



# ACQUISITION & LOGISTICS REFORM WEEK 2000

Volume 3, Number 3  
May 2000

## *Partnering to Support the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Warfighter*

This year's Acquisition & Logistics Reform (A&LR) Week will be held May 22-26, 2000. OSD will host the DoD-wide event. The OSD theme this year is "Embracing Change for the 21st Century Warfighter."

Dr. Jacques S. Gansler, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, has directed organizations to cease normal operations for one day to discuss acquisition reform initiatives. To that end, OSD is planning live cybercast events, chat rooms, exhibits, and training.

Information about A&LR Week can be found on OSD's web site at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/alrweek2000>.

SAF/AQ and HQ USAF/IL will co-host Air Force activities under the theme "Partnering to Support the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Warfighter." The Air Force will begin the week with a kickoff video and continue its support throughout the week with senior leader visits and an Air Force chat room. For details on Air Force A&LR Week events and training materials, visit [http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq\\_ref/alrweek2000](http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq_ref/alrweek2000).

### *Some Quotes From Our Leadership*



*Dr. Lawrence J. Delaney  
Assistant Secretary of the Air  
Force (Acquisition)*

Our partners in acquisition and logistics really have to encompass all those people who are involved in the process. . . Air Force, Congress, the warfighter, industry, and our allies.

—Dr. Delaney



*Mrs. Darleen A. Druyun  
Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary  
of the Air Force (Acq. and Mgt.)*

We're expanding our partnerships in logistics and maintenance to figure out how we can do things better and faster. A&LR Week is a chance for us to look at the big picture and understand where we've been and where we're going.

—Mrs. Druyun

A&LR Week gives us an opportunity to refocus our efforts on partnering with the warfighter. . . our ultimate customer.

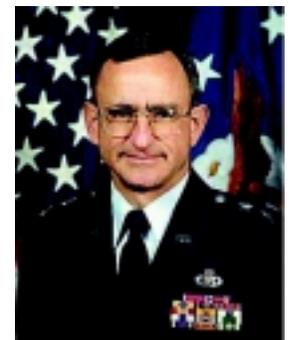
—Lt Gen Plummer



*Lt Gen Stephen B. Plummer  
Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary  
of the Air Force (Acquisition)*

I enthusiastically encourage all Air Force members to support and participate in A&LR Week 2000. A&LR Week provides an excellent opportunity for communicating our vision, objectives, and new policies Air Force wide.

—Lt Gen Zettler



*Lt Gen Michael E. Zettler  
Deputy Chief of Staff,  
Installations and Logistics*

## A&LR Week Training

A&LR Week is a great opportunity for acquisition and logistics professionals to learn about the latest A&LR topics.

Air Force training packets are available at [http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq\\_ref/alrweek2000](http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq_ref/alrweek2000). These materials support the DoD policy of providing 80 hours of continuous learning bi-annually. Field personnel should check with their Acquisition Support Teams for the training schedule at their sites.

### **Lightning Bolt 99-7, Product Support Partnerships**

This class (mandatory for all SAF/AQ personnel) will present the Air Force vision and strategy for implementing re-engineered product support concepts in its weapon systems. Key partnering strategies will be discussed.

### **Corporate Contracts**

This class will present Air Force progress using corporate contracts since September 1998. The course will discuss how to leverage buying power with

top suppliers to improve weapon systems support and establish long-term, flexible relationships with contractors.

### **Performance Based Service Acquisition (PBSA)**

This training details FAR 37.6, which implements Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) regulation to use performance-based contracting methods to the maximum extent practicable when acquiring services. PBSA provides contractors maximum flexibility to be innovative and creative, using commercial standards and practices to meet mission requirements.

### **Logistics Transformation**

This briefing outlines the Air Force vision for transforming logistics processes. It focuses on integrating commercial and government best practices to achieve streamlined logistics chains, improved asset visibility and distribution, and improved demand-based requirements planning to enhance warfighting combat support.

**Check out the Air Force's A&LR Week training schedule and course descriptions at [http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq\\_ref/alrweek2000](http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq_ref/alrweek2000).**

## Opening Day Ceremonies & Exhibits

Kickoff ceremonies for A&LR Week begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 22, 2000, in the Pentagon Courtyard. The kickoff will include the presentation of the David Packard Awards by Dr. Jacques S. Gansler, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics).

Over 40 exhibits will be available in the Pentagon Courtyard on opening day. The Air Force will have displays for SAF/AQX Acquisition Reform, AF Logistics Management Agency, Logistics Transformation, and Lightning Bolts 99-4 (Alternative Dispute Resolution) and 99-6 (Improved Payment Processes). For more information on exhibitors, visit OSD's A&LR Week web site at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/alrweek2000/>.

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### **The SAF/AQ Vision**

"Innovative professionals partnered with industry and our customers to lead the acquisition of aerospace capabilities."

### **The SAF/AQ Mission**

"Assuring dominant aerospace power. . .

- World-class technology
- Streamlined acquisition
- Affordable, timely, and effective integrated systems, supplies, and services

. . .for the warfighter."

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the United States Air Force, its employees, or subcontractors.

In the Next Issue: The May/June issue will highlight Contracting. If you would like to contribute articles, please contact us at [arnews@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:arnews@pentagon.af.mil).

## Who Put the "L" in A&LR Week?

By Mr. Jerry Cothran  
Chief, Acquisition Logistics  
HQ USAF/ILMM

As most of you reading this know, what was formerly "Acquisition Reform Week" (AR) Week was changed to "Acquisition and Logistics Reform (A&LR) Week" last year, making this year's event the second annual A&LR week. But just how and why did we initiate a joint SAF/AQ and HQ USAF/IL focus week?



A brief history of Acquisition Reform will help to answer that question. Although procurement and contracting reform have been longstanding DoD efforts, modern Acquisition Reform began in 1994 with Secretary of Defense William Perry's landmark report "Acquisition Reform: A Mandate for Change."

The converging influence of the end of the Cold War technology race, diminishing defense budgets, and Secretary

Perry's mandate that acquisition processes work more effectively to acquire capability for the warfighter, initiated a range of procurement reforms. Chief among these were increased reliance on commercial specifications and standards, simplified and flexible contracting procedures, streamlined acquisition processes, and recognition of the importance of a professionally trained acquisition corps.

Rapid changes brought about under Acquisition Reform, as demonstrated by the Air Force's pace-setting, innovative Lightning Bolt initiatives, generated a need for focused dissemination of new policies and practices to the Acquisition workforce. The establishment of Acquisition Reform week provided an outstanding opportunity to facilitate the needed information interchange.

In spite of the significant success of Acquisition Reform in achieving significant cost savings through avoidance of research and development and procurement funding, severe upward pressure on DoD budgets continued as a result of the aging aircraft fleet and its high operations and support

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## Coming To A Site Near You... Senior Leader Visits

Acquisition and Logistics senior leaders will be visiting field sites throughout A&LR Week. These visits will provide an excellent opportunity for members of the Air Force Acquisition and Logistics workforce to meet and speak with their senior leaders.

Visits will consist of a combination of presentations, question and answer sessions, and panel discussions. The senior leaders will focus on the Air Force A&LR Week theme, "Partnering to Support the 21st Century Warfighter."

To view the current schedule of senior leader visits, go to [http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq\\_ref/alrweek2000/seniorleaders.html](http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq_ref/alrweek2000/seniorleaders.html).

The Air Force senior leaders look forward to seeing you there!

## Can We Chat?

To close out Air Force A&LR Week activities, an online chat room session will be held on Friday, May 26, 2000, from 11:00 a.m. to Noon. Dr. Lawrence J. Delaney, Asst. Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition), will host the chat, along with Gen Lester L. Lyles, Commander, Air Force Materiel Command, and Lt Gen Michael E. Zettler, Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics, HQ USAF. See [http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq\\_ref/alrweek2000](http://www.safaq.hq.af.mil/acq_ref/alrweek2000) for updates.

This is your opportunity to ask questions of senior leadership. If you have a question you'd like to see answered, submit it to [ARideas@af.pentagon.mil](mailto:ARideas@af.pentagon.mil) prior to the chat room session.

To participate in the chat, you'll need the Real Player G2 and Active Movie plug-ins. Both can be found at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/vsc/req.html>. Once you've installed the plug-ins, you can log in to register for the chat room session at <http://lee.acq.osd.mil/starlive/loginframes.asp>.

## Who Put the "L" in A&LR Week?

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(O&S) cost. Further cost reduction initiatives were chartered under a new Defense Systems Affordability Council (DSAC), chaired by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, USD(AT&L). A broader scope of cost reduction, Total Ownership Cost (TOC) was adopted to address costs across the entire weapon system lifecycle, from acquisition through fielding and disposal.

With the Logistics world responsible for sustainment policy and execution, the TOC reduction effort fostered a stronger AQ & IL partnership. Although Air Force Logistics had been working on transformation and cost reduction initiatives for several years, this new effort marked the initiation of an AQ & IL joint effort in reforming practices to achieve best value across the spectrum of life cycle functions.

The AQ & IL partnership has manifested itself in various forums, policy, and initiatives, and is clearly on track to create the "seamless" acquisition through sustainment link so vital to the success of our transformation efforts.

There is a strong and growing IL voice in developing and implementing acquisition-logistics policy and practices. IL participation in AR Reinvention Teams, joint efforts on Reduction in Total Ownership Cost (R-TOC)/Cost as An Independent Variable (CAIV) implementation, the DoD 5000-series rewrite, and senior IL representation in the Acquisition Reform Leadership Council (ARLC) are all examples of this trend. Perhaps the best example is the initiation of the first "Logistics" Lightning Bolt 99-7, last year. Entitled "Product Support Partnerships," the Lightning Bolt was the primary Air Force effort for implement-

ing reengineered product support practices in our pilot programs, and its methodology will serve as the basis for future policy in developing product support strategies.

Although great progress has been made, the transformation is not complete. We are tailoring our messages to a composite work force, acquisition and logistics, with excellent opportunities for cross-feeding and joint learning experiences. We must all adopt a new perspective, broadening the scope of our own primary functional focus to include the respective acquisition or logistics impacts and implications. In doing so, we will work toward the end result of a truly best value, warfighter effective solution in all of our weapon system management activities. A&LR week is a key opportunity to facilitate that endeavor.