

Linda W. Neilson

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Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S))



Ms. Linda Neilson serves as the Director of the Defense Acquisition Regulations System (DARS), for the Office of Defense Pricing and Contracting (DPC), within the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). She chairs the Defense Acquisition Regulations (DAR) Council, and is responsible for developing and maintaining acquisition rules and guidance in support of DoD's acquisition of goods and services to support the Warfighter.

As chair of the DAR Council, Ms. Neilson leads the development and maintenance of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and the Defense FAR Supplement (DFARS). DARS provides support to the FAR Council; publishes the DFARS and the DFARS companion resource, Procedures, Guidance, and Information (PGI); accepts and resolves public comments on proposed and interim DFARS and FAR rules; issues and maintains Class Deviations; and provides acquisition policy guidance.

Prior to her current assignment, Ms. Neilson's career included roles as the Deputy Division Director at the Naval Sea Systems Command; Contracting Officer at the Naval Air Systems Command; Executive Director, Acquisition Workforce and Career Management at the Defense Acquisition University; and policy development as a member of DPC under its former name, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy. Her more than 25 years of work experience includes contracting for major weapons systems; state-of-the-art avionics; submarine electronic warfare equipment; submarine repair and overhaul; research and development; contracted advisory and assistance services; and facilities and leases. .

Ms. Neilson attended Vassar College, the University of Santa Clara, and the University of Southern California. She is a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps and is certified at DAWIA Level III in the acquisition career field of Contracting. She has received DoD Awards for Exceptional Civilian Service, Superior Civilian Service, and various other accomplishments. Ms. Neilson has been a member of the Senior Executive Service since 2009.