

**Service Requirements Review Board
Department of Defense-Level 4th Estate Reviews
Frequently Asked Questions**

What is a Service Requirements Review Board (SRRB)?

An SRRB is a structured review process chaired by senior leaders to inform, assess, and support trade-off decisions regarding requirements cost, schedule and performance for the acquisition of services. The goal of an SRRB is the validation and optimization of current and future service acquisition requirements. While SRRBs are typically focused on contractor-provided services, a services requirements review can also help inform the decision to use organic capabilities vs contracting for the required service.

Why is the Department doing SRRBs now?

Three reasons: statute, declining budgets, and active management of the total force. 10 U.S.C. 2330 requires DoD to actively manage contracted services. Within Public Law 111-383, Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, Section 863 required DoD to ensure that the military departments and Defense Agencies establish processes for identifying, assessing, reviewing, and validating requirements for the acquisition of services. The SRRBs address this mandate.

The benefit of validating requirements via SRRBs is active management of services to ensure cost-effective, efficient application of resources to meet mission requirements. In this time of declining budgets and sequestration, SRRBs provide tools with which to assess relative value of services and to make prudent, cost-effective trade-offs without compromising mission capabilities.

What are possible SRRB outcomes?

The goal of the SRRB process is to get the most value for the minimally appropriate cost of contracted services. Every requirement and organization will be different, but outcomes may include:

1. Elimination of partial or entire non-value-added (or limited marginal value) contracted services capabilities.
2. Identification and elimination of redundant contracted capabilities.
3. Restructured work allocation.
4. Re-competing new requirements that better align to mission and market place.
5. Improved alignment of labor categories to work provided.
6. Strategic sourcing of services capabilities.
7. Identification of inherently-governmental activities not suitable for contracted services.

What are some of the considerations that would lead to the possible outcomes described above?

1. Elimination of parts of, or entire contracted services capabilities would be appropriate when the work provided is redundant, unneeded, or of less value than other needed work (lower priority). Examples include, but are not limited to, multiple contractors or organizations working on the same or similar function, deliverable reports that no one uses since they have outlived their utility, and the elimination of staff admin services to increase funds for technical analysts.
2. Restructured work allocation can be done when the function is inappropriate for contracted services (inherently governmental or closely related to inherently governmental functions) or when it is more cost effective to have someone else do the work. Examples include moving work from contractor to government when the function is oversight of another contractor (which is inherently governmental), or moving administrative functions from a technical contractor to an administrative services contractor, or even government employees, to lower cost by taking advantage of better rate structures.
3. Re-competing new requirements that better align to mission and market place may improve cost and capabilities through better definition of need. It has been found that requirements have been rolled from one contract to another without significant updating, thus becoming out-of-date. Examples found include statements of work that do not reflect new organizational requirements & structure, or new tools, that would allow vendors better ability to meet the need at a lower price.
4. Improved alignment of labor categories to work provided addresses the requirement versus the people providing the service. SRRBs have identified “cost creep” when an individual contractor remains on the job in a specific title, but increases job responsibilities and salary, usually resulting in higher contract costs. This is a misalignment of the actual requirement and the execution, and costs more money.

How often are SRRBs required?

Reviews are required at least annually.

Where is the concept of SRRBs documented?

The basis for SRRB is provided by 10 U.S.C. 2330, which requires DoD to actively manage contracted services. Within Public Law 111-383, Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, Section 863 required DoD to ensure that the military departments and Defense Agencies each establish a process for identifying, assessing, reviewing, and validating requirements for the acquisition of services. The Service Requirements Review Boards (SRRBs) as defined in the DRAFT DoDI 5000.ac address this mandate.

Who is on the 4th Estate SRRB panel?

4th Estate SRRB membership shall be at a level consistent with responsibility and ownership of all requirements. Membership will include three voting members and relevant non-voting membership:

- The DoD Deputy Chief Management Officer (DCMO) shall chair DoD-level 4th Estate reviews.
- The senior-level official responsible for the mission—the Principal Staff Assistant (PSA) or head of the Agency—shall be a voting SRRB member.
- An independent third party, usually the Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (PDUSD(AT&L) in his role as the DoD’s Senior Services Manager (unless AT&L is the PSA on AT&L’s SRRB) will be a voting member. If PDUSD(AT&L) is not the third member, a senior member of another organization will be selected by the DCMO as a replacement.
- Advisory, non-voting members may be added to the board. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Representatives of the Military Departments or other major stakeholders
 - Other military department or other defense agency Senior Services Managers
 - DCMO staff to support logistics and meeting management
 - AT&L Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP) Services Acquisition staff to support process facilitation

Participants are cautioned to be aware of the number of participants and ease of discussion. SRRBs must maintain a balance between appropriate oversight and the mechanics of running an efficient, productive SRRB. More participants are not always optimal.

Who should present or participate in the SRRB review?

Presenters of the requirements should always be the individual with the knowledge and authority to manage the capability or contract. I.e., the owner of the requirement should present—they may not necessarily be the owner of the contract. This person should be knowledgeable in all aspects of the requirement and how it supports the broader organization and mission. This will, in most cases, not be the contracting officer’s representative (COR).

Participants in the SRRB process are at the discretion of the Board, but in general should include all major stakeholders. This would likely include:

- Requirements Owners
- Customer Representatives
- Financial Manager
- Personnel & Readiness representatives
- Contracting Officer

- COR
- Legal, Small Business, Administrative Representatives (may be optional)

Past experience indicates that the construct of the SRRB participation is most beneficial when the entire leadership team is present during all presentations and discussions. This provides an opportunity hear and understand the connectivity and relative prioritization of all organizational requirements, which often leads to improved outcomes from the SRRB.

When I report the number of contractors on a specific effort, how do I calculate Contractor Manpower Equivalent?

There are two primary ways:

1. (Preferred) If the hours worked are available the calculation is to add all the hours worked in a fiscal year and divide by 2087 hours per workyear to reach CME (also referred to as Full Time Equivalent). Example: If 200 full- and part-time contract employees amassed 151,934 hours in the last FY, the calculation of 151,934 hours divided by 2087 hours per CME work year equals 72.8 CME workyears.
2. (Alternate) If hours are unavailable, adding up the number of work years people who work on that requirement provide will substitute. Example if a requirement had 300 people working full time, and 145 people working half-time the calculation of (300 people times 1 work year per person PLUS 145 people times 0.5 work year per person) equals 300 + 72.5 equals 372.5 work years.

If I receive support paid for by someone else, do I report it in my SRRB?

Yes. Work you benefit from, regardless of who pays for it, should be presented at your SRRB. Funding trails should be a primary focus of that review discussion as well.

What things should I consider when evaluating value of contracted services?

The primary value of a requirement is first-and-foremost defined on the value it provides to the mission, answerable by the question, “Is this where I should spend this money to get the best result for mission support/execution?” Supporting questions to consider during value discussions include, but are not limited to:

- Why am I executing this specific requirement? What is the actual importance of the task? (i.e., Is it a “must have” or a “nice to have”?)
- What is the best way to meet this requirement over the long-run?
- Is the requirement being fulfilled in the most cost-effective way?
- What work can cease and how much money would be saved? (and conversely) What is not being done and how much would it cost?
- How much does the requirement cost in relationship to the benefit realized (return on investment)?

- Is this a good investment, or would the money be better and more effectively spent on a different requirement?
- Is the cost of the requirement stable, and what was expected, or is it always changing/increasing?
- What is the performance of the requirement provider? Is it excellent and we can save money by reducing our needs, or is it acceptable at an appropriate price?

How should I go about prioritizing requirements?

While every organization will have different specifics and orders of importance, all should include consideration of:

- Overall lifecycle cost
- Marginal cost of performance decreases or increases
- Mission criticality
- Inherently governmental, closely related to inherently governmental, and inappropriate personal services
- Industrial base
- Perceptions regarding requirements management (workforce makeup etc.)

What are the Portfolio/Portfolio Groups of Services?

The portfolios that make up portfolio groups are a DoD-developed grouping of like services based on the Product Services Code (PSCs) that are used by all federal government contracting activities for identifying and classifying the services. The DoD's Portfolio Group Taxonomy consists of 9 services portfolio groups with 40 services portfolios. More detailed information, including specific portfolio breakdown is on-line at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/ss/taxonomy.html>.

What are “Tripwires” and what do they mean when they are identified during my review?

“Tripwires” are specific issues that have been identified as potentially leading to a higher risk of increased cost, contract mismanagement, and/or fraud. The appearance of a tripwire is a signal that the SRRB should explore the management processes, risk mitigation, and execution outcomes with the requirements owner to ensure that the outcomes reflect the optimal value for the minimally appropriate cost and risk.

What are examples of “Tripwires”?

Examples included in the implementation guidance for all organizations are:

- Labor rates
- Performance Issues

- Use of bridge contracts
- Use of subcontractors
- Single-bid procurements
- Best-value source selection premiums
- Other direct costs
- Economy Act awards

No values of the tripwires are included in guidance of the above questions.

Why?

Values are not specified for the tripwires, as no single value is appropriate for all requirements. The values associated with each tripwire should be developed to the specific organization and their requirements. What may be appropriate to one organization may be too high (or too low) for another, so best judgement is required.

May an organization add other tripwires?

Yes, tripwires that are specific and important to the organization may be added. Examples may include, but are not limited to, the number of contractors seated in government spaces, types of security clearances, contract type, etc.

How might contracts be changed to realize savings identified during the SRRB process?

The contracting officer can provide the most detailed explanation, but contract changes may include:

- Completely ending a contract by not awarding an option or terminating for convenience, etc.
- De-scoping requirements through a change in the statement of work / performance work statement to eliminate unneeded work
- Removal, or changing of deliverables
- Changing acquisition strategies for follow-on requirements to better align to the market capabilities. This may include more competition, splitting unrelated requirements, more small business, etc.

What types of services contracts are included in SRRBs?

In the course of the FY2016 rollout, only unclassified contracts will be reviewed. Ultimately, however, ALL services requirements are subject to SRRB review. These include:

- *Embedded services* – embedded services are those services placed on a supply or weapon system contract as a separately priced services contract line item (CLIN). Co-

mingled requirements that are indistinguishable and not reported as services are not considered services for the purposes of the SRRB.

- *Advisory and assistance services (A&AS)* – A&AS, even if those services support research and development (R&D), construction, architect-engineering or utility activities, are included in SRRB reviews.
- *Information Technology (IT) services.*
- *Special Interest Items* – any other service (to include R&D, construction, architect-engineering, and utilities) or service related acquisition designated as a special interest item by the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition Technology & Logistics (USD AT&L).

What types of funding should be considered during the SRRBs?

All requirements funded by all appropriations will be included in the review except for non-appropriated funds (NAF) and National Intelligence Program (NIP) funds. Requirements funded by Working Capital Fund (WCF) and Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) will be reviewed under the requiring organization's SRRB.

Can my organization waive SRRBs?

SRRBs cannot be completely waived or eliminated. An organization may request the Deputy Chief Management Officer (DCMO) waive the 4th Estate Board to run its own, compliant SRRB reviews. If an organization is granted a waiver, it must report data and summarized SRRB results to the DCMO within 60 days of their SRRB.

I have an SRRB-equivalent process. What should I do to obtain a waiver?

An organization with an existing local-level SRRB process may request a waiver from the DoD-level review by requesting, in writing, a waiver from the DCMO. The request must contain a detailed enough description of the process, and its scope, for the DCMO to render a decision on whether the process is robust enough to meet the requirements of an SRRB. Insufficiently explained processes will not be approved.

If granted a waiver, the organization must report, to the DoD-level review board, data and results from its local-level SRRB within 60 days of the SRRB conduct.

What templates and preparation materials are available to help me prepare for an SRRB?

A number of templates for the SRRBs and reporting are available on the DoD-level SRRB website at: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/sa/>.