



ACQUISITION AND  
TECHNOLOGY

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-3010



JUL 10 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (RD&A)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (RD&A)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
(ACQUISITION)  
ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE, US SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
COMMAND  
DIRECTOR, BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

SUBJECT: Open Systems Acquisition of Weapons Systems

My memorandum, dated 29 November 1994, "Acquisition of Weapons Systems Electronics Using Open Systems Specifications and Standards," established DoD policy for acquisition of weapons systems using open systems. Recently, my Principal Deputy spoke with you regarding accelerating open systems implementations in weapons systems. On 12 June 1996, a day long workshop with your representatives focused on a practical, actionable open system approach (list of attendees attached). A detailed definition of the open system approach was presented at this workshop. Attached is a two page summary for your reference. It is important that we now move forward with this effort.

Therefore, I am directing the Acquisition Executives in the Department of Defense to execute the following actions:

Prepare, by 31 August 1996, a single service/agency plan for the deployment of an open systems approach for weapons systems, as discussed at the 12 June workshop. This plan should document and build on initiatives you already have under way to institutionalize an open systems approach. Guidance for this plan and a notional outline are attached. This plan should include and be consistent with your plans for acquisition of C3I systems. With the exception of this initial overall service/agency plan, open system plans for individual systems may be included in currently supplied



documentation such as the Systems Engineering Management Plan.

Execute your Deployment Plan as soon as practicable.

Provide a report on the status of your deployment by 15 October 1996. Also, provide your assessment of the application of an open system approach in all major new weapon system programs by 15 October 1996. For this purpose, report on all major programs which have not passed Milestone II by this date. Development of individual program open system implementation/migration plans should only be done when consistent with the results of these assessments.

Starting 1 January 1997, provide semi-annual update reports on the status of your deployment of the open system approach. Also, provide an annual update on your progress of assessing all other ACAT programs.

Assessments mentioned above should reference existing program documentation to the maximum extent possible to record the assessment.

In addition to these actions, I am directing the OSD OIPT leaders to include open system planning as a specific item for inclusion in their meeting agendas and discussions starting 1 October, 1996. I also request that the SAEs do likewise for programs under their cognizance.

The Open Systems-Joint Task Force is the focal point for the adoption of Open Systems in Weapons Systems acquisitions. The Director, Mr. Burke, may be reached at (703) 578-6568, E-mail, burkehl@acq.osd.mil. Please advise him of your action office.

*Paul Kaminski*

Paul G. Kaminski

Attachments:

Workshop Attendees

The "Open System Approach" To Weapons System Design dated 13 June