

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON
SYSTEM SAFETY WITHIN MATERIEL ACQUISITIONS

1. **PURPOSE:** Establish a joint service position on the re-integration of system safety elements into Department of Defense (DoD) materiel systems acquisitions and the enhancement of system safety training for acquisition professionals.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

a. DoD materiel acquisition programs have led the application of system safety as a proactive accident prevention process and have provided leadership in development of formal risk management techniques. At the same time, performance-based system safety policies provided an early introduction of acquisition reform.

b. Since the initial implementation of system safety, DoD materiel acquisition policies have been significantly reformed and streamlined. However, the services' system safety policies, personnel development plans and information delivery systems have not effectively dealt with the increased challenges associated with the reformed acquisition process.

c. Currently, education and training of program managers and other acquisition professionals is not service-specific but is centralized through the Defense Acquisition University. The program of instruction is driven by DoD acquisition policies, shaped by inputs from the Service Acquisition Executives. Currently, the school for program managers at the Defense Acquisition University contains no mandatory curriculum regarding system safety. As a result, many program managers do not recognize their role in building safety into the design of weapon systems and the associated processes for systems analysis and control.

3. **CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SYSTEM SAFETY:**

a. To address this shortfall, the following critical elements of system safety must be integrated into materiel acquisition programs:

- Hazard mitigation shall focus on “designing out” hazards as opposed to “training out”. DoD acquisition programs will avoid transferring risk to the war fighter.

System hazards shall be identified and addressed early in the life cycle (Concept Technology and Development phase) and system safety effectively demonstrated at each program milestone review. Safety lessons learned shall be a key consideration in selecting the best solution beginning with the analysis of alternatives.

Decisions to accept residual risk will be formally documented and made at a level of authority commensurate with the risk.

b. The services' Safety Center Commanders agree to participate jointly in actions to:

Develop recommendations and information packages for the service acquisition executives. Mutually develop a presentation for the Safety Center Commanders to use in advocating system safety engineering and management to the Service Acquisition Executives.

Advocate, and assist in developing, instructional materials and programs for use in training program managers.

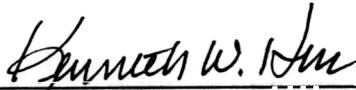
Advocate and assist in the development of system safety guidance for inclusion in the DoD Acquisition Deskbook.

Assist the Service's Acquisition Executives to assess system safety at service-level milestone decision reviews. The standard shall be informed decisions on problem correction and risk acceptance prior to the service's materiel fielding decision point.

Advocate that DoD safety engineers receive acquisition certification in the 'systems engineering' area, allowing them access to training in systems engineering courses.

4. This Memorandum of Understanding is effective upon signature by all Safety Center Commanders and will remain in effect until abolished or altered by any of the principals.

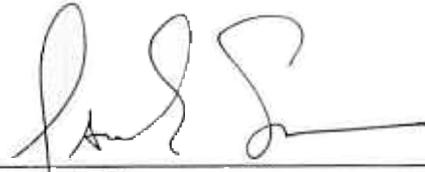
Approval



Kenneth W. Hess
Major General, United States Air Force
Chief of Safety

10 March '03

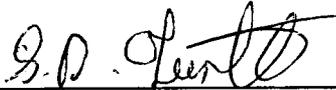
(Date)



James E. Simmons
Brigadier General, USA
Director of Army Safety

22 Jan 2003

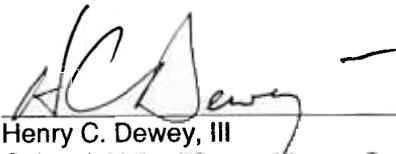
(Date)



Stephen A. Turcotte
Rear Admiral, United States Navy
Commander, Naval Safety Center

13 Apr 03

(Date)



Henry C. Dewey, III
Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Director, Safety Division

23 Apr 03

(Date)



Joyce M. Johnson, RADM/USPHS
Director of Health and Safety
United States Coast Guard

11 Apr 03

(Date)