

2010 DoD Performance Symposium Enterprise Excellence

The Department of Defense (DoD), Office of the Secretary of Defense, Lean Six Sigma (LSS) Program Office recently held its 2010 DoD Performance Symposium, Enterprise Excellence. The symposium was held at the National Conference Center at Lansdowne, VA June 8-10.

Enterprise Excellence was chosen as the theme to reflect the ongoing efforts to accelerate change and improve performance supporting the warfighter, as well as the opportunity to accelerate improvement with the staunch support and focus of senior leaders. The symposium demonstrated alignment of DoD performance improvement activities to the national priorities and highlighted progress in those performance areas. The program offered a variety of speakers, including Jeffrey Zients, Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget and Federal Chief Performance Officer, Elizabeth McGrath, DoD Assistant Deputy Chief Management Officer, Eric Fanning Department of Navy, DUSN, BOaT/Deputy Chief Management Officer, Janet St. Laurent, Managing Director, Defense Capabilities and management GAO, and Gen. C. Robert Kehler, Command, Air Force Space Command. Each speaker provided insight and valuable advice on improving performance within an organization to an audience of both DoD and non-DoD attendees.

“This year’s symposium was an exciting opportunity for performance improvement practitioners to hear from top leadership. The senior leaders from across the Defense Enterprise reinforced the importance of managing resources in a changing environment. The DoD’s top ten high priority performance goals are being worked and progress is being made to improve performance across DoD. We just keep getting bigger and better opportunities to excel and the symposium provided valuable take a-ways for all attendees,” said Mr. JD Sicilia, Director, Strategic Management and Performance.

This year breakout sessions were held each day and covered topics in Change Management, Innovation, Systems Thinking, Infrastructure, Theory of Constraints, Strategic Alignment and Project Selection and Predictive Scorecards. The third day offered the Army, Navy, the Lean Six Sigma Program Office and Office of the Secretary of Defense/Agencies an opportunity to present specialized program updates and panel discussions. All were well attended and participants had high praise for the speakers.

All presentations are available for review and download on the web at <http://live.isixsigma.com/presentations>. Use dod2010 for the username and performance for the password.

There was a “Performance Bowl” the day before the symposium began. Six teams of DoD and Federal Agency Black Belts competed to test and improve their Lean Six Sigma skills in a daylong competition. Each team was given a scenario of a fictitious company with low customer satisfaction and declining sales. The goal was to gain the highest return on investment. After a long day of work the teams presented their solutions to judges for a final score. The U.S. Air Force takes home bragging rights as the winning team.

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