



NGA NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Peter T Highnam Director, Research

(U) Dr. Peter Highnam became director of NGA's research organization in July 2015. Prior to this he served 6.5 years at the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) initially as the Office Director of Incisive Analysis, and then as Director. While at IARPA he was also involved in high performance computing (HPC) activities in the Department of Energy and the National Strategic Computing Initiative. IARPA is an organization within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.



(U) Before IARPA he worked for 6 years in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As a senior advisor in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) he had responsibilities in multiple areas where high performance computing meets biomedicine and public health, including computational epidemiology. As senior advisor in the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) he produced analyses related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear events in support of public health decision-making. BARDA is an organization within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

(U) From 1999 to 2003, he was a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) program manager working in electronic warfare (AT3) and airborne communications (TTNT). AT3 focused on inexpensive approaches to rapidly and accurately target enemy air defense radars from standoff. TTNT established the technology for high performance, flexible and secure networked communication between tactical aircraft, enabling plans to move away from old systems such as Link 16.

(U) Prior to DARPA, he worked for more than a decade in applied research at Schlumberger Limited where he implemented industry-changing massive seismic data analytics on massively parallel computers. He also served as a director of a successful biomedical imaging startup company.

(U) He holds a Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Distinguished Service Award and a Department of Defense Civilian Exceptional Service Award. He is a co-inventor on three patents in commercial seismic exploration and holds a doctorate in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University.