

# Engineering a way forward

Jo Adail Stephenson | DCMA Public Affairs



*Defense Contract Management Agency employees share input and lessons learned during a recent Engineering and Analysis Directorate Systems Engineering Division strategic planning session at DCMA headquarters. The outcome of the meeting was critical data and information exchange to facilitate future Systems Engineering Division policy training and tool development. (Photos by Jo Adail Stephenson, DCMA Public Affairs)*

## **T**he Defense Contract Management Agency Engineering and Analysis

Directorate recently hosted a two-day strategic planning session at the headquarters building on Fort Lee, Va., to share its 2012 Systems Engineering Division vision and plans for policy, training and tool development with DCMA engineering workforce personnel.

Sixteen representatives from 11 contract management offices spanning the East, Central and West regions, the Operations Directorate staff and regions and the

Quality Assurance Directorate met to share input and lessons learned from the engineers currently executing systems engineering surveillance in the field with existing deployed SE products.

“Every (contract management office) represented has been actively engaged with us over the last two years as we deployed and supported the initial release of the Systems Engineering policy,” said Nathan Scoggin, SE Division director. “Their experience in actually applying our policy to their contracts and programs at the CMO has been invaluable as we forge a

path forward in 2012.”

During the session, small groups led by SE personnel discussed: engineering change proposals – including value engineering change proposals; technical reviews; material review boards/request for deviations; and SE Path Forward including contract technical review, execution and documentation and performance indicators.

“If we write policy and develop training and tools in a vacuum at headquarters, we produce and deploy policy that is often difficult to effectively execute,” said Kellie



*Engineering and Analysis Directorate personnel are pictured here with Charlie E. Williams, Jr., (center front row) DCMA director. The representatives met at DCMA headquarters to share input and lessons learned from the engineers currently executing systems engineering surveillance with existing deployed SE products.*



*Two Defense Contract Management Agency employees discuss information at the recent two-day strategic planning session hosted by the agency's Engineering and Analysis Directorate. During the session, SE leadership shared its 2012 Systems Engineering Division vision for policy, training and tool development with engineering workforce employees.*

Unsworth, SE Policy Branch chief.

“Interaction early and often pays dividends and can help us develop the most relevant policy. Face-to-face opportunities such as this meeting as well as the monthly SE policy implementation telecom session, co-hosted with the Operations Directorate, and through the many phone calls and emails on a day-to-day basis support this goal,” Unsworth said.

The outcome of the meeting was critical data and information exchange to facilitate future policy training and tool development to support each of the four areas.

“It is our intent to continue to engage Operations and the CMOs in future sessions covering a variety of Engineering and Analysis initiatives/updates throughout the year,” said John Cuddy, Engineering and Analysis acting executive director.

“The benefits derived from these small group exchanges, both between

headquarters E&A and the field as well as the opportunity to share ideas and best practices across CMOs, are invaluable and will certainly result in better engineering policy, training and tools deployed to the field,” Cuddy said. 