THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
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SEP 23 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Defense Acquisition System Safety

On July 3, 2003, the Secretary of Defense established the Defense Oversight Council (DSOC) and tasked them with the goal of reducing DoD mishap and accident rates by 50% in two years. Subsequently, the Strategic Planning Guidance (SPG) was modified to institutionalize this goal. We can contribute substantially to meeting SPG guidance by following an informed and structured risk assessment and acceptance process, which manages and minimizes system safety risks throughout the acquisition process. Our intent is to design safety into our weapons systems, not add it afterwards as an operational consideration.

Therefore, in order to increase the emphasis on system safety within our acquisition process, I direct addressees to ensure that:

a. Program Managers (PMs), regardless of the Acquisition Category of their programs, integrate system safety risk management into their overall systems engineering and risk management processes.

b. PMs use the government and industry Standard Practice for System Safety, MIL-STD-882D, in all developmental and sustaining engineering activities.

c. PMs ensure the DoDI 5000.2 requirement to integrate the Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH) risk management strategy into the systems engineering process is incorporated in the Systems Engineering Plan.

d. PMs identify ESOH hazards, assess the risks, mitigate the risks to acceptable levels, and then report on the status of residual risk acceptance decisions at technical reviews and at the appropriate management levels in the Program Review process in accordance with MIL-STD-882D.

I need your help to implement these actions to integrate system safety risk management more effectively into our acquisition process. Active collaboration between system safety and acquisition communities as we execute our programs will help achieve the goals the Secretary of Defense has established. It will also save lives, preserve assets, and enhance our overall war fighting capability by increasing readiness through system safety improvements.

Michael W. Wynne
Acting

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