Hail & Farewell

The Office of the Secretary of Defense will miss the valuable and lasting contributions of Carmela Rice, for her work supporting the Software Acquisition Workforce modernization effort and the Software Acquisition Pathway. In addition to leading the development and coordination of the interim Software Acquisition Pathway policy signed by A&S on Jan 3rd, she assumed responsibility (from Gabe Leyva) as lead for the Sec 873 and 874 Agile Software Development Pilot Program. She has been leading the development of the DoD Instruction for the Software Acquisition Pathway, which is about to enter into formal coordination.

Stakeholders in the software Community of Interest (COI) complimented Carmela’s “great attention to detail”, “thorough understanding of software engineering,” and her “friendly smile”. Carmela will return to the Army to support Program Executive Office for Aviation, in Huntsville, AL.

Meet the MTC2 PM

Meet CAPT David W. Gast, the new Program Manager of the Navy’s Command and Control Systems Program Office PMW 150. A graduate of the New World School of the Arts High School Division (as a Music major), the US Naval Academy, (B.S., Systems Engineering), and the Naval Postgraduate School (M.S. Astronautical Engineering). Among the many programs he manages are: The Maritime Tactical Command and Control (MTC2) program, a Sec 874 Agile and Budget Authority-8 Single Software Appropriations pilot; several tactical and support systems including other Maritime C2, Logistics and Maintenance, Tactical Data Link, and one International cooperative development. CAPT Gast completed three tours as a Surface Warfare Officer, two at sea, before transitioning to acquisition. As an Engineering Duty Officer, he’s served as a spacecraft subsystems lead at the National Reconnaissance Office, as Assistant Program Manager for Systems Engineering of the Advanced Airborne Sensor Program, as Assistant Program Manager for the Distributed Common Ground System, Navy (DCGS-N), as the Combat Systems Officer on USS NIMITZ (CVN 68), and as Deputy Program Manager of PMW 150. Favorite PM-Related Quotes: “Do only the things that only you can do,” from Secretary Geurts and “Don’t build it if you can buy it, and don’t buy it if you can rent it,” stolen happily from LtCol Sanders at Kessel Run…”

DAU to OUSD A-S
Sean Brady

Sean Brady will be assuming responsibilities as the new Software Acquisition Pathway Lead in June. Currently Sean serves as the Learning Director for Software Acquisition at the Defense Acquisition University. He leads strategy to transform DoD’s practices, competencies, training and workforce – and accelerate the adoption of modern, commercial software development practices across DoD and the DAU curriculum. More on Sean in our June newsletter!
Our Mission

As part of Section 869 of the FY19 NDAA, Congress directed that a Community of Practice (CoP) be established to support the Agile pilot program knowledge sharing and cultural transformation. "CoP News" was created to highlight recent Agile software-relevant events or achievements as well as encourage periodic visits to the site. Our objective for this DASSAE-sponsored CoP News is to highlight materials that encourage you, our reader, to see relevant information related to new policy, publications, or lessons learned by others in the software development community.

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Automated Regression Testing in Aircraft Agile SW Dev

According to DAU, nearly one half of the operational lifecycle costs of a weapons system are attributed to inadequate or incomplete test activities, which could result in undetected software defects in a weapon system, which may impact mission success. Leveraging the full value within DoD of modern software acquisition practices depends on multiple functional communities adopting changes of existing and perhaps long-standing processes.

This article by Lt Col Bryan Kelly, USAF, US Test Pilot School, Edwards AFB, CA (published in ITEA Journal of Test & Evaluation - March 2020 and provided here with permission) provides evidence via a Return on Investment case study, that automating aircraft software regression testing as part of Agile development would better support operational flight programs. See posting on the Community of Interest, at https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-800392

Lessons Learned from 873 & 874 Agile Pilots

A presentation was made by MITRE's Joe Gill at the April 2020 DevSecOps Community of Practice meeting on Lessons Learned from the 873 and 874 Agile Pilots. His presentation is available on the Software Pathway Community of Interest, at https://www.milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-812502

This information complements the Sec 874 Completion Report to Congress (Dec 2019) found at: https://www.acq.osd.mil/ae/assets/docs/Report%20to%20Congress%20FY18%20NDAA%20Section%20874.pdf

Announcements & Events

JUNE: Software Acquisition Pathway Policy enters the formal coordination process leading to issuance of a DoD Instruction