



From the Acquisition Support Center Director

With a new administration, 2009 promises to bring new challenges that come with a major transition during a time of war. The Army song resonates “First to fight for the right, and to build the Nation’s might, and the Army goes rolling along.” That promise still rings true today.



During this era of persistent conflict, the Army as well as the Army Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (AL&T) Workforce will continue what we do best — solving new challenges head-on with resounding success. We can be proud that the AL&T Workforce’s dedication to duty is vital to making the “Army Strong.” In 2009, I’m expecting the AL&T Workforce to stand ready with our Soldiers as they take the point on our Nation’s path to victory over our enemies.

FY08 Position Certification and Continuous Learning Points (CLPs) Update

There’s encouraging news to report on acquisition certification. From Oct. 1, 2007, to Oct. 1, 2008, acquisition workforce members certified in their positions improved by more than 12 percent. This is nearly an 8-percent increase over the previous FY. More than 49 percent of the acquisition workforce is now properly certified. There’s also great news about CLPs. The number of acquisition members achieving at least 80 CLPs within the recent 2-year cycle improved by 31 percent. This is a 100-percent improvement from FY06. Ten thousand more workforce members met the 80 point standard than in FY06. Keep up the good work!

Section 852 Army’s Catalog of Opportunities

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center (USAASC) has fervently been preparing the Army’s Section 852 Catalog of Opportunities in response to the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008, Public Law No. 110-181*. Principally important to this act is the establishment of the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund (DAWDF), which permits DOD to recruit, hire, train, recognize, and retain its acquisition workforce with an estimated budget exceeding \$3 billion. In September 2008, LTG N. Ross Thompson III, the Army’s Director, Acquisition Career Management (DACM), met with Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology James I. Finley. In the meeting, the DACM gained incremental approval and

supplemental funding, enabling partial deployment of the Army’s initiatives. For the Army, this approval resulted in a \$69.6 million allocation of multiyear FY08 funds. USAASC will attempt to ensure that the AL&T Workforce is updated on future Section 852 DAWDF implementation efforts via *Army AL&T Magazine* and *Army AL&T Online* articles. The Army’s Catalog of Opportunities can found online at <http://asc.army.mil/career/programs/852/initiatives.cfm>.

Senior Service College Fellowship Program (SSCFP)

Since its inception in 2006, two Huntsville, AL, SSCFP classes have graduated from the program and the third class is in progress. In 2007, Warren, MI, came onboard with its first class that graduated in the summer of 2008. In 2009, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, personnel will be able to apply for the program. SSCFP is a 10-month leadership development and educational opportunity for our senior-level civilians. The program’s ultimate purpose is to provide leadership and acquisition training to prepare senior-level civilians for their next leadership roles, such as acquisition key billet project and product manager central-select list positions, as well as to groom them for program executive officer and other acquisition key leadership positions. As a result of this program, graduates from the 2006-2007 classes are now serving in these senior-level positions.

Competitive Development Group/Army Acquisition Fellowship (CDG/AAF)

CDG/AAF is a 3-year leadership development program offered to GS-13 or National Security Personnel System-equivalent Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) civilians with identified potential for future leadership roles. The application for the 2009 Fellows was online for the first time, and, along with an increased marketing effort to our acquisition community, there was a huge interest in the program. The applicant pool increased 100 percent from 2008 to 2009. Board-selected 2009 Fellows will receive orientation to the program in February. Year group (YG) 2006 Fellows will graduate at the same time.

Future Career Development Opportunities

As we look forward to 2009, there are some new opportunities for our AL&T Workforce regarding career development. As a result of the CDG/AAF program online application experience, we are incorporating many of our Acquisition Education, Training, and Experience (AET&E) programs using online applications in the Army Acquisition Professional Development System, which can be found at the Career Acquisition Management Portal at <https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/> and by clicking the Career Acquisition Personnel and

Position Management Information System tab. Here are some of the opportunities for 2009:

- The Acquisition Tuition Acceptance Program funds part-time degrees.
- The School of Choice Program funds full-time degrees.
- New for 2009, the Carnegie-Mellon University hosts an educational opportunity for the information technology civilian and military workforce.
- CDG/AAF annual selection announcement will be in June 2009 for YG 2010 Fellows.

E-mail blasts will be sent to the AL&T Workforce announcing these opportunities with most applications available online. For more information on other AET&E opportunities, go to the USAASC Web site at <http://asc.army.mil/career/programs/aete/default.cfm> or contact Joan L. Sable, Chief, Acquisition Career Development Division, at (703) 805-1243/DSN 655-1243 or joan.l.sable@us.army.mil.

2008 Senior Leaders' Training Forum (SLTF)

The SLTF, held in November 2008 in Dallas, TX, was a resounding success. Army acquisition senior leaders, program executive officers, life cycle management commanders, and selected members of the Army's senior leadership met to share and discuss information about acquisition direction, guidance, and policies. (*Editor's Note:* See related article on Page 54.) The SLTF attendees are now sharing the knowledge and experience gained from SLTF with their respective organizations, keeping the acquisition workforce honed and ready to serve. My sincere gratitude goes to all who helped make the SLTF a tremendous learning experience.



Craig A. Spisak
Director, U.S. Army
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U.S. Army Developmental Test Command (DTC) Employee Chosen as Outstanding Civilian

Mike Cast

DTC's Greg Brewer was selected as an "outstanding civilian" to represent the "vital contribution all Army civilians make," at a media engagement in New York City, Oct. 1, 2008. Secretary of the Army Pete Geren presided over the event, which was a showcase for the Army's success in recruiting.

The U.S. Army Accessions Command, responsible for recruitment and initial training of Soldiers, hired the Weber Shandwick public relations firm to promote the event, which underscored a very successful recruiting year. In 2008, nearly 170,000 people enlisted or reenlisted in the active Army, the Army Reserve, and the National Guard.

The Army selected Brewer to acknowledge his work on behalf of Soldiers as the senior automotive test manager for tactical wheeled vehicles including the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) family of vehicles. Brewer also earned the Army's Tester of the Year Award for 2007 in recognition of that work. The award citation credits Brewer with "decisive management" of testing to help Soldiers conduct missions safely in the two very different operational environments of Afghanistan and Iraq.

The citation also lauds Brewer for his full-court press to keep MRAP testing on track since spring 2007, when nine vendors with two to four vehicles each arrived at DTC for rapid test support. "Under his guidance, this high-priority program maintained test schedules to support fielding within a 9-month window," the citation reads. "This is unheard of in the acquisition world. Greg used his vast testing experience to quickly organize the test scope, expedite the safety testing, and ready the test centers at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, and Yuma Proving Ground, AZ, to receive vehicles for testing."

During the recruitment ceremony in Times Square, GEN William Wallace, Commander, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, witnessed the enlistees' oath of allegiance. The Army also recognized the outstanding support of several Soldiers, including Army recruiters. Family members of enlistees and other honorees also attended.

“The Secretary of the Army discussed how important new recruits are to the Army, and how the Army had met its recruiting goal by recruiting almost 170,000 people for the Active Army, the Reserve Components, and National Guard,” Brewer said. “One of the outstanding Soldiers got up and recited the Soldiers creed, and they had one of the recruits speak about how she felt about being inducted.”

Traffic was open on either side of the staging area for the event, and drivers honked and waved as they passed by. Many people came up to shake Soldiers’ hands and show their support. “They fenced off a little triangle right in the middle of the road, and they set up a tent where the VIPs sat, and then they had 10 people who were representative recruits from all over the country. There were also some drill sergeants who were selected as outstanding Drill Sergeant of the Year. In addition, there were Army athletes who just came back from wrestling at the Olympics, as well as people who had just come back from Iraq. I stood beside all those guys,” Brewer stated.

Brewer, who has been a DTC tester for 4 years, is also responsible for the automotive testing of High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs), mine rollers for MRAP vehicles, and gunner protection kits for both MRAP vehicles and HMMWVs. Part of his work addresses the safety aspects of attaching armor kits to vehicles and safety enhancements such as fire-suppression systems, crew air breathing bottles, seat belts, and fire resistant fuel tanks. The test program includes crash testing HMMWVs to determine the vehicles’ overall safety and performance requirements.

Since tests began, Brewer has helped the Army prepare numerous safety releases and safety confirmations, which are documents the Army needs to certify that the vehicles are safe to operate. “These safety documents specify the safety limits that the Marines and Army Soldiers must adhere to,” according to his citation. The National Defense Industrial Association presented Brewer with its Army Tester of the Year Award for 2008. He also earned plaudits from the highest levels within the Army for the work he performed for the MRAP program.

Mike Cast is DTC’s Public Affairs Officer. He has a B.A. in journalism from Arizona State University. Cast, a former Army photojournalist, is a Keith L. Ware Award winner.

Contracting Community Highlights



The Army contracting community is expanding, and its members are the most effective recruiters to encourage the best people to consider Army contracting careers. Contracting members share the responsibility to recruit and train the next generation of contracting officers (KOs). They can help this effort by sharing their experiences, challenges, and rewards of federal service with private sector candidates and recent college graduates. Army contracting has a direct positive impact on Soldier morale, readiness, and lethality, offering future KOs opportunities to contribute to the Nation’s strength.

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASAALT) Credo reads, “We must ensure the readiness and sustainment of a professional civilian and military workforce by promoting leadership, professional development, and matching skill sets with relevant work requirements.” One of ASAALT’s strategic directives is, “To grow and enhance the capability of the acquisition workforce.” Two articles in this edition feature how the Army contracting workforce is addressing this mandate.

In the lead article, Program Executive Office Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation describes how its Acquisition Academy quickly trains and places contracting interns in areas where they can be the most productive. In another article, various intern programs are discussed, including the Career Program-14 Intern Program.

TACOM Life Cycle Management Command’s article on Kuwait contract closeouts integrates supporting deployed Soldiers and providing meaningful and productive work for interns. Under the guidance of more experienced staff, contracting interns made an important contribution to our warfighters. Their stateside contract administration allowed deployed contracting staff to concentrate on mission-critical operational needs that must be accomplished in theater.

I appreciate those who have shared their commands’ successes and the great work they are doing. When experiences are shared, others can build on these successes to accomplish even more.

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