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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

MAR 7 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (NETWORKS & INFORMATION INTEGRATION/CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Defense Acquisition System Safety - Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH) Risk Acceptance

Current DoD policy requires Program Mangers to use the structured ESOH risk assessment framework in the DoD Standard Practice for System Safety, MIL-STD-882D, for all developmental and sustaining engineering activities. The objective is to design out ESOH risks early in the acquisition process. For risks that cannot be eliminated, DoDI 5000.2 identifies the ESOH risk acceptance authority for each level of ESOH risk. However, DoDI 5000.2, Enclosure 7, does not specify when ESOH risks must be formally accepted and does not define the role of the user representative in this process.

Therefore, to clarify the DoD Acquisition System Safety ESOH risk management policy, I direct that addressees ensure that -- prior to exposing people, equipment, or the environment to known system-related ESOH hazards -- the associated risk levels, as defined in MIL-STD-882D, must be accepted by the authorities identified in DoDI 5000.2. The user representative must be part of this process throughout the lifecycle and must provide formal concurrence prior to all Serious- and High-risk acceptance decisions. This requirement is separate from operational commanders' responsibility to manage operational risks for units under their command.

The next revision to DoDI 5000.2, "Operation of the Defense Acquisition System," will incorporate this change.

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