

AROUND DCMA

INAUGURAL COST AND PRICING CONFERENCE HELD IN DENVER

By Mark Woodbury, DCMA Public Affairs



Ronald Youngs, Defense Contract Management Agency Cost and Pricing director, addresses Cost and Pricing Conference attendees about the great opportunity the agency has to rebuild the cost and pricing skill set during the conference in Denver, Colo., April 13.

The inaugural Defense Contract Management Agency Cost and Pricing Conference since re-establishing the skill sets within the agency was held in Denver, Colo., April 12-15.

The theme for the conference was “Rebuilding Cost and Pricing Capability in DCMA.”

Brian George, deputy director, Cost, Price and Finance for Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, and Charlie E. Williams, Jr., DCMA director, were the first two speakers at the conference. Both spoke to attendees about the importance of showing the military services the capabilities the cost and price community bring to the contracting process as well as speaking to their expectations for the community within the agency and the department.

Ken Saccoccia, Defense Contract Audit Agency Policy and Plans Directorate assistant director, followed by dispelling any misconception that DCMA and DCAA “can’t work together.” Communication between the two agencies is key to the agencies’ working relationship, and Saccoccia encouraged attendees to continue communicating with DCAA auditors – especially when actions are taken that differ from their auditors’ recommendations.

Throughout the conference attendees were briefed on subjects ranging from policy, personnel hiring updates, pension costs and forward pricing rates. Additional specialized breakout sessions were also offered during the conference. Topics for these

sessions included: re-instituting cost monitoring programs at contract management offices; cost and price training – plans for educating the workforce; technical support to negotiations – the path forward; properly assessing penalties on unallowable costs; hot topics in forward pricing; conducting boards of review/effective price negotiation memorandum development; and evaluating independent research and development/bid and proposal costs.

The conference also provided recognition to agency personnel for outstanding cost and pricing contributions during fiscal year 2010. Recipients included: David Allen, Joseph Edwards, Maureen Irwin, Brett Merkley, Phil Quarles, Carl Saucier, Scott Sturgill, Cynthia Watz and Ray Yoshida.

For Keystone Olivia Scarborough, being able to attend the conference was a great professional opportunity.

“I am going to bring everything I learned during the conference back to my job where I know I will be a stronger employee because of it,” said Scarborough. “I just wish every cost and price analyst could have attended.”

For long-time DCMA employee Phil Quarles, DCMA Albuquerque Price and Contracting Administration supervisor, the conference was equally informative and valuable.

“From conference speakers to workshop briefers, all of them gave me a better understanding of where we are going with cost and pricing,” said Quarles. “At this early stage of the game, this is critical information to have.”

Presentation slides for the conference can be viewed by going to <https://home.dcmsa.mil/registration/pricing/2010/agenda.cfm>.



Phil Quarles, Defense Contract Management Agency Albuquerque Price and Contracting Administration supervisor, center, poses with Charlie E. Williams, Jr., DCMA director, left, and Ronald Youngs, DCMA Cost and Pricing director, right, after being recognized during the Cost and Pricing Conference for his efforts in helping re-establish the cost and pricing skill sets within the agency.