

Naval Division Keystone Interns Gather for Roundtable Discussions

*By Kelli A. Zagata
Contract Administrator Keystone*

George Mettey, contracts director for Defense Contract Management Agency Naval Sea Systems Division – Hartford, gathered 13 Keystone Program interns who encompassed a diverse set of skills, experience and backgrounds, for a two-day contracts forum June 30. The Keystone Program is a recruitment initiative developed to employ a cadre of highly qualified candidates possessing the skills and technical ability required to support the DCMA mission.

The forum, comprised of first-year contracting interns, provided an informal opportunity to express ideas, concerns and understandings and the opportunity to network with fellow Keystones. The group included Keystones whose experience with the agency ranged from one year to one week.

DCMA's learning campus provided the interns with basic skills, an agency overview and career information; the Hartford forum brought insight relative to DCMAN into perspective.

Presenters included Joyce Blais, DCMAN contracts director, who discussed divisional strengths, weaknesses and opportunities; and Diane Smith, DCMAN deputy contracts director, who communicated

the agency's current performance indicators and outlined those processes of most importance to DCMAN and the Hartford command. Blais also discussed the role of a Keystone in both the agency and division target objectives.

Mettey provided the interns with a snapshot of the command's performance relating to the agency performance indicators, while offering a comprehensive understanding of how the intern's work plays part in the process as a whole. Additionally, a contract panel comprised of three experienced and accomplished administrative contracting officers provided an informal question and answer session. The ACOs fielded questions including, but not limited to, grants contracts

and performance expectations of a contract administrator.

The June meeting offered a clear understanding of the agency and its goals, provided feedback to Keystones for their current efforts in the program and further strengthened the foundation upon which the interns will build their careers. The forum also provided Keystone an opportunity to vocalize areas that they felt additional training would prove beneficial to their success in both the program and their career progression. Those areas included workshops for contract receipt and review, audit follow-up and closeout. The attendees appreciated the opportunity to network and pose questions in an informal and open atmosphere. **C**



Keystones gather in a roundtable discussion in Hartford, Conn., during a two-day contracts forum June 30. The Keystones networked and engaged in productive discussions.