

EDO Board Prep Study Guide



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1 Organization

1.1 Command Chains and Governance

- Refs:
- [1] “2.1.1. Command Structures” Mar. 11, 2025.
 - [2] *SECNAVINST 5400.15D*, Jan. 19, 2021.
 - [3] *SECNAVINST 5000.2G*, Apr. 8, 2022.
 - [4] “2.1.5. Technical Authority and Engineering Agents” Apr. 11, 2025.

1.1.1 Operations Chain (Title 10)

Chain flow. President → Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) → Combatant Commander (CCDR). The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) is the principal military adviser; service chiefs are *not* in the operational chain of Title 10.

Board cue. Boards love the contrast with acquisition authority; avoid conflating operational and acquisition chains.

Echelons. Counted from the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) (e.g., CNO is Echelon I, Systems Commands (SYSCOMs) are Echelon II, etc.).

Figure 1.1 shows the Title 10 chain of command. Figure 1.2 shows the Chain of Command from the President to Echelon III commands.

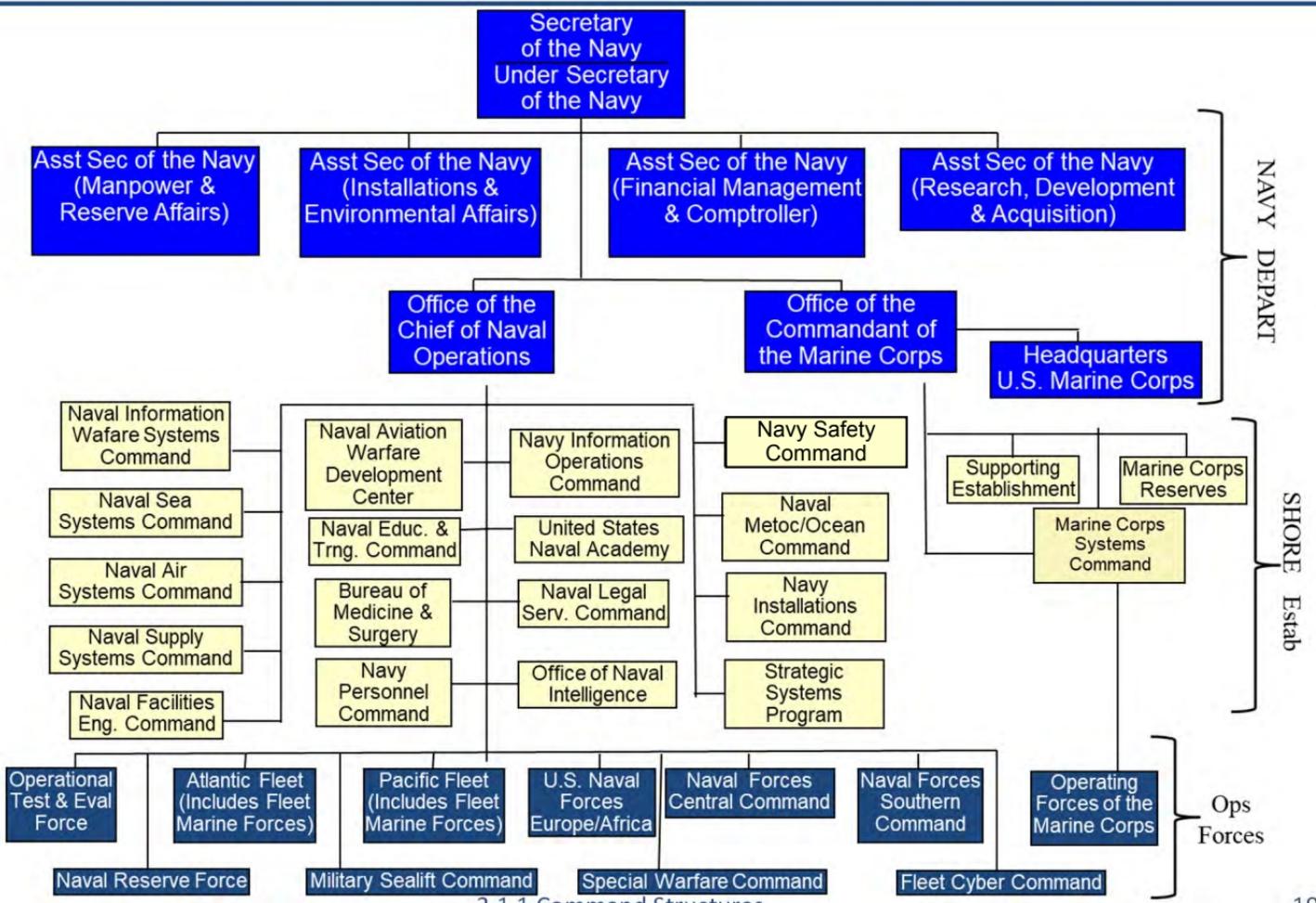


Figure 1.1. Title 10 Chain of Command. Source: 2.1.1. Command Structures, 2025 [1].

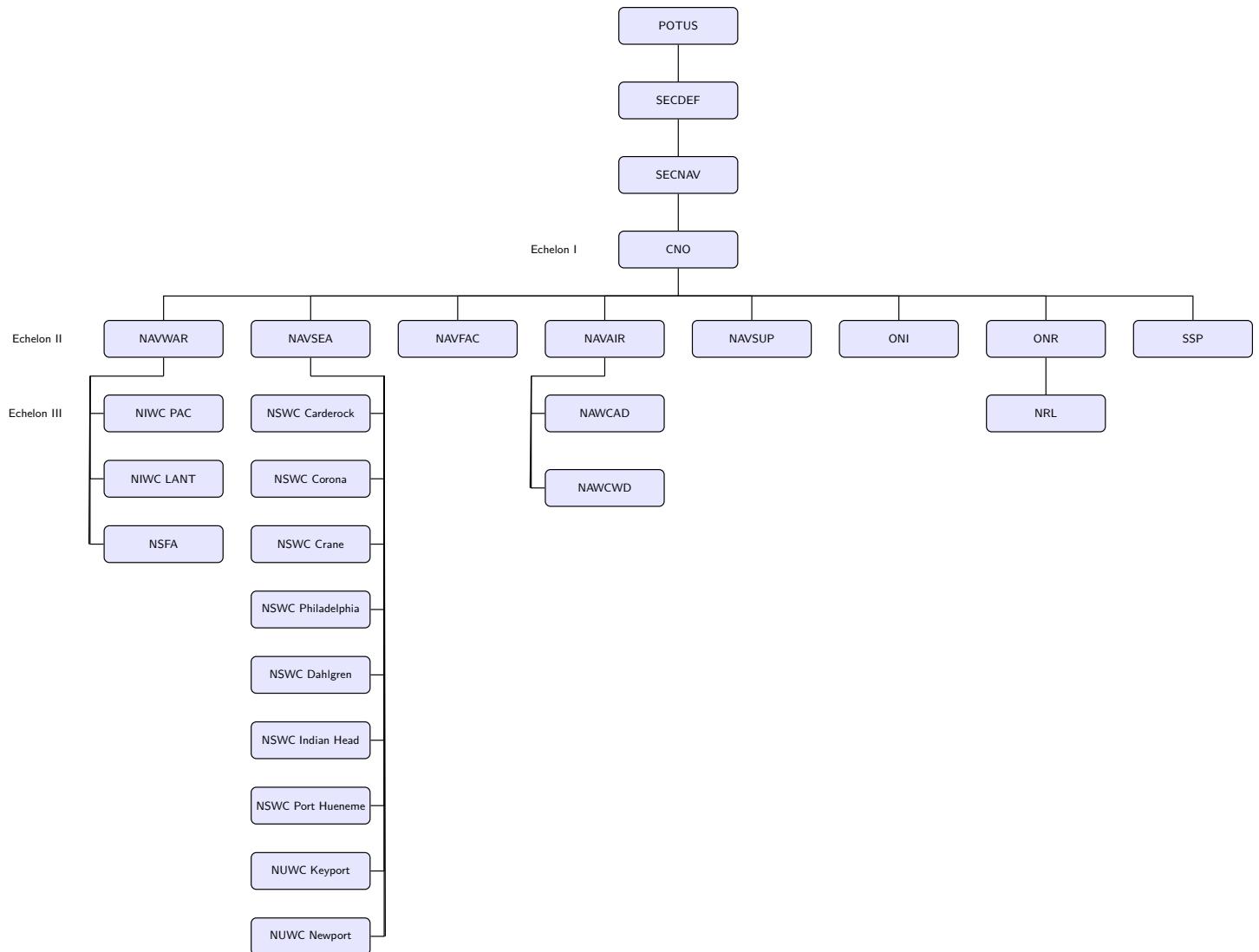


Figure 1.2. Organization Command Structure

1.1.2 Acquisition Governance (Department of the Navy)

Policy authority. Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (ASN(RD&A)) is the Service Acquisition Executive (SAE) for the Department of the Navy (DON) and sets policy for Program Executive Offices (PEOs) and Direct Reporting Program Managers (DRPMs) [2, 3].

Matrix execution. PEOs hold program authority; SYSCOMs (Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVMAR), Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)) provide the Technical Authority (TA) warrants and workforce; Naval Warfare Centers (NWCs) deliver research, development, test, and engineering support [2].

Figure 1.3 shows the Navy acquisition governance chain of command.

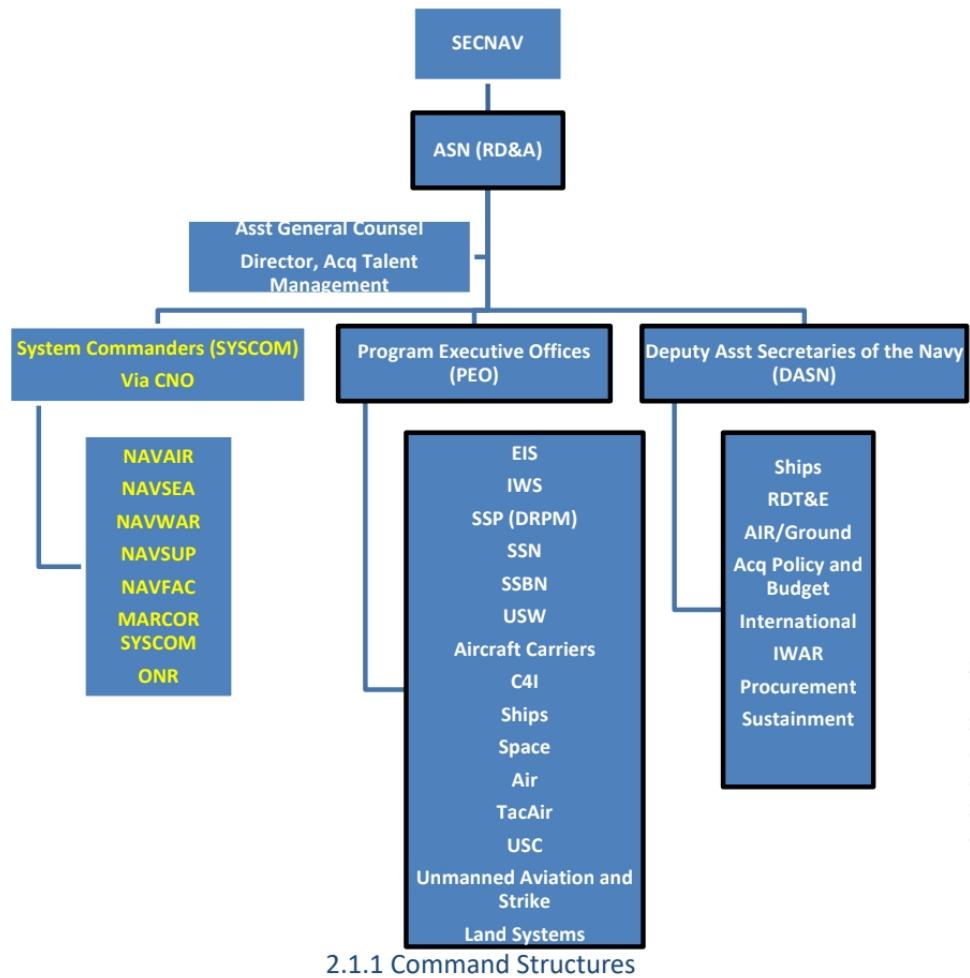


Figure 1.3. Acquisition Governance Chain of Command. Source: 2.1.1. Command Structures, 2025 [1].

1.1.3 Approving Authorities

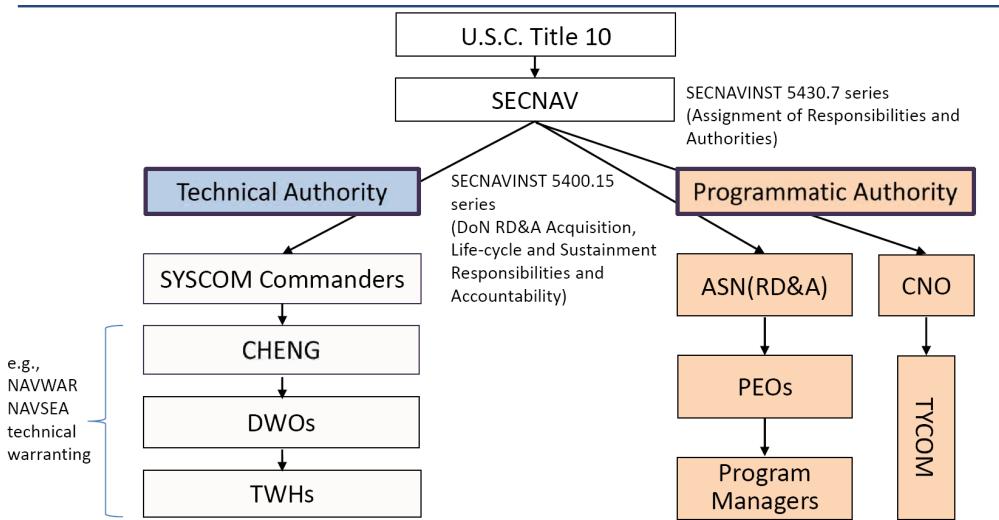


Figure 1.4. Technical Authority v.s. Program Authority alignment. Source: 2.1.5. Technical Authority and Engineering Agents, 2025 [4]

Figure 1.4 contrasts the roles of TA and Program Authority (PA) in Navy acquisition.

1.2 Technical Authority and Engineering Agents

Refs: [2] SECNAVINST 5400.15D, Jan. 19, 2021.

[4] “2.1.5. Technical Authority and Engineering Agents” Apr. 11, 2025.

[5] “2.1.4. Naval Warfare Centers” Dec. 18, 2024.

1.2.1 What Technical Authority Is

TA. Independent engineering authority to set, maintain, and certify conformance to technical standards and baselines across the lifecycle [2].

Ultimate Technical Authority (UTA). Executed at the SYSCOM level (e.g., NAVSEA); resides with the Commander and flows through the Chief Engineer via a formal warranting system [4].

Delegated TA. Technical Warrant Holders (TWHs) (*Lead/Local/Warranted TA*) receive domain-specific authority across hull, mechanical, and electrical systems, combat systems, cybersecurity, and airworthiness or seaworthiness [4].

Core TA duties. Must-know responsibilities:

1. Establish and approve technical requirements, standards, and certification criteria;
2. Control the authoritative technical baseline (drawings, specs, interface control);
3. Adjudicate departures and waivers from specification and safety-critical changes; and
4. Certify readiness, readiness for service, and technical acceptability.

Independence. TA remains separate from cost, schedule, and programmatic authority to protect warfighter safety and mission assurance [2].

1.2.2 What EAs Do (and Do Not Do)

Engineering Agents (EAs) perform lifecycle engineering under TA governance. They are *not* TA unless they hold a TA warrant [4]. Common EA roles include:

In-Service Engineering Agent (ISEA). Lifecycle systems engineering for *fielded* systems (e.g., fleet introduction, distance support, troubleshooting/Casualty Report (CASREP) support, maintenance planning, obsolescence, technical manuals/data, configuration of the in-service baseline).

Design Agent (DA). Develops detailed design and configuration documentation for a system or platform (e.g., ship detail design, Initial Capabilities Documents (ICDs), drawings, Technical Data Packages (TDPs)) to TA-approved standards.

Alteration Engineering Agent (AEA). Produces alteration packages (e.g., installation drawings, test procedures, logistics updates) and supports fleet introduction for ship or system changes.

Systems Integration Agent (SIA). Orchestrates system-of-systems integration (e.g., interfaces, interoperability, cybersecurity in the integration space) across combat system elements and platforms.

Technical Direction Agent (TDA). Issues and maintains technical work direction for installations and maintenance (e.g., Technical Work Document (TWD), local instructions) consistent with the TA-approved baseline.

1.2.3 Where Engineering Agent Authority Comes From

Statutory basis. [2] assigns DON acquisition responsibilities, directing SYSCOMs to execute TA and to designate Warfare Centers as EAs that support PEOs and Program Managers (PMs).

Delegations from TA. NAVSEA, NAVAIR, and NAVWAR Chief Engineers issue written warrants or designation letters (Lead-/Lab/Local TA) that flow requirements to specific Warfare Center codes; EA charters reference those warrants [4].

Execution orders. PEOs and PMs provide technical direction letters, project orders, and statements of work that scope the EA's tasks while preserving independence for specification compliance and certification [5].

Accountability. EAs report to the SYSCOM Chief Engineer for technical rigor and to the sponsoring PM for cost and schedule; loss of a warrant or charter terminates their authority to issue technical documentation [4].

1.2.4 Waterfront Triage: What Engages Whom

Spec/drawing nonconformance (build or repair). Generate a departure or waiver request for the proper TA warrant holder; minor deviations may be approved by Local or Lead TA, while major or safety-critical issues go to the Chief Engineer/UTA.

In-service failure (CASREP/technical assist). ISEA opens a support case, provides immediate workarounds and troubleshooting, coordinates root-cause analysis, updates technical data, and recommends permanent fixes (engineering change or alteration).

Change to configuration. If a permanent change is needed, the AEA develops the alteration package; SIA validates interfaces; DA updates drawings and TDPs; TA approves and certifies.

Principle to remember. EAs execute engineering; TA sets the rules and certifies compliance.

1.3 NAVSEA Organization and Warfare Centers

Refs: [5] “2.1.4. Naval Warfare Centers” Dec. 18, 2024.

[6] “Warefare Centers” 2025.

1.3.1 HQ Codes (must-know one-liners)

SEA 01 – Comptroller. Budget Submitting Office (BSO); leads NAVSEA financial governance.

SEA 02 – Contracts. Contracting authority and policy.

SEA 03 – Cyber Engineering and Digital. Enterprise cyber engineering and digital transformation.

SEA 04 – Industrial Operations. Shipyards, logistics, and quality-assurance oversight.

SEA 05 – Chief Engineer (TA). Sets engineering standards and certifies designs.

SEA 06 – Sustainment. Life-cycle product support.

SEA 07 – Undersea Warfare. Dual-hatted as Program Executive Office, Undersea Warfare Systems (PEO UWS); provides life-cycle support for in-service submarine and undersea forces.

SEA 08 – Nuclear Propulsion. Manages all technical matters pertaining to naval reactors. Triple-hat duties:

SEA 08 Deputy Commander. Leads nuclear propulsion activities within NAVSEA.

Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion (Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) OON). Serves as the Navy’s principal nuclear propulsion authority.

Deputy Administrator for Naval Reactors. Interfaces with the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Energy.

SEA 09 – Safety and Regulatory Compliance. Strengthens and aligns safety oversight and reporting.

SEA 10 – Total Force and Corporate Operations. Manages the workforce, corporate services, and governance.

SEA 21 – In-Service Ships (dual-hat Commander, Navy Regional Maintenance Center (CNRMC)). Oversees fleet surface-ship sustainment and modernization. Program Management Offices (PMOs) under SEA 21:

PMS 321. Unmanned small combatants and amphibious ships.

PMS 326. International fleet support.

PMS 339. Surface training systems.

PMS 421. Large surface combatant modernization and sustainment.

PMS 443. Bridge integration and HM&E sustainment.

PMS 451. Destroyer Modernization 2.0 portfolio.

SEA 21I. Inactive Ships Directorate.

Surface Maintenance Engineering Planning Program (SURFMEPP) Activity. Surface Maintenance Engineering Planning Program.

1.3.2 Warfare Centers (alphabetical)

Table 1.1 lists NAVSEA Warfare Centers with locations and descriptions.

TABLE 1.1: NAVSEA WARFARE CENTERS WITH LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS.

| CENTER | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| NSWC Carderock | West Bethesda, MD | Ship design and engineering. |
| NSWC Corona | Corona, CA | Analytics and data driven performance assessments. |
| NSWC Crane | Crane, IN | Electronic/expeditionary warfare; strategic system components. |
| NSWC Dahlgren | Dahlgren, VA | Surface ship weapons system development and integration . |
| NSWC Dam Neck | Virginia Beach, VA | Combat-system software, training/testing. |
| NSWC Indian Head | Indian Head, MD | Energetics, explosive-ordnance-disposal technologies. |
| NSWC Panama City | Panama City, FL | Mine warfare and littoral warfare systems. |
| NSWC Philadelphia | Philadelphia, PA | Surface and undersea machinery, power, controls, and auxiliary ship systems. |

Continued on next page

TABLE 1.1: NAVSEA WARFARE CENTERS WITH LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS. (Continued)

| CENTER | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------|------------------|---|
| NSWC Port Hueneme | Port Hueneme, CA | Integrated logistics and test and evaluation for surface warfare combat systems. |
| NUWC Keyport | Keyport, WA | Sustaining undersea warfare systems and vehicles. |
| NUWC Newport | Newport, RI | Undersea, subsea, and seabed warfare weapons systems development and integration. |

Source: 2.1.4. Naval Warfare Centers, 2024 [5] Warfare Centers, 2025 [6]

Hint: Remember that for Naval Surface Warfare Centers (NSWCs) there are 3-C's, 2-D's, and 3-P's plus 1-I. There are only two "Ports" for Naval Undersea Warfare Centers (NUWCs).

1.3.3 NWC Locations

Figure 1.5 shows the geographic locations of NWCs. For the Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) board, most recommend drawing the US to show where the NWCs are located. The other option is to list them out, but a map is more visual.



Figure 1.5. Geographic locations of Navy Warfare Centers. Source: 2.1.4. Naval Warfare Centers, 2024 [5].

1.4 NAVWAR Enterprise and Warfare Centers

Refs: [7] “2.1.3. NAVWAR Enterprise” Dec. 17, 2024.

1.4.1 HQ Directorates and FRD

Table 1.2 lists NAVWAR HQ directorates and Fleet Readiness Directorates (FRDs) with one-line roles.

TABLE 1.2: NAVWARHQ DIRECTORATES AND FIELD READINESS DIRECTORATES – ONE-LINE ROLES.

| CODE | OFFICE | ONE-LINER |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1.0 | Comptroller | Budget formulation/execution; BSO duties; funds control and financial reporting. |
| 2.0 | Contracts | Contracting policy/oversight; acquisition strategy; award/administration of instruments. |
| 3.0 | Counsel | Legal counsel for acquisition/ethics; protests, claims, agreements, and compliance. |
| 4.0 | Logistics & Fleet Support | Life-cycle logistics; sustainment planning; supply/tech data; fleet support integration. |
| 5.0 | Chief Engineer / TA (Cyber) | Technical standards/architecture; interoperability; cyber TA; certification/air-gapping where required. |
| 6.0 | Program Management | Program governance; milestone readiness; portfolio integration; interface with PEOs. |
| 7.0 | Science & Technology | S&T portfolio; experimentation/prototyping; tech transition to programs of record. |
| 8.0 | Corporate Operations | Workforce, security, facilities, enterprise information-technology/chief-information-officer services, PAO, and other corporate enablers. |
| FRD-100 | Fleet Support | Sustainment services and distance support; field engineering and readiness assistance. |
| FRD-200 | Installations | C4I installation planning/execution; shore/afloat integration and cutover support. |

Source: 2.1.3. NAVWAR Enterprise, 2024 [7]

1.4.2 Warfare Centers (alphabetical)

Table 1.3 lists NAVWAR Warfare Centers with locations and descriptions.

TABLE 1.3: NAVWAR WARFARE CENTERS WITH LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS.

| CENTER | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION |
|-----------|----------------|---|
| NIWC LANT | Charleston, SC | Enterprise information-technology solutions; cradle-to-grave C4ISR. |
| NIWC PAC | San Diego, CA | C4ISR RDT&E; Navy/Joint/Allied support. |
| NSFA | Chantilly, VA | Navy link to the NRO; space research and development coordination. |

Source: 2.1.3. NAVWAR Enterprise, 2024 [7]

NIWC LANT detachments

- HQ: Charleston, SC.
- New Orleans, LA.
- Norfolk, VA.
- Naples, Italy.
- Manama, Bahrain.

NIWC PAC detachments

- HQ: San Diego, CA.
- Everett, WA.
- Pearl City, HI.
- Santa Rita, Guam.
- Yokosuka, Japan.

1.5 NAVAIR Warfare Centers

Refs: [5] “2.1.4. Naval Warfare Centers” Dec. 18, 2024.

Table 1.4 lists NAVAIR Warfare Centers with locations and descriptions. This is an optional item to know for the EDO board, not as critical as NAVSEA/NAVWAR.

TABLE 1.4: NAVAIR WARFARE CENTERS WITH LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS.

| CENTER | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|
| NAWCAD | Patuxent River, MD | Aircraft/engines/avionics RDT&E; Test Pilot School. |
| NAWCWD | China Lake / Point Mugu, CA | Weapons systems, ranges, guided-missle integration. |

Source: 2.1.4. Naval Warfare Centers, 2024 [5]

1.6 Navy PEOs (Program Executive Offices)

- Refs: [2] SECNAVINST 5400.15D, Jan. 19, 2021.
[5] “2.1.4. Naval Warfare Centers” Dec. 18, 2024.
[8] “3.1.5. Field Activity Financial Management” Mar. 26, 2025.

Program Executive Office, Aircraft Carriers (PEO CVN). Designs, builds, delivers, and sustains nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

PMS 312. In-service aircraft carrier program management.

PMS 378. Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier (CVN)-78 class program management.

PMS 379. CVN-79/80 program management.

Program Executive Office, Integrated Warfare Systems (PEO IWS). Develops and sustains ship and submarine combat systems.

IWS 1.0. Aegis combat system lead.

IWS 1.0F. Aegis fleet readiness.

IWS 2.0. Above-water sensors portfolio.

IWS 3.0. Surface ship weapons integration.

IWS 4.0. International and foreign military sales.

IWS 5.0. Undersea systems.

IWS 6.0. Command-and-control systems.

IWS 9.0. DDG-1000, littoral combat ship, and patrol craft combat systems.

IWS 11.0. Terminal defense systems.

IWS 12.0. NATO Seaspark programs.

IWS 80.0. Atalanta combat systems.

IWS X. Integrated combat-system document center.

Program Executive Office, Ships (PEO Ships). Oversees surface combatant and amphibious ship construction and modernization.

Program Executive Office, Unmanned and Small Combatants (PEO USC). Manages littoral combat ships, frigates, expeditionary platforms, and unmanned surface/undersea portfolios.

Team Submarines. Integrates strategic and attack submarine acquisition and sustainment.

Program Executive Office, Attack Submarines (PEO SSN). Attack submarine programs.

PMS 351. New attack submarine acquisition.

PMS 390. Undersea special mission systems.

PMS 391. In-service submarine sustainment.

PMS 394. Advanced undersea systems development.

PMS 450. Virginia class program management.

Program Executive Office, SSBN (PEO SSBN). Strategic deterrent submarine portfolio.

PMS 396. In-service Ballistic Missile Submarine, Nuclear (SSBN) sustainment.

PMS 397. Columbia class program management.

Submarine Maintenance Engineering Planning Program (SUBMEPP). Surface maintenance engineering planning program support to ballistic submarine availabilities.

PEO UWS. Submarine combat, cyber, and sensor systems.

PMS 401. Submarine acoustic systems.

PMS 404. Undersea weapons.

PMS 415. Undersea defensive warfare systems.

PMS 425. Combat and weapon control systems.

PMS 435. Electromagnetic systems.

PMS 485. Maritime surveillance systems.

Program Executive Office, Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (PEO C4I). Delivers fleet Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) capabilities.

PMW 120. Battlespace awareness and information operations.

PMW 130. Information Assurance (IA) and cybersecurity programs.

PMW 150. Navy command-and-control systems.

PMW 160. Tactical networks.

PMW 170. Communications and Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation.

PMW 740. International C4I integration.

PMW 750. Carrier strike and air integration.

PMW 760. Ship integration.

PMW 770. Undersea integration.

PMW 790. Shore and expeditionary integration.

PMW series focus. Two PMW series within PEO C4I have distinct roles:

PMW 1XX. Major capability development portfolios (new platforms and end-to-end networks) where PEO C4I owns the baseline capabilities document, acquisition strategy, and milestone execution; Warfare Centers supply lead systems integration, test ranges, and engineering agents via tailored project orders [2, 5].

PMW 7XX. Fleet integration portfolios synchronizing new capabilities into existing hulls, aircraft, and shore nodes; emphasizes installation planning, logistics, and interoperability packages coordinated through regional Warfare Centers and type commanders [2, 8].

Program Executive Office, Digital and Enterprise Services (PEO Digital). Provides enterprise digital services (e.g., Flank Speed collaboration environment).

Program Executive Office, Manpower, Logistics and Business IT (PEO MLB). Modernizes manpower, logistics, and business information-technology systems.

1.6.1 PEO/Warfare Center Interaction Model

Role Designation. PEOs charter Warfare Centers as EAs (ISEA, DA, SIA) via technical direction letters aligned with [2]; the Warfare Center executes under Navy Working Capital Fund (NWCF) funding while reporting performance to the PM [5].

Requirements Translation. PM Integrated Product Teams (IPTs) decompose Capabilities Development Documents (CDDs) into technical requirements that Warfare Center TA holders validate and flow down through alteration packages, interface control documents, and test plans [5].

Funding Mechanisms. PEO PMOs issue project orders or Economy Act orders using their appropriations; Warfare Centers accept into NWCF, schedule Work Breakdown Structures (WBSes), and recover rates through Stabilized Labor Rates (SLRs) while keeping the PM apprised of burn rates and Net Operating Result (NOR) impacts [8].

Governance Rhythm. Monthly technical reviews focus on requirements churn, test results, and configuration control; quarterly business reviews reconcile execution to SLR assumptions and assess workforce mix, drawing on Warfare Center cost visibility [2, 8].

Acquisition Decision Events. Warfare Centers provide independent readiness assessments (test status, technical risk) for PEO milestone decisions, often serving as certifying authorities for safety releases or flight clearances prior to fielding [2, 5].

2 PPBE

2.1 PPBE (Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution)

- Refs:
- [9] “3.1.1. PPBE (Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution)” Mar. 26, 2025.
 - [10] “3.1.2. Congressional Enactment” Mar. 26, 2025.
 - [11] “DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14—R, Volume 3” Jul. 1, 2025.
 - [12] “3.1.3. Program Funding” Sep. 8, 2025.
 - [13] “G-Invoicing Program Guide and Resources” 2025.
 - [14] *41 U.S.C. § 6307: Project Order statute*, 2011.
 - [15] *31 U.S.C. § 1535: Economy Act*, 2018.
 - [16] *31 U.S.C. § 1301(a): Application — Purpose Statute*, 2018.
 - [17] *31 U.S.C. § 1502(a): Bona Fide Needs Rule*, 2018.
 - [18] *31 U.S.C. § 1341; § 1517: Anti-Deficiency Act*, 2018.

2.1.1 What PPBE does

Aligns strategy to resources across the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). *Planning* (strategy → guidance), *Programming* (balanced force/program → Program Objective Memorandum (POM)), *Budgeting* (validated request → President’s Budget (PB)), *Execution* (obligations/outlays → performance feedback) [9].

2.1.2 Timeline (annual rhythm)

Figure 2.1 shows the Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution (PPBE) timeline across multiple fiscal years with key milestones during each calendar year.

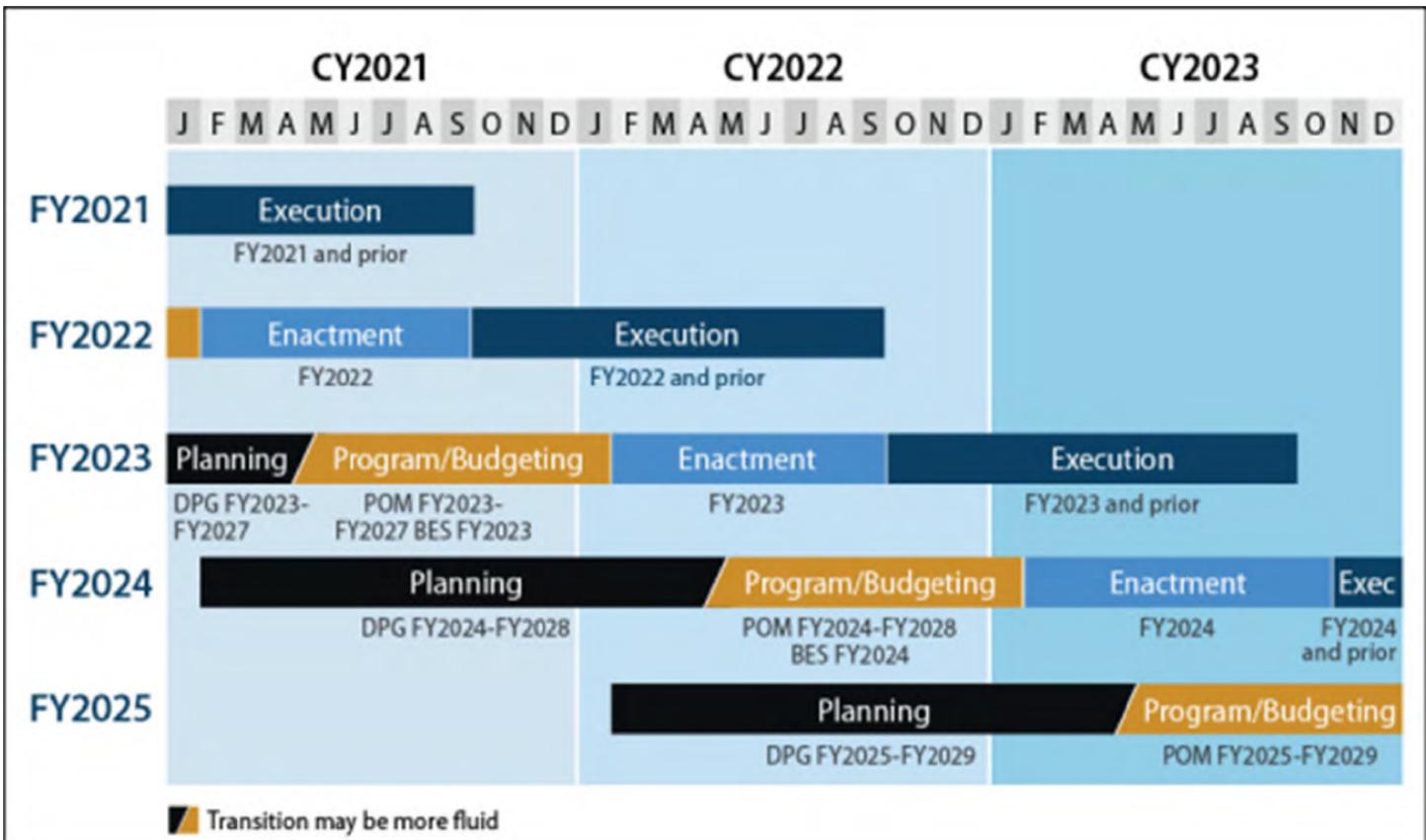


Figure 2.1. PPBE Timeline for multiple fiscal years. Source: 3.1.1. PPBE (Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution), 2025 [9].

2.1.3 Congressional Enactment (Regular Order)

Figure 2.2 highlights how Congress moves from the PB submission through authorization and appropriations when operating on-time without a Continuing Resolution (CR). Being able to walk this chart helps bridge PPBE milestones with Hill activity.

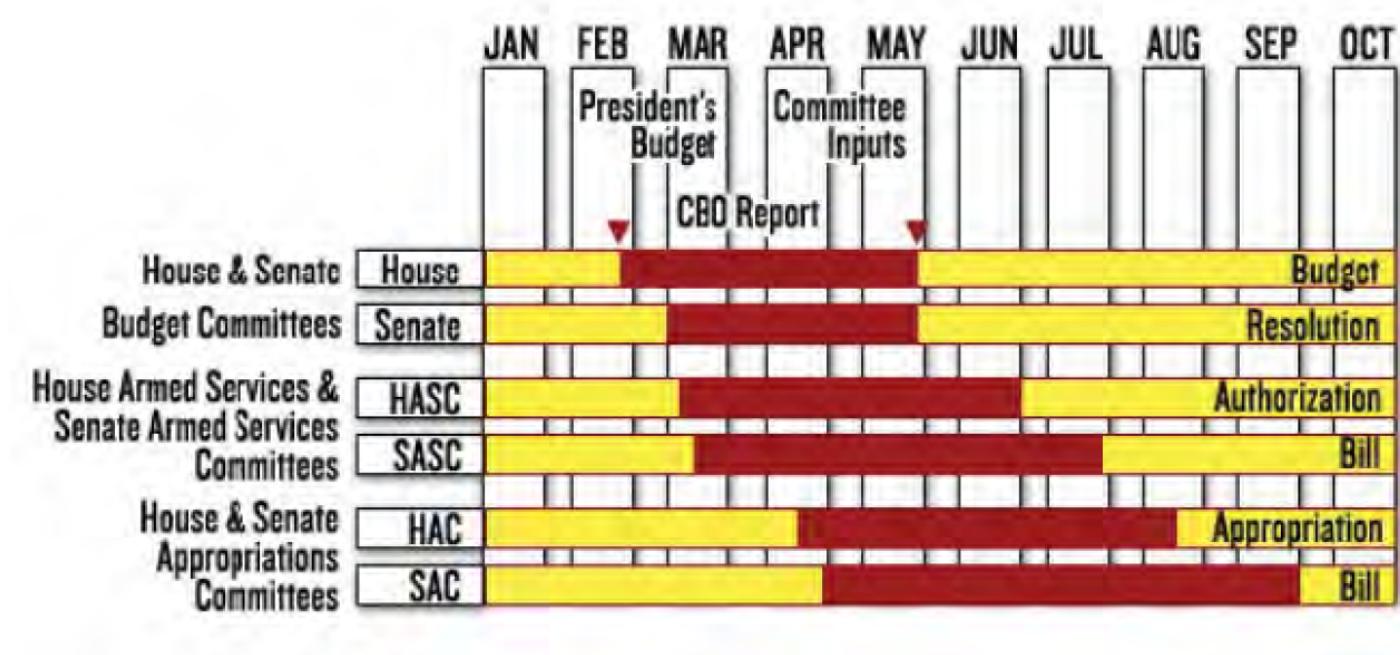


Figure 2.2. Congressional Enactment Timeline. Source: 3.1.2. Congressional Enactment, 2025 [10].

2.1.4 Key Terms and Definitions

Table 2.1 lists key terms and definitions.

TABLE 2.1: KEY TERMS IN PPBE

| TERM | ONE-LINER |
|------|--|
| PY | Last completed FY: execution look-back and CR baselines. |
| CY | Ongoing FY: execution and mid-year reviews. |
| BY | Next FY in submission. |
| POM | Service's balanced force/program across the FYDP. |
| FYDP | 5-year program structure and resources. |

Source: DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, 2025 [11]

Other terms and definitions from [9]:

Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE). Provides independent cost assessment and program evaluation.

Program Decision Memorandum (PDM). Records SECDEF program decisions at the end of Program Review.

OPNAV Integration of Capabilities and Resources (N8). Builds the Navy POM; trades across portfolios with cost/risk realism.

OPNAV Warfare Systems (N9). Validates/advocates warfare requirements; integrates by mission area.

Warfare Integration Directorate (N91). Manages cross-domain mission integration and architecture; orchestrates POM issue papers and mission engineering. *Office designators can shift; verify current subcodes week-of.*

2.1.5 Programming v.s. Budgeting

Table 2.2 compares key differences between Programming and Budgeting. One way to think about this: (1) Budgeting is for the money for this year and (2) Programming is for the 5-year FYDP.

TABLE 2.2: PROGRAMMING V.S. BUDGETING

| PROGRAMMING | BUDGETING |
|--------------|--|
| Purpose | Build a balanced force across FYDP |
| Lead | N8 with supporting codes/PEOs/SYSCOMs |
| Key products | POM, PDM |
| | Price/validate an executable BY request |
| | FMB/Office of the Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Office of Management and Budget |
| | Budget estimate, reclama, President's Budget |

Source: 3.1.1. PPBE (Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution), 2025 [9]

2.1.6 PPBE Programming

3-Star v.s. 4-Star Reviews: During Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)'s Program Review, issues raised on the Services' POMs move first to a 3-Star Programmers Panel (staff-level, chaired by Director, CAPE (DCAPE)) that vets issue papers, builds options (with offsets), and forwards recommendations. Unresolved or strategy-level trades go to the 4-Star forum, the Deputy's Management Action Group (DMAG) co-led by the Deputy SECDEF (with the Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (VCJCS)), for senior adjudication. Decisions at this stage are documented as a PDM or (in recent cycles) a programmatic Resource Management Decision (RMD), which updates the FYDP and hands off to the Comptroller's Budget Review that culminates in budgetary RMDs.

2.1.7 Appropriations Life-cycle (Colors of Money)

Figure 2.3 visualizes when each major appropriation category is Current, Expired, or Cancelled. Pair this with the obligation windows discussion so you can sketch the chart quickly at the board.

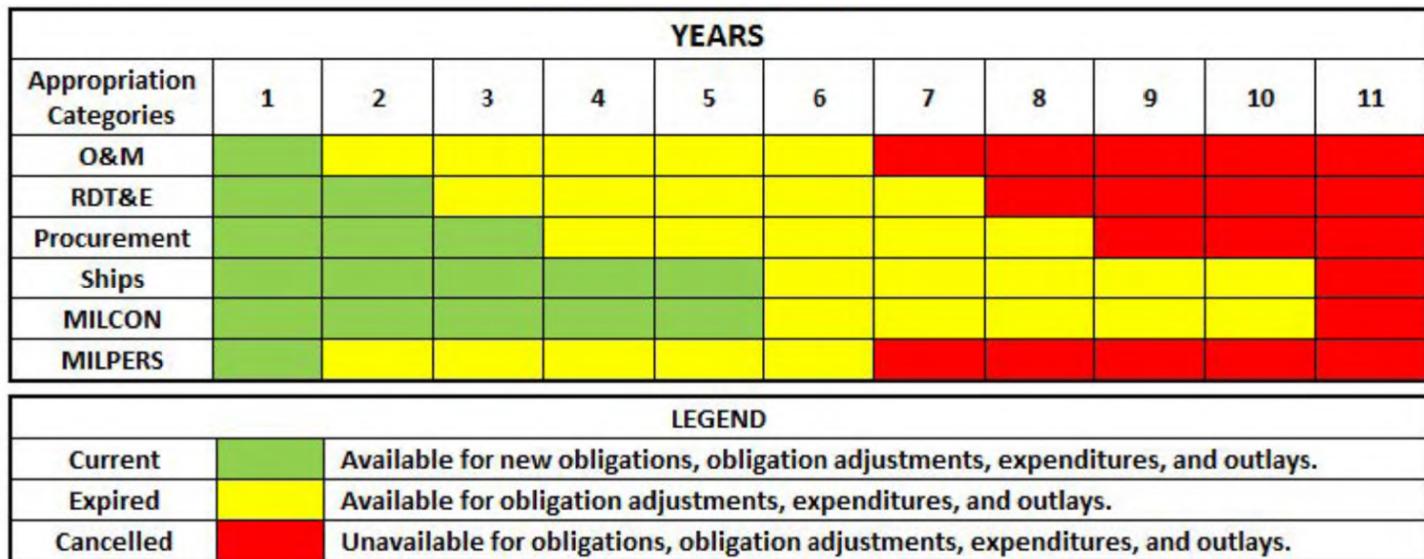


Figure 2.3. Colors of Money Timeline. Source: 3.1.3. Program Funding, 2025 [12].

2.1.8 IGT (Intragovernmental Transactions)

Definition. Orders and collections between federal entities using Treasury's G-Invoicing: 7600A (order), 7600B (agreement/performance), Intra-Governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC) for collections [13].

Why it matters. Intragovernmental Transaction (IGT) acceptance is an obligation on the customer side and the revenue recognition driver for the performing Working Capital Fund (WCF) activity.

2.1.9 Common Ordering Instruments

Work Order. Internal directive used within a command to control scope/cost/schedule.

Project Order. Statutory order for a definite, specific, and entire project; obligational on acceptance; performs like a contract between DoD activities. (41 U.S.C. § 6307) [14]

Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR)/IPR (DD Form 448). Economy Act order between federal entities; obligational when accepted; performed by the servicing agency. (31 U.S.C. § 1535) [13, 15]

2.1.10 Fiscal Law (Know These Cold)

Purpose Statute (“Misappropriation”). Funds must be used only for their appropriated purpose (31 U.S.C. § 1301(a)) [16].

Bona Fide Needs Rule. Use current-year appropriations only for legitimate needs of that fiscal year (31 U.S.C. § 1502(a)) [17].

Anti-Deficiency Act. Do not obligate/expend in excess of available amounts or before funds are available (31 U.S.C. § 1341, § 1517) [18].

2.1.11 Reprogramming: Moving Resources After Enactment

Four mechanisms (high level).

1. **Congressional Prior Approval Reprogramming (PA Reprog):** Actions above statutory/committee thresholds or affecting congressional special-interest items or new starts. Requires approval from all four defense committees; timing driven by committee cycles [11].
2. **Internal Reprogramming (IR):** Realignments within an appropriation that do not cross thresholds or trigger congressional interest; used for proper purpose alignment without changing totals. Notice sent to committees [11].
3. **Below-Threshold Reprogramming (BTR):** Component-level authority to move funds below set dollar/percent limits within the same appropriation/fiscal year; limits reset annually by appropriations acts/committee guidance [11].
4. **Letter Transfer (LT):** Treasury non-expenditure transfer moving budgetary resources between appropriations/treasury symbols when authorized (e.g., statute or enacted language) [11].

Hint

General rules of thumb—cannot change color-of-money or extend time; must complete before funds' obligation period ends; expired-year accounts limited to valid upward/downward adjustments only [11].

2.1.12 From Enactment to Field Authority

1. Treasury *warrants* the appropriation; Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *apportions* on Standard Form 132.
2. OSD (Comptroller) issues allocations to components such as the DON.
3. OPNAV (Financial Management Budget (OPNAV) (FMB) / OPNAV Programming Division (N82)) allocates to SCSOM BSOs (Echelon II), which suballocate to Warfare Centers (Echelon III), followed by *allowances/allotments* to the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system [11].
4. Commands record commitments, obligations, and expenses, and request outlays via Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

2.2 NWCF Essentials: Rates, Results, and Execution

- Refs:**
- [11] “DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14—R, Volume 3” Jul. 1, 2025.
 - [13] “G-Invoicing Program Guide and Resources” 2025.
 - [19] *10 U.S.C. § 2208: Working-capital funds*, 2023.
 - [20] “DoD FMR 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 19: Defense Working Capital Funds” Jul. 1, 2025.
 - [21] “Continuing Resolutions: Overview of Components and Recent Practices” Mar. 27, 2025.

2.2.1 Key Definitions (Execution)

Commitment. Administrative reservation of funds in anticipation of an obligation; reduces available authority but is not yet a legal liability [11] (e.g., National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)’s Request for Contract Action (RCA) process).

Obligation. Legal liability incurred that encumbers funds [11] (e.g., award of a contract, acceptance of an IGT order).

Expenditure/Expense. Recording of cost when goods/services are received/accepted (accrual basis) [11] (e.g., sending check to pay an invoice).

Outlay/Disbursement. Treasury cash payment to a vendor or performing activity [11] (e.g., payment check is cashed in).

2.2.2 Flow: PMO Purchase Request to Treasury Payment

1. PMO *commits* funds (approved in the ERP system).
2. Contract award or IGT order acceptance creates the *obligation* [11, 13].
3. Performance/acceptance posts *expense* (accrual).
4. DFAS schedules the invoice for payment; Treasury disburses (*outlay*) via IPAC (for IGT) or commercial EFT [13].

2.2.3 NWCF Metrics and Equations

NOR (annual profit/loss).

$$\text{NOR} = \text{Revenue} - \text{Total Expenses}$$

Target performance remains near break-even over time (small NOR) [11].

Accumulated Operating Result (AOR) (retained earnings/equity over time).

$$\text{AOR}_t = \text{AOR}_{t-1} + \text{NOR}_t \pm \text{Other Adjustments}$$

Represents the *corpus* (net position) of the fund [11].

2.2.4 NWCF Corpus v.s. Appropriations

Corpus (AOR/Working Capital). Revolving cash and retained earnings authorized under 10 U.S.C. § 2208 [19]; remains available without fiscal year limitation to finance operations until recovered through stabilized rates [20].

Customer Appropriations. Mission-funded (e.g., Operation and Maintenance, Navy (OMN), Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E), Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy (SCN)) dollars obligated by the customer when a project order or inter/intra-governmental order is accepted; purpose, time, and amount statutes still apply to the customer [11].

Capital Investment Program (CIP). Financed by NWCF corpus but budgeted in the capital budget exhibit; used for plant/equipment modernization and amortized back through rates, not through a separate appropriation [20].

No Augmentation. NWCF activities cannot augment customer appropriations; corpus only bridges cash timing between expense recognition and reimbursement [20].

2.2.5 Stabilized Rates and SLR

Stabilized Rates. Customer prices set in the budget build to recover expected full costs (labor, material, overhead, depreciation/C CIP) with a near-zero NOR goal [11].

SLR. Published labor \$/hr for a shop/code; recovers direct labor + fringe + overhead + G&A + capital depreciation recovery [11]:

$$\text{SLR} = \frac{\text{Direct Labor} + \text{Fringe} + \text{OH} + \text{G\&A} + \text{Depreciation Recovery}}{\text{Direct Labor Hours}}$$

Adjustment Battle Rhythm. Rates are established two years ahead during the PPBE budget build and held constant throughout budget year execution; mid-year changes require OUSD(C) approval when earned rates diverge materially from planned costs, and Navy BSOs typically review SLR accuracy monthly/quarterly to recommend any out-of-cycle adjustments [20].

2.2.6 NWCF v.s. Mission-Funded (Appropriation) Commands

Which billets at NWCF are mission-funded. Military administration and leadership billets (CO/XO/Admin) are funded by **Military Personnel (MILPERS)** and treated as mission-funded within NWCF; certain command/HQ oversight billets may also be OMN funded by policy, so verify locally. These costs are not recovered in stabilized rates. Others that are assigned to NWCF will bill hours towards work and the NWCF will reimburse MILPERS [11].

2.2.7 Standing Up or Modifying a NWCF Business Area

1. **Business Case Development:** Sponsor (e.g., ASN(RD&A) or SYSCOM) prepares analytical justification showing workload, demand signal, and ability to operate on a revolving basis without violating purpose/time/amount [20].
2. **acdon Approval Chain:** Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) (delegated to ASN (FM&C)) endorses the concept and forwards to OUSD(C) while coordinating with Navy Comptroller to align PPBE exhibits [20].

3. **OUSD(C)/OMB Review:** DoD Chief Financial Officer (CFO) validates cash requirements, rate methodology, and capital plan, then seeks OMB alignment for the PB [20].
4. **Congressional Notification:** Congress must be notified (and, when required, explicitly authorize in appropriations or authorizations) before execution; 10 U.S.C. § 2208 [19] restricts creation of new WCFs without legislative awareness [20].
5. **Implementation:** Once approved, the new business area is issued an NWCF business unit code, begins PPBE rate build two years out, and transitions legacy appropriated accounts via opening balance adjustments [20].

2.2.8 NWCF Cycle of Operations (Order to Cash)

1. **Customer order.** IGT 7600A or project order is received and *accepted*, creating the customer's obligation.
2. **Work in process.** Labor and material are applied; costs accumulate; billing events are scheduled per percent complete or delivery.
3. **Revenue recognition and billing.** The NWCF recognizes revenue and bills via IPAC (IGT) or a commercial invoice if authorized.
4. **Collection (cash).** Treasury IPAC/electronic funds transfer posts; NWCF cash increases; NOR/AOR update through the period close [11, 13].

2.2.9 Operating During a Continuing Resolution

Customer Funding Limits. Appropriated customers remain bound by prior-year obligation rates and anti-deficiency constraints; NWCF orders cannot exceed apportioned CR amounts until an appropriations act is passed [21].

Cash Cushion. Existing NWCF corpus allows Warfare Centers to keep executing accepted orders (labor continues, suppliers paid) even if reimbursements lag, provided cash balances stay within the FMR's upper/lower operating limits [20].

No New Starts. CR guidance prohibits new start projects, major capital investments, or rate changes absent explicit exception; NWCF managers defer new workloads that would obligate customer funds beyond CR allowances [21].

Rate Discipline. Stabilized rates remain frozen; only emergency OUSD(C)-approved rate adjustments may occur, so BSOs focus on expense control to avoid large NOR swings during the CR period [20].

2.2.10 Why Use a Warfare Center (Organic)

Things PMOs/industry can't do. Inherently governmental TA warrants, certification authority, certain safety releases; highly classified or nuclear workspaces.

Things they shouldn't do. Independent test/assessment, spec adjudication, tech baseline control, blue-&-gold separation to avoid Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI).

Things they won't do. Sustainment engineering at scale, depot-level organic repair, fleet distance support.

2.3 Congressional Enactment

Refs: [10] “3.1.2. Congressional Enactment” Mar. 26, 2025.

[21] “Continuing Resolutions: Overview of Components and Recent Practices” Mar. 27, 2025.

2.3.1 Foundations and core definitions

Power of the purse. U.S. Constitution, Article I.

Section 8.

“The Congress shall have power to... provide for the Common Defense... and general welfare...”

Section 9.

“No money shall be drawn from Treasury, but in consequence of Appropriations made by law...”

Key terms. Budget Authority (BA) (legal authority to incur obligations), Total Obligational Authority (TOA), obligations, outlays, Legislative Proposal (LEGPROP).

Authorization v.s. Appropriation. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorizes programs/policy; appropriations provide BA.

2.3.2 Who drafts what

Authorization. House Armed Services Committee (HASC) /Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC).

Appropriations. House Appropriations Committee (HAC) /Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC).

Budget Resolution. House Budget Committee (HBC) /Senate Budget Committee (SBC) (sets topline aggregates and 302 allocations; not a law).

Independent analysis/oversight. Congressional Budget Office (CBO) (scoring), Congressional Research Service (CRS) (research), Government Accountability Office (GAO) (audits/oversight).

2.3.3 Regular-order timeline

Figure 2.4 shows the timeline from the PB → Appropriation Bill with approximate timelines assuming no CR.

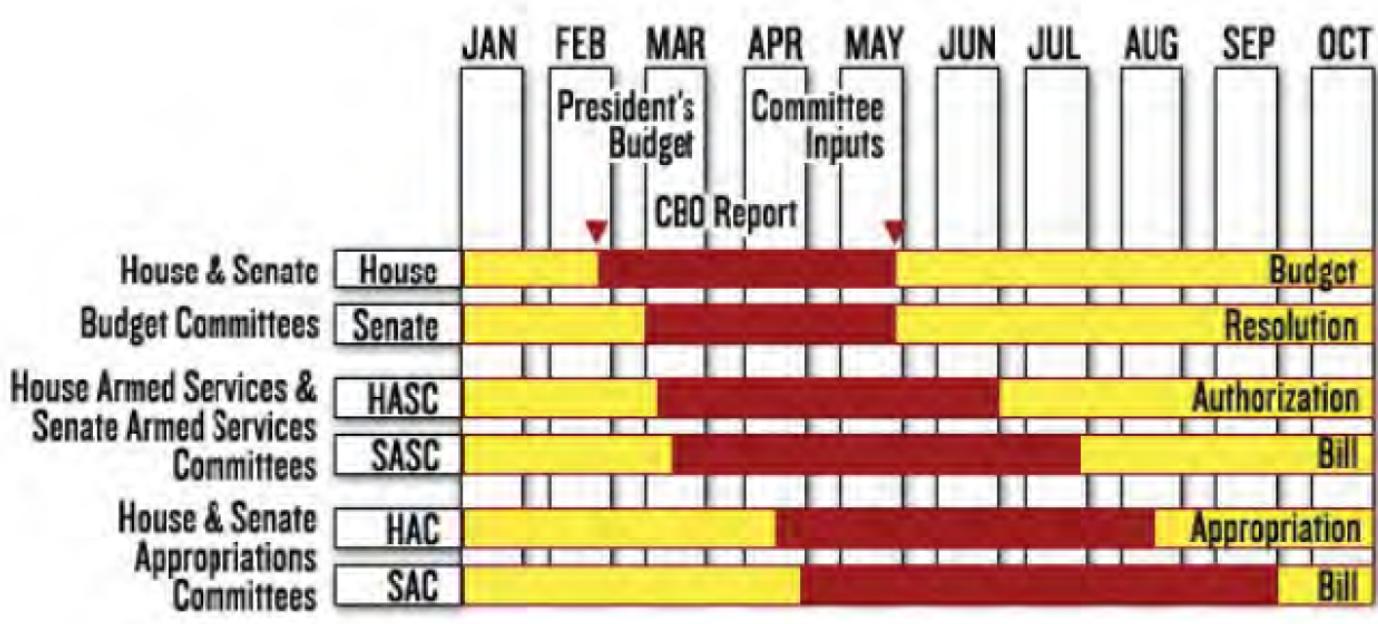


Figure 2.4. Congressional Enactment Timeline. Source: 3.1.2. Congressional Enactment, 2025 [10].

2.3.4 The 12 regular appropriations bills

Defense. Department of Defense appropriations.

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. Military construction, housing, and Department of Veterans Affairs programs.

Energy and Water. Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers, and related infrastructure programs.

Homeland Security. Department of Homeland Security operations and components.

Interior and Environment. Department of the Interior and Environmental Protection Agency activities.

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, plus related agencies.

Legislative Branch. U.S. Congress and supporting legislative branch agencies.

Financial Services and General Government. Treasury, judiciary, Small Business Administration, and other independent agencies.

Transportation and Housing and Urban Development. Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

Commerce, Justice, Science. Departments of Commerce and Justice plus science agencies such as NASA and the National Science Foundation.

State and Foreign Operations. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, and foreign assistance programs.

Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration activities.

Note

The bills that EDO's care about the most are Defense, Military Construction (MILCON) & Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Energy & Water. This because those bills directly affect funding for our acquisitions.

Hint

These bills are sometimes packaged into minibuses or a single omnibus appropriations act.

2.3.5 Continuing Resolution

Continuing resolution rules (board one-liner). *No new starts; rate/quantity changes generally constrained unless specified; execution limited by OMB apportionment, CR anomalies, and any authorities Congress adds in the joint explanatory statement [21].*

2.3.6 Sequestration

Automatic, across-the-board reductions if statutory caps/triggers are breached; applied by account unless modified by law.

2.4 Program Funding and Execution

- Refs:
- [11] “DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14—R, Volume 3” Jul. 1, 2025.
 - [13] “G-Invoicing Program Guide and Resources” 2025.
 - [22] *10 U.S.C. § 3501: Multiyear Procurement*, 2023.
 - [23] “DFARS 217.172: Multiyear Contracts” 2025.

2.4.1 BA, commitment, obligation, expenditure, outlay

1. *BA* available (legal authority).
2. *Commitment* (administrative reservation).
3. *Obligation* (legal liability via contract/order).
4. *Expenditure* (payment recorded).

5. Outlay (cash disbursed/Treasury).

Source references [11, 13].

2.4.2 Appropriation categories, scope, obligation windows

Table 2.3 shows the Colors of Money with their spending categories and obligation windows. Figure 2.3 from § 2.1.7 visually shows when each category is Current, Expired, or Cancelled.

TABLE 2.3: APPROPRIATION CATEGORIES, SCOPE, OBLIGATION WINDOWS

| CATEGORY | TYPICAL SCOPE | OBLIGATION WINDOW |
|------------------|--|-------------------|
| RDT&E | Science & technology; development; test & evaluation | 2 years |
| OPN ^a | End items/modernization and spares | 3 years |
| OMN | Operations, maintenance, training, minor mods | 1 year |
| MILCON | Facilities construction and real property | 5 years |
| MILPERS | Personnel pay | 1 year |

^a SCN is a specific procurement with a 5-year obligation window.

Source: DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, 2025 [11]

2.4.3 Funding policies

Annual. (OMN/MILPERS). Fund only bona fide needs of the fiscal year.

Incremental. (RDT&E). Fund work as it occurs by fiscal year.

Full-funding. (Procurement/MILCON). Fund the total usable end-item at award.¹

Common techniques/exceptions: Advance Procurement (long-lead items), Multiyear Procurement, Economic Order Quantity, Cost-to-Complete when provided in law.

Exceptions to the Full Funding Policy

Below is the list of the key exceptions to the Full Funding Policy, what they allow, and the must-know rules/approvals (Table 2.4 shows full details).

¹Exceptions to Full funding are select SCN programs (CVNs, SSBNs, and LHD/LHAs) with Congressional approval.

TABLE 2.4: KEY EXCEPTIONS TO THE FULL FUNDING POLICY: WHAT THEY ALLOW AND WHAT TO REMEMBER

| EXCEPTION | TYPICAL APPROPRIATION | WHAT IT ALLOWS | MUST-KNOW RULES / APPROVALS |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| MYP | APN, OPN, SCN | Single contract covering multiple fiscal years of buys to achieve predictable demand and unit-cost savings; may include EOQ purchases common across years. | Requires specific congressional authorization; stable requirements/design; credible savings; low technical risk; term generally up to 5 years; plan/budget any cancellation liability. |
| Advance Procurement (incl. LLTM/EOQ) | APN, OPN, SCN | Limited <i>early</i> funding (often 1–2 years before the main “buy” year) for long-lead components or EOQ lots to protect schedule or achieve price breaks. | Narrow and part-specific; must be justified in budget docs; EOQ commonly tied to MYP (or explicit block authority); does <i>not</i> equal full funding of the end item. |
| BB | Primarily SCN | A single contract buying multiple ships (or end items) across fiscal years to gain tooling/learning-curve efficiencies. | Requires explicit congressional authorization; funds still obligated year-by-year; not under the MYP statute, so oversight mechanics differ. |
| CTC | SCN | Additional funds in a later FY to finish an item (e.g., ship) when matured estimates exceed prior appropriations. | Completes original approved scope (not added capability); appears as a distinct request/justification; common in long-duration shipbuilding. |
| RCOH for CVN | SCN (with prior Advance Procurement) | Mid-life refueling and major overhaul funded incrementally over multiple years; early procurement of nuclear fuel/critical components. | Recognized exception due to size/complexity; incremental SCN with advance procurement years ahead of the principal execution. |

Note:

- (i) Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) purchases are commonly approved within Multiyear Procurement (MYP) or other explicit multi-year constructs;
- (ii) Block Buy resembles MYP in intent (savings) but uses program-specific authorization;
- (iii) Plan for cancellation liability under MYP when required.

Source: DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, 10 U.S.C. § 3501, DFARS 217.172: Multiyear Contracts, 2025, 2023, 2025 [11, 22, 23]

2.4.4 Navy Sustainment Funding: TYCOM v.s. Fleet (O&S)

Who holds O&M,N. Type Commanders (TYCOMs; e.g., COMNAVSURFOR, COMNAVAIRFOR, COMSUBFOR) are the primary executors of OMN for unit readiness: flying hours, steaming days, intermediate-level maintenance, training, and afloat/ashore support.

Fleet Commanders. PACFLT and USFF set operational priorities and readiness goals, adjudicate contingencies, and may centrally manage certain Fleet-wide initiatives; they influence TYCOM allocations but most execution occurs at the TYCOM.

Program Office (SYSCOM/PEO). Funds in-service engineering, tech data, Diminishing Manufacturing Sources, and modernization using Other Procurement, Navy (OPN)/Aircraft Procurement, Navy (APN) (end items/kits) and RDT&E/OMN

(installation, trials) as appropriate; manages sustainment Indefinite-Delivery, Indefinite-Quantitys (IDIQs)/PBL with color-of-money compliance.

Who pays what. OPN/APN: hardware/software upgrade kits, initial spares; OMN: installs, fleet introduction/training, minor mods, repair parts consumption; RDT&E: development/test of engineering changes. NAVSUP/NWCF activities recover costs via rates for supply/repair.

Board cue. In O&S, TYCOMs execute most OMN; Program Managers fund modernization and in-service support from OPN/APN/RDT&E. Align funding lines with the WBS and the Colors-of-Money rules to avoid Anti-Deficiency Act risk.

Quick information regarding exceptions to the full funding policy:

MYP. Up to 5 years; stable design; verifiable savings; cancellation liability planned.

Advance Procurement (Long-Lead Time Material (LLTM)/EOQ). Focused early buys for schedule/savings; not full funding.

Block Buy (BB). Congressionally authorized multi-ship buys; obligate by Fiscal Year (FY); not the MYP statute.

Cost-to-Complete (CTC). Complete original scope when estimates mature upward; separate SCN request.

Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH). Planned mid-life overhaul; incremental SCN with advance procurement of cores/critical material.

2.4.5 Which money when (by acquisition phase)

Table 2.5 shows the nominal types of appropriation used for Materiel Solution Analysis (MSA), Technology Maturation and Risk Reduction (TMRR), Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD), Production and Deployment Phase (P&D), and Operations and Support Phase (O&S)

TABLE 2.5: APPROPRIATION TYPES PER PHASE

| PHASE | TYPICAL APPROPRIATION(S) |
|-------|--|
| MSA | RDT&E (analyses, prototyping); small OMN for studies |
| TMRR | RDT&E (risk reduction, development, test) |
| EMD | RDT&E (develop/build/test/qualify); selected long-lead/AP/EOQ in Procurement when authorized |
| PD | Procurement (e.g., OPN); limited RDT&E for fixes |
| OS | OMN sustainment; spares via Procurement as applicable |

2.4.6 MILCON v.s. O&M sustainment v.s. OPN modernization

Rule of thumb: Real property construction ⇒ MILCON; keeping systems running (repair/overhaul, services) ⇒ OMN; new capability/end-item upgrades ⇒ Procurement (e.g., OPN).

2.4.7 Field Activity Financial Management (NWCF quick hits)

Goal. NWCF activities price to *break even over time*; in-year result is **NOR**, cumulative is **AOR**.

Rates (SLR). Recover direct labor + overhead + G&A; shocks flow to NOR/AOR and are managed over time.

Carryover. Unfilled orders at FY end; subject to limits/management.

IGT via G-Invoicing. Treasury-mandated platform for intra-gov orders/settlement; apportionment/availability rules still govern customer funds.

2.5 Cost Elements, Estimates, and Learning Curves

Refs: [3] SECNAVINST 5000.2G, Apr. 8, 2022.

- [11] “DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14—R, Volume 3” Jul. 1, 2025.
- [24] “Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)” 2025.
- [25] DoDI 5000.85, Aug. 6, 2020.
- [26] “3.1.6. Cost Estimating” Dec. 18, 2024.
- [27] “Adaptive Acquisition Framework” 2025.

2.5.1 Direct v.s. Indirect Costs

Direct. Traceable to a final cost objective (e.g., technician hours, end-item material).

Indirect. Pooled and allocated (overhead, G&A, facilities, depreciation). See the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) cost principles [24].

2.5.2 Program Cost Terms (Know the Stack)

Flyaway Cost. Recurring production cost of an aircraft/weapon delivered (excludes non-recurring tooling, spares, support).

Weapon System Cost. Flyaway plus support equipment, training, data, and initial spares.

Procurement Cost. Weapon system cost plus peculiar support and MILCON as applicable.

Life-Cycle Cost (LCC). All costs from concept through disposal (RDT&E, procurement, O&S, disposal).

Total Ownership Cost (TOC). LCC plus broader infrastructure/indirect enterprise costs.

Note

Use DON/DoD cost handbook definitions; be consistent across documents. [3, 25].

Figure 2.5 shows the LCC from above and how they relate to one another. Note how each cost builds to the next as different types of expenditures are added.

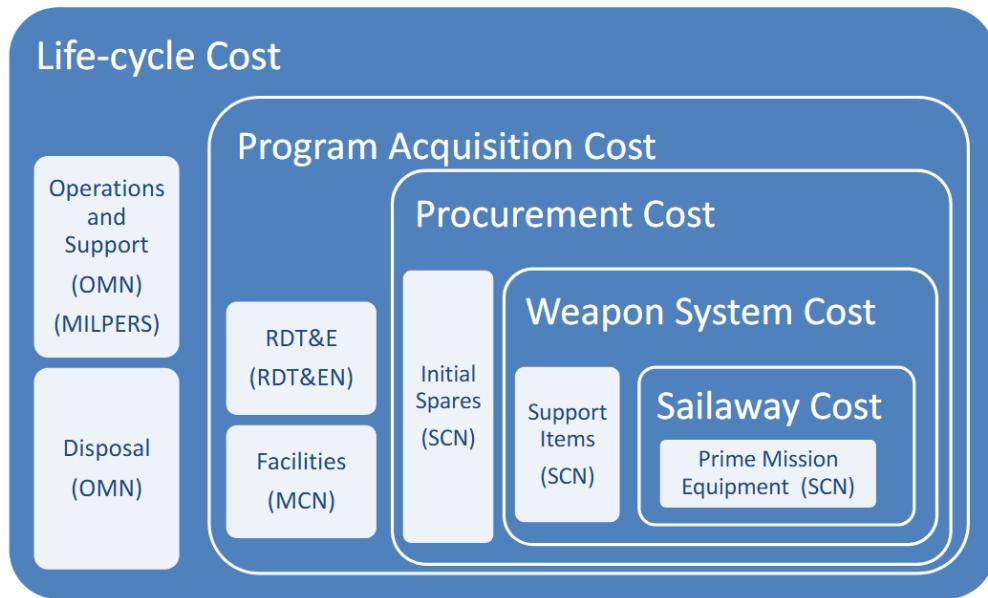


Figure 2.5. Composition of Life Cycle Costs. Source: 3.1.6. Cost Estimating, 2024 [26].

2.5.3 Why the LCCE Matters

Establishes the affordability baseline, informs Acquisition Program Baseline (APB), drives color-of-money phasing, and underpins “will-cost / should-cost” targets [25]. Figure 2.6 shows the different types of funding that will be used in different phases of the Major Capability Acquisition (MCA). Most of the LCC will be from the O&S phase.

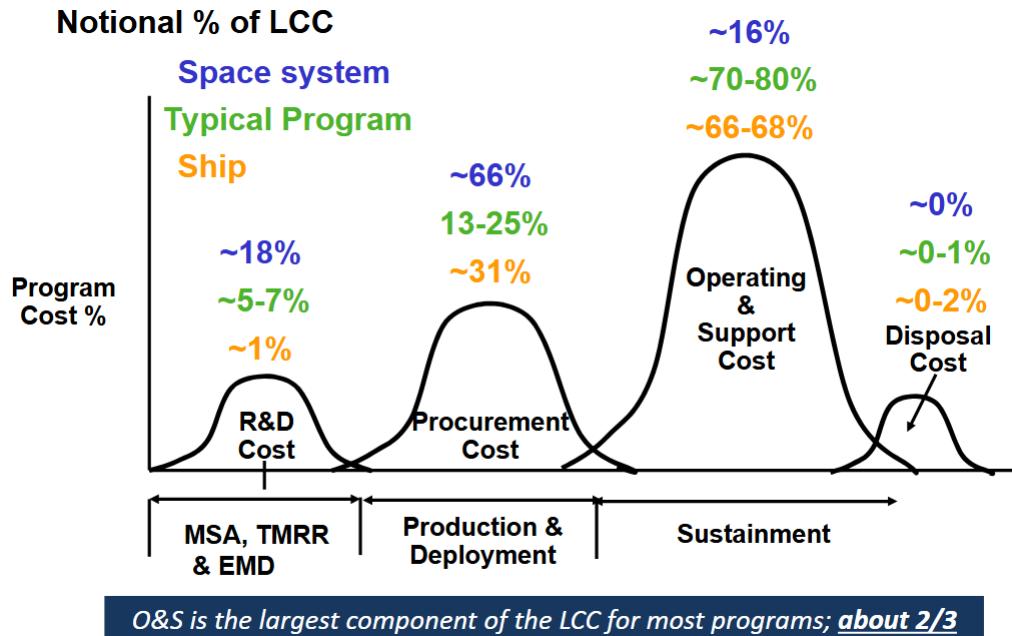


Figure 2.6. LCC over time. The colors of money used are shown for each phase including percent of total costs. Source: 3.1.6. Cost Estimating, 2024 [26]

2.5.4 Estimating Methods (Types, When, and Why)

Analogy (top-down). *When:* Earliest stages (ICD/Materiel Development Decision (MDD), pre- Analysis of Alternatives (AoA)) when design is immature and only analogous programs or components exist. *Why:* Fast, defensible scoping by scaling from a close comparator using adjustment factors (size, weight, speed, complexity). Good for bounding affordability and informing trades before detailed data exists.

Parametric (CER-based). *When:* AoA through TMRR when historical data supports Cost Estimating Relationships (CERs) (e.g., weight, Source Lines of Codes (SLOCs), thrust, kW). *Why:* Enables rapid sensitivity analysis and trade-space exploration with statistical confidence intervals; supports independent cross-checks and early budget phasing.

Engineering (bottom-up). *When:* EMD and production planning when Bill of Materials (BoMs), routing, labor standards, and quotes are available. *Why:* Most traceable and auditable; ties to technical baseline and schedule networks; supports Integrated Baseline Reviews (IBRs) and negotiation objectives.

Actuals / Extrapolation. *When:* From late TMRR into production when pilots/Low-Rate Initial Production (LRIP) actuals exist and learning effects are visible. *Why:* Highest fidelity; captures learning curves and process improvements; anchors estimates to realized performance and Cost and Software Data (CSDR) actuals [27].

TABLE 2.6:

| TYPE | DESCRIPTION | WHEN USED | WHY USED |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Analogy | Uses cost of a similar past system, adjusted for differences | Early concept/refinement (Pre-Milestone A/B) | Quick estimate when data limited |
| Parametric | Uses statistical cost estimating relationships (CERs) like cost vs. weight or power | Milestone B/C; early design | Captures cost drivers using quantifiable parameters |
| Engineering (Bottom-Up) | Builds from detailed WBS—materials, labor, overhead | Post-CDR, Low-Rate Initial Production | High accuracy for mature designs |
| Actual Cost / Extrapolation | Uses historical/production actuals (learning curves) | Full-Rate Production / O&S | Most accurate; supports should-cost and sustainment budgeting |

2.5.5 Products and Players

Cost Analysis Requirements Description (CARD). Technical/schedule baseline for independent estimates.

Independent Cost Estimate (ICE). Component Acquisition Executive (CAE) or OSD CAPE for Acquisition Category (ACAT) I; Program Office Estimate (POE).

CSDR. Contractor cost & software data reporting for actuals/CERs.

APB/Selected Acquisition Report (SAR)/Defense Acquisition Executive Summary (DAES). Baselines and reporting [25].

2.5.6 Learning Curve (Production Efficiency)

If unit time/cost follows an $s\%$ slope, doubling quantity reduces unit cost by $s\%$. Typical aerospace slopes: 85–90% early, flattening as processes mature. Plan lots and spares buys accordingly [27].

2.5.7 Cost Escalation (Inflation Indices)

Escalate base-year costs to then-year using approved DoD inflation indices; separate real growth from price growth; align phasing to obligation windows [11].

2.5.8 Will-Cost / Should-Cost

Will-Cost. Conservative reference estimate used for budgeting and margin planning.

Should-Cost. Management targets that drive efficiencies (e.g., lean events, value engineering, rate negotiations) [25].

3 Contracting and Solicitation

3.1 Intro to Contracting Fundamentals

- Refs:
- [24] “Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)” 2025.
 - [28] “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS)” 2025.
 - [29] “Navy Marine Corps Acquisition Regulation Supplement (NMCARS)” 2025.
 - [30] *SUPSHIP Operations Manual, Chapter 3: Contract Management*, Sep. 1, 2023.
 - [31] *NAVSEA Source Selection Guide*, Aug. 1, 2022.
 - [32] *NAVSEA Contracts Handbook*, May 1, 2023.
 - [33] *10 U.S.C. § 3201: Competition requirements*, 2023.

3.1.1 Why the Navy Uses Contracts

- Contracts create a legally enforceable relationship between the Government and industry partners, defining rights and responsibilities for each party.
- Written terms provide structure for changes via agreed conditions, protecting both the Navy and the Contractor throughout acquisition actions.
- Binding agreements ensure accountability for cost, schedule, and performance outcomes that cannot be achieved through informal arrangements.

3.1.2 Essential Elements of a Binding Contract

Mutual Assent. Requires an offer and acceptance with a meeting of the minds on all material terms such as scope, price, quantity, and delivery.

Consideration. Both sides exchange value (e.g., payment, performance, schedule relief) that courts will evaluate for adequacy in Government contracting.

Capacity. Parties must be legally competent to enter the agreement; lack of capacity (e.g., incapacity, lack of authority) undermines enforceability.

Lawful Purpose. The contract must pursue a legal objective; agreements for unlawful acts are void.

3.1.3 Government Relationship to Contractors

Transactional. Each party enters with distinct incentives (contractor profit versus government outcomes); avoid unauthorized commitments.

Professional. Both teams must understand the contract and collaborate to meet requirements.

Collaborative. Contractors bring technical expertise while programmatic decision-making remains inherently governmental.

Constrained. Interactions are bound by ethics rules, conflicts-of-interest standards, and contract clauses.

3.1.4 FAR System and NAVSEA Overlays

FAR. Government-wide acquisition regulation establishing policy, procedures, and contract clauses [24].

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS). DoD-level supplement tailoring FAR provisions for defense-unique requirements, including competition, source selection, and industrial base policy [28].

Navy Marine Corps Acquisition Regulation Supplement (NMCARS). DON supplement that adds Navy-specific directives such as approval thresholds, peer reviews, and templates [29].

SUPSHIP Operation Manual (SOM) Chapter 3. NAVSEA guidance for Supervisor of Shipbuilding (SUPSHIP) on contract formation, modification, and surveillance [30].

NAVSEA Source Selection Guide. Standardizes competitive source selection procedures, roles, and documentation for SYSCOM procurements [31].

NAVSEA Contracts Handbook. Practical desk reference covering policy interpretations, clause usage, and best practices for NAVSEA contracting professionals [32].

3.1.5 Types of Contracting Officers (Know All Three)

Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO). Leads acquisition planning through award; signs contracts and bilateral modifications on behalf of the Government.

Administrative Contracting Officer (ACO). Oversees post-award administration, surveillance, and contractor performance; typically assigned via Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) or NAVSEA field offices.

Termination Contracting Officer (TCO). Manages partial or complete contract terminations, settlement proposals, and equitable adjustments.

All contracting officers must hold a warrant that delineates dollar and authority limits; only a warranted Contracting Officer (KO) can obligate the United States [24].

3.1.6 PM and KO Partnership

PM. Accountable to the Milestone Decision Authority (MDA) for cost, schedule, and performance; integrates technical authority, requirements, and budget execution across the lifecycle.

KO. Provides acquisition strategy execution expertise, ensures compliance with statute/regulation, and is responsible for contract integrity and enforceability.

Board Cue. PMs lead program outcomes; KOs safeguard the contracting instrument. Neither can assume the other's authorities, so coordination before solicitations, negotiations, or modifications is mandatory.

3.1.7 Competition in Contracting Act Requirements

Full and Open Competition. Default posture: all responsible sources may compete [24, 33].

Full and Open After Exclusion of Sources. Permits set-asides (e.g., small business, 8(a)) or alternate-source strategies when justified [24].

Approval for Other than Full and Open. Requires documented justification and senior approval per Subpart 6.3 [24, Subpart 6.3].

Seven Exceptions to Full and Open Competition (Memorize)

1. Only one responsible source will satisfy agency requirements (see [24, § 6.302-1]).
2. Unusual and compelling urgency (see [24, § 6.302-2]).
3. Industrial mobilization; engineering, developmental, or research capability (see [24, § 6.302-3]).
4. International agreement (see [24, § 6.302-4]).
5. Authorized or required by statute (see [24, § 6.302-5]).
6. National security (see [24, § 6.302-6]).
7. Public interest (see [24, § 6.302-7]).

Hint

Be ready to cite an example scenario for each exception and the approval level required.

3.1.8 Responsiveness, Responsibility, and Key Determinations

Responsiveness (sealed bidding). Bid must conform to all material terms of the Invitation for Bids; nonconforming bids are rejected without discussion [24].

Responsibility. Prospective contractor must possess adequate resources, schedule compliance, performance record, integrity, and necessary systems to receive award ([24, § 9.104]).

3.1.9 J&A v.s. D&F

Justification and Approval (J&A). Documents the rationale for other-than-full-and-open competition, identifies the chosen statutory exception, and records approval by the appropriate official. Must be posted to <https://sam.gov> after award with required redactions [24].

Determination and Findings (D&F). Formal determination that specific conditions are satisfied before taking an action (e.g., use of special contract types, multiyear contracting); states the findings that support the determination [24].

Note

At the NRO, documents and rational are post on the low and high-side Acquisition Research Center (ARC). We are required to post other-full-and-Open compeition for five days on the ARC to allow opportuniy for other contractors to bid.

3.1.10 Who Signs D&Fs (and When)

General Rule. [24, § 1.704] requires the contracting officer to sign D&Fs when the action is within their delegated authority, unless a higher approval level is specified elsewhere in the regulation or delegation memo.

Head Contracting Activity (HCA). [24, §§ 16.603-3, 16.504(c)(1)(ii)(D)] reserve approval for actions such as issuing a letter contract or awarding a single-award task/delivery IDIQ expected to exceed \$100M; DON HCAs may redelegate no lower than a flag/Senior Executive [29, § 5201.707].

SAE. Multiyear contracting, extraordinary contractual relief, or other actions identified in [24, § 17.105-1] and [28, § 217.172] require a D&F signed by the Service SAE (ASN(RD&A) for the Navy, who is also the DON Senior Procurement Executive) or a specifically delegated official.

Document Content. Every D&F must cite the specific statutory/regulatory authority, describe supporting facts, and state the determination in clear language; expiration dates and any required follow-on reviews must also be included per [24, § 1.707] and [29, § 5201.707] guidance.

3.2 Solicitation Preparation

- Refs:** [24] “Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)” 2025.
[25] *DoDI 5000.85*, Aug. 6, 2020.
[28] “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS)” 2025.
[29] “Navy Marine Corps Acquisition Regulation Supplement (NMCARS)” 2025.
[31] *NAVSEA Source Selection Guide*, Aug. 1, 2022.
[32] *NAVSEA Contracts Handbook*, May 1, 2023.
[34] “3.2.2. Solicitation Preparation” Mar. 25, 2025.
[35] *10 U.S.C. § 4021: Prototype projects: other transaction authority*, 2023.
[36] *10 U.S.C. § 4022: Follow-on production contracts or transactions*, 2023.
[37] *15 U.S.C. § 638: Small Business Innovation Research program*, 2023.

3.2.1 Summary

Uniform Contract Format (UCF) scaffolding. Tailor the UCF (Sections A through M) so Section C defines the requirement, Section L tells offerors how to respond, and Section M mirrors evaluation factors and the stated basis of award [24, 34].

Release readiness. Do not release the Request for Proposal (RFP) until the acquisition plan/strategy is approved, funds are certified, legal review is complete, synopsis rules are satisfied, and the source-selection teams are chartered [24, 29, 34].

Communication discipline. Request for Informations (RFIs), draft RFPs, industry days, and Q&A all flow through the KO; once released, clarifications must be shared with all offerors through written amendments or controlled exchanges [24, 34].

3.2.2 Practitioner Steps

1. Finalize the requirement package (spec /Statement of Work (SOW), Contract Data Requirements Lists (CDRLs), Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE), market research report) with IPT concurrence and Small Business coordination documentation [24, 34].
2. Structure Section L instructions: volumes, page limits, submission medium, proposal due date, classification controls, and [24, § 5.203] synopsis timing.
3. Align Section M evaluation factors, subfactors, and relative importance statements with the basis of award (Lowest Price Technically Acceptable (LPTA) v.s. trade-off) and rating methodology approved by the Source Selection Authority (SSA), KO, legal, and cost/price community [24, 31].
4. Verify pre-release approvals and postings: acquisition plan or strategy, Determination of Acquisition Strategy (as applicable), certified funds, and <https://www.SAM.gov> synopsis [29, 34].
5. Manage amendments and records after release: capture bidder Q&A, issue conformed RFPs, adjust milestones when requirements shift, and file every action in the official contract record [24, 32].

3.2.3 Checklist

- Acquisition plan/strategy signed; conformed requirements package appended [29].
- Funding document (Purchase Request (PR), project order, or MIPR) signed and funds certified for the planned obligation [24].
- Market research report and Small Business Coordination Record approved [24].
- Source Selection Plan endorsed by SSA, legal, and cost/price; nondisclosure/OCI statements executed for SSA, Source Selection Advisory Council (SSAC), Source Selection Evaluation Board (SSEB), and advisors [31].
- Section L instructions mirror Section M factors, include proposal structure, late proposal policy, and submission portal guidance [24].
- <https://www.SAM.gov> synopsis posted (15 days before closing for most supplies/services; 30 days for R&D unless justified) [24].
- Amendment template/change log prepared; routing matrix established for expedited approvals [32].

3.2.4 Navy Overlays and Tailoring

NMCARS overlays. Follow [29, § 5205.303/5205.301] for synopsis exceptions and NAVSEA contracting notices for Contract Requirement Package checklists and release approvals [29, 32].

Technical data. Coordinate with TA on [28, § 252.227] clauses, distribution statements, and CDRL tailoring to protect Navy equities.

Shipbuilding tailoring. For availabilities, modernization, or planning efforts, ensure Section C and the WBS matches the availability sequence and integrates warfare-center technical direction and installation responsibilities [34].

3.2.5 Industry Engagement & Communications

Pre-release. RFIs, sources-sought notices, draft RFPs, and industry days are vetted through the KO; responses shared with all potential offerors to avoid unequal access [24].

Post-release. Clarifications and Q&A must be issued as amendments for all offerors; exchanges stay within [24, § 15.201] boundaries until competitive range is established [32].

Small business focus. Coordinate with the Small Business Professional and Competition Advocate on set-aside decisions, subcontracting plan reviews, and mitigation of potential limitations on subcontracting [24].

3.2.6 Documentation & Approvals to Capture

- Signed Source Selection Plan and SSA/SSAC/SSEB appointment letters with confidentiality and OCI certifications [31].

- Competition Advocate memoranda where narrowed sources or synopsis deviations are requested [24, 29].
- Legal sufficiency memorandum for the conformed solicitation (Sections C, H, L, and M) retained in the contract file [32].
- KO release memorandum noting solicitation number, issue date, amendment log, and proposal due date/time [34].

3.2.7 Competitive Method Selection: Sealed Bidding v.s. Negotiated Procurement

Sealed bidding (FAR Part 14). Preferred when requirements are well-defined, award will be based on price alone, discussions are not needed, and the Government expects to receive more than one responsive bid. It uses public opening, responsiveness determinations, and fixed-price awards [24, Part 14].

Negotiated procurement (FAR Part 15). Used when the Government needs to evaluate technical approach or past performance, intends to conduct discussions, or when requirements or pricing demand flexibility. Negotiated acquisitions support best-value trade-offs and cost-reimbursement vehicles [24, Part 15].

When to choose. If the team can describe performance in terms of precise specifications with minimal risk and expects no need for exchanges, sealed bidding streamlines award. When innovation, risk, or integration complexity requires subjective evaluation, or when schedule/budget changes are likely, negotiated procurement is mandatory [24, 31].

3.2.8 Contract Type Landscape and Risk Allocation

Fixed-price family. Contractor accepts the cost risk; Government locks price once requirements are stable. Includes:

- **Firm-Fixed-Price (FFP):** Used for mature, low-risk requirements, often in Production and Deployment [24, 25].
- **Fixed-Price Incentive (Firm Target) (FPIF):** Shares cost variance through a negotiated share ratio; encourages cost control while keeping final price bounded by a ceiling. Used during Engineering & Manufacturing Development (EMD) or LRIP when cost risk remains but production discipline is needed [24, 25].
- **Fixed-Price with Economic Price Adjustment (FPEPA):** Adds indexed adjustments for volatile commodities or long-lead items [24].
- **Fixed-Price Redetermination (FPR):** Re-prices after defined milestones when initial uncertainty is expected to retire [24].

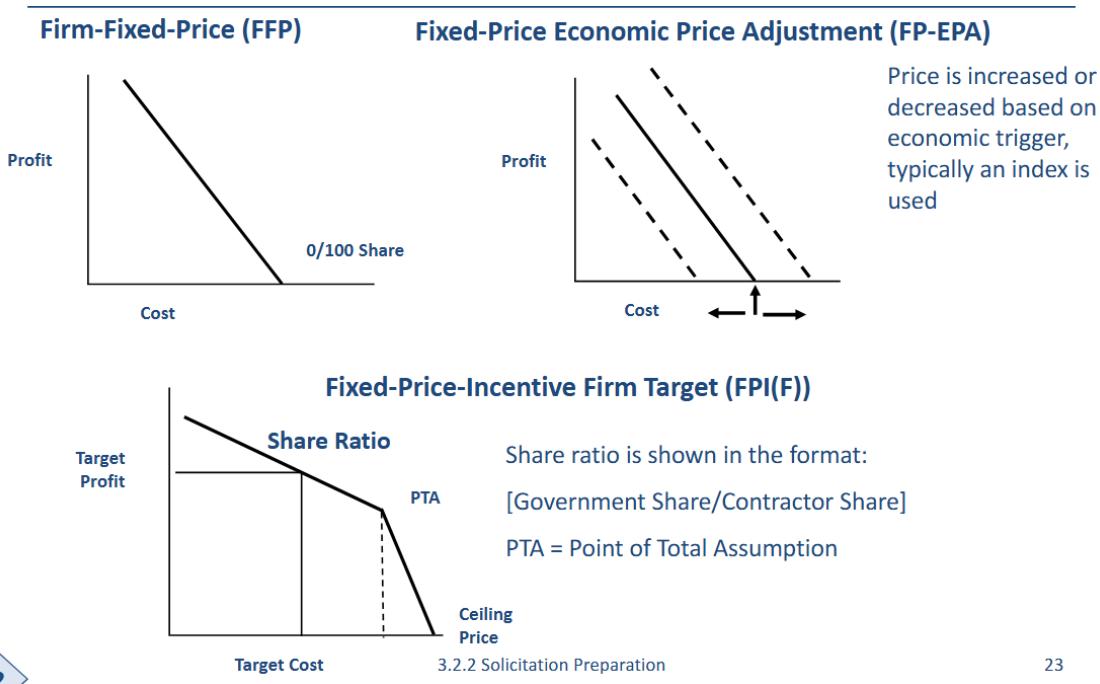
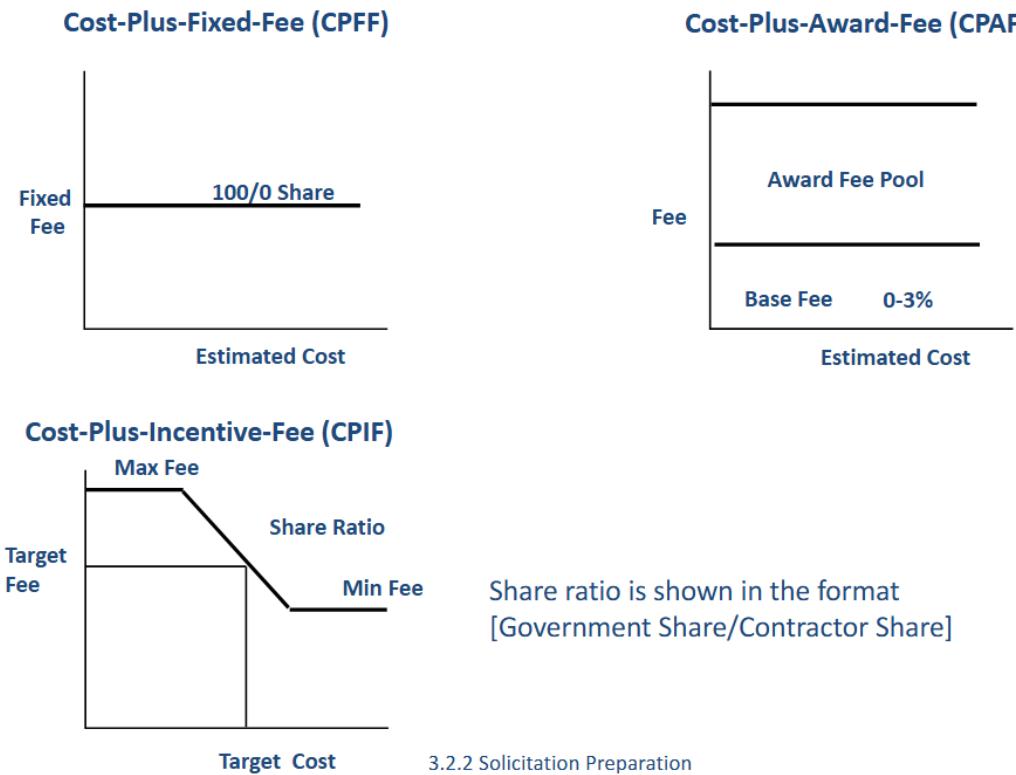


Figure 3.1. Fixed-price incentive geometry (cost, profit, PTA).

Cost-reimbursement family. Government carries more cost risk; contractor must deliver best effort. Includes:

- **Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee (CPFF):** Used in early R&D or prototyping (MSA/TMRR) when effort is exploratory [24, 25].
- **Cost-Plus-Incentive-Fee (CPIF):** Shares cost variance similar to FPIF but without a price ceiling; encourages efficiency while acknowledging uncertain cost baseline [24].
- **Cost-Plus-Award-Fee (CPAF):** Adds subjective award-fee evaluation for mission effectiveness or management performance that cannot be captured in objective metrics [24].



3.2.2 Solicitation Preparation

Figure 3.2. Cost-reimbursement contract risk/fee characteristics. Source: 3.2.2. Solicitation Preparation, 2025 [34].

Award v.s. incentive fees. Incentive fees (cost or performance) are calculated from predetermined formulas tied to measurable outcomes (cost, schedule, technical). Award fees are earned through periodic board evaluations against tailored factors and may be unearned if performance is merely satisfactory [24, 32].

Award-fee governance. The Award Fee Determining Official (often the PM or SSA designee) chairs an Award Fee Board, uses the approved plan, and issues a determination memo. Fees are paid after each period and must be commensurate with value delivered; scores below the threshold earn zero dollars for that segment [24, 31].

MCA phase alignment. MSA and TMRR generally use CPFF or CPAF because of design uncertainty; EMD can transition to CPIF or FPIF as risk retires; Production and Deployment favors FFP/FPIF; Operations and Support relies on FFP or FFP Level of Effort (LOE) and can incorporate sustainment IDIQs for depot work [25].

MSA. Analytical trades and early prototypes benefit from CPFF flexibility as requirement scope evolves.

TMRR. CPIF/CPAF maintain incentives while the Government still absorbs major technical risk during competitive prototyping.

EMD. FPIF or CPIF balance contractor motivation and cost control once the design stabilizes, with ceilings to protect the Government.

PD. FFP/FPIF dominate because production baselines and learning curves are known; contractor should own execution risk.

OS. Sustainment leverages FFP, FFP LOE, or IDIQs task orders to manage repeatable workloads and retain competition for modernization.

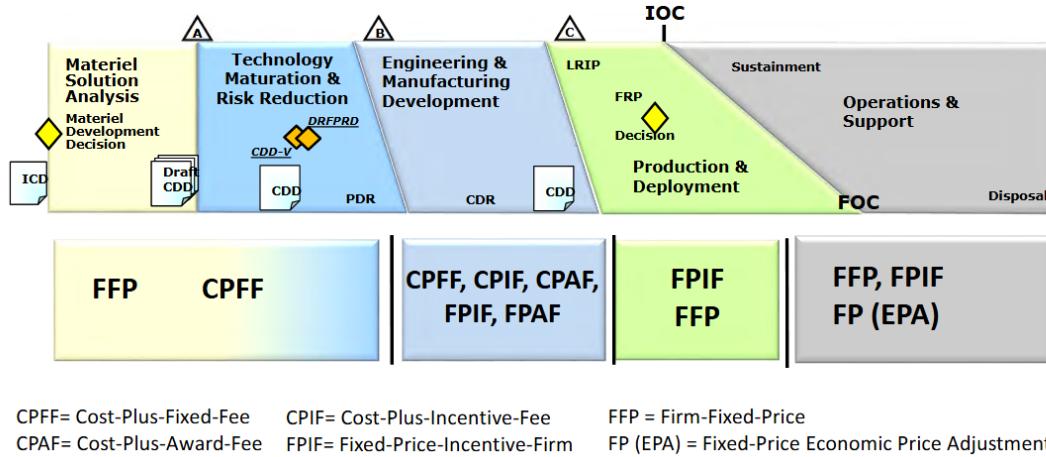


Figure 3.3. Contract-type emphasis across the Major Capability Acquisition phases.

3.2.9 Fixed-Price Incentive (Firm Target) Mechanics

Share ratio. Defines how cost overruns or underruns are split between Government and contractor (e.g., 70/30 means Government absorbs 70

Point of total assumption (Point of Total Assumption (PTA)). The cost point beyond which every additional dollar of overrun is borne entirely by the contractor:

$$PTA = \frac{\text{Ceiling Price} - \text{Target Cost}}{\text{Government Share Ratio}} + \text{Target Cost.}$$

Example. Target cost \$100M, target profit \$10M (target price \$110M), ceiling price \$120M, share ratio 70/30. If actual cost is \$112M:

$$\text{Contract price} = \$110M + 0.3 \times (\$100M - \$112M) = \$106.4M.$$

The PTA occurs at \$113. $\bar{3}$ M; beyond that, profit erodes dollar-for-dollar until exhausted [24, 32].

3.2.10 Indefinite & Flexible Contract Forms

IDIQ. Indefinite-Delivery, Indefinite-Quantity contracts provide flexibility in quantity and timing with task/delivery orders; suited for recurring installations, sustainment, or services [24].

Time-and-Materials (T&M)/Labor-Hour (LH). Hybrid vehicles when it is not possible to estimate effort precisely; require ceiling price, surveillance, and justification because Government assumes cost risk on labor hours [24].

Undefinitized contract actions (Undefinitized Contract Actions (UCAs)). Letter contracts or other actions authorized before all terms are settled (e.g., urgent ship repair). Must be definitized within the regulatory timeline, with strict management for obligation limits and profit [24, 28, 29].

3.2.11 Debriefings and Protests (Forums and Timelines)

Debriefings. Post-award (and certain pre-award) debriefings are conducted per [24, § 15.506]. For DoD enhanced debriefings, the question period extends the debrief conclusion for protest timeliness purposes; verify current Class Deviation guidance.

Protest forums. (i) Agency-level to the contracting activity (KO/Head of Contracting Activity) [24, § 33.103]; (ii) GAO bid protests [24, § 33.104]; (iii) U.S. Court of Federal Claims (COFC) under 28 U.S.C. § 1491(b).

Who handles them. Agency: procuring activity and counsel; GAO: GAO decides, agency produces the record and implements any stay; COFC: Department of Justice litigates, COFC judge adjudicates and may grant injunctive relief.

Timelines (common rules). Pre-award challenges to solicitation terms must be filed before the proposal due date. For post-award protests at GAO: file within 10 calendar days of when the basis is known, or within 5 business days after debriefing conclusion to obtain an automatic stay of performance under CICA. Agency-level protest timeliness follows similar 10-day knowledge rules in [24, § 33.103]. COFC has no fixed day-limit but relief is equitable; prompt filing is expected.

3.2.12 Why Cost-Plus After Low-Rate Initial Production? (PD and O&S Exceptions)

High residual technical risk. Post-LRIP, major engineering change proposals, tech refresh, or obsolescence-driven redesign can reintroduce uncertainty better handled under CPIF/CPAF than FFP.

Unstable scope or emergent defects. Corrective actions discovered during Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E)/early fielding may require iterative investigation and rework where a best-effort *cost-reimbursable* vehicle protects schedule and access to talent.

Sustainment stand-up. Initial depot activation, organic transition, or complex Performance-Based Logistics (PBL) standing up new measurements and data flows can warrant short-duration CPFF/CPAF with incentives while processes stabilize.

Data rights/technical baseline gaps. Where the Government lacks detailed technical data to price FFP confidently, a temporary cost-plus arrangement with aggressive CDRL deliverables can bridge to FFP.

Governance. Treat as exceptions with a plan to transition to FFP/FPIF once uncertainty retires; document rationale in the Acquisition Strategy and obtain approvals consistent with [24, 28].

3.2.13 Simplified Acquisition and Small Business Programs

Simplified Acquisition Threshold (Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT)). Generally \$250,000 (higher in contingency or overseas circumstances). Benefits include streamlined competition, quotation-based awards, and mandatory small-business reservations above the micro-purchase threshold [24].

Small Business Administration (Small Business Administration (SBA)) programs. FAR Part 19 [24, Part 19] implements 8(a), Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), and Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) programs. The contracting officer must consider set-asides, sole-source thresholds, and subcontracting plans to meet DON goals.

3.2.14 Alternative Acquisition Authorities

Other Transaction (Other Transaction (OT)) agreements. Authorized by 10 U.S.C. § 4021 (prototype) and § 4022 (follow-on production) to rapidly engage nontraditional performers, provided cost share or significant participation criteria are met [35, 36].

Small Business Innovation Research (Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)). 15 U.S.C. § 638 establishes Phase I (feasibility), Phase II (prototype), and Phase III (commercialization/production). SBIR awards leverage R&D funds to deliver Navy-unique technology with data rights protections for five years [37].

3.2.15 Technical Data Rights Overview

Unlimited rights. Government may use, disclose, and authorize others without restriction (typically for data developed exclusively at Government expense) [28].

Government purpose rights. Government may use or authorize contractors for Government purposes for five years, after which rights convert to unlimited. Applies to mixed-funding developments [28].

Limited/Restricted rights. Contractor retains control; Government use is constrained to internal purposes (limited for noncommercial technical data, restricted for commercial computer software). Negotiated licenses or specifically negotiated licenses can expand access [28].

3.2.16 Uniform Contract Format Essentials

Sections A through H (contract). Cover Standard Form 33, supplies/services, packaging, inspection, delivery, special contract requirements, clauses, and attachments [24].

Sections I through K (legal/representations). Incorporate FAR/DFARS clauses, representations, certifications, and instructions for completion [24, 28].

Sections L and M (solicitation/Evaluation). Instructions to offerors, proposal structure, page limits, and evaluation criteria that must remain synchronized to any change to factors or relative order requires an amendment [24, 31].

3.3 Cost and Price Evaluation

- Refs:** [24] “Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)” 2025.
[28] “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS)” 2025.
[38] “3.2.4. Cost and Price Evaluation” Dec. 18, 2024.

3.3.1 Summary

KO accountability. The KO must determine that every negotiated price is fair and reasonable, integrating price, cost, technical, field-pricing, and risk analysis inputs before award per FAR 15.404-1(a)(1)–(5) [24, § 15.404-1(a)].

Cost v.s. price lens. Use price analysis when certified cost or pricing data are not required, and escalate to cost analysis when element-by-element scrutiny is needed to support the prenegotiation objective [24, §§ 15.404-1(b), 15.404-1(c)].

Rate discipline. Forward pricing rates and structured profit analysis keep the Government prenegotiation objective current; the objective is always proposed cost plus profit or fee per FAR policy [24, §§ 15.401, 15.404–4, 15.407–3].

Financial health cue. Profitability ratios (Return on Sales (ROS), Return on Assets (ROA)) and cash-flow checks expose responsibility risk and focus Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA)/ DCMA field-pricing support requested by the KO [24, § 9.104-1] [38].

3.3.2 Practitioner Steps

1. Baseline the offeror’s proposal: confirm certified cost or pricing data requirements, request data other than certified cost or pricing data when warranted, and map contractual requirement traces [24, §§ 15.403-1, 15.404-1(a)].
2. Execute price analysis first—compare competition results, historical buys, catalog/commercial data, and independent estimates; pivot to cost analysis when price analysis alone cannot demonstrate reasonableness [24, §§ 15.404-1(b), 15.404-1(c)].
3. Decompose direct labor, material, and Other Direct Costs (ODCs); verify indirect pools and allocation bases; and apply the five allowability tests before accepting proposed cost elements [24, §§ 31.201-2, 31.202, 31.203].
4. Establish the profit/fee objective using the agency’s structured approach and update forward pricing rates or agreements as necessary to avoid stale factors in negotiations [24, §§ 15.404-4, 15.407–3].
5. Pull in field-pricing support early: blend DCAA audit results, DCMA production assessments, and program team technical evaluations into the prenegotiation briefing and contract file [24, § 15.404-1(a)(5)] [24, § 42.101(b)] [28, § 242.302(a)(13)(A)].

3.3.3 Proposed Price, Cost, Profit, and Fee

The breakdown of the proposed price is showing in Figure 3.4 and described below.

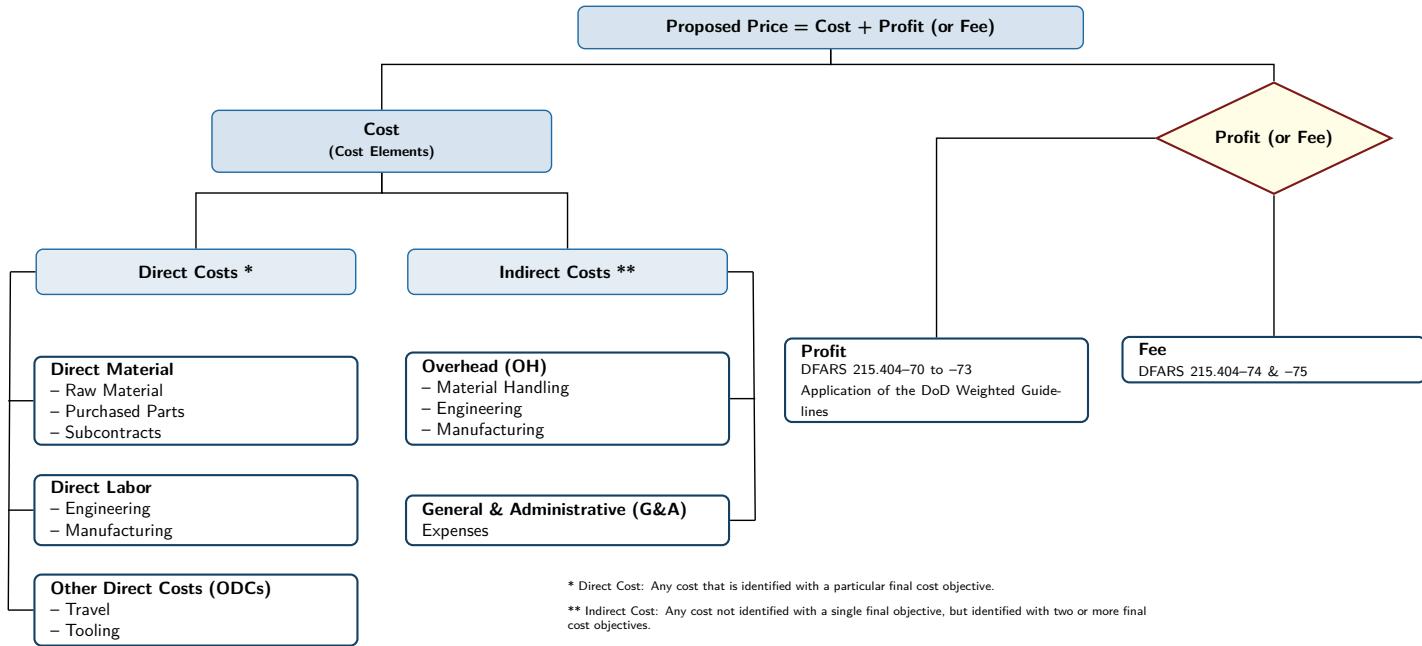


Figure 3.4. Mapping direct v.s. indirect contractor cost elements. Source: 3.2.4. Cost and Price Evaluation, 2024 [38]

Proposed price. The offeror's total price equals estimated cost plus any profit or fee applicable to the contract type [24, § 15.401].

Cost. Sum of allowable direct and indirect costs required to deliver the contract—all subject to reasonableness, allocability, and cost-principle limits [24, §§ 31.201-2, 31.202, 31.203].

Profit. Negotiated incentive element above allowable cost for fixed-price or incentive contracts, set through structured analysis [24, § 15.404-4(a)].

Fee. Fixed remuneration on cost-reimbursement vehicles that does not vary with actual cost (e.g., CPFF fee) [24, § 16.306(a)].

3.3.4 Direct and Indirect Cost Structure

Direct cost pools. Direct labor, materials, and ODCs traceable to a single final cost objective; charged through project-specific accounts backed by bills of material, timecards, travel authorizations, or subcontract quotes [24, § 31.202] [38].

Indirect cost pools. Overhead (manufacturing, engineering) and General and Administrative (G&A) accrued across multiple objectives, then allocated using consistent bases that reflect benefits received [24, § 31.203].

3.3.5 Other Direct Costs and Cost Allowability

Other direct costs (ODCs). Travel, subcontract services, specialized tooling, and similar charges that can be singled out for the contract even though they are not labor or bulk material categories [24, § 31.202] [38].

Cost allowability. A cost is billable only if it is reasonable, allocable, consistent with applicable Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) / Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), compliant with contract terms, and within any Subpart 31.2 limitations [24, § 31.201-2].

Note

Slides may refer to “cash allowability”; FAR terminology is *cost* allowability.

3.3.6 Cost and Price Analysis

Price analysis. Examination of the total proposed price without breaking out cost elements using competition, historical buys, or market indicators [24, § 15.404-1(b)].

Cost analysis. Evaluation of individual cost elements (direct, indirect, and profit) when price analysis alone cannot demonstrate reasonableness [24, § 15.404-1(c)].

Integrated view. Technical analysis, field-pricing support, and risk assessments feed both techniques to substantiate the final fair and reasonable determination [24, § 15.404-1(a)(5)].

3.3.7 Forward Pricing Rates and Fully Burdened Labor

Forward Pricing Rate Proposal (FPRP). Contractor-submitted forward pricing rate proposal that lays out projected indirect rates and factors for the pricing period [24, § 15.407-3(a)].

Forward Pricing Rate Agreement (FPRA). Negotiated agreement—often executed by DCMA—that locks indirect rates for one to three years, reducing repetitive audits and speeding negotiations [24, § 15.407-3(c)] [38].

Fully burdened rate. Applies direct labor, indirect burdens, and any negotiated profit/fee to a common labor-hour baseline so skill mixes can be compared on an apples-to-apples basis [38].

3.3.8 Indirect Rate Math and Profitability Checks

Apply the standard relationships from the cost principles and the coursebook when validating proposals; they are board favorites for quick-turn computations covering indirect pools, Total Cost Input (TCI), G&A, and profitability metrics such as ROS and ROA [24, §§ 31.201-2, 31.202, 31.203] [38].

$$\text{Indirect Cost Rate} = \frac{\text{Indirect Cost Pool}}{\text{Allocation Base}} \quad (3.1)$$

$$\text{TCI} = \text{Direct Cost} + \text{Overhead Cost} \quad (3.2)$$

$$\text{G\&A Cost} = \text{G\&A Rate} \times \text{TCI} \quad (3.3)$$

$$\text{Fully Burdened Labor Rate} = \frac{\text{Direct Labor Cost} + \text{Indirect Costs} + \text{Profit/Fee}}{\text{Direct Labor Hours}} \quad (3.4)$$

$$\text{ROS} = \frac{\text{Operating Profit}}{\text{Net Sales}} \quad (3.5)$$

$$\text{ROA} = \frac{\text{Net Income}}{\text{Total Assets}} \quad (3.6)$$

Track ROS and ROA against industry benchmarks, cash-on-hand, and debt loads to detect responsibility concerns or unsustainable buy-ins before negotiations [38].

3.3.9 Oversight and Field Pricing Support

DCMA production insight. Delegated contract administration offices deliver manufacturing surveillance, schedule risk analysis, and forward-pricing coordination; DFARS highlights that payment authority stays with the buying command even when DCMA supports rates [28, § 242.302(a)(13)(A)] [38].

DCAA audit coverage. DCAA is the responsible Government audit agency for most contractors, providing proposal adequacy reviews, incurred cost audits, and financial capability analyses [24, § 42.101(b)].

Integrated negotiation record. Document how DCMA, DCAA, technical, and program inputs influenced the prenegotiation objective and the final price reasonableness determination [24, § 15.404-1(a)(5)] [38].

3.3.10 Checklist

- File both price and cost analysis results (including technical inputs) showing how the fair-and-reasonable price was determined [24, § 15.404-1].
- Verify each significant cost element passes the five allowability tests and that allocation bases match current practice [24, §§ 31.201-2, 31.203].
- Confirm the current FPRA/FPRP is in the file or document why legacy rates remain valid [24, § 15.407-3].
- Capture DCAA audit opinions, DCMA rate guidance, and profitability ratio trends in the prenegotiation briefing to evidence responsibility diligence [24, §§ 9.104-1, 42.101(b)] [38].

3.4 Earned Value Management (EVM)

Refs: [25] *DoDI 5000.85*, Aug. 6, 2020.

[28] “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS)” 2025.

[39] “3.6.1. Introduction to EVM” Mar. 26, 2025.

[40] “3.6.2. EVM Data Analysis” Mar. 26, 2025.

3.4.1 What EVM is

Earned Value Management (EVM) is a project management technique that integrates scope, schedule, and cost to assess project performance and progress. It provides a quantitative measure of project performance by comparing the planned work with the actual work completed and the associated costs. EVM is widely used in government and defense projects to ensure that projects are delivered on time and within budget.

3.4.2 Key Components of EVM

Core cost and schedule metrics establish the earned value performance baseline [39, 40].

Planned Value (PV) / Budgeted Cost of Work Scheduled (BCWS): The budgeted cost for the work scheduled to be completed by a specific date.

Earned Value (EV) / Budgeted Cost of Work Performed (BCWP): The budgeted cost for the work actually completed by a specific date.

Actual Cost (AC) / Actual Cost of Work Performed (ACWP): The actual cost incurred for the work completed by a specific date.

Budget at Completion (BAC): The total budget allocated for the project.

Estimate at Completion (EAC): The forecasted total cost of the project based on current performance.

Cost Performance Index (CPI): A measure of cost efficiency, calculated as $CPI = EV/AC$. A CPI less than 1 indicates a cost overrun.

Schedule Performance Index (SPI): A measure of schedule efficiency, calculated as $SPI = EV/PV$. An SPI less than 1 indicates a schedule delay.

Schedule Variance (SV): The difference between the earned value and the planned value, calculated as $SV = EV - PV$. A negative SV indicates a schedule delay.

Cost Variance (CV): The difference between the earned value and the actual cost, calculated as $CV = EV - AC$. A negative CV indicates a cost overrun.

Info

The first three are equivalent terms and should know both. This guide will use the first set (PV, EV, AC)

3.4.3 When to Use EVM

EVM is mandated on cost or incentive contracts (and applicable subcontracts) when the program meets the policy thresholds and the effort is discretely measurable [28, 39]. Key decision points for the PM include:

\$100 million and above: Implement the full ANSI/EIA-748 standard and ensure the contractor's system is formally validated by DCMA.

\$20 million to \$99.9 million: Implement ANSI/EIA-748 guidelines, with validation required when performance indicates risk.

Additional policy considerations [25, 39]:

- Applicability determinations must confirm the work scope can be discretely measured before mandating EVM.
- The Milestone Decision Authority may approve EVM on FFP, time-and-materials, or LOE contracts, but such use is discouraged absent clear benefit.
- For efforts below \$20 million, the PM conducts a risk-based cost-benefit analysis to decide whether EVM adds value.
- Contracts that require EVM must also deliver Integrated Program Manager's Data Analysis Report (IPMDAR) data and complete an IBR within six months of award.

3.4.4 EVM Compliance

EVM clauses are flowed in the solicitation and award package (DFARS 252.234-7001 and 252.234-7002) alongside the Contractor Business Systems clause (DFARS 252.242-7005) to anchor validation and surveillance requirements [28]. Compliance expectations [25, 39]:

- The program office integrates EVM planning into the WBS, maintains the Performance Measurement Baseline, and ensures timely receipt and analysis of IPMDAR submissions.
- DCMA leads EVM system acceptance, validation, and ongoing surveillance against ANSI/EIA-748 and the DoD EVM Implementation Guide; DCAA supports with accounting system audits.
- Service focal points such as Acquisition Data and Analytics and the DON Center for EVM adjudicate applicability determinations and coordinate policy updates.
- SUPSHIP can execute validation and surveillance responsibilities for shipbuilding programs on behalf of DCMA.

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- SUPSHIP can execute validation and surveillance responsibilities for shipbuilding programs on behalf of DCMA.

3.4.6 EVM Principal Players

Programmatic, contracting, and oversight roles synchronize to sustain disciplined performance management [39].

PMO: Implements EVM on the contract, ensures solicitations and awards contain the required clauses, and works with the contracting activity to tailor reporting and Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) requirements.

DCMA: Serves as the DoD EVM Executive Agent by validating, accepting, and surveilling contractor systems, maintaining the official acceptance roster, and analyzing IPMDAR and schedule submissions (including the 14-point IMS review) to focus government attention on emerging issues.

DCAA: Conducts accounting system audits, corroborates cost data, and supports DCMA during surveillance events and reviews.

Acquisition Data and Analytics (ADA): Acts as the department-wide focal point for EVM policy, guidance, and competency management; issues interpretations to maintain consistent application across programs.

DON Center for EVM: Coordinates applicability determinations with Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Acquisition Policy and Budget) (DASN (APB)) and OSD, and serves as the Navy's central point of contact for EVM matters.

SUPSHIP: Performs many DCMA/DCAA surveillance roles for shipbuilding contracts when delegated by the cognizant program office.

3.4.7 PMB

Figure 3.5 shows the characteristic S-curve depicting cumulative PV/BCWS, while Figure 3.6 summarizes the progression from defining the SOW to final Performance Measurement Baseline (PMB) adjustments. PMBs are:

- Scoped, scheduled, and budgeted plans for the authorized work

- Time-phased budgets that align to the master schedule
- The basis for cost and schedule performance management
- Effectively the PV for the entire project

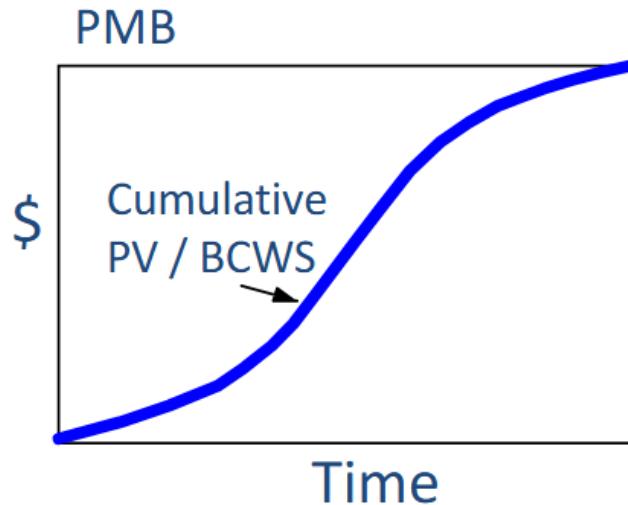


Figure 3.5. PMB Cost v.s. Time chart showing the “S”-curve. Source: 3.6.1. Introduction to EVM, 2025 [39].



Figure 3.6. The development flow for PMB. Source: 3.6.1. Introduction to EVM, 2025 [39].

PMB Development

STEP 1: *Define all work.* Decompose the effort using the WBS and align it with the organizational structure. Control accounts are the natural management points where Control Account Managers (CAMs) are assigned, and each control account contains work packages and (if needed) planning packages.

STEP 2: *Schedule the work.* Develop the integrated schedule (often visualized with Gantt charts) that sequences the WBS elements, includes key milestones, and forms the backbone of the time-phased budget.

STEP 3: *Budget the work.* Assign time-phased budgets to each work package, establish management reserve for in-scope known unknowns, and confirm that the sum of the control accounts equals the contract budget base.

Changes to the PMB must be formally controlled and documented. Reasons for changes include:

- Contract changes
- Internal replanning
- Formal reprogramming

3.4.8 EVM Reviews and Reports

Formal reviews validate the integrity of EVM data products before and after system acceptance [39].

Post-Acceptance Review

- Objective: ensure performance data remain accurate after system acceptance and identify any corrective actions required to reaffirm compliance.
- Timing: conducted as needed following system acceptance and prior to the next IBR.
- Led by the Review Director (typically DCMA) with membership tailored to the purpose of the review.
- Culminates in a formal report prepared by the Review Director.

Initial Compliance Evaluation

- Objective: validate that the Contractor's EVM system description matches actual practice and satisfies the EVMS criteria.
- Timing: executed prior to the initial IBR (and subsequently only if needed).
- Led by the DCMA Review Director with cross-functional support as required.
- Results documented in a report signed by the Review Director.

Integrated Baseline Review

- Participants: the contractor, PM and deputy, DCMA/DCAA/SUPSHIP personnel, and relevant technical staff.
- Purpose: joint assessment to verify the realism and accuracy of the PMB, confirm the entire technical scope is captured, and ensure resources and schedules are achievable.
- Timing: conducted within six months of contract award (or major replanning event) in accordance with the DoD EVM Implementation Guide and service policy [39].

Integrated Program Management Data Analysis Report

This contractually required report delivers cost, schedule, and technical status derived from the Contractor's EVM system, enabling the PMO to identify performance problem areas and emerging risks. It is required on every contract that mandates EVM and must be delivered at least monthly. The data set is tailored for each contract based on risk, size, and integration considerations, but the canonical formats are:

1. WBS (most common)
2. Organizational categories
3. Program Management Baseline
4. Staffing
5. Explanation and Problem Analysis
6. IMS

A Contract Funds Status Report (CSFR) complements the IPMDAR by providing funding (price) information that reconciles to the cost-focused earned value data [39].

Problems

When using EVM, the following are indications that a problem exists [40]:

- Use of management reserves
- Significant revisions to the PMB
- Zero variance
- Sudden change in trends
- Unreasonable Total Cost Performance Index (TCPI)

3.4.9 EVM Data Analysis

Figure 3.7 shows the S-curve representation of the EVM variables; the gaps between the curves are the cost and schedule variances that drive performance assessments [40].

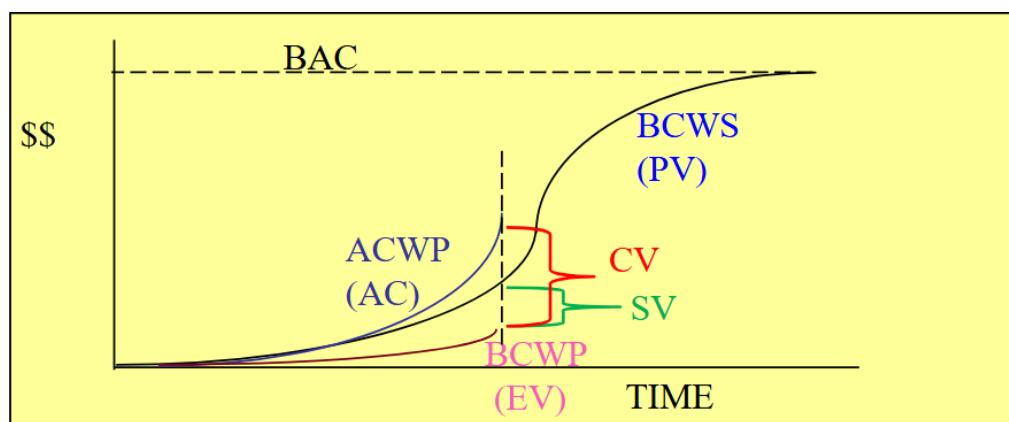


Figure 3.7. EVM chart showing the independent variables and variances. Source: 3.6.2. EVM Data Analysis, 2025 [40]

Data Analysis Steps

1. **Get current status:** capture the latest cost and schedule performance using CPI, SPI, and narrative explanations.
2. **Identify trends:** analyze indices and variance trajectories over time to highlight emerging risks and opportunities.
3. **Predict completion:** develop independent EAC and Variance at Complete (VAC) assessments to forecast final outcomes.
4. **Determine management actions:** decide where to apply resources, contract changes, or risk mitigations to recover performance [40].

Performance Measurement Techniques

Percent Complete: Applies to long-duration tasks lacking interim milestones; progress is reported as the earned value fraction of total budget.

Weighted Milestones: Uses milestone weights for long-duration tasks with clear waypoints, crediting earned value as milestones are completed.

Percent Start/Percent Finish: Suitable for short-duration tasks (less than two reporting periods) with credit apportioned at start and finish.

0/100 Method: Provides earned value only when the task is complete, offering a conservative measure for discrete, short tasks [40].

Equations

Standard cost and schedule performance calculations include [40]:

$$CV = EV - AC$$

$$SV = EV - PV$$

$$CPI = \frac{EV}{AC}$$

$$SPI = \frac{EV}{PV}$$

$$CV\% = \left(\frac{CV}{EV} \right) \times 100$$

$$SV\% = \left(\frac{SV}{PV} \right) \times 100$$

$$\% \text{ Complete} = \left(\frac{EV}{BAC} \right) \times 100$$

$$\% \text{ Spent} = \left(\frac{AC}{BAC} \right) \times 100$$

$$EAC = \frac{BAC}{CPI}$$

$$EAC = AC + \frac{BAC - EV}{\left(\frac{EV}{AC} \right)_{3 \text{ months}}}$$

$$EAC = AC + \frac{BAC - EV}{CPI \times SPI}$$

$$EAC = AC + \frac{BAC - EV}{0.8 CPI + 0.2 SPI}$$

$$VAC = BAC - EAC$$

$$TCPI = \frac{\text{Work remaining}}{\text{Budget remaining}}$$

$$TCPI_{EAC} = \frac{BAC - EV}{EAC - AC}$$

$$TCPI_{BAC} = \frac{BAC - EV}{BAC - AC}$$

4 Defense Acquisitions

4.1 Acquisition Policy

- Refs:
- [2] *SECNAVINST 5400.15D*, Jan. 19, 2021.
 - [3] *SECNAVINST 5000.2G*, Apr. 8, 2022.
 - [24] “Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)” 2025.
 - [25] *DoDI 5000.85*, Aug. 6, 2020.
 - [27] “Adaptive Acquisition Framework” 2025.
 - [28] “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS)” 2025.
 - [29] “Navy Marine Corps Acquisition Regulation Supplement (NMCARS)” 2025.
 - [41] “3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players” Mar. 26, 2025.
 - [42] *DoDD 5000.01*, Sep. 9, 2020.
 - [43] *DoDI 5000.02*, Aug. 31, 2022.
 - [44] *DoD Acquisition Guidebook*.
 - [45] *10 U.S.C. § 4201: Major defense acquisition program definitions and thresholds*, 2025.
 - [46] *DoDI 5000.89*, Nov. 4, 2020.
 - [47] *10 U.S.C. § 2366: Live Fire Test and Evaluation requirements*, 2025.
 - [48] *DoDI 5000.80*, Dec. 30, 2019.
 - [49] *DoDI 5000.87*, Oct. 2, 2020.
 - [50] *CJCSI 3470.01H*, Jan. 15, 2019.
 - [51] *DoDI 5000.81*, Dec. 31, 2019.
 - [52] *DoDI 5000.75*, Jan. 24, 2020.
 - [53] *DoDI 5000.74*, Jan. 10, 2019.
 - [54] *CJCSI 5123.01H*, Aug. 31, 2018.
 - [55] *OPNAVINST 5000.42E*, Jul. 26, 2022.
 - [56] “Acquisition Transformation Strategy” Nov. 10, 2025.
 - [57] “Commercial Tech Partnerships Drive Unprecedented Progress for Project Overmatch and Navy Capability” Jun. 18, 2025.
 - [58] “Project Overmatch Achieves Historic Milestone with Five Eyes Agreement.” Feb. 21, 2025.
 - [59] “NAVMAR’s New Commander: Rear Adm. Okano Takes Charge as Rear Adm. Small Retires After Distinguished Service” Aug. 9, 2024.

4.1.1 Summary

Statute drives authority. Title 10 charges the Military Departments to equip the force, while each annual NDAA refreshes acquisition authorities and reporting duties—know the latest delegation trail before advising a board [41].

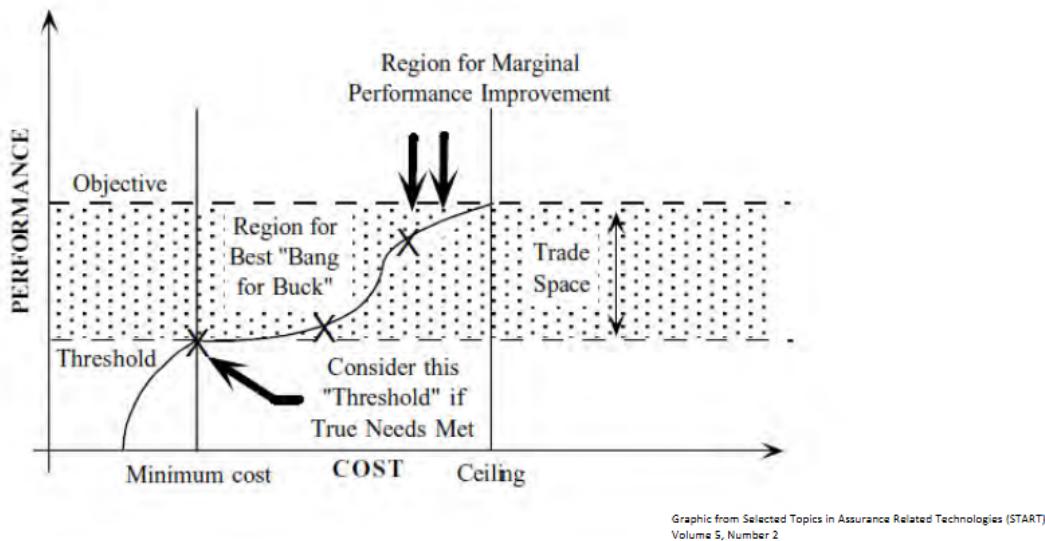
Policy = DoD 5000 series. DoDD 5000.01 establishes acquisition principles and senior roles; DoDI 5000.02 operationalizes the Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF) pathways; DoDI 5000.85 prescribes MCA execution details [25, 42, 43].

Regulation stack. FAR > DFARS > NMCARS translates statute and policy into enforceable contracting rules; SEC-NAVINST 5000.2G tailors the acaaf for acdon programs and makes ASN(RD&A) the SAE [3, 24, 28].

The main drivers that a PM must balance is cost, schedule, and performance as shown in Figure 4.1. The trade space for performance versus cost is shown in Figure 4.2, which shows the relation of performance and cost with the threshold and objective requirements.



Figure 4.1. The cost, schedule, and performance triangle that must be balanced and traded. Source: 3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025 [41].



*The “knee of the curve” helps answer this question:
“Is the additional performance worth the additional investment?”*

3.3.1 Acquisition Policy and Players

Figure 4.2. Trade space of performance v.s. cost showing the range of viable options with the region of best “value.” Source: 3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025 [41].

4.1.2 Practitioner Steps (Board Prep Focus)

1. Confirm statutory authority and delegation: identify the Defense Acquisition Executive (DAE) (USD(A&S)) or delegated MDA, the SAE (ASN(RD&A)), and the resource sponsor accountable for the requirement [3, 41, 42].
2. Select the correct AAF pathway (or hybrid) and align entry/exit criteria, statutory reports, and decision forums (MS A/B/C, MDD, Business Case Analyses (BCAs), Congressional notices) [25, 43].
3. Map contracting rules to the pathway: FAR/DFARS clauses, competition requirements, and Tailored Acquisition Strategy approvals [24, 28, 41].
4. Crosswalk Navy overlays: SECNAVINST 5000.2G, SECNAVINST 5400.15D organization responsibilities, and PEO/DRPM charters for technical authority touchpoints [2, 3].
5. Prepare decision documentation: update the Acquisition Strategy /Systems Engineering Plan (SEP) /Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP), ensure statutory certifications (Clinger-Cohen, PPBE affordability caps) are current, and pre-brief the chain (Program Office → PEO → ASN(RD&A)) [25, 41].

4.1.3 Policy Stack and Authorities

Title 10, U.S.C. Establishes Service responsibilities (Subtitle C for DON organization, Subtitle A Part V for acquisition management) and empowers annual NDAs to adjust acquisition thresholds or pilot authorities [41].

DoD Directives/Instructions. DoDD 5000.01 sets acquisition principles, governance forums, and senior leader responsibilities; DoDI 5000.02 implements the AAF with six scalable pathways; DoDI 5000.85 gives MCA-specific statutory requirements (Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC), cost reporting, baseline control) [25, 42, 43].

Regulations. FAR and DFARS governs all federal contracting; DFARS adds DoD-specific clauses (e.g., earned value, data rights, cybersecurity); NMCARS adds DON policy and ASN(RD&A) approval levels [24, 28, 29].

Service overlays. SECNAVINST 5000.2G tailors milestone documentation, Naval SYSCOM oversight, and Naval Accelerated Acquisition; SECNAVINST 5400.15D assigns PEO and SYSCOM responsibilities for acquisition program execution [2, 3].

Advisory guidance. The Defense Acquisition Guidebook (DAG) captures best practices—it is not directive authority, but boards expect you to know how it informs planning reviews and tailoring memoranda [44].

Info

Boards expect you to quote the controlling document *and* state who owns the decision. Memorize the policy ladder:
Statute → Directive → Instruction → Regulation → Service overlay.

4.1.4 Acquisition Players and Decision Forums

DAE. USD(A&S) chairs the Defense Acquisition Board (DAB), is MDA for ACAT ID/IAM programs unless delegated, and approves key acquisition policies [41, 42].

SAE. ASN(RD&A) serves as the DON SAE; appoints PEOs, assigns MDA for ACAT II and below, and ensures Navy acquisition compliance with DoD policy [2, 3].

Chief of Naval Operations/Resource Sponsor. Validates requirements and PPBE resourcing, provides integrated warfare/community priorities to ASN(RD&A) and the PEOs [41].

PEO/DRPM. Executes programs within delegated authorities; maintains acquisition baseline control, briefs ASN(RD&A) and DAB-level forums, and ensures SYSCOM technical authority integration [2, 25].

PM. Accountable for cost, schedule, performance; leads the IPT, maintains statutory certifications, and readies milestone documentation [25, 41].

Governance forums. Milestone Decision Reviews, the DAB, Configuration Steering Boards, Overarching IPTs, and Navy Program Executive Council reviews provide structured oversight and risk adjudication [25, 41, 42].

Note

Edge case: Rapid acquisition authorities (e.g., UCA) compress governance. Ensure delegation letters document any waived statutory certifications before you recommend skipping a DAB or ASN(RD&A) review [43].

4.1.5 Adaptive Acquisition Framework Pathways

The AAF can be visualized in Figure 4.3. The figure shows all six pathways with their purposes and general flow of the acquisition for each.

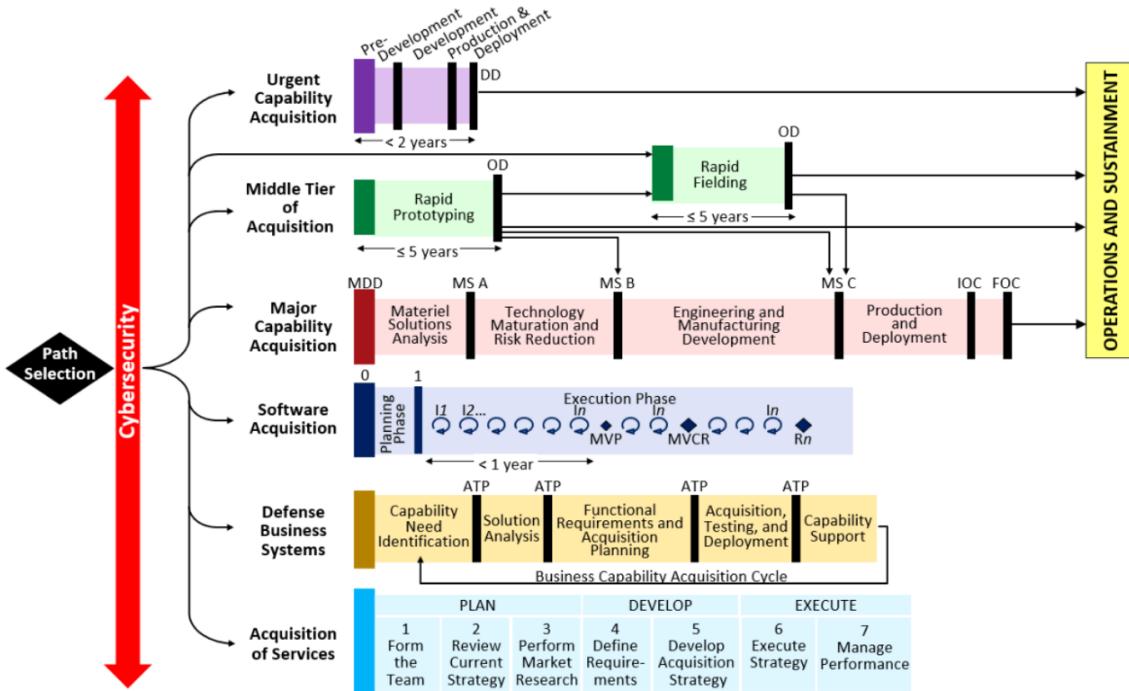


Figure 4.3. Adaptive Acquisition Pathways. Source: Adaptive Acquisition Framework, 2025 [27].

The MCA is the main acquisition pathway that EDOs will operate in. As shown in Figure 4.4, it can be broken down into five phases, four major decision points and three milestones.

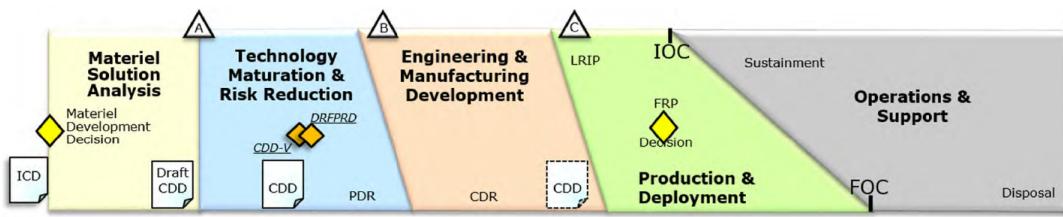


Figure 4.4. Major Capability Acquisition with phases, milestones, and decisions points. Source: 3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025 [41]

Pathway Playbooks

Major Capability Acquisition.

Entry. Default when a validated ICD, PPBE affordability certification, and Title 10 ?? thresholds are triggered; the DAE (USD(A&S)) or delegated MDA authorizes the Materiel Development Decision.[25, 43, 45] **Major events.** Materiel Solution

Analysis, TMRR, EMD, Production & Deployment, and Operations & Support framed by MS A/B/C, Production Readiness Reviews, Configuration Steering Boards, and Full-Rate Production Decisions.^[25] *Outputs.* Acquisition Strategy, SEP, Life-Cycle Sustainment Plan (LCSP), TEMP, SAR/DAES, and when applicable Live Fire and survivability certifications.^[25, 46, 47] *What happens.* The Program Manager leads integrated product teams, controls the Acquisition Program Baseline, and coordinates statutory certifications before each milestone package is staffed through the Navy Program Executive Council and the DAB.^[25] *Pros.* Maximum statutory confidence, predictable decision forums, and the ability to tailor documentation while retaining congressional transparency.^[25] *Cons.* Heavier documentation, longer lead times, and concurrency risks if requirements or funding discipline erodes between milestones.^[25]

Middle Tier of Acquisition.

Entry. Warfighter sponsor certifies the capability can be prototyped or fielded within 5 years, and the MDA approves a rapid prototyping or rapid fielding strategy in lieu of JCIDS milestone paperwork.^[48] *Major events.* Competitive prototyping sprints, operational demonstrations, and limited fielding increments documented in the MTA Strategy and semiannual execution reports to USD(R&E)/USD(A&S).^[48] *Outputs.* MTA Acquisition Strategy, Test Strategy (tailored TEMP), transition plan to either MCA or sustainment funding, and congressional notifications when cost or schedule deviates.^[48] *What happens.* Programs lean on OTAs, digital engineering, and combined DT/OT events; logistics and cybersecurity artifacts are right-sized but must be ready before transition to production.^[48] *Pros.* Compresses documentation, accelerates learning, and protects prototyping budgets from the full milestone stack. *Cons.* Sustainment planning and PPBE wedges still have to be established before transition; poor exit planning strands prototypes without a production home.^[48]

Software Acquisition Pathway.

Entry. Capability owner commits to iterative Development, Security, and Operations (DevSecOps) delivery, establishes a software factory or enterprise pipeline, and designates a product manager vice a traditional milestone PM.^[49] *Major events.* Plan, Execute, and Deliver phases with quarterly (or faster) capability drops, authority-to-operate reciprocity reviews, and portfolio synchronization reviews in lieu of MS A/B/C.^[49] *Outputs.* Software Acquisition Strategy, Product Roadmap, backlog burn-down metrics, continuous test/accreditation evidence, and sustainment metrics for cloud hosting costs.^[49] *What happens.* The government product owner jointly manages the pipeline with contractors, employs automated testing, and updates requirements via configuration-controlled roadmaps instead of static CDDs.^[49] *Pros.* Continuous user feedback, cyber resiliency baked into each sprint, and the ability to budget in capability releases instead of monolithic blocks.^[49] *Cons.* Requires mature pipelines, disciplined product management, and close PPBE coordination to realign color-of-money profiles from hardware-centric norms.^[49]

Urgent Capability Acquisition.

Entry. A validated Joint Urgent Operational Need (JUON)/Joint Emergent Operational Need (JEON)/Urgent Operational Need (UON) identifies a combatant-commander risk that cannot wait two years; ASN(RD&A) or USD(A&S) approves entry with an affordability determination and sustainment exit criteria.^[50, 51] *Major events.* Rapid assessment within days, solution selection inside 30 days, fielding no later than 24 months, and close-out/transition reviews that assign residual sustainment ownership.^[51] *Outputs.* Urgent Capability Acquisition Strategy, tailored test/safety releases, congressional notification packages, and a signed disposition plan for residual hardware.^[51] *What happens.* The Rapid Acquisition Cell coordinates funding reprogramming, waivers, and senior integration group decisions while the program office executes minimal-but-sufficient contracting and test.^[51] *Pros.* Weeks-to-months fielding, ability to leverage existing production

lines or COTS solutions. *Cons.* Limited longevity (normally five years or less), intense oversight on waivers, and explicit requirement to transition to another pathway or divest.[51]

Defense Business Systems.

Entry. A portfolio exceeds the statutory DBS cost thresholds or is designated critical; requires Business Process Reengineering certification, a Functional Sponsor, and alignment to the Business Enterprise Architecture before funds may be released.[52] *Major events.* Capability Needs Statement approval, Functional Requirements Board adjudication, incremental capability releases, and annual Investment Review Board certification to Congress.[52] *Outputs.* Business Case, Functional Strategies, Capability Support Plan, data standards, and interoperability determinations to satisfy Net-Ready KPP expectations.[52] *What happens.* Functional leads co-chair the IPT with the Program Manager, enforcing process improvements before automating legacy workflows.[52] *Pros.* Forces portfolio-level prioritization, ties funding to measurable process change. *Cons.* Extra governance (IRB, Defense Business Council) and Clinger-Cohen certifications can slow schedules if stakeholders are not aligned early.[52]

Defense Acquisition of Services.

Entry. Non-IT services exceeding simplified acquisition thresholds, or any effort designated special interest, must use DoDI 5000.74 governance and appoint a Services Category Manager before solicitation.[53] *Major events.* Service Requirement Review Board, Acquisition Strategy Panel, independent cost estimate for Category I/II services, and annual review of contractor performance metrics.[53] *Outputs.* Services Acquisition Plan, Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan, Performance Work Statement, and documented affordability/cost realism analyses.[53] *What happens.* Multifunctional teams (requirements owner, contracting, legal, comptroller) collaborate early, determine best-fit contract type, and tailor competitive ranges for recurring availabilities or modernization services.[53] *Pros.* Aligns recurring services with category management, encourages outcome-based metrics. *Cons.* Additional reviews for Category I/II services can add lead time if the requirement was scoped as a product effort originally.[53]

Info

Pathways can be combined (e.g., prototype under Middle-Tier, transition to MCA, then adopt the Software Pathway for continuous upgrades). Boards expect you to articulate which statutory obligations remain even when tailoring.[43]

4.1.6 Urgent Operational Needs Governance

JUON.

Combatant commanders submit JUONs to the Joint Rapid Acquisition Cell when an unforeseen operational gap threatens lives or mission success within the current fight; the Joint Staff validates within days, assigns a lead Service, and requires fielding in ≤24 months with a plan to transition or terminate after the contingency.[50]

JEON.

A JEON covers emerging threats with a slightly longer horizon (2–5 years) but still demands joint prioritization, Functional Capabilities Board staffing, and explicit affordability bounds before the Joint Requirements Oversight Council renders a decision.[54]

UON.

Fleet, Type, and numbered Force Commanders elevate UONs per OPNAVINST 5000.42E; requests must include the operational vignette, DOTMLPF-P analysis, recommended sponsor, and incremental funding estimate before Gate 1 of the two-pass/seven-gate process.[55]

Request content.

Every urgent package documents the risk of not acting, desired operational effect, timeframe to theater, sustainment/retrograde plans, cybersecurity implications, and classification handling; incomplete data delays Joint Staff or OPNAV acceptance.[50, 55]

Acquisition handoff.

Validated packages flow to the UON Management Board and then to ASN(RD&A) for alignment with the Urgent Capability Acquisition (UCA) pathway, rapid contracting, and source selection; the MDA records any tailored documentation and must still close on lifecycle ownership before the temporary solution sunsets.[51]

4.1.7 Acquisition Categories and Delegated Decision Authority

USD(A&S) serves as the DAE; SECNAV designates ASN(RD&A) as both the Navy SAE and CAE, while SECNAVINST 5000.2G and the Warfighting Acquisition Strategy empower Portfolio/Program Acquisition Executives (Portfolio Acquisition Executives (PAEs)) to manage portfolios and request tailored delegation.[3, 42, 56]

ACAT I (MDAP).

Programs that meet the ?? thresholds ($\geq \$525M$ RDT&E or $\geq \$3.6B$ procurement in FY 2020 constant dollars) default to DAE oversight; ACAT ID programs (e.g., *Columbia*-class SSBN) keep USD(A&S) as MDA, whereas ACAT IC efforts (e.g., DDG(X) combat systems refresh) are normally delegated to ASN(RD&A) with reporting to Congress via SAR/DAES.[25, 41, 45]

ACAT IA.

Major Automated Information Systems exceeding \$360 M life-cycle cost or designated by USD(C)/CAE; the Navy SAE is the default MDA and may assign PEO Digital or the relevant PAE to execute under the Software or Business Systems pathways (examples: Navy ERP, Maritime Maintenance IT portfolio).[43, 52]

ACAT II.

Programs below MDAP thresholds but above \$200 M RDT&E or \$920 M procurement (FY 2020 constant dollars) are typically delegated from ASN(RD&A) to the cognizant PAE/PEO; examples include shipboard radars, launch-and-recovery systems, or complex weapon upgrades where the PEO retains the MDA.[25, 41]

ACAT III.

Efforts below ACAT II thresholds (but still acquisition programs) normally have the PAE, SYSCOM commander, or PM acting as MDA; documentation is tailored, yet APBs, TEMPs, and configuration control still apply.[3, 25]

ACAT IV (DON unique).

SECNAVINST 5000.2G divides ACAT IV into IVT (test) and IVM (monitor) for sustainment, modernization, and In-Service Engineering efforts; NAVSEA/NAVAIR/NAWWAR commanders often serve as MDA, delegating narrowly scoped efforts to PMs while ensuring technical authority concurrence.[3]

Delegation chain. The DAE retains ACAT ID decisions unless a signed memo delegates to ASN(RD&A); the Navy SAE typically keeps ACAT IC/IA programs and can further delegate ACAT II/III/IV to PAEs. SECNAVINST 5000.2G requires each delegation letter to specify statutory certifications retained by ASN(RD&A), while the Warfighting Acquisition Strategy directs PAEs to chair Capability Trade Councils and reassign funds across their portfolios when trades stay within cost/schedule thresholds.[3, 56]

4.1.8 Project Overmatch Status

Project Overmatch is the Navy's operational architecture initiative to link platforms, weapons, sensors, and data fabrics so that Fleet Commanders can execute Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control (CJADC2) and Joint Fires at decision speed.[57, 58] VADM Seiko Okano serves as the direct reporting program manager (DRPM) for Project Overmatch and Commander, NAVWAR; she continues to sponsor Five Eyes data-sharing arrangements, Maven Smart Systems overlays, and Open DAGIR integrations that move capability from concept to fielded software in weeks.[57, 59]

The DRPM title matters: a DRPM reports directly to ASN(RD&A), can tailor milestone documentation, and retains signature authority for integration decisions that cut across multiple PEOs. As PMILDEP, VADM Okano now chairs Program Decision Meetings when delegated, synchronizes PAEs across portfolios, and uses tools such as Open DAGIR and Maven to inform both requirements trades and PPBE issue papers.[3, 57] Her priorities for FY26–27 include: (1) expanding the Joint Fires Network interface validated during the 2025 FVEY Project Arrangement; (2) institutionalizing Open DAGIR so commercial AI/ML tools can be onboarded at “commercial speed”; and (3) ensuring Overmatch digital threads remain visible in milestone packages so that new ship, submarine, and aircraft programs inherit the data standards by default.[57, 58]

4.1.9 Navy Overlays and Touchpoints

SECNAVINST 5000.2G. Implements ASN(RD&A) Program Decision Meetings, requires risk-based tailoring plans, and codifies DON-level documentation (Acquisition Plan, LCSP, POA&M) [3].

SECNAVINST 5400.15D. Aligns PEOs and SYSCOMs, clarifies technical authority (NAVSEA 05, NAVWAR 5.0) integration, and designates Deputy ASN(RD&A) portfolio responsibilities [2].

Resource Sponsor coordination. OPNAV N9, N4, or equivalent sponsor must endorse requirements and PPBE positions before ASN(RD&A) decisions [41].

Note

When SECNAV policy conflicts with older DoD memoranda, defer to the most current directive from the higher authority unless ASN(RD&A) grants written tailoring. Document the rationale in the Acquisition Strategy.

4.2 Milestones and Phases

- Refs: [25] *DoDI 5000.85*, Aug. 6, 2020.
[42] *DoDD 5000.01*, Sep. 9, 2020.
[43] *DoDI 5000.02*, Aug. 31, 2022.
[44] *DoD Acquisition Guidebook*.
[48] *DoDI 5000.80*, Dec. 30, 2019.
[49] *DoDI 5000.87*, Oct. 2, 2020.
[51] *DoDI 5000.81*, Dec. 31, 2019.
[52] *DoDI 5000.75*, Jan. 24, 2020.
[53] *DoDI 5000.74*, Jan. 10, 2019.
[54] *CJCSI 5123.01H*, Aug. 31, 2018.
[55] *OPNAVINST 5000.42E*, Jul. 26, 2022.
[60] 10 U.S.C. § 4371: *Critical cost growth in major defense acquisition programs*, 2023.
[61] “Technology Readiness Assessment Guide” Apr. 2020.

4.2.1 Defense Acquisition System Overview

The Defense Acquisition System (DAS) is the governance framework that aligns requirements, resourcing, and acquisition execution to deliver warfighter capability. It is policy-driven by DoDD 5000.01 and process-enabled through DoDI 5000.02, using the AAF to tailor pathways while preserving statutory oversight and Navy-unique controls [42, 43].

4.2.2 Adaptive Acquisition Framework Pathways (Board Snapshot)

MCA. Default for complex weapon systems; uses phased milestones with mandatory statutory certifications; emphasizes affordability trades, test rigor, and Navy two-pass / seven-gate touchpoints [25].

Middle Tier of Acquisition (MTA). Rapid prototyping or rapid fielding to deliver an operational capability within five years; minimizes documentation, but demands robust transition planning to MCA or sustainment funding [48].

UCA. Accelerated path to field urgent capability within 2 years or provide an interim solution in less than 5; leverages tailored test, streamlined acquisition decision memoranda, and dedicated senior oversight [51].

Software Acquisition Pathway. Iterative, DevSecOps-focused delivery of software increments with continuous integration, enterprise cloud alignment, and recurring user feedback cadences [49].

Acquisition of Services Pathway. Structures service requirements, performance metrics, and contracting strategies to assure mission outcomes and oversight thresholds (e.g., Multi-Functional IPT requirements review)[53].

Defense Business Systems Pathway. Rationalizes business processes, data standards, and Business Capability Acquisition Cycle (BCAC) to unlock enterprise interoperability before investing in solutions [52].

Note

Pathways are not exclusive—an EDO may begin in MTA for prototyping, then transition to MCA for production once requirements and sustainment plans stabilize. Programs can also leverage UCA for an initial bridge while planning a transition to MCA.

4.2.3 Baseline Discipline: Acquisition Program Baselines, Deviations, and Nunn–McCurdy

APB. The cost-schedule-performance contract between the MDA, resource sponsor, and PEO; defines objective and threshold values that bound trade space [25].

Program Deviations. Triggered when performance, schedule, or cost thresholds breach; the Program Manager must notify the MDA within 30 days and submit a corrective action plan within 60 [25].

Nunn–McCurdy Act. Statutory reporting when Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) or Average Procurement Unit Cost (APUC) breaches significant ($\geq 15\%$ current / 30% original) or critical ($\geq 25\%$ current / 50% original) thresholds; critical breaches require certification to Congress within 60 days or program termination [60].

4.2.4 JCIDS Flow into the Defense Acquisition System

ICD. Supports the MDD with validated capability needs and initial attributes [54].

CDD. Provides Key Performance Parameters (KPPs) and Key System Attributes (KSAs) to anchor Milestone B and the Technical Requirements Baseline [54].

Capability Production Document (CPD). Updates KPP/KSA values for production decisions and sustainment planning at Milestone C [54].

Note

Maintain requirements traceability matrices linking KPP thresholds to test plans and APB values for board discussions.

4.2.5 KPPs v.s. KSAs (Know the Difference)

KPP (Key Performance Parameter). A performance attribute of a system critical to mission success. Each KPP has a threshold (minimally acceptable) and objective (desired) value. Failure to meet a *threshold* normally triggers program reassessment or revalidation of the requirement. *Why it matters:* Drives design trades, tempers requirement creep, and is reportable in baselines and decision reviews [54].

KSA (Key System Attribute). Important performance attribute not critical enough to be a KPP. KSAs are managed and traded to balance cost/schedule/performance without jeopardizing mission effectiveness. *Why it matters:* Provides disciplined trade-space for the Program Manager and requirements sponsor [54].

Difference. KPPs are mission-critical and tightly controlled; KSAs are important but offer more flexibility. Both appear in the CDD/CPD with threshold/objective values, but KPPs carry higher visibility and risk if breached.

4.2.6 Acquisition Strategy Essentials

Purpose. Documents tailored acquisition approach, contract strategy, intellectual property posture, and affordability constraints for MDA approval [25].

Key Contents. Pathway selection, phasing plan, incentive structure, test and evaluation strategy, risk burn-down, sustainment concept, cybersecurity, international cooperation, and business case for software/data management [25, 42].

Approval Event. MDA concurrence at Milestone A (initial) with updates prior to Milestone B and significant re-baselining; Navy 2-pass/7-gate integrates resource validation before signature [55].

4.2.7 International Acquisition Objectives

Foreign Military Sales (FMS). Strengthen partner capability while leveraging U.S. economies of scale; requires disclosure review and Letter of Offer and Acceptance alignment [25].

Direct Commercial Sales (DCS). Contractor-led exports; Program Office ensures configuration control and technology-security compliance [25].

Cooperative Development. Shared investment with allies (e.g., Memoranda of Understanding) to reduce life-cycle cost and enhance interoperability [25].

Armaments Cooperation / International Programs Security. Integrates disclosure, export licensing, and technology protection plans into the Acquisition Strategy [25].

4.2.8 Navy Two-Pass / Seven-Gate Review

Pass 1 – Capability. Led by OPNAV N9 to mature the requirement: Gate 1 validates the capability gap, Gate 2 refines solutions and mission analysis, Gate 3 assesses affordability and alignment with Navy enterprises, and Gate 4 authorizes program initiation (supports MDD)[55].

Pass 2 – Resourcing. Led by OPNAV N8 to align budgeting: Gate 5 verifies contracting/test readiness before Milestone B (often synchronized with the Development RFP Release Decision), Gate 6 confirms production and sustainment resources prior to Milestone C, and Gate 7 evaluates sustainment performance and modernization plans [55].

Note

For board prep, highlight where SECNAV Gate Reviews or Defense Acquisition Board touchpoints overlay Navy gates to demonstrate cross-tier synchronization.

4.2.9 Technology Readiness Levels

Table 4.1 summarizes Technology Readiness Level (TRL) definitions with representative naval examples.

TABLE 4.1: TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS WITH REPRESENTATIVE NAVAL EXAMPLES.

| TRL | DEFINITION | EXAMPLE (EDO CONTEXT) |
|--------------|--|--|
| TRL 1 | Basic principles observed | Novel corrosion-resistant alloy proven in laboratory |
| TRL 2 | Technology concept formulated | Hypothesis for integrating alloy into hull structures |
| TRL 3 | Analytical and experimental proof-of-concept | Coupon tests validating stress performance in relevant environment |
| TRL 4 | Component validation in laboratory | Scale panel fabrication and testing under controlled loads |
| TRL 5 | Component validation in relevant environment | Module integrated into land-based test site with salt-fog exposure |
| TRL 6 | System/subsystem prototype in relevant environment | Full-scale hull section installed on test article or surrogate vessel |
| TRL 7 | System prototype in operational environment | Prototype hull segment installed on operational ship during limited sea trials |
| TRL 8 | Actual system completed and qualified | Final production drawings released, inspections passed for lead ship |
| TRL 9 | Actual system proven in mission operations | Sustained operational deployment meeting performance metrics |

Source: Technology Readiness Assessment Guide, 2020 [61]

Hint: Match TRLs to TMRR exit criteria: critical technologies should be \geq TRL 6 before Milestone B.

Note

Operational environment testing typically begins at **TRL 7** (system prototype in an operational environment). **TRL 8** means the actual system is completed and qualified (e.g., qualification/acceptance testing, certifications). **TRL 9** means the actual system is *proven in mission operations* (e.g., successful fleet employment meeting mission metrics).

4.2.10 T&E Organizations and Roles

OSD Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E). Independent oversight of operational test adequacy, approves/concurs in TEMP for covered programs, and reports to Congress on operational suitability and effectiveness.

Service Operational Test Agencies. Navy *Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force (COMOPTEVFOR)* (*Commander, Operational Test Force (COTF)*), Air Force *Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC)*, U.S. Army *Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC)*, Marine Corps *Operational Test and Evaluation Activity (MCOTEA)*. Plan/execute IOT&E and report independent findings to the Service and DOT&E.

Developmental Test (DT). Program Offices with SYSCOM Warfare Centers (e.g., Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD), Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD), NSWC, NUWC) plan and run DT to verify requirements, qualify designs, and feed Operational Test Readiness Review (OTRR).

Interoperability/Joint. *Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC)* assesses joint interoperability/Net-Ready KPP compliance where applicable.

Ranges/Land-based sites. Service ranges and land-based engineering/test sites provide representative and operational environments to support DT/Operational Test (OT).

Artifacts. TEMP aligns DT/OT scope and phases; OTRR certifies readiness for IOT&E; SAR / DAES capture results for governance [25].

4.2.11 Major Capability Acquisition Lifecycle Overview

MSA. Shape the trade space and select a preferred materiel solution; conclude with an AoA recommendation and technology maturation plan [25].

TMRR. Mature technologies, refine requirements, and reduce integration risk to enter EMD; manage competitive prototyping where feasible [25].

EMD. Complete detailed design, verify system performance, and prepare for production and deployment decisions [25].

P&D. Produce capability, conduct IOT&E, field initial units, and decide on Full-Rate Production (FRP) [25].

O&S. Sustain readiness, execute modernization, and plan for disposal while feeding affordability back into PPBE cycles [25].

Figure 4.5 Shows the major phases, review and decision points within MCAs. The following are the reviews that occur during the phases:

Alternative Systems Review (ASR). Validates the preferred materiel solution and technology maturation approach emerging from the AoA; inputs include threat assessments, cost-schedule trades, draft system concepts, and updated Technology Development Strategy / SEP outlines, and the primary output is an ASR report that authorizes drafting authoritative system-level requirements for the upcoming System Requirements Review (SRR) [25, 44].

SRR. Confirms that system-level performance, interface, cyber, and logistics requirements trace to the validated ICD / CDD and are testable; requires a draft System Specification, mission threads, interface control documentation, and technical performance measures, and produces a baselined system requirements set and updated verification strategy feeding System Functional Review (SFR) planning [25, 44].

SFR. Demonstrates that the functional architecture and allocated requirements can satisfy the mission needs within cost/schedule constraints; leverages functional allocation matrices, preliminary hazard analyses, and draft reliability growth plans, and yields an approved functional baseline plus a risk/opportunity burn-down plan ahead of Preliminary Design Review (PDR) [25, 44].

PDR. Assesses whether the allocated baseline and preliminary design (drawings, models, manufacturability assessments, support concepts) are mature enough to enter detailed design; the review outputs include an approved allocated baseline, configuration-controlled action list, and direction for completing qualification hardware prior to Critical Design Review (CDR) [25, 44].

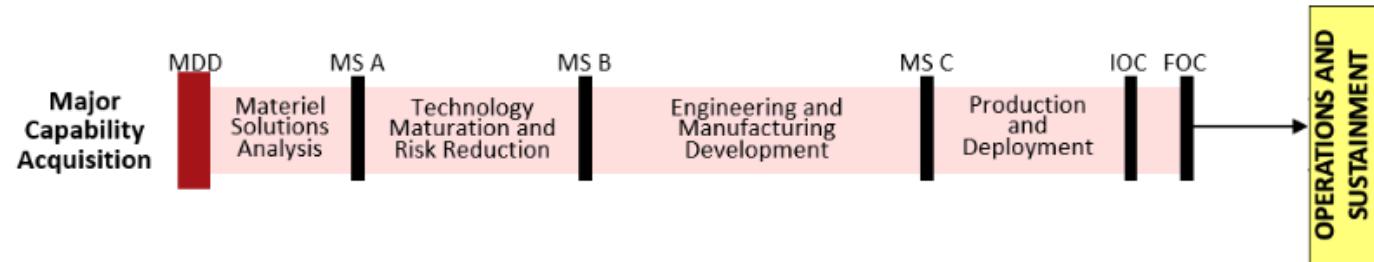
CDR. Confirms the detailed design meets all requirements with acceptable technical risk; inputs include product baseline technical data packages, qualification/analysis results, producibility assessments, and cybersecurity artifacts, and the decision produces an approved product baseline plus direction to release build-to packages and procure long-lead items [25, 44].

Test Readiness Review (TRR). Evaluates readiness to execute a specific test event by reviewing test articles, instrumentation, facilities, procedures, safety releases, and deficiency dispositions; a successful TRR outputs an authorization to start test with documented entrance/exit criteria and risk mitigations [25, 44].

System Verification Review (SVR). Verifies the integrated system meets the product baseline and is ready for production decision reviews; it uses completed verification cross-reference matrices, configuration audits, and qualification / DT results to produce a verified system baseline, deficiency adjudication list, and recommendation for Full-Rate Production Decision Review (FRPDR) preparation [25, 44].

OTRR. Certifies that production-representative assets, training, logistics products, safety artifacts, and test ranges are ready to support initial operational test; the review outputs the operational test readiness certification and any restrictions or corrective actions before DOT&E concurrence [25, 44].

Production Readiness Review (PRR). Determines whether manufacturing processes, supply chain, quality systems, and sustainment enablers can support LRIP / FRP quantities; requires control plans, process capability data, staffing/budget burn rates, and yields a decision to proceed into production along with corrective actions for any shortfalls [25, 44].



Lifecycle View of Major Capability Acquisition

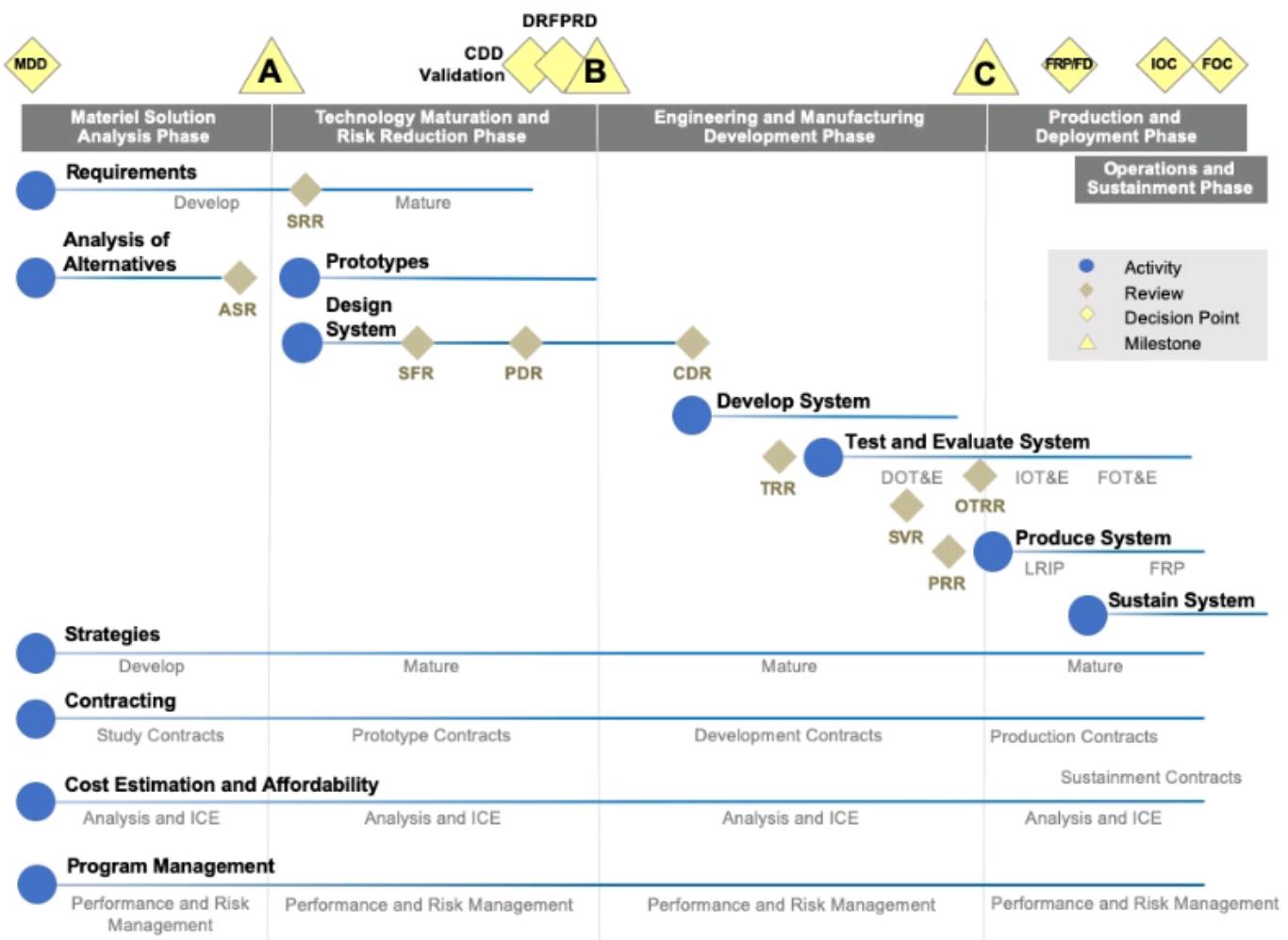


Figure 4.5. Lifecycle view for a MCA showing all functions and activities for each phase. Source: DoDI 5000.85, 2020 [25]

4.2.12 Materiel Development Decision

Inputs. Validated ICD, initial affordability analysis, preliminary acquisition strategy, and resource sponsor endorsement [43].

Decision. MDA authorizes entry into MSA (or an alternate pathway) and designates the lead PEO/PM [25].

Outputs. Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM), competitive AoA guidance, and direction to form the IPT structure [25].

4.2.13 Materiel Solution Analysis Phase Essentials

Purpose. Analyze alternatives, define the preferred materiel solution, and scope technology maturity and risk reduction tasks [25].

Key Activities. Conduct AoA, establish initial system performance metrics, develop early test strategies, and plan technology maturation for critical subsystems [25].

Entrance Criteria. Approved MDD, resourced AoA study guidance, and draft acquisition strategy [43].

Exit Criteria. Approved TMRR acquisition strategy update, technology risk assessments (i.e., TRL \geq 3–4), and draft CDD inputs for Joint staffing [25].

4.2.14 Milestone A Focus Areas

Purpose. Authorize entry into TMRR and approve the initial Acquisition Strategy and APB [25].

Board Topics. AoA results, technology maturation plans, affordability caps, cost estimates, and early test strategies [25].

Outputs. ADM, approved initial APB, direction for competitive prototyping, and signed Technology Development Strategy if required [25].

4.2.15 Technology Maturation and Risk Reduction Phase Essentials

Purpose. Reduce integration risk, mature the Technical Baseline, and prepare for Engineering & Manufacturing Development source selection [25].

Key Activities. Competitive prototyping (if directed), systems engineering trade studies, reliability growth, cyber-resilience planning, and Capabilities Development Document Validation (CDD-V) [25].

Entrance Criteria. Approved Milestone A ADM, funded risk-reduction plan, and established IMS aligned to Navy Gate 5 timeline [25, 55].

Exit Criteria. Technology Readiness Assessments showing TRL \geq 6, draft Milestone B documentation (e.g., SEP, TEMP), and configured product baseline ready for the Development Request for Proposal Release Decision (DRFPRD) [25].

4.2.16 Milestone B Focus Areas

Purpose. Authorize entry into EMD and establish the program as a major defense acquisition program with formal reporting [25].

Board Topics. Affordability caps, independent cost estimates, TEMP approval, LRIP planning, and production-representative prototype evidence [25].

Outputs. Updated APB, approved Acquisition Strategy revision, and contractual authority to release EMD RFPs [25].

4.2.17 Engineering and Manufacturing Development Phase Essentials

Purpose. Complete detailed design, build and test engineering development models, and validate manufacturing processes [25].

Key Activities. CDR, system verification, developmental test events, cybersecurity accreditations, and sustainment baseline development [25].

Entrance Criteria. Approved Milestone B ADM with resourced contracts, finalized technical baseline, and product-support planning aligned to Navy Gate 6 [25].

Exit Criteria. Successful IOT&E readiness, manufacturing readiness \geq TRL 8, and validated sustainment strategies supporting Milestone C [25].

4.2.18 Milestone C Focus Areas

Purpose. Authorize production and deployment following demonstration of operational effectiveness and suitability [25].

Board Topics. IOT&E results, sustainment and supply-chain readiness, affordability assessments, and updated manpower/- training plans [25].

Outputs. FRPDR plan, updated APB, and authority to obligate procurement funding for production lots [25].

4.2.19 Production and Deployment Phase Essentials

Purpose. Produce and deliver the system while validating operational performance and support concepts [25].

Key Activities. LRIP execution, IOT&E, Configuration Steering Board (CSB) governance, and ramp to Full-Rate Production [25].

Exit Criteria. FRP approval, attainment of Initial Operational Capability (IOC), and sustainment plans ready for fleet release [25].

4.2.20 Operations and Support Phase Essentials

Purpose. Sustain mission effectiveness, execute modernization, and manage total ownership cost until disposal [25].

Key Activities. Performance-Based Logistics execution, Depot maintenance planning, Post-Deployment reviews, and CSBs for major updates [25].

Milestones. Full Operational Capability (FOC), disposal decision documentation, and updates to capability requirements feeding future planning cycles [25].

5 Requirements

5.1 Joint Capabilities Integration & Development System

- Refs:
- [25] *DoDI 5000.85*, Aug. 6, 2020.
 - [42] *DoDD 5000.01*, Sep. 9, 2020.
 - [43] *DoDI 5000.02*, Aug. 31, 2022.
 - [55] *OPNAVINST 5000.42E*, Jul. 26, 2022.
 - [56] “Acquisition Transformation Strategy” Nov. 10, 2025.
 - [62] *Manual for the Operation of the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System*, Oct. 30, 2021.
 - [63] “3.3.3. Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System” Mar. 26, 2025.
 - [64] *10 U.S.C. § 181: Joint Requirements Oversight Council authorities and procedures*, 2023.

5.1.1 Requirements Demand Versus Acquisition Supply

Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS). Establishes the joint demand signal by translating strategic guidance into validated capability requirements, risk statements, and Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel, Facilities, and Policy (DOTMLPF-P) change recommendations that scope non-materiel and materiel options [62, 63].

DAS. Converts validated requirements into executable acquisition strategies, cost/schedule baselines, and lifecycle sustainment plans under DoDD 5000.01 and DoDI 5000.85 [25, 42].

Note

Board cue: be ready to explain where a program sits in both systems; Gate 2 packages are dead on arrival if the JCIDS paperwork is stale even when the DAS strategy is current [63].

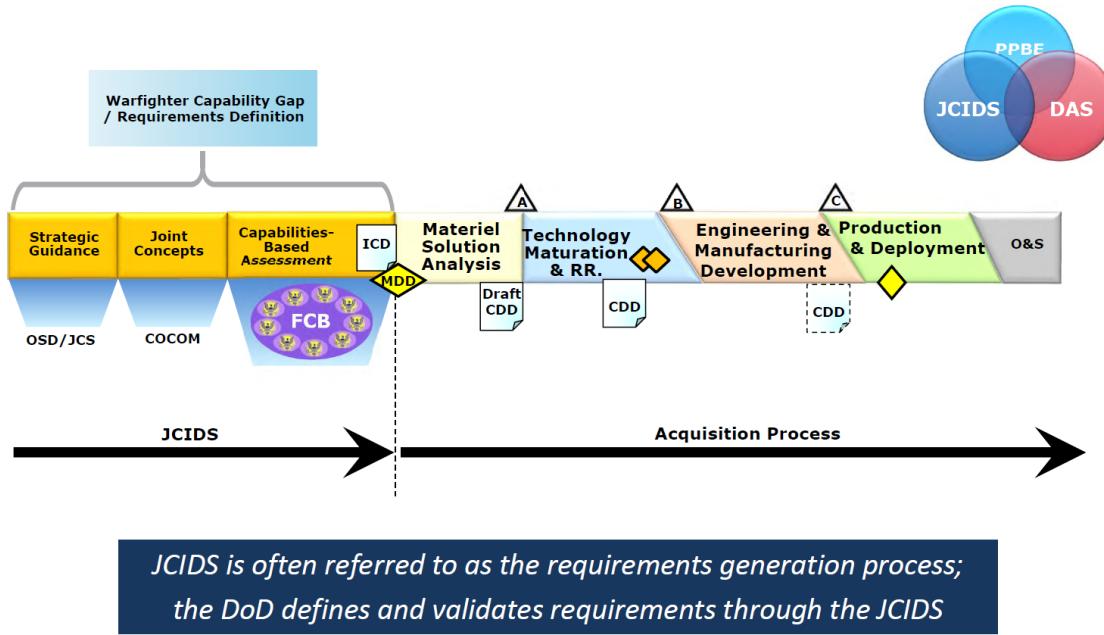


Figure 5.1. Relationship between the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System and the Defense Acquisition System. Source: 3.3.3. Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System, 2025 [63]

5.1.2 Capability Requirements and the Capability-Based Assessment Cadence

Capability requirements are mission-task statements (task, condition, standard) that are solution-agnostic yet measurable enough to drive trades, and Capability-Based Assessments (CBAs) provide the disciplined analysis to justify them [62]. Each CBA follows repeatable phases:

Study initiation. The sponsoring component issues the study notice, nominates a lead Functional Capabilities Board (FCB), scopes timelines, and aligns analytical support and governance expectations [62, Annex B].

Operational context & mission threads. Analysts decompose national / Combatant Command (CCMD) guidance into joint concepts, mission threads, and integrated architectures to keep the study “concept-based and threat-informed” [62, Encl. A].

Gap and risk assessment. Existing and programmed capabilities are mapped against required mission effects to quantify gaps, assess risk, and prioritize by warfighting impact and threat timelines [62].

Solution analysis. Non-materiel levers (DOTMLPF-P) are explored first; only when risk remains unacceptable are materiel approaches carried forward, together with preliminary affordability bounds and schedule realism [62].

Documentation & validation path. The resulting evidence package (mission context, gaps, DOTMLPF-P recommendations, risk, and proposed documents) feeds the Gatekeeper, FCB, and validation authority decision on which JCIDS artifact (ICD, DOTMLPF-P Change Recommendation (DCR), update) to staff [62, Encl. A].



Figure 5.2. Concept-to-requirement flow that must stay synchronized with acquisition execution. Source: 3.3.3. Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System, 2025 [63].

5.1.3 Strategy-to-Requirement Synchronization

Joint demand starts with strategic direction (National Defense Strategy, Joint Warfighting Concept, campaign orders) and is progressively tailored until a validated requirement enters the DAS [62, 63]. Key touchpoints:

Strategic guidance. SECDEF and CJCS translate national objectives into force design problems and assign lead sponsors; the Joint Staff J-7 houses concept development and readiness assessments that set the analytical agenda [62].

Joint concepts & mission threads. Mission engineers decompose guidance into mission areas, integrated kill chains, and threat-informed architectures so that requirements stay “concept-based and threat-informed” before solutioneering [62, Encl. A].

CBAs. Sponsors conduct the structured CBA described above to document measurable capability requirements, prioritize risks, and recommend DOTMLPF-P levers with quantitative evidence [62].

Gatekeeping & staffing. The Joint Staff Gatekeeper assigns a Joint Staffing Designator (JSD), routes packages through Knowledge Management and Decision Support (KM/DS), and tasks the appropriate FCB for certification prep; timelines and suspense assignments live inside KM/DS so Navy leads can monitor in real time [62].

Validation. Depending on the JSD, the JROC, Joint Capabilities Board (JCB), or delegated Service/CCMD authority validates requirements, issues memoranda Joint Requirements Oversight Council Memorandums (JROCMs), and records mandatory actions (e.g., certifications, follow-on DCRs) that acquisition teams must honor [62, 64].

Acquisition handoff. Validated artifacts, with their JROCM direction and Capability Trade Council (CTC) or CSB trade expectations, become entry criteria for Gate 2, the MDD, and milestone reviews, ensuring the PAE and PEO communities inherit coherent demand signals [63].

5.1.4 Major Capability Acquisition Requirement Set

ICD. Captures the operational context, quantified gaps, and risk that justify materiel and non-materiel approaches; it is required to support the Materiel Development Decision and is deliberately solution-agnostic [62, Appendix B-A].

CDD. Establishes system-level performance attributes (KPPs, KSAs, Additional Performance Attributes (APAs)) that anchor TMRR planning and must be validated before the Development RFP release and Milestone B; it becomes the authoritative source for the Technical Requirements Baseline [25, 62].

CDD updates. Refine thresholds/objectives when an EMD phase spans multiple lots or when KPPs trades are needed before Milestone C; updates keep production-representative values authoritative without re-opening earlier portions of the document [62].

CPD. Translates the validated CDD into production-ready parameters, sustainment metrics, and deployment considerations for Milestone C and Full-Rate Production/Fielding decisions [25, 62].

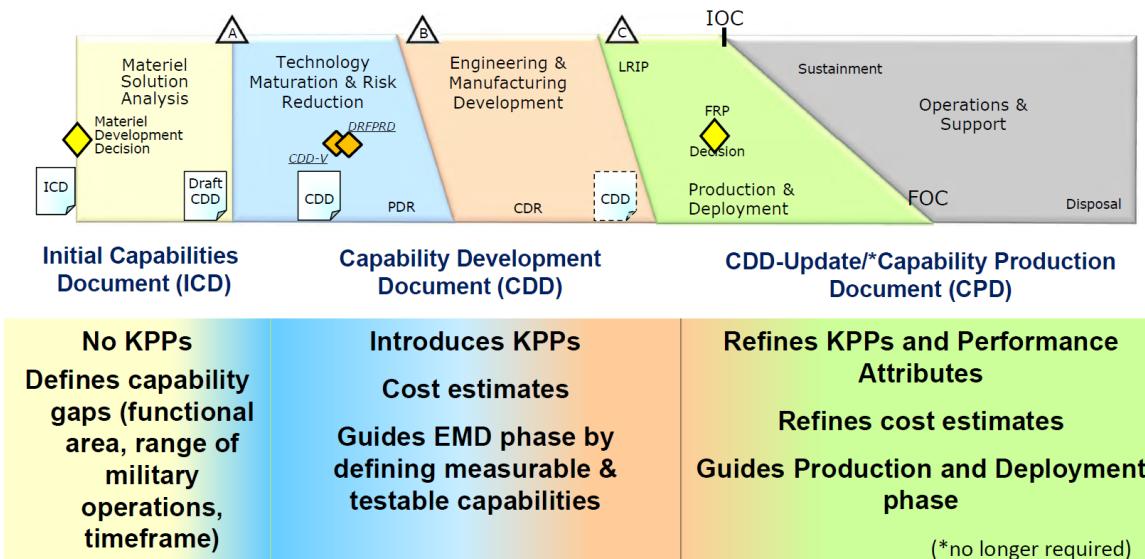


Figure 5.3. Placement of Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System artifacts inside the phased Major Capability Acquisition pathway.
Source: 3.3.3. Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System, 2025 [63].

5.1.5 How KPPs Stay Integrated with DAS

Validated KPPs define the trade space that Milestone Decision Authorities use to approve baselines, certifications, and contracts. DoDI 5000.85 requires KPP ownership to be traceable from the CDD into the System Requirements Review, Developmental Test plans, and Acquisition Program Baseline; breaches trigger Gatekeeper tripwire reviews and Configuration Steering Boards [25, 62]. Navy PMs must therefore align CDD/CPD updates with SEA 05 warrant packages and ASN(RD&A) Gate 6 readiness to keep statutory certifications (Net-Ready (NR)-KPP, cybersecurity, safety) synchronized [55, 63].

5.1.6 Prioritizing Materiel and Non-Materiel Solutions

JCIDS policy directs sponsors to work through every DOTMLPF-P lever before defaulting to expensive materiel approaches, both to reduce risk and to speed delivery [62]. Practical applications include:

Doctrine. Update joint/combined warfighting concepts or tactics to mitigate gaps quickly (e.g., change Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Concept of Operations (CONOPS) before buying sensors).

Organization. Re-align Fleet/NAVWAR command relationships or mission tailoring to close gaps without new hardware.

Training. Modify Fleet Readiness Training Plan events or simulator syllabi so crews can exploit existing systems better.

Materiel. Only after non-materiel levers fail should new materiel increments be scoped, with clear linkage to DAS milestones.

Leadership. Insert leadership development or acquisition workforce upskilling when governance bottlenecks (e.g., JROC literacy) create the gap.

Personnel. Adjust billets, Navy Enlisted Classifications, or civilian skill codes to align manpower with capability employment.

Facilities. Invest in pier-side infrastructure, cyber ranges, or test venues necessary to realize capability performance.

Policy. Seek changes to SECNAV/OPNAV directives or coalition agreements when authorities constrain capability delivery.

5.1.7 Governance Roles and Validation Chain

JROC. Executes Title 10 § 181 duties—prioritizing capability gaps, validating KPPs, delegating authority, and issuing JROCM guidance that binds both requirements and acquisition communities [62, 64].

Joint Staff Gatekeeper & JCB. The J-8 Gatekeeper screens every submission, assigns Joint Staff suspense, and recommends whether the JROC or JCB (chaired by the VCJCS) is the right validation venue; the JCB focuses on issues that are joint but lower risk, accelerating queue time for most Navy programs [62].

FCBs. Functional Capabilities Boards (e.g., C4/Cyber, Protection, Logistics) chair working groups, broker certifications (Net-Ready, Force Protection, System Survivability), monitor implementation of DCRs tasks, and elevate tripwires to the JCB/JROC [62].

Service validation authorities. OPNAV N9/N9I act as the Navy Gatekeeper, ensuring Gate 0/1 packages satisfy OP-NAVINST 5000.42E expectations before forwarding to the Joint Staff, and they remain responsible for Service-specific “Joint Integration” decisions even when joint validation is delegated [55].

Requirements are therefore validated either by the JROC, the JCB (if delegated), or by the cognizant Service/CCMD authority when the Joint Staff assigns a Joint Staffing Designator of “Joint Integration/Information” [62].

5.1.8 IT, C4I, and Coalition Interoperability Implications

Net-Ready. Every Information System (IS) ICD, IS CDD, and Capability Drop version of the CDD must secure Net-Ready certification from the C4/Cyber FCB chair, demonstrating compliance with enterprise architecture, data standards, and mission thread-level interoperability [62].

Architecture and reuse. Sponsors must deliver Department of Defense Architecture Framework (DoDAF) views (All Viewpoint (AV), Operational Viewpoint (OV), Systems Viewpoint (SV), Capability Viewpoint (CV)) that trace requirements to reusable services, Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), and data models, enabling software pathways and rapid iteration [43, 62].

C4I interoperability. DoDD 5000.01 compels all acquisition programs to plan for cross-Service and allied interoperability; JCIDS enforces this by requiring coalition releasability considerations and Combined/Joint Mission Threads inside every requirement [42].

Allied impacts. Capability sponsors must document how U.S. and allied systems exchange data, share bandwidth, and remain cyber survivable before validation; failure to do so can halt Gate 2 or Net-Ready KPPs endorsements [62, 63].

5.1.9 Warfighting Acquisition System (JCIDS Replacement)

Secretary of War (SECWAR)’s 10 Nov 2025 Acquisition Transformation Strategy directs the Department to replace legacy JCIDS paperwork with the Warfighting Acquisition System (Warfighting Acquisition System (WAS)), an enterprise approach built on Capability Portfolio Management (Capability Portfolio Management (CPM)) and Capability Trade Councils that keep requirements, resourcing, and acquisition synchronized.[56]

Inputs.

Mission-thread data, kill-chain metrics, threat assessments, PPBE affordability guidance, experimentation results, and digital engineering artifacts flow into each CPM cell so that operational problems are quantified before trades begin.[56]

Core events.

The DepSecWar and Vice Chairman convene quarterly CPM reviews; PAEs call Capability Trade Councils whenever trades exceed delegated cost/schedule/performance thresholds; unresolved items elevate to the Deputies Management Action Group.[56]

Outputs.

Portfolio scorecards, capability roadmaps, trade memoranda, and data packages that substitute for the ICD/CDD/CPD sequence while still feeding Program Decision Memoranda, issue papers, and Acquisition Program Baselines.[56]

Key players.

DepSecWar, VCJCS, USD(A&S), USD(R&E), USD(C), PAEs, and functional analytics teams replace the traditional Gatekeeper/FCB/JROC staffing chain; Capability Trade Councils provide the audit trail for requirement changes.[56]

Integration with PPBE and the DAS.

The strategy instructs USD(C) and USD(A&S) to budget and execute at the portfolio level, letting PAEs move resources inside those controls while simultaneously updating APBs and milestone documentation when trades occur.[56]

Differences from JCIDS.

WAS relies on live data and executive accountability instead of protracted document staffing, collapses requirements/resourcing/acquisition touchpoints, and uses Capability Trade Councils in lieu of formal Configuration Steering Boards.[56]

Legislative status.

The strategy is policy guidance pending FY 2026 NDAA language; during FY 2025 the Department is executing pilot portfolios (munitions industrial base, Project Overmatch) under DepSecWar memoranda while still producing any JCIDS artifacts explicitly mandated by statute.[56]

5.1.10 Current Events: SECWAR Acquisition Transformation Strategy

SECWAR’s 10 Nov 2025 Acquisition Transformation Strategy directs the Warfighting Acquisition System to eliminate legacy JCIDS bureaucracy, convert Configuration Steering Boards into CTCs, and empower PAEs to make requirements trades inside

cost/schedule thresholds [56]. The memo explicitly calls for JCIDS elimination and streamlining of DAS reviews, meaning Navy teams must plan for near-term transition periods where PAEs convene CTCs to validate trades in lieu of traditional Joint Staff staffing, while DAS documentation is simultaneously pushed to lower approval levels [56]. Expect joint governance updates (Gatekeeper rules, FCB charters) and plan to capture trade rationales in Decision Memoranda so that future auditors can trace how requirements changes affected APBs.

5.2 Test & Evaluation

- Refs:**
- [11] “DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14—R, Volume 3” Jul. 1, 2025.
 - [25] *DoDI 5000.85*, Aug. 6, 2020.
 - [43] *DoDI 5000.02*, Aug. 31, 2022.
 - [44] *DoD Acquisition Guidebook*.
 - [46] *DoDI 5000.89*, Nov. 4, 2020.
 - [47] *10 U.S.C. § 2366: Live Fire Test and Evaluation requirements*, 2025.
 - [65] “3.5.5. Test and Evaluation Part I” Mar. 26, 2025.
 - [66] *10 U.S.C. § 139: Director of Operational Test and Evaluation*, 2025.
 - [67] *10 U.S.C. § 2399: Operational Test and Evaluation of defense acquisition programs*, 2025.
 - [68] “3.5.6. Test and Evaluation Part II” Mar. 26, 2025.

5.2.1 Board Prep Summary

Test and Evaluation (T&E) provides the objective evidence that a system can achieve the warfighter outcomes promised in requirements documents before obligating the fleet to fielding, sustainment, and congressional reporting commitments [25, 65]. A test is the controlled activity (lab, range, digital thread, fleet event) that produces data, while an evaluation is the analytic judgment that compares that data to thresholds, suitability expectations, and risk acceptance criteria [65]. Effective T&E integrates developmental, operational, and live-fire evidence so that each MCA milestone is backed by verified design data and validated mission performance insights rather than optimistic modeling alone [46]. Programs that synchronize T&E with systems engineering and program control expose performance gaps early, recycle fixes through the technical baselines, and enter OTRR with a defendable TEMP, resource plan, and deficiency scrub.

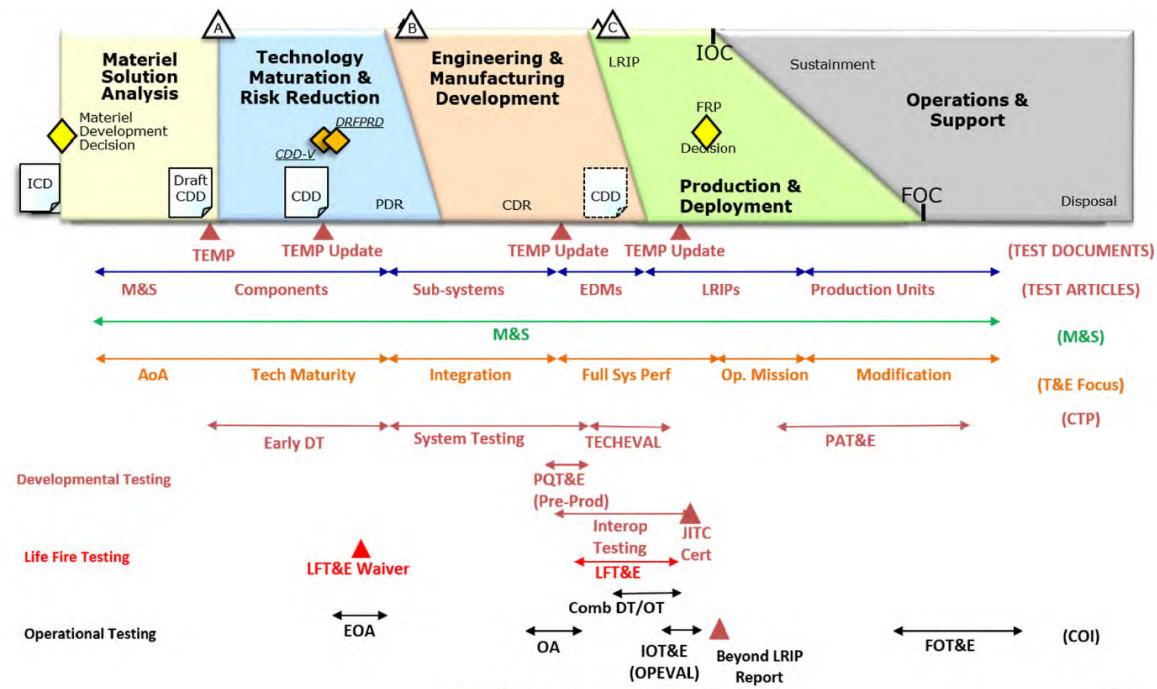


Figure 5.4. Key MCA test and evaluation touchpoints that frame DT, OT, and certification decisions. Source: 3.5.5. Test and Evaluation Part I, 2025 [65].

5.2.2 Definition and Relationship to Verification and Validation

Developmental Test and Evaluation (DT&E) verifies “did we build the system right” by showing the technical baseline meets allocated requirements, standards, and interface controls, while Operational Test and Evaluation (OT&E) validates “did we build the right capability” by proving Sailors and Marines can accomplish missions under representative threat, environment, and sustainment conditions [43]. Verification relies on repeatable measurements (e.g., propulsion plant efficiency in a land-based engineering site) and feeds configuration control; validation uses operational scenarios, tactics, and logistics supportability to demonstrate mission effectiveness and suitability. DoDI 5000.88 further directs programs to execute frequent, iterative end-user validation of features and usability so mission thread owners can accept the delivered capability before major decisions [DoDI5000-88]. Verification and Validation (V&V) and Verification, Validation, and Accreditation (VV&A) activities must be planned in the TEMP and SEP so that models, simulations, hardware-in-the-loop facilities, and live events share common data assumptions and confidence levels before milestone reviews [46]. *Verification* therefore proves compliance with the documented specification (analysis, inspection, test, demonstration), whereas *validation* proves the warfighter accepts the delivered capability and can close the mission threads; both sides of the V&V matrix must be satisfied before the MDA can certify readiness for production or fleet release.[46]

5.2.3 Statutory Requirements and Key Roles

10 U.S.C. § 139. Establishes the DOT&E as an independent advisor to SECDEF and Congress; DOT&E approves operational test plans, monitors execution, and must issue a public report for covered programs [66].

10 U.S.C. § 2399. Prohibits a program from proceeding beyond LRIP or requesting Full-Rate Production approval until DOT&E and the lead Operational Test Agency submit their independent reports to Congress [67].

10 U.S.C. § 2366. Requires Live Fire Test and Evaluation (LFT&E) or an approved waiver for covered systems (personnel, platform, and munitions lethality/survivability) before beyond-LRIP decisions; it also directs reporting of vulnerability/lethality findings to defense committees [47].

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Test and Evaluation (DASD(T&E)). Serves as the OSD focal point for test resources, designates Chief Developmental Testers (CDTs) for ACAT I programs, charters Lead Developmental Test and Evaluation Organizations (LDTOs), and co-chairs Defense-level T&E Working Integrated Product Teams [46].

CDT and LDTO. The CDT orchestrates the integrated test schedule, data requirements, and deficiency resolution cadence, while the LDTO (often a warfare center or system command test directorate) furnishes instrumentation, modeling, and range execution authority for DT&E [46].

Operational Test Agencies. COMOPTEVFOR, AFOTEC, ATEC, and MCOTEA plan and execute OT&E events, provide fleet-representative crews, and deliver suitability/effectiveness findings that enter the Milestone Decision Authority (Missile Defense Agency (MDA)) record [68].

TODO: Insert DoD-wide test and evaluation organization graphic (OSD DOT&E, DASD(T&E), Service OTAs, warfare centers).

Figure 5.5. Notional DoD test and evaluation governance chain.

5.2.4 Developmental Test Activities

Component and qualification testing. Bench, lab, and land-based engineering site events that verify materials, software builds, cyber hardening, interoperability, and safety factors before integration; data feeds configuration audits and reliability growth curves [65].

Subsystem and integration testing. Hardware-in-the-loop, systems integration labs, and shore-based platform integration tests that expose interface defects and mission thread timing issues before at-sea trials [65].

System-level DT&E. Full-up prototypes or first-of-class hulls execute combined developmental/operational scenarios, cybersecurity assessments, and logistics demonstrations to validate readiness for TRR and Technical Evaluation (TECHEVAL) [25].

Reliability growth and maintainability demonstrations. Planned stress events and failure-mode tracking prove that Mean Time Between Operational Mission Failure (MTBOMF) and corrective maintenance timelines align with sustainment strategies before Operational Test Readiness [46].

Certification testing. Airworthiness, safety, information assurance, weapon certification, and electromagnetic environmental effects tests that deliver statutory certifications needed for fielding [65].

Note

Edge case: Software pathway efforts may collapse TECHEVAL/Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL) into continuous DevSecOps assessments, but the program must still show how combined testing and user evaluations satisfy Title 10 adequacy requirements before fielding [43].

5.2.5 Live Fire Test and Evaluation

When required.

Title 10 demands LFT&E for every new or significantly upgraded crew-occupied platform, combat vehicle, major munitions program, or missile defense component that will face threat lethality; full-up system-level shots must be realistically stressed prior to requesting Full-Rate Production approval.[46, 47]

When waived.

Only the Secretary of Defense can waive full-up LFT&E when the system is unmanned, when destructive testing would be unreasonably expensive or impractical, or when alternative testing (component shots, validated modeling, allied data) provides equivalent insights; Congress must be notified of the rationale and the alternative plan.[46, 47]

Execution and use.

Programs plan vulnerability and lethality events in the TEMP, employ full-up articles plus critical subsystems and surrogates, and collect battle damage, crew survivability, and cascading-effect data to inform design hardening, tactics, and survivability equipment upgrades; the results become an annex to the DOT&E report before the FRPDR.[25, 46]

5.2.6 Operational Test Phases

Early Operational Assessment (EOA). A qualitative review, often using simulations or limited field events, that informs CDD refinement and acquisition strategy decisions before Milestone B [68].

Operational Assessment (OA). Focused operational events (sometimes embedded in Fleet Battle Problems or Fleet Exercises) that characterize mission effectiveness, training load, and logistics demands prior to LRIP or dedicated IOT&E [68].

Initial Operational Test and Readiness Evaluation (IOT&RE). Navy programs often combine IOT&E and Readiness Evaluation to prove both mission performance and Fleet introduction readiness; Title 10 requires that the IOT&E portion be adequate, realistic, and reported to Congress before FRP [67].

Follow-on Operational Test and Evaluation (FOT&E). Conducted after FRP or major configuration changes to verify corrective actions, CPD thresholds, cybersecurity resilience, and software drops prior to wide deployment [46].

5.2.7 Fundamental Test and Evaluation Terms

Critical Operational Issue (COI). The mission-outcome questions (“Can the ship defend itself against a raid?”) that structure OT&E plans and reports [68].

Measure of Effectiveness (MOE) & Measure of Suitability (MOS). Measures of Effectiveness and Suitability quantify warfighting value (probability of raid annihilation) and fleet readiness attributes (reliability, maintainability, training burden) tied to COIs [68].

Measure of Performance (MOP). Measures of Performance (e.g., radar detection range) show lower-level technical behaviors that roll up to MOEs/MOS [65].

Deficiency categories. Category I deficiencies are mission-critical failures that could cause death, severe injury, or major mission loss; Category II items are significant but less critical issues requiring tracking and correction [68].

Combined testing. Planned events that collect developmental and operational data simultaneously to save schedule and align datasets for evaluation teams [43].

5.2.8 Critical Technical Parameters and Technical Performance Measures

Critical Technical Parameters (CTPs) are the small subset of design attributes that must be controlled to assure a KKPP or KSA remains achievable; they are derived from the ICD/CDD and baselined inside the APB [25]. Each CTP maps to one or more Technical Performance Measures (TPMs) that engineers track continuously using lab data, digital models, or DT&E results; TPMs trends highlight when technical debt threatens TEMP and SEP assumptions so leadership can adjust scope, schedule, or funding. Programs are expected to show a clean trace from COI → KPP/KSA → CTP → TPM → planned test points in the TEMP, ensuring every test objective underwrites an operational outcome and every requirement has an observable verification method [46, 65].

5.2.9 Test and Evaluation Master Plan

The TEMP captures the integrated T&E strategy, schedule, resources, and data management approach across the lifecycle; it harmonizes the SEP, LCSP, and APB so that every milestone package shows how risk will be retired [44]. Part I summarizes program context and key performance requirements, Part II defines the integrated test program (DT, OT, certification, modeling, and analysis), Part III outlines resource needs (ranges, threat surrogates, workforce, instrumentation), and annexes address data rights, stats, and cyber accreditation [46]. ACAT ID TEMPs require DOT&E approval; other TEMPs are approved by the Component Acquisition Executive. Updates are mandatory when requirements change, critical deficiencies emerge, or significant schedule/funding revisions alter test sequencing [25].

5.2.10 Modeling and Simulation

Modeling and simulation provide the only practical way to explore the mission design space before hardware exists, rehearse high-risk scenarios (e.g., hypersonic raid defense), and extend sparse live-test data across the operational envelope [65]. Programs must document model purpose, pedigree, uncertainty, and VV&A status in the TEMP; accredited models can bound live-test needs, size instrumentation, and support decision-quality evaluations when safety, cost, or treaties limit destructive testing [46]. Mission engineering digital threads (system-of-systems simulations, campaign models) allow combined DT/OT teams to choreograph events, align data management plans, and feed statistical confidence calculations before and after live events.

5.2.11 Navy Overlays and Integration

OPNAVINST 3960-series policy (captured in the coursebook) requires Navy programs to plan TECHEVAL (led by the engineering agent) before OPEVAL, to obtain OPNAV N94/N9 concurrence on test objectives that bear on Fleet introduction risk, and to route OTRR packages through COMOPTEVFOR for certification that logistics, training, and safety enablers are in place [68]. First-of-class ships also execute Builder's and Acceptance Trials, INSURV events, and dedicated combat system Ship Qualification Trials that integrate with TECHEVAL/OPEVAL data packages. Navy COTF retains authority to recommend restricted Fleet release if Cat I deficiencies remain; those actions feed the Key Roles appendix update for DASD(T&E), CDT, and COTF responsibilities.

5.2.12 Fiscal and PPBE Touchpoints

RDT&E appropriations fund most DT&E events, test articles, range time, and contractor support, while procurement colors such as SCN or Weapons Procurement, Navy buy dedicated OT assets when production-representative hardware is required for statutory adequacy [11, 65]. Operations and Maintenance funds cover Fleet participation, temporary duty, and sustainment of government test ranges. Because OT adequacy is a precondition for FRP and sustainment decisions, Program Objective Memorandum issue papers must protect test range modernization, threat-representative targets, and Modeling & Simulation accreditation costs or risk a PPBE disconnect when COMOPTEVFOR identifies unfunded test objectives.

5.2.13 Assumptions and Uncertainties

- Coursebook Modules 3.5.5 and 3.5.6 (March 2025 editions) remain the latest DON-specific T&E references.
 - COMOPTEVFOR manual updates post-2024 were not available offline; Navy-specific terminology (e.g., OPEVAL taxonomy) is based on coursebook guidance.
 - Upcoming NDAA changes to Title 10 T&E statutes have not been incorporated pending official publication.
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Appendices

A Platinum Card

The *Platinum Card* is a primary study tool that will have most of the information required for your boards. Sources: EDO Coursebook Modules 3.1.1, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, and 3.1.6. Be able to draw and talk through Figures A.1–A.9.

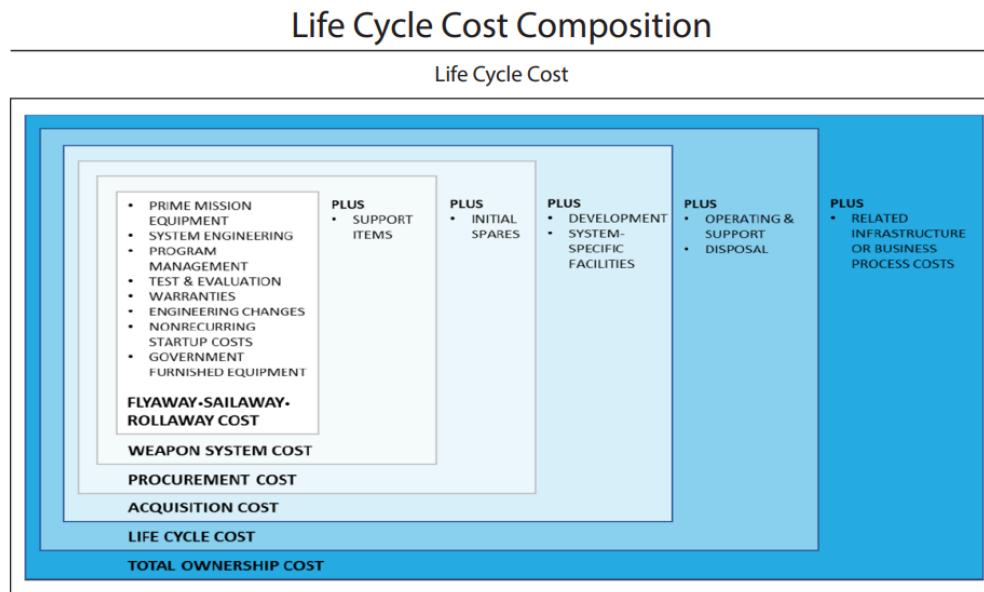


Figure A.1. Platinum Card: Life Cycle Cost Composition

| Cost Estimating Requirements | |
|---|--|
| ACAT IB, IC & ID (MDAP) | |
| POE | Program initiation & all subsequent milestones, including FRP DR |
| CARD | MS A & all subsequent milestones including FRP DR - Draft 180 days prior to OIPT/milestone - Final 45 days prior to OIPT/milestone |
| CCE | MS A and all subsequent milestones including FRP DR |
| ICE | Required by law for all MDAP programs * - Prepared by OSD CAPE for ACAT ID, and ACAT IC at discretion of USD(A&S) - Prepared by component cost agency (AFCAA, DASA-CE, NCCA) for ACAT IC and ACAT IB (if no CAPE estimate) - In advance of any certification under Title 10, USC, Section 2366a (MS A) and Section 2366b (MS B) - In advance of any decision to enter low-rate initial production (LRIP) (MS C) or full-rate production (FRP DR) - In advance of any certification of MDAPs that experience critical cost growth (Title 10, USC, Sec 2433a) |
| *ICE statutory requirement (Title 10, US Code, Section 2434) and PL. 111-23, May 22, 2009 Source: DoDI 5000.02 January 7, 2015, Incorporating Change 3, August 10, 2017 and Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 | |
| ACAT II & ACAT III: POE (and, at MDA discretion, an independent cost estimate prepared by the component cost agency) at program initiation and all subsequent milestones | |
| <p>AFCAA = Air Force Cost Analysis Agency DASA-CE = Deputy Assistant Secretary of Army (Cost & Economics) NCCA = Naval Center for Cost Analysis ACAT = Acquisition Category FRP DR = Full Rate Production Decision Review OIPT = Overarching Integrated Product Team CAPE = Cost Assessment & Program Evaluation ICE = Independent Cost Estimate POE = Program Office Estimate CARD = Cost Analysis Requirements Description MDA = Milestone Decision Authority USD(A&S) = Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) CCE = Component Cost Estimate MDAP = Major Defense Acquisition Program</p> | |

Figure A.2. Platinum Card: Cost Estimating Requirements

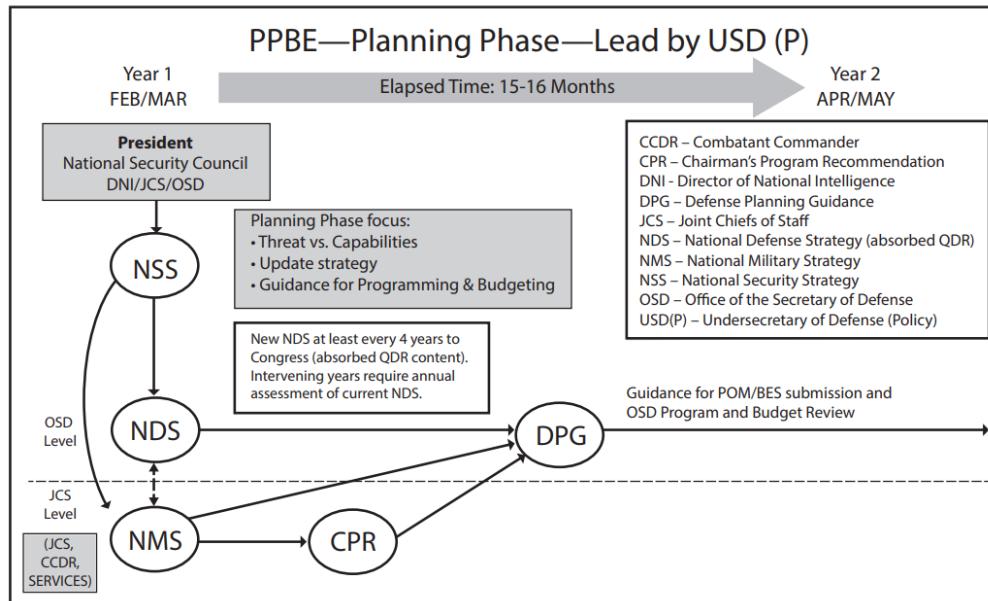


Figure A.3. Platinum Card: PPBE Planning Phase (Lead by USD (P))

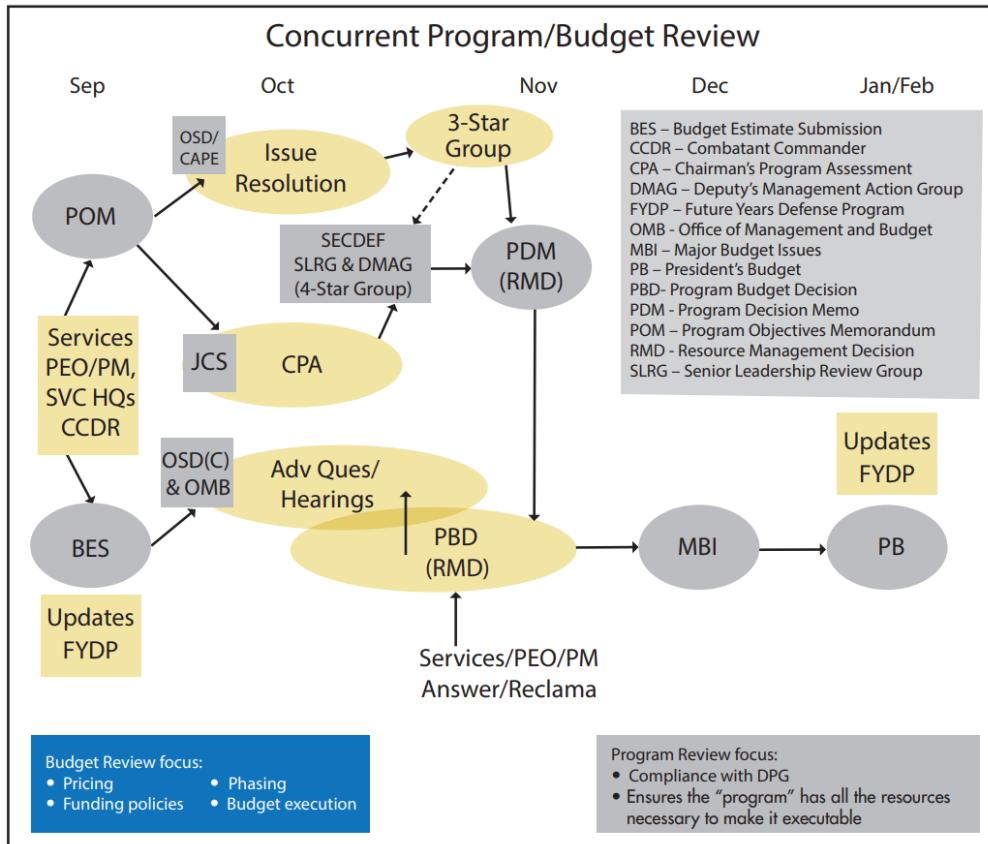


Figure A.4. Platinum Card: Concurrent Program/Budget Review

| <h1>Below Threshold Reprogramming</h1> | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Amounts are cumulative over Entire Period of Obligation Availability | | | | |
| APRN | MAX INTO | MAX OUT | LEVEL OF CONTROL | OBL AVAIL |
| RDT&E | Lesser of +\$15M or + 20% | Lesser of - \$15M or - 20% | Program Element | 2 Years |
| PROC | Lesser of + 15 M or + 20% | Lesser of - \$15M or - 20% | Line Item | 3 years SCN: 5 Years |
| O&M | + \$15M | - \$15M | Budget Activity (or Defense Agency) Some Sub-Activity Limitations on Decreases (see reference below) | 1 Year |
| MILPERS | + \$15M | - \$15M | Budget Activity | 1 Year |
| MILCON | Lesser of +\$2M or + 25% | No Specific Congressional Restriction | Project | 5 Years |

Reference Sources: DoDFMR 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 6 (Sept 2015) and Chapter 7 (Mar 2011) Joint Explanatory Statement of Congress Making Appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2024

Figure A.5. Platinum Card: Below Threshold Reprogramming

| <h1>Resource Allocation Process</h1> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|------|--|---|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------|----|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------|------------------------------|---|---|--|---|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 2023 | | | 2024 | | | 2025 | | | 2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | D | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | | | | | | | | | |
| FY22-26 Cycle | Execute 2nd Year RDT&E, Procurement and MILCON | | | | Execute 3rd Year Procurement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FY23-27 Cycle | Execute 1st Year All Appropriations | | | | Execute 2nd Year RDT&E, Procurement and MILCON | | | | Execute 3rd Year Procurement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FY24-28 Cycle | Enactment | | | PB | | | Enactment | | | Appropriation | | | | Execute 2nd Year RDT&E, Procurement and MILCON | | | | Execute 3rd Year Procurement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FY25-29 Cycle | Planning | | Programming/Budgeting DPG | | Enactment | | PB | | Enactment | | PB | | Execute 1st Year All Appropriations | | | | Appropriation | | | | Execute 2nd Year RDT&E, Procurement and MILCON | | Execute 3rd Year | | | | | | | | | |
| FY26-30 Cycle | Planning | | | | | | Programming/Budgeting DPG | | | | | | Enactment | | | | PB | | | | Execute 1st Year All Appropriations | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FY27-31 Cycle | | | | | | | | | | | | | Planning | | | | Enactment | | | | Programming/Budgeting DPG | | | | | | | | | | | |

Figure A.6. Platinum Card: Resource Allocation Process

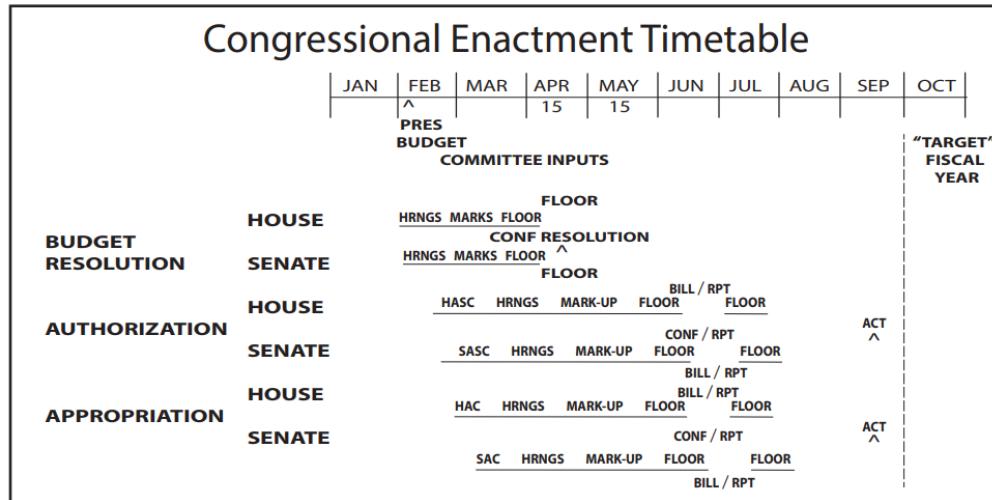


Figure A.7. Platinum Card: Congressional Enactment Timeline

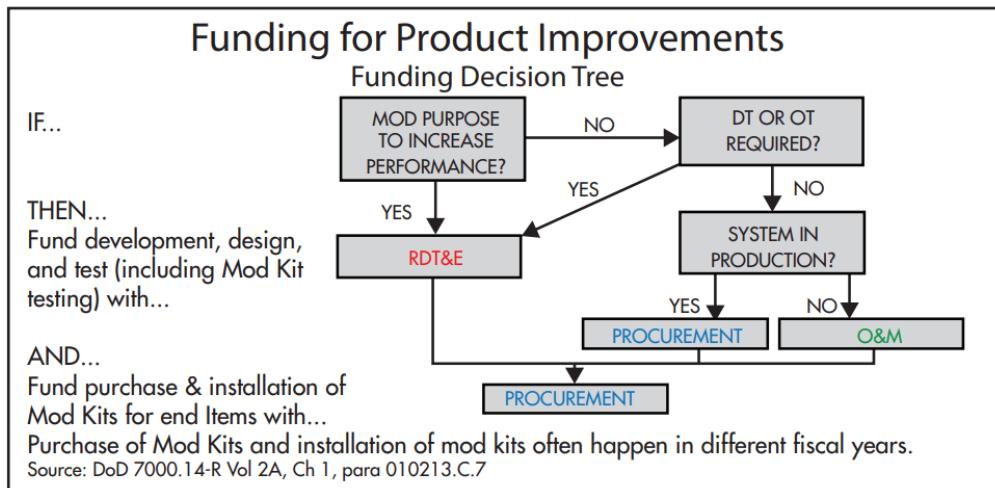


Figure A.8. Platinum Card: Funding for Product Improvements

RDT&E. Engineering changes requiring development/test.

Procurement. Production/installation of approved mods/end-items.

O&M. Minor mods/installation labor when authorized and not creating a new end-item.

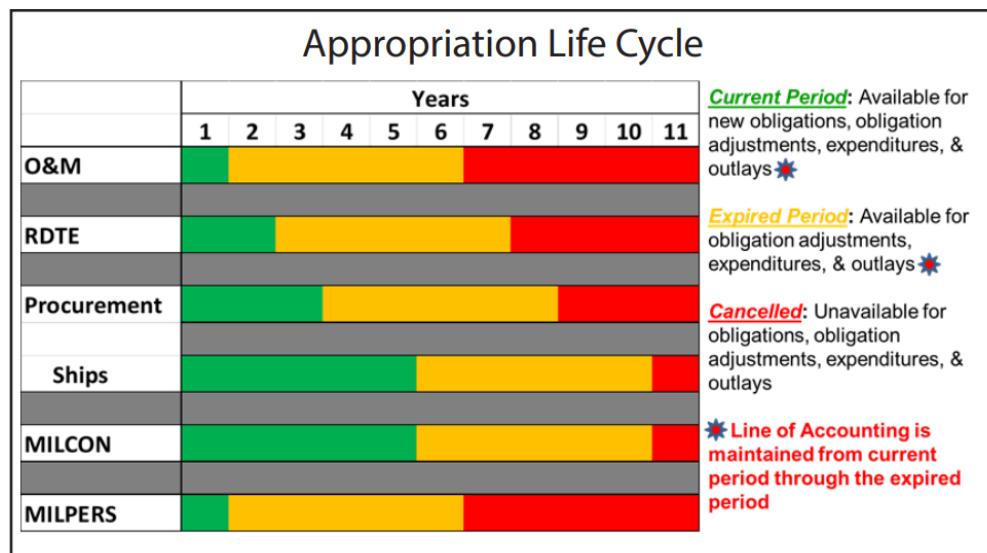


Figure A.9. Platinum Card: Appropriation Life Cycle

B Key Roles in Acquisition and Modernization

B.1 EDO Flag Officers (snapshot)

Verify names/billets the week of your board. Current as of: 13 Nov 2025.

Vice Admirals

VADM James P. Downey.

Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEA); leads the 80K-person naval shipbuilding enterprise and chairs the Navy Program Executive Council for ships and ship systems.Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

VADM Johnny R. Wolfe Jr.

Director, Strategic Systems Program (SSP), responsible for the nation's strategic weapons industrial base and Fleet ballistic missile sustainment.Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

VADM Seiko Okano.

Principal Military Deputy (PMILDEP) to ASN(RD&A); retains direct reporting program manager duties for Project Overmatch and NAVWAR's digital architecture initiatives.Source: *Commercial Tech Partnerships Drive Unprecedented Progress for Project Overmatch and Navy Capability, 2025* [57]

Rear Admirals (Upper Half)

RADM Casey J. Moton.

PEO CVN, accountable for aircraft carrier new construction and in-service nuclear availability portfolios.Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

RADM Kurt J. Rothenhaus.

Chief of Naval Research (CNR) and Commander, ONR Global, aligning S&T investments with fleet needs.Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

RADM Jonathan E. Rucker.

PEO SSN, responsible for submarines, undersea weapons, and the Columbia/Virginia Class Program Offices.Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

RADM Brian A. Metcalf.

PEO Ships, leading the surface combatant, amphibious, and auxiliary ship portfolios.Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

RADM Douglas L. Williams.

Director for Test, MDA, synchronizing joint missile defense T&E campaigns. Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

Rear Admirals (Lower Half)**RDML Peter D. Small.**

NAVSEA Chief Engineer / Commander, NSWC/NUWC, the Navy's lead technical authority for ship systems. Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

RDML Dan L. Lannamann.

CNRMC, overseeing regional maintenance centers and private-sector depot availabilities. Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

RDML Kevin R. Smith.

PEO USC, accountable for unmanned surface and small combatant shipbuilding programs. Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

RDML Dianna Wolfson.

Fleet Maintenance Officer, U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF), integrating ship maintenance execution and TYCOM readiness. Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

RDML Daniel W. Ettlich.

Director, Fleet Maintenance, U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), leading west-coast and forward-deployed maintenance readiness. Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

Reserve EDO Flags**RDML Robert J. Dodson (USNR).**

Deputy Commander, Supervision of Shipbuilding (SUPSHIP), NAVSEA, aligning reserve expertise to construction oversight. Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

RDML Michael S. Richman (USNR).

Deputy Director, Regional Strike Systems, SSP, supporting strategic weapons sustainment. Source: *3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players, 2025* [41]

B.2 Key Roles in Acquisition and Modernization

Department acquisition governance.

Sources: SECNAVINST 5400.15D; SECNAVINST 5000.2G; DoDI 5000.85.

- ASN(RD&A), the SAE and CAE for the DON, sets acquisition policy, charters PEOs / DRPMs, and adjudicates milestone decisions when delegated by the Milestone Decision Authority.
- PEOs and DRPMs hold delegated program authority, establish baselines, and are accountable for translating capability needs into executable acquisition strategies.
- SYSCOM Commanders provide the workforce, infrastructure, and TA warrants that underpin PEO execution inside the Navy matrix construct.

Joint requirements governance.

Sources: [56, 62].

- **JROC:** Validates joint capability requirements, prioritizes gaps, and issues JROCM direction that becomes binding input to Gate 2 and milestone documentation.
- **Joint Staff Gatekeeper/JCB:** Controls the KM/DS queue, assigns Joint Staffing Designators, and routes most Navy submissions for JCB-level validation to keep JROC time focused on the highest-risk issues.
- **FCBs:** Chair certification working groups (Net-Ready, Force Protection, System Survivability), monitor DOTMLPF-P implementation, and elevate Configuration Steering Board actions when requirement trades alter program baselines.
- **PAEs and CTCs:** The 2025 Acquisition Transformation Strategy empowers PAEs to convene Capability Trade Councils that record requirement/cost/schedule trades in real time so PEO teams keep the DAS synchronized with evolving demand signals.

Combatant command sponsors.

Sources: [1, 62].

- **CCDRs** own warfighting problems, sign JUONs/JEONs, and direct lead Services or agencies to prosecute capability gaps that demand rapid solutions.
- **CCMD staffs** conduct mission-thread analysis and architecture sprints with Fleets, labs, and industry to translate operational risk into measurable capability requirements before the Gatekeeper accepts a package.
- Commanders remain voting participants during validation reviews and oversee fielding to ensure delivered capability solves the theater problem that generated the requirement.

Joint Chiefs leadership.

Sources: [1, 62, 64].

- **CJCS:** Principal military adviser to the President/SECDEF, co-chairs the JROC, and leads joint concept and readiness development that frames every Capability-Based Assessment.
- **VCJCS:** Chairs the JCB, co-leads the DMAG, and arbitrates cross-Service requirement or resourcing disputes before they escalate to the Deputies or Secretary level.

OPNAV corporate leadership.

Source: [1].

- **CNO:** Serves as Service Chief, chairs the Navy corporate board, and approves Navy positions for Gate 0/1 decisions before submissions move to the Joint Staff.
- **OPNAV resource sponsors (N8, N82, N9, N91):** Translate Fleet priorities into the POM/FYDP, enforce two-pass/seven-gate rigor, and synchronize requirements, budgets, and PEO execution.

Acquisition decision authorities.

Sources: [3, 25, 42].

- **DAE / USD(A&S):** Issues acquisition policy, chairs the Defense Acquisition Board, and retains MDA for ACAT ID/IAM programs unless delegated.
- **SAE/ASN(RD&A):** Assigns Navy MDA for ACAT II and below, approves Service-tailored governance (e.g., two-pass/seven-gate), and charters PEOs/DRPMs.
- **Delegated MDA (PEO/DRPM):** Signs Acquisition Decision Memoranda, manages Configuration Steering Boards, and keeps KPP/APB trades synchronized with requirements direction and statutory certifications.

Program Authority chain.

Sources: SECNAVINST 5000.2G; DoDI 5000.85.

- **PEO/PA:** Owns program outcomes, charters PMs, approves acquisition strategies and baselines.
- **DRPM:** Direct-report program leads for special access or priority portfolios with the same milestone authority as PEOs.
- **Ship Program Manager (SPM)/PM:** Accountable for cost/schedule/performance, leads risk management, orchestrates IPTs.
- **Ship Acquisition Program Manager (SHAPM):** Delivers new hulls; coordinates design/build/activation sequencing.
- **Ship Lifecycle Manager (SLM):** Drives sustainment and modernization packages for in-service assets.
- **Participating Acquisition Resource Manager (PARM)/Ship Project Director (SPD):** Sponsors platform-level upgrades and alteration packages.

Technical Authority chain.

Source: SECNAVINST 5400.15D.

- **UTA / Chief Engineer:** Issues enterprise technical policy, owns warrants.
- **TWHs:** Certifies design compliance, adjudicates departures/concurrence packages.

- **Engineering Agents (ISEA, DA, AEA, SIA, TDA):** Execute lifecycle engineering; provide in-service engineering decisions under delegated authority.

Operational test oversight.

Sources: [25, 44].

- **DOT&E:** Independent OSD authority that concurs on TEMPs, monitors operational test realism, and reports suitability/effectiveness outcomes to Congress.
- **Service Operational Test Agencies.** COMOPTEVFOR (COTF), AFOTEC, ATEC, and MCOTEA plan and execute IOT&E/FOT&E, render the OTRR recommendation, and provide Service suitability findings to the MDA.

Developmental test governance.

Sources: [46].

- **DASD(T&E):** Designates Chief Developmental Testers and Lead Developmental Test and Evaluation Organizations for ACAT I programs, adjudicates test resource shortfalls, and co-chairs the Defense T&E WIPT.
- **CDT:** Synchronizes the integrated test schedule, deficiency management cadence, and readiness evidence required for each TRR/milestone.
- **LDTO:** Provides instrumentation, modeling & simulation accreditation, range execution, and authoritative data packages for developmental tests.

Live-fire statutory leads.

Sources: [46, 47].

- **DOT&E Live Fire Test Director:** Approves plans, monitors execution realism, and delivers the statutory lethality/vulnerability report to Congress.
- **Program Manager/Chief Engineer:** Funds threat-representative articles, integrates survivability design fixes, and aligns LFT&E data with the Acquisition Program Baseline and sustainment plans.
- **Service Safety Centers and Warfare Centers:** Provide casualty data, threat surrogates, and post-test forensic analysis that feed both live-fire reports and Fleet tactics updates.

NAVSEA headquarters roles.

Source: EDO Coursebook Module 2.1.2 (NAVSEA Organization, 2025 edition).

- **SEA 01 Comptroller:** BSO lead for NAVSEA financial governance and funds control.
- **SEA 02 Contracts:** Enterprise contracting authority, policy, and warrant management.
- **SEA 03 Cyber Engineering and Digital:** Drives cyber resiliency, digital engineering, and data transformation initiatives.

- **SEA 04 Industrial Operations:** Oversees public shipyards, maintenance execution, and quality assurance.
- **SEA 05 Chief Engineer:** Chief TA; issues warrants, certifies designs, and maintains technical standards.
- **SEA 06 Sustainment:** Manages product support strategies and lifecycle logistics integration.
- **SEA 07 Undersea Warfare:** Dual-hatted as PEO UWS; oversees undersea combat systems sustainment.
- **SEA 08 Nuclear Propulsion:** Three-hatted nuclear propulsion authority across DON and Department of Energy (DOE) roles.
- **SEA 09 Safety and Regulatory Compliance:** Aligns enterprise safety governance and reporting.
- **SEA 10 Total Force and Corporate Ops:** Manages workforce planning, corporate services, and governance.
- **SEA 21 In-Service Ships/CNRMIC:** Leads surface-ship sustainment and modernization (PMS 321/326/339/421/443/451, SEA 21I, SURFMEPP).

NAVMAR enterprise directorates.

Source: EDO Coursebook Module 2.1.3 (NAVMAR Enterprise, 2024 edition).

- **Code 1.0 Comptroller:** Budget formulation/execution, BSO duties, and funds certification.
- **2.0 Contracts:** Contracting policy, strategy reviews, and award/administration oversight.
- **3.0 Counsel:** Acquisition law, ethics, protests, and claim resolution.
- **4.0 Logistics and Fleet Support:** Lifecycle logistics, technical data, and fleet distance support integration.
- **5.0 Chief Engineer/TA:** Enterprise architectures, interoperability, and cyber certification authority.
- **6.0 Program Management:** Portfolio governance, milestone preparation, and PEO integration.
- **7.0 Science and Technology:** S&T portfolio management, prototyping, and technology transition.
- **8.0 Corporate Operations:** Workforce, Chief Information Officer (CIO) services, facilities, security, and public affairs.
- **FRD-100 Fleet Support:** Deployed engineering assistance and sustainment response.
- **FRD-200 Installations:** Shore/afloat C4I installation planning and cutover execution.

Program Executive Offices (Navy portfolios).

Sources: SECNAVINST 5400.15D; EDO Coursebook Modules 2.1.4 and 3.1.5.

- **PEO CVN:** Designs, builds, and sustains nuclear-powered aircraft carriers (e.g., PMS 312/378/379).
- **PEO IWS:** Develops and sustains ship/submarine combat systems; mission-aligned IWS directorates cover sensors, weapons, C2, and allied integration.

- **PEO Ships:** Oversees surface combatant and amphibious ship construction and modernization.
- **PEO USC:** Leads LCS, FFG 62, expeditionary, and unmanned surface/undersea portfolios.
- **Team Submarines (PEO SSN, PEO SSBN, Program Executive Office, Columbia-Class Submarines (PEO Columbia), PEO UWS):** Manages attack/strategic submarine acquisition, in-service support, and undersea combat systems.
- **PEO C4I:** Delivers fleet C4I; PMW 1XX focus on capability development, PMW 7XX on platform integration.
- **PEO Digital:** Provides enterprise digital services (e.g., Flank Speed) across the DON.
- **PEO MLB:** Modernizes manpower, logistics, and business IT systems.

Contracting authority (KO family).

Sources: FAR; DFARS; NMCARS; EDO Coursebook Module 3.2.1.

- **PCO:** Plans the acquisition, synchs with PMs before solicitation, awards and signs contracts/mods.
- **ACO:** Oversees post-award performance, surveillance, and payment/contract administration (often DCMA / NAVSEA field activities).
- **TCO:** Leads partial/full terminations, settlement negotiations, and equitable adjustments.
- **KO warrant:** Defines the dollar/authority limits; only the warranted KO can bind or obligate the Government.
- **Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) / assistant PM / engineering support:** Provide technical surveillance and acceptance recommendations; cannot direct work or obligate funds (FAR Parts 1 and 42).
- **HCA:** Approves actions such as letter contracts and high-value single-award IDIQs; may delegate no lower than flag/Senior Executive levels within the DON per FAR 1.601 and DFARS/NMCARS supplements.
- **SAE (ASN(RD&A)):** Signs D&Fs for multiyear contracting, extraordinary relief, and other actions reserved to the Service Acquisition Executive under FAR Subparts 1.7 and 17.1.

Program Manager / KO partnership.

Sources: DoDI 5000.85; EDO Coursebook Module 3.2.1.

- PM integrates warfighter need, technical baseline, and budget; KO ensures statutory/regulatory compliance and contract enforceability.
- Both align on acquisition strategy, competition approach (Competition in Contracting Act (CICA)), incentives, and change management before RFP release or modification execution.

Source selection governance.

Sources: FAR Parts 1, 5, and 15; NAVSEA Source Selection Guide (2022); EDO Coursebook Module 3.2.2.

- **SSA:** Senior official who approves the Source Selection Plan, receives SSAC/SSEB recommendations, and signs the best-value decision memorandum.
- **SSAC:** Advisory council that synthesizes SSEB findings, compares proposals across factors, and briefs the SSA on trade-offs.
- **SSEB:** Multi-disciplinary evaluators (technical, management, past performance, cost/price) who rate proposals against Section M factors.
- **Small Business Professional / Competition Advocate:** Confirms set-aside decisions, reviews subcontracting plans, and endorses synopsis waivers.
- **Cost/Price Analyst & Legal Counsel:** Validate reasonableness determinations, alignment of Sections L/M, and clause sufficiency before release.
- **Award Fee Determining Official & Award Fee Board:** Plans award-fee periods, chairs performance reviews, and signs the determination memo authorizing or withholding fee payments (FAR Part 16; NAVSEA Source Selection Guide).

Fiscal control & certification.

Source: DoD FMR 7000.14-R Volume 3.

- **Funds Certifying Official/Comptroller:** Verifies purpose/time/amount before obligation; Anti-Deficiency Act (ADA) safeguard.
- **Program/Budget Analyst:** Tracks execution, monitors reprogramming thresholds, prepares obligation/expenditure burn-down.
- **Resource allocation chain:** OUSD(C) apportions to the Navy; OPNAV (N82/FMB) allocates to BSOs; SYSCOM comptrollers (e.g., SEA 01) issue suballocations to executing activities.

PPBE resource sponsors.

Source: EDO Coursebook Module 3.1.1 (PPBE, 2025 edition).

- **CAPE:** Provides independent cost assessments and program evaluation across the Department.
- **N8:** Builds the Navy POM, balancing capability and fiscal constraints across the FYDP.
- **N9:** Integrates warfare requirements and advocates mission-area investments.
- **N91:** Conducts cross-domain mission integration and orchestrates POM issue resolution.

Congressional resource chain.

Source: EDO Coursebook Module 3.1.2 (Congressional Enactment, 2025 edition).

- **HASC / SASC:** Authorize defense programs and policy in the annual NDAA.

- **HAC / SAC:** Produce appropriations bills that provide BA to execute Navy programs.
- **HBC / SBC:** Set topline guidance and 302 allocations through the budget resolution process.
- **CBO, CRS, GAO:** Supply independent scoring, research, and oversight that shape committee deliberations.

Cyber/Authorizations (when IT/C2 in scope).

Source: SECNAVINST 5000.2G.

- **Authorizing Official (AO):** Grants Authority to Operate; enforces Risk Management Framework (RMF) controls that drive design and integration requirements.

B.3 Combatant Commands (Reference)

AOR: The geographic (or astrographic) area assigned to a CCDR for missions and forces. (Title 10)

Geographic (7):

- USAFRICOM
- USCENTCOM
- USEUCOM
- USINDOPACOM
- USNORTHCOM
- USSOUTHCOM
- USSPACECOM¹

Functional (4):

- USSOCOM
- USSTRATCOM
- USTRANSCOM
- USCYBERCOM

¹USSPACECOM is treated by DoD as a **geographic (astrographic)** command with an AOR beginning at the Kármán line (~100 km)

B.4 Current Events Relevant to EDOs and Acquisition

- Refs:
- [1] “2.1.1. Command Structures” Mar. 11, 2025.
 - [3] SECNAVINST 5000.2G, Apr. 8, 2022.
 - [25] DoDI 5000.85, Aug. 6, 2020.
 - [41] “3.3.1. Acquisition Policy and Players” Mar. 26, 2025.
 - [42] DoDD 5000.01, Sep. 9, 2020.
 - [44] DoD Acquisition Guidebook.
 - [46] DoDI 5000.89, Nov. 4, 2020.
 - [47] 10 U.S.C. § 2366: *Live Fire Test and Evaluation requirements*, 2025.
 - [56] “Acquisition Transformation Strategy” Nov. 10, 2025.
 - [57] “Commercial Tech Partnerships Drive Unprecedented Progress for Project Overmatch and Navy Capability” Jun. 18, 2025.
 - [58] “Project Overmatch Achieves Historic Milestone with Five Eyes Agreement.” Feb. 21, 2025.
 - [59] “NAVMAR’s New Commander: Rear Adm. Okano Takes Charge as Rear Adm. Small Retires After Distinguished Service” Aug. 9, 2024.
 - [62] *Manual for the Operation of the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System*, Oct. 30, 2021.
 - [64] 10 U.S.C. § 181: *Joint Requirements Oversight Council authorities and procedures*, 2023.

B.4.1 Project Overmatch and Digital Modernization

Five Eyes Project Arrangement.

On 21 Feb 2025 the Project Overmatch team signed a formal Project Arrangement with Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, enabling Cooperative Project Personnel to embed in San Diego and co-develop networked kill chain tools for Distributed Maritime Operations.[58]

Open DAGIR pilot.

By 18 Jun 2025 Project Overmatch, NAVWAR, the Chief Digital and AI Office, and DIU were onboarding commercial AI/ML applications through the Open DAGIR pipeline so Fleet commanders could visualize readiness data (“Maven Smart Systems”) across the hybrid fleet in weeks instead of years.[57]

Leadership signal.

VADM Seiko Okano continues to serve as the direct reporting program manager for Overmatch even as she moves into the PMILDEP billet, ensuring the digital architecture remains tied to Program Decision Meetings and portfolio trades.[3, 57]

B.4.2 EDO Community Updates

NAVMAR change of command.

Rear Adm. (now VADM) Seiko Okano relieved Rear Adm. Doug Small on 9 Aug 2024, assuming command of NAVWAR and direct oversight of Project Overmatch; she emphasized information warfare dominance and continued alliance engagement with industry and academia.[59]

Role of the PMILDEP.

As PMILDEP to ASN(RD&A), Okano now chairs Program Decision Meetings when delegated and synchronizes PAEs and SYSCOM technical authority, a critical linkage as Capability Trade Councils and portfolio scorecards begin replacing JCIDS artifacts.[3, 56]

Tycom maintenance focus.

USFF and PACFLT maintenance flag officers continue to drive execution of regional maintenance center reforms and the Naval Sustainment System–Shipyards initiatives highlighted in the 2025 coursebook; these billets remain key board discussion topics because they link EDO leadership to depot performance.[41]

B.4.3 Acquisition Policy and Industrial Base Highlights

Warfighting Acquisition System (WAS).

The Acquisition Transformation Strategy replaces JCIDS with Capability Portfolio Management and Capability Trade Councils, empowering PAEs to adjudicate cost/schedule/performance trades in real time and document decisions in portfolio scorecards.[56]

Industrial base actions.

SECWAR directed the Department to expand multi-year procurements, establish an Industrial Base Consortium, and reform bid protest incentives so the Munitions Acceleration Council and similar bodies can stabilize demand and attract private capital.[56]

PPBE integration.

USD(C) and USD(A&S) are piloting portfolio budgets and flexible execution authorities so PAEs can move funds inside approved controls while maintaining transparency with OMB and Congress—a major shift boards will expect candidates to explain.[56]

References

- [1] Engineering Duty Officer School, “2.1.1. Command Structures,” Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) School, Coursebook Module 2.1.1, version 5.2, Mar. 11, 2025, CIN A-4N-0021/-0034; coursebook PDF provided by author.
- [2] SECNAVINST 5400.15D, *Department of the Navy Research, Development and Acquisition—Organizational Relationships and Responsibilities*, SECNAVINST 5400.15D, Instruction, Department of the Navy, Jan. 19, 2021. Accessed: 2025-09-29. [Online]. Available: <https://www.secnav.navy.mil/doni/SECNAVIInstructions/05000-05999/5400.15D.pdf>
- [3] SECNAVINST 5000.2G, *Defense Acquisition System and JCIDS Implementation in the Department of the Navy*, SECNAVINST 5000.2G, Instruction, Department of the Navy, Apr. 8, 2022. Accessed: 2025-09-29. [Online]. Available: <https://www.secnav.navy.mil/doni/SECNAVIInstructions/05000-05999/5000.2G.pdf>
- [4] Engineering Duty Officer School, “2.1.5. Technical Authority and Engineering Agents,” Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) School, Coursebook Module 2.1.5, version 5.4, Apr. 11, 2025, CIN A-4N-0021/-0034.
- [5] Engineering Duty Officer School, “2.1.4. Naval Warfare Centers,” Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) School, Coursebook Module 2.1.4, version 5.0, Dec. 18, 2024, CIN A-4N-0021/-0034.
- [6] NAVSEA. “Warefare centers,” Accessed: 2025-10-29. [Online]. Available: <https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Home/Warefare-Centers/>
- [7] Engineering Duty Officer School, “2.1.3. NAVWAR Enterprise,” Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) School, Coursebook Module 2.1.3, version 5.0, Dec. 17, 2024, CIN A-4N-0021/-0034.
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List of Acronyms

| Acronym | Definition |
|-----------|---|
| AAF | Adaptive Acquisition Framework |
| AC | Actual Cost |
| ACAT | Acquisition Category |
| ACO | Administrative Contracting Officer |
| ACWP | Actual Cost of Work Performed |
| ADA | Anti-Deficiency Act |
| ADA | Acquisition Data and Analytics |
| ADM | Acquisition Decision Memorandum |
| AEA | Alteration Engineering Agent |
| AFOTEC | Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center |
| AO | Authorizing Official |
| AoA | Analysis of Alternatives |
| AOR | Accumulated Operating Result |
| APA | Additional Performance Attribute |
| APB | Acquisition Program Baseline |
| API | Application Programming Interface |
| APN | Aircraft Procurement, Navy |
| APUC | Average Procurement Unit Cost |
| ARC | Acquisition Research Center |
| ASN(RD&A) | Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition |
| ASR | Alternative Systems Review |
| ASW | Anti-Submarine Warfare |
| ATEC | U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command |
| AV | All Viewpoint |
| BA | Budget Authority |
| BAC | Budget at Completion |
| BB | Block Buy |
| BCA | Business Case Analysis |
| BCAC | Business Capability Acquisition Cycle |
| BCWP | Budgeted Cost of Work Performed |

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------------|---|
| BCWS | Budgeted Cost of Work Scheduled |
| BoM | Bill of Material |
| BSO | Budget Submitting Office |
| BTR | Below-Threshold Reprogramming |
| C4I | Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence |
| CAE | Component Acquisition Executive |
| CAM | Control Account Manager |
| CAPE | Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation |
| CARD | Cost Analysis Requirements Description |
| CAS | Cost Accounting Standards |
| CASREP | Casualty Report |
| CBA | Capability-Based Assessment |
| CBO | Congressional Budget Office |
| CCDR | Combatant Commander |
| CCMD | Combatant Command |
| CDD | Capabilities Development Document |
| CDD-V | Capabilities Development Document Validation |
| CDR | Critical Design Review |
| CDRL | Contract Data Requirements List |
| CDT | Chief Developmental Tester |
| CER | Cost Estimating Relationship |
| CFO | Chief Financial Officer |
| CICA | Competition in Contracting Act |
| CIO | Chief Information Officer |
| CIP | Capital Investment Program |
| CJADC2 | Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control |
| CJCS | Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff |
| CNO | Chief of Naval Operations |
| CNR | Chief of Naval Research |
| CNRMIC | Commander, Navy Regional Maintenance Center |
| COI | Critical Operational Issue |
| COMNAVSEA | Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command |
| COMOPTEVFOR | Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force |
| CONOPS | Concept of Operations |
| COR | Contracting Officer's Representative |
| COTF | Commander, Operational Test Force |
| CPAF | Cost-Plus-Award-Fee |
| CPD | Capability Production Document |

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------------|---|
| CPFF | Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee |
| CPI | Cost Performance Index |
| CPIF | Cost-Plus-Incentive-Fee |
| CPM | Capability Portfolio Management |
| CR | Continuing Resolution |
| CRS | Congressional Research Service |
| CSB | Configuration Steering Board |
| CSDR | Cost and Software Data |
| CSFR | Contract Funds Status Report |
| CTC | Cost-to-Complete |
| CTC | Capability Trade Council |
| CTP | Critical Technical Parameter |
| CV | Cost Variance |
| CV | Capability Viewpoint |
| CVN | Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier |
| D&F | Determination and Findings |
| DA | Design Agent |
| DAB | Defense Acquisition Board |
| DAE | Defense Acquisition Executive |
| DAES | Defense Acquisition Executive Summary |
| DAG | Defense Acquisition Guidebook |
| DAS | Defense Acquisition System |
| DASD(T&E) | Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Test and Evaluation |
| DASN (APB) | Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Acquisition Policy and Budget) |
| DCAA | Defense Contract Audit Agency |
| DCAPE | Director, CAPE |
| DCMA | Defense Contract Management Agency |
| DCR | DOTMLPF-P Change Recommendation |
| DevSecOps | Development, Security, and Operations |
| DFARS | Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement |
| DFAS | Defense Finance and Accounting Service |
| DMAG | Deputy's Management Action Group |
| DoDAF | Department of Defense Architecture Framework |
| DOE | Department of Energy |
| DON | Department of the Navy |
| DOT&E | Director, Operational Test and Evaluation |
| DOTMLPF-P | Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel, Facilities, and Policy |

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------------|---|
| DRFP RD | Development Request for Proposal Release Decision |
| DRPM | Direct Reporting Program Manager |
| DT | Developmental Test |
| DT&E | Developmental Test and Evaluation |
| EA | Engineering Agent |
| EAC | Estimate at Completion |
| EDO | Engineering Duty Officer |
| EMD | Engineering and Manufacturing Development |
| EOA | Early Operational Assessment |
| EOQ | Economic Order Quantity |
| ERP | Enterprise Resource Planning |
| EV | Earned Value |
| EVM | Earned Value Management |
| FAR | Federal Acquisition Regulation |
| FCB | Functional Capabilities Board |
| FDA | Food and Drug Administration |
| FFP | Firm-Fixed-Price |
| FMB | Financial Management Budget (OPNAV) |
| FOC | Full Operational Capability |
| FOT&E | Follow-on Operational Test and Evaluation |
| FPEPA | Fixed-Price with Economic Price Adjustment |
| FPIF | Fixed-Price Incentive (Firm Target) |
| FPR | Fixed-Price Redetermination |
| FPRA | Forward Pricing Rate Agreement |
| FPRP | Forward Pricing Rate Proposal |
| FRD | Fleet Readiness Directorate |
| FRP | Full-Rate Production |
| FRPDR | Full-Rate Production Decision Review |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| FYDP | Future Years Defense Program |
| G&A | General and Administrative |
| GAAP | Generally Accepted Accounting Principles |
| GAO | Government Accountability Office |
| GPS | Global Positioning System |
| HAC | House Appropriations Committee |
| HASC | House Armed Services Committee |
| HBC | House Budget Committee |
| HCA | Head Contracting Activity |

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------------|---|
| HUBZone | Historically Underutilized Business Zone |
| IA | Information Assurance |
| IBR | Integrated Baseline Review |
| ICD | Initial Capabilities Document |
| ICE | Independent Cost Estimate |
| IDIQ | Indefinite-Delivery, Indefinite-Quantity |
| IGCE | Independent Government Cost Estimate |
| IGT | Intragovernmental Transaction |
| IMS | Integrated Master Schedule |
| IOC | Initial Operational Capability |
| IOT&E | Initial Operational Test and Evaluation |
| IOT&RE | Initial Operational Test and Readiness Evaluation |
| IPAC | Intra-Governmental Payment and Collection |
| IPMDAR | Integrated Program Manager's Data Analysis Report |
| IPT | Integrated Product Team |
| IR | Internal Reprogramming |
| IS | Information System |
| ISEA | In-Service Engineering Agent |
| J&A | Justification and Approval |
| JCB | Joint Capabilities Board |
| JCIDS | Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System |
| JEON | Joint Emergent Operational Need |
| JITC | Joint Interoperability Test Command |
| JROC | Joint Requirements Oversight Council |
| JROCM | Joint Requirements Oversight Council Memorandum |
| JSD | Joint Staffing Designator |
| JUON | Joint Urgent Operational Need |
| KM/DS | Knowledge Management and Decision Support |
| KO | Contracting Officer |
| KPP | Key Performance Parameter |
| KSA | Key System Attribute |
| LCC | Life-Cycle Cost |
| LCSP | Life-Cycle Sustainment Plan |
| LDTO | Lead Developmental Test and Evaluation Organization |
| LEGPROP | Legislative Proposal |
| LFT&E | Live Fire Test and Evaluation |
| LH | Labor-Hour |
| LLTM | Long-Lead Time Material |

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------------|---|
| LOE | Level of Effort |
| LPTA | Lowest Price Technically Acceptable |
| LRIP | Low-Rate Initial Production |
| LT | Letter Transfer |
| MCA | Major Capability Acquisition |
| MCOTEA | Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Activity |
| MDA | Missile Defense Agency |
| MDA | Milestone Decision Authority |
| MDD | Materiel Development Decision |
| MILCON | Military Construction |
| MILPERS | Military Personnel |
| MIPR | Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request |
| MOE | Measure of Effectiveness |
| MOP | Measure of Performance |
| MOS | Measure of Suitability |
| MSA | Materiel Solution Analysis |
| MTA | Middle Tier of Acquisition |
| MTBOMF | Mean Time Between Operational Mission Failure |
| MYP | Multiyear Procurement |
| N8 | OPNAV Integration of Capabilities and Resources |
| N82 | OPNAV Programming Division |
| N9 | OPNAV Warfare Systems |
| N91 | Warfare Integration Directorate |
| NAVAIR | Naval Air Systems Command |
| NAVSEA | Naval Sea Systems Command |
| NAVWAR | Naval Information Warfare Systems Command |
| NAWCAD | Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division |
| NAWCWD | Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division |
| NDAA | National Defense Authorization Act |
| NMCARS | Navy Marine Corps Acquisition Regulation Supplement |
| NOR | Net Operating Result |
| NR | Net-Ready |
| NRO | National Reconnaissance Office |
| NSWC | Naval Surface Warfare Center |
| NUWC | Naval Undersea Warfare Center |
| NWC | Naval Warfare Center |
| NWCF | Navy Working Capital Fund |
| O&S | Operations and Support Phase |

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------------|---|
| OA | Operational Assessment |
| OCI | Organizational Conflict of Interest |
| ODC | Other Direct Cost |
| OMB | Office of Management and Budget |
| OMN | Operation and Maintenance, Navy |
| OPEVAL | Operational Evaluation |
| OPN | Other Procurement, Navy |
| OPNAV | Office of the Chief of Naval Operations |
| OSD | Office of the Secretary of Defense |
| OT | Operational Test |
| OT | Other Transaction |
| OT&E | Operational Test and Evaluation |
| OTRR | Operational Test Readiness Review |
| OV | Operational Viewpoint |
| P&D | Production and Deployment Phase |
| PA | Program Authority |
| PA Reprog | Prior Approval Reprogramming |
| PACFLT | U.S. Pacific Fleet |
| PAE | Portfolio Acquisition Executive |
| PARM | Participating Acquisition Resource Manager |
| PAUC | Program Acquisition Unit Cost |
| PB | President's Budget |
| PBL | Performance-Based Logistics |
| PCO | Procuring Contracting Officer |
| PDM | Program Decision Memorandum |
| PDR | Preliminary Design Review |
| PEO | Program Executive Office |
| PEO C4I | Program Executive Office, Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence |
| PEO Columbia | Program Executive Office, Columbia-Class Submarines |
| PEO CVN | Program Executive Office, Aircraft Carriers |
| PEO Digital | Program Executive Office, Digital and Enterprise Services |
| PEO IWS | Program Executive Office, Integrated Warfare Systems |
| PEO MLB | Program Executive Office, Manpower, Logistics and Business IT |
| PEO Ships | Program Executive Office, Ships |
| PEO SSBN | Program Executive Office, SSBN |
| PEO SSN | Program Executive Office, Attack Submarines |
| PEO USC | Program Executive Office, Unmanned and Small Combatants |

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------------|--|
| PEO UWS | Program Executive Office, Undersea Warfare Systems |
| PM | Program Manager |
| PMB | Performance Measurement Baseline |
| PMILDEP | Principal Military Deputy |
| PMO | Program Management Office |
| POE | Program Office Estimate |
| POM | Program Objective Memorandum |
| PPBE | Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution |
| PR | Purchase Request |
| PRR | Production Readiness Review |
| PTA | Point of Total Assumption |
| PV | Planned Value |
| RCA | Request for Contract Action |
| RCOH | Refueling and Complex Overhaul |
| RDT&E | Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation |
| RFI | Request for Information |
| RFP | Request for Proposal |
| RMD | Resource Management Decision |
| RMF | Risk Management Framework |
| ROA | Return on Assets |
| ROS | Return on Sales |
| SAC | Senate Appropriations Committee |
| SAE | Service Acquisition Executive |
| SAR | Selected Acquisition Report |
| SASC | Senate Armed Services Committee |
| SAT | Simplified Acquisition Threshold |
| SBA | Small Business Administration |
| SBC | Senate Budget Committee |
| SBIR | Small Business Innovation Research |
| SCN | Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy |
| SDVOSB | Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business |
| SECDEF | Secretary of Defense |
| SECNAV | Secretary of the Navy |
| SECWAR | Secretary of War |
| SEP | Systems Engineering Plan |
| SFR | System Functional Review |
| SHAPM | Ship Acquisition Program Manager |
| SIA | Systems Integration Agent |

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------------|--|
| SLM | Ship Lifecycle Manager |
| SLOC | Source Lines of Code |
| SLR | Stabilized Labor Rate |
| SOM | SUPSHIP Operation Manual |
| SOW | Statement of Work |
| SPD | Ship Project Director |
| SPI | Schedule Performance Index |
| SPM | Ship Program Manager |
| SRR | System Requirements Review |
| SSA | Source Selection Authority |
| SSAC | Source Selection Advisory Council |
| SSBN | Ballistic Missile Submarine, Nuclear |
| SSEB | Source Selection Evaluation Board |
| SSP | Strategic Systems Program |
| SUBMEPP | Submarine Maintenance Engineering Planning Program |
| SUPSHIP | Supervisor of Shipbuilding |
| SURFMEPP | Surface Maintenance Engineering Planning Program |
| SV | Schedule Variance |
| SV | Systems Viewpoint |
| SVR | System Verification Review |
| SYSCOM | Systems Command |
| T&E | Test and Evaluation |
| T&M | Time-and-Materials |
| TA | Technical Authority |
| TCI | Total Cost Input |
| TCO | Termination Contracting Officer |
| TCPI | Total Cost Performance Index |
| TDA | Technical Direction Agent |
| TDP | Technical Data Package |
| TECHEVAL | Technical Evaluation |
| TEMP | Test and Evaluation Master Plan |
| TMRR | Technology Maturation and Risk Reduction |
| TOA | Total Obligational Authority |
| TOC | Total Ownership Cost |
| TPM | Technical Performance Measure |
| TRL | Technology Readiness Level |
| TRR | Test Readiness Review |
| TWD | Technical Work Document |

| Acronym | Definition |
|----------------|---|
| TWH | Technical Warrant Holder |
| UCA | Undefinitized Contract Action |
| UCA | Urgent Capability Acquisition |
| UCF | Uniform Contract Format |
| UON | Urgent Operational Need |
| USFF | U.S. Fleet Forces |
| UTA | Ultimate Technical Authority |
| V&V | Verification and Validation |
| VA | Department of Veterans Affairs |
| VAC | Variance at Complete |
| VCJCS | Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff |
| VV&A | Verification, Validation, and Accreditation |
| WAS | Warfighting Acquisition System |
| WBS | Work Breakdown Structure |
| WCF | Working Capital Fund |
| WOSB | Women-Owned Small Business |