There are many Pathways to deliver capabilities. Click on areas of the chart to learn more.
MID-TIER ACQUISITION FRAMEWORK REFERENCE TOOL FOR PMs

NEED

Increased capability need due to evolving threat, advancement in technology, or interoperability mission change?

Yes

No

Condition

Existing technology that can be modified in <6 months to fill the gap?

Yes

No

DEVELOP

Can the technology be developed in <2 years and <$50 M?

Yes

No

Can technology be developed in <5 years?

Yes

No

Utilize existing S&T pathways

FIELD

804 Rapid Fielding

Prototype intended for rapid fielding?

Yes

No

Ready for integration and fielding?

Yes

Subsequent Prototyping Required?

Yes

No

Transition back into a program of record (traditional or existing)

Terminate

806 Prototyping

804 Rapid Prototyping
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guidance/Program</th>
<th>NDAA FY16 Sec. 804</th>
<th>NDAA FY16 Sec. 804</th>
<th>NDAA FY17 Sec. 806 &amp; 10 U.S.C. 2447</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motivation</td>
<td>To use proven technologies or off-the-shelf capability to field production quantities of new or upgraded systems with minimal development required</td>
<td>Quickly develop new capabilities or enhance existing capabilities. Must be successfully demonstrated in operation environment.</td>
<td>To mature and demonstrate high risk technologies (high priority and emerging technologies) separate from a program of record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversight</td>
<td>OSD or DoD Component</td>
<td>OSD or DoD Component</td>
<td>The Secretary of MILDEP, oversight board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>&lt;6 months to production &lt;5 years from approved req. to complete fielding</td>
<td>&lt;5 years</td>
<td>&lt;2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Guidelines</td>
<td>Program funds, with possible addl’ funding from MILDEP Rapid Prototyping Funds</td>
<td>Program funds, with possible addl’ funding from DoD Rapid Prototyping Fund and MILDEP Rapid Prototyping Funds</td>
<td>&lt;$10M &lt;$50M w/ Secretary of MILDEP approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Configuration and Testing</td>
<td>Performance demonstration and evaluation for current operational purposes</td>
<td>Demonstration and evaluation of the performance of fieldable prototypes developed pursuant to the program in an operational environment</td>
<td>Technology transition plan of the prototype into a fielded system, program of record, or operational use, as appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Stage</td>
<td>Directly enters Operations &amp; Sustainment when fielded to warfighter • Transitions to acquisition • Directly enters Operation &amp; Sustainment with residual operational capability</td>
<td></td>
<td>Transition into acquisition program(s) of record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition Authority</td>
<td>Decision Authority</td>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DODI 5000.74 - Services</td>
<td>SDO</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DODI 5000.02 - Acquisitions</td>
<td>MDA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec 803 - Rapid Acquisition</td>
<td>MDA equivalent to ACAT levels</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec 805 - Alt Acq Path</td>
<td>MDA equivalent to ACAT levels</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec 804 - Rapid Prototyping</td>
<td>MDA equivalent to ACAT levels</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Follow-on procurement is allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec 804 - Rapid Fielding</td>
<td>MDA equivalent to ACAT levels</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec 806 - Weapon Component Prototyping, 10 USC 2447c</td>
<td>Selected by SAE after oversight board review</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, production without separate competition, 10 USC 2447d(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE TIER PROTOTYPING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DODI 3201.01 - MANAGEMENT OF DOD R&amp;D LABORATORIES</td>
<td>TEO</td>
<td>Yes, usually below TRL 3</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Transaction Prototypes, 10 USC 2371b</td>
<td>MDA/SDO Dependent on implementation method</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACQUISITION DECISION TREE

REQUIREMENTS

- JCIDS
- JROCM
- UON/JOUN/JEON
- User Need
- RAD

CAPABILITY

- Services
- Weapon System (Operational System)
- Middle Tier Prototyping (Residual Ops or Fielding)
- Early Prototyping (e.g. AFRL)

ACQ AUTHORITY / TYPE

- DoDI 5000.02
- DoDI 5000.74
- Sec 805 Alt Acq Pathway
- Sec 804 Rapid Prototype w/in 5 years
- Sec 804 Rapid Fielding w/in 5 years
- Sec 806 Wpn Component Prototype w/in 2 years
- DoDI 3201.3

CONTRACT METHOD

- Depending on Acq. approach the following contract vehicles can be used:
  - Fixed/Cost-Type
  - Indefinite-Delivery
  - Comm Svs - FAR 12
  - OTA
  - BAA

BAA: Broad Agency Announcement
JCIDS: Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System
JEON: Joint Emergent Operational Needs Statement
JOUN: Joint Urgent Operational Needs Statement
JROCM: Joint Requirements Oversight Counsel Memorandum
OTA: Other Transaction Authority
RAD: Research and Development
UON: Urgent Operational Needs Statement
3. PROCEDURES

a. MDAs and program managers will tailor and streamline program strategies and oversight. This includes program information, acquisition activity, and the timing and scope of decision reviews and decision levels. Tailoring and streamlining should be based on program complexity and the required timelines to meet urgent need capability requirements consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

b. DoD Components will employ, to the extent possible, parallel rather than sequential processes to identify and refine capability requirements, identify resources, and execute acquisitions to expedite delivery of solutions. Formal milestone events may not be required. Acquisition decision making and associated activity will be tailored to expedite acquisition of the capability. Development will generally be limited, and the MDA can authorize production at the same time development is approved.

DoDI 5000.02
MIDDLE TIER OF ACQUISITION RAPID PROTOTYPING/RAPID FIELDING INTERIM AUTHORITY AND GUIDANCE

2016 NDAA; Section 804 (Middle Tier of Acquisition)

– Acquisition programs intended to be completed in a period of 2-5 years
– Two Acquisition Pathways:
  – Rapid Prototyping – Innovative technologies to rapidly develop fieldable prototypes, demonstrate new capabilities and meet emerging needs; demonstrated in an operational environment and provide residual capability within 5 years.
  – Rapid Fielding – Proven technologies to field new or upgraded systems with minimal development; begin production within 6 months and complete fielding within 5 years of an approved requirement.
– Not subject to the JCIDS Manual or DODD 5000.01
– USD (AT&L) in coordination with VCJCS issue guidance that shall include:
  • A merit-based process for the consideration of innovative technologies and new capabilities to meet needs communicated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the combatant commanders
(2) Program Structure. The structure of a DoD acquisition program and the procedures used should be tailored as much as possible to the characteristics of the product being acquired, and to the totality of circumstances associated with the program including operational urgency and risk factors.

(a) MDAs will tailor program strategies and oversight, including program information, acquisition phase content, the timing and scope of decision reviews and decision levels, based on the specifics of the product being acquired, including complexity, risk factors, and required timelines to satisfy validated capability requirements.

(b) When there is a strong threat-based or operationally driven need to field a capability solution in the shortest time, MDAs are authorized to implement streamlined procedures designed to accelerate acquisition system responsiveness. Statutory requirements will be complied with, unless waived in accordance with relevant provisions.

(c) In accordance with Section 806 of Public Law 114-92 (Reference (d)), the Secretary of Defense may waive acquisition law or regulation to acquire a capability that would not otherwise be available to the DoD Components. This waiver authority may not be delegated.
DEFENSE ACQUISITION OF SERVICES

The steps outlined in Figure 1 should be used to the maximum extent practical to ensure the use of proven, repeatable processes and procedures contributing to successful services acquisitions.

Figure 1. Seven Steps to the Service Acquisition Process and Key Deliverables

SEVEN STEPS TO THE SERVICE ACQUISITION PROCESS

- **STEP ONE**: Form the Team
- **STEP TWO**: Review Current Strategy
- **STEP THREE**: Perform Market Research
- **STEP FOUR**: Define Requirements
- **STEP FIVE**: Develop Acquisition Strategy
- **STEP SIX**: Execute Strategy
- **STEP SEVEN**: Manage Performance
BUSINESS CAPABILITY ACQUISITION CYCLE

Tailoring.
The procedures used to develop business capability requirements and supporting systems will be tailored to the characteristics of the capability being acquired. Tailoring will focus on application of best practices to the totality of circumstances associated with the program, including affordability, urgency, return on investment, and risk factors. The functional sponsor, MDA, and CAE or designee will collaborate to tailor program strategies and oversight, including: program information, acquisition phase content, and the timing and scope of decision reviews and decision levels.

ATP Decision Points.
Decisions will be informed by measures that assess the readiness to proceed to the next phase of the process. Decision-making will focus on executability and effectiveness of planned activities, including cost, schedule, acquisition strategy, incentive structure and risk.
7 Steps for Incorporating Rapid Prototyping into Acquisition

1: Aggressive Goal
   - Over/Above Min Requirements
   - New Opportunity – No new requirements yet

2: Bound Your Risks
   - Introduce only 1 x-factor
   - Laser Focus on that factor

3: Be Aggressive but Not Greedy
   - Don’t be greedy
   - Have traditional IOC (if x fails)

4: Constrain Time & Budget
   - Don’t constrain final performance

5: It Takes a Team
   - Collaborate
   - Continual Dialogue/Input (Operators/finance/contracting/ legal/test)

6: Get MDA Signature
   - Follow ACAT MDA Authorities

7: Go Fast!
   - Keep MDA in the loop

Speed with discipline & appropriate rigor -- Steal time from the enemy!
AIR FORCE GUIDANCE
(AIR FORCE GUIDANCE MEMO: 13 JUN 2018)

- AF/A5/8 will support development of requirements for rapid acquisition activities
- **Formally-documented requirements are not necessary** for these efforts
  - A5/8 will initiate and document initial requirements for subsequent refinement during prototyping whenever possible
  - A5/8 will provide a streamlined process for requirements validation
- SAF/FM will support funding for rapid acquisition activities
  - Use normal PPBE process
  - Document further accelerated activities via UFR for future reprograming requests
- Rapid acquisition activities should meet needs communicated by:
  - Combatant Commands, JCS, and/or USAF in timely efficient manner
  - Meet current or draft requirements (“Requirements Pull”)
  - Potentially generate a new requirement if successful (“Technology Push”)
USN GUIDANCE (ASN RDA: 24 APR 2018)

- Incremental Approach to Implementation
- Pilot programs
  - Inform Policy Development
  - Utilize following interim guidance:

Rapid Prototype Documents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Documentation</th>
<th>Elements to Address</th>
<th>Approval Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition Decision Memorandum</td>
<td>- Prototype Acquisition Strategy</td>
<td>ASN (RD&amp;A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Performance Goals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Knowledge Points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- System Experimentation and Assessment Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Prototype Deployment Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prototyping Plan</td>
<td>When required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)</td>
<td>ADA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition Plan</td>
<td>ADA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rapid Fielding Documents: (Statutory & Regulatory)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Documentation</th>
<th>Elements to Address</th>
<th>Approval Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition Decision Memorandum</td>
<td>- Acquisition Decision</td>
<td>ASN(RD&amp;A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Program Cost Estimate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Rapid Fielding Quantities (fulfills Low- Rate Initial Production Quantity statute)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Schedule</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Deployment Strategy</td>
<td>Address applicable elements:</td>
<td>DON CIO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- IT &amp; NIS Interoperability Cert</td>
<td>*Authority to Operate granted per DODI 8510.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Spectra Supportability Risk Assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Bandwidth Requirement Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Cyber Security Strategy (non- mission critical or mission essential IT systems)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Program Protection Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Waveform Assessment Application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capability Documentation</td>
<td>Top Level Requirements Document</td>
<td>Responsible DCNO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(within 6 months of initiation)</td>
<td>- JEONS, JUONS, Service ONS</td>
<td>-or- DC, CD&amp;I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- CDD or CPD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capability Documentation</td>
<td>DCNO – Deputy Chief of Naval Operations</td>
<td>Responsible DCNO -or- DC, CD&amp;I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(within 6 months of initiation)</td>
<td>DC, CD&amp;I – Deputy Commander for Capability Development &amp; Integration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept of Operations (CONOPS)</td>
<td>- Top Level Requirements Document -or-</td>
<td>Responsible DCNO -or- DC, CD&amp;I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JEONS, JUONS, Service ONS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- CDD or CPD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rapid Prototyping Pathway: DON Middle Tier Acquisition
16 JAN 2019

Is Prototyping achievable within 5 years of initiation?

Not eligible for Middle Tier; consider other acquisition pathways

Is there a validated requirement such as an ICD, CDD, CPD, UON?

Has the requirement been endorsed by OPNAV or CD&I sponsor?

Has funding been identified by OPNAV or CD&I?

DESIGNATION & INITIATION AUTHORITY:
PEO, SYSCOM, or DRPM via Acquisition Decision Memo
ADM shall be sent to ASN(RD&A) with copy to portfolio DASN, DASN(RDT&E), and Resource Sponsor as notification

Designation Authority: ASN (RD&A)
Initiation authority: ADA
Rapid Fielding Pathway:
DON Middle Tier Acquisition
16 JAN 2019

Is fielding achievable within 5 years of initiation AND can production begin within 6 months?

Is there a validated requirement such as an ICD, CDD, CPD, UON?

Has the requirement been endorsed by OPNAV or CD&I sponsor?

Has funding been identified by OPNAV or CD&I?

DESIGNATION & INITIATION AUTHORITY:
PEO, SYSCOM, or DRPM via Acquisition Decision Memo
ADM shall be sent to ASN(RD&A) with copy to portfolio DASN, DASN(RDT&E), and Resource Sponsor as notification

Not eligible; consider Rapid Prototyping pathway

Designation Authority: ASN (RD&A)
Initiation authority: ADA
**Army Guidance (ASALT MEMO: 25 SEPT 2018)**

**RESOURCES**

*Army Guidance (ASALT MEMO: 25 SEPT 2018)*

**Middle Tier Acquisition Policy**

a. **Rapid Prototyping**: shall provide for the use of innovative technologies to rapidly develop prototypes to demonstrate or evaluate new capabilities, operational concepts or meet emerging military needs. The objective of acquisition efforts under the rapid prototyping pathway is to field a prototype that can support these purposes in a real or simulated operational environment and provide for a residual operational capability within five years of the development of an approved requirement.

b. **Rapid Fielding**: shall provide for the use of proven technologies, to include through Rapid Prototyping, to field production quantities of new or upgraded systems with minimal development required. The objective of acquisition efforts under the rapid fielding pathway is to begin production within six months and complete fielding of an Army Requirements Oversight Council (AROC) defined capability increment within five years of the development of an approved requirement. See figure 1 below.

*The Nation’s Strategic Needs Must Drive The Business Model, Not The Other Way Around*
Guidance that applies to both Rapid Prototyping and Rapid Fielding:

a. Initiation.

(1) The responsible Program Executive Office (PEO)/Program Manager (PM) will submit requests to use MTA authority through the Deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management (DASM) to the Army Acquisition Executive (AAE) for approval. When appropriate, PEOs/PMs should also request that they be designated the Decision Authority (DA).

(2) PMs must provide a program strategy through the PEO to the AAE, that includes threat; operational gap addressed by the MTA effort; why and how an MTA is appropriate; estimated lifecycle costs; risk management; and cost, schedule and performance metrics. Additionally the program strategy:

   (a) Identifies the supporting requirements document or process by which a requirement will be approved within six months. The requirement may be revised and revalidated at key knowledge points during the prototyping/fielding phases of the program. This requirement could come in the form of a Directed Requirement or via another Army approval process.

   (b) Explains why the particular effort meets the criteria, both Statutory and Army policy, for execution under MTA’s rapid prototyping or rapid fielding pathways.

   (c) Describes a full plan, from initiation to completion, and proposes required documentation, decision points and metrics, as well as timing, scope and level of decision reviews, and cost, schedule, and performance objectives.

   (d) Discusses risks and risk mitigation approaches. Risks will be well defined and mitigation plans will be tied to knowledge points. Plans shall document risk reduction throughout the execution of prototyping and fielding efforts.

   (e) Discusses the proposed funding plan. Documentation will be streamlined but include a sufficient level of detail to support AAE decision-making.

   (f) Show where the MTA effort fits within the Army
Guidance that applies to both Rapid Prototyping and Rapid Fielding:

(3) Requests will reflect coordination with appropriate requirements, test, and budget officials and, where applicable, the responsible Cross Functional Team (CFT) lead. PMs will propose an Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM) that will provide authority to proceed with the program. The DASM may arrange for the PEO/PM to provide an initial Shaping Briefing to the AAE and other invited participants to include representatives from the Offices of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller), Deputy Chief of Staff G-3, G-4, and G-8, ATEC, General Counsel, and, where applicable, the responsible Cross Functional Team lead. Army Rapid Capabilities Office (RCO) may proceed with a Rapid Prototyping or Rapid Fielding Effort at the direction of the RCO Board of Directors and may request to initiate a project directly with the AAE.

(4) Changes to the approved program strategy require prior DA approval.

b. Funding

(1) Funding for MTA efforts will be managed using the normal Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution process.

(2) PEOs/PMs shall use current available funding and have a funding plan to execute their program. PEOs/PMs will keep the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Plans, Programs, and Resources) (DASA(PP&R)) informed of additional schedule acceleration that is achievable should additional funding be provided. DASA(PP&R) will provide this information to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller) for potential inclusion on the Unfunded Requirements (UFR) List or in future Reprogramming Requests.

(3) In the future, a dedicated fund may be established to support MTA efforts.
SOCOM Guidance (AE MEMO: 1 AUG 2018)

**Middle Tier Acquisition Policy**

1. SOF AT&L will fully implement the authorities from Section 804 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 and the guidance from the Under Secretary for Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) Memorandum "Middle Tier of Acquisition Interim Authority and Guidance," dated 16 April 2018. It is my intent to dominate this middle tier acquisition space enabling rapid prototyping and rapid fielding of SO-peculiar capability.

2. These authorities are tailor-made for the SO-peculiar acquisition activities we execute. The authorities allow for rapid pursuit of capabilities without the normal schedule impacts associated with the Joint Capabilities Integration Development System (JCIDS) and DoD Directive 5000.01, "The Defense Acquisition System." However, all MTAs in support of USSOCOM will have command-validated requirements using command-approved funding sources.

3. **Mid-tier acquisition strategies will be the default for the vast majority of SOF AT&L acquisition efforts.** I expect all Milestone Decision Authorities operating under my authority to pursue Mid-tier acquisition strategies and only revert to more traditional approaches when required. The following guidance provides the SOF AT&L acquisition team with the framework to operate within mid-tier acquisition authorities successfully in support of USSOCOM's Components, TSOCs and, ultimately, the SOF Operator.

**RESOURCES**

- [SOCOM Memo – MTA Authority & Guidance](#)
- [SOCOM J8 Memo – MTA Requirements](#)
MTA Strategy Threshold Criteria:

• **Rapid Prototyping:** Field a prototype that can be demonstrated in an operational environment and provide for a residual operational capability within five years of the development of an approved requirement.

• **Rapid Fielding:** Begin production within six months and complete fielding within five years of an approved requirement.

• **Requirements Validation:** For Rapid Prototyping, the effort might precede a validated requirement and, in fact, may inform the requirement. Although the MTA authority is not subject to JCIDS, the Acquisition Team must have a validated requirement before they can apply MFP-11 resources for a Rapid Fielding. This valid requirement could come in the form of a Directed Requirement, such as a Command-directed UDA, in order to achieve schedule efficiencies opportunities.

The Acquisition Team will collaborate with the Capability Sponsor and the USSOCOM J8 to rapidly staff the requirement across the USSOCOM Enterprise to reduce risk and facilitate information sharing prior to VCDR validation.

• **Approved Resources:** In order to meet the schedule constraints of an MTA strategy, by definition, the funding resources for an MTA may not have been explicitly resourced via the POM/Budget/Spend plan process. For the current authority, there is no set-aside rapid prototyping or rapid fielding funding. The Acquisition Team must have command-approved resources to execute the MTA strategy. The VCDR will approve any required funding realignments or reprogrammings via the SPP process. Whenever possible, anticipated MTA’s should be included in budget exhibits and budget briefings to Congress to ensure confidence that we are executing appropriated funds within Congressional intent. If an MTA is initiated after Budget Exhibit submission, the MDA will coordinate with SOLA to inform the PSM’s from the four Defense Committees.
1. REFERENCES:

   a. Under Secretary of Defense Memorandum on Middle-Tier Acquisition (Rapid Prototyping/Rapid Fielding) Interim Authority and Guidance, dated 16 April 2018.

   b. United States Special Operations Command Acquisition Executive Memorandum on Middle-Tier Acquisition Authorities and Guidance, dated 1 August 2018.

2. BACKGROUND: Under Secretary of Defense (USO) Memorandum on Middle-Tier of Acquisition (MTA) (Rapid Prototyping/Rapid Fielding) Interim Authority and Guidance (Enclosure 1) directs Department of Defense (DoD) Components to determine what constitutes an approved requirement for MTA authorities. This Memorandum defines Headquarters, United States Special Operations Command's (USSOCOM) process for the submission and validation of requirements in support of MTA authorities.

3. PROCESS: USSOCOM Capability Sponsors, who believe they have a capability gap which might be eligible for rapid fielding under MTA authority, will submit a Commander-directed requirement to the Director, Force Structure, Requirements, Resources, and Strategic Assessments (J8). If required, SOF AT&L and J8 will designate appropriate personnel to participate in a Rapid-Response Team (RRT). The RRT shall, within 96 hours, determine if the nomination meets MTA authority criteria or can be better fulfilled by a more appropriate process and draft a recommendation to SOF AT&L and J8. If accepted as an MTA candidate, J8R will execute one round of abbreviated GO/FO/SES staffing in the In-Transit Visibility staffing process and generate an approval memorandum for Vice Commander (VCDR) signature. If the requirement is validated, but does not meet MTA criteria, as determined by SOF AT&L and/or J8, SOF AT&L will provide an alternate strategy to fulfill the requirement.