



OPERATIONAL TEST
AND EVALUATION

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MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, ARMY TEST AND EVALUATION
COMMAND
COMMANDER, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
FORCE
COMMANDER, AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST AND
EVALUATION CENTER
DIRECTOR, MARINE CORPS OPERATIONAL TEST AND
EVALUATION ACTIVITY
COMMANDER, JOINT INTEROPERABILITY TEST
COMMAND
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, TEST &
EVALUATION COMMAND
DEPUTY, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY TEST &
EVALUATION EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, TEST & EVALUATION, HEADQUARTERS,
U.S. AIR FORCE
TEST AND EVALUATION EXECUTIVE, DEFENSE
INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY

SUBJECT: Use of Production-Representative Test Articles for Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E)

Consistent with Title 10 USC 2400, Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 5000.01 and DoD Instruction 5000.02 state production-representative articles should be used for test and evaluation. This memorandum expands upon the discussion of production representative systems contained in the Defense Acquisition Guidebook, Section 9.4.3. DOT&E will use the following criteria in evaluating whether systems are production-representative.

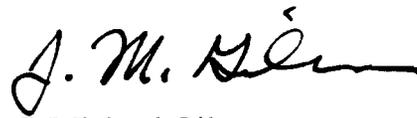
Wherever practicable, IOT&E will be conducted using low-rate initial production (LRIP) systems assembled using the parts, tools, and manufacturing processes intended for use in full-rate production. The system will also utilize the intended production versions of software. In addition, the logistics system and maintenance manuals intended for use on the fielded system should be in place.

When the use of LRIP articles is impractical, the system used in IOT&E should, at a minimum, incorporate the same parts and software to be used in LRIP articles. In particular, the hardware and software should be as defined by the system-level Critical



Design Review, Functional Configuration Audit, and System Verification Review, including correction of appropriate major deficiencies identified during developmental testing. Manufacturing processes to be used in full-rate production should also be adhered to as closely as possible. DOT&E must be provided detailed information describing any process differences in order to independently evaluate whether the differences are acceptable.

DOT&E will assess adherence to the above guidelines as part of its responsibility for reviewing and approving Test and Evaluation Master Plans and Test Plans. Proposals to use articles not from LRIP to conduct IOT&E will be considered for approval by DOT&E using the criteria stated above as part of those reviews.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Gilmore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. Michael Gilmore
Director