



59th DEFENSE WORKING GROUP ON NONDESTRUCTIVE TESTING



September 21, 2011

From: Chairperson, Defense Working Group on Nondestructive Testing

To: All Commanders, U.S. Government Agencies and their Nondestructive Testing Representatives

Subject: **INVITATION TO ATTEND THE 59th DEFENSE WORKING GROUP ON NONDESTRUCTIVE TESTING**

1. The 59th Defense Working Group on Nondestructive Testing (DWGNDT) is hosted this year by the United States Army Aviation Logistics School (USAALS), and will be held from December 6 through 9, 2011, at the Kingsmill Conference Center in Williamsburg, VA. Please make reservation early, as the cutoff date is November 4, 2011. This year's meeting will commence with optional training sessions on Monday, December 5, 2011 from 0800-1500, followed by Service Breakout Meetings at 1530.
2. The DWGNDT is an annual meeting of engineers, scientists, technicians and managers from all U.S. Government activities who have the responsibility for development or application of NDT methods in research, engineering, maintenance, and quality assurance. It is hosted alternately by the Army, Navy and Air Force, and has been found to serve as an excellent vehicle for the exchange of information on problem solving and new technology among all activities for 59 years. This exchange is a proven cost effective way of avoiding duplication of effort and providing ready access to all U.S. Government activities the most current information in Nondestructive Testing. Additionally, DWGNDT attendees can obtain training points towards recertification of ASNT Level III and may receive training credit from their Command. It is therefore requested that the widest possible distribution be given to this invitation. Reproduction and dissemination of this invitation is encouraged.
3. The Working Group is restricted to U.S. military, government civilian and government contract personnel under the direct control of a military or government civilian. Photo identification will be required. Non-government organizations, however, which are performing specific NDT/NDI/NDE projects, are invited to present technical and/or problem papers. Typically, non-government presenters are not allowed to attend any other portion of the conference and shall be restricted from the conference area. *However, the full Wednesday session of this year's conference will be open to non-government presenters and other personnel that support DoD NDT.*
4. You are encouraged to take advantage of the training provided this year on Monday. The training topics offered are Phased Array Ultrasonics, Digital Radiography, Eddy Current Array and VT, MT, PT, ET, UT and RT methodologies interrelationships. Course descriptions may be found on the DWGNDT web site.
5. Participation in the Service Breakout Meetings on Monday, December 5 at 1530, provides a prime opportunity to voice your opinions and discuss concerns related to NDT/NDI/NDE within a specific branch of service. Any information pertinent to your branch of service, which you would like to discuss at the breakout sessions, should be brought to the attention of one of the Steering Committee

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representatives for your service. Please refer to our website for the contact information of the Steering Committee members.

6. Problem topics will be accepted in advance and during registration periods. These will be subject to time availability in the agenda. The Steering Committee members will be available to assist with presenting and facilitating problem topic discussions during the meeting times as needed. Assistance with forming follow-on problem solving teams, if necessary, will be provided.

7. Enhanced participation can be gained through membership on the Steering Committee. Being involved in the DWG SC provides a two-year, real world training exercise in program management, in addition to, improved leadership skills by teaming with engineers, scientists, program managers, auditors, and contractors on the SC. Influence NDT decisions made by Armed Forces and DoD technical management, or at least have a "heads-up" of proposed changes. Individuals interested in a nomination for a seat on the Steering Committee may find a complete listing of duties and requirements on our web site at www.dwgndt.org.

8. A \$160.00 registration fee for full conference attendees (\$80.00 registration fee for Wednesday's non-government attendees) will be collected at registration, payable in the form of cash or check or charged to the government travel card through the property at check-in. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged through our website, www.dwgndt.org, which also contains up-to-date information on the Working Group and e-mail links to the Steering Committee members. *Attire for conference sessions is business for civilians, and comparable service uniform is required for military attendees.*

9. It is urged that all levels of management support this event by maximizing participation so that the multiple advantages and benefits of information sharing may be realized. Again, widest possible distribution of this invitation is requested. Hotel reservations must be telephoned directly to the Kingsmill Reservation Department (1-800-832-5665). Be sure to identify yourself as an attendee of the Defense Working Group in order to receive the discounted rates. The property chosen for this year's conference has a room rate slightly above the area Per Diem. The decision was made by the Steering Committee to use this property based on the superior accommodations for both sleeping/dining arrangements as well as conference amenities. The DWGNDDT has negotiated a contractual agreement with the hotel property setting the accommodation rate during the conference, training session, and the Federal Working Group on Industrial Digital Radiography meetings. This negotiated rate falls in line with the requirements of the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) C4552 "Meeting and Convention. In the interest of uniform treatment of employees, whenever a meeting or conference is arranged," and as allowed by appendix R. **The room rate will be Prevailing Government Per Diem + 25% .** Full explanation and justification for this JTR allowance may be found on the DWG web site.

10. On behalf of the entire 59th DWGNDDT Steering Committee, we look forward to seeing you this December in Williamsburg. I am confident that the 59th DWGNDDT will be an outstanding and memorable event.

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Gina Caudill
Chairperson,
59th Defense Working Group on Nondestructive Testing