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16. I have heard there is a U.S. defense organization known as DCASMA located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. What is it? Do I contract through it? Can it help me in contracting with Canadian companies?

It has been mutually agreed that the economic efforts of the U.S. and Canada be co-ordinated for the common defense and that production and resources of both countries be used for the best combined results. This objective was stated by the President in 1950 and is amplified in a Department of Defense Directive entitled "Defense Economic Co-operation with Canada." A special section of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) guides defense contracting practices in Canada. The U.S. and Canadian governments have established procedures and waived certain procurement rules to enable U.S. contracting officers to use the Canadian Government Procurement System by contracting with the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC). Contract management in Canada was therefore established by the Defense Logistics Agency's only out-of-country Defense Contract Administration Services Management Area (DCASMA).

Most of the functions of contract administration found in FAR 42.302 are performed by DCASMA Ottawa staff. Since a CCC contract with the Canadian firm is a Canadian government instrument, DCASMA Ottawa personnel must be aware of both U.S. and Canadian government contracting systems and their differences. They further deal with their counterparts in the Canadian Department of Supply and Services as well as the supplier of the goods or service.