



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

JAN 10 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Middle Tier Acquisition and Acquisition Agility Interim Guidance Update

- Reference: (a) Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition Memo, "Middle Tier Acquisition and Acquisition Agility Guidance" dtd Apr 28, 2018
(b) Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Memo, "Middle Tier of Acquisition (Rapid Prototyping/Rapid Fielding) Interim Governance" dtd Oct 9, 2018

Reference (a) provided new interim guidance related to both Middle Tier Acquisition and Acquisition Agility efforts, which are exempt from Major Defense Acquisition Program (MDAP) requirements, the Joint Capabilities Integration Development System (JCIDS), and Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 5000.02 policies and procedures. This memorandum modifies reference (a) with respect to Middle Tier Acquisition as described below and provides additional clarification regarding Acquisition Agility.

MIDDLE TIER ACQUISITION

This memorandum modifies reference (a) with respect to the following aspects of Middle Tier Acquisition: (1) the designation approval authority; (2) the initiation approval authority; and (3) the definition of "initiation". In an effort to further decentralize authority, to encourage utilization of these new authorities, and to instantiate the use of all rapid acquisition tools as a standard part of our business rather than exception, Commanders of the Systems Commands (SYSCOMs), Program Executive Officers (PEOs), and Direct Reporting Program Managers (DRPMs) are hereby authorized to designate and initiate Middle Tier Acquisition projects and programs that meet the criteria for such approval level depicted per attachment. The SYSCOM Commander, PEO, or DRPM shall be the acquisition decision authority (ADA) for these projects and programs.

Designation of a Middle Tier project or program shall be accomplished via an Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM). ADMs approved by a SYSCOM Commander, PEO, or DRPM shall be provided to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for

SUBJECT: Middle Tier Acquisition and Acquisition Agility Interim Guidance Update

Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN (RD&A)), with copies as stated in the attachment, no later than two business days after signature.

For prospective Middle Tier projects and programs that do not meet the criteria for designation by a SYSCOM Commander, PEO, or DRPM depicted in the attachment, ASN(RD&A) will be the designation authority. The Acquisition Decision Authority (ADA) designated by ASN(RD&A) shall initiate such projects and programs consistent with any direction provided by ASN(RD&A). Consult the portfolio DASN and/or DASN(RDT&E) staff on additional options for use of the middle tier acquisition pathway.

Per reference (b), ASN(RD&A) is required to identify any new Middle Tier Acquisition projects or programs to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)) by submitting an information memorandum and Program Identification data at least 30 calendar days before the obligation of any funds for a Middle Tier Acquisition effort. For DON purposes, "initiation" is defined as the first obligation of funds after an ADM designating a Middle Tier project or program is signed. The statutory six-month and five-year time periods for Middle Tier projects and programs will be calculated from the date of such first obligation (i.e. the date of initiation).

Per reference (a), a merit-based assessment shall be performed by the authorizing official to aid in the designation of a Middle Tier Acquisition project or program. Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (DASN(RDT&E)) staff are available to assist programs exploring these new authorities. An Accelerated Acquisition Playbook is also now available online at the following link: https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/cop/NIN/SitePages/Playbooks/AA/AA_Playbook.aspx. Additional accelerated acquisition resource materials and a tailorable sample merit-based assessment are also available on this site. While a merit-based assessment is required, use of the tailorable template is not mandatory.

ACQUISITION AGILITY

Reference (a) addresses Acquisition Agility interim guidance for component/technology level prototyping. Please note that the authority provided in that initial guidance is not limited to use in support of MDAPs. Acquisition Agility projects may transition into programs other than MDAPs. Acquisition Agility is not applicable to Defense Business Systems.

SUBJECT: Middle Tier Acquisition and Acquisition Agility Interim Guidance Update

SYSCOMs, PEOs, and DRPMs are each directed to identify a point of contact as their future, local, subject matter expert on these accelerated acquisition topics. Names and contact information should be provided to CAPT David Bauer, DASN(RDT&E) staff, at David.E.Bauer1@navy.mil or 703-614-3440.

For mobile training opportunities on these authorities, please contact Ms. Kristen Alvarez, DASN(RDT&E) staff, at Kristen.Alvarez@navy.mil or 703-614-8806. For questions, please contact CAPT David Bauer at the email or phone number above.


James F. Geurts

**Attachment:
As stated**

**cc:
CNO
CMC
PCD ASN(RD&A)
PMD ASN(RD&A)
AGC ASN(RD&A)
DASNs ASN(RD&A)
DACM ASN(RD&A)
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