

SPAWAR Evaluates Use of a PDA as an Acquisition Pocket e-Guide



Navy Acquisition Reform

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After ensuring that all of their systems were "Y2K ready", the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command is making a move to make their Acquisition Workforce 21st Century ready.

The SPAWAR Acquisition Reform Office is evaluating the use of Palm Pilots, and other Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), as a means to create a "pocket e-guide" that each user could "tailor" to contain only that acquisition reference content which he/she needs. For example, a Palm Pilot device loaded with the new DoD 5000 series documents would allow the user many of the same capabilities that currently exists on their desktop PC: storage of key documents, ability to search for words, create bookmarks, change font size, copy/paste, create hyperlinks within a file or between different files, insert graphics, etc.

The totally redefined acquisition process that is described in the new release of DoD 5000 will require training and "helpful hints" to guide the workforce in the right direction so the sought-after benefits are achieved. The "pocket e-guide" and the many features it would include could assist in the effective implementation of this new "21st Century" acquisition process.

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INFO-ALERT

COMING EVENTS:

- PM NARSOC
"Earned Value Management"
12 May
- Navy IT Symposium
16-18 May
- A&LR Week 2000
22-26 May
- A&LR Week Navy
Kick-off
23 May





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If the current ongoing evaluation by SPAWAR proves cost-effective, the “pocket e-guide” can provide annual “refresher training”, training modules with quizzes, FAQs, acronym lists, POC lists, “Cliff notes”, etc. The availability of inexpensive shareware software allowing the loading of a Palm device from multiple file formats (.doc, .pdf, HTML, Microsoft Project, etc.) makes potential uses unlimited.

Users can create reference documents, post them on the SPAWAR web page, for access, download and hot-sync to a Palm Pilot as needed. When finished they can delete them to conserve Palm memory space, but the original document would always be available on the SPAWAR web page for future use.

The Acquisition Reform Office is reviewing the use of Palm Pilots for storage of pertinent Acquisition information. The compatibility will allow for possible download of acquisition information from the Acquisition Reform website to the Palm Pilot. Please provide suggestions for documents to be loaded on the website for evaluation via the Webmaster at www.ar.navy.mil. To learn more about this initiative, please contact Mr. John Bovey (boveyj@spawar.navy.mil) or Mr. Paul Sabina (sabinap@spawar.navy.mil).

Check out the Navy Acquisition Reform (AR) Website for
Additional AR news and events: <http://www.ar.navy.mil>