



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Integrated Life Cycle Management Executive Forum Product Support Intent

The Air Force must maintain and sustain its air, space and cyberspace capabilities. To support this goal the Air Force must ensure any new capabilities are acquired and sustained with synergy across the acquisition and sustainment processes. We will accomplish this, in part, through a focused, disciplined Integrated Life Cycle Management (ILCM) Product Support strategy.

In September 2007, the ILCM Executive Forum (EF) directed the establishment of an "Air Force Life Cycle Product Support Strategy" to guide the development of an integrated product support CONOPS, governance process, policy, and measurements. The strategy's focus will ensure product support decisions are informed, from an Air Force enterprise perspective, optimize support to the warfighter, efficiently use resources, and minimize support risks.

The approved Air Force ILCM Product Support Strategy is attached (Atch 1). This strategy is focused on driving more effective control over weapon system support, increasing flexibility to respond to changing operational needs, optimizing use of program dollars, and enabling proactive satisfaction of legislated requirements. A supporting CONOPS for this strategy will be finalized in April 2008. Acquisition and sustainment enterprise goals will be established to assess the effectiveness of this strategy and the implementation and execution of the CONOPS.

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Attachment:
ILCM Product Support Strategy

cc:

AFMC/CV
AFSPC/CV
AF/A4I
AF/A4M
AF/A4/7P
AF/A4R
SAF/AQI
SAF/AQP
SAF/AQQ
SAF/AQC
SAF/AQL
SAF/AQR
SAF/AQX
SAF/AQX-ACE
SAF/IEL
SAF/FMC
SAF/ACPO
SAF/RCO
SAF/USA
HQ AFMC/A4
HQ ACC/A4
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INTEGRATED LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT

Product Support Strategy

Introduction: Product Support is a set of continuous and collaborative activities that establish and maintain the operational capability of a system, subsystem, or major end item throughout its life cycle. Support requirements, planning, design, and execution must be balanced and integrated at the program and enterprise levels. The Air Force must define Product Support capability needs of the future, ensure effective use, and develop and retain the Government competencies necessary to exercise effective control over Product Support and ensure affordable weapons system availability.

Strategy Purpose: To migrate the Air Force from a program-centric product support decision process to an integrated life cycle focus that balances organic and contractor Product Support resources across the Air Force enterprise.

Strategy: The Integrated Life Cycle Management (ILCM) Product Support Strategy is to influence and affect all decisions impacting Product Support to ensure the Air Force retains effective control over Product Support planning and execution at system and enterprise level across the life cycle, now and in the future.

The ILCM Product Support Strategy is based on the following principles:

- Provide a decision process that enables the Air Force to optimize and balance:
 - Performance with supportability
 - Programs needs with enterprise needs
 - Public and private sources of support
- Identify and address Product Support requirements at all decision points affecting Product Support
- Ensure proactive compliance with legislative requirements
- Create flexibility to review and adjust Product Support decisions across the life cycle
- Identify, develop and retain the Product Support competencies required by the government to maintain effective control of support at system and enterprise levels
- Ensure effective use of public and private Product Support capabilities

Strategy Requirements: Successful implementation of this strategy requires the accomplishment of four critical actions.

First, the Air Force must provide Product Support decision criteria that enables proper consideration of program and enterprise requirements and must document clear rationale for decisions.

Second, Air Force governance processes must facilitate appropriate enterprise level oversight of decisions affecting Product Support on individual programs, systems, and subsystems.

Third, based on projected warfighter needs in all mission areas, the Air Force must identify the product support capabilities required across the Air Force enterprise, and project the optimal

public versus private capability use, to ensure an affordable and effective use of Product Support providers, while remaining in legislative compliance.

Fourth, the Air Force must identify and describe the Government functions needed to retain control over Product Support across the Air Force enterprise and translate them into required competencies (knowledge, skills and abilities). Based on projected mission capability needs, the Air Force must project and secure the Product Support workforce necessary to maintain those competencies.

Goals and Timeline: This strategy is intended to improve the availability and affordability of systems throughout their life cycle by creating an enterprise approach to Product Support from concept development to disposal. It will ensure the Air Force defines the competencies required to plan, acquire, and execute support to optimize public and private sector capabilities. This strategy will:

- Provide effective Air Force control over weapon system support
- Increase flexibility to respond to changing support needs
- Optimize use of support dollars
- Enable proactive legislative satisfaction

Implementation of this strategy will be completed within one year of approval.