

**Lt. Gen. Williamson Town Hall on Facebook Transcript
3:30 – 4:30 p.m., September 11, 2014**

Hosted on U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center's Facebook Page www.facebook.com/usaasc

September 8

GOT A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR CAREER? LT. GEN. WILLIAMSON WANTS TO HEAR IT!

BIG NEWS! Lt. Gen. Williamson, the Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and the Director, Acquisition Career Management is hosting our first-ever town hall this Thursday, Sept. 11 from 3:30-4:30 EDT. He'll be ready to take your questions on anything acquisition-career related including education, training, certification, Army Acquisition Corps membership, continuous learning points, DAU training and MOS 51C reclassification. So save the date and get your questions ready for Thursday! Learn more about what the Army DACM is and does at <http://asc.army.mil/web/dacm-office/>

September 11

This is my first town hall on Facebook ... and as the Army DACM, I'm looking forward to interacting virtually with our Army Acquisition Professionals for the next hour. I want to take a moment, though, to remind everyone of the importance of our work. Thirteen years ago today, 184 innocent people lost their lives not far from where I am sitting here in the Pentagon. We remember them, their families, and all who were called to action that day. In their honor, we must do our best everyday to ensure our Soldiers have the weapon systems and equipment, products and services they need to do their jobs. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work and dedicated efforts to ensure that our Soldiers are never in a fair fight. LTG Williamson

I also have the Deputy Director of Acquisition Career Management, Craig Spisak, here with me. I've asked him to participate so that we can answer as many of your questions as possible. So let's get started-- what's on your mind that I can address regarding training, education—anything related to your Army acquisition career? Let's go!

Q: When will your policy regarding SRPEs for the AWF be published?

A: The Senior Rater Potential Evaluation (SRPE) for AWF civilians policy is in draft, but my focus for the next year will be a pilot effort within the acquisition community to determine lessons learned and path forward. I think this is really critical for our workforce. This is an important tool to help us identify our best and brightest for future leadership positions. LTG W

R: Thank you sir. PEO STRi looks forward to the next steps. Let us know if we can assist.

Here's a question I just received from Huntsville:

Q: I attended the Town Hall last week at Redstone Arsenal. Was interested in what was planned for leadership development for our civilian workforce? Leadership development is such a big part of the military career progression but it seems to be lacking for the civilian workforce.

A: It was a pleasure to brief everyone at Huntsville. We have a myriad of training, education and developmental programs open to AAWF members. Additional information on programs can be found at:

<http://asc.army.mil/web/career-development/programs/>

Please call 703-805-1229 and talk to a career development expert.

Q: Sir, I graduated from the Naval Postgrad School with a Masters in Program Management and it is supposed to be the equivalent of a Level 3 PM cert....yet i have applied and declined twice with no good explanation. I have the time in a PM slot....any ideas on how to proceed. Thanks for your time.

A: NPS does have PM training equivalency for certification. However, certification requires the combination of training, education and experience. If you believe you have achieved all requirements, please use the Certification Management System appeal process. I have Mr Craig Spisak with me and we just discussed your question. He personally reviews all PM appeals. However, you have to use the system. Good luck. LTG W

Q: Sir, what avenues are in place for civilians to join the Army Acquisition Workforce?

A: civilians can apply via USAJOBS for an acquisition position to be able to join the Army Acquisition Workforce. You can go to the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center website at: <http://asc.army.mil>. There are USAJOBS specifically filtered for acquisition positions here. LTG W

Q: Sir, over the last couple of years we have seen a reduction of the number of LTC and COL PM CSL opportunities, as I understand it, these reductions have been due to some programs transitioning into sustainment, while others have been terminated or lessened in importance, but also there was pressure to reduce our Command Opportunities based on a reduction of BN and BDE command opportunities in "Big Army." Do you think these reductions have leveled off or should we be prepared to see more CSL PM positions changed to LTC/COL Product Director/Non-CSL billets?

A: Frank, my mission along with Ms. Shyu is to ensure we have enough trained and experienced program managers to meet the needs of the Army's programs. As the Army works through its numbers I will continue to engage Army Leadership to ensure we are postured to effectively manage those programs. LTG W

Q: So this is a way to submit questions/concerns?

A: Absolutely. I'm here for another 45 minutes. LTG W

Q: How do I get into/follow the town hall? There is no link to it on the Facebook page?

A: We are doing the townhall right now. You can ask your question right here. LTG W

Q: OK, where do I see the stream in questions and answer?

A: We're answering them throughout this thread. Perhaps try refreshing the facebook page and then click on view more comments.

Q: Sir as a member of the PM CMF I'd like to know the rational for not requiring a college degree to be Level III certified? It's a slap in my face to think my job doesn't require a college degree.

A: certification requirements are determined by Functional IPTs with USD AT&L appointed Functional Leaders and Service SME representation. The PM acquisition career field FIPT has brought up the issue of a college degree as a certification requirement on numerous occasions over the years. Because the defense acquisition workforce encompasses the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and 4th Estate agencies and is made up of both military and civilian, the certification requirements must be universal and address specific Title V guidance. To be a member of the Acquisition Corps requires at least a Bachelor's Degree, 24 Business Hours, and Level II certification in an acquisition career field.

Some civilian occupational series have a positive education requirement which means that qualifying and being accepted to a position in that occupational series requires a Bachelor's Degree. For example, the 1102 occupational series requires a degree. The program management occupational series do not. Don't take any of this personally. A college degree is always a great path both professionally and personally. LTG W

Q: Has there been any movement on bringing Warrant Officers into the Acquisition Corps?

A: The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center considered the inclusion of Warrant Officers into the AAC on two occasions, once in 2008 and most recently in 2011. After considerable research and discussion at the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army level, it was determined that the inclusion could not be supported for a number of reasons. However, I have worked with both the Signal and the Logistics leadership to identify Warrant Officers to serve in specific PEO and PM offices to provide subject matter expertise. LTG W

R: Thank you for the timely response. I believe the Army is not aware of the talent it has in Warrant Officers that are Level II and III DAWIA certified. This information could easily be captured by adding an ASI or SQI to the MOS. There is a lot of underutilized talent out there. Just my two cents.

Q: I am a civilian with the ACC/MICC and I have a question concerning the 51C's with ACC/MICC. I notice every soldier who comes to a MICC office after only a year they go on a deployment and then get back within 6 months they start PCS'n. My question is why? Why not have them get to a unit/MICC office and do a complete two years, go on a deployment in their 3rd year and pcs as soon as the return. As it is now the MICC offices barley gets a little over a year from them and then they are gone. this way the office's can get a full use of all 51C's and they can get more experience as well. just as they get into a contract action and procurement process they don't get the chance to see it through. As a QA I think this would be more valuable to the MICC/ACC and the Soldiers as well. Thank you!

A: This is a great question Billy--what we must consider are the needs of the Army at any given time. MOS 51C Soldiers are typically on a 36 month assignment cycle. General guidance is for Soldiers to have 12 months of "on the job" training prior to deploying. High OPTEMPO has been driving the deployment requirement, which leads to less on the job training time. In the future, the MICC goal is to deploy Soldiers in teams vice individuals. After their return from deployment they are typically afforded the opportunity to recover and reintegrate prior to PCS-ing. This includes reintegration into family life and the community, as well as reintegration into regular military duties. Units may require service members to complete follow-on briefings, training, counseling, and medical evaluations during this phase. Service members and their families may experience some stress during this phase, as everyone re-adjusts to life together. LTG W

R: Thank you for the feed back Sir.

Q: Sir - What is defined as a "Key Leadership Position"(KLP)? Does this include the Supervisory Contract Specialist and Base Contracting Officers? Thank you

A: KLPs are specifically designated Critical Acquisition Positions responsible for Major Defense Acquisition Program success. Senior Contracting Officials are KLPs and depending on the type or phase of the program, Program Lead Contracting Officers are designated as KLPs. LTG W

Q: (Via USAASC email 11 September): Have you set the FY15 Army metrics for DAWIA certification and Continuous Learning Points (CLPS) yet? If so, could you please share what these Army goals will be Army Commands?

A: (Via USAASC email 18 September): The formal goals have not been established yet, but they are being worked and an emphasis will be placed on this in the first quarter. FY15Q1

Q: Is there any reason why NCOs couldn't be Acquisition Corps members? especially E-9 with a degree and over 4 years of experience.

A: (Via USAASC 18 September): Our apologies for the delay, but wanted to make sure your question was answered. A NCO can become a member of the Army Acquisition Corps. They must be an E8/MSG, Level II Certified in Contracting, with at least 4 years experience. Additional FAQs on membership can be found at: <http://asc.army.mil/web/all-faqs/>.

Folks, this has been great—I really appreciate the dialogue and look forward to the next time. If your question did not get answered today, expect a follow-up from someone on my staff within the next couple of weeks or check the Army DACM Office website and bookmark it! <http://asc.army.mil>. Finally, next month is a big one for our community—October 13 marks the 25th anniversary of the Army Acquisition Corps. This is a great opportunity to tell our story about all the outstanding things you do every day for our Army and most importantly, our Soldiers. Look for more information in the coming weeks (I'm told using #AAC25 will help)! Thank you for joining me today. LTG W

Sir, thanks for taking the time to do this. Although I am not all that savvy with Facebook, I learned by hitting the Refresh key on occasion I was able to see new responses as they came in as well as your comments.

September 12

Q: General, what is your focus for HQDA future technologies with relations to Small Arms and Network Communication capabilities for our Soldiers?

A: The Army is developing small arms ammunition, weapons, optics and fire control technologies to deliver more precise lethal effects at extended ranges with current or reduced weight. For ammunition, we are looking at increased lethality penetrators for small arms weapons and a one-way luminescence tracer material so the gunner can see where his rounds are going without giving away his position. For weapon systems, we are investigating lighter weight materials and novel lubricants that increase weapon life. And for optics and fire control, we are looking to integrate technologies into the weapon

system and ammunition to reduce errors such as those due to wind and provide automated trajectory calculation to bias the gunner's crosshairs thereby increasing the weapon range and accuracy.

As for network communication capabilities, C4ISR technologies change at a staggering rate - especially when compared to other industries such as automotive. The tradeoff the Army is challenged with is how to leverage these technologies as quickly as possible all while meeting the unique requirements it is faced with such as providing a flexible network that requires little to no existing infrastructure all while providing secure and robust communications.

The core part of the Army's network strategy is the development of open architectures and frameworks. These frameworks provide the foundation to ensure as new technologies are developed they can be rapidly incorporated. They include hardware, operating environments, and waveform architectures to ensure they are integrated at every level. In addition to dramatically reducing size, weight, and power (SWAP) issues these standards allow for integration of hardware and software of C4ISR systems.

In addition to the enabling architectures, the Army is investing in technologies that provide overmatch capabilities for the Army's unique scenarios. These capabilities focus on providing simple yet flexible solutions that are robust to ensure the right information is received by the right person at the right time. Key technologies such as spectrum usage and management as well as routing protocols to allow for a dynamic network that adapts to real time changes. At the core of these solutions are cyber defenses.

September 10

Q: Can you provide a link for officers who want to reclass?

A: (USAASC) can find out more info on officer reclass at: <http://asc.army.mil/.../career.../military-officer/purpose/>

September 9

Q: Good Morning! I completed my level II contracting cert and all but one course for level III. CON 353 is no longer available; it has been replaced with CON 360. In order to go to CON 360 I would have to take all of the prerequisites which are different now than they were two years ago. What is being done in situations like this?

A: The current CON 360 prerequisites are CON 280 & CON 290 and at least 4 years experience in government contracting.

If you are already level 2 certified in Contracting and have been working in a Contracting for at least the last 3 years, you would be consider for a training waiver for CON 280 & CON 290.

Submit a training prerequisite waiver through CAPPMS, help request: (<https://rda.altess.army.mil/camp/index.cfm...>) and ensure that the "Notify your supervisor" button is checked and copy of your current resume attached. Your request for a waiver will be reviewed and you will be notified promptly as to the decision. If the prerequisite requirement is waived then you can proceed to take CON 360, without having to take the prerequisites.

If you do not meet the two conditions, but have previously completed predecessor courses CON 215 and CON 218, you will be required to take CON 280 & CON 290, prior to CON 360.

Q: Is there a link to listen in on the town hall?

A: There isn't a link for audio...the town hall will take place right here on our Facebook page in Q&A fashion so you'll be able to follow the conversation tomorrow.

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