



Fifth Round of Business Initiatives Formalized

The Department of Defense announced today that members of the Business Initiative Council (BIC) have approved additional sets of initiatives designed to improve business operations across the Department of Defense and enhance support to the warfighter.

Potential efficiencies focus on various requirements and processes and will positively affect proactive business applications within the DoD. Examples include support of the President's management agenda by transitioning non-core competencies to alternative sourcing arrangements via pioneer projects designed to complement the A-76 process; allowing acquisition programs to buy quantities in addition to the number documented in the budget when an advantageous unit price is achieved and there is a documented requirement for the additional quantity; establishment of a common access card for all DoD facilities and installations; and the establishment of an acquisition policy that requires, as reasonable and practicable, that all systems have an integrated set of embedded instrumentation for diagnostics, prognostics, testing, and training.

The benefits from the BIC-approved initiatives include the elimination of duplication, streamlined procedures, improved customer service/performance, reduction in manpower requirements, improved performance, enhanced training capability, and reduced down time of equipment, to name a few. This fifth round of initiatives addresses three overarching process arenas: people, corporate operations, and acquisition management.

The BIC, established and presided over by Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Pete Aldridge, is composed of the military Service Secretaries and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Under Secretary of Defense for Comptroller and the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness recently joined the BIC, bringing additional expertise to many of the initiatives the BIC is pursuing. The BIC reports directly to the Senior Executive Council, whose members include the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Service Secretaries, and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

The BIC was launched in July 2001 to implement bureaucracy-reducing and/or money-saving opportunities in the business practices of the Department of Defense. This is core to Secretary Rumsfeld's broader "Battle on Bureaucracy" campaign, announced on Sept. 10, 2001, and complements the President's Freedom to Manage Act of 2001, introduced into the Senate on Nov. 1.

"We, on the BIC, are excited to have this tremendous opportunity to transform the way we do business and inculcate the best business practices into the DoD culture in support of the Secretary's initiative," said Aldridge.

The list of new initiatives is on the Web at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jun2002/d20020604summary.pdf>.

Editor's Note: This information is in the public domain at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news>.