

From the Army Acquisition Executive Empowering the Warfighter Through Technology



This issue showcases the magnificent work being done by our program executive offices to provide warfighters with world-class weapon systems and equipment for increased lethality, situational awareness, and survivability. From the success of our Soldier-as-a-System approach, to the development and fielding of individual equipment, to the Future Combat Systems integrated System-of-Systems Engineering construct for synchronizing multiple weapon systems platforms with networked operations, to the acquisition of conventional ammunition for all military services, to the use of smoke in urban warfare that gives our warfighters critical seconds of virtual invisibility from the enemy, to the outstanding readiness rates of our aviation fleet and more, you will read firsthand about the extraordinary accomplishments and dedication to duty of the Army Acquisition Corps and the greater Army Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (AL&T) Workforce who directly support our men and women in uniform around the world and around the clock.

We are the Army Acquisition Enterprise with a portfolio of fewer than 43,000 military and civilian workforce members who manage roughly 25 percent of the U.S. Army's budget and more than 650 programs. We are proud of our mission to equip and sustain the world's most capable, powerful, and respected Army. This mission requires a highly skilled workforce capable of developing, acquiring, fielding, and sustaining the equipment our Soldiers depend upon. It also requires working closely with numerous combatant command headquarters, the Army Materiel Command, and our industry partners to leverage critical domestic and foreign technologies, now in existence or development — all with the support of Congress and the American people.

Technological superiority continues to be a cornerstone of our military strategy. Many of the systems in use today were developed long before the war on terror began, but are being upgraded with new technologies to meet emerging requirements. For example, a new variant of the Hellfire missile, known as the K2A, was developed and fielded to meet an urgent operational requirement and there are other examples in this issue. Clearly, our warfighters today are benefiting from past investments in cutting-edge technologies. We must continue to invest wisely in science and technology (S&T) to provide our current and future warfighters with unprecedented capabilities.

Supporting an Army at war is critical, both tactically and strategically. From a tactical standpoint, we are providing the weapon systems and

equipment that our warfighters need to succeed in their current missions. As we meet our ongoing requirements, we are looking to the future to support an Army at war from a strategic standpoint. We are taking the lessons we're learning in *Operations Enduring* and *Iraqi Freedom* and putting in place a plan to meet future requirements better and faster. Our goal is to compress the concept-to-combat cycle significantly to meet the immediate and future needs of our warfighters as rapidly as possible.

Last July, we held a summit attended by our program executive officers and our deputy assistant secretaries within the AL&T community where we examined our many tactical and strategic challenges. It was a 1-day event focused on the expanse of the Army Acquisition Enterprise and the esprit de corps that we share as a team with a common mission and vision. We highlighted achievements in S&T and key acquisition programs; discussed the need for adequate resources, program stability, and business transformation; and reviewed achievements in acquisition policy and logistics, contracting, and acquisition career management. We are on a path forward of continual process improvement where quick acquisition decisions will enable us to meet the urgent needs of our warfighters and create a leaner enterprise, which will require fewer resources spent on overhead and more on the operational needs of our men and women in uniform.

We are changing the way we do business. We are transforming the business processes and functions to better support our forces — improving both effectiveness and efficiencies. Just as the Army is applying the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader development, personnel, and facilities construct to determine appropriate adjustments to its operational capabilities, we are applying this same construct to our institutional processes that govern acquisition to enable us to evolve on pace with the warfighters we support. The scope of this effort is immense. Our goal, as stated earlier, is to free human and financial resources for more compelling operational needs. Realizing this goal depends on improving processes, developing tools to enhance enterprise-wide situational awareness and decision making, and reducing organizational redundancy and overhead.

We always remember that we work for our warfighters. Their success is our success. On behalf of the entire Army Acquisition Enterprise, I hope you will enjoy reading about our efforts to ensure their success in all missions.

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