The Defense Acquisition Professional Reading List is intended to enrich the knowledge and understanding of the civilian, military, contractor, and industrial workforce who participate in the entire defense acquisition enterprise. These book recommendations are designed to complement the education and training vital to developing essential competencies and skills of the acquisition workforce. Each issue of the Defense Acquisition Research Journal will include one or more reviews of suggested books, with more available on our website: http://dau.edu/library.

We encourage our readers to submit book reviews they believe should be required reading for the defense acquisition professional. The books themselves should be in print or generally available to a wide audience; address subjects and themes that have broad applicability to defense acquisition professionals; and provide context for the reader, not prescriptive practices. Book reviews should be 450 words or fewer, describe the book and its major ideas, and explain its relevance to defense acquisition. Please send your reviews to the managing editor, Defense Acquisition Research Journal at DefenseARJ@dau.edu.

Featured Book

*Logistics Engineering and Management (Sixth Edition)*

**Author:** Benjamin S. Blanchard  
**Publisher:** Prentice Hall  
**Copyright Date:** 2003  
**Hard/Softcover/Digital:** Hardcover, 576 pages  
**ISBN-13:** 9780131429154  
**Reviewed by:** Shawn Harrison
Review:

Nearing its third decade in print, Blanchard’s *Logistics Engineering and Management* continues to serve as an invaluable desk reference for the Defense Acquisition Workforce. When the book was first published, the author reflected on the state of DoD acquisition, including long procurement cycles and increased acquisition and sustainment costs as the burning platform to provide more emphasis on logistics early in the system life cycle. Fast-forward to today, and while DoD has made strides in several areas of acquisition reform, timely delivery of relevant capability to the warfighter at affordable cost remains a persistent challenge. Proper logistics planning, states Blanchard, is the key to effective and economical system support.

The book includes 11 chapters broadly organized into three parts: (1) definitions and principles; (2) life cycle logistics from requirements definition through fielding; and (3) logistics (or product support, in today’s parlance) organization and planning. While its subject matter will likely appeal most to life cycle logisticians and engineering and technical management professionals, it will also interest to other Defense Acquisition Workforce members, including DoD program managers, business and financial managers, cost estimators, contracting specialists, and test and evaluation professionals.

In addition to a thorough treatment of the 12 DoD Integrated Product Support (IPS) Elements (minus Product Support Management and with some “legacy” terminology), Blanchard addresses reliability and maintainability, availability, functional analysis and requirements allocation, test and evaluation, production, system operational support, modifications, cost estimating, and a variety of related life cycle management topics. The eight appendices include detailed procedures on cost analyses, maintenance task analysis, logistics analytical models, a design review checklist, and various mathematical tables such as interest rate factors for cost estimating and normal distributions for predictive analysis.

Throughout, Blanchard includes many useful formulas and diagrams to facilitate understanding of key principles and concepts such as reliability, sparing, inventory cycles, cost estimating methodologies, schedule network analysis, and maintenance planning. These are interwoven effectively into the narrative text, which is
highly readable even for nontechnical personnel. The text also includes numerous questions and problems at the end of each chapter, but alas no “answer key” (though third-party sources are available). Many problems have direct relevance to today’s acquisition challenges, and the questions are highly useful for reflection, with many fitting nicely with DAU’s “20 Questions Every Product Support Manager (PSM) Should Be Prepared to Answer.” Examples of DoD-relevant systems (aircraft, wheeled vehicles, support and test equipment, etc.) are also sprinkled throughout the text to enhance learning and application. Finally, readers may find the computer-aided design (CAD) section (which was state-of-the-art at the time of initial publication) a bit rudimentary, but in light of the 2018 DoD Digital Engineering Strategy, Blanchard presciently reminds us the logistian must be able to adapt to rapidly changing design processes, including becoming conversant in, and able to, leverage model viewers and related analytical tools. In summary, Logistics Engineering and Management remains a highly useful and relevant text for today’s Defense Acquisition Workforce professional.

Note: The Fourth edition (1992) may be the last “U.S.” edition.