



**Bio for Brenda S. Farrell**  
**Director, Defense Capabilities and Management**  
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In April 2007, Ms. Farrell was appointed to serve as a director in GAO's Defense Capabilities and Management Team where she is responsible for oversight of military and DOD civilian personnel issues, including defense health care, unmanned systems personnel issues, quality of life topics, sexual assault and sexual harassment, whistleblower protection, and workforce mix issues. Prior to her appointment with the Defense Capabilities and Management Team, Ms. Farrell was an Acting Director for GAO's Strategic Issues Team where she was responsible for overseeing major bodies of work related to government-wide strategic human capital management and federal government regulation issues. Before joining the Strategic Issues Team, Ms. Farrell was an Assistant Director for Defense Capabilities and Management and led military personnel engagements encompassing military pay and benefits, Reserve and National Guard mobilization issues, and senior military officer requirements and career development.

Ms. Farrell began her career at GAO in 1981, and has served in a number of issue areas associated with national security issues. She received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Louisville. In 2000/2001, she attended the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces and earned a master's degree in national resources strategy. Ms. Farrell completed the leadership development program at Eckerd College in 2004, and in 2005, she completed the Senior Executive Fellow Program at Harvard University. In March 2007, she graduated from the CAPSTONE program at the National Defense University for newly appointed general and flag officers being the first GAO SES to complete this program. Ms. Farrell was the project director for a seminar on organizational transformation, co-sponsored by GAO, the World Bank, and the INTOSAI Development Initiative for the heads of Supreme Audit Institutions.

Ms. Farrell was the recipient of a distinguished service award, two congressional client service award, and two meritorious awards for sustained extraordinary performance leading multiple, highly complex, defense reviews, as well as numerous other awards including several Results through Teamwork awards, and awards for high quality products.