ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

APR 5 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Amplifying DoDD 5000.1 Guidance Regarding Modular Open Systems Approach (MOSA) Implementation

A key enabler in the Department's focus on joint architectures and evolutionary acquisition is a modular, open systems approach (MOSA) to systems acquisition. MOSA is an integrated business and technical strategy that employs a modular design and defines key interfaces using open standards. MOSA is based on a robust systems engineering approach as defined in my Policy for Systems Engineering in DoD, dated February 20, 2004. MOSA enables programs to: 1) design for affordable change; 2) employ evolutionary acquisition and; 3) identify key modules and interfaces of a system's architecture. The Department's intent is to use open architectures to rapidly field affordable systems that are interoperable in the joint battle space. A required step in this direction is to ensure each Service has a coordinated business and technical approach to MOSA across their respective programs that will ultimately support the progression towards joint integrated warfare.

The purpose of this memorandum is to amplify and expand the policy for implementation of MOSA as set forth in DoDD 5000.1, dated May 12, 2003. Paragraph E1.27 states that, "A modular, open systems approach shall be employed, where feasible." Commencing October 1, 2004, all programs subject to milestone review shall brief their program's MOSA implementation status to the Milestone Decision Authority (MDA) to determine compliance. Programs not complying with MOSA implementation guidelines shall provide justification or a migration plan to the MDA for achieving compliance. This policy will be included in the next revision of DoDI 5000.2.

The Open Systems Joint Task Force (OSJTF) is my lead for MOSA and has developed a Program Manager's Guide that provides principles and guidelines for implementing MOSA in new and current programs. In addition, OSJTF has adapted the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Program Assessment and Rating Tool (PART) in assessing MOSA implementation. Each program will present the results of their PART assessment, using the results generated by the tool, at all major milestone and program reviews. The guide and the PART are available at http://www.acq.osd.mil/osjtf/html/mosa_assessment.html.

Further, I direct the OSJTF to establish and chair the MOSA Review Team (MOSART). The MOSART shall synchronize MOSA implementation across the Services and DoD Agencies, and recommend strategies and related actions that leverage MOSA across joint integrated warfare systems. The Services are asked to assign representatives to the MOSART with the responsibility of addressing service-wide MOSA implementation issues. My MOSA point of contact is LTC (P) Ken Flowers, Director OSJTF at 703-602-0851 x116.

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Acting

cc:
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