

# World's Four Corners Merge in International Commander's Conference

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Defense Contract Management Agency International Division Commander's Conference attendees pose for a group photo in front of the British Parliament building directly after taking a tour of the building. (Photos by Mark Woodbury, DCMA Public Affairs)

The four corners of the earth merged in London for the 2009 Defense Contract Management Agency International Division Commander's Conference held April 27 to May 1, 2009.

The conference opened with Navy Capt. David Graff, DCMA International Division commander, addressing attendees about the importance of establishing dialog and maintaining communication channels among the division's contract management offices, while also sustaining work relations and networks throughout the conference.

Graff's briefing also stressed the criticality of everyone in the division understanding and striving toward accomplishing five goals: (1) Support the warfighter — period; (2) Actively support the agency's vision; (3) Be positive and open to upcoming changes; (4) Listen until it hurts and provide constructive feedback; and (5) Lead your workforce and manage resources wisely. Graff encouraged division leadership to communicate these goals to their employees and challenge them to achieve the goals.

DCMA Director Charlie Williams, Jr. then emphasized to attendees the importance of maintaining the four pillars of DCMA's management

# in London During Conference

framework — human capital, processes, policy and stewardship. He said underlying the four pillars is the necessity of following and maintaining the core values of integrity, service and excellence. Williams reiterated that it is impossible to have strong DCMA management pillars while having questionable core values.

The director also discussed current and upcoming changes involving performance management. He repeatedly underscored the importance of cross-division communication toward implementing both new and future program changes.

According to attendees, a particular conference highlight was the opportunity to hear from a member of

British Parliament, Andrew Selous, who represents the South West Bedfordshire, England, county constituency. Selous answered questions from attendees about his role within the United Kingdom's political system and the system as a whole. Selous ended his remarks by thanking the group for having the conference in the U.K. and jokingly encouraged attendees to spend their money freely while visiting.

The remaining conference briefs focused on divisional and CMO roles and responsibilities as well as other subjects specific to the division. In concluding the conference, both Graff and Navy Capt. Scott Bailey, DCMA Northern Europe commander, expressed their thanks to the Northern Europe team for its efforts in ensuring



the conference details were well-managed. "From everything I heard from attendees, the conference met its intended goals of open dialog, information sharing and networking," said Graff. "Attendees have already told me of some of the immediate benefits and insights they gained from attending the conference, and I am confident I will hear additional long-term benefits from other attendees down the road."

The conference host is rotated among the various International CMOs from year to year. Next year's conference will be hosted by DCMA Pacific. **C**

Presentation slides from the conference are accessible on the DCMA International Portal page under the "Useful Links" tab.



DCMA International Division Commander Navy Capt. David Graff, left, DCMA Director Charlie Williams, Jr., right, pose for a picture with Andrew Selous, middle, British Parliament member representing the South West Bedfordshire county constituency. Selous spoke to conference attendees about his roles and responsibilities within the British Parliament.



A nighttime photo of Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of Britain's sovereigns.