Alan R. Shaffer currently serves as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (A&S). Confirmed by the Senate in January 2019, he is responsible to the Under Secretary of Defense for all matters pertaining to acquisition; contract administration; logistics and material readiness; installations and environment; operational energy; chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons; the acquisition workforce; and the defense industrial base.

From 2015 to 2018, Shaffer served as the director, NATO Collaboration Support Office in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. In this role, he was responsible for coordinating and synchronizing the Science and Technology (S&T) collaboration between NATO member and partner nations, comprising a network of about 5,000 scientists.

Previous to his role at NATO, Shaffer served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, ASD(R&E), from 2007-2015. In this position, Shaffer was responsible for formulating, planning, and reviewing the DoD Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) programs, plans, strategy, priorities, and execution of the DoD RDT&E budget that totals roughly $25 billion per year. He has also served twice as the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering from 2007-2009 and 2012-2015.

Additionally, in 2009, he was appointed as the first Director, Operational Energy, Plans and Programs (Acting). Shaffer has also served as the executive director for several senior DoD Task Forces, including review of all research, acquisition, and test activities during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure. In 2007, he was the executive director for the DoD Energy Security Task Force and, from 2007-2012, he served as the executive director of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protection (MRAP) Task Force, where he was responsible for oversight and fielding 27,000 Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected military light tactical vehicles.

Before entering the federal government, Shaffer served a 24-year United States Air Force career in command, weather, intelligence, and acquisition oversight with assignments in Utah, California, Ohio, Honduras, Germany, Virginia, and Nebraska.

His career included deployment to Honduras in the mid-1980s and direct support of the United States Army 3rd Armored Division in Hanau, Germany. During Operation DESERT STORM, he was responsible for deployment of the 500-person theater weather force. Upon retirement from the Air Force in 2000, Shaffer was appointed to the Senior Executive Service; in 2001, he assumed the position as director, Plans and Programs, Defense Research and Engineering.

Shaffer earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Vermont in 1976, a second Bachelor of Science in Meteorology from the University of Utah, a Master of Science in Meteorology from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He was awarded the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2004, the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, and the Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2007 and 2015.
Air Force Academy Professor Leads New DoD Hypersonic Research Institute

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS (FEB. 2, 2019)
Jennifer Spradlin

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.—Chuck Yeager broke the speed of sound in 1947, and the Air Force has never looked back.

The Air Force partnered with NASA to develop and test the X-15, a hypersonic, rocket-powered aircraft in the late 1950s and most of the 1960s. A great deal of human capital and money was invested in making the leap from supersonic to hypersonic—the potential to travel at five times the speed of sound or more than 3,000 mph.

But a series of near misses and research “gotchas” stalled much of the advancement in hypersonic capabilities, according to Dr. Russ Cummings, Air Force Academy professor of aeronautics, and newly appointed director of the Department of Defense High Performance Computing Modernization Program’s Hypersonic Vehicle Simulation Institute.

Now DoD leaders are seeking to combat the weaponization of hypersonic capabilities by peer adversaries.

At a Washington lecture series on hypersonics in December, Michael Griffin, the undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, said, “In the last year, China has tested more hypersonic weapons than we have in a decade. We’ve got to fix that.”

Griffin has pinpointed hypersonic capabilities as his “highest technical priority” since taking office with the goal of creating a decisive American advantage.

The Department of Defense is seeking to combat the weaponization of hypersonic capabilities by peer adversaries. DoD officials have selected Dr. Russ Cummings, U.S. Air Force Academy professor of aeronautics, as the newly-appointed director of the DOD Hypersonic Capabilities Modernization Program’s Hypersonic Vehicle Simulation Institute.

U.S. Air Force photo by Joshua Armstrong
The HVSI stood up in 2018. The DoD program will issue $6 million in grants over the next three to five years to universities for research to fill computational modeling gaps in the field of hypersonic simulation.

“Outdated modeling leads to conservative engineering approaches,” Cummings said. “For example, having inaccurate estimates for designing to mitigate the high heating on hypersonic vehicles impacts the weight and volume of the design, which can take away from the size of the payload.”

The grants will be used to fund applied science research in 10 categories to help engineer accurate computer codes for hypersonic vehicles while jump-starting interest and scholarship in the field.

Ten to 15 percent of the research will take place in the aeronautics department here. Many test facilities were closed in the 1970s, but the Academy has two on-site, high-speed wind tunnels, including a Mach 6 Ludwieg Tube. Starting this summer, cadets will join industry and university partners in a variety of hypersonic-related summer research programs.

“We’re excited to see HVSI become the latest center added to [U.S. Air Force Academy’s] research portfolio,” said Col. Donald Rhymer, the Academy’s dean of research. “Dr. Cummings brings the necessary expertise and leadership to direct the institute, as well as the pulse of the hypersonics community. I’m confident his work will ultimately benefit both the cadets and the Air Force.”

Scott Named New Vice Director
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS (FEB. 7, 2019)

Defense Logistics Agency Director Darrell Williams announced the selection of Mike Scott, current deputy director of DLA Logistics Operations, as his new vice director.

“Mike is extraordinarily well qualified and ready to assume this critical leadership position, having served 33 years here at DLA in a variety of positions,” the director wrote in a letter to senior leaders.

As the senior civilian in DLA, Scott will head strategic planning, operational execution and resource management. His focuses will include aligning key priorities and initiatives among DLA activities while overseeing governance and policy-management processes and spearheading the agency’s logistics reform and audit advancement goals.

Scott began his career at Defense Supply Center Columbus, now DLA Land and Maritime, and has served in leadership roles at field and headquarters levels, including as deputy commander of DLA Energy. He will assume his new role in the coming weeks.

General Officer Announcement
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (MARCH 7, 2019)


General Officer Announcement
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (MARCH 8, 2019)

Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan announced today that the president made the following nomination: Air Force Lt. Gen. VeraLinn Jamieson for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general, and assignment as deputy chief of staff,

**Female AF Pioneer Laid To Rest at Arlington National Cemetery**

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS (FEB. 8, 2019)

Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor


During Harris’s life and Air Force career, she accomplished multiple crowning achievements. After receiving her commission through Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in 1965, she ventured into her first assignment as the assistant director for administration for the 60th Airlift Wing at Travis AFB, California. She then completed a tour in West Germany in 1971 before enrolling in the Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course at Chanute AFB, Illinois. After graduating, she was named aircraft maintenance officer—the first woman to ever hold the title.

“Being a leader, being a mentor is not about how much you can fill your own cup, it’s about how much you pour into others and with Major General Harris, our cups run over,” said Lt. Gen. Stayce Harris, Inspector General of the Air Force. “She poured so much of herself, personally and professionally, into all of us and influenced so many—those she knew and those who knew her from afar.”

Through hard work and dedication, Harris paved the way for females and women of color in the military. While she served at assignments in Thailand, California, Washington, D.C., Colorado, Kansas, Japan, Mississippi, and Oklahoma, she continued to rise through the ranks. During those assignments, she was appointed as a White House aide during the presidential administrations of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter in 1975, and she was the second female in history to serve as a commanding officer for an Air Force cadet squadron in 1978. In 1988, she became the first female wing commander.

Harris continued to break barriers—on May 1, 1991, she was promoted to brigadier general—making her the first African-American female general in the U.S. Air Force. A mere four years later, on May 25, 1995, she was promoted to major general, and was the first woman to hold this rank in the service.

“Harris was the personification of enduring power...she had the ability to withstand challenges and changes that came with being the first...the first woman, the first forerunner, the pioneer for females in male dominated career fields,” said Lt. Col. Ruth Segres, chaplain. “In the midst of opposition and obstacles she exhibited a power, a mental steadfast strength and a fierce fortitude to keep her composure—a credit to her character.”

After 32 years of service, Harris retired in 1997 as the highest ranking female in the U.S. Air Force and highest ranking African-American female in the Department of Defense. She continued her legacy of service by aiding as the treasurer of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP and a director on the board of Peachtree Hope Charter School. In 2010, she was given the chance to once again serve with her Air Force family when President Barack Obama appointed her to work as a member of the Board of Visitors for the U.S. Air Force Academy.

“My sister was a fighter,” said Elizabeth Johnson, Harris’s younger sister during the memorial service. “She was forever striving to serve others, and even in retirement she never missed an opportunity to contribute.”

**General Officer Assignments**

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (FEB. 19, 2019)

The chief of staff, Army announces the following officer assignments:


AT&L Workforce—Key Leadership Changes

Sentinel, Afghanistan, to commanding general, First Army Division West, Fort Hood, Texas.


- Brig. Gen. Scott M. Naumann, deputy commanding general (Support), 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas, to chief of staff, III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas.


- Col. (Promotable) Robert M. Collins, assistant program executive officer, Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, to program executive officer, Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.


General Officer Assignments

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (MARCH 21, 2019)

The chief of staff, Army announces the following officer assignments:

Proving Ground, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, to chief of staff, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.


Establishing USSPACECOM is a critical step that underscores the importance of the space domain and its strategic contributions to U.S. national security. The USSPACECOM establishment will accelerate space capabilities to address the rapidly evolving threats to U.S. space systems and the importance of deterring potential adversaries from putting critical U.S. space systems at risk.

If confirmed, and upon establishment of USSPACECOM, Raymond will remain dual-hatted as Air Force Space Command commander at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

Further information on the establishment of USSPACECOM will be provided when an establishment date has been determined.

United States Space Command Commander Nominated
AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (MARCH 27, 2019)
PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.—The president has nominated to the Senate Gen. John W. “Jay” Raymond as the commander of United States Space Command.

If confirmed, Raymond will lead the soon-to-be established USSPACECOM, which will focus on conducting all joint space warfighting operations and ensuring the combat readiness of global forces.
Thomas Passes Special Operations Command Reins to Clarke

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (MARCH 29, 2019)
Jim Garamone


Acting Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan presided at the ceremony.

Thomas steps down after 39 years in uniform and service around the world. Clarke comes to the command from serving as director for strategic plans and policy on the Joint Staff. Both are graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Thomas graduated in 1980 and Clarke in 1984. Both have commanded at all levels of the conventional and special operations forces.

Shanahan said USSOCOM is on the front line of freedom. He noted special operators work in more than 90 countries around the world, though they make up only 3 percent of the joint force. “You are the lethal tip of our spear,” the secretary said. “By going in first and seeing every mission to the end, you enable more comprehensive military action and that translates into diplomacy and ultimately gives peace a chance,” the secretary said.

“You have also driven relentless innovation across this command—modernizing and improving manning of our [special operations forces] and showing leadership in the Department of Defense in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and beyond,” Shanahan said. “As a result, SOCOM has reduced ‘flash to bang’—procuring the best equipment for our warfighters at the speed of relevance.”

Extraordinary Operational Tempo

Thomas said this is an extraordinary time of operational tempo for the military, and especially for Special Operations Command. “We have maintained a laser focus on our designated No. 1 priority task of countering violent extremists and played an integral role in our successful prosecution of that fight,” he said. “Right now ... our teammates are on point for our nation in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Trans Sahel, the Maghreb, the Lake Chad Basin, the Philippines—everywhere ISIS and al-Qaida is, we are there taking it to them.”

Clarke will build on what Thomas has started at Special Operations Command and pledged to continue to explore machine learning and artificial intelligence, particularly. He said he will do this “all while maintaining the most asymmetric advantage that we have over our adversaries and competitors; and that is our allies and partners.”

“What I pledge is that SOCOM—working with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, our interagency partners, and through the geographic commands—will remain focused on the current terrorism fight, but also to continue to developing capabilities and place emphasis on the longer term threats.”

He said he wants to ensure the command can operate in such a way that sets the battlespace to make adversaries wary.