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MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

Subject: Interagency Acquisition: A Shared Responsibility

On July 29, 2005, the United State Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report entitled "Interagency Contracting: Franchise Funds Provide Convenience, but Value to DoD is Not Demonstrated (GAO Report GAO-05-546)" which, among other things, emphasized to both the Department of Defense (DoD) and the assisting agencies the importance of understanding shared responsibilities in the interagency acquisition process. The report can be found at http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/specificpolicy/index.htm.

Teamwork and communication are critical to the success of interagency acquisitions. Although the Federal Acquisition Regulations state that it is ultimately the contracting officer's responsibility to determine if a procurement package is sufficient for use in a solicitation, order, or contract, it is incumbent upon the DoD customer to provide the assisting agency with sufficient detail concerning the requirement. When using an assisting agency to issue a solicitation, place an order, or issue a contract on our behalf, DoD customers must ensure that their requirements are clearly defined, and include measurable outcomes desired. Similarly, all parties to an interagency acquisition must ensure that the duties and responsibilities of contract administration and oversight are clearly assigned and correctly performed.

The decision to meet DoD mission needs via an interagency acquisition is a business decision. DoD and the assisting agencies have a shared responsibility when an interagency acquisition is determined to be the right approach to meet DoD requirements. This shared responsibility begins with acquisition planning and does not end until contract close-out. The DoD policy on the "Proper Use of Non-DoD Contracts" can be found at http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/specificpolicy/index.htm. My point of contact is Mike Canales. He can be reached at 703-695-8571 or via e-mail at michael.canales@osd.mil.

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