Overview: The International Defense Acquisition Resource Management Program (IDARM) offers a two-week in-residence course entitled “Principles of Defense Acquisition Management,” at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. This course provides a practical examination of defense acquisition management with an emphasis on acquisition planning, defense procurement, logistics and building and sustaining accountability in defense acquisition decision making. The course addresses the importance of managing risk throughout the defense acquisition life cycle with a focus on the pre-contract award phase during week one and the post-contract award phase during week two. International best practices and global trends are discussed with a tailored focus on specific challenges and opportunities within the Latin American context. At the end of this course, participants will have developed a better understanding of the fundamental concepts and challenges associated with national and global defense acquisition and contract management.

Objectives:
1. Provide course participants with an understanding of the important concepts and challenges associated with defense acquisition and logistics decision making.
2. Examine needs-based requirements planning along with the relationship among national security and military strategies and the acquisition and logistics systems.
3. Assist countries in their efforts to develop and institutionalize transparent, efficient, and effective defense acquisition and logistics systems.

Topics: Topics include the evolution and current state of defense acquisition policies and management practices in a defense environment characterized by civilian control of the military, systems’ acquisition life cycle, strategic planning and implementation, user-producer acquisition management, systems engineering, requirements evaluation and definition, offsets, logistics planning and support, supply chain management, software acquisition, test and evaluation, program planning and organization and e-commerce.

Faculty: The course is taught by resident faculty from the School of International Graduate Studies and Graduate School of Business and Public Policy. Faculty lectures are augmented by presentations from distinguished practitioners who are subject matter experts in various topics within defense acquisition management.

Participants: This course is designed for international military officers and civilian equivalents of grades O4-O6 who are engaged in a broad range of defense acquisition (e.g., policy development, strategic planning, requirements definition, logistics, program management) and/or contract management fields (e.g., materiel planners, requirements developers, end users, contract managers, analysts, tender evaluators, contract negotiators, and source selection decision makers). Countries are encouraged to nominate more than one participant. Early programming is encouraged as the course quota is capped at 25 participants.

Course Dates: The course is offered in March and November (fifth quarter event) of each year. Participants shall plan to arrive at the Monterey Regional Airport (MRY) on the Saturday prior to the course start date and depart on the Saturday after the course end date. This two-week course can be exported and customized given a country’s specific requirements. In-country MASL is P309131.