

STRATEGIC CHOICE: Pressing On to Strengthen the Acquisition Workforce

*A Message from the Acting Director,
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This edition is dedicated to the Defense Acquisition Workforce. We highlight the Defense Acquisition Workforce 2010 team and individual award winners along with examples across the Department of Defense (DoD) of local achievements to recruit, hire, and strengthen the workforce. The importance of a right-sized, high-quality, high-performing Defense Acquisition Workforce cannot be overstated. On March 4, 2009, President Obama signed a memorandum, "Government Contracting," with a mandate for the federal government to have sufficient capacity to manage and oversee its contracting process. On April 6, 2009, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced his intent to restore the acquisition workforce by 2015. Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (USD[AT&L]) Dr. Ashton B. Carter and senior acquisition leaders are on track to hire about 10,000 new acquisition civilians by 2015, and have added 3,000 more to ensure government employees are performing inherently governmental, critical need, and other functions demonstrating cost savings if performed by federal employees. Workforce growth includes strengthening acquisition's technical workforce and rebuilding the contracting, pricing, contract management (Defense Contract Management Agency), and audit (Defense Contract Audit Agency) workforce. To date, the department has achieved over 7,400 hires as part of its human capital plan.¹ The President's FY 2012 budget request would allow DoD to continue its workforce growth initiative. A capable, qualified, and appropriately sized Defense Acquisition Workforce will be key to achieving DoD efficiency and better buying power objectives, and providing the warfighter with world-class capability.



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¹ Carter, Ashton B. (2010). *DoD Strategic Human Capital Plan Update-The Defense Acquisition Workforce* (Appendix 1). Retrieved from <https://acc.dau.mil/adl/en-US/364255/file/50222/DAW%20Report%20To%20Congress.pdf>.