The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

IMPROVING DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE CAPABILITY IN DATA USE

Virtual Workshop Agenda

Webcast availability: https://bit.ly/2xFW0PT
Registration: https://acquisitiondatause.eventbrite.com/

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome Remarks and Introduction

- Dr. Tyler Kloefkorn and Dr. Lida Beninson, Co-study Directors
- Lieutenant General Wendy Masiello and Dr. Rebecca Nugent, Co-study Chairs

10:15 – 10:45 Opening Remarks

- Mr. Mark Krzysko, Principal Deputy Director, Acquisition Policy and Analytics
- Mr. David Cadman, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Acquisition Enablers
- Mr. Michael Conlin, Chief Data Officer, US Department of Defense

10:45 – 10:50 Break

10:50 – 12:00 Panel 1 – Data Use for Defense Acquisition

Objective: Identify priority areas where improving workforce capabilities in data analytics would be useful in the acquisition process.

- Mr. Gary Bliss, Staff Research Member, Cost Analysis Research Division, Institute for Defense Analysis
- Ms. Jennifer Bowles, Director, Land and Naval Warfare Cost Analysis Division, OSD CAPE
- The Hon. Lisa Disbrow, Senior Fellow, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory
- Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Bruce Litchfield, Vice President of Sustainment Operations, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics
- The Hon. Christine Fox (moderator), Committee Member

12:00 – 13:00 Break

13:00 – 14:00 Panel 2 – Perspectives from the Chief Data Officers

Objective: Discuss the vision, challenges, and opportunities for applying data science to DoD acquisition.

- Mr. Greg Garcia, Chief Data Officer, US Army
- Mr. Thomas Sasala, Chief Data Officer, US Navy
- Ms. Elieen Vidrine, Chief Data Officer, US Air Force
- Dr. Alyson Wilson (moderator), Committee Member

14:00 – 14:15 Break

14:15 – 15:30 Panel 3 – Upskilling Data Capabilities in the Industry Workforce
Objective: Consider the application of data upskilling strategies from industry.

- Mr. Melvin Greer, Chief Data Scientist, Intel Corporation Americas
- Dr. Sears Merritt, Head of Data, Strategy and Architecture, MassMutual
- Mr. Paul Nielsen, VP of Strategic Programs, Advanced Technology Collaborative, Optum Technologies
- Mr. Luis Stevens, Senior Director for High Performance Computing, Target Corporation
- Dr. Ann McKenna (moderator), Committee Member

15:30 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:15 Panel 4 - Educating and Building Data Science Teams
Objective: To learn about additional efforts to educate and train data analysts and scientists, and how to build teams with data capabilities

- Dr. Darryl K. Ahner, Director, OSD Scientific Test and Analysis Techniques Center of Excellence, Director, Center for Operational Analysis, Professor of Operations Research, Air Force Institute of Technology
- Dr. Matthew Rattigan, Director of Research Programs for the Center for Data Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Professor Jaeki Song, Area Coordinator for Information Systems and Quantitative Sciences, Rawls Business School, Texas Tech University
- Ms. Maryann P. Watson, Associate Dean for Executive, Internat'l & Reqmts Management Programs at Defense Acquisition University
- Dr. Rebecca Nugent (moderator), Co-chair

17:15 – 17:30 Closing Remarks

17:30 Workshop adjourns

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Statement of Task

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will convene an ad hoc committee to execute a workshop and in-depth consensus study to identify relevant data science skills and capabilities necessary for the acquisitions workforce and develop a framework for training and educating acquisitions professionals.

Specific questions to be considered by the committee during the workshop and consensus study include:

- How can data science improve acquisitions processes and where are the opportunities to improve workforce ability to apply these methods?
- What are the foundational understanding and skills that should be developed broadly in acquisitions professionals, and what more advanced capabilities are relevant for specific job functions?
- What are the characteristics and portfolio of skills of successful data science teams and how can supervisors with non-technical backgrounds effectively manage data science projects?
- What data science training and education models exist in other government agencies and outside of government for employee training and up-skilling?

The workshop will be recorded and webcast live and a rapporteur will summarize the presentation and discussions in a "Proceedings of a Workshop". At the end of the study, the committee will produce a consensus report providing findings and recommendations on how the Department of Defense can accelerate data analysis capabilities within the acquisition workforce.

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