

Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT



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DoD Announces Sharothi Pikar as Deputy Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office, Acquisitions

Arlington, VA – The Department of Defense (DoD) announces Ms. Sharothi Pikar to join the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO) as the first Deputy CDAO, Acquisitions. Pikar brings an extensive background in acquisitions, research, engineering, and cyberspace operations.

As Deputy CDAO, Acquisitions, Pikar’s primary role will be leading the development, procurement, and acquisition of capabilities with our academic and industry partners. To realize the DoD’s vision within the dynamic digital and AI ecosystem, it is vital that the CDAO acquires capabilities rapidly while ensuring all capabilities are held to the CDAO’s ethical and responsible standards.

Mr. John Sherman, DoD Chief Information Officer and Acting CDAO notes, “Sharothi is perfect for the role, bringing her knowledge and expertise in acquiring new technologies for the Department and coming into a team already working innovative and exciting contract vehicles here at CDAO. Her hire along with the rest of our leadership really highlights the importance of CDAO. We are recruiting top level talent from all over. They know our mission is the future!”

Pikar most recently served as the Acquisition Executive (CAE) and the Director of Acquisition and Technology Directorate (J9) of U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM). Additionally, she was the Command’s Senior Procurement Executive and served as the USCYBERCOM Milestone Decision Authority and approval authority for all CYBERCOM research, development, and acquisition activities with an annual budget in excess of \$650M.