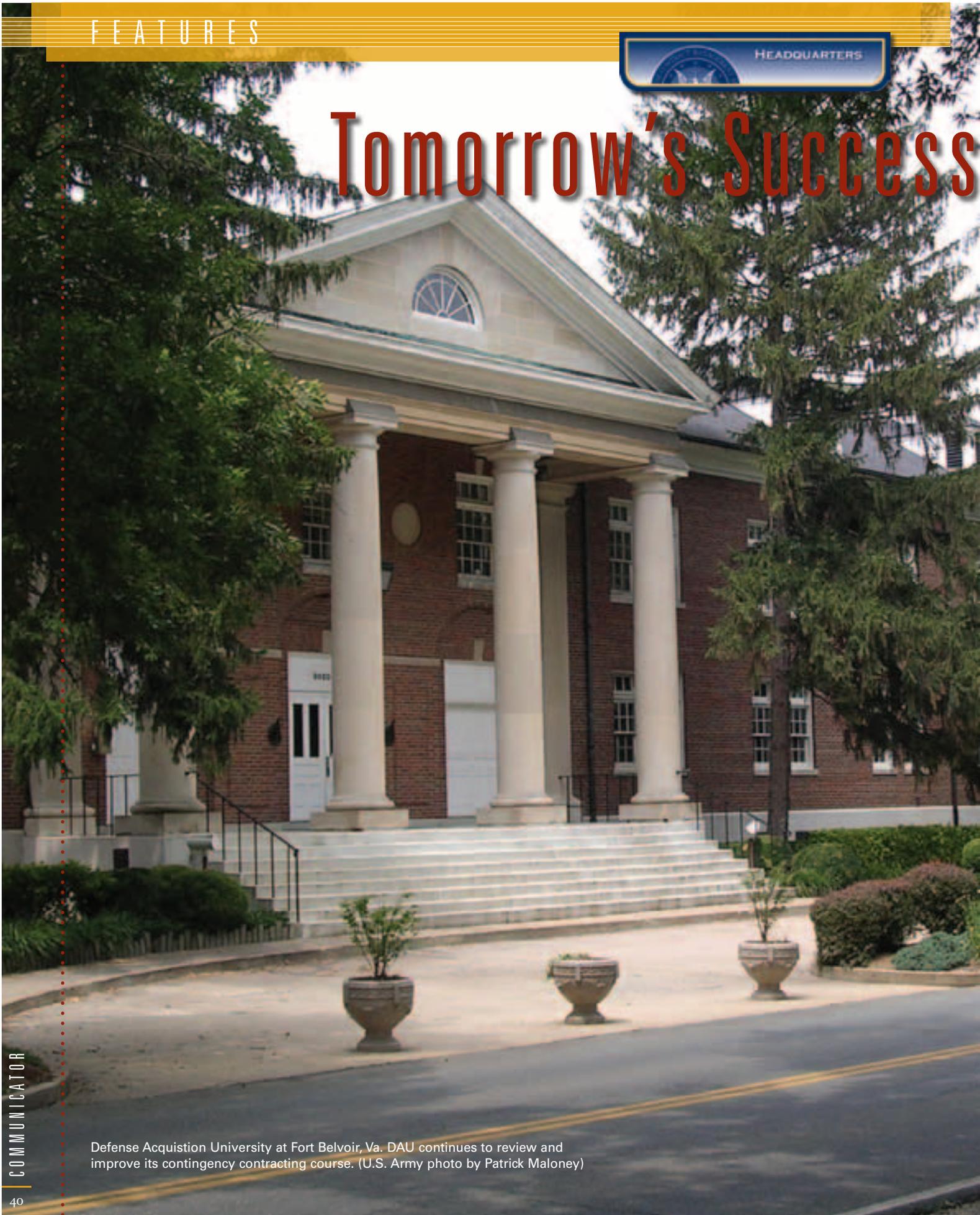


Tomorrow's Success



COMMUNICATOR

Defense Acquisition University at Fort Belvoir, Va. DAU continues to review and improve its contingency contracting course. (U.S. Army photo by Patrick Maloney)

Depends on DCMA Support

By Ann Jensis-Dale
DCMA Public Affairs

The October 2007 Gansler Commission Report showed that the Defense Contract Management Agency has managed in-theater contracts in just a limited capacity.

Additionally, the report stated that DCMA's role and staffing should be expanded and that the agency should be responsible for all post-award contract management for expeditionary operations. According to the report, "What should be a core competency — contracting, from requirements definition, to contract management, to contract closeout — is treated as an operational and institutional side issue."

As a result of these findings, DCMA's Contingency Contract Administration Services directorate continues to increase its contracting oversight presence on the battlefield. In support of this effort, DCMA CCAS



DCMA Southern Virginia Commander Daniel Seep, left, received a DAU Distinguished Guest Lecturer Certificate from DAU instructor Dolores Schnell. (Photo courtesy of Cmdr. Daniel Seep)

These types of collaboration and cross-training efforts are vital as our nation continues to meet its ultimate objectives of providing peace and security around the world.

personnel are doing an outstanding job of increasing overall awareness and knowledge of how DCMA administrative contracting officers, quality assurance representatives and property personnel perform their duties on the battlefield.

To meet this critical operational and strategic requirement, DCMA CCAS is improving its basic contingency operations training program, and the Defense Acquisition University continues to review and improve its contingency contracting course. Recently, Navy Cmdr. Daniel Seep, DCMA Southern Virginia commander, served as a distinguished guest lecturer for a class of future contingency contracting officers. This group, led by Dolores Schnell, DAU instructor, included military and civilian personnel from various commands, such as the Army Corps of Engineers, Army Medical Corps, DCMA, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Naval Supply Systems Command, Naval Sea Systems Command and other operational commands.

In preparation for the lecture, Seep received outstanding support

from DCMA CCAS support personnel David Green, combat support center, and Matthew Clough, combat support center, transition management office. Seep's presentation shared the pitfalls associated with contractors on the battlefield. He helped the group understand the importance of Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan and DCMA's proactive partnering, especially regarding cost-type contracts with performance parameters.

Seep shared his operational experiences as the DCMA Afghanistan commander in 2007 and emphasized the importance of ensuring that tomorrow's contingency contracting officers understand the role of DCMA's expeditionary ACOs, QARs and property administrators.

Seep received a DAU distinguished guest lecturer certificate for his continued support of DAU's contingency contracting mission. These types of collaboration and cross-training efforts are vital as our nation continues to meet its ultimate objectives of providing peace and security around the world. **C**