
SECURITY ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY

Department of Defense

DFAS Cites DISAM Professor

Ernie McCallister Receives Achievement Award

On 21 October, 1999, Colonel Judy-Ann Carroll, DISAM commandant, presented Professor Ernie McCallister an achievement award on behalf of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) for his outstanding contributions to the Service during the summer of 1999.



In managing the T-20 security assistance funds used in the administration of the security assistance organizations (SAO), the latter employ the Security Assistance Automated Resource Management System (SAARMS) for accounting purposes. Traditionally, the SAOs would each month print out the current statement of obligations and disbursements and FAX them to DFAS Denver where they were manually entered into the Air Force installation-level (BQ) accounting system. Although system improvements meant that the transmission of SAO accounting data could be accomplished electronically, nonetheless the data still had to be manually entered by DFAS into the BQ system.

As the system developers of SAARMS, DISAM set out to remedy this labor-intensive work. Ernie McCallister led the joint DISAM-DFAS effort to create a more efficient system. McCallister developed a new system in which the monthly SAARMS data is transmitted via the Security Assistance Network. Upon receipt of this transmission, data from all reporting countries is combined with DFAS's extract from the BQ system. McCallister's new program then merges data from these two sources into a single file which is exported back into the BQ system in a compatible format for main frame processing.

Previously, this effort had taken from 80-100 labor days per month. Using the McCallister creation, it is estimated that the work will be reduced by at least 75 percent. This great increase in productivity is the culmination of four years of research by DFAS and DISAM. The tremendous cost savings to DFAS resulted in their award to Ernie for making this system enhancement a reality.

Ukrainian Air Force Logisticians Visit DISAM

On November 1, a delegation of Ukrainian Air Force logisticians led by General Major Volodymyr Mykolayovich Khyzhyi, Chief of Logistics, visited DISAM as part of their tour of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The latter was one stop on a tour of U.S. Air Force logistics installations which was made under the auspices of the Joint Contact Team Program. The DISAM presentation included an overview of the Institute's mission with emphasis on the courses offered to international customers and the research possibilities available to them. Accompanying General Khyzhyi were Colonel Olexandr Nahornichevskyi, Chief, Air Force Support Directorate; Colonel V.S. Odnostalko, Chief, Fuels and Lubricants Service; and Colonel V.O. Voloshyn, Chief of Staff, 5 Aviation Corps. Providing translations for the visitors were Iryna Loshkovska and Svitlana Lazorenko of the Military Liaison Team of the American Embassy in Kiev.



Lieutenant General Stewart E. Cranston, Colonel V.O. Voloshyn and General Major Volodymyr Mykolayovich Khyzhyi inspect the research materials on Ukraine found in the DISAM library.