



DoW MANUAL 5000.78

RAPID ACQUISITION AUTHORITY

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Purpose: In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive (DoDD) 5135.02 and the policy in DoDD 5000.71, Section 3601 of Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), and Section 229 of Public Law 118-31 (also known and referred to in this issuance as the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024" (NDAA for FY 2024)), this issuance implements policy and assigns responsibilities for the use of rapid acquisition authority (RAA) and provides procedures for submitting RAA requests.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY. This issuance applies to OSW, 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 War, the Defense Agencies, the DoW Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoW (referred to collectively in this issuance as the “DoW Components”).

1.2. POLICY. In accordance with the policy in DoDD 5000.71, the DoW will provide a process for rapidly fulfilling urgent operational needs using RAA. Particularly, Section 229(a) of the NDAA for FY 2024 allows Secretaries of the Military Departments to use the rapid acquisition and funding authorities established pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C.

1.3. SUMMARY OF CHANGE 1. The changes to this issuance:

- a. Incorporate changes to RAA pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C.
- b. Add procedures to implement Section 229 of NDAA for FY 2024.
- c. Refine the responsibilities of DoW officials having responsibilities within the RAA process.
- d. Update language in accordance with the October 10, 2025 Secretary of War (SecWar) Memorandum.
- e. Update the references for accuracy.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOINT RAPID ACQUISITION CELL (JRAC). Under the authority, direction, and control of the Deputy Secretary of War (DepSecWar), the Executive Director, JRAC:

a. In accordance with DoDD 5000.71 and through the Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment (USW(A&S)) in his or her capacity as the Acting Chair of the Warfighter Senior Integration Group (SIG), serves as:

(1) The senior official within OSW with primary responsibility for making RAA action recommendations to the SecWar or DepSecWar.

(2) The Executive Secretary of the Warfighter SIG.

b. Publishes annual guidance in the form of memorandums on the available RAA categories and available funding sources, pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C., Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024, annual appropriations general provisions, and any other applicable provision of law.

c. Notifies the Under Secretary of War (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of War (USW(C)/CFO) of RAA requirements, assigned solution sponsors, and resources needed to facilitate the timely resolution of urgent warfighter needs. Assists in the resolution of funding issues, as required.

d. In coordination with the USW(C)/CFO, consults with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on any proposed RAA action.

e. In coordination with the USW(C)/CFO, provides SecWar or DepSecWar RAA determinations and supporting documentation to the congressional defense committees in accordance with Paragraph 3.4.

f. Works with the Secretaries of the Military Departments, providing specialized RAA expertise pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C. In this capacity, assists the Military Department to obtain SecWar or DepSecWar approval of determinations to initiate urgent development activities in accordance with Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024. Once notified that a Military Department's determination has been forwarded, submits the JRAC RAA recommendation to the SecWar or DepSecWar for final approval. In accordance with Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024, these urgent development activities must:

(1) Leverage an emergent technological advancement of value to national defense to address a Service-specific need; or

(2) Provide a rapid response to an emerging threat identified by a Military Service.

g. Maintains visibility of DoW Component efforts to satisfy RAA actions and informs the Warfighter SIG of the status of RAA funding, contracting, delivery, performance, training, fielding, sustainment, or other issues affecting timely fulfillment.

2.2. USW(A&S). The USW(A&S) reviews and, if agreed to, endorses Executive Director, JRAC RAA recommendations to the SecWar or DepSecWar.

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

a. Validates DoW Component funding strategies and proposed funding sources to support RAA actions. If the RAA solution sponsor (e.g., Service budget office) provides formal justification for its inability to fund the requirement, the USW(C)/CFO assists in identifying and recommending potential current execution year offsets within the assigned solution sponsor's resources.

b. Provides the DoW Components guidance for identifying instances where RAA funds were used in the past, as well as budget line items that have received RAA funding, within budget exhibits and briefings provided to congressional defense committees.

c. Assists the Executive Director, JRAC, in providing RAA documentation to the congressional defense committees.

d. In coordination with the Executive Director, JRAC, and the Assistant Secretary of War for Legislative Affairs, submits, through the Office of the USW(C)/CFO, Budget and Appropriations Affairs (BAA), a comprehensive report to the congressional defense committees detailing all RAA utilization by FY. This report is due no later than 30 calendar days after the end of each FY.

2.4. DOW COMPONENT HEADS. The DoW Component heads:

a. In accordance with this issuance, request RAA and funding, if necessary, and identify any provisions of law or regulation addressing the establishment of a requirement or specification for the capability to be acquired; the research, development, test, and evaluation of the capability to be acquired; the production, fielding, and sustainment of the capability to be acquired; or the solicitation, selection of sources, and award of the contracts for procurement of the capability to be acquired for potential waiver pursuant to Section 3601(d) of Title 10, U.S.C. or departmental policy that would impede quick response to urgent needs.

b. Make determinations, subject to SecWar or DepSecWar approval, authorizing the use of RAA in accordance with Section 229 of the NDAA of FY 2024.

c. Identify and recommend current execution year offsets to fund RAA actions and participate in funding discussions between the Executive Director, JRAC, and the USW(C)/CFO.

- d. Establish policies and procedures in accordance with this issuance for expedited identification, submission, and resolution of RAA actions.
- e. Identify previously received RAA funds and items funded in budget exhibits and briefings provided to the congressional defense committees in support of DoW budget requests, in accordance with USW(C)/CFO guidance.
- f. In coordination with the Executive Director, JRAC, provide the USW(C)/CFO a complete accounting of the use of the RAA, by FY, not later than 25 calendar days after the end of each FY for reporting to the congressional defense committees.
- g. Serve, when so designated, as the designated senior official in accordance with Paragraph 2.6.

2.5. DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION (DOT&E). The DOT&E provides assessments of the operational testing of RAA actions when necessary, in accordance with Paragraph 3.6. In accordance with this responsibility, the DOT&E also prescribes procedures for these assessments.

2.6. DESIGNATED SENIOR OFFICIALS. Under the authority, direction, and control of the SecWar or DepSecWar, the designated senior officials:

- a. Are authorized by the SecWar or DepSecWar to waive, as it relates to combat emergencies, any provision of law or regulation addressing the establishment of a requirement or specification for the capability to be acquired; the research, development, test, and evaluation of the capability to be acquired; the production, fielding, and sustainment of the capability to be acquired; or the solicitation, selection of sources, and award of the contracts for procurement of the capability to be acquired pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C. and as discussed in Paragraph 3.3.d.
- b. May further delegate their authority as a designated senior official. A copy of this delegation documentation will be provided to the Executive Director, JRAC.
- c. Ensure financial, contracting, and other support organizations (e.g., Defense Contract Audit Agency, Defense Contract Management Agency, agency counsel) and prime and subcontractors involved with aspects of the RAA solution are fully aware of the urgent need for the capability.
- d. Inform the Executive Director, JRAC of all strategies developed, actions taken, and waivers granted in response to a SecWar or DepSecWar RAA senior official designation.
- e. Ensure the organizations executing actions in response to a SecWar or DepSecWar determination comply with DoD Instruction (DoDI) 5000.81, including the expedited designation of a milestone decision authority and a program manager. Actions taken pursuant to the rapid acquisition pathway detailed in Section 3602 of Title 10, U.S.C., and Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024, as amended, must comply with applicable DoW implementing guidance.

f. Ensure an operational assessment is accomplished in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the DOT&E and that operational assessment information is available to the authority making deployment decisions and the DOT&E, as required.

g. If the requirement document for the capability is waived pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C., provide an alternative written statement of the capabilities to be acquired to the Executive Director, JRAC.

SECTION 3: PROCEDURES

3.1. RAA REQUESTS.

a. The DoW Components will use all available authorities to expeditiously fund, develop, test, procure, field, and sustain urgent need solutions. In cases where sufficient authority or resources do not enable timely response to a need, the DoW Components may request the RAA as outlined in this section.

(1) In accordance with DoDI 5000.81, RAA should be considered for the rapid acquisition and deployment of capabilities needed in response to urgent operational needs as outlined in Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C.

(2) In accordance with Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024, RAA may also be used to initiate development activities to leverage an emergent technological advancement of value to national defense to address a Service-specific need or provide a rapid response to an emerging threat for a period of up to 1 year.

b. Requests submitted to the Executive Director, JRAC, for SecWar or DepSecWar determination or approval (in the case of those actions initiated pursuant to Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024) to use RAA may be initiated by any DoW Component down to combined joint task force commanders, or the first general officer/flag officer or Senior Executive Service official in the requestor's chain of command, and forwarded directly to the Executive Director, JRAC. The requesting organization is subsequently responsible for coordinating its request with the appropriate elements within its component. Requesting organizations have 5 calendar days to identify unobligated funding sources after the request described in Paragraph 3.1.c. is submitted.

c. For the actions pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C., RAA requests will provide, to the extent that the information is readily available:

(1) An information paper including:

(a) The urgent national security need of the requirement.

(b) Whether there is an imminent threat of casualties or critical mission failure. If the RAA request is for the purpose of rapid prototyping and rapid fielding, then state why the requirement is a compelling national security need.

(c) If appropriate, the name of the contingency operation, or if it is in response to an emerging contingency operation.

(d) A description of the required capability and how it will help resolve the urgent requirement.

(e) A description of how the use of the RAA will accelerate the delivery of effective capability.

(f) The expected delivery date of the solution to the requiring activity.

(g) The dollar amount of the RAA authority necessary to rapidly field adequate capability.

(2) For actions pursuant to Section 229 of the NDAA of FY 2024, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will include:

(a) A signed determination memorandum for SecWar approval that includes:

1. Identifying a compelling urgent or emergency national security need to immediately initiate development activity in anticipation of a programming or budgeting action, in order to leverage an emergent technological advancement or rapidly respond to an emerging threat.

2. Justification for why the effort cannot be delayed until the next submission of the President's budget (pursuant to Section 1105(a) of Title 31, U.S.C.) without harming the national defense.

3. Identification of funding that could be used for obligation to initiate the effort in the current FY.

4. Identification of an appropriate acquisition pathway and programmed funding for transition to continued development, integration, or sustainment to on-ramp this activity within 2 years. Transition must be completed within 1 year of initiation, but may be extended one time only at the discretion of the Secretary of the Military Department concerned for 1 additional year. In the event an extension determination is made, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will submit written notification of the extension with a justification for the extension to the congressional defense committees, not later than 30 calendar days before the extension takes effect.

(b) An information paper supporting the determination made.

(3) For actions pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C., and Section 229 of the NDAA of FY 2024, supporting documentation that includes:

(a) The documented requirement addressed by use of the RAA.

(b) A titled picture or diagram of the capability to resolve the urgent need.

(c) Cost and schedule information including:

1. Charts showing funding requirements by quarter for the current FY, next FY (Budget Year), and for each FY of the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP).

2. Identifying source funds affected by the requested use of the RAA by organization (component's name); amount of funding affected; whether transfer funds or base funding; budget activity; program element – research, development test and evaluation; budget

line item number (procurement accounts) or line item number (operation and maintenance (O&M) accounts); appropriations; and program element or budget line item number/line item title.

(d) An explanation as to why source funds are available to fund this higher priority item and details of, and justification for, the contract type or other transaction authority being utilized, including:

1. Any testing or performance data, including energy consumption, demand, and supportability data as described in approved DoW guidance, when applicable.

2. Any issues impeding rapid delivery.

3. Any anticipated requests for waiver of existing law or regulation necessary to acquire the capability rapidly.

d. For RAA requests pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C., and Section 229 of the NDAA of FY 2024, the Executive Director, JRAC will:

(1) Coordinate the RAA requests with:

(a) OMB.

(b) USW(A&S).

(c) General Counsel of the Department of War.

(d) USW(C)/CFO, including the Deputy Comptroller, BAA.

(e) Assistant Secretary of War for Legislative Affairs.

(f) Director for Legislative and Congressional Oversight, Office of the USW(A&S).

(g) The appropriate general officer, flag officer, or Senior Executive Service-level representatives of the Warfighter SIG.

(h) If applicable, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned requesting the RAA.

(2) Include a paragraph in the final RAA request that informs the SecWar or DepSecWar that approval of the request will also ensure the DOT&E has access to operational records and data relevant to the capability. This provision is in accordance with Section 139(e)(3) of Title 10, U.S.C. and is intended to assist the DOT&E in completing operational test and evaluation of the capability, if necessary.

(3) Validate the total amount of annual RAA used pursuant to each category and the total amount of RAA based on funds derived from each FY.

(4) Once the RAA is approved, notify the designated senior official (see Paragraph 3.3. for their responsibilities) of this provision and provide a copy of the notification to the DOT&E.

e. For RAA determinations pursuant to Section 229 of the NDAA of FY 2024 (and any future amendments), the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will coordinate the RAA with the Executive Director, JRAC and the individuals in Paragraphs 3.1.d.(1)(a) through 3.1.d.(1)(f).

3.2. RAA FUNDING.

a. Except as noted in Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C., in any FY in which the SecWar or DepSecWar makes an RAA determination or approves a Military Department determination, the SecWar or DepSecWar may use any funds available to the DoW for acquiring capabilities if the determination includes a written finding that using such funds is necessary to address the deficiency in a timely manner.

b. When funds are used for sustainment purposes, RAA may not be used for more than 2 years.

c. In coordination with the appropriate DoW Components, the USW(C)/CFO will, upon receipt of an approved RAA request from the Executive Director, JRAC, promptly initiate assistance to facilitate identifying unobligated funding sources by:

(1) Requesting that the DoW Component identified by the Executive Director, JRAC, as the RAA solution sponsor fund the requirement or justify why it is unable to fund the requirement;

(2) If necessary, identifying and using any known excess funds; or

(3) Identifying potential excess funds through review of current funding execution.

d. The USW(C)/CFO will exhaust all options to identify resources in support of an approved RAA requirement and will help the DoW Components identify the proper source and use of funds, as necessary.

e. The RAA may be exercised during a continuing resolution (CR), provided the DoW could have executed the requirement using RAA in the immediately preceding FY in which a regular (non-CR) appropriations act was passed into law to fund the activities of the DoW. If CR funds are used, their use must be consistent with the general obligation under a CR to take only the most conservative actions necessary to conserve congressional prerogatives.

f. Statutory determinations can be made for the rapid acquisition and deployment of needs or to fund and immediately initiate a project pursuant to Section 3602 of Title 10, U.S.C. Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C., allows the DoW to use all categories of DoW appropriations available for acquiring capabilities. However, such determinations must include a written finding that the use of such funds is necessary to address the deficiency in a timely manner. Additional fiscal characteristics of the authority are:

(1) The RAA conditionally expands the purposes for which such appropriations may be used.

(2) The RAA authorizes the DoW to use funds for certain higher priority requirements without undertaking a reprogramming action or using transfer authority. For example, in the case of O&M funds, RAA allows the DoW to use O&M funds for investment items having a unit cost in excess of the investment or expense threshold, notwithstanding the statutory nature of the cap, or for items such as missiles or tracked combat vehicles for which a specific appropriation exists.

(3) All other characteristics of the source appropriation used for the RAA requirement, including its period of availability and the amount available in such appropriation, remain unchanged.

(4) An RAA expands the permissible purposes for which an appropriation may be used, but does not transform the type of the appropriation charged.

g. The SecWar, DepSecWar or, in cases of the actions pursuant to Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned must inform the congressional defense committees of the source of funds for the acquisition. These conditions apply:

(1) The RAA fund source should not be a congressional special interest item or project that a congressional defense committee previously denied as a source for a reprogramming action.

(2) If a congressional defense committee objects to a funding source, this may cause a significant delay in funding an urgent requirement. The RAA action will proceed only after identifying a new funding source to replace the rejected funding source and disclosing the new source to the congressional defense committees.

h. Provided that the appropriation charged remains available for obligation, the SecWar or DepSecWar may use any funds appropriated for different FYs for an RAA requirement.

i. The RAA notification to Congress is sufficient to fulfill any requirement to provide notification to Congress of a new start program pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C., or Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024, as applicable.

j. Military Services and Defense Agencies must appropriately identify previously received RAA funds and items funded in budget exhibits and briefings provided to the congressional defense committees in support of DoW budget requests.

3.3. DESIGNATION OF SENIOR OFFICIAL.

a. For an RAA determination pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C., the SecWar or DepSecWar will designate a senior official responsible for ensuring the needed capability is acquired and deployed as quickly as possible. . When the determination is to immediately initiate a project pursuant to Section 3602 of Title 10, U.S.C., and the designated official is a

Service acquisition executive, the 15-calendar day contract award goal does not apply. A SecWar or DepSecWar determination is still necessary to approve the RAA action under these circumstances.

b. For an RAA determination pursuant to Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C.:

(1) The goal is to award a contract for acquiring the capability within 15 calendar days of SecWar or DepSecWar determination or approval.

(2) The SecWar or DepSecWar will:

(a) Direct the designated senior official, when a needed capability cannot be acquired without an extensive delay, to require that an interim solution be implemented and deployed using the RAA procedures to minimize adverse consequences resulting from the urgent need.

(b) Authorize the designated senior official to waive any provision of law or regulation that such official determines in writing would unnecessarily impede the rapid acquisition and deployment of the needed capability. (In accordance with Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024 and pursuant to an applicable RAA determination, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned already has this waiver authority.) The waiver authority applies to any provision of law or regulation addressing the capability to be acquired for the:

1. Establishment of a requirement or specification;
2. Research, development, test, and evaluation;
3. Production, fielding, and sustainment; or
4. Solicitation, selection of sources, and contract award.

c. Senior officials are not authorized by the SecWar or DepSecWar to waive:

(1) The requirements of Section 3601 of Title 10, U.S.C., or the regulations in DoDD 5000.71 and DoDI 5000.81.

(2) Any provision of law imposing civil or criminal penalties.

(3) Any provision of law governing the proper expenditure of appropriated funds.

3.4. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

a. Section 3601 RAA Notifications. The SecWar or DepSecWar will notify the congressional defense committees of the RAA determinations made pursuant to Section 3601, Title 10, U.S.C.

b. Section 229 RAA Notifications. For RAA determinations made pursuant to Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024, the SecWar or DepSecWar and the Secretary of the Military

Department concerned will, after SecWar or DepSecWar approval of the determination, simultaneously notify the congressional defense committees of the RAA determinations.

c. RAA Notification Content. The RAA notifications in Paragraphs 3.4.a. and 3.4.b. will include information regarding the:

- (1) Capability to be acquired.
- (2) Amount anticipated to be expended for the acquisition.
- (3) Source of funds for the acquisition.

d. USW(C)/CFO Supporting Documentation. The Office of the USW(C)/CFO, BAA, will provide the congressional defense committees the RAA supporting documentation described in Paragraph 3.4.c. in line with the annual Executive Director, JRAC, guidance after SecWar or DepSecWar determination, including:

- (1) The documented requirement intended to be addressed by use of the RAA.
- (2) The name of the DoW Component responsible for implementing the material solution identified.
- (3) The identification of funds affected by use of the RAA by appropriations account and line or program element, including RAA funding requirements for the current FY and for the FYDP.
- (4) An explanation as to why source funds are available to fund this higher priority item.
- (5) Justification for the contract type or other transaction authority being used.

e. Previous RAA Fund Identification. In coordination with the USW(C)/CFO, the DoW Components will identify previously received RAA funds and items funded in budget exhibits and briefings provided to the congressional defense committees in support of DoW budget requests, in accordance with USW(C)/CFO guidance.

f. USW(C)/CFO RAA Use Accounting. In coordination with the Executive Director, JRAC, the USW(C)/CFO will provide the congressional defense committees a complete accounting of the use of the RAA, by FY, not later than 30 calendar days after the end of each FY.

g. RAA Extension Notification. For any one-time 1 year extension determination (subject to the limitations in Paragraph 3.5.c.) made for a RAA determination related to Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will submit written notification of the extension with a justification for the extension to the congressional defense committees not later than 30 calendar days before the extension takes effect.

3.5. DISPOSITION OF RAA SOLUTIONS.

a. With the exception of an RAA capability acquisition in accordance with Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024, the RAA capability acquisition will transition to the appropriate pathway in the adaptive acquisition framework as prescribed in DoW Instruction 5000.02 not later than 2 years after the date on which the SecWar or DepSecWar makes the written RAA determination.

b. This requirement does not apply to the RAA actions for a project initiated pursuant to the rapid fielding or rapid prototyping acquisition pathways.

c. For RAA capability acquisitions pursuant to Section 229 of the NDAA for FY 2024, transition must be completed within 1 year of initiation, but may be extended one time only at the discretion of the Secretary of the Military Department concerned for 1 additional year.

3.6. ASSESSMENTS OF RAA SOLUTIONS.

a. The process for demonstrating performance and evaluating the current operational purposes of the capabilities must include:

(1) Assessments for programs:

(a) Under DOT&E oversight, combined operational and live fire test plans will be submitted to the DOT&E for approval at the development milestone. Post-deployment assessment plans will be submitted to the DOT&E for approval at the production and deployment milestone. The DOT&E will ensure testing is adequate to evaluate critical operational issues rapidly.

(b) Not under DOT&E oversight are approved at the Service level. However, the DOT&E will be made aware of RAA solutions promptly for coordination to determine if the program may require a rapid and focused operational assessment and live fire testing (if applicable) before deploying an urgent need solution. The acquisition approach will identify any requirements to evaluate environmental safety and occupational health, system safety, or operational effectiveness, suitability and survivability (e.g., human systems integration).

(2) A requirement to provide information about any deficiency of the capability in meeting the original requirements (as stated in a statement of the urgent operational need or similar document) to the deployment decision-making authority.

b. The assessment process may not include a requirement for any deficiency identified in operational assessment to be a determining factor in deciding whether to deploy the capability.

c. If capabilities are deployed before the completion of operational test and evaluation, the DOT&E will have access to operational records and data relevant to such capabilities in accordance with Section 139(e)(3) of Title 10, U.S.C., for the purpose of completing operational test and evaluation of the capability.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

ACRONYM	MEANING
BAA	Budget and Appropriations Affairs
CR	continuing resolution
DepSecWar	Deputy Secretary of War
DoDD	DoD directive
DoDI	DoD instruction
DOT&E	Director of Operational Test and Evaluation
DoW	Department of War
DoWM	DoW manual
FY	fiscal year
FYDP	Future Years Defense Plan
JRAC	Joint Rapid Acquisition Cell
NDAA	National Defense Authorization Act
O&M	operation and maintenance
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OSW	Office of the Secretary of War
RAA	rapid acquisition authority
SecWar	Secretary of War
SIG	Senior Integration Group
U.S.C.	United States Code
USW(A&S)	Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment
USW(C)/CFO	Under Secretary of War (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of War

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

congressional defense committees. Defined in Section 101(a)(16) of Title 10, U.S.C.

designated senior official. The SecWar or DepSecWar designate a senior official of the DoW to ensure that needed capability is acquired and deployed as quickly as possible, with a goal of awarding a contract for the capability within 15 calendar days.

RAA. RAA is one of several processes that can expedite DoW rapid acquisitions. Another is Section 3602 of Title 10, U.S.C. This issuance specifically focuses on the RAA process.

rapid acquisition pathway. The rapid fielding acquisition pathway or the rapid prototyping acquisition pathway pursuant to Section 3602 of Title 10, U.S.C., also known as the “middle tier of acquisition for rapid prototyping and rapid fielding.”

REFERENCES

DoD Directive 5000.71, “Rapid Fulfillment of Combatant Commander Urgent Operational Needs and Other Quick Action Requirements,” October 18, 2022
DoD Directive 5135.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)),” July 15, 2020
DoD Instruction 5000.81, “Urgent Capability Acquisition,” December 31, 2019
DoW Instruction 5000.02, “Operation of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework,” January 23, 2020, as amended
Public Law 118-31, Section 229, “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024,” December 22, 2023
Secretary of War Memorandum “Department of War Secondary Titles,” October 10, 2025
United States Code, Title 10
United States Code, Title 31, Section 1105(a)