# International Defense Educational Arrangement Conducts Successful Seminar on Armaments Cooperation

By

Richard Kwatnoski

During the second week of July 1995, the 7th annual International Defense Educational Arrangement (IDEA) Seminar was conducted for the first time ever in the United States. The host was the Defense Systems Management College at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. This was by all accounts the most successful seminar to date. There were over 100 attendees from 11 nations, including: the four permanent participating nations of the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and France, plus Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Australia. The keynote address was provided by Dr. Paul Kaminski, the U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology and the U.S. National Armaments Director. A wide variety of subjects were covered. The main ones were national policies on armaments cooperation, comparative national acquisition practices, international program management, industry aspects, international agreements, comparative intellectual property rights, U.S. services' approaches to international acquisition, international Computer-aided Acquisition and Logistics Support (CALS), international standards (ISO 9000), and acquisition/procurement education.

## WHAT IS IDEA?

IDEA is an arrangement among equivalent defense acquisition education institutions in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and France. The purpose of IDEA is to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of international training and education for acquisition/procurement management by active cooperation among national defense educational institutions with similar goals. The member defense educational institutions are: the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC), USA; the Royal Military College of Science (RMCS), United Kingdom; the Federal Academy of Defence Administration & Technology (BAkWVT), Germany; and the Centre d'Enseignement et de Formation d'Arcueil (CEFA), France. The IDEA was formed in November of 1988 with the signing of the administrative arrangement by the Commandant of DSMC, the Commandant of the Royal Military of Science in the United Kingdom, and the President of the Federal Academy of Defence Administration and Technology in Germany. The French accession letter was signed in July 1991 by their Delegate General for Armament, the equivalent to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition & Technology) in the U.S.

The principal product of IDEA is the annual seminar and the resultant proceedings. The seminar is held during the second week of July, usually at one of the participating institutions. This is a unique opportunity for U.S. and European acquisition personnel to be updated on the international acquisition policies of the participating nations, and to work together with the allies on relevant international acquisition problems in a quasi-academic environment. The customers are the international acquisition course directors and their institutions, and the seminar participants and their sponsoring organizations.

## NEXT YEAR'S IDEA SEMINAR

The 8th IDEA Seminar will be held during the week of 8-12 July 1996 at the Royal Military College of Science in the United Kingdom. Seminar brochures are available.

Invitations to attend will be mailed early in 1996. For further information about next year's IDEA Seminar, contact the IDEA Office at DSMC's School of Program Management, Executive & International Department:

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Kwatnoski is a Professor of Engineering Management at the Defense Systems Management College where he is the Director of International Acquisition Courses. He has a Bachelors degree in mathematics from St. Francis College and a Masters degree in engineering from the Pennsylvania State University. He has published often in *the DISAM Journal, Program Manager, Acquisition Review Quarterly, and National Defense*.