



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY,
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Participation in Technical and Industry Conferences

While we must be prudent stewards of Government resources, particularly in this challenging fiscal environment, maintaining the competence of the Department of Defense (DoD) workforce and communication with industry also remain high priorities. I ask each addressee, consistent with the November 6, 2013, Deputy Chief Management Officer (DCMO) guidance, "Implementation of Updated Conference Oversight Requirements," to give appropriate consideration to the importance of attendance at technical symposia and conferences that enhance communication between DoD acquisition professionals and their industry counterparts. I ask that you support properly justified attendance by DoD personnel to the extent possible, subject to the availability of resources, including travel funds.

The Department is the single largest employer of scientists and engineers in the United States. Maintaining professional currency is an important part of this investment in human capital. Science and technology (S&T) conferences and symposia, at which technical data and information is exchanged, are potentially beneficial both for maintaining technical competence and for the professional development of DoD scientists and engineers.

Please distribute this guidance throughout your organization to ensure full awareness by scientists, engineers, and other acquisition professionals. I believe that the Department can continue to apply the requisite scrutiny to DoD participation in acquisition related conferences while also ensuring that our interests are preserved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Kendall", is positioned above the printed name.

Frank Kendall