

Chapter 44

THE ARMY ACQUISITION CORPS: BASIC KNOWLEDGE FOR THE ARMY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

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Introduction

The clinical knowledge and expertise of Army physician assistants (PAs) add tremendous value to their service in the Army Acquisition Corps (AAC). Army PAs have the opportunity to earn credentials and become a member of the AAC. As an AAC member, an Army PA can also compete for AAC Centralized Selection List (CSL) positions. Current AAC opportunities for Army PAs are with the Army Medical Department Board (AMEDDB) at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM) in Natick, Massachusetts. This chapter will review basic information about the AAC, training for service in the corps, and systems used to manage the requirements.

The Acquisition Corps

In 2005, Department of Defense (DOD) Directive 5000.52 consolidated the separate DOD component acquisition corps into a single Defense Acquisition Corps (DAC).^{1,2} However, each service still maintains its own separate corps for acquisition career management. The Army's corps consists of acquisition officers specialized in development, fielding, and support. In 2015, a memorandum of understanding (MOU)² was signed by the Army director of acquisition career management, the surgeon general, and the Army human resources commanding general about Army acquisition workforce management of medical officers in unique education and training specialties. The MOU addressed the unique Army medicine training and education requirements for highly

technical medical personnel with the additional skill identifier of 8X (acquisition management), to create a common understanding of their identification, certification, utilization, and management.³

The Defense Acquisition Workforce Education, Training, Experience, and Career Development Program, commonly called the “AWF program,” establishes policies and procedures for the workforce.⁴ The AWF program desk guide provides workforce procedures established by DOD Instruction 5000.66, *Defense Acquisition Workforce Education, Training, Experience, and Career Development Program*.³ The US Army Acquisition Support Center provides oversight of the AWC. The US Army Director of Acquisition Career Management (DACM) Office provides more detailed information on the membership requirements for AAC membership (<https://asc.army.mil/web/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/AAC-and-CAP-Tentative-Selectee-Waiver-Process.pdf>).⁴ Submissions are reviewed and approved by the Workforce Development and Engagement office.⁴



Figure 44-1. Colonel Roberto Marin, PA-C (center), the Medical Systems Branch chief, Army Medical Department Board, testing the capabilities of the Diesel canine simulator during the Health Readiness Center of Excellence Strategic Medical Simulation Synchronization Summit, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, in May 2019.

The Army Medical Department Board

The AMEDDB is the test and evaluation activity of the Army Medical Department (Figure 44-1). It is responsible for testing all medical materiel, medical-related materiel, and medical information technology systems. AMEDDB's leadership and test officers are members of the AAC and are certified experts in their field (see Chapter 45 for the role of the Army PA as a member of the AMEDDBD).⁵

US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine

USARIEM officers, including the Army PA assigned at USARIEM, are required to meet acquisition skill identifiers in science and technology at a minimum. Training classes to earn these certifications are mostly online through the Defense Acquisition University (DAU; see below).

Managing Requirements

Requirements for an Army PA to be an AAC officer are based on experience, education, and duty. The DACM Office uses the Career Acquisition Management Portal (CAMP) for interactions between officers and supervisors (Figure 44-2). An AAC officer must identify a supervisor in CAMP, and the supervisor uses the system to approve individual development plans (IDPs), course attendance, and skill identifier requirements. AAC officers must have IDPs, which are used to plan, coordinate, and manage continuing education and training, covering a 5-year period. IDPs are used as a communication tool between personnel and their supervisors.

A CAMP application called the Career Acquisition Personnel and Position Management Information System (CAPP MIS) is used to manage career requirements of AAC personnel. Army PAs may also be assigned as a supervisor of employees with acquisition requirements. There are separate requirements for serving as supervisor of these personnel; instructions are available in CAMP.

Acquisition officers complete and maintain online training requirements through the DAU (Figure 44-3). The DAU website also provides resources, guidebooks, and catalogs on acquisition career field requirements.

This information system is approved for data up to Unclassified//FCUI

CAMP CAPPMS Help Links Help Request Feedback Logout

NOTICE:
CAMP and all CAPPMS applications will be unavailable from 0600 EDT to 0900 EDT Thursday, 9 JUL 2020 due to the bi-weekly data refresh.

UNITED STATES ARMY
DAQM supporting the acquisition workforce
DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
CAPPMS

HOME IDP SRPE AAPDS AACMS
Change E-Mail

CAPPMS
CAPPMS (Career Acquisition Personnel and Position Management Information System)

Please click the application acronym below for a full description:
[IDP](#) [SRPE](#) [AAPDS](#) [AACMS](#)

IDP (Individual Development Plan) [Return to Top](#)
The acquisition workforce member's vehicle to plan, coordinate and manage their continuing education and training over a five-year period. It serves as the primary communication method to allow employees to discuss, plan and gain approval from supervisors for their continuing training and education plans.

SRPE (Senior Rater Potential Evaluation) [Return to Top](#)
SRPE system allows Senior Raters for the acquisition civilians to rate their leadership potential. Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) requires the best-qualified individuals, whether military or civilian to be selected for acquisition positions. By evaluating the potential of civilian employees, the SRPE provides a document that allows selection boards to more equitably compare a civilian candidate's leadership potential with that of a military candidate as documented on the senior rater section of their Officer Evaluation Report (OER).

AAPDS (Army Acquisition Professional Development System) [Return to Top](#)
Provides the Army acquisition civilian workforce member the ability to submit online applications and hold virtual boards for the USAASC sponsored programs (i.e., Army Education & Training Experience (AETE), Acquisition Tuition Assistance Program (ATAP) and Career Program-14 (CP-14) programs).

AACMS (Army Acquisition Corps Management System) [Return to Top](#)
Automated Army Acquisition Corps Management System to replace the manual process for the acquisition workforce. Provides the capability to allow Workforce members to apply for Corps membership and permits the designated regional reviewers the ability to review applications online. If you are already an Acquisition Corps Member then you will have the ability to print a hard copy of your Acquisition Corps Membership certificates under the "Print Certificate" link of this tab. You will only see this tab if you are eligible to apply and have received Corps Member status.

Security/Privacy System Requirements DOD Computer User Text Links

Figure 44-2. The Career Acquisition Management portal.

Tips for Success

These tips will enable future AAC officers to succeed:

- AAC officers must ensure officer record brief (ORB) and officer evaluation reports (OERs) include duties related to acquisition.
- They must document and plan for all required courses in advance.
- They must communicate with mentors and career managers on AAC membership with potential to compete for command CSL positions, if desired.
- They should discuss the requirements to meet and maintain AAC membership with their chain of command.
- They need to update and review their IDP with their chain of command.

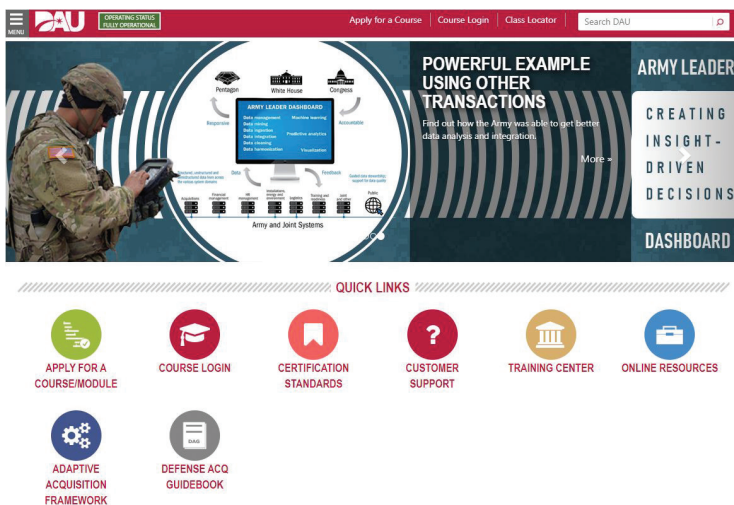


Figure 44-3. The Defense Acquisition University website.

Conclusion

Army PAs with their clinical and leadership acumen can gain opportunities to learn new skill sets based on the requirements for AAC membership. PAs in these positions should become familiar with the AAC's web portals and other tools for training and sustaining their membership as required. PAs can also maintain their training even when not in an acquisition position.

References

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