Featured Colleague

Bryan Coots
Operations Research Analyst
OSD CAPE

Richard Bryan Coots (prefers Bryan), is an Operations Research Analyst in the Office of the Secretary of Defense Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE). He serves as the Principal Secretary for the Cost Integrated Process Team (CIPT), which is a forum that facilitates information exchange among the government and industry cost communities to improve cost data collection, reporting, analysis, and estimating throughout the acquisition life cycle. He is also CAPE’s primary POC for policies related to software acquisition and cost data reporting and collection.

Mr. Coots has developed a breadth of experience during his 28 years of service within DoD. Prior to his current role, he served in CAPE as a Special Assistant with responsibility for the Program Budget Review and as analyst for the Strategic Mobility Portfolio, including Air Force 1. Before joining CAPE, Bryan advised the Commanding General of the Army Corp of Engineers on military construction and civil works projects and was responsible for executing the Army’s Engineering for Transportability program at the Surface Deployment Distribution Command.

Mr. Coots holds an MS in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University, an MBA from St. Leo University, and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech.

“I don’t have a personal motto, but I do have a question I always ask myself, “What happens next?”, which I learned from my Dad, said Coots. “We spent hours playing chess when I was younger and after every move, he’d ask me “What happens next?”

“It’s also a good question as we develop and implement policies at the OSD and Service level related to software development and costing. What happens next? What happens to the workload of the program manager? What happens to the budget? What happens to the development/fielding timeline? What happens to the capabilities of the software? What happens to the end user? It’s really just another way of emphasizing the importance of thinking about unintended consequences and avoiding “checkmate.”

"Collecting data is the foundation of good cost estimating and program management. As we continue the move to Agile Software Development, we should focus on determining the right data to collect rather than working to develop new methodologies."
Scarce resources, and software development is illustrated by high risk/high cost. SW Pathway stakeholders should center software investments on key long-term capability needs. SW Pathway Roadshow: Sean Brady, Senior Lead for SW Acquisition, OUSD(A&S)/AE will present to SW Pathway Roadshow at the OSD CAPE Cost Integrated Process Team (CIPT) Forum on 23 February, “Digital Delivery at the Speed of Light”. Register: https://survey.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b3YgdUoM5h7EA4d

Declaring use of the SWP? Notify us of your intentions:
osal.mc-alex.ousd-a-s.mbx.osd-sw-pathway@mail.mil

Software in the News

Ellen M. Lord, the former USD(A&S), recounts the transformation she oversaw helping DoD become significantly more agile and responsive in its ability to leverage software for the warfighter, at https://www.businessinsider.com/ellen-lord-how-the-pentagon-transformed-its-approach-to-software-2021-1

2020 in Review: Pentagon Leads Federal DevSecOps Efforts - This article describes how DoD accounted for most of the federal movement on DevSecOps in 2020. See https://www.fedscoop.com/federal-devsecops-efforts-lag-industry/

Pentagon Software Acquisition Enters New Era: DOD officials further announced an Adaptive Acquisition Framework pathway for buying software and securely developing code between government and contractor teams using DevSecOps. See https://www.fedscoop.com/software-acquisition-policy-dod/

The Pentagon Should Learn from Netflix and Amazon - This article summarizes a report by Atlantic Council on ways that DoD can improve its mission resilience, learning valuable lessons from these industry giants. See https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-16/the-pentagon-should-learn-from-netflix-and-amazon - The Atlantic Council report lays out a path whereby agile methodologies would help DoD adapt more quickly to changing environmental threats. See https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/how-do-you-fix-a-flying-computer-seeking-resilience-in-software-intensive-mission-systems/

Outreach

SW Pathway Roadshow: Sean Brady, Senior Lead for SW Acquisition, OUSD(A&S)/AE will present to the OSD CAPE Cost Integrated Process Team (CIPT) Forum on 23 February, “Digital Delivery at the Speed of Light”. Register: https://survey.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b3YgdUoM5h7EA4d

Calendar

FEBRUARY: DAU Events. Let's Talk Agile, 2/3, Panelists from USSF Space CAMP and Production One, link will be posted in the next CoP News; DAU South Annual Acquisition Update 2/18: https://www.dau.edu/events/DAU-South-Region-Acquisition-Update-feb-18

ONGOING: PrometheusGO Naval DevSecOps CoP virtual weekly meeting All are welcome to join via Teams, or by phone, Tuesdays 1pm - Dial 571-388-3904, Conference ID 130 035 638.