

Aldridge Publishes Definitions for Evolutionary Acquisition, Spiral Development



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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Evolutionary Acquisition and Spiral Development

Since the publication of DoD Directive 5000.1 and DoD Instruction 5000.2, in which the Department established a preference for the use of evolutionary acquisition strategies relying on a spiral development process, there has been some confusion about what these terms mean and how spiral development impacts various processes such as contracting and requirements generation that interface with an evolutionary acquisition strategy. The purpose of this memorandum is to address those questions.

Evolutionary acquisition and spiral development are methods that will allow us to reduce our cycle time and speed the delivery of advanced capability to our warfighters. These approaches are designed to develop and field demonstrated technologies for both hardware and software in manageable pieces. Evolutionary acquisition and spiral development also allow insertion of new technologies and capabilities over time. Therefore, these approaches provide the best means of getting advanced technologies to the warfighter quickly while providing for follow-on improvements in capability. Evolutionary acquisition and spiral development are similar to pre-planned product improvement but are focused on providing the warfighter with an initial capability which may be less than the full requirement as a trade-off for earlier delivery, agility, affordability, and risk reduction.

Attached is a set of definitions. My points of contact for further information are Skip Hawthorne in the Acquisition Initiatives office, 703-697-6399, skip.hawthorne@osd.mil, or Ramona Lush in the Acquisition Resources and Analysis office, 703-695-5166, ramona.lush@osd.mil.


E.C. Aldridge, Jr.

Attachment
As stated



Editor's Note: This information is in the public domain. To download the attachment to Aldridge's memorandum, go to the Director, Acquisition Initiatives Web site at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/ar/ar.htm#spiral>.