

SPOTLIGHT ON Improving Tradecraft in the Acquisition of Services

Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Services Acquisition (DPAP/SA) is responsible for the technical and programmatic evaluation and functional oversight of all aspects of Department of Defense (DoD) services acquisition, which makes up over 50% of the Department's contracted obligations. A major SA thrust is the development and dissemination of training products and practical tools to the acquisition workforce. In FY15 DPAP/SA executed DAWDF funding on training initiatives for Improving Tradecraft in the Acquisition of Services as detailed in USD(AT&L)'s Better Buying Power 3.0.

These initiatives included the following:

DPAP/SA partnered with the Army and funded two new contracted instructors for the ten-day course at US Army Logistics University, Fort Lee, VA, for its Operational Contract Support course for services requirements development. This initiative resulted in the addition of fourteen new course offerings across the United States, eventually resulting up to 364 new graduates of the course from potentially all components across the DoD. The first new course was completed on 18 December 2015.

DPAP/SA planned, developed, and facilitated the first of its kind, DoD Services Acquisition Training Conference to bring together Senior Services Managers, contracting and program management/requirements personnel to focus on policy, oversight, tools, and methodologies in services acquisitions with respect to the DoD Instruction 5000.74, Defense Acquisition of Services. The training included group work on three case studies, highlighting planning, best practices, and risk management of issues found across the services acquisition lifecycle. Held at Southbridge, MA, from 7-11 December 2015 with 85 attendees this successful event will be a model for a second offering in late June 2016, as well as others in the future.



Students attending the Army Logistics University at Fort Lee



Kickoff of the Southbridge Services Acquisition Training