

THOMAS RAY

Director, OSDDBU, US Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency

Tom Ray is the Director, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). In this position, he serves as the Agency's advocate and advisor on the utilization of small businesses. This includes programs to assist small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, Native American businesses, and organizations that employ individuals that are blind or severely disabled.

Mr. Ray graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1969. He received an MBA from George Washington University in 1980, and graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1990.

He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve in 1969, and entered active duty. He was assigned to the U.S. Army, Vietnam. After completing his active duty tour in 1971, he was employed by the Washington office of the National Federation of Independent Business as a Congressional Liaison. In 1973, Mr. Ray accepted a position with the Defense Supply Agency and entered the Management Intern Program. He was assigned to the Directorate of Procurement and Production in July 1974 and to the Office of the Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization in 1979.

Mr. Ray returned to the Executive Directorate of Procurement in 1980. He worked a wide variety of policy and operational issues, and received the DLA Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1991 for his performance during Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

In February 1992, he was named Chief of the Plans and Operations Branch in the Contracts Division. The Director, DLA, appointed Mr. Ray as the Agency Competition Advocate in May 1992. He assumed the position of Assistant Executive Director, Procurement, in April 1995. In that position he was responsible for overseeing procurement operations, providing procurement policy to DLA field activities, and overseeing the industrial support program in DLA. Throughout the 1990s he participated in development of DLA's "Shift to Commercial Practices," including long-term contracting, corporate contracting, and strategic material sourcing. He was temporarily detailed to the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform in 1993 where he helped draft the Federal Acquisition Reform Act. He received a "Hammer Award" from the Vice President in 1996 for his work on acquisition reform. He was awarded the Exceptional Civilian Service Award in 1997 by DLA for his work in furthering best business practices. He was appointed Director, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, by the Director of DLA on June 1, 2000.

Tom Ray is married and has four grown children. His principal interests outside of work are reading and bluegrass music.