

Back to Basics: DCMA International Conference Focuses on Performance

Jo Adail Stephenson | DCMA Public Affairs

“Go forward, back to basics, not backward,” Defense Contract Management Agency International Commander Navy Capt. David Graff said in his remarks to attendees at the DCMAI Pacific-hosted 2010 Commander’s Conference April 19–23 in Tokyo.

The conference’s theme “Getting Back to Basics — Executing Performance Management” mirrored the agency’s focus on performance management as an integral component of the DCMA strategic planning and management philosophy.

“I want you to engage. Build these relationships. It’s important as a team to work together. Transfer the knowledge — engage, share, talk, communicate,” Graff said.

The conference gave DCMAI leadership, contract management office and tertiary leadership teams, and key DCMAI personnel a face-to-face opportunity to engage with peers and draw from each other’s accomplishments and challenges, while exchanging ideas to maximize mission effectiveness.

“Unlike most DCMA CMOs that can easily meet with only a few hours travel time, it is a considerable undertaking to bring DCMAI CMO leaders from the U.S., Europe, Middle East and Asia together,” said Air Force Col. Michael Luft, DCMA Pacific commander and host of this year’s conference. “The yearly DCMAI conference allows leadership to engage directly with each other in real time on the

“Transfer the knowledge — engage, share, talk, communicate.”

— Navy Capt. David Graff,
Defense Contract Management
Agency International commander

various issues affecting the international environment,” Luft said.

Throughout the conference, the DCMAI team took a top-down, disciplined look at strategic planning elements, performance indicators and integrated management assessment activities. Participants also looked at ways to better assess operational capability and capacity to improve DCMAI’s collective



Attendees of the 2010 Defense Contract Management Agency International Commander’s Conference in Tokyo pose for a group photo. (DCMA photos by Jo Adail Stephenson)



Navy Capt. David Graff, Defense Contract Management Agency International Division commander, stressed building relationships, transferring knowledge and working together as a team at the DCMAI Pacific-hosted 2010 Commander's Conference April 19–23 in Tokyo.

and individual CMO organizational health, effectiveness and efficiency.

Sessions included an agency human capital update by DCMA Human Resources Executive Director Randy Sawlsville, a presentation by DCMA Union President Wayde Howard, updates by CMO commanders and key division representatives as well as panel discussions. “Partnership and participation are the key factors to our successful relationship,” Howard told attendees.

The underlying theme of the conference was summed up in a comment made by one of the attendees, “people are the key to all of this.”

In his closing remarks, Graff said, “Don’t let this be the only time you engage. The key is for us to move forward. Share it (what was discussed at the conference) with your people. You’ve made me very proud. This is what makes it all worthwhile.”

DCMA Northern Europe and Southern Europe personnel were unable to attend the conference due to the disruption in air travel caused by the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland. The conference after-action report captured video teleconference suggestions for personnel unable to attend future conferences. ©



Picturesque lights and signs provide the nighttime backdrop for Tokyo, one of the largest cities in the world with a population of more than 12 million.