

# State of the U.S. Army Acquisition Corps

This issue of *Army AL&T* Magazine takes stock of the achievements and challenges of the U.S. Army Acquisition Corps (AAC)—where we've succeeded and where there's still work to do. From systems development to procurement, to contracting and professional development, 21 articles explore the current state of Army acquisition in detail. As illustrated on the cover, this issue encompasses both leadership viewpoints and on-the-ground perspectives across the breadth of acquisition, from the career development classroom to the arenas of logistics, weapon systems, and technology.

In this issue, you'll find a wealth of information that will help you succeed in your work. Interviews with Dr. Malcolm Ross O'Neill, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, and LTG William N. Phillips, Dr. O'Neill's Principal Military Deputy and Director of Acquisition Career Management, provide an in-depth look at their leadership philosophies and priorities. A subsequent article looks specifically at how the Army is strengthening contracting within its acquisition workforce.

There are also two brand-new features in this issue.

*From the DACM*, a column by LTG Phillips that will appear regularly in *Army AL&T* Magazine, is devoted to discussing LTG Phillips' priorities for the acquisition workforce and acquisition career management.

The Conference Call section comprises 11 articles spotlighting news and insights from top leaders in the military and industry who presented their views at two key annual conferences in October and November. The articles are a concise wrap-up of acquisition-focused news from the 2010 Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition and the 2010 Program Executive Officers'/System Command Commanders' Conference. Key speakers included ADM Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Dr. Ashton B. Carter, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics; William J. Lynn III, Deputy Secretary of Defense; GEN Peter W. Chiarelli, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army; and top executives from Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, and Boeing. These leaders offered timely insights on Army modernization, fiscal management, acquisition reform, workforce development, Army readiness, force structure, development of the Army network enterprise, and, most important, how the Army and DOD will be "doing more without more" in 2011.

Additional articles in this issue examine the drawdown of equipment from Iraq and challenges in logistics, intelligence, contracting, and testing.

I trust this issue will give you valuable knowledge and insights into not only the current state of the AAC, but its future as well. If you have any comments or suggestions, e-mail me at [USAASCWEBArmyALTMagazineLettertoEditor@conus.army.mil](mailto:USAASCWEBArmyALTMagazineLettertoEditor@conus.army.mil).

For more of the latest news and career announcements in Army acquisition, please also visit our monthly publication, *Army AL&T Online*, at <http://asc.army.mil> and click on the Magazines tab.

**Nelson McCouch III**  
Editor-in-Chief

**ON THE COVER**, clockwise from top left of four photos: Continuous learning is key to developing professionalism in the Army AL&T Workforce. (U.S. Army photo by Delawese Fulton, *Fort Jackson Leader*.)

Parachute riggers from the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps prepare bundles of bottled water and Meals, Ready-to-Eat for delivery to the Haitian people in support of *Operation Unified Response*. These types of bundles are dropped by parachute from military aircraft to resupply ground units. (U.S. Army photo.)

The M320, a 40mm grenade launcher, is an interoperable system that attaches under the barrel of the rifle or carbine and can convert to a stand-alone weapon. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of PEO Soldier.)

The new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle, built specifically for the mountainous Afghan terrain, is a success story for Army acquisition. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Elisebet Freeburg.)