

**Army Acquisition Corps Mission**

**Support soldiers by continually improving our Army's combat capability and by developing the critical systems and services that enable our Army to meet its non-negotiable contract to fight and win our Nation's wars.**

Is your goal to hold a key leadership position in the Acquisition, Logistics and Technology workforce — a position that is at the crux of weapons development — a position that allows you to directly affect the Acquisition Corps mission? If the answer to this question is “yes,” set your sights on an assignment as a product/project manager (PM) or an acquisition commander (AC).

PM and AC positions are among the most prestigious — some would argue *the* most prestigious — acquisition positions in the workforce. Individuals selected for a PM or an AC position are recognized as being members of an elite group of professionals who are instrumental to our mission to develop the critical systems and services that enable our Army to fight the war on terrorism and defend the homeland. Competition for these positions is keen, and only the best candidates are selected.

PM and AC positions are among the most challenging in the workforce and, without a doubt, require hard work and personal sacrifices on the part of those who occupy the positions. However, former PMs and ACs testify that the sacrifices are mitigated by the challenging work, the feeling of accomplishment and the career enhancing opportunities afforded by the position. A successful tour as a PM or an AC “brands” you as a proven leader who is ready for selection to more senior acquisition leadership positions.

This PM/AC Handbook is for those who want to be selected for one of these challenging positions. The handbook begins with career development information and follows through to post-utilization options. It also provides information to guide you through the application and selection process and various post-selection activities such as required training and preparation for the new assignment. We hope that this handbook will be a useful guide and will make the journey to your goal easier and more successful.