

## DISAM RETIREMENT

On 30 November 1998, Lieutenant Commander Nels E. Berdahl, of DISAM's Directorate of Management Studies, retired after serving 25 years in the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy. On this occasion he was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal by Colonel Judy-Ann Carroll, USA, DISAM Commandant. While a classroom instructor at DISAM since 1996, Commander Berdahl excelled in providing well-prepared presentations in a highly interesting and interactive mode, earning extensive praise and comments concerning his effectiveness from students. Commander Berdahl demonstrated exceptional ability and initiative in fulfilling the teaching and research requirements for the academic rank of Assistant Professor in just over one year after arriving at DISAM; such recognition is rarely granted in less than two years on station. In addition to his superlative achievements in the classroom, he made monumental contributions to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency's (DSCA) multi-million dollar project known as the Defense Security Assistance Management System (DSAMS). Shortly after arriving at DISAM, Commander Berdahl's exceptional systems and automation



management credentials attracted the attention of DSCA Headquarters, and he was promptly immersed into the DSAMS project. He led the DISAM effort in supporting DSAMS by serving as the Institute's DSAMS coordinator and principal representative to the DSAMS Executive Steering Council. Commander Berdahl participated in developing test plans for DSAMS applications and later developed customized DSAMS support aids for the Army, Navy, and Air Force users. He also was instrumental in designing and implementing "train-the-trainer" courses for the DSAMS Case Development Module and coordinated DISAM faculty participation in the Case Execution Working Group/Subgroup structure. In addition, he led teams which installed and provided training on DSAMS software at overseas locations, such as Ramstein AFB, Germany. Further, he conducted numerous security assistance management training courses for new personnel assigned to the Defense Security Assistance Design Center in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Because of his superior talent and initiative, Commander Berdahl became a trusted advisor to the DSAMS Project Manager at DSCA Headquarters, and made valuable recommendations that were incorporated into DSAMS project planning. These multiple and significant DSAMS-related accomplishments were made in addition to his regular teaching duties at DISAM, resulting in the expenditure of many after-duty hours on his part. DISAM wishes Commander Berdahl the very best as he starts his civilian career.