

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Independent Review Process at NRO

The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) Cost Analysis Improvement Group (CAIG) has traditionally been responsible for developing Independent Cost Estimates (ICE) in support of program milestone decisions as well as “ad hoc” program cost analysis support. The NRO is going through a major organizational transition to “improve the intelligence value of NRO services by 42nd Annual DoD Cost Analysis Symposium improving the content, access, and timeliness of information we provide to our mission partners and other customers.” This goal requires the ability to cost effectively improvements and innovations to NRO systems by improving NRO acquisition performance. In support, the NRO CAIG has looked to expand its roles and responsibilities by identifying opportunities and developing processes to better utilize ICE data and tools in support of satellite system acquisitions. This paper will discuss the type of support that is provided through the life cycle of a program, the tools that are required to provide the support, the organizational structure, makeup and culture that is required to provide life cycle support, some specific examples of support provided, and the ultimate benefits to satellite acquisition performance.

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Mr. Keith H. Robertson graduated from the Pennsylvania State University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. He also holds a Masters degree from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Engineering Administration. Mr. Robertson started his professional career as a cost analyst and industrial engineer in the Cost Analysis Division, Naval Air Systems Command, Washington, D.C. While at NAVAIR, he was responsible for developing acquisition cost estimates for a variety of multi-billion dollar next generation air warfare systems. His work included extensive efforts in developing cost estimates and unique cost methodologies for the nations Joint Strike Fighter program. In 1998 he joined the Central Intelligence Agency and was assigned to the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). During ten years at the NRO, he worked in the NRO's Cost Group (NCG) where he developed Independent Cost Estimates for National Security Space Intelligence programs. He was specifically recruited to be the team lead for all Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) programs and subsequently was dual hatted as the team lead for all Advanced Science and Technology (AS&T) programs. In 2003, he was appointed by the NRO to be the Director of the NRO Cost Analysis Improvement Group (NRO CAIG). In this capacity, he is responsible for conducting independent life cycle cost estimates and overseeing implementation of Earned Value management for all major NRO programs. He also manages the production of cost estimates supporting cost/effectiveness analysis, affordability assessments, long range planning, program budget builds, major acquisition program source selections, and program estimates at completion. Additionally, he leads the development of the NRO's principal program cost and technical database, the development and enhancement of NRO cost analysis methods, and chairs the NRO's government/industry cost integrated process team. In 2005 he was promoted into the Senior Intelligence Service.