DON Management Oversight Process for Acquisition of Services (MOPAS)

DoD spends more on the acquisition of services than it does for supplies and equipment, and that spending is increasing year after year. Congress, aware of this trend, required the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) to establish a management oversight process for the acquisition of services comparable to the process for the acquisition of hardware. Recognizing the unique structure of the Defense components, SECDEF provided guidance and allowed the Military Departments and Defense Activities to develop tailored oversight processes and procedures. The Department of Navy's implementation, the Management Oversight Process for Acquisition of Services (MOPAS), builds on existing acquisition management structure and contains tiered approval levels based on the estimated total value of the service acquisition. Acquisition of services is broader than contracting for services. It includes identifying the requirement; developing the acquisition strategy; acquiring the services, whether through contract, order or other instrument; and ensuring performance and delivery. Review the DON MOPAS on the ABM On-Line policy page (www.abm.rda.hq.navy.mil/policy2003.cfm) under the DASN(Acq) memo of 10 Mar 03.

Tri-Service Assessment Initiative MOA

DASN(Acq) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the OSD Tri-Service Assessment Initiative (TAI) Office under which the parties have established a cooperative arrangement for providing improved support to Navy acquisition program managers. Support will be in the form of program assessments; these assessments will look across all disciplines and functions of program management using a very well documented and structured process. The assessments will be performed by a team of experts drawn from all the services and industry trained in the TAI process, with the results not only giving the PM a list of issues/risks, but also recommendations on corrective actions. DASN(Acq) will also have access to a systemic analysis of findings and lessons learned from acquisition programs across all of the services. For more information, contact Page Glennie, POC, at (703) 602-2384.

PM Workshop

The 2003 Program Managers' Workshop is tentatively scheduled for 3-5 Jun 03 at Ft. Belvoir, VA. The workshop is focused on PMs and will be organized around breakout groups that will address issues that affect PMs and field organizations. Due to attendance limitations placed on each Service, Navy supervisors of major program-related organizations have been invited to send 2 reps from their offices. For those interested in attending, contact your supervisor regarding representing your organization. For more information, contact POCs Liz Davison, (703) 602-2355 or Ebony Benton, (703) 602-2369. To see the agenda of events see: www.pm-workshop.com.

DAU CLC offers course in CAIV

The Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Continuous Learning Center (CLC) is providing an online module in Cost As an Independent Variable (CAIV) for the Acquisition community. This one to two-hour module is designed for acquisition professionals in the following fields: Acquisition Logistics, Contracting, Cost Estimating, Financial Management, Program Management and Sustainment. A student completing the module will be able to describe CAIV, identify stakeholders, describe CAIV activities and relate risk management to CAIV. Students will be able to apply CAIV-based principles throughout the life cycle as well as relate Total Ownership Cost (TOC) to CAIV. Through various links students will be able to develop a well-planned and informative CAIV plan. The module is available to all DAU CLC users on clc.dau.mil.

PROGRAM FOCUS: Regional Garrison Food Service (RGFS)

Faced with continuing significant cost escalation in its Food Service Program, the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) concluded that drastic changes were necessary, and in 1999 the USMC began the Regional Garrison Food Service (RGFS) initiative. The RGFS program was designed to take advantage of best practices from world-class customers and suppliers, which would most likely be achievable through large food service contracts. In the past, the USMC acquired services for 39 CONUS garrison mess halls under 11 separate contracts, each awarded locally with its own unique statement of work and performance standards. The USMC hoped to accomplish several objectives by consolidating all garrison food service requirements into two regional packages. First and most importantly, by maximizing the number of mess halls and meal counts within the scope of each contract, the USMC attempted to present to industry the best scenario possible in which to integrate commercially available technology into military systems. USMC studies demonstrated that substantial savings could be realized through application of such technology, but the contractor investment required could only be justified in support of a large consolidated Food Service contract. Second, a regional approach allowed for the streamlined introduction of a single contractor performance standard throughout the region, so that quality and type of service a Marine would receive would be consistent throughout the region. Plans were developed to consolidate the USMC's CONUS food services needs into regional requirements, one on each coast. A total of 55 mess halls would be covered, 34 Full Food Service mess halls, 18 Management and Mess Attendant mess halls and 3 Management and Food Preparation brig mess halls. The USMC encountered a number of challenges during the acquisition process, including reconciling the goals of the RGFS program with the requirements of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act and Randolph-Sheppard Act, accommodating the interests of the small business community in the planning and conduct of an unrestricted competition, integrating the DSCP Prime Vendor Program for subsistence into the acquisition, and determining an appropriate contract type. Each of these challenges required innovative approaches and a willingness to manage risk in acquisition and management, rather than avoiding it. Surmounting these challenges and awarding the RGFS contracts promises to bring several extremely beneficial changes to the USMC's Food Services Program. A regional approach, with its anticipated cost reductions is enabling the USMC to realign 594 Marine cooks into other critically needed occupational specialties, and is freeing up a week of valuable training time for recruits formerly assigned mess attendant duties at the Recruit Depots. Further, the USMC anticipates that higher, more consistent standards will be achieved in the quality of services and food provided to Marines. Not only will the RGFS contracts accomplish their objectives, all benefits will be realized with little or no increase in the food service budget beyond what is projected under the former base-by-base scenario. For more information contact Mr. Paul Sando, POC, at (703) 695-6590, ext. 2525.

Upcoming Events

3−5 Jun 03 Program Managers' Workshop, DAU, Ft. Belvoir, VA [www.pm-workshop.com]

9−12 Jun 03 E-Gov Conference, "Information Technology for Improving Government" Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC [www.e-gov.com/events/2003/egov/]

For an expanded list of the upcoming events and additional details, visit www.acquisition.navy.mil/events.cfm.

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