



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY (RD&A)  
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NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND  
PATUXTENT RIVER, MD 20670-1547  
SPACE AND NAVAL WARFARE SYSTEMS COMMAND  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110-3127  
MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND  
QUANTICO, VA 22134-6050

JUL 18 2008

### JOINT LETTER

From: Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command  
Commander, Naval Air Systems Command  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
(Research, Development and Acquisition)  
Commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command  
Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command

Subj: IMPLEMENTATION OF SYSTEMS DESIGN SPECIFICATION (SDS)  
GUIDEBOOK AND ASSOCIATED SYSTEM SPECIFIC APPENDICES

Ref: (a) SECNAVNOTE 5000; 26 FEB 2008, Department Of The Navy  
(DON) Requirements And Acquisition Process Improvements

Encl: (1) Systems Design Specification (SDS) Guidebook and  
Associated System Specific Appendices

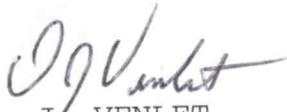
1. Acquisition Process Improvements are a top priority for the Department of the Navy. As discussed in reference (a), development of the System Design Specification (SDS) plays an important role in these process improvements. SDS development begins during Gate Two preparation and the SDS is approved during the Gate Four review of the Two Pass/Six Gate Review process.

2. The SDS Guidebook (Enclosure (1)) provides guidance to Program Managers and the System Command's Engineering Communities in the development of the System Design Specification (SDS). Additional system specific guidance, principally authored by the responsible System Command, is provided through tailored SDS appendices.

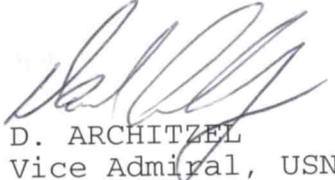
3. Leadership must emphasize the importance of communicating the changes and benefits of this improved acquisition review process. Program Executive Officers, System Commands, and affiliated supporting commands are directed to implement the guidance provided in the SDS Guidebook.

4. Responsibility. The Systems Engineering Stakeholders Group will assume responsibility for the maintenance and management of the SDS Guidebook and the associated System Specific Appendices.

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SUBJECT: System Design Specification Guidebook

Distribution:

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