A Significant Investment in Services

Contracted services continue to represent over 50% of the Department of Defense’s total contract obligations. To provide the appropriate oversight to such a large amount of spend (dollars) executed in many, smaller transactions, Services Acquisition is improving, implementing and executing an oversight structure for identifying, assessing, reviewing, validating, procuring, and overseeing the execution of contracted services requirements across the DoD.

Services Acquisition Objectives

- Enable and foster a Culture of Strategic Decision-Making with respect to acquisition of services.
- Establish and manage a process for identifying, assessing, reviewing, and validating requirements for the acquisition of services.
- Establish and execute oversight within a management framework for translating approved services requirements into stable, affordable, and well-managed capabilities.
- Establish and provide visibility into direction, guidance and support for service acquisition programs.
- Provide the tools, support and oversight to ensure contracted services best achieve cost, schedule, and performance objectives.

New Policy Strengthens Service Acquisition

- Better Buying Power (BBP) 1.0 (September 2010) required appointment of senior services managers in the Military Departments and created a uniform taxonomy of Portfolio Groups including Knowledge Based Services, Transportation Services, Logistic Management Services, Equipment Related Services, Electronics and Communication Services, Medical Services, and Facilities Related Services. It also required improved requirements definition, increased competition in services, and reduced services acquisition risk.

- BBP 2.0 (November 2012) appointed the Principal Deputy, USD(AT&L), the Honorable Alan Estevez, as the Senior DoD Manager for Services Acquisition. BBP 2.0 also requires:
  - Assigning Functional Domain Experts (FDE)) for acquisition of services across DoD
  - Measuring productivity using the services taxonomy
  - Improving requirements definition/preventing requirements creep
  - Strengthening contract management outside the normal acquisition chain
  - Expanding the use of requirements review boards and tripwires

- FDEs were appointed in October 2013 to engage in strategic management of services acquisitions.

- Recognizing the difference between major defense acquisition systems (MDAPs) and services acquisition, USD (AT&L) directed a new DoD Instruction on Acquisition of Services to be developed to complement the newly issued DoDI 5000.02, “Operation of the Defense Acquisition System” that focuses on MDAPs.