Meet the Program Managers (PM)

One of the BA-8 Agile Pilot Programs is the Army’s Defensive Cyber Operations (DCO), which provides hardware, software, and tools to proactively defend & enable the Army’s network to operate unfettered from the threat of cyber-attacks. Meet the incoming (Taylor) and outgoing (Harris) PMs.

Col. Taylor

Col. Mark R. Taylor graduated from the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Aviation Branch. Following flight school where he earned his rating as an UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter Aviator, the Army assigned Col. Taylor to the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, NY where he served in various staff and command positions and deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Stabilization Forces 6 (SFOR6) and Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Over the last thirteen years, Col. Taylor served in multiple aviation and intelligence acquisition program management positions in the Program Executive Office Integration, the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM), Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology) and the Office of the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. Currently, Col. Taylor serves as the Acting Director of Investments in the Army Budget Office (ABO) where he is responsible for the budgeting and execution of the Army’s R&D and procurement portfolio. In July 2020, Col. Taylor will assume duties as PM for DCO and hopes (and plans) to provide innovative hardware and software solutions that proactively protect and defend Army networks from cyber threats.

Col. Harris

Col. Chad M. Harris enlisted in the Army in 1994, & attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. After attending the Armor Officer Advance Course, Col. Harris served as M Company Commander and HQ/HQ Troop Commander at Fort Carson, Colorado. He deployed to Iraq in April 2003 as the HHT Commander during OIF 1. After returning to the US, Col. Harris served as Observer/Controller Team Lead, training National Guard and Reserve units for deployment to Iraq. Col. Harris joined the Acquisition Corps in 2005 and attended the Naval Post Graduate School (Class of 2006 MBA in Defense Systems Acquisition Management) Col. Harris served as the Assistant Product Manager (APM) for Maneuver Support in the Robotic Systems Joint Project Office (RSJPO) in Warren, Michigan, managing the Talon Engineer Robotic Systems and the M160 Light Robotic Flail System. In 2011, he was assigned as Commander, Yuma Test Center (YTC), one of the Army’s largest TCs comprised of 1500 Soldiers, civilians, and contractors. Col. Harris became an Army War College Fellow conducting strategic studies at the University of Texas, Austin and in 2015 he was assigned to the Pentagon, as a Lead Requirements Analyst on the Joint Staff J8. Col. Harris advises software development leaders to “Trust and empower your people to complete the mission. Cyber technology moves at a rapid pace, be flexible and build your metrics.”
Software Acquisition Policy completes the formal coordination process leading to issuance of a DoD Instruction

**Ask an Expert**

**Q:** Will DoD award a 2020 Software Innovation Team Award?

**A:** Yes! Nominations for this cycle are due no later than 31 July. Winners will be honored at the Pentagon in October. Click here for nominating instructions [https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-840069](https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-840069)

**Software Acquisition in the News**

**Next Gen Air Dominance Acquisition Plan: Coming Soon**

Dr. Will Roper, Assistant Secretary of the AF for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics, discusses how the AF is working to bring advanced capabilities to the warfighter through changing business models that include agile software development, open mission system architecture, and innovative partnerships that bring venture capital and critical technology initiatives to the military market. See Roper video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z18El6omKX0&t=1998s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z18El6omKX0&t=1998s) and article [https://www.airforcemag.com/next-gen-air-dominance-acquisition-plan-coming-soon/](https://www.airforcemag.com/next-gen-air-dominance-acquisition-plan-coming-soon/)

**Making Sense of Agile, DevOps and DevSecOps:** This Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) presentation offers insights into the policy drivers for Agile software development implementation. See video [https://www.milsuite.mil/video/watch/video/32100](https://www.milsuite.mil/video/watch/video/32100)


**Army Field Test Cites Change in Software Methodology:** Describes Northrop’s switch from “waterfall” to “agile” software development methods in terms of National Missile Defense testing. See [https://breakingdefense.com/2020/07/ibcs-massive-army-missile-defense-test/](https://breakingdefense.com/2020/07/ibcs-massive-army-missile-defense-test/)

**Learning Opportunities**

**Software Pathway Training:** On July 13th, Sean P. Brady presented the Software Acquisition Pathway to DAU’s Advanced Program Information Systems Acquisition (ISA 320) course, citing benefits and insights of the new pathway and strategies to best use it. A web link to the slides will be shared when available.

**Agile Coaching Network (ACN)** offers monthly live webcasts that enable learning and sharing with other Agile practitioners. Free to ACN Members. See [https://www.agilealliance.org/agile-coaching-network](https://www.agilealliance.org/agile-coaching-network)

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**Editors**

Laura R Barton
Laura.r.barton.ctr@mail.mil

Kenneth “Crash” Konwin
kenneth.c.konwin.ctr@mail.mil