

You can run but you can't hide! Wonder what I'm talking about? I'm talking about certifications and corps membership. We have an alarming number of folks that seem to be too busy to take their required DAU courses needed for certification and ultimately corps membership or too busy to make their request to HRC. I must apologize if you've already submitted a request and it's taken longer than a few weeks to process your request. Because of our push over the past year, we've been overwhelmed with requests and my one person handling these actions is far behind. So, bear with us as we work down the number of requests.

For our military personnel, if you've been told by an assignment officer in the past that it's not important until you're ready to leave the service, they were dead wrong. Not getting the appropriate certifications and not ensuring you have corps membership when sent to a critical acquisition position puts you and your organization in violation of the law if a waiver was not approved prior to going to the job. It's true that it's not information seen by a promotion board or at this time a command board; however that doesn't prevent a command board member looking for the appropriate courses on your ORB or ACRB.

You are the individual responsible for ensuring your certifications are updated when you think you meet the requirements. I have two individuals on my staff that handle certifications and corps membership application requests respectively. It's your responsibility to start the process, not your assignment officer or career manager. I recently sent out an email to a number of O5s and O6s that in our database don't meet one or both requirements. It's unfortunate that so many people aren't putting the appropriate emphasis on this subject. You are ultimately responsible for taking the required courses, making the appropriate request and then following up to ensure the action is completed.

The first place to start is to ensure you have an IDP and that your supervisor adds you as an employee. If anyone has a supervisor that is non-acquisition, my office can help walk them through getting added to CAPMIS in order to approve requested courses. Second step is when you believe you meet a requirement, send in all supporting documents to show how you meet the requirement. If we're talking about a certification, then send in your ORB, OER's and transcripts (for educational requirement). Neither my staff nor your assignment officer has the time to put your packet together for you. You must do this part. You can send it electronically, by fax or by mail. If you're not sure whether you meet requirements, look in the DAU catalog first, and then talk to your assignment officer.

One of the biggest problems we face is regarding the officers selected for PM that are not already Level III in Program Management. They will spend almost the entire year before going to command taking on line courses for certification and pre-command courses. Don't put yourself or your current boss in this situation. Get your certifications as soon as you meet a particular requirement. One question we repeatedly get is "I'm already Level II in Program Management but I'm being told I have to take PMT 250 as a prerequisite for PMT 352A&B. Do I have to take it?" Yes you have to take it even though you are already Level II, or you can try to get fulfillment credit for the course. However, fulfillment is difficult to get as is a waiver for the course. Your best bet is to just take the course and get it done.

As well, you should request Corps Membership as soon as you are at least Level II certified and have four years of acquisition experience. Again, it is your responsibility to request this when you think you meet the requirement. As my assignment officers scrub your files for boards and talk assignments with you, they will discuss with you what you're lacking for your grade level. Don't wait for them to discuss this with you. You should be leaning forward in your foxhole to ensure you're getting your courses completed.

We will experience a large turnover in AMB this summer. I'll depart the end of June and my replacement is LTC(P) Doug Dever, coming out of Air War College. As well, MAJ(P)s Lane and Bochonok, and MAJ Hollis are also departing this summer. In bound officers this summer are MAJs Andy Clements and Willie Coleman. Please welcome MAJ Mark Evans who arrived in February and took over the CPT/ Jr MAJs (A-K) desk. With these losses comes movement on each of the assignment desks. Please bear with us as the new officers take over and learn their population and also for our current officers that are moving to new desks.