Office of the Under Secretary of Defense
Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

BIOGRAPHY

Gary R. Bliss

Gary R. Bliss is the Director, Performance Assessments and Root Cause Analyses (PARCA) in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Acquisition. PARCA carries out performance assessments of Major Defense Acquisitions Programs (MDAPs) and conducts root cause analyses for MDAPs with Nunn-McCurdy breach status or when requested by senior DoD officials.

This office was created by the 2009 Acquisition Reform Act and also issues policies, procedures, and guidance governing the conduct of performance assessments and root cause analyses by the military departments and the Defense Agencies. Furthermore, the office evaluates the utility of performance metrics used to measure the cost, schedule, and performance of major defense acquisition programs and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Bliss previously held the position of Deputy Director, Enterprise Information and OSD Studies in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. His responsibilities included oversight of the five OSD-funded Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), the OSD's university research program, as well as review and development of innovations to overhaul the AT&L enterprise management systems.

He is perhaps best known from his 13 year tenure as the Director of OD(PAE) Weapon System Cost Analysis Division (WSCAD). WSCAD's ten staff members constitute one of the two offices dedicated to OSD Cost Analysis Improvement Group (CAIG) functions, and responsible for the preparation of independent development and procurement cost estimates for major systems that range from munitions (e.g., tactical missiles) through platforms (e.g., helicopters, submarines, fighter aircraft, tanks, etc.). As such, Mr. Bliss has been a key player in DoD's most important system decisions by the Services, OSD, and the Congress.

Generally recognized in both industry and government as a leading authority on the economics of defense procurement, Mr. Bliss has also an established track record in institutional reform/reengineering. He is often asked to speak to varied audience on these topics, to include:

- Management information system governance and reengineering;
- Manufacturing enterprise reengineering; and
- Acquisition institutional reform.

Gary has a BA, Mathematics and Economics (Highest Honors in Economics) from College of William and Mary and done PhD graduate work at School of Business, University of Chicago.