DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
ACQUISITION REFORM OFFICE

Acquisition Reform Week V
22–26 May 2000

Survey Results

1.0   Executive Summary

The Acquisition Reform (AR) survey is an annual survey administered by the Acquisition Reform Office (ARO), an office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition ASN(RD&A). The survey, now in its fifth consecutive year, was first introduced in 1996. The objective of this instrument is three-fold: to solicit feedback on the effectiveness of Acquisition Reform, to gather recommendations and identify barriers to the acquisition process, and to obtain input on new AR initiatives and potential training areas.

The 2000 AR survey was administered over six weeks and coincided with Acquisition and Logistics Reform (A&LR) Week, scheduled for 22-26 May 2000. The ARO and the Navy Systems Commands (SYSCOMs) distributed the questionnaire through electronic and hard copy means from May 15 to June 30. A total of 2,111 responses were received from the acquisition workforce; a 10% increase from 1999. The survey contains a total of 12 questions.

Question Summary:

- Questions 1 through 7 measured the effectiveness of acquisition reform in daily work performance and its impact on the acquisition process. Specifically, the questions ask if the workforce feels better equipped to perform in their acquisition position and the effect AR has had on routine duties. The survey also asks if AR has improved the acquisition of products, services, and the overall acquisition process; if teams are improving the acquisition process; and the degree of personal participation in the establishment or implementation of AR initiatives.

- Questions 8 and 9 identified areas requiring assistance or guidance and barriers to implementing AR.
- Questions 10 through 12 requested demographic information, including organization, functional area, and years of acquisition experience.

Summary of Results:

- Overall, the results seem to indicate that acquisition reform continues to positively affect the acquisition process and daily work performance. The results also positively indicate that certain reform practices, such as the use of teams, are now an integral part of daily work and are no longer considered unique business practices.
- The findings also indicate that red tape and amount of paperwork continues to be an area requiring assistance and the largest barrier to implementing acquisition reform. The 1999 survey first indicated that this topic requires attention.
- The results also show an increased participation among several SYSCOMs and greater representation from the engineering community.

The results of the 2000 AR survey indicate that the acquisition workforce is still involved and interested in the implementation of acquisition reform, however; it does not measure the effectiveness of specific AR initiatives and only seeks to measure AR in very general terms. As a result, subsequent surveys will focus on specific AR initiatives and tangible measurements in order to isolate the reform initiatives that require the most attention and have the greatest impact on the DON community.