OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION
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OCT 06 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance and Methodology for Naval Probability of Program Success (PoPS)

References: (a) PDASN Memo "DON Decision to Utilize Probability of Program Success (PoPS) approach to Assess Program Health During Gate Reviews" of 19 January 2008
(b) PDASN Memo "DON Interim Guidance for Probability of Program Success (PoPS) Implementation" of 19 January 2008
(c) SECNAV NOTICE 5000 of 26 February 2008
(d) SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5000.2C of 19 November 2004
(e) DoD Directive 5000.01 of 12 May 2003
(f) DoD Instruction 5000.2 of 12 May 2003
(g) CJCS Instruction 3170.01F of 1 May 2007

In furtherance of the decision in reference (a), this memorandum cancels and supersedes reference (b) and forwards attachments (1) through (3) and their associated tools as the new Naval PoPS methodology for conducting program Health Assessments.

Attachments (1) Naval PoPS Guidebook v1.0, (2) Naval PoPS Criteria Handbook v1.0 and (3) Naval PoPS Visuals Handbook v1.0 are effective upon receipt for all DON pre Major Defense Acquisition Program (MDAP) programs, all MDAP Acquisition Category (ACAT) I and selected ACAT II programs, all pre Major Automated Information System (MAIS) programs and all MAIS ACAT 1A programs. In addition, the attachments and associated tools shall serve as the standard DON method of representing the health of a program and be:

- Applicable to all remaining DON ACAT programs and any other program subject to the DON acquisition process.

- Used in a continuous manner any time the health of a program is discussed in the formal decisional meetings identified in references (d) through (g), and the variety of other progress reviews, across the spectrum of interested parties including MDAs, PEOs, DASNs, Resource and Requirements Officers, OSD and Congressional Staff.

- Used by any other resourcing or requirements decision assessment tools needing program health input.

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For programs desiring to ease the transition to this guidance, an optional grace period will exist until November 30, 2008 during which Interim PoPS may still be used. After this date use of attachments (1) through (3) and their associated tools is mandatory for effected programs.

Significant differences exist between this guidance and the interim guidance it replaces. These differences are aimed at increasing accuracy, reducing subjectivity and easing health assessment comparisons across all systems for all levels of decision makers. In addition, and importantly, the holistic application of this program health guidance as recommended above; and key implementation aspects like the user friendly criteria spread sheet with imbedded scoring algorithms and the standardized briefing visualizations, are aimed directly at reducing the workload on Program Managers and staffs. Comments and lessons learned are encouraged and should be provided to RDA CHSENG for consolidation. The next update will include a focused review of sustainment and life cycle performance parameters. This feedback will be incorporated in to a planned revision; and with the ongoing work of the extant IM IPT that is exploring the enterprise requirements for web enabled automated exporting of PoPS data via the RDA DASHBOARD into a variety of existing tools and processes requiring program health data.

The attachments will remain in effect until superseded. Copies of this guidance and related supporting material can be found and downloaded from the RDA DASHBOARD at https://asnrda.donhq.navy.mil. My point of contact for this policy and its implementation is ASN (RD&A) CHSENG, Mr. Carl Siel, who can be contacted at (202) 781-3971 or at carl.siel@navy.mil.

David Architzel
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Principal Military Deputy

Attachments:
As Stated.

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