

## Elevating the Management Craft

by Michael Pino

### Recognizing and Supporting Managers Who Take the Next Step — Project Management Professional Certification

“Project management is the lifeblood of a company.”

Those are the words of Dr. David Koehn, Chief Learning Officer with our Project Resource group (PRG). He points out that, as CACI nears its goal of becoming a billion-dollar company in revenue — and looks now to two billion as the next step — it’s critical that we focus our resources on making sure CACI managers continue



PHOTO BY CHRIS IMPINK

Chief Learning Officer David Koehn is spearheading CACI’s program to support managers who seek Project Management Professional certification.

to develop their craft by learning and applying industry-best practices.

To do this, the PRG team has implemented the next generation in CACI Project-Program Management (P<sup>2</sup>M) support. In concert with this initiative, CACI is actively recognizing managers who are advancing their skills. In

particular, incentives and support programs have been established to help managers step up to the next level: achieving the Project Management Professional (PMP) credential.

Crafted by David, P<sup>2</sup>M is a long-range PRG effort that will support project managers, program managers, and executives.

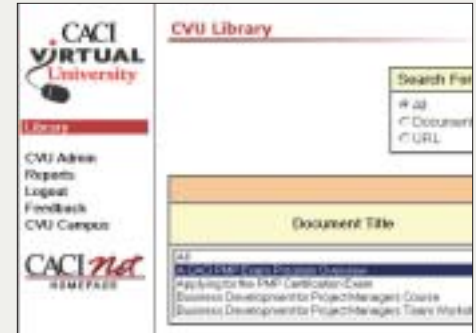
It includes a credentialing process that outlines how managers can meet new goals for career growth and client support. A crucial step is PMP certification.

#### How to Get Certified

To gain PMP certification, managers have to pass a rigorous exam administered by the Project Management Institute (PMI), the nationally recognized authority on project management training. The exam requires considerable preparation, and applicants have to demonstrate significant qualifications in prior experience.

But help is on the way! Thanks to P<sup>2</sup>M, managers can get CACI support to help prepare for the PMP exam. “We offer computer-based training that is available through CACI Virtual University [CVU],” David says, “and we’ll have more classroom training as the program grows.” PRG also has contracted with an outside vendor to provide intensive training specifically for the PMP exam, and at a corporate discount.

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**Visit CACI Virtual University online to find out how to study and apply for PMP certification.**

- Go to [www.cvu.caci.com](http://www.cvu.caci.com)
- - or -
- From CACI*net*, go to Educational Services and click on CACI Virtual University
- Login on the home page (follow steps to get password) to go to the CVU Campus
- Click on CVU Library
- On the Library page, enter “PMP” in the keyword search field
- The PMP documents will appear under Document List
- Click on CACI PMP Exam Program Overview to start the certification process

For more information, contact David Koehn at (703) 679-3263, [dkoehn@caci.com](mailto:dkoehn@caci.com).

# Roger That

by Jim Van Dyke

BG06 Program Manager Steve Rogers of our Montgomery, Alabama office manages CACI's support for a high-profile Air Force communications program called the Combat Information Transport System Block 30 Design.

The program's goal is to increase the capabilities of Air Force networks. And now Steve has set — and met — a goal of his own: enhancing his leadership capabilities by earning his Project Management Professional (PMP) certification.

Steve completed the intense PMP preparation on his own time, studying after hours and on weekends to gain command of PMP concepts, techniques, and terminology. His achievement was recognized recently in a ceremony with his managers, President of U.S. Operations Ken Johnson, and Operations

Executive Officer John Davis, who said, "The PMP credential demonstrates Steve's commitment to excellence, as well as CACI's commitment to our clients in providing highly qualified project managers."

"PMP certification gives you immediate credibility as an effective manager," adds Steve, who has nearly 20 years of project and program management experience. "I wanted to gain the certification and fill in any gaps that might exist in my project management skill set."

Steve comments on what it took to gain the certification: "I completed the preparation needed to achieve this certification through self-directed study of



PHOTO BY STAN PO CZATEK

**According to Steve Rogers, "PMP certification gives you immediate credibility as an effective manager."**

PMP materials and passed the examination on the first try. But it was the hardest test I have ever taken in my life!"

You can congratulate Steve at (334) 361-2805, [srogers@caci.com](mailto:srogers@caci.com).

# Getting Things Done

by Rick Ferris

Fola Dosunmu knows what she likes to do, and what she wants to do: project management. So it came as no surprise when Fola earned her PMP certification.

Fola, Technical Project Manager for the Department of Justice's Automated Debt Collection Management program, successfully completed an intense week



PHOTO BY STAN PO CZATEK

**Ken Johnson congratulates Fola Dosunmu on her PMP certification. "You have to immerse yourself in the program" to pass the exam, she says.**

of training and study on her own time, commuting three hours each day for classes that ran from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. She received recognition at a January ceremony headed by CACI President of U.S. Operations Ken Johnson, who outlined the importance of Fola's achievement.

"Project management is a vital

element in the success of every program we undertake," Ken said. "CACI's commitment to providing the finest project management available is another facet of our broader determination to support our clients with world-class technical expertise, innovation, and proven best practices."

"I wanted to demonstrate that I have a solid foundation of project management knowledge that can be readily applied in the workplace," Fola says.

"The course is accelerated and requires each participant to be completely focused — mentally and physically — on that goal for the entire week. You have to be prepared to completely immerse yourself in the program to be sure you can pass the exam," Fola adds.

Reach Fola at (301) 585-2391, [fdosunmu@caci.com](mailto:fdosunmu@caci.com).

# Up-to-Date at State

by Rick Ferris

## Charles Irons and Eric Owen Bring PMP Expertise to State Dept. Teams

### The Big Picture

As a functional expert on the State Department's Secure Videoconferencing and Data Collaboration program, Charles Irons has participated in many elements of project management. But he soon came to feel that he needed a broader perspective.

"I was practicing many of the project management processes but didn't have a strong understanding of the big picture," Charles explains. He recognized that pursuing PMP certification would enable him to best leverage his experience in government and commercial projects.

"Now, I really enjoy using project management processes to take a basic objective, build it out, and put all the pieces together so the project is a success," he says.

Charles thinks that many companies are just starting to recognize the benefits of PMP — greater guarantees that projects will be completed on time and on budget,

happy customers, and a motivated workforce. "CACI is a trendsetter for recognizing the benefits that come with PMP-certified project managers," he says.

"Fewer than one percent of all project managers are PMP-certified," notes Bob Blanc, BG06 Senior Vice President who oversees our State support. "PMP certification is the industry's most recognized and respected project management

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**"PMP certification is the industry's most recognized and respected project management certification."**

— Senior VP Bob Blanc,  
State Dept. Program Manager

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certification. By providing PMP-certified project managers, CACI is supporting its clients with the best and most qualified people available."

Charles took a two-day class to prepare for the exam but also notes that managers must have experience and training in project management before taking prep courses. "It's also good to get the reading materials in advance," he says, "and a good test simulator is helpful for getting used to the look and feel of the exam."

### Management Arts

If management is the art of using time and resources to achieve an objective, Eric Owen is a convincing case study.

Program Manager for the LAN/WAN Services contract supporting



PHOTO BY CHRIS IMPINK

To prepare for his PMP certification exam, Eric Owen took CACI's computer-based training courses and studied the *Project Management Book of Knowledge*.

the State Department, Eric recently earned his PMP certification preparing for the exam on his own time — while supervising 35 staff and remaining on call for 270 customer locations worldwide. And getting married!

"I enjoy working with people and partnering with customers to accomplish their missions," Eric says. "One of the most important things I learned was about risk management. I now have a better understanding of CACI's approaches and processes, as well as those of our clients and competitors."

A former Seahawk helicopter pilot, Eric began his management career in 1993 while in the Navy. He has had several program management positions with CACI, but he had little time for a class.

"I took CACI's computer-based training courses and studied the Project Management Institute's *Project Management Book of Knowledge*," Eric says. "There are good resources out there if your schedule allows self-study."

Contact Charles at (202) 776-8960, [ciron@caci.com](mailto:ciron@caci.com); Eric at (703) 912-8373, [eowen@caci.com](mailto:eowen@caci.com); and Bob at (301) 816-9785, [bblanc@caci.com](mailto:bblanc@caci.com).



PHOTO BY BARBARA HOLMES

Charles Irons is using project management processes to "put all the pieces together."

# The Many Hats of Paul Pankratz

by Gina Pierelli

Paul Pankratz's list of things to do includes scheduling, maintenance, documentation, materials purchase,



PHOTO BY MIKE MONEER

Paul Pankratz says PMP certification has given him more confidence on larger projects.

risk monitoring, and new business development. How many jobs does he have? Just one: Program Manager. And Paul recently demonstrated his management prowess by getting his PMP certification from the Project Management Institute.

Paul, who works with the Automated Test Equipment group in BG01's San Antonio office, had recently earned a master's degree in management of technology when he decided to take on the grueling four-hour certification exam. He studied via CACI's computer-based training courses and relied on his practical experience in project management.

"The formal training and certification is crucial to

success in this field. It gives you a framework from which to execute a successful project," Paul said.

"For example, on a recent project, I recommended that we narrow the scope and tailor it to fit the available funding. Otherwise, we would have incurred significant risk by signing up to do more work than the funding could support."

Paul feels the PMP certification has been a definite plus. "We do relatively complex engineering development, and now I feel much more confident about taking on large projects," he explains.

"I highly recommend the PMP certification to anyone in the project management field."

You can congratulate Paul at (210) 735-1903, [ppankratz@caci.com](mailto:ppankratz@caci.com).

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"The trainers practically guarantee passing," David adds, "and they will retrain managers at no extra cost if they do not pass on the first try."

"PMP certification is a valuable distinction in today's highly competitive business environment," says PRG Vice President Bill Vitaletti. "As CACI grows, we are bidding on larger and more complex proposals that increasingly require PMP credentials."

"With P<sup>2</sup>M, we provide the training and resources to meet these requirements and support CACI's aggressive growth."

### Career Value

Besides meeting corporate goals, PMP certification is also a good career move. "PMP training and certification provide expertise that people need to grow as managers," says David. "They'll be more valuable to their clients and to CACI."

David also notes that PMP certification alone doesn't make one a manager. "It's like a license to practice medicine — you've got to have it, but it doesn't make you a good doctor. Managing is a craft, and our follow-on P<sup>2</sup>M activities support

and reinforce certification to help managers develop their craft to perfection."

So if you're a CACI project manager, what's the next step? Talk to your supervisor today about the support and rewards CACI offers for PMP certification. Visit CVU at [cvu.caci.com](http://cvu.caci.com) to find out about downloadable courses and other training. And call David to find out more about our P<sup>2</sup>M support.

It's a win-win situation for you, your project, and your career.

Contact David at (703) 679-3263, [dkoehn@caci.com](mailto:dkoehn@caci.com).