



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

WASHINGTON DC 20330

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: SAF/AQ
1060 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1060

SUBJECT: Modular Open Systems Approach (MOSA) Implementation

The 5 Apr 04 Under Secretary of Defense (USD) for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (AT&L) memo at Attachment 1 amplifies the DoDD 5000.1 guidance on the use of MOSA. Effective 1 Oct 04, it requires all programs subject to milestone review to brief the Milestone Decision Authority on their program's MOSA implementation status. The 7 Jul 04 USD(AT&L) Director, Defense Systems memo (Atch 2) provides additional guidance on meeting the requirement for the milestone review of MOSA implementation. This memorandum sets forth Air Force expectations for compliance with the USD(AT&L) direction.

MOSA employs an integrated business and technical strategy to support the identification of the key modules and interfaces in a system's architecture. This allows the assessment and implementation, when feasible, of widely supported commercial interface standards. MOSA enables programs to more rapidly field systems that are designed for affordable change throughout their life-cycle and that are interoperable in the joint battle space. In this way, MOSA is an integral part of the toolset that supports the DOD and Air Force emphasis on evolutionary acquisition and joint architectures.

MOSA is based upon sound systems engineering (SE) practices, which should be implemented and incentivized throughout the life cycle of Air Force systems and families-of-systems. The existing SE policy and guidance in the 20 Feb 04 USD(AT&L) memo, SAF/AQ Policy memos 03A-005 and 04A-001, AFI 63-101 (interim guidance), and the *Guide for Robust Systems Engineering* at <http://cse.afit.edu/> all support the more rigorous application of SE and are consistent with MOSA.

The Program Assessment and Review Tool (PART) identified in the AT&L memos contains 24 questions that Program Managers can use to measure how well a program has implemented both the business and technical aspects of MOSA. Per the USD(AT&L) guidance, Program Managers should use either the PART or an equivalent method of assessment to determine the success of their MOSA implementation status. Program managers should include the results of this assessment in their MOSA implementation status briefings during milestone reviews.

Ms. Alice Maddox, AF/XIWA, 703.588.6316, is the point of contact for technical/architecture interface with AT&L on MOSA. Mr. Jeff Loren, SAF/AQRE, 703.588.7845 is the point of contact for SE policy interface.



MARVIN R. SAMBUR
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Acquisition)

Attachments:

1. OSD Guidance Regarding MOSA Implementation, 5 April 2004
2. OSD Instructions for MOSA Implementation, 7 July 2004

cc:

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AFMC/XR
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See Attached List

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