

## ARMY FORMALIZES PEO-EIS REALIGNMENT UNDER CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

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The Army last month formalized the realignment of the program executive office for enterprise information systems under the service's chief information officer, according to service officials.

The change, made official by a June 4 memorandum of understanding, establishes PEO-EIS as the coordinating office for all acquisition efforts related to the service's network, and sets up a collaborative relationship between PEO-EIS and the CIO (*Inside the Army*, March 22, p9).

The changes have been developing over the past few months. At the lower level, the primary difference is the staff that PEO-EIS officials deal with on a day-to-day basis, said Col. Wellsford Barlow, deputy program executive officer.

Instead of communicating with staff members from the office of the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, PEO-EIS officials now talk to "strategic partners" on the staff of the chief information officer (G-6). "From an acquisition perspective we still go through the acquisition executive," Barlow said.

PEO-EIS staff members who are involved in program management activities will have a corresponding strategic partner on the CIO staff. Those staff members should know what's happening with the EIS program and how it connects with the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Ideally, the staffers also should be able to work with Congress and support program managers as they execute their programs, he said.

One of the reasons for the change is that the acquisition staff focuses so heavily on major weapon systems. Last year, Lt. Gen. Joseph Yakovac, the deputy acquisition executive, sought the technical expertise of Lt. Gen. Steven Boutelle, the chief information officer, who deals with information technology every day, Barlow said.

For about six months, the Army worked on how the realignment would take shape. In addition to bureaucratic shifts, lawyers reviewed whether the realignment would comply with the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act, which established the requirement for program executive officers and program managers as well as the acquisition chain of command.

Barlow said the review showed that the realignment satisfies the letter of the law because the chain of command specified by the workforce improvement act has remained in place.

According to the MOU, Army Acquisition Executive Claude Bolton will remain responsible for assigning and accepting new programs for PEO-EIS. Bolton will evaluate CIO Boutelle, who will rate PEO-EIS Kevin Carroll.

Boutelle will have to balance responsibilities within his area of influence. He must meet his fiduciary requirements and ensure that PEO-EIS complies with acquisition rules. Boutelle is the right man for the job given his background in acquisition and information technology, Barlow said.

Boutelle had touted the relationship as a way for his office acquire a guide to help shepherd LandWarNet, the name given to the Army's system of networks, through the acquisition process (*ITA*, March 8, p5).

Carroll, the PEO, has said that the realignment will integrate Army business systems and communications networks as well as link disparate PEO-EIS offices such as personnel, logistics, finance and medicine. -- *Jen DiMascio*

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