

## DCMA ENGINEERING AND ANALYSIS DIRECTORATE TO IMPROVE ACQUISITION PROCESSES

By Michael D. Kaplun, Staff Writer

In May 2009, Congress enacted the *Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009*, establishing a Department of Defense Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation. The DoD evaluation, which seeks to improve acquisition program cost estimation and analysis, paved the way for the new Defense Contract Management Agency Engineering and Analysis Directorate.

DCMA's new directorate began operation Dec. 6, 2009. The new department is following an agency-wide vision: to provide predictive analysis capabilities to DCMA's customers, enabling the acquisition enterprise to achieve its objectives. This vision strives to improve acquisition support of technical and software analysis while creating a separate agency entity in the following disciplines: systems engineering, software engineering, supply chain management, manufacturing engineering, industrial analysis, earned value management and program integration. The directorate will primarily be located at Fort Lee,

Va., but will have employees distributed across the U.S.

Serving as the department's executive director is Gordon Kranz, who most recently was the director of systems and software engineering on the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology staff. "Mr. Kranz comes to us with an exceptionally impressive engineering background," remarked DCMA Director Charlie Williams, Jr. "He and his team will be setting the course for the many initiatives we have planned to help us provide enhanced customer support."

With 26 years of defense acquisition experience, Kranz provides the agency with strong technical leadership. "As executive director, it is my vision to foster an integrated technical and analytical workforce by leveraging existing DCMA capabilities," he stated. "The DCMA Headquarters role is to support the field by providing policy, training and tools to enable the field to more easily do their jobs."

According to Kranz, the acquisition reform act opened



Gordon Kranz, Defense Contract Management Agency Engineering and Analysis directorate (DCMA photo)

the door for DCMA to make a larger, acquisition enterprise-wide impact. "Through DCMA's large engineering footprint, the agency is uniquely positioned to positively affect the improvement of acquisition execution by providing integrated, proactive risk assessments to the acquisition decision hierarchy," he remarked.

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To achieve these improvements, Williams and Kranz have set out specific directorate objectives:

- Provide the DCMA engineering and analytical workforce with the policy, training and tools required to accomplish all agency disciplines.
- Provide engineering and analytical support to the DoD acquisition enterprise by facilitating effective execution of earned value and industrial base analysis and by arming the engineering staff within the contract management offices with the resources and skill sets for success.
- Manage and ensure the DCMA engineering and analytical workforce's competency and structure.
- Provide the agency's interface with the Office of the Secretary of Defense on policies, procedures and other executive decisions for strategic changes in engineering and analytical competencies.
- Ensure integration of surveillance activities and the production, presentation and continuous improvement of the respective analytical information, including the agency's performance indicators.
- Perform as the DoD executive agent for EVM.
- Accomplish industrial analysis in accordance with DoD requirements.

To help achieve these objectives, Kranz and his teams will use their expertise to leverage what the field does best and further develop the workforce's capabilities to

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predict acquisition inefficiencies and problems before they occur. "Ultimately, the DCMA Engineering and Analysis Directorate is here to position the field for success," Kranz affirmed. "This will be

accomplished through focusing on increasing DCMA's ability to provide an integrated technical picture to ensure DoD programs are on the right path to continue helping our warfighters." 🟡



Gordon Kranz, left, Defense Contract Management Agency Engineering and Analysis Directorate, looks over papers with Nathan Scoggin, DCMA aerospace engineer, at DCMA headquarters Feb. 19. (Photo by Will McCoy)