



For Immediate Release

GSX Global Skills X-Change
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DoD workforce leaders are working to create an enhanced professional development program for the intelligence community. At the *Accreditation and Certification Workshop*, DoD Component and Agency Leaders explored opportunities for creating a professional development strategy for their agencies following presentations by Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE), Council on Occupational Education (COE), and Defense Security Service (DSS). Global Skills X-exchange (GSX) organized the event.

Bringing this group together is one of the first big steps in moving forward with a compatible DoD wide plan for certifying professionals and incorporating third party accrediting of training institutions and credentialing programs. The SPeD certification program, which is the first to be in full development, will launch DoD wide January 3, 2011. SPeD, currently in a BETA testing state, incorporates a certification program for DoD security professionals based on job functions, requirements, and skills standards.

Speakers at the workshop, held September 15 at the Ritz Carlton in Pentagon City included: Reese Madsen, DoD Intelligence Chief Learning Officer, USD(I) Human Capital Management Office; Gary Puckett, Executive Director, COE; and Jim Kendzel, Executive Director, ICE.

The need for creation of an Agency-developed accredited professional development program was stressed. External accreditation is considered valuable in this high stakes plan and would be recognized DoD-wide.

Accreditation calls for consistent periodic review of programs by peers to keep programs of high quality and continuing to adjust as missions, skills, and technology changes over time. "Continuous institutional improvement is necessary to make this successful," stated Gary Puckett, COE.

Between the opening presentations and later breakout sessions, focusing on more technical details, a panel of workforce development professionals discussed lessons learned from the SPeD program. Moderated by David Wilcox of GSX, comments were shared by: Mr. Madsen; Mack Brooks, Chief, Professionalization Division, DSS CDSE; Michael Peterson, Program Manager, DSS CDSE; Marilyn Jung, USAF AFPC, SAF/AAP; and Dr. Joselito Lualhati, GSX.

DoD leaders were most concerned on how this would work within their respective agencies. "Certification must be implementable," stressed Dr. Joselito Lualhati of GSX whom helped develop the technical elements of the program, including an on-line diagnostic tool for the SPeD Certification Program. Organizations such as USD(I) and GSX will continue to work with

individual agencies to create a strategy and an implementation plan that will work for them.

For more information about the SPeD Certification program visit <http://dssa.dss.mil/seta/sped>.

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About GSX

GSX is professional services firm specializing in workforce optimization, located in Alexandria, Virginia. GSX focuses on combining consulting expertise with operational capacity to turn ideas and strategies into programs. Visit us at 1410 King Street, Alexandria, VA or www.gskillsxchange.com.