

DOD INSTRUCTION 5000.80

OPERATION OF THE MIDDLE TIER OF ACQUISITION

Originating Component:	Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Effective: Change 1 Effective:	December 30, 2019 November 25, 2024
Releasability:	Cleared for public release. Available on the Directives Division Website at https://www.esd.whs.mil/DD/.
Approved by:	Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
Change 1 Approved by:	William A. LaPlante, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment

Purpose: In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive (DoDD) 5135.02, this issuance establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures for the management of the middle tier of acquisition (MTA) for rapid prototyping and rapid fielding in Section 804 of Public Law 114-92.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION	4
1.1. Applicability.	4
1.2. Policy	
1.3. Summary of Change 1.	6
SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES	
2.1. USD(A&S)	7
2.2. USD(R&E)	7
2.3. USD(C)/CFO	
2.4. Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E).	
2.5. DCAPE.	
2.6. DoD and OSD Component Heads with MTA programs.	8
2.7. DoD Chief Information Officer (DoD CIO).	
2.8. VCJCS	
SECTION 3: PROCEDURES	
3.1. Rapid Prototyping	11
a. Operational Needs.	
b. Acquisition and Funding Strategies.	11
c. Demonstrating and Evaluating Performance.	
d. Transitioning MTA Rapid Prototyping Programs.	
3.2. Rapid Fielding	
a. Operational Needs	11
b. Demonstrating and Evaluating Performance.	11
c. Acquisition and Funding Strategies	12
d. Lifecycle Cost, Logistics Support, and Interoperability.	12
e. Reducing Total Ownership Cost.	12
f. Sustainment Metrics.	
g. Transitioning MTA Rapid Fielding Programs	12
SECTION 4: IMPLEMENTATION	
4.1. Entrance	13
4.2. Governance.	15
4.3. Exit	
4.4. MTA PROGRAM termination.	15
4.5. Pre-Existing MTA Programs	15
4.6. MTA Companion Guide	15
4.7. Additional requirements	16
GLOSSARY	17
G.1. Acronyms	17
G.2. Definitions	17
REFERENCES	9

TABLES

Table 1. MTA Entrance Documentation Deliverables 13
--

DoDI 5000.80, December 30, 2019 Change 1, November 25, 2024

FIGURES		
Figure 1.	Adaptive Acquisition Framework	5

SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY. This issuance applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (referred to collectively in this issuance as the "DoD Components").

1.2. POLICY.

a. The overarching management principles that govern the defense acquisition system (DAS) are described in DoDD 5000.01 and DoD Instruction (DoDI) 5000.02.

(1) The objective of the DAS is to support the National Defense Strategy, through the development of a more lethal force based on U.S. technological innovation and a culture of performance that yields a decisive and sustained U.S. military advantage.

(2) To achieve that objective, the DoD will employ an adaptive acquisition framework comprised of acquisition pathways, shown in Figure 1, each tailored for the unique characteristics and risk profile of the capability being acquired. The adaptive acquisition framework supports the DAS with the objective of delivering effective, secure, supportable, and affordable solutions to the end user while enabling execution at the speed of relevance. This issuance describes the responsibilities of principal acquisition officials and the purpose and key characteristics of the MTA acquisition pathway.

b. The MTA pathway is intended to fill a gap in the DAS for those capabilities that have a level of maturity to allow them to be rapidly prototyped within an acquisition program or fielded, within 5 years of MTA program start. The MTA pathway may be used to accelerate capability maturation before transitioning to another acquisition pathway or may be used to minimally develop a capability before rapidly fielding.

c. The rapid prototyping path provides for the use of innovative technologies to rapidly develop fieldable prototypes to demonstrate new capabilities and meet emerging military needs. The objective of an acquisition program under this path will be to field a prototype meeting defined requirements that can be demonstrated in an operational environment and provide for a residual operational capability within 5 years of the MTA program start date. Virtual prototyping models are acceptable if they result in a fieldable residual operational capability. MTA programs may not be planned to exceed 5 years to completion and, in execution, will not exceed 5 years after MTA program start without a Defense Acquisition Executive (DAE) waiver.

d. The rapid fielding path provides for the use of proven technologies to field production quantities of new or upgraded systems with minimal development required. The objective of an acquisition program under this path will be to begin production within 6 months, complete fielding within 5 years of the MTA program start date, and enter into operations and sustainment. MTA program production start date will not exceed 6 months after the MTA program start date

without a DAE waiver. MTA programs may not be planned to exceed 5 years to completion and, in execution, will not exceed 5 years after MTA program start without a DAE waiver.

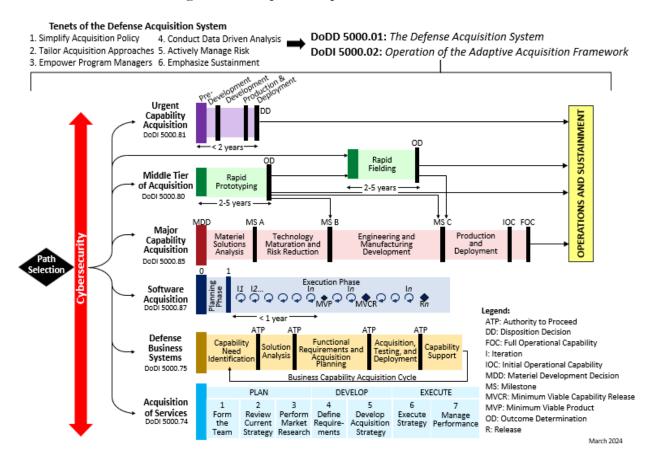


Figure 1. Adaptive Acquisition Framework.

e. Not all programs are appropriate for the MTA pathway. Major systems intended to satisfy requirements that are critical to a major interagency requirement, are primarily focused on technology development, or have significant international partner involvement are discouraged from using the MTA pathway. For programs that include international partner involvement, program managers (PMs) must ensure that all efforts to design and implement exportability to foreign partners are consistent with Sections 2457 and 4067 of Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.); Section 1049 of Public Law 115-232; and other applicable statutes.

f. MTA programs will not be subject to the guidance in Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 5123.01 and DoDD 5000.01. Each DoD Component will develop a streamlined process in accordance with Paragraph 2.6. These streamlined processes provide the DoD more pathways to manage risk associated with the tradeoff between speed and interoperability across the joint force.

g. DoD Component-required procedures will be compliant with applicable statutes and consistent with the requirements for acquisition programs stated in this issuance. When necessary, requests for waivers to the provisions of this issuance will be submitted to the DAE.

1.3. SUMMARY OF CHANGE 1.

The changes to this issuance:

a. Reflect statutory changes and changes implemented through signed policies to:

(1) Include program start date and major defense acquisition program (MDAP) equivalent definitions.

(2) Update respective provisions to reflect revisions to Title 10, U.S.C.

(3) Add references to the Adaptive Acquisition Framework Document Identification (AAFDID) tool.

(4) Include sustainment metrics, exportability considerations, and transition plan requirements.

(5) Include applicable policies from the July 19, 2022 Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)) Memorandum on cost accounting for MTA programs.

(6) Add clarifying language for classified MTA data and use of the software pathway.

b. Update references.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. USD(A&S). In addition to the responsibilities in Paragraph 2.6., the USD(A&S):

a. Establishes policy and provides guidance for the MTA pathway in consultation with the:

(1) Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USD(R&E)).

(2) Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense (USD(C)/CFO).

(3) Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (DCAPE).

(4) Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (VCJCS).

b. Determines when a program is not appropriate for the MTA pathway. The USD(A&S) may disapprove use of the MTA pathway and direct use of an alternate acquisition pathway. Programs exceeding the dollar thresholds for an MDAP pursuant to Section 4201 of Title 10, U.S.C., require written approval prior to using the MTA pathway.

c. Advises the decision authorities (DAs) on their MTA programs and works with them to ensure streamlined processes.

d. Advises DoD Components and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Defense on the use of rapid acquisition authority.

e. Determines, when appropriate, whether to waive any policies in this instruction. The authority to waive the requirements to complete a program within 5 years and initiate production within 6 months for programs that are not MDAP equivalent programs is delegated to the DoD Component acquisition executive (CAE) and may not be further delegated.

f. Maintains responsibility for prototyping activities within the MTA pathway.

2.2. USD(R&E). In addition to the responsibilities in Paragraph 2.6., the USD(R&E):

a. Consults with the USD(A&S) on policies and guidance for the MTA pathway.

b. Advises the USD(A&S) on MTA program technologies, program protection, developmental testing, program risks, and other areas as appropriate.

c. Advises the USD(A&S) on MTA program performance and execution metrics.

d. Manages the DoD rapid prototyping fund established in Section 804 of Public Law 114-92.

e. Advises DoD Components on program planning that anticipates the evolution of capabilities to meet the changing threats, technology insertion, and interoperability.

f. Selects MTA programs for developmental test and evaluation oversight in accordance with Section 133a of Title 10, U.S.C., DoDD 5137.02, DoDI 5000.88, and DoDI 5000.89.

2.3. USD(C)/CFO. The USD(C)/CFO:

a. Consults with the USD(A&S) on policies and guidance for the MTA pathway.

b. Reviews and advises on funding for programs using the MTA pathway through the normal planning, programming, budgeting, and execution processes of the DoD.

2.4. DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION (DOT&E). The DOT&E:

a. Advises the USD(A&S) and DoD Components and monitors the planning and execution of MTA program operational demonstrations.

b. Selects MTA programs for DOT&E operational or live fire test and evaluation oversight using the authority in Sections 139 and 4172 of Title 10, U.S.C., as applicable.

c. Reviews and approves tailored test strategies for operational demonstration plans and assessments for MTA programs designated for DOT&E oversight.

d. Establishes operational demonstration planning and assessment guidelines for MTA programs, as appropriate.

2.5. DCAPE. The DCAPE:

a. Advises the USD(A&S) on schedule, resource allocation, affordability, systems analysis, cost estimation and the performance implications of proposed MTA programs.

b. Establishes policies and prescribes procedures for the collection of cost data and cost estimates for MTA programs, as appropriate.

2.6. DOD AND OSD COMPONENT HEADS WITH MTA PROGRAMS. The DoD and OSD Component heads with MTA programs oversee their MTA programs through their CAEs and PMs. Each DoD and OSD Component develops a streamlined process that results in a succinct requirements document no later than 6 months from the time the operational needs process is initiated. In order to promote rapid action, approval authorities for each capability requirement may be delegated to a level no lower than the PM.

a. CAEs:

(1) Designate a PM and product support manager for each program using the MTA pathway.

(2) Serve as the DA for programs approved for the MTA pathway and implement the procedures in this issuance. CAEs may delegate this authority to an individual at a level not lower than the PM but must ensure their designees implement the procedures in this issuance.

b. PMs:

(1) Develop acquisition strategies, execute approved program plans, field capabilities, and report program status.

(2) Employ an innovative and disciplined approach and seek appropriate alternatives to any regulatory requirements that increase burden without adding value to their programs in accordance with relevant provisions.

(3) "Tailor- in" reviews, assessments, and relevant documentation that results in an acquisition strategy customized to the unique characteristics and risks of their program, including intellectual property and exportability.

(4) Ensure operational, technical, security risks, and current and emerging adversary capabilities and threats to the program are identified and reduced so that fielded systems are capable, effective, and resilient.

(5) Comply with statutory requirements unless waived in accordance with relevant provisions.

(6) Develop innovative and disciplined approaches for approval by the CAE or DA to implement appropriate alternatives to any regulatory requirements that are viewed as not applicable or do not add value to rapid development of fieldable prototypes that demonstrate new capabilities and meet emerging military needs. Ensure DoD business owners within the PM organization for applicable regulatory processes are appropriately notified of recommended alternatives to any regulatory requirements that are viewed as not applicable.

(7) Submit MTA documentation, within 14 days of approval by the DA, to the Knowledge Management and Decision Support System for review by the Joint Staff to determine if a proposed capability fulfills a gap in joint military capabilities. This submission does not constitute entrance into the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System process. Submission of documents into the Knowledge Management and Decision Support System provides the Joint Staff visibility into the MTA program so the Joint Staff can ensure requirements are sound and risks are appropriately addressed.

(8) In accordance with DoDI 5000.91 and with the support of the product support managers, develop and implement sustainment programs addressing applicable integrated product support elements to deliver affordable readiness.

2.7. DOD CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER (DOD CIO). The DoD CIO:

a. Advises the USD(A&S) on policies and guidance for the MTA Pathway.

b. Advises the USD(A&S) on MTA program technologies, information systems, cybersecurity, and other areas, as appropriate.

2.8. VCJCS. The VCJCS:

a. Consults with the USD(A&S), as appropriate, on policies and guidance for the MTA pathway.

b. Maintains a library of MTA requirement documents available to DoD Components.

c. Advises DoD Components on interoperability across the joint force, cybersecurity of military networks, and alignment with future warfighting concepts.

SECTION 3: PROCEDURES

3.1. RAPID PROTOTYPING.

a. Operational Needs. DoD Components will develop a merit-based process for the consideration of innovative technologies and new capabilities to meet needs communicated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Combatant Commanders. This process will result in an approved requirement and a DA signed acquisition decision memorandum (ADM) that validates the rationale for using the MTA pathway and identifies the full funding required.

b. Acquisition and Funding Strategies. DoD Components will develop a process to implement acquisition and full funding strategies for the program. This process will result in an acquisition strategy, which includes security, schedule and production risks, and a cost estimate.

c. Demonstrating and Evaluating Performance. DoD Components will develop a process for demonstrating performance and evaluating the proposed products and technologies for current operational purposes. 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 against required non-kinetic threats (i.e., cybersecurity; electromagnetic spectrum; chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear; and space) and interoperability requirements, as applicable. Programs on the DOT&E oversight list will follow applicable procedures, in accordance with DoDI 5000.89.

d. Transitioning MTA Rapid Prototyping Programs. For each MTA program, DoD Components 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. This process will result in a transition plan, to be provided to the Office of the USD(A&S) via the AIR database, within 2 years of program start. The transition plan will provide a timeline for completion of all necessary documentation required for transition to an alternative pathway, as determined by the DA, no later than 3 months before program completion.

3.2. RAPID FIELDING.

a. Operational Needs. DoD Components will develop a merit-based process for the consideration of existing products and proven technologies to meet needs communicated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Combatant Commanders. This process will result in an approved requirement and a DA signed ADM, with minimum fielding plan criteria, identifying the full funding required.

b. Demonstrating and Evaluating Performance. DoD Components will develop a process for demonstrating performance and evaluating the proposed products and technologies for current operational purposes. This process will result in a test strategy and an assessment of test results, included in the acquisition strategy, documenting the evaluation of the demonstrated operational performance, to include validation against required non-kinetic threat threats (i.e.,

cybersecurity; electromagnetic spectrum; chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear; and space) and interoperability requirements, as applicable. The operational demonstration assessment will support the initial production decision by the DA. Programs on the DOT&E oversight list shall ensure they are operating in full compliance with DoDI 5000.89.

c. Acquisition and Funding Strategies. DoD Components will develop a process to implement acquisition and full funding strategies for the program. This process will result in an acquisition strategy, which includes security, schedule and production risks, and a cost estimate.

d. Lifecycle Cost, Logistics Support, and Interoperability. DoD Components will develop a process for considering lifecycle costs and address issues of logistics support and training; system, security risk, joint, and coalition interoperability; and planning for cooperative opportunities, to include foreign sales. This process will result in a tailored lifecycle sustainment plan, in accordance with DoDI 5000.89. MTA programs that exceed the MDAP threshold must comply with the requirements for covered systems in Sections 4323 and 4324 of Title 10, U.S.C., and DoDI 5000.91.

e. Reducing Total Ownership Cost. DoD Components will develop a process for identifying and exploiting opportunities to use the rapid fielding pathway to reduce total ownership costs. Success in this process will result in a tailored lifecycle sustainment plan that considers the integrated product support elements.

f. Sustainment Metrics. Each MTA rapid fielding program will include sustainment requirements in its design requirements, system specifications, and contracts. These requirements are the same metrics used by MDAP and major capability acquisition pathway systems (e.g., materiel availability, operational availability, reliability, maintainability, human systems integration, and operating and support costs). However, MTA programs will not use the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System process. After initial operational capability or transition to the major capability acquisition pathway, MTA systems will be added to the required list of systems reporting all required sustainment data into the Advana Executive Analytics section, in accordance with DoDI 3110.05. A transition plan is required 2 years from the MTA program start date for programs using either the MTA rapid prototyping or MTA rapid fielding pathway.

g. Transitioning MTA Rapid Fielding Programs. For each MTA program, DoD Components will develop a process for transitioning successful programs to operations and sustainment. This process will result in a transition plan, to be provided to the Office of the USD(A&S) via the AIR database, within 2 years of program start. The transition plan will provide a timeline for completion of all necessary documentation required for transition to an alternative pathway, as determined by the DA, no later than 3 months before program completion.

SECTION 4: IMPLEMENTATION

4.1. ENTRANCE.

a. The DA will approve MTA program documentation within their purview. Table 1 describes the documentation CAEs will ensure is available via Nonclassified Internet Protocol Router Network or SECRET Internet Protocol Router Network Defense Acquisition Visibility Environment (DAVE) or Acquisition Information Repository data entry or interfaces.

	Major System ¹	Non-Major System ²	
Rapid Prototyping	 ADM signed by the DA Approved Requirement³ Acquisition Strategy⁴ Cost Estimate⁵ 	• ADM signed by the DA	
Rapid Fielding	 ADM signed by the DA Approved Requirement³ Acquisition Strategy⁵⁶ Cost Estimate⁵ Lifecycle sustainment plan⁷ 	• ADM signed by the DA	
 ^{1.} Above threshold as defined pursuant to Section 3041 of Title 10, U.S.C. ^{2.} Equal to or below threshold as defined pursuant to Section 3041 of Title 10, U.S.C. 			
^{3.} CAEs will ensure the approved requirement document is available in			

Table 1. MTA Entrance Documentation Deliverables

^{3.} CAEs will ensure the approved requirement document is available in the Knowledge Management and Decision Support System.

^{4.} Rapid prototyping acquisition strategies will include security,

schedule, and technical risks; and, a test strategy or an assessment of test results.

^{5.} Cost estimate conducted in accordance with DoDI 5000.73.

^{6.} Rapid fielding acquisition strategies will include security, schedule, and production risks; and, a test strategy and assessment of test results.
 ^{7.} Rapid fielding programs that exceed the MDAP threshold must

comply with the requirements for covered systems in Sections 4323 and 4324 of Title 10, U.S.C., and DoDI 5000.91.

b. For any MTA program expected to require an eventual total expenditure that exceeds the major system threshold defined pursuant to Section 3041 of Title 10, U.S.C., CAEs will ensure documentation in Table 1 is available via DAVE at the time of the President's budget submission. Full funding plans for the MTA program (to include year of execution), will be reflected in the documentation, consistent with the cost estimate.

c. For MTA programs that exceed the MDAP dollar threshold, the DA will submit the approved acquisition strategy and initiate the new program in DAVE. The DA will request approval from the Advisory Board (described in Paragraph 4.2.) for MDAP equivalent programs to use the MTA pathway.

d. Any MTA program expected to exceed the MDAP threshold defined pursuant to Section 4201 of Title 10, U.S.C., requires a written decision from the USD(A&S), after consultation with the Advisory Board defined in Paragraph 4.2., approving use of the MTA pathway, or direction to use an alternative strategy, before obligation of funds to a performing activity. Considerations will include the strategic risks involved, the scope and criticality of the desired capability, whether programs are well positioned to meet statutory requirements based on review and input from relevant advisors and whether the program is well-suited for use of the MTA pathway. Documents initiated and approved outside of those required by this issuance are not required to be submitted into the Acquisition Information Repository or DAVE database. MTA programs that are estimated to require an eventual total expenditure that exceeds the MDAP threshold must comply with the requirements for covered systems in Sections 4323 and 4324 of Title 10, U.S.C., and DoDI 5000.91.

e. For programs that are not expected to be MDAP equivalent programs, the DA will sign an ADM to approve the program's use of the MTA pathway. The date of signature will be the official program start date.

f. For programs that enter the MTA pathway below the MDAP funding threshold and later exceed it, an update must be provided to the full MTA Advisory Board to address any concerns about significant growth of the program.

g. In addition to the documentation listed in Table 1, DoD Components will ensure availability of the program identification data (PID) via DAVE interfaces. (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/aafdid/mta). PID requirements are tiered between major and non-major systems. DoD Components will submit updated PID via DAVE data entry or interfaces with the President's Budget and Program Objective Memorandum submissions to OSD. DoD Components must comply with the online PID requirements, consistent with the policy specified in this issuance. Substantive changes to online content not required by law must be formally coordinated following the guidelines in DoDI 5025.01. Substantive changes include any additional requirements that add to the financial and personnel burden of any DoD Components.

h. CAEs 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. The Office of the USD(A&S) will maintain the authoritative list of MTA programs for the DoD.

i. Programs using the MTA pathway are encouraged to consider the use of modern software practices, such as Agile, DevSecOps, and Lean, in the development of their programs, as

appropriate. PMs should use DoDI 5000.87 for Agile metrics and value assessments as a reference when including software in their program.

4.2. GOVERNANCE. The USD(A&S) will chair the MTA Advisory Board comprised of the CAEs, the VCJCS, the USD(R&E), the DCAPE, the DOT&E, the USD(C)/CFO, DoD CIO, and others as requested by the USD(A&S) to assess the use of the MTA authority when a request is made by a CAE for a program that exceeds the MDAP threshold to use the MTA pathway, as provided in Paragraph 4.1.*c*. In the event of a USD(A&S) decision that any program is not appropriate for the MTA pathway, the USD(A&S) will direct the program to use an alternate acquisition pathway.

4.3. EXIT. No later than 60 calendar days after the MTA program completion date, CAEs will submit the following documentation via DAVE interfaces:

- a. Outcome determination ADM signed by the DA.
- b. An assessment of test results.

c. Final PID capturing updated entries, to include the outcome, sustainment, and final budget of the MTA program.

4.4. MTA PROGRAM TERMINATION. In the case a DA terminates an acquisition program using the MTA pathway, the DA will provide notification of the termination to the Office of the USD(A&S) within 7 days. The Office of the USD(A&S) will submit a notification of such termination to Congress within 30 days. The congressional notification will include:

- a. The initial amount of a contract awarded under such acquisition program;
- b. The aggregate amount of funds awarded under such contract; and
- c. Written documentation of the reason for termination of such acquisition program.

4.5. PRE-EXISTING MTA PROGRAMS. MTA programs designated prior to December 30, 2019, will maintain their MTA program start date of funds first obligated. No later than 60 calendar days after the effective date of this issuance, pre-existing MTA programs will comply with this issuance, to include Table 1 deliverables.

4.6. MTA COMPANION GUIDE. Additional information is available to expand upon the MTA policy established in this issuance at the Adaptive Acquisition Framework page on the Defense Acquisition University Website at: https://aaf.dau.edu/aaf/mta/.

4.7. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS. The online requirements specified at https://www.dau.edu/aafdid/mta will inform MTA program management and are to be treated the same as if the requirements were published in this issuance. Substantive changes to the online requirements, not required by law, must be formally coordinated in accordance with the procedures in DoDI 5025.01. Substantive changes include any additional requirements that add to the financial, personnel, or administrative burden of any of the DoD Components.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

AAFDID ADM	Adaptive Acquisition Framework Document Identification acquisition decision memorandum	
CAE	component acquisition executive	
DA	decision authority	
DAE	Defense Acquisition Executive	
DAS	defense acquisition system	
DAVE	Defense Acquisition Visibility Environment	
DCAPE	Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation	
DoD CIO	DoD Chief Information Officer	
DoDD	DoD directive	
DoDI	DoD instruction	
DOT&E	Director of Operational Test and Evaluation	
MDAP	major defense acquisition program	
MTA	middle tier of acquisition	
PID	program identification data	
PM	program manager	
U.S.C.	United States Code	
USD(A&S)	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment	
USD(C)/CFO	Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense	
USD(R&E)	Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering	
VCJCS	Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff	

G.2. DEFINITIONS. Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this issuance.

MDAP equivalent. An equivalence determined by applying the thresholds specified in Section 4201 of Title 10, U.S.C., to the total estimated cost over the MTA period, which should not exceed 5 years.

MTA program completion date. The date of an outcome determination ADM signed by the DA stating that the rapid prototyping program has transitioned to an existing acquisition program, transitioned to a new acquisition program, transitioned to a different acquisition pathway, has residual operational capability sustained in the field, transitioned to rapid fielding,

or terminated. For rapid fielding programs, the date of an outcome determination ADM stating that the minimum fielding plan criteria approved by the DA, have been met.

MTA program production start. The date of funds first obligated to perform production activities.

MTA program start date. The date an ADM is signed by the DA initiating the effort as an MTA rapid prototyping or MTA rapid fielding program, consistent with this issuance.

operational environment. A set of operational conditions, selected by the users in coordination with the appropriate independent operational testing agency that are representative of the desired spectrum of operational employments.

prototype. A model built to evaluate and inform its feasibility or usefulness. Non-physical models are acceptable if the non-physical model is the residual operational capability to be fielded.

residual operational capability. For rapid prototyping programs, residual operational capability will be considered any military utility for an operational user that can be fielded.

REFERENCES

Acquisition Information Repository (AIR) User Guide, April 2022

- Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Instruction 5123.01, "Charter of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council and Implementation of the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System," current edition
- DoD Directive 5000.01, "The Defense Acquisition System," September 9, 2020, as amended
- DoD Directive 5135.02, "Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S))," July 15, 2020
- DoD Directive 5137.02, "Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (USD(R&E))," July 15, 2020
- DoD Instruction 3110.05, "Sustainment Health Metrics in Support of Materiel Availability," April 24, 2024
- DoD Instruction 5000.02, "Operation of the Adaptative Acquisition Framework," January 23, 2020, as amended
- DoD Instruction 5000.73, "Cost Analysis Guidance and Procedures," October 24, 2024
- DoD Instruction 5000.87, "Operation of the Software Acquisition Pathway," October 2, 2020
- DoD Instruction 5000.88, "Engineering of Defense Systems," November 18, 2020
- DoD Instruction 5000.89, "Test and Evaluation," November 19, 2020
- DoD Instruction 5000.91, "Product Support Management for the Adaptive Acquisition Framework," November 4, 2021
- DoD Instruction 5025.01, "DoD Issuances Program," August 1, 2016, as amended

National Defense Strategy, 2022

- Public Law 114-92, Section 804, "National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2016," November 25, 2015, as amended
- Public Law 115-232, Section 1049, "John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019," August 13, 2018, as amended
- Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Memorandum, "Accounting for Program Costs When Acquisition Framework Pathways Are Used Sequentially or in Combination," July 19, 2022

United States Code, Title 10