

Adams Graduates from USDA Executive Potential Program

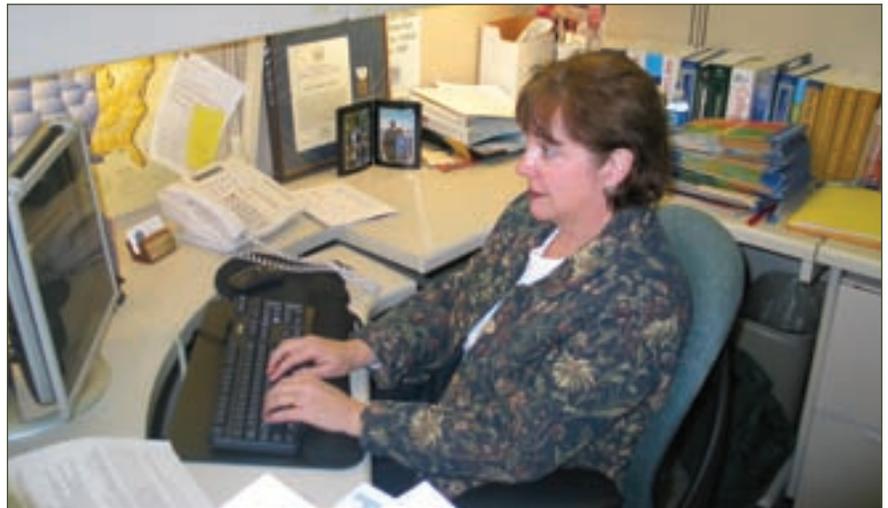
By *Dianne Ryder,*
Editor in Chief

Nancy Adams, the Defense Contract Management Agency’s military training program manager, recently completed the one-year Executive Potential Program with the U. S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School.

The program, designed for senior civil servants, provides opportunities to gain competencies necessary to become effective federal leaders. The program features several leadership development components, including four weeks of off-site training seminars, senior executive shadowing and interviews, two 60-day developmental work assignments and a team project.

Last summer, Adams shadowed the U.S. military representative to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe — SHAPE — for a week. As part of her visit, she accompanied Air Force Col. John Shivnen to meetings with the U.S. military delegation to the joint staff in Brussels, Belgium, and the national military representative echelon meeting in Chievres, Belgium, chaired by the SHAPE chief of staff. Adams observed U.S. contributions to North Atlantic Treaty Organization operations firsthand.

Her developmental work assignments included tours in the offices of the deputy undersecretary



Nancy Adams, DCMA’s military training program manager, recently completed the one-year Executive Potential Program with the U. S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School. (Photo by Katherine Crawford, BRTRC)

of defense for military community and family policy and the U.S. Army’s Human Resources Command education division. “Jim Russell served as my [senior executive service] mentor this year,” Adams said. “The leadership conversations and shadowing opportunities he provided me were invaluable to better understanding how senior leadership works at DCMA,” she continued.

Adams’ team project was to create an evaluation tool for measuring outcomes for the “Hire a Hero” career fairs. Wounded and disabled veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, convalescing in military hospitals, attend the fairs. “The USDA Executive Potential Program helped me understand that my current skill

sets can contribute significantly in other work settings,” Adams said. “This gave me added confidence in my own work.”

During one of her weeks of training in New Orleans, Adams visited the Port of New Orleans and learned how its personnel incorporated best practices from industries all over the U.S. in their effort to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. “I was able to take back several of their ‘lessons learned’ into my own work setting,” said Adams.

More information about this and other development programs is available from the Workforce Development Division at DCMA headquarters. 