

Dr. David Nicholls

Senior Advisor for Root Cause Analyses

Dr. David Nicholls is the Senior Advisor for Root Cause Analyses (RCA) in the office of Performance Assessments and Root Cause Analyses (PARCA). Dr. Nicholls is responsible for the creation of multidisciplinary teams to conduct root cause analyses, the performance of those analyses, and establishing policy, standards, and guidance for root cause analysis. The Root Cause Analyses division of PARCA, which was established in the Weapon Systems Reform Act of 2009, carries out root cause analyses on major defense acquisition programs when a program has a critical Nunn-McCurdy cost breach or upon request of the Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, the Secretary of a military department, or the head of a Defense Agency.

Dr. Nicholls has more than 30 years in engineering and engineering management experience. Prior to coming to PARCA, he worked for the Institute for Defense Analysis where he provided economic analyses, cost estimates and risk assessments. He retired from United States Air Force as a Colonel and the Vice Commander for the Air Force Information Warfare Center where he was responsible for the management and leadership of 1,200 military and civilian information operations experts and an annual budget of \$67 million. His Air Force career included varied assignments as line engineer, engineering professor, defense analyst and program manager. He has received numerous awards over his career and has authored 22 publications. Dr. Nicholls has a bachelors in materials engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; a masters in materials engineering from the University of Dayton, a masters in strategic studies from the Air War College, and a doctorate in materials science from the University of Oxford.

