We're on the Web: www.ar.navy.mil

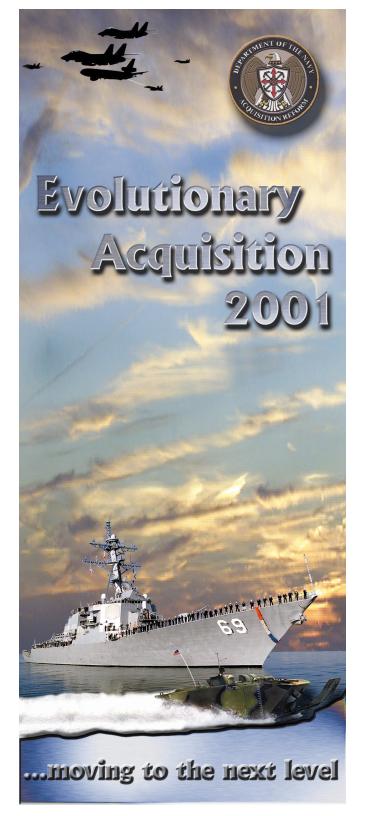




Navy Acquisition Reform Office

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A Message from the Acquisition Reform Executive

The DON Acquisition Reform Office's mission is to help acquisition program managers acquire weapons better, smarter, faster and cheaper. As a corporate Navy we simply have to acquire our weapons systems BETTER. We all know the Department has to do more with less in today's environment. So we have to continue to find ways for the Acquisition Community to meet its objectives with less demand on our internal resources. We must also acquire our weapon systems SMARTER. Today our technology gives us a unique opportunity to share knowledge and information like never before. Now every member of the Acquisition Workforce can benefit from the experiences and lessons of the entire community. This sharing is crucial if we are to implement the best acquisition practices across the corporation. Acquiring our weapon systems FASTER is another primary focus. Cycle time and program costs are inextricably linked. So we will continue to challenge the traditional system and find ways to reduce the time it takes to get a weapon system into the warfighter's hands. Finally, we have to acquire our weapons systems CHEAPER. Budget realities as well as good fiscal accountability have made us rethink the way to acquire weapon systems. We have taught Program Managers to think about more than just acquisition costs. We now think about the Total Ownership Costs. The realities of today force the acquisition community to act more and more like a business. By working BETTER, SMARTER, FASTER and CHEAPER, we can manage within today's shrinking budgets while meeting the warfighter's expanding needs.

ACQUISITION REFORM PROGRAMS

The Acquisition Reform Office has many on-going programs structured to meet to-day's challenges.

BETTER

DON's workforce has been reduced by 50% over the past ten years. As a result, our remaining workforce continues to take on new responsibilities. Working *better* involves assisting program managers to reduce reporting requirements, implement AR, reduce paper-



work and remove regulatory barriers to effective acquisition.

The *Program*Assist Visit is an ARO outreach strategy

based on partnering with acquisition program teams on a non-attribution basis to implement key acquisition reform initiatives and provide assistance through Subject Matter Experts.

ACQUISITION REFORM PROGRAMS

SMARTER

Businesses everywhere are grappling with information overload. DON also struggles to manage knowledge and information. Working *smarter* involves training an efficient and effective cadre of acquisition professionals to share, update, and retain corporate knowledge. Working smarter also means reducing military unique requirements and promoting commercial standards.

The ARO is developing an Acquisition Knowledge Management System (KMS). A KMS enables an enterprise to "know what it knows" by bringing information, tools, lessons learned, and best practices together. The TOC Knowledge Share Space represents the DON's pilot program for the overall OSD initiative.

ARO's Communication and Outreach Team enhances the acquisition workforce's knowledge by sharing information on all of the department's reform initiatives and by publishing commercial and government best practices and lessons learned.

The ARO Web Site provides a forum for communicating with every acquisition worker.

CHEAPER

Budget reductions, as well as good stewardship, compel DON to control weapon systems costs. Working *cheaper* involves implementing cost management initiatives, reducing the total ownership cost of systems, and giving program managers more insight into the costs of their programs.

ARO works with various acquisition programs to implement Activity-Based Cost Management and Earned Value Management in their programs. These value tools along with others are used by ARO to educate program managers in Reduction of Total Ownership Costs.

FASTER

Unduly long acquisition schedules threaten the effectiveness of weapon systems and dramatically increase program costs. Working *faster* involves accelerating Acquisition Reform, promoting initiatives to reduce cycle time, improving the efficiency of internal processes, and incorporating government and industry Best Practices.

ARO's Site Visits offer the opportunity for senior managers to learn more about our AR Goals and Initiatives.

Breakout Sessions, another new concept, offers

the opportunity for the acquisition community to bring Subject Matter Experts to their door. Each year the ARO offers a set of training or discussion topics such as Knowledge Management; Logistics Reform: Risk Management; DoD 5000 Rewrite; Total Ownership Costs; Department of the Navy Acquisition Reform; and Reverse Auctioning. The sessions are tailored to the participants' needs.

The ARO also develops and distributes Acquisition Tools to provide the DON acquisition workforce with just-in-time access to an exhaustive repository of knowledge on the application of AR initiatives, strategies, and best practices. The tools are available on the ARO website: www.ar.navy.mil.

ARO Cycle Time Reduction efforts were focused on ensuring that Program Managers understood the relationship between cycle time and program cost and on developing tools and techniques to allow program managers to meet OSD goals for cycle time reduction.

ARO's Simulation Based Acquisition Team has identified and investigated over 30 SBA-related initiatives and proposed a distributed, collaborative effort to achieve integration of these enablers. ARO has effectively advocated this approach as an implementation strategy for DOD.



Since 1994 the Department of Defense has been changing its acquisition paradigm, largely focusing on expanding the use of commercial products and practices. Over the past six years, the Department has accomplished much under MilSpec Reform:

- Cancelled 9600 military specifications and standards.
- Inactivated 8100 military specifications and standards and only retained those necessary for legacy systems.
- Transformed requirements documents to more non-government standards, commercial item descriptions and performance specifications.
- Over 13,000 defense personnel have been trained in the new ways of developing and applying specifications and standards.

