



ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

## THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

NOV 06 2014

### MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS

SUBJECT: National Defense University Board of Visitors Support for the Senior Acquisition Course

I welcomed the recent briefing provided to me by Brigadier General Thomas A. Gorry, Commandant of the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, regarding the educational initiatives recently implemented at the National Defense University (NDU) and the resultant changes to the curriculum at the Eisenhower School. As a vested stakeholder with statutory responsibility for ensuring the efficacy and accuracy of the acquisition content of its curriculum, I remain keenly interested in how subsequent changes to the Eisenhower School will affect the quality and content of this curriculum, especially the Senior Acquisition Course.

As you may know, the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (PL 101-510, enacted November 5, 1990) directed the Secretary of Defense to establish education and training courses for the civilian and military acquisition workforce. This legislation further directed the establishment of both a defense acquisition university structure and a senior course equivalent to existing senior professional military education specifically designed for personnel serving in critical acquisition positions. The result of this act can be seen today in the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) and the Senior Acquisition Course, embedded within the curriculum of the Eisenhower School.

Graduates of the Senior Acquisition Course include some of the best and brightest acquisition leaders of this generation, including one former and one current four-star general officer, a host of three-star general officers, numerous other general/flag officers and members of the Senior Executive Service. Knowledge of the acquisition system and the industrial base has long been critical for both military and civilian leadership and will only become more so in the future. Underscoring our continued commitment, DAU continues to provide \$3.2 million annually to National Defense University to fund the program.

While I recognize that changes to curriculum are inevitable and necessary in this dynamic and complex environment, it is essential that we maintain the integrity of the core acquisition curriculum (for all students) and the Senior Acquisition Course. I look forward to working with the leadership of the Eisenhower School and National Defense University to achieve this end, and will conduct an annual review of all acquisition content, consistent with our responsibilities in DoD Directive 5000.57 to establish "...in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the acquisition content of a senior course at the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy."

I encourage the leaders of the Eisenhower School and the National Defense University to maintain a close dialogue with my office and Defense Acquisition University to ensure the

continued relevance, integrity and success of acquisition education at the Eisenhower School. I look forward to the board's continued support of the program and thank you for your commitment to educating our best and brightest acquisition professionals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Kendall', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Kendall