
Candace Chesser



Director, Logistics Management Integration Department Naval Air Systems Command

Candace “Candy” Chesser is the Director, Logistics Management (AIR-6.6) at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Patuxent River, Md. In this role she is responsible for integrated logistics support for 3,900 naval aviation aircraft and weapons programs supported by a geographically-dispersed department with approximately 1,300 employees. She manages an operating budget of \$17 million that directly influences program logistics acquisition budgets in excess of \$5 billion.

Ms. Chesser entered the Senior Executive Service in October of 2017. She has over 35 years of government service and began her career at the Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Activity (NESEA) at St. Inigoes, Md., in June 1981, where she worked in various positions including clerk-typist, editor/writer, program analyst and business financial management analyst until February 2002.

In February 2002, Ms. Chesser was selected as the acquisition manager supporting the F/A-18 and EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265) at NAVAIR. In May 2006, she became the operations officer for Navy Unmanned Combat Air System (N-UCAS) Program Office (PMA-268). She was promoted to the Level I integrated product team lead for X-47B N-UCAS Demonstration in PMA-268 in September 2007. In that position, she was responsible for all cost, schedule and performance attributes of the UCAS demonstration effort and successfully led her team through Critical Design Review and prepared them for their First Flight Readiness Review.

In July 2009, Ms. Chesser accepted a rotational position with the Program Executive Office for Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault and Special Mission Programs (PEO(A)) as an action officer for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air Programs. Her primary programs were the Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program and the Naval Undergraduate Flight Training Programs; she also supported several weapons programs, such as Small Diameter Bomb, Tactical Tomahawk and AIM-9X.

From July 2010 to September 2013, Ms. Chesser served as the Principal Deputy Program Manager for the Naval Air Traffic Management Systems Program Office (PMA-213). She led the team in supporting 70 systems in various stages of the acquisition life cycle with a total obligation authority of more than \$3.5 billion. In September 2013, she was

assigned as the Principal Deputy Program Manager, Air Combat Electronics (PMA-209), and in June 2014, she assumed the position of Program Manager. Ms. Chesser was responsible for the acquisition, engineering, software development, logistics, test and evaluation, and contracting for a large portfolio of more than 200 avionics products and 28 acquisition programs supporting all type, model, series (T/M/S) aircraft. She led more than 400 military, civilian and contractor personnel with an annual budget of \$430M.

Ms. Chesser graduated from the University of Maryland University College in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in technology and management, and a minor in communication studies. She earned a master's of science degree in project management from Florida Institute of Technology in January 2010. Ms. Chesser graduated from the Executive Program Manager's course at the Defense Acquisition University in February 2011 and is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level III career field certified in Program Management, Business, Cost Estimating and Financial Management and Logistics.

Ms. Chesser's awards include the Department of the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award in August 2013 and Superior Civilian Service Award in May 2017.