



ACQUISITION INNOVATION  
RESEARCH CENTER



Updated March 2025

# ACQUISITION INNOVATION RESEARCH CENTER

AIRC was established in response to 10 USC 4142

## Cultivating and Applying Innovative and Transformative Research Across Academia, Government, and Industry

### Innovative Approaches to Enduring Challenges

The Acquisition Innovation Research Center (AIRC) was established in September 2020 by the Department of Defense (DoD) to infuse innovation and alternative disciplines from academia to better respond to rapidly changing threats and technological advances.

As an applied academic research arm of DoD, AIRC pairs DoD acquisition experts with faculty & students from over 25 leading universities to translate leading edge research into practical applications, accelerating acquisition responsiveness to warfighter and operator needs.

AIRC focuses on:

**Researching** applied acquisition policies and practices and applying new disciplines, technologies, and analytical capabilities to enhance strategic decision making.

**Modeling** tools and prototypes that enables the application of new approaches.

**Piloting** the experimental use of tools and models in actual DoD conditions to demonstrate and test their potential while identifying additional practical implementation issues to address.

**Educating** and developing executives and workforce for improved performance and use of new approaches, tools, and methods.

**Transitioning** findings, insights, tools, approaches, policies, and recommendations for use by decision-makers, operators, and end users.

### MISSION

#### Improve Acquisition Outcomes

A learning organization that reaches across **academia** to enable **DoD** innovation and evidence-based decision making through **applied** policy, organizational change management, and workforce development. **Adaptively engage faculty based on current needs (rather than a standing professional workforce).**



### Transformation

The Acquisition Innovation Research Center (AIRC), housed within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)), is represented by a national network of expertise spanning academia, government, and industry. The AIRC leverages its multi-university partnerships to connect DoD domain experts with faculty-led research teams with backgrounds in engineering, management, business, law, economics, policy, data science, and more. These multidisciplinary teams deliver innovative research, which they then apply in practical pilot projects focused on addressing enduring challenges in defense acquisition policy, practice, education, and training.

### AIRC Innovation Framework



# Leveraging a Network of Faculty and Researchers

## Working with AIRC and its Collaboration Network

AIRC engages the talents of faculty, students, researchers, and subject-matter experts from its network of collaborative universities to deliver innovative academic analysis, policy alternatives, and practical applications. Through this approach, AIRC delivers improved defense acquisition outcomes powered by evidence-based, data-driven decision making. These results benefit stakeholders from across the extended DoD Acquisition Enterprise, while also supporting and empowering academic researchers and national thought leaders.

### AIRC Distinctions:

**Applied** — Connects research teams with DoD leaders and users through pilots and experiments.

**Innovative** — Reaches untapped expertise across multiple disciplines from a broad network of leading universities.

**Action-Oriented** — Focuses on transitioning and scaling results.

**Nimble** — Delivers impactful results aligned with emerging priorities within responsive timelines.

**Efficient** — Streamlined and flat.

## COLLABORATIVE UNIVERSITIES



## CONTACT

3010 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC  
20301-3010



**Mr. Mark E. Krzysko**  
*Principal Deputy Director for Acquisition Policy and Innovation in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment*  
mark.e.krzysko.civ@mail.mil

Stevens Institute of Technology  
1 Castle Point Terrace  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
Phone: 201-216-8300  
Fax: 201-216-8550  
airc@acqirc.org  
www.acqirc.org



**Dr. Dinesh Verma**  
*Executive Director, AIRC*  
dverma@stevens.edu



**Dr. Philip S. Antón**  
*Chief Scientist, AIRC*  
panton@stevens.edu

## 4 Pathways to Engage AIRC

