

DPC AEP Tips

Come hungry for knowledge and seek it out continuously. This is an opportunity to gain experience from some of the best and brightest within the DoD, so attend every meeting, event, workshop, training, etc. that comes your way. Volunteer to take on projects or tasks that are outside of your comfort zone – these are learning opportunities and will add more tools to your professional toolbox. Time will fly, so breathe it in and take advantage of as much as you can, while you can. Perhaps most importantly, don't forget to cultivate relationships with those around you – to include DPC personnel, senior leaders, and other AEP participants. These are relationships what will be beneficial throughout your career. **J.H. AEP FY19**

My advice to anyone accepted in the AEP is to be willing to step out of your comfort zone. The program will challenge you but, it will also give you the opportunity to see how things work on a much larger scale. Take advantage of those things on the checklist. I encourage all AEP to at least sit in one of the Councils (DAR, FAR, etc.) It will give you an opportunity to see how policy is implemented. If it is possible, travel to DC to get a feel of the area prior to coming. This will be most beneficial to you when you get to the area. **M.B. AEP FY19**

Be flexible. Change in this office is constant from the projects you are assigned, the meetings to attend, suspense dates. Be ready to pivot.

Contribute. Share your work experiences and offer recommendations to make it better. Or affirm when you think new guidance/or change to policy is helpful.

Come prepared to learn something different from your normal job. **J.W. AEP FY19**

Come into the AEP program open to learning a different way of viewing things. Always put it into perspective of your career and your agency, but with the understanding that the view is from a larger perspective. Take advantage of the knowledge of the people around you and use it to accomplish the tasks in front of you. **R.O. AEP FY19**

Make yourself available to all of the meetings, tours, town halls, and conferences that present themselves while participating in the AEP. These are opportunities of a lifetime so take advantage of all that the program can offer. Also, let your mind stretch and be open-minded to absorb as much as you can. **T.H. AEP FY19**

Keep an open mind and be ready to learn. You will work on things you have limited or no background in so be creative with how your knowledge may apply but also focus on what others are doing to learn from them. Volunteer for activities, meetings, and projects and learn on the fly. Take control of your experience; don't wait for others to schedule or tell you about things: ASK for yourself. **A.R. AEP FY19**