by connecting workforce members to their career field, level, and particular job assignment needs. Core Plus also identifies targeted training that relates to specific tasks in a given assignment. The Core Plus Development Guide for each acquisition career field can be found in the DAU catalog. I encourage you to consider these recommendations as you and your supervisor discuss your IDP. Remember,

unlike certification training, there is no deadline to complete Core Plus training other than what your supervisor specifies and what you need to meet your continuous learning standards. For more information, contact Mary McHale at (703) 805-1234/DSN 644-1234 or [mary.mchale@us.army.mil](mailto:mary.mchale@us.army.mil).

### FY10 Centrally Selected List (CSL) Review

The Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) Director conducted the FY10 annual review for CSL on Aug. 28, 2008. Thirteen project manager, 44 product manager, and 27 acquisition director positions rotating out in FY10 were reviewed as well as consideration of establishing 13 new project/product manager positions. The CSL review's intent was to ensure continued clarity in achieving AAC CSL objectives and meeting *Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act* requirements. All positions were closely analyzed to ensure that AAC's limited resources were used in the best possible manner to support identified acquisition category-level programs. During the review, the AAC Director made decisions on revalidating, establishing, disestablishing, downgrading, upgrading, and merging acquisition key billets of project/product managers and acquisition directors. Other areas reviewed included special qualifications and the need for a military officer versus best-qualified (military or civilian) slate. For more information about the FY10 CSL review, contact Randy Williams at (703) 805-4363/DSN 655-4363 or [randall.williams@us.army.mil](mailto:randall.williams@us.army.mil).

### USAASC Division Chief Farewells

I would like to say goodbye to two departing USAASC Division Chiefs. Maria Holmes, former Strategic Planning and Analysis (SP&A) Chief, and David Duda, former Acquisition Career Development (ACD) Chief, were selected to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Although their positive influence on this organization will be felt for many years to come, they will be deeply missed. We wish Maria and David the very best in their future endeavors. LTC Norm Hilton, coming from ACD, will be taking the reins as SP&A Chief, and Joan Sable is stepping up as the new ACD chief. I'm looking forward to watching these two professionals succeed in their new responsibilities.



**Craig A. Spisak**  
Director, U.S. Army  
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## Contracting Community Highlights



**A**s we begin FY09, Army contracting remains deeply involved in improving its support to the warfighter. The activation of the U.S. Army Contracting Command, with its Expeditionary Contracting Command, and Mission and Installation Contracting Command, has streamlined Army contracting. The new Army Contracting Campaign Plan has brought battle-focused improvements in contingency contracting operations, management, and oversight. Additionally, efforts to increase the contracting workforce and enhanced personnel training are beginning to pay off.

In addition to these pivotal Army contracting transformations, several contracting process changes in cost controls, technical innovations, and procurement policy are featured in this issue. Our feature article explains how Earned Value Management is used by the Army and other government agencies to judge a program's capability and execution success.

Other articles cover the Army Purchase Card Program changes, an Army Contracting Think Tank update, and the *DAR* Council Corner provides details on how to volunteer for *Federal Acquisition Regulation* and *Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement* committees.

These articles demonstrate how the contracting community at every leadership level constantly improves, discusses, develops, and implements the procurement process. Thanks to all the contributors for sharing their experiences and knowledge. As we enter FY09, I challenge you to continue sharing best practices and innovative ideas within the contracting community.

**Wimpy Pybus**  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Procurement)