

AT&L Workforce—Key Leadership Changes

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & ACQUISITION

John S. Thackrah assumed the duties of acting assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development, and acquisition on Nov. 16, 2007. As the acting ASN(RD&A), Thackrah will continue to perform his regular duties as deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for management and budget. In this capacity, he is responsible for over \$50 billion annually of research, development and acquisition activities and over 100,000 people.

Thackrah was sworn in as deputy assistant secretary for management and budget on April 18, 2005. In this position, he was responsible to the assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition for all administrative matters, annual budget preparation, and human resource management. He also served as the chief of staff to the assistant secretary of the Navy.

The ASN(RD&A) organization is responsible for the development and acquisition of Navy and Marine Corps platforms and warfare systems. The organization consists of an immediate staff to the assistant secretary, deputy assistant secretaries, program executive officers, direct reporting program managers, and the Naval systems commands and their field activities. The PEOs and DRPMs are responsible for the development and acquisition of Naval systems. The Naval systems commands and their field activities are also responsible for systems acquisition and supporting those systems in the operating fleet.

NAVY NEWSSTAND (DEC. 3, 2007) ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND FOR PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

Rear Adm. Michael McMahon assumed command as program executive officer, aircraft carriers during a ceremony held at the Washington Navy Yard Dec. 3. Based in Washington, D.C., PEO aircraft carriers is responsible for designing, delivering, and maintaining the nation's aircraft carrier force.

"I couldn't be more excited that Rear Adm. McMahon has joined the acquisition community; his background makes him uniquely qualified to guide the aircraft carrier program through its upcoming challenges," said John Thackrah, acting assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition (RD&A), the ceremony's guest speaker.

"We have quite the undertaking ahead of us—the contract award for CVN 78, Gerald R. Ford, the first of the next generation of aircraft carriers; the delivery of CVN 77, George H.W. Bush; and the continued execution of CVN 70's Refueling Complex Overhaul as well as the continued planning for CVN 71s," he said.

During the ceremony McMahon read his orders, marking the beginning of his assignment as PEO Aircraft Carriers. McMahon's most recent assignment was supervisor of U.S. Navy Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, Newport News, Va., responsible for the U. S. Navy's aircraft carrier and submarine ship construction, refueling, and repair programs at Northrop Grumman Newport News.

"Thanks to you all for the support, and I look forward to supporting you moving carriers forward," said McMahon. "I've been either in or working in aircraft carriers for most of my 28 years of Navy service and I'm very glad to be here today to continue to serve."

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY PRESS RELEASE (JAN. 25, 2008) CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.—The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is kicking off the new year with a major change in leadership. Conrad Whyne officially replaced Dale Ormond as the new director of CMA Jan. 25.

Ormond has served as acting CMA director since January 2007. Throughout this time, CMA has achieved many milestones—commencement of Newport, Ind., hydrolytate shipments to Port Arthur, Texas; reaching the Chemical Weapons Convention's 45 percent agent destruction milestone; and the elimination of binary chemical weapons in the United States.

"I am proud of the CMA workforce and their commitment to safe and efficient disposal over the past year," said Ormond. "Without the dedication of our government and contractor employees, my job—as well as daily CMA operations—would not have gone as smoothly. Whyne brings more than 20 years of experience and leadership to this position, and I am confident that he will succeed in leading CMA through many more crucial milestones."

As the incoming director of CMA, Whyne will ensure continued secure storage and safe destruction of chemical weapons materiel, manage the closure of the demilitarization facilities, oversee Chemical Stockpile Emergency

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Preparedness programs and plan for Base Realignment and Closure requirements.

Accepting his new position, Whyne said, “I am honored to lead the committed men and women of CMA. In my 24 years working for CMA, I have witnessed the unflinching dedication of these individuals to safely storing and ultimately eliminating our former chemical warfare program. I look forward to upholding CMA’s remarkable safety and environmental standards.”

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR ACQUISITION, LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY

Dean G. Pops became the acting assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology (ASA[ALT]) on Jan. 3, 2008. He also continues to serve as the principal deputy, a position to which he was appointed on July 24, 2004.

As the acting ASA(ALT), Pops serves as the Army acquisition executive, the senior procurement executive, the science advisor to the secretary of the Army, and the Army’s senior research and development official. He also has principal responsibility for all Department of the Army matters related to logistics.

Pops leads the execution of the Army’s acquisition function and the acquisition management system. His responsibilities include providing oversight for the life cycle management and sustainment of Army weapons systems and equipment from research and development through test and evaluation, acquisition, logistics, fielding, and disposition. Pops also oversees the elimination of chemical weapons program. In addition, he is responsible for appointing, managing, and evaluating program executive officers and managing the Army Acquisition Corps and the Army Acquisition Workforce.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JAN. 11, 2008) GENERAL OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS

The Air Force chief of staff announces the assignments of the following general officers:

Brig. Gen. Peter F. Hoene, commander, 350th Electronic Systems Wing, Electronic Systems Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., to director, command and control programs, Defense Information Systems Agency, Arlington, Va.

Brig. Gen. Everett H. Thomas, vice commander, U.S. Air Force Warfare Center, Air Combat Command, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., to commander, Nuclear Weapons Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

GAO PRESS RELEASE (FEB. 15, 2008) DAVID M. WALKER, U.S. COMPTROLLER GENERAL, ANNOUNCES EARLY DEPARTURE TO HEAD NEW PUBLIC INTEREST FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.—David M. Walker, comptroller general of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office announced his intention to resign his position effective March 12, 2008, in order to accept the position of president and chief executive officer of the newly established Peter G. Peterson Foundation.

Walker has been comptroller general of the United States since November 1998. During his tenure, the GAO has undergone a major transformation during which the agency’s role has expanded while its visibility, viability, and performance have improved significantly. In addition to leading this effort, Walker has worked to modernize the accountability profession both domestically and internationally. He has also been an outspoken advocate of the need for federal policymakers to address the fiscal and other key sustainability challenges and government transformation needs facing the United States.

The Peterson Foundation will be dedicated to engaging in various actions designed to educate and activate Americans, especially younger Americans, the business community, and the media, while also seeking and supporting sensible policy solutions to a range of sustainability and transformation challenges. Peterson has committed to contribute at least \$1 billion to the foundation and related efforts over the next several years.

Walker noted that his decision was motivated by his desire to maximize his ability to make a real and lasting difference to address the fiscal, entitlement, health care, energy, education, and other major sustainability challenges facing the United States.

“As comptroller general of the United States and head of the GAO, there are real limitations on what I can do and say in connection with key public policy issues, especially issues that directly relate to GAO’s client—the Congress,” Walker continued. “My new position will provide me with the ability and resources to more aggressively address

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a range of current and emerging challenges facing our country, including advocating specific policy solutions and courses of action. This move will enable me to sharpen my messages and bring focus and attention to the fiscal and other key sustainability challenges that I and others have been discussing during the past several years.

“This was a very difficult decision for me,” said Walker. “It is an honor and a privilege to serve as comptroller general of the United States and head of the GAO. GAO is comprised of several thousand highly educated and dedicated professionals who make a difference for the Congress and the country every day. I take comfort in knowing that we have already accomplished all but one of the key goals that I set out at the beginning of my term, and that GAO is better positioned for the future. My new position will help increase the probability that we can achieve the remaining key goal: getting Congress to address the nation’s large and growing fiscal and other key sustainability challenges before a crisis hits.

“Furthermore, I am pleased that Gene Dodaro, GAO’s Chief Operating Officer and one of the most capable career civil servants in the federal government, will serve as acting comptroller general upon my departure. In the final analysis, while I love both my job as comptroller general and the GAO, I love my country more, and I believe that leading this foundation represents a unique opportunity and will be good for my country,” Walker concluded.

For more information, contact Chuck Young at GAO’s Office of Public Affairs, 202-512-4800.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (FEB. 13, 2008) FLAG OFFICER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced today that the president has made the following nominations:

Navy Reserve Rear Adm. Julius S. Caesar has been nominated for appointment to the grade of rear admiral (upper half). Caesar is currently serving as reserve deputy commander, Naval Installations Command, Washington, D.C.

Navy Reserve Rear Adm. Raymond P. English has been nominated for appointment to the grade of rear admiral (upper half). English is currently serving as deputy director of operations, U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (FEB. 13, 2008) FLAG OFFICER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced today that the president has made the following nominations:

Navy Rear Adm. Timothy V. Flynn III has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (upper half). Flynn is currently serving as program executive officer for enterprise information systems, Washington, D.C.

Navy Rear Adm. William H. Hilarides has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral. Hilarides is currently serving as program executive officer for submarines, Washington, D.C.

Navy Rear Adm. Victor C. See Jr. has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (upper half). See is currently serving as program executive officer for space systems/ commander, space and naval warfare systems command space field activity/director, communications directorate, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.

Navy Rear Adm. Walter M. Skinner has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (upper half). Skinner is currently serving as program executive officer for tactical aircraft programs, Patuxent River, Md.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (FEB. 21, 2008) GENERAL OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS

The Army chief of staff announces the assignment of the following general officers:

Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, deputy chief of staff, G-4, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, to commanding general, 21st Theater Support Command, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

Brig. Gen. Scott G. West, commanding general, 21st Theater Support Command, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, to commanding general, U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, Warren, Mich.