INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE EDUCATIONAL ARRANGEMENT

Passing a Major Milestone

Recently, the International Defense Educational Arrangement (IDEA) passed a major milestone in maturity when it held its fifth, successful seminar in Europe.

The IDEA is an arrangement among equivalent acquisition education institutions in the United States (represented by the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC)), the 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.

IDEA Beginnings

The IDEA formed in November 1989 when the administrative arrangement was signed by the DSMC Commandant, 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 equivalent of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology). They are represented by the Directeur, Centre d'Enseignement et de Formation d'Arcueil (CEFA) in Paris.

IDEA Customers

The principal IDEA product is the annual seminar and proceedings. At this time, the U.S. acquisition personnel in Europe (and Europeans, as well) have the unique opportunity 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 an academic environment. The primary customers are the international acquisition course directors and their institutions, and the seminar participants and their sponsoring organizations. Copies of the annual proceedings are provided to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Services' international acquisition offices. New products are planned. An international acquisition guidebook will be produced in 1994 using DSMC research in international comparative acquisition practices as the foundation. The European comparisons will become an annual part of the IDEA Seminar, with national updates as a new product which will have broad appeal to international program offices and oversight staff.

Past, Present, Future Seminars

Seminars have been held in the European capitals of London, Bonn, Brussels and Paris. In 1993, the IDEA Board of Directors decided to hold the annual seminar at the participating defense educational institutions. Therefore, the fifth seminar was held at the Federal Academy of Defence Administration and Technology, Mannheim, Germany. In July 1994, the seminar will be held at the Centre d'Enseignement et de Formation d'Arcueil (CEFA), Paris, France. In July 1995, for the first time, the IDEA seminar will be held in the United States at the Defense Systems Management College. In 1996, the seminar will return to Europe, as the Royal Military College of Science in the United Kingdom will be the host.

The IDEA logo is a symbol of the cooperation among the equivalent defense acquisition educational institutions in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany and France.

Who May Attend

The seminars are by invitation to all European Offices of Defense Cooperation, certain Defense Attaches, Army Standardization Groups, Air Force R&D Liaison Offices, the Navy European Office of Naval Research, as well as the U.S. Mission to NATO, SHAPE Technical Center and the U.S. European Command. This is the only opportunity for all U.S. representatives to meet with their European counterparts in an academic setting. The IDEA seminars bring great notoriety and prestige to DSMC.

IDEA Inquiries

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