

Ms. Ann Gisch is the undisputed subject matter expert in the area of architectural product reviews within the OPNAV N2/N6 directorate, and throughout the Department of the Navy (DON). Her tireless efforts in crafting, improving, and implementing the DON EA v1.0, released on 31 July 2009, earned her a personal commendation from Mr. Robert Carey, DON CIO, including his naming her a “DON EA plank owner.” In Naval lexicon, a “plank owner” is one who was a member of the crew at the time of a ship’s commissioning, and therefore helped lay the foundation for its future successes. Ms. Gisch participated on weekly working group meetings to aid in delivering the DON EA v1.0, which will allow Navy and USMC portfolio managers to make application, system, database, and network investment decisions based on empirical information (i.e. architecture data). This particular effort has allowed the Navy to more closely align with DOD’s IM/IT Strategic Plan Goal #1, Net-Centric Transformation.

DOD IM/IT Strategic Goal #2, Information as a Strategic Asset, calls on DOD to “use information sharing to enable effective and agile decision making through visible, accessible, understandable and trusted data and services, when and where needed.” To enable achievement of this goal, Ms. Gisch worked tirelessly to assist program and resource sponsors by reviewing applicable Joint Capabilities Integration Documentation Systems (JCIDS) documents for Navy architecture and joint interoperability requirements compliance. Recognizing a pattern of inadequate architectural artifacts within JCIDS packages, she reached out to program owners to hold face-to-face meetings to discuss each of their programs in detail, ensuring they understood the requirements of architectural detail, and the means to achieve them and make them visible. As a direct result of her personal efforts, programs have begun to respond by building architectures that will help Navy achieve this critical goal.