



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

DEC 22 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Test and Evaluation Policy Revisions

The fundamental purpose of test and evaluation is to provide knowledge to assist in managing the risks involved in developing, producing, operating, and sustaining systems and capabilities.

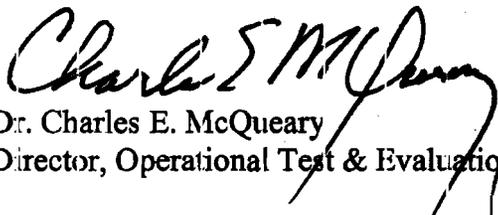
T&E measures progress in both system and capability development. T&E provides knowledge of system capabilities and limitations to the acquisition community for use in improving the system performance, and the user community for optimizing system use in operations. T&E expertise must be brought to bear at the beginning of the system life cycle to provide earlier learning about the strengths and weaknesses of the system under development. The goal is early identification of technical, operational, and system deficiencies, so that appropriate and timely corrective actions can be developed prior to fielding the system. Consequently, to achieve this goal we have decided to immediately implement the following policies:

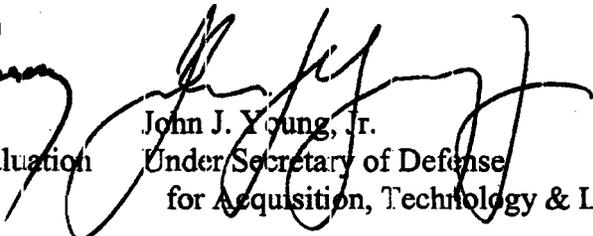
- Developmental and operational test activities shall be integrated and seamless throughout the system life cycle. As technology, software, and threats change, follow-on T&E should be used to assess current mission performance and inform operational users during the development of new capability requirements.
- Evaluations shall include a comparison with current mission capabilities using existing data, so that measurable improvements can be determined. If such evaluation is considered cost prohibitive the Service Component shall propose an alternative evaluation strategy.
- T&E should assess improvements to mission capability and operational support based on user needs and should be reported in terms of operational significance to the user. Consequently, evaluations shall be conducted in the mission context expected at time of fielding, as described in the user's capability document, and consider any new validated threat environments that will alter operational effectiveness.
- To maximize the efficiency of the T&E process and more effectively integrate developmental and operational T&E, evaluations shall take into account all available and relevant data and information from contractor and government sources.



- Operational evaluators will continue to fulfill their statutory roles in providing assessments of operational effectiveness, operational suitability, and survivability to the MDA. In addition, program managers shall report the results of completed developmental testing to the milestone decision authority at milestones B and C. The report shall identify strengths and weaknesses in meeting the warfighters' documented needs based on developmental evaluations. The operational evaluators assessment will be provided to the MDA at the full rate production review.
- To realize the benefits of modeling and simulation, T&E will be conducted in a continuum of live, virtual, and constructive system and operational environments.

These policies will be incorporated in the next revision to DoDI 5000.2.


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