

# COMMUNICATOR

News for DCMA Professionals

## It's all Greek to me

Dear Editor:

As an agency supervisor, I am told that I must complete Cognos software training. It is my understanding that this is a class about a computer software program that is not related to my daily duties or responsibilities as a supervisor. A colleague recently attended the training in a briefing room here at the headquarters and told me that the instructors may as well have been speaking Greek because none of it made any sense to him, and he was unable to understand why all supervisors and team leaders were being required to receive this training.

What is the reason for requiring all supervisors and team leaders, regardless of job assignment, to take Cognos software training?

### — Confused at the Keyboard

*DCMA has selected the Cognos business intelligence tools as the mechanism for providing a broad range of business intelligence needs. The areas covered by these tools impact most of the agency's missions as well as provide access to data on budget, staffing and other areas of interest to the day-to-day operation of DCMA.*

*If you are a supervisor and you have employees who use the Performance Labor Accounting System, or PLAS, there are Cognos tools that give you access to that data. If, as a supervisor, you need data about the agency to respond to requests regarding the value of contracts, numbers and series of employees or small business participation, there are tools that would let you access that information. There is literally data at your fingertips if you know where to look and have a basic understanding of the tools. Even if you may not have a need for the information currently, the senior leadership team felt that all managers and supervisors ought to know what kinds of tools are available to DCMA employees now and how those tools could be adapted to meet future requirements.*

*The intent of this training was not to make everyone an expert user but to broaden the understanding of what's available. In the future, thanks to the success of the Web-delivered training, expect to see more training opportunities that are more tailored to specific communities or features of the business intelligence tools. This will include the new agency-level performance commitment applications, advanced techniques in Excel, using portlets to incorporate business intelligence into communities or My Pages and other areas that we hope are valuable to the DCMA workforce.*

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