THE FIRST 25 YEARS

As is often the case, the history of the Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) doesn't begin with its actual founding. Rather, it begins in the recommendations of the Packard Commission and the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. As a result of that legislation, the Army adopted a three-tiered acquisition management chain in 1987 that consisted of the Army acquisition executive, program executive officers (PEOs) and project or product managers. PEOs were given responsibility for cost and performance of specific acquisition programs, and project and product managers in turn reported to their respective PEOs. Twenty PEOs were established on May 1, 1987. GEN Carl E. Vuono signed the memo that would create the AAC in 1989. The Defense Workforce Improvement Act followed in 1990, and Defense Acquisition University followed quickly in 1991.

This timeline of the first 25 years combines input from the PEOs with Army AL&T magazine staff research. It is not intended to be exhaustive, but to provide a general overview of how far the AAC and the Army Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Workforce have come in 2 1/2 decades.

1989

PEO AVIATION
Retrofit of all AHIP equipment to fully armed configuration approved.

Configuring 81 aircraft to MPLH approved.

Ends production of UH-60A Black Hawk helicopter.

AAC
Created Oct. 13, 1989.

1990

PEO EIS
Adopts COTS solutions to address environmental issues affecting connectivity and computing in theater.

PEO AVIATION
MQ-5B Hunter unmanned aircraft added to PM UAS fleet.

Longbow Fire Control Radar, Radar Frequency Hellfire Missile and AH-64D programs are aligned.

USAARL
Expands contact lens research protocol to support deployed Apache aircrew.

DAWIA
Enacted Nov. 5.

Army Acquisition Executive Support Agency established.

Gulf War August 1990 – February 1991

1991

PEO FAS
Paladin begins low-rate production.

PEO HIGH-MEDIUM AIR DEFENSE
PATRIOT successfully intercepts and destroys an Iraqi Scud missile.

AMSAA
Gains independent logistics analysis mission.

PEO IEW&S
Fields the Joint STARS Ground Station Module in Operation Desert Storm.

1992

PEO STRI
Army activates PEO STRI.

PEO GPALS
Created by the merger of PEO Air Defense and the former Army Strategic Defense Command and the Army Missile Command.

1993

PEO MISSILE DEFENSE
PEO GPALS renamed PEO Missile Defense.

TATRC
Established under the name Medical Advanced Technology Management Office.

AMSAA
Required to provide AMC an overview of the reliability and performance of nuclear and non-nuclear ammunition, missiles and materiel systems.

PEO C3T
Leads the Army's Battlefield Digitization initiative and the digitization of heavy forces.

1994

USAMMA
Assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

USAARL
Uses Aviation Epidemiology Data Register to define the U.S. Army aviation population for flight surgeons.

ACAT II
Established to provide battle labs with means of experimenting with targeted, enabling technologies for near-term use.

HETS
First unit equipped.

1995

USAARL
Develops the Crew Endurance Management System.

Fields and tests the Communications Ear Plug for Army aviators.

AMSAA
Designated as the Army Executive Agent for Reliability Standards.

PEO C3T
Created by the merger of PEO Communications Systems and PEO Command and Control Systems.

1996

ACWA PROGRAM
Established under new legislation.

PEO AMD
PEO Missile Defense is renamed PEO AMD.

Sentinel first production delivered.

ACMO
Evolves from the Army Acquisition Corps Re-engineering Team.

USAARL
Develops and transitions the Small Letter Contrast Test.

USACEHR
Is established.

WRAIR
Licenses hepatitis A vaccine.

1997

PEO AMD
Javelin begins full-rate production.

PEO AVIATION
Delivers first AH-64D Longbow Apache (Block I).

1998

ARMY SSC
Produces Interceptor Body Armor.

USARIEM
Fluid replacement guidelines for warm weather training are adopted by TRADOC.

PEO IEW&S
Makes initial delivery of the Forward Looking Infrared.

PEO AVIATION
HELLFIRE Longbow achieves initial operational capability.

1999

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) established.

PEO GCS
The Stryker Program begins.

PEO C3T
Begins fielding FBCB2.

PEO IEW&S
Fields Driver's Vision Enhancer.

USAARL
Publishes "Helmet-Mounted Displays: Design Issues for Rotary-Wing Aircraft."

2000

PEO AVIATION
RQ-7B Shadow added to Army's UAS fleet.

PM Aircraft Systems reflagged PMO Aviation and Maintenance Support Systems.

TATRC
AAMTI begins, aims to encourage medical technology entrepreneurship.

2001

War in Afghanistan begins Oct. 7

PEO EIS
PEO STAMIS becomes PEO EIS.

PEO EIS, through PD ITS, leads task of modernizing and installing IT capabilities and infrastructure at the Pentagon.

PEO AVIATION
UH-60M Upgrade Product Office is established to extend the service life of the UH-60 design.

PEO CS&CSS
PEO established.

2002

PEO AMMO
Is established.

PEO SOLDIER
Is established.

RFI delivers equipment, weapons and other gear to Soldiers much faster than the conventional acquisition process.

PEO AVIATION
Delivers last CH-47D Chinook, known as "Mr. Potato."

Establishes H-60 Recapitalization Program at Corpus Christi Army Depot.

PM Army Materiel Status System is deactivated and reestablished as PM Aircraft Systems.

USAMMA
Implements an SAP Enterprise Resource Planning System.

ACMO becomes Acquisition Support Center. It will become the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center in October 2006.

2003

War in Iraq March 20, 2003 – Dec. 15, 2011

PEO GCS
Stryker first unit equipped.

JPEO CBD
Receives charter.

PEO EIS
Inherits LMP from AMC.

USAMMA
Maintenance Operations Division obtains ISO certification.

PEO AMMO
Designated as the single manager for conventional ammunition.

Fields mortar fire control system to 1st Cavalry Division.

PEO AVIATION
Delivers first AH-64D Longbow Apache (Block II).

2004

PEO C3T
Rapidly equips 3rd Infantry Division with WIN-T.

PEO IEW&S
Fields Persistent Threat Detection System.

PEO AVIATION
T700-GE-701D engine enters production, improving power and durability for Black Hawk and Apache helicopters.

Establishes Light Utility Helicopter Product Office.

PEO SOLDIER
Fields CROWS.

PEO GCS
Up-armor of the HMMWV and tactical vehicle fleets begins.

MRAP Program begins.

JPEO CBD
Begins fielding the ALS and UCS to the WMD CSTs.

2005

USARIEM
Publishes TB MED 508.

JPEO CBD
Begins fielding JBAIDS.

PEO AVIATION
ACAT 1D H-60M Program completes Milestone C requirements.

LUH Capabilities Development Document approved.

PEO AMMO
Lightweight Handheld Mortar Ballistic Computer is type-classified.

PEO IEW&S
Common Missile Warning System fielded to troops deployed for OIF.

Fields Duke CREW systems.

PEO EIS
CHESS Consolidated Buy Program is rolled out.

PEO MISSILES AND SPACE
Established with the merger of PEO Tactical Missiles and PEO Air, Space and Missile Defense.

PEO CS&CSS
Creates PM Future Tactical Systems (Provisional).

2006

PEO IEW&S
Distributed Common Ground System – Army is fielded to troops supporting OIF.

ARMY INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE
Office established.

JM&L LCMC
Created by linking PEO Ammo with AMRDEC and JMC.

ASA(ALT)
Acquires MRAPs to safeguard Soldiers from roadside bombs and other IEDs.

PEO AVIATION
Begins production of CH-47F helicopter.

USAARL
Develops FOCUS to evaluate performance of face and eye protective equipment.

U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center is designated as a direct reporting unit of the ASA(ALT) on Oct. 16.

2007

Gansler Commission formed.

PEO AMMO
Product Manager for Improvised Explosive Devices Defeat/Protect Force established.

PEO AVIATION
First unit is equipped with CH-47F.

AME PO begins fielding ARC-231 SATCOM radios.

PEO STRI
Establishes contracting authority.

JPEO CBD
Improved skin decontamination capability against CWAs achieves full-rate production.

PEO AMMO
Fields Excalibur Ia1.

PEO SOLDIER
Deploys Land Warrior System to Iraq with 4th Bn, 9th Inf.

2008

JPEO CBD
Begins fielding Joint Service General Purpose Mask.

PEO IEW&S
Begins fielding Base Expeditionary Targeting Surveillance System – Combined.

PEO AVIATION
Adds MQ-1C Gray Eagle to Army's UAS fleet.

Equips 159th CAB, 101st Airborne with UH-60M Upgrade.

USARIEM
Receives U.S. patent for Skin Temperature Feedback Microclimate Cooling Method.

ACC
U.S. Army Contracting Command established.

PEO SOLDIER
Fields ENVG.

2009

Congress passes Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act.

TATRC
C/T2 Program established.

USAARL
Publishes "Helmet-Mounted Displays: Sensation, Perception and Cognition."

JPEO CBD
Begins fielding Joint Chemical Agent Detector.

PEO AMMO
Receives program responsibility for non-standard ammo.

Establishes Project Director for Joint Products.

PEO IEW&S
Fields Prophet Enhanced electronic warfare system.

Establishes Project Manager for Electronic Warfare.

2010

PEO AMMO
Fields 5.56 mm Enhanced Performance (lead-free) Round.

Husky Mounted Detection System designated for urgent materiel release.

PEO AVIATION
PdM AGSE begins fielding Standard Aviation Towing System.

CASUP for Kiowa Warrior completes Milestone B review.

Produces 15,000th T700 engine.

Tactical Airspace Integration System named Network Centric Warfare U.S. Government Program of the Year.

USAMMA
Establishes PMO MEDEVAC MEP.

2011

Better Business Practice – Better Buying Power Initiative launched.

PEO IEW&S
40th anniversary of Guardrail System.

USAARL
Develops Rabin Color Vision Test to quantify color vision performance.

PEO AVIATION
First unit synced with Centralized Aviation Flight Records System's central database.

Army acquires RQ-20A Puma.

Delivers first AH-64E Apache.

2012

PEO C3T
Project Manager for Tactical Radios is created.

Begins fielding CS 13, the first package of integrated, tactical comms equipment.

PEO AVIATION
Blue Force Tracker - Aviation transitions from PEO C3T to PEO Aviation.

Improved Turbine Engine Program achieves a successful materiel development decision.

PEO EIS
GFEBS reaches full deployment.

TATRC
COMETS commercialized in August by CAE Health Care for sales worldwide.

ACWA PROGRAM
ACWA is redesignated as a PEO.

PEO SOLDIER
Fields Nett Warrior.

Fields FIOTV.

2013

PEO AVIATION
PdM ATC begins fielding the Mobile Tower System.

PEO AMMO
Spider Baseline Increment 1 receives full-rate production approval.

Precision Guidance Kit Increment 1 TC begins limited production.

JPEO CBD
Field Deployable Hydrolysis System developed.

PEO MISSILES AND SPACE
Intercept capability is deployed to Afghanistan, and first successful intercept occurs just six days after initial operational capability.

PEO IEW&S
First Enhanced Medium Altitude Reconnaissance Surveillance System arrives.

USAMMDA
Regenerative Medicine: double-arm and face transplants.

Adopts ECTD system.

2014

PEO AMMO
Excalibur Ib receives full-rate production approval.

PEO AVIATION
Army UAS surpass the 2 million flight hours milestone.

UH-60V Black Hawk becomes program of record.

Production of the CH-47F MY II (11-08431) rolls out.

Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command integrate headquarters staff.

USAMRMC Systems Biology Enterprise relocates to USACEHR.

ACRONYMS

- **AAMTI:** AMEDD Advanced Medical Technology Initiative
- **ACAT:** Acquisition Category
- **ACMO:** Army Career Management Office
- **ACWA:** Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives
- **AHIP:** Army Helicopter Improvement Program
- **ALS:** Analytical Laboratory System
- **AMC:** Army Materiel Command
- **AME PO:** Aviation Mission Equipment Project Office
- **AMEDD:** Army Medical Department
- **AMD:** Air and Missile Defense
- **AMMO:** Ammunition
- **AMRDEC:** Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center
- **AMSAA:** Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity
- **Army SSC:** Army Soldier Systems Center
- **C3T:** Command, Control and Communications – Tactical
- **CAB:** Combat Aviation Brigade
- **CASUP:** Cockpit and Sensor Upgrade Program
- **COMETS:** Combat Medic Training System
- **CREW:** Counter-Radio Controlled IED Electronic Warfare
- **CROWS:** Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station
- **CS&CSS:** Combat Support and Combat Service Support
- **CST:** Civil Support Team
- **C/T2:** Commercialization/Technology Transfer
- **CWA:** chemical weapons agent
- **DAWIA:** Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act
- **ECTD:** Electronic Common Technical Document
- **EIS:** Enterprise Information Systems
- **ENVG:** Enhanced Night Vision Goggle, AN/PSQ-20
- **FAS:** Field Artillery Systems
- **FBCB2:** Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below
- **FIOTV:** Female Improved Outer Tactical Vest
- **GCS:** Ground Combat Systems
- **GFEBS:** General Fund Enterprise Business Systems
- **GPALS:** Global Protection Against Limited Strikes
- **HETS:** Heavy Equipment Transporter System
- **HMMWV:** High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle
- **IED:** Improvised explosive device
- **IEW&S:** Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors
- **JBAIDS:** Joint Biological Agent Identification and Diagnostic System
- **JMC:** Joint Munitions Command
- **JPEO CBD:** Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense
- **LUH:** Light Use Helicopter
- **MPLH:** Multipurpose Lightweight Helicopter
- **MRAP:** Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle
- **OIF:** Operation Iraqi Freedom
- **PdM AGSE:** Product Manager for Aviation Ground Support Equipment
- **RFI:** Rapid Fielding Initiative
- **SAP:** Systems Application Programming
- **STAMIS:** Standard Army Management Information Systems
- **STARS:** Surveillance Target Attack Radar System
- **STRI:** Simulation, Training and Instrumentation
- **TATRC:** Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center
- **TRADOC:** U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command
- **USAARL:** U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory
- **USACEHR:** U.S. Army Center for Environmental Health Research
- **USAMMA:** U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency
- **USARIEM:** U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine
- **UAS:** Unmanned aircraft systems
- **UCS:** Unified Command Suite
- **WIN-T:** Warfighter Information Network - Tactical
- **WMD:** Weapons of mass destruction
- **WRAIR:** Walter Reed Army Institute of Research