



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

26 November 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Air Force Guidance on Procurement of Automatic Test Systems and Equipment

In response to the General Accounting Office (GAO) Report, "*Military Readiness: DOD Needs to Better Manage Automatic Test Equipment Modernization*," GAO-03-451, March 2003, the Under Secretary of Defense republished DOD policy for Automatic Test Systems (ATS). The "*Automatic Test Systems Joint Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Service Acquisition Executives*" (Sept 04) was restated, establishing Navy PMA-260 as the DOD ATS Executive Director and WR-ALC/LEA (now the 742nd CBSG) at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center as the Air Force ATS Leadership Office.

The central theme in the GAO report is the need for commonality in automatic test systems/equipment. Air Force ATS/ATE requirements, whether for new, replacement, modification, Organizational, Intermediate, or Depot, will be coordinated through the 742nd CBSG/CC at WR-ALC for approval. The 742nd CBSG will either provide a solution to a program's ATS requirement or process a waiver through the DOD ATS Management Board (AMB) for approval. The DOD AMB will provide the ATS/ATE selection and acquisition recommendations to the Milestone Decision Authority or designated acquisition authority for final approval if the ATS acquisition involves a deviation from ATS policy.

The DOD AMB designated the Air Force's Versatile Depot Automatic Test Station (VDATS) as a DOD approved Family of Testers during the AMB meeting on 19 Sep 07. Program Managers can find the DOD ATS Policy, including the DOD ATS Selection Process Guide and the list of approved ATS Family of Testers, at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/ats>. ATS policy will be updated incorporating the designation of the 742nd CBSG as the Air Force ATS Leadership Office and ATS Product Group Manager, replacing SA-ALC/LDA.

Our staff (SAF/AQXA, DSN 425-7100; AF/A4MY, DSN 227-0294; and 742nd CBSG, DSN 472-2100) is prepared to assist you with this process.



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STAFF SUMMARY SHEET

	TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname), GRADE AND DATE		TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname), GRADE AND DATE
1	SAF/AQX	COORD	Puckett, SES, 2 Oct 07	4	WR ALC/CC	COORD	Owen, O-8, 6 Oct 07
2	SAF/IEL	COORD	Ms Debra Walker, SES5, 1 Oct 07	5			
3	HQ AFMC/A4	COORD	Levy, Col, 16 Oct 07				
SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE			SYMBOL	PHONE		TYPISTS INITIALS	SUSPENSE DATE
YA-02-0346 Vernon Hilderbrand			AF/A4MY	703 697-0294		vlh	20070928
SUBJECT							DATE
Automatic Test Systems (ATS) Policy Letter							20070925

SUMMARY

- 1. Purpose.** Receive Air Staff 3-ltr and MAJCOM 2-ltr coordination for attached policy letter.
- 2. Background.** The Integrated Life Cycle Management (ILCM) Executive Forum (EF) met on 5 Sept 07 and made a decision to support the WR-ALC Versatile Depot Automatic Test Station (VDATS) as the first Air Force Family of Testers to comply with DoD ATS policy to move toward common and interoperable Automatic Test Systems with the other Services. That decision is implemented in the attached policy letter that AF/A4M was tasked to develop and present to the ILCM EF for signature. Major revision of ATS policy is being implemented in revised AFD 63-1 and AFI 63-101 that are currently in review and comment. WR-ALC is developing a procurement data package to enable Air Force programs to replace their unsupportable legacy testers with VDATS.
- 3. Discussion.** The Air Force O-6 level ATS Council was chartered in Nov 06 to identify the processes for acquiring and sustaining ATS and to suggest new processes to preclude the continued proliferation of peculiar ATS by acquisition and sustainment Program Mangers. The Council identified the need to revise the 1994 ATS policy contained in AFD 63-2 and AFI 63-201, develop an ATS Roadmap, and develop an Air Force family of testers as major Council goals. The A4MY Council Co-Chair was presented the opportunity to inform the ILCM EF of the Council's work and the road blocks preventing the Council from implementing their recommendations. General Carlson had seen demonstrations of the VDATS capabilities and recommended the EF support the revision of ATS policy and the identification of VDATS as the first Air Force family of testers.
- 4. Recommendation.** Provide coordination above and return to AF/A4MY action officer, Mr. Vernon Hilderbrand, AF/A4MY, 703 697-0294 or DSN 227-0294

//e-Signed/MDJ/26 Sep 07//

MARK D. JOHNSON, SES, DAF
Deputy Director of Maintenance
DCS/Logistics, Installations & Mission Support

Tabs

1. ATS Policy Letter
2. ILCM EF Decision/Action Paper



ATS Policy Letter



ILCM EF Decision/
Action Paper