



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY**  
**ACQUISITION LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**103 ARMY PENTAGON**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0103**

SAAL-ZS

20 March 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) Middle Tier of Acquisition Policy

1. References:

- a. Memorandum, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) (OASA(ALT)), 25 September 2018, subject: OASA(ALT) Middle Tier of Acquisition (MTA) Policy.
- b. Memorandum, OASA(ALT)), 15 December 2017, subject: Implementing Acquisition Streamlining and Cultural Change.
- c. Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 5000.02, "Operation of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework," January 23, 2020.
- d. DoDI 5000.80, "Operation of the MTA," December 30, 2019.
- e. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 5123.01H, "Charter of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council and the Implementation of the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System," 31 August 2018.
- f. DoD Directive 5000.01, "The Defense Acquisition System," May 12, 2003, Incorporating Change 2, August 31, 2018.
- g. Title 10, U.S.C., Section 2302d, "Major system: definitional threshold amounts."
- h. Title 10, U.S.C., Section 2371b, "Authority of the Department of Defense to carry out certain prototype projects."
- i. Title 10, U.S.C., Section 2373, "Procurement for experimental purposes."
- j. Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).
- k. DoDI 5025.01, "DoD Issuances Program," Change 3 Effective May 22, 2019.
- l. Title 10, U.S.C., Section 2430, "Major defense acquisition program defined."

SAAL-ZS

SUBJECT: Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) Middle Tier of Acquisition Policy

m. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, Section 804, MTA for Rapid Prototyping and Rapid Fielding.

n. Memorandum, OASA(ALT), 28 February 2019, subject: Policy Directive for Test and Evaluation of MTA Programs.

o. Memorandum, Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)), March 20, 2019, subject: MTA (Rapid Prototyping/Rapid Fielding) Interim Governance 2.

2. Purpose: This memorandum updates and replaces references 1.a. and 1.b., and provides Army Program Executive Officers (PEO) and Program Managers (PM) with guidance for MTA programs in accordance with references 1.c. and 1.d. It provides policy and procedures for the initiation, execution, and transition of MTA programs.

3. Background: References 1.c. and 1.d. provides authority and guidance to rapidly prototype or rapidly field capabilities under the MTA pathway. MTA programs will not be subject to the guidance in references 1.e. or 1.f. The MTA includes two distinct pathways (illustrated in Figure 1). MTA programs may not be planned to exceed five years to completion and, in execution, will not exceed five years after MTA program start without Defense Acquisition Executive (DAE) waiver. Rapid prototyping and rapid fielding efforts may be executed in parallel, however each effort must have separate MTA approval.

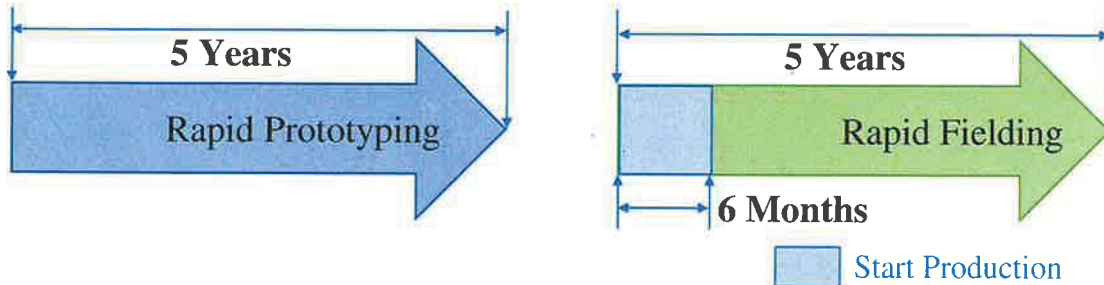
a. The rapid prototyping path provides for the use of innovative technologies and new capabilities to rapidly develop fieldable prototypes to demonstrate new capabilities and meet emerging military needs. The objective of an acquisition program under this path is fielding a prototype that was successfully demonstrated in an operational environment and providing a residual operational capability within five years of the program start date. Virtual prototyping models are acceptable if they result in a fieldable residual operational capability.

b. The rapid fielding path provides for the use of existing products and proven technologies to field production quantities of new or upgraded systems with minimal development required. The objective of an acquisition program under this path is to begin production within six months and complete fielding within five years of the MTA program start date. MTA program production start date will not exceed six months after MTA program start date without DAE waiver.

SAAL-ZS

SUBJECT: Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) Middle Tier of Acquisition Policy

**Figure 1. Timelines**



4. Responsibilities:

a. The Army Acquisition Executive (AAE) will:

- (1) Provide oversight, guidance and reporting requirements for MTA programs.
- (2) Approve the use of the MTA pathway for Army programs.
- (3) Serve as the Decision Authority (DA) for MTA programs unless delegated to the PEO and noted in the MTA program initiation Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM).
- (4) Evaluate annually the performance of PEOs and any direct-reporting PMs on assigned MTA programs. Ensures PEOs evaluate the performance of their PMs on these efforts annually.

b. The Deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management (DASM) will:

- (1) Serve as the OASA(ALT) lead to establish Army MTA information-reporting and governance protocols.
- (2) Be accountable for capturing and reporting MTA data to the Office of the USD(A&S).
- (3) The Department of the Army Systems Coordinator coordinates supporting documentation necessary to inform DASM recommendations and ensures compliance with MTA program requirements.

c. DA. The DA is the designated individual with overall responsibility for a program conducted under MTA. The DA for each approved Rapid Prototyping/Rapid Fielding initiative will:

SAAL-ZS

SUBJECT: Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) Middle Tier of Acquisition Policy

(1) Approve major decisions concerning progress of the effort at pre-established decision points.

(2) Approve MTA program documentation within their purview.

(3) Be accountable for reporting data to USD(A&S) in accordance with reference 1.d. and any applicable Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation and/or Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller) requirements.

(4) Authorize PMs to utilize tailored, streamlined procedures that support effective project completion in accordance with reference 1.c. and 1.d.

(5) In coordination with functional stakeholders, ensure that PEOs/PMs structure all individual MTA programs to adhere to the operating principles outlined in this document.

(6) Track measurable, quantifiable metrics that assess technical performance parameters, cost, and schedule.

(7) Designate a product support manager.

d. PM. The PM is the designated individual with responsibility for and authority to accomplish the objectives of the MTA program. The PM shall be accountable to the DA for credible cost, schedule, and performance. The PM for each approved Rapid Prototyping/Rapid Fielding initiative will:

(1) Execute the MTA program per the AAE's MTA initiation ADM, acquisition strategy, and subsequent direction from the designated DA. The PM must return to the DA for approval to deviate from the initial ADM.

(2) Report to the designated MTA DA.

(3) Develop and implement disciplined acquisition and funding strategies. Make trade-offs among life-cycle costs, requirements, and schedules to meet the goals of the MTA program, in coordination with end-users and the test community.

(4) Ensure that experimentation focuses on outcomes, affords the maximum ability for quantifiable measurement, and military value in an operational environment.

(5) Coordinate with stakeholders for appropriate concurrence at key decision points. Additionally, include in decision points the requirement for stakeholders to adjust program documentation, including the validated requirement.

SAAL-ZS

SUBJECT: Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) Middle Tier of Acquisition Policy

(6) For any MTA program expected to require an eventual total expenditure that exceeds the threshold defined pursuant to reference 1.g., the DA will coordinate with the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8 to ensure the requirements document is loaded to Knowledge Management and Decision Support system.

(7) Develop and document metrics to measure the cost, schedule, performance, and risks of the program. Metrics should inform decision makers that the MTA is accomplishing what it intended, when it was intended.

(8) Report effort via Defense Acquisition Visibility Environment (DAVE) interfaces.

(9) Propose to the DA tailored reviews, metrics, processes, and assessments that are necessary for achieving cost, schedule, and performance goals and statutory compliance.

(10) Work closely with contracting officers to select the most appropriate instruments when building the program acquisition strategy, including, but not limited to: Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity contracts, cooperative agreements (when authorized by statute), other transactions for prototype projects (reference 1.h.), experimental authority (reference 1.i.), and FAR, Part 12, "Acquisition of Commercial Items," procedures or standard FAR contracts.

(11) In addition to any other DA-directed status reports, provide the AAE with an executive-level assessment of the program's status with respect to cost, schedule, and performance objectives annually and submit updated Program Identification Data via DAVE interfaces twice annually with the President's Budget and Program Objective Memorandum submissions to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

5. Procedures:

- a. MTA Program Initiation (enclosure 1).
- b. MTA Program Execution (enclosure 2).
- c. MTA Program Transition/Termination (enclosure 3).

SAAL-ZS

SUBJECT: Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) Middle Tier of Acquisition Policy

6. The point of contact is Ms. Danielle Fleming, 703-693-7074, DSN 223-7074 or danielle.m.fleming2.civ@mail.mil.



Bruce D. Jette  
Army Acquisition Executive

Encl

DISTRIBUTION:

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) (SAAL-ZE, SAAL-ZF, SAAL-ZL, SAAL-ZN, SAAL-ZP, SAAL-ZR, SAAL-ZS, SAAL-ZT)

Program Executive Officer:

- Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives
- Aviation
- Combat Support and Combat Service Support
- Command, Control and Communications (Tactical)
- Enterprise Information Systems
- Ground Combat Systems
- Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors
- Missiles and Space
- Simulation, Training and Instrumentation
- Soldier

Joint Program Executive Officer:

- Armaments and Ammunition
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense

CF:

- General Counsel
- Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7
- Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4
- Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8

Commander:

- U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command
- U.S. Army Materiel Command
- U.S. Army Futures Command
- U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command

Director, Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office

MIDDLE TIER ACQUISITION (MTA) PROGRAM INITIATION

1. Operational Needs. The MTA program initiation process will result in an approved requirement and an Army Acquisition Executive (AAE)-signed Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM) that validates the rationale for using the MTA pathway and identifies the full funding required.

2. The responsible Program Executive Officer (PEO)/ Program Manager (PM) will submit for approval requests to use MTA authority through the Deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management (DASM) to the AAE. When appropriate, PEOs/PMs should also request that they be designated the Decision Authority (DA). Requests to use MTA authority will reflect coordination with appropriate requirements, test, and budget officials and, where applicable, the responsible cross-functional team lead.

a. The responsible PEO/ PM will prepare a proposed MTA documentation package. The package will include:

(1) A proposed ADM (TAB A, Enclosure 1) that will provide authority to proceed with the program and designate the DA.

(2) An approved requirements document such as an Abbreviated Capability Development Document or Initial Capability Refinement Document is required.

(3) A program acquisition strategy (TAB B, Enclosure 1). The PM will develop an acquisition strategy for the program. The PM will "tailor-in" reviews, assessments and relevant documentation that results in an acquisition strategy customized to the unique characteristics and risks of their program for presentation to the DA for approval.

(a) Security, schedule and technical/production risks and risk mitigation approaches.

(b) A cost estimate identifying the full funding required. Program cost and funding plan, including cost, schedule and performance metrics.

(c) The PM will develop a process for demonstrating performance and evaluating for current operational purposes of the proposed products and technologies. This process will result in a test strategy or an assessment of test results, included in the acquisition strategy, documenting the evaluation of the demonstrated operational performance, to include validation of required cybersecurity and interoperability as applicable. An independent assessment from the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command is recommended. Programs on the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation oversight list will follow applicable procedures.

(d) Rights in Technical Data and Software. PMs must address Intellectual Property (IP) in their acquisition strategy, consistent with the ASA(ALT) policy on IP, including: any IP developed by the contractor independent of the MTA program; the

cost to purchase or license the IP; the IP that will be developed during the MTA; and what rights to the data the government will have and need.

(e) For Rapid Fielding, the PM will develop a process for considering lifecycle costs and address issues of logistics support and training, with minimum fielding plan criteria; system, joint, and coalition releasability; and planning for cooperative opportunities, to include foreign sales, and develop a process for identifying and exploiting opportunities to use the rapid fielding pathway to reduce total ownership costs. This process will result in a tailored lifecycle sustainment plan that considers the integrated product support elements.

(f) The PM will develop a transition plan included in the acquisition strategy, which provides a timeline for completion of all necessary documentation required for transition, as determined by the DA. Estimated dates for completion of transition documentation should be within two years of MTA program start.

(g) Rapid Prototyping Programs will develop a process for transitioning successful prototypes to new or existing acquisition programs for production, fielding, and operations and sustainment under the rapid fielding pathway or other acquisition pathway.

(h) Rapid Fielding Programs will develop a process for transitioning successful programs to operations and sustainment.

b. No later than **30** days prior to the desired AAE approval date, the PEO/PM will provide the proposed MTA program documentation package through the supporting Department of the Army Systems Coordinator (DASC) to the DASM for review and concurrence, prior to submittal to the AAE.

(1) Upon receipt, the DASC will provide the Director, Acquisition Reporting and Assessments, OASA(ALT) a copy of these documents to determine whether the DASM wishes to schedule a shaping briefing. The intent of the shaping briefing is to obtain DASM guidance and concurrence and ensure the MTA program plan will achieve the AAE's approval.

(2) Upon concurrence by the DASM, the PEO/PM will submit the proposed ADM and all other required documents to the AAE for decision to proceed.

(3) The AAE will approve use of the MTA pathway, or direction to use an alternative strategy.

### 3. Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)) MTA Entrance Criteria Documentation Deliverables.

a. Table 1 describes the documentation required in Defense Acquisition Visibility Environment (DAVE).



(1) Non-major systems are any MTA program expected to require an eventual total expenditure equal to or below threshold as defined pursuant to Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C), Section 2302d documentation shown in Table 1 for non-major systems will be available via DAVE interfaces at least **10** workdays before the desired obligation of funds to a performing activity.

(2) Major systems are any MTA program expected to require an eventual total expenditure that exceeds the threshold defined pursuant to Title 10, U.S.C., Section 2302d. The documentation shown in Table 1 for major systems will be available via DAVE interfaces at least **10** workdays before the desired obligation of funds to a performing activity and prior to the next President's Budget (PB) submission to the to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). Full funding plans for the MTA program (to include year of execution), will be reflected in the documentation, consistent with the cost estimate.

**Table 1. USD(A&S) MTA Entrance Documentation Deliverables**

	Major System <sup>1</sup>	Non-Major System <sup>2</sup>
Rapid prototyping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADM signed by the DA</li> <li>• Approved Requirement<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Acquisition Strategy<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• Cost estimate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADM signed by the DA</li> </ul>
Rapid Fielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADM signed by the DA</li> <li>• Approved Requirement<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Acquisition Strategy<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• Cost estimate</li> <li>• Lifecycle sustainment plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADM signed by the DA</li> </ul>

1. Above threshold as defined pursuant to Title 10, U.S.C., Section 2302d.  
 2. Equal to or below threshold as defined pursuant to Title 10, U.S.C., Section 2302d.  
 3. The approved requirement document is available in the Knowledge Management and Decision Support (KMDS) system.  
 4. Rapid prototyping acquisition strategies will include security, schedule and technical risks; a test strategy or an assessment of test results; and a transition plan that includes a timeline for completion within 2 years of all necessary documentation required for transition, as determined by the DA, after MTA program start.  
 5. Rapid fielding acquisition strategies will include security, schedule, and production risks; either a test strategy or an assessment of test results; and a transition plan that includes a timeline for completion within 2 years of all necessary documentation required for transition, as determined by the DA, after MTA program start.

b. In addition to the documentation listed in Table 1, the Program Identification Data (PID) is required in DAVE.

(1) For a description of PID requirements and connection to the submission portal, see the MTA pathway at the Adaptive Acquisition Framework page on the Defense Acquisition University Website at: <https://www.dau.edu/aaf/>.

(2) PID requirements are tiered between major and non-major systems.

(3) PID update frequency via DAVE interfaces are twice annually with the PB and Program Objective Memorandum submissions to the OSD and must comply with the online PID requirements, consistent with the policy specified in this issuance.

(4) Substantive changes to online content not required by law must be formally coordinated following the guidelines in DoDI 5025.01, "DoD Issuances Program," Change 3 Effective May 22, 2019. Substantive changes include but are not limited to

any additional requirements that add to the financial and personnel burden of any DoD Components.

(5) Any MTA program expected to require an eventual total expenditure that exceeds the Major Defense Acquisition Program (MDAP) threshold defined pursuant to Title 10, U.S.C., Section 2430 requires a written decision from the USD(A&S) approving use of the MTA pathway, or direction to use an alternative strategy is required before obligation of funds.

4. The PM will upload all USD(A&S) MTA entrance criteria documentation in Table 1. For each major system the DA will coordinate with the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8 to load the requirements document to KMDS.

5. Any MTA program expected to require an eventual total expenditure that exceeds the MDAP threshold defined pursuant to Title 10, U.S.C., Section 2430 will obtain a written decision from USD(A&S) approving use of the MTA pathway.

6. MTA program start date is the date an ADM is signed by the AAE initiating the effort as an MTA rapid prototyping or MTA rapid fielding program. MTA programs designated prior to 30 December 2019 will maintain their MTA program start date of funds first obligated.

7. The AAE will ensure that MTA program names and budget reporting clearly and discretely indicate the scope of the effort being conducted under the MTA pathway, especially when the MTA program is a subprogram of a larger program or is a program spiral, increment, or block upgrade. USD(A&S) will maintain the authoritative list of MTA programs for the Department.

EXAMPLE ADM

SAAL-ZS

(DATE)

MEMORANDUM FOR PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER, (PEO Name)

SUBJECT: (MTA Name) Middle Tier Acquisition Decision Memorandum

1. References:

a. Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 5000.02, "Operation of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework," January 23, 2020.

b. DoDI 5000.80, "Operation of the Middle Tier of Acquisition (MTA)," December 30, 2019.

c. Memorandum, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) (OASA(ALT)), [Date], subject: OASA(ALT) MTA Policy.

d. [Other references, as desired].

2. Purpose: To approve request from Program Executive Officer (PEO name) to designate (MTA name) (rapid prototype or rapid fielding) effort as an MTA activity under Section 804, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, as amended, and delegate the (MTA name) (rapid prototype or rapid fielding) Decision Authority (DA) to PEO (PEO name).

3. Decisions:

a. I approve use of MTA authorities to execute the (MTA name) (rapid prototyping or rapid fielding) effort and designate (PEO name) as the DA.

b. I direct PEO (name) to ensure no funds are obligated under this effort until after the Army Acquisition Executive (AAE) formally identifies (MTA name) as an MTA program by providing both the required MTA program documentation to Defense Acquisition Visibility Environment interfaces; and, a written decision from Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment approving the use of the MTA pathway for any program expected to require an eventual total expenditure that exceeds the Major Defense Acquisition Program threshold defined pursuant to Title 10, United States Code, Section 2430.

4. Discussion.

SAAL-ZS

SUBJECT: (MTA Name) Middle Tier Acquisition Decision Memorandum

a. The (MTA name) (requirements document) was approved by (organization) on (date).

b. Program start date is the date this ADM is signed by the AAE.

c. The DA will establish knowledge points to evaluate efforts and report the status of these efforts through the Deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management to the AAE. (\*\* Governance).

d. (address the contract vehicle that will likely be used in this effort).

e. I direct PEO (PEO name) to provide an annual MTA executive summary documenting the status of this effort annually and submit updated Program Identification Data via DAVE interfaces twice annually with the President's Budget and Program Objective Memorandum submissions.

5. The point of contact is \_\_\_\_\_.

Bruce D. Jette  
Army Acquisition Executive

## ACQUISITION STRATEGY

1. The PM will include a program acquisition strategy to support the Army Acquisition Executive's decision to use the MTA authority.
2. Subsequent changes to the approved acquisition strategy require prior DA approval.
3. The acquisition strategy should address, at minimum, the following areas:
  - a. MTA program purpose.
  - b. Project description.
  - c. Capability need, including threat and operational gaps addressed.
  - d. MTA justification: why and how the MTA program is appropriate for execution under MTA's rapid prototyping or rapid fielding pathways; demonstrate how the MTA program fits within Army Modernization Priorities.
  - e. Acquisition approach.
  - f. Program cost and funding plan, including cost, schedule, and performance metrics.
  - g. Program schedule, including knowledge and decision points and decision reviews.
  - h. Fielding strategy (as applicable).
  - i. Test strategy, or an assessment of test results.
  - j. Product support strategy.
  - k. Program risks and risk mitigation approaches.
    - (1) Rapid prototyping acquisition strategies will include security, schedule, and technical risks.
    - (2) Rapid fielding acquisition strategies will include security, schedule, and production risks.
  - l. A transition plan that includes a timeline for completion of all necessary documentation, not later than two years after program start.
4. Rights in Technical Data and Software. PMs must address intellectual property (IP) in their acquisition strategy, consistent with the ASA(ALT) policy on intellectual property.

This includes: any IP developed by the contractor independent of the MTA program; the cost to purchase or license the IP; the IP that will be developed during the MTA; what rights to the data the government will have and need.

MIDDLE TIER OF ACQUISITION (MTA) PROGRAM EXECUTION

1. Program Executive Officer (PEO)/Program Manager (PM) will use merit-based processes for the consideration of innovative technologies or existing products to meet user needs. PMs will implement the program acquisition strategy.

2. In addition to any other Decision Authority (DA)-directed status reports, the PM will provide the Army Acquisition Executive with an executive-level assessment of the program's status with respect to cost, schedule, and performance objectives annually and submit updated Program Identification Data twice annually with the President's Budget and Program Objective Memorandum submissions to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

3. Rapid Prototyping.

a. The prototyping effort should begin with the most difficult requirements first. This allows for early confirmation that the prototype project is achievable, directs the effort toward a different technology, or informs program termination. Prototyping should have well defined outputs that can be assessed with Soldier Touch Points and/or experimentation. This will be used to inform, in as quantifiable manner as possible, a recommendation made by the PM, with cross-functional team input where applicable. The recommendation should inform the DA, who then decides to proceed, adjust or terminate the prototyping effort.

b. PMs should demonstrate and evaluate the performance of fieldable prototypes developed pursuant to the effort in an operational environment. PMs should also develop specific plans to transition successful prototypes to new or existing acquisition programs for production and fielding under the rapid fielding pathway or the Defense Acquisition System.

4. Rapid Fielding.

a. The program will initiate a request for Rapid Fielding approval when it has:

(1) Alignment with a high priority military capability need.

(2) A defined and manageable capability, cost, schedule, concept of supportability and technical risk for a designated number of Army Requirements Oversight Council approved fielded systems.

(3) Available and stable funding.

(4) A configuration that was successfully demonstrated in an operationally and relevant environment.



b. The objective of an acquisition program under the rapid fielding path will be to begin production within six months. MTA program production start date will not exceed 6 months after MTA program start date without Defense Acquisition Executive (DAE) waiver.

5. Funding.

a. Funding for MTA programs will be managed using the normal Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution process.

b. PEOs/PMs shall use current available funding and have a funding plan to execute their program. PEOs/PMs will keep the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Plans, Programs and Resources) (DASA(PPR)) informed of additional schedule acceleration that is achievable should additional funding be provided. DASA(PPR) will provide this information to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller) for potential inclusion on the Unfunded Requirements List or in future Reprogramming Requests.

6. Schedule. MTA program plans may not exceed five years to completion. Any MTA program execution exceeding five years after MTA program start has the following options:

a. Obtain a DAE waiver.

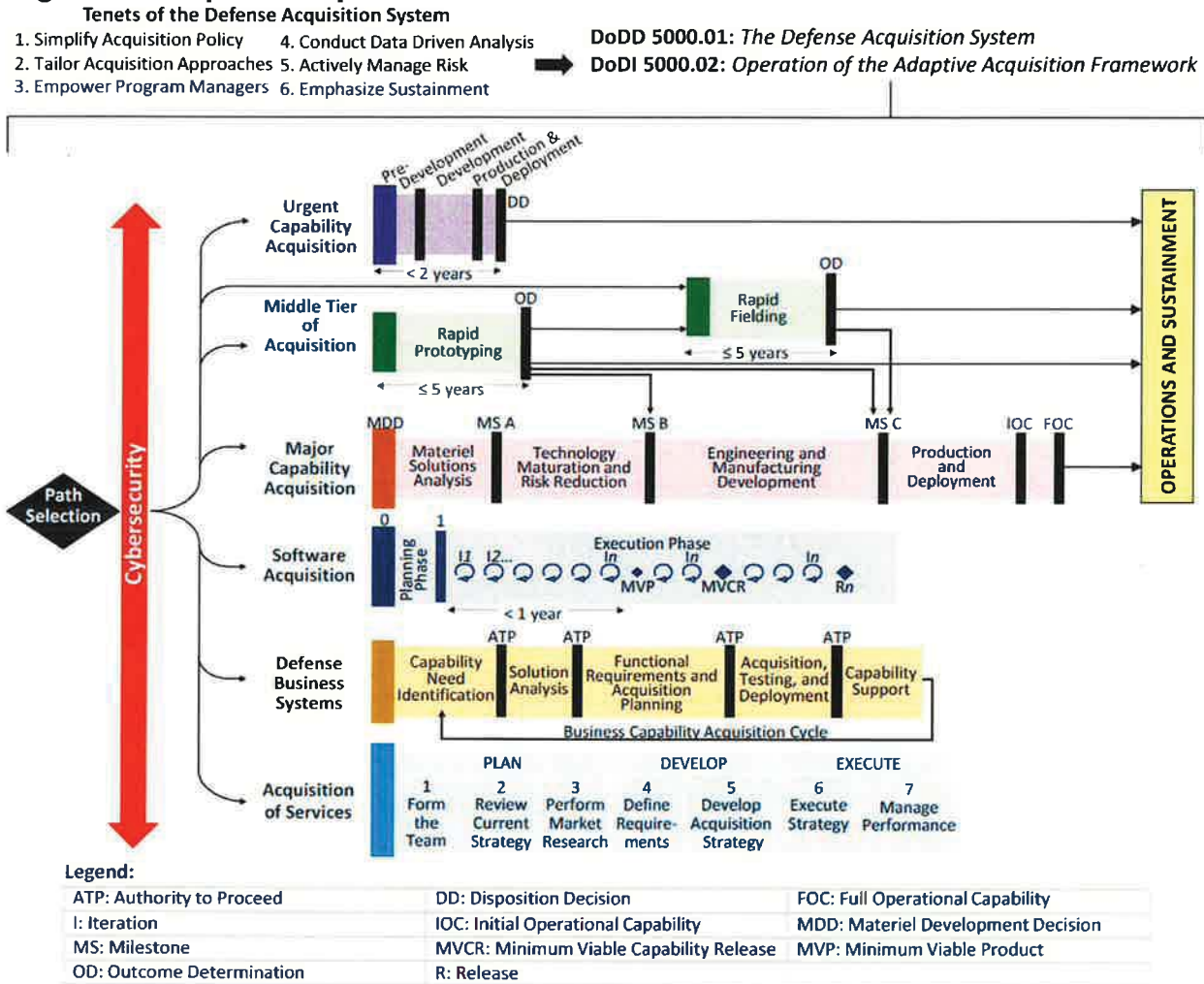
b. End the MTA program by submitting exit documentation, and then start a new MTA program.

c. Terminate the MTA program.

MIDDLE TIER OF ACQUISITION (MTA) PROGRAM TRANSITION/TERMINATION

1. Transitioning. See Figure 2.

**Figure 2. Adaptive Acquisition Framework**



a. Rapid Prototyping. Upon successful completion of prototyping, rapid prototyping efforts should transition to new or existing acquisition programs for production, fielding, and operations and sustainment under the rapid fielding pathway or other acquisition pathway. Some transition options are:

(1) Transition to Rapid Fielding. When transitioning to rapid fielding, the program must have separate approval to use the MTA Rapid Fielding pathway. Production will need to start within six months, and fielding must be finished within five years.

(2) Transition to follow-on development. The original prototyping effort may lead to a follow-on development that would lead to a separate fielding.

(3) Transition to initial fielding and follow-on rapid prototyping effort. A prototyping effort may lead to both an initial fielding and the development of another rapid prototyping effort. In this case, rapid fielding of the original MTA must be completed within five years. If the MTA developed technology leads to another rapid prototyping effort, this will reset the five-year timeline.

(4) Transition to incorporation in a current acquisition program. The production off-ramp may also lead to fielding the mature prototype through the traditional fielding method via a program of record. In this case, the fielded capability is not bound by the five-year limit that is associated with rapid fielding.

b. Rapid Fielding. Upon successful fielding, rapid fielding efforts should transition into operations and sustainment.

2. Terminated Programs. Upon decision to terminate an MTA program, the Program Manager (PM) will submit for approval to the Army Acquisition Executive a termination Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM) or Information Memo, citing the reason(s) for the termination, transition, etc. Additionally, the PM will submit a final MTA spreadsheet (specifically, the "Outcome" section).

3. Exit. No later than 60 calendar days after MTA program completion, the PM will submit via Defense Acquisition Visibility Environment interfaces the outcome determination ADM signed by the Decision Authority, an assessment of test results, and final Program Identification Data capturing updated entries, to include the outcome, sustainment, and final budget of the MTA program.