OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301

September 4, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: Report of Reliability Improvement Working Group

This letter transmits the report that fulfills the requirements of the Reliability Improvement Working Group (RIWG). We formed the RIWG at your request to implement three recommendations of the Defense Science Board task force on Developmental Test and Evaluation contained in the report released on June 6, 2008:

- Ensure programs are formulated to execute a viable systems engineering strategy from the beginning, including a RAM growth program, as an integral part of design and development.
- Ensure government organizations reconstitute a cadre of experienced T&E and RAM personnel.
- Implement mandated integrated DT and OT, including the sharing and access to all appropriate contractor and government data and the use of operationally representative environments in early testing.

The RIWG report documents actions to implement those recommendations. Key among them is the new department policy that programs be formulated to "execute a viable RAM strategy that includes a reliability growth program as an integral part of design and development." We briefed the Service Acquisition Executives, or their representative, on these actions. The report includes Service implementing responses.

Many Service responses promise future action (e.g., publish policy, adjust staff). Therefore, we recommend a review in nine to twelve months of actions completed and additional steps that may have been taken as a result of the actions by this work group.

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cc:
Component Acquisition Executives