

Defense Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics **PROFESSIONAL** **READING PROGRAM**

Reading gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others. It is one of the keys to the already solved problems, and gives facility for pursuing the unsolved ones.

—Abraham Lincoln

Welcome to the Defense Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (AT&L) Professional Reading Program. The objective of the reading program is to provide members of the AT&L workforce with ideas and insights of thought leaders throughout the ages, with the expectation that this will stimulate new ideas and innovations within our own domain, and will ultimately lead to improved acquisition outcomes.

We encourage our readers to submit reviews of books they believe should be required reading for the defense acquisition professional. The proposed books should be of general interest to the defense acquisition community. The reviews should be 500 words or fewer, describe the book and its major ideas, and explain why it is relevant to defense acquisition. Please send your reviews to the managing editor, *Defense Acquisition Research Journal* (DefenseARJ@dau.mil).



Remarks from Senior Leadership



**The Honorable Frank Kendall
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition,
Technology, and Logistics**

In keeping with our initiatives to improve the professionalism of the total acquisition workforce, I am pleased to announce the creation of the Defense Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Professional Reading Program. Recognizing that creating and maintaining high professional standards requires the development of strategic and critical thinking, the Reading Program is designed to help prepare both key leaders and rising leaders for the challenges ahead, by looking at the history, politics, and culture that have shaped defense acquisition. It is intended to supplement the hands-on experience, education, and training required of our total acquisition workforce. Your participation in the Defense AT&L Professional Reading Program will help foster the culture of excellence, responsibility, integrity, and accountability that has always been demanded, and always demonstrated.



**Mr. James P. Woolsey
President, Defense Acquisition
University**

Defense acquisition has always been a dynamic process, and the Defense Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Professional Reading Program is dynamic as well. The books in the program have been selected by key leaders in the defense acquisition community to help inform and shape the strategic and critical thinking of our workforce; this list will change over time as new works become available, and older ones merit revisiting. The following Guide to the Defense AT&L Professional Reading Program will help you get started and explain how to engage with the books and with one another. Most of all, we encourage you to bring what you have learned and recognized into your defense acquisition experience.

Guide to the Defense Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Professional Reading Program

As a defense acquisition professional, you have selected a challenging profession of the highest calling. While hands-on experience, training, and education are vital for the development of key acquisition leaders, so too is self-paced reading and study. A program of independent reading deepens our understanding and helps develop the strategic and critical thinking skills that are the hallmark of the acquisition professional. In short, the Defense Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Professional Reading Program helps equip us to better address the future.

The Program is divided into two main categories: readings for all AT&L professionals and readings by career field.

The first category contains readings that enhance our understanding of the origins of defense acquisition and its current trends, as well as readings that are focused on best practices and lessons learned in the areas of: affordability and cost; industrial productivity and innovation; government productivity and innovation; and defense acquisition professionalism and leadership.

The second category contains readings that broaden our vision of acquisition career fields, broadly divided in three domains: Management (e.g., program management), Corporate (e.g., business and auditing), and Technical (e.g., engineering).

These lists are further divided in two parts: books suggested for key leaders, providing advanced concepts and ideas; and books suggested for rising leaders, which provide a solid grounding in the fundamentals of the fields.

Each of these books is described with a summary and a book review, and where available, podcasts and multimedia. A blog and discussion space are available for members of the defense acquisition community to engage with one another about the book and its concepts at: <http://dau.dodlive.mil>.

These works have been selected from the professional reading list published in the *Defense Acquisition Research Journal*, reading lists of DAU executive programs, and by senior acquisition leadership. They serve as a guide to the many topics worthy of professional consideration and discussion.

The appearance of a title on this reading list does not imply that AT&L endorses the author's views or interpretations. Nevertheless, these books contain thought-provoking ideas and viewpoints relevant to our acquisition profession.