



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION  
AND SUSTAINMENT

JUN 15 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Data Transparency to Enable Acquisition Pathways

The Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF) established in the revised Department of Defense (DoD) 5000 series publications has created the framework to achieve our goal to “Enable Innovative Acquisition Approaches that Deliver Warfighting Capability at the Speed of Relevance.” The AAF offers acquisition managers flexible pathways to streamline our acquisition approaches. To fully harness these new approaches and continuously improve their effectiveness, we require greater transparency of data to pivot the workforce towards a culture of innovation, critical thinking, and creative compliance to improve acquisition outcomes for the Department.

Data is a powerful asset for making critical decisions only when it is trusted, transparent, and usable by the organization. To that end, I have asked the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Acquisition Enablers to work with the Service Acquisition Executives to develop and deploy a department-wide Data and Analytics Strategy which will make data available to the Acquisition community to: (1) assess the progress of our policy transformation; (2) promote transparent monitoring of the Defense Acquisition System throughout the Department; and (3) inform program and portfolio decisions.

The Deputy Secretary of Defense memorandum dated December 20, 2019, “Acquisition Roles and Responsibilities”, makes clear the expectations for data transparency in the Department. The Service and Component Acquisition Executives are to implement measures, operations and identify specific accountabilities to ensure all acquisition and sustainment (A&S) data is trusted, transparent, and usable by the Department. Specifically, in support of the A&S Data and Analytics Strategy, the Services shall contribute and support all efforts to:

- Identify common acquisition and sustainment data to facilitate DoD-wide analysis
- Ensure that all data is available for consumption and extraction from relevant systems
- Establish a forum to govern acquisition and sustainment data to ensure data transparency

The A&S Data and Analytics Strategy, when implemented, will aid the data-driven decision-making necessary to speed delivery of warfighting capabilities.

Ellen M. Lord

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