Sergeant First Class Richard Fuentes
Program Advisor
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

SFC Richard (Rich) Fuentes, is a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Program Advisor and brings over nineteen years' experience in the United States Army. He joined the Army in December 2006 and served as both an Information Technology Specialist (25B) and a Cyber Network Defender (25D). He has been assigned to 1-52nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 6-17th Calvary, Task Force 49, 4th Brigade/25th Infantry Division (Airborne), 2nd Brigade/82nd Airborne Division, 22nd Corps Signal Brigade, and I Corps. He is currently assigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army, Chief Information Officer/G-6 with duty at DARPA. He has deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo, and has supported numerous named operations in the Pacific, European and Middle East Theaters in Joint, Allied, and Partner environments. Key areas of note include: first Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) to serve as a Mission Command Training Program Cyber Observer Controller/Trainer supporting Warfighter exercises; served as a curriculum developer for the Data Engineering Foundational and Data Literacy for Leaders Course currently being taught at Ft. Gordon, Georgia; Project Manager and Plank holder for the I Corps Data Integrations and Innovations Team (D2I); and selected as the first NCO to ever serve at DARPA since they opened their doors in 1958.

As a DARPA Program Advisor, Rich ensures DARPA technologies are adapted timely to support the Army's needs. He leverages his extensive tactical unit experience to guide program decisions and conducts field testing with tactical units to ensure that Warfighters have a voice in developing cutting-edge technologies that they will have to fight with at every step throughout the development process. His bottom-up approach benefits both Warfighters and developers and by combing tactical know-how with industry best practices. It is imperative that we develop technologies to prevent technical surprise while also iterating on those technologies today to support the fight at hand.