MEMORANDUM FOR COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES

SUBJECT: Reliability Improvement Working Group

We ask you to support a working group to implement recommendations to improve Reliability, Availability, and Maintainability (RAM) performance in DoD weapon systems.

Recent Test and Evaluation (T&E) related reports have highlighted poor operational suitability of weapon systems, primarily as a result of RAM deficiencies. Also, a Defense Science Board (DSB) task force on Developmental T&E is currently examining RAM issues as one part of their investigation. Now is the appropriate time to change how we do business with regard to RAM. Specifically, we are establishing this working group to:

- Ensure programs are formulated to execute a viable systems engineering strategy from the beginning, including a RAM growth program, as an integral part of design and development.

- Ensure government organizations reconstitute a cadre of experienced T&E and RAM personnel.

- Implement mandated integrated DT and OT, including the sharing and access to all appropriate contractor and government data and the use of operationally representative environments in early testing.

It is essential to include both Service T&E and acquisition staff representatives in the working group. Ideally, the representatives will be familiar with the DSB Task Force and have access to RAM and contracting expertise. The working group shall provide an implementation report by July 31, 2008.

Mr. Chris DiPetto and Dr. Ernest Seglie will co-lead the working group. Please identify your representative(s) to Mr. DiPetto at Christopher.DiPetto@osd.mil, or (703) 695-4421 by February 21.

Dr. Charles E. McQueary FEB 0 6 2008
Director, Operational Test & Evaluation

James I. Finley   FEB 1 5 2008
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
for Acquisition and Technology