

# DCMA Commanders Meet in Orlando

by Mr. Art Forster, Director, DCMA Congressional and Public Affairs

Leadership in a Performance-Based Management (PBM) Environment” was the theme for the Defense Contract Management Agency’s (DCMA) Fall Commanders’ Conference in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 24-26. Approximately 240 contract management office (CMO) commanders and staff representatives from the Agency’s headquarters and its divisions were in attendance. In his opening remarks, Mr. Keith D. Ernst, DCMA acting director, reviewed the Agency’s progress in adopting PBM and explained how DCMA goals are linked to the president’s management agenda and the goals of the secretary of defense and

the under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. He underscored the importance of developing the Agency’s future workforce to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Mr. Ernst emphasized: “We must identify the needed skills, recruit the right people, then train, nurture and empower them to succeed.” He cited the recently launched *Tomorrow’s Leaders* initiative as an

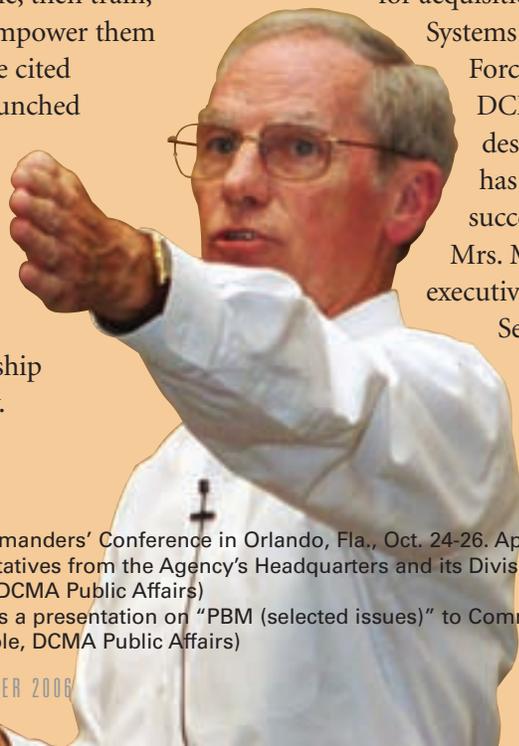
example of the Agency’s commitment to help prepare selected DCMA employees for future leadership positions within the Agency.

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**– Mr. Keith Ernst**



The conference included presentations, panel discussions and workshops that covered a wide range of subjects. Mrs. Frances Duntz, deputy for acquisition, Air Force Electronic Systems Center, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., one of DCMA’s largest customers, described how the Agency has been integral to the success of her organization. Mrs. Mary Lacey, program executive officer for the National Security Personnel System (NSPS), explained why the Department of



**(Top)** Attendees of the Fall Commanders’ Conference in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 24-26. Approximately 240 CMO commanders and staff representatives from the Agency’s Headquarters and its Divisions were in attendance. (Photo by Ms. Ann Jensis-Dale, DCMA Public Affairs)  
**(Above)** Mr. Richard Horne gives a presentation on “PBM (selected issues)” to Commanders’ Conference attendees. (Photo by Mr. Dick Cole, DCMA Public Affairs)

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Defense is adopting this new personnel system and the dividends it is expected to return. Mrs. Lacey complimented DCMA’s efforts in implementing the PBM system on which NSPS is based.

Conference workshops included discussions about earned value management, product assurance, supply chain management, software surveillance, safety of flight, metrics management, model integrated based risk management and PBM application at the CMO level. Members of the Agency’s senior leadership team provided the conferees with updates in their areas, including contract management and customer relations, financial and business operations, information technology and human resources. The Agency’s division directors outlined their respective progress in achieving PBM milestones and how they were shaping their workforces to meet current and future requirements.

**(Top)** At the Commander’s Conference, Army Lt. Col. Richard F. Roberts was presented with the Purple Heart for wounds received in Iraq on Oct. 18, 2004. (Photo by Ms. Ann Jensis-Dale, DCMA Public Affairs)  
**(Right)** Ms. Rebecca Davies, executive director, Program Support and Customer Relations, one of the conference speakers. (Photo by Mr. Dick Cole, DCMA Public Affairs)

Two junior service members were invited to participate in the conference. Air Force Capt. Karen Fisher, a contract administrator at DCMA Northrop Grumman Redondo Beach (Calif.), observed: “Sometimes at the worker level, you don’t know why we are asked to do certain things. By attending the conference, I got to see where DCMA is headed and how those things fit into place.” Capt. Fisher also presented the conferees with an overview of her experiences as an administrative contracting officer while deployed to Camp Taji, Iraq. Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Erica White, an aviation maintenance manager at DCMA Sikorsky in Stratford, Conn., found her conference attendance to be “an enlightening experience and a chance to see the big picture.”

She added, “I got to see how decisions are made, and that added to my confidence in our Agency’s leaders.”

Highlighting the conference was the presentation of DCMA’s Annual Employee Recognition Program awards at a banquet on the evening of Oct. 25. Joining Mr. Ernst in presenting the awards was Mr. Frank J. Anderson Jr., president of the Defense Acquisition University.

To view the Commanders’ Conference agenda and links to the respective PowerPoint slides, go to:

<http://home.dcma.mil/registration/CmdConf/Fall06/agenda.cfm>.

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