

ITEA T&E Forum

Topic: Revisiting the Acquisition T&E Function ...part program management, systems engineering, financial management, and contracting...and gaining an understanding of its role within AAC program offices in light of the latest guidance from USD(AT&L).

Background: The composition of the T&E workforce within munitions system program offices (SPOs) at Eglin AFB has been changed quite dynamically over the last 30 years. During these years, support for the T&E function within Air Armament Center SPOs has been realigned from a Center T&E functional office, to the 46TW, then to AAC/EN, and now to AAC/AQ. A Center Test Authority (CTA) office was established within the Test Wing in 2004 and has also moved through AAC/EN to its current location in AAC/AQ (AQT). In 2009, the 46TW and AAC/EB (then 308th ARSW) agreed to co-locate an experienced TW person within each of the six EB Divisions. Called Group Lead Testers (GLT), these positions remain in force today.

Current Environment: In an 25 August 2010 memorandum, the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics stated, “ ...the Department is to ensure selected positions assigned to Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs) ...are performed by a properly qualified member of the Armed Forces or full-time employee of the Department of Defense by October 16, 2011. The Department’s implementation strategy includes establishment of Key Leadership Positions (KLPs) that have a significant level of responsibility and authority and are key to the success of a program or effort.” For Acquisition Category 1 and 1A MDAPs, the Program Lead for Test and Evaluation was identified as one of these KLPs. Legislation proposed by the Senate Armed Services Committee in June 2011 (S1253) calls for MDAP program managers to be supported by a Chief Developmental Tester and a Lead Developmental Test and Evaluation organization.

Panel Discussion:

A panel of experts from AAC will lead a discussion addressing the following topics that arise from this new USD (AT&L) guidance and the proposed Senate legislation:

- 1) Role and responsibilities of the acquisition T&E KLP within a MDAP Program Office?
- 2) Identification process for acquisition T&E KLP for MDAP Program?
- 3) Required experience-base for individuals assigned to an acquisition T&E KLP?
- 4) Center functional support for Acquisition T&E KLPs?
- 5) Placement and appropriate role for the Center Test Authority (CTA) Office?
- 6) Future role of the TW’s Group Lead Testers and their relationship to program T&E Leads?

Panel Members:

- 1) Col Jason Denny, Senior Materiel Leader, Air Dominance Division (AAC/EBA)
- 2) Mr Reuben Manasco, GM-15, Chief, Acquisition Excellence (AAC/AQ)
- 3) Mr Russell Klug, GM-15, Technical Director, Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP)
- 4) Col Carl Schaefer, Commander, 46 Operations Group (46OG/CC)

Moderator: Mr. Dale Bridges, 46TW/XP

Location: Eglin's Bayview Club

Date/Time: 9 November 2011/1400-1600 (Social hour following program)

Sponsors: ITEA Emerald Coast Chapter and the Jacobs TEAS Team