Welcome!

On behalf of our planning team, I want to WELCOME YOU to sunny Destin, Florida for the 54th Annual Military Libraries Workshop.

While this location is best known for its warm climate, we’ve found the warmth and welcome of its people to far outweigh its winter weather. We hope that you will find the same inviting spirit in this workshop.

We’ve gathered together librarians and information professionals from across the nation and representatives from nearly fifty companies who provide the information and services that enable us to support our customers—Service Men and Women, civilians, and family members living, working, and fighting around the world. We hope that you will take time to talk to and learn from each other. It is these person-to-person conversations that form the building blocks of our theme for the week—“Communication is Your Combat Power.”

For the first time in history, MLW 2010 does not have a host library. Instead, we formed an inter-service planning team to represent all aspects of the Military Libraries Division membership—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, DOD, contractors, vendors, and even federal librarians. In keeping with our communication theme, we’ve met virtually for the past two years, planning the workshop through web- and teleconferences, e-mail, collaborative wiki workspaces. We’ve established communication outlets on Facebook and Twitter as well as capitalizing on the existing MLD Website, blog, listserv, and newsletter to collect information that we used for planning as well as to share information with potential workshop attendees. We hope that you will take advantage of these communication outlets to share your thoughts and opinions about the speakers, sessions, and conference as a whole for your colleagues who could not be here to share it with you as well as with us so that we can improve on this experience when planning future workshops.

Our goal this year was to provide workshop attendees with a toolkit of communication ideas and strategies that they could take home and put to work in their own libraries. To do this, we worked hard to balance the “external experts” that we brought in to provide new ideas with “practical application” speakers who could provide examples of how they had put these ideas to work. We also wanted to make the workshop more interactive, so we encourage you to ask questions, participate in activities, share your thoughts, and be a part of the discussion that takes place here. We also hope that you will take this discussion home with you, share with your colleagues, and teach and practice what you’ve learned.

We have two initiatives this year that reach beyond our conference program. The first of these is to be GREEN—reducing, reusing, and recycling wherever possible. In keeping with green initiatives started by SLA, our parent organization, and the MLW 2008 planning team, we’ve sought to use technology to our advantage, conserve paper and trees, and reduce waste in all forms. In addition to being good stewards of our planet and its’ natural resources, we worked hard to be responsible about our spending as well as considerate of people’s time.

Our second initiative is to promote WELLNESS. We are taking this opportunity to communicate messages about fitness originating from the Office of the President, the Air Force, and other services, supported by individual installations such as Hurlburt Field and companies such as IEEE. We hope that this week, you will begin to view fitness as a fun activity by walking around the hotel property or along the beach with friends. We’ve also tried to provide healthier food choices and to bring greater awareness to the role that food plays in our health and overall wellness.

We hope that you will be inspired by the speakers that you hear and encouraged to try some of the new ideas that you learn from them. We are confident that you will meet new friends, renew old acquaintances, and make memories that you will cherish for years to come. We have had fun planning this workshop and sincerely hope that you will enjoy participating in this communication-enhancing experience with us.