THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1000

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
DIRECTORS, DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Policy for the Transition to a Digital Environment for Acquisition Programs

The Department has made substantial progress in the acquisition, management, and use of digitized information. It is now time to move forward to a fully digital environment in all acquisition program and support offices. Industry has already demonstrated that this is not only possible, but preferable to traditional paper-driven systems. I am setting a corporate goal of digital operations being the method of choice for all acquisition management and life cycle support information. By the end of 2002, the overwhelming majority of DoD acquisition and logistics operations should be based on digital methodologies and products.

The focus of this effort must be at the program office level. Consistent with the architecture established by the joint DoD level executive steering group, Program Managers shall be responsible for establishing a data management system and appropriate digital environment that allows every activity involved with the program throughout its total life-cycle to exchange data digitally.

I am counting on your support for this critical initiative that will enhance acquisition reform, further empower our Integrated Product Teams, and combine with electronic commerce to achieve greater efficiencies in the weapon system life cycle.

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