Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF) 101 Brief
Acquisition Enablers
Empower - Analyze - Innovate

DoDD 5000.01: The Defense Acquisition System
Describes overarching acquisition policy and the responsibilities of key officials.

DoDI 5000.02: Operation of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework
Describes the six pathways of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework

DoDs for Each Functional Area
Published by OSD functional organizations

SUPPORTING FUNCTIONAL POLICY
Pathway: Urgent Capability Acquisition

Purpose
To field capabilities to fulfill urgent operational needs or other quick reaction capabilities in less than 2 years.

Characteristics
- UONs and other QRCs are identified and approved for resolution by designated authorities.
- The estimated cost must not exceed $525 million in research, development, and test and evaluation, or $3.065 billion procurement in Fiscal Year 2020 constant dollars.
- The acquisition processes, reviews, and documents are aggressively streamlined due to operational urgency.
- The goal is to plan for the capability in a few weeks with development and production measured in months.
Pathway: Middle Tier of Acquisition

**Purpose**
To rapidly develop fieldable prototypes to demonstrate new capabilities and/or rapidly field production quantities of systems with proven technologies that require minimal development.

**Characteristics**
- **Rapid Prototyping**
  - Field a prototype that can be demonstrated in an operational environment
  - Provide for residual operational capability within 5 years of an approved requirement

- **Rapid Fielding**
  - Begin production within 6 months
  - Complete fielding within 5 years of an approved requirement
Pathway: Major Capability Acquisition

Purpose
To acquire and modernize military unique programs that provide enduring capability. This pathway is intended for large scale, traditional hardware acquisitions.

Characteristics
- Typically follows a structured analysis, design, develop, integrate, test, and produce and support approach
- Acquisition and product support processes, reviews, and documentation will be tailored based on the program size, complexity, risk, urgency, and other factors
- Software intensive components may be acquired via the software acquisition pathway, with the outputs and dependencies integrated with the overall major capability pathway
Pathway: Software Acquisition

Purpose
To facilitate rapid and iterative delivery of software capability to the user.

Characteristics
- Integrates modern iterative software development practices such as Agile or Lean Software Development Methods, and DevSecOps.
- Tightly coupled, mission-focused government-industry software teams leverage automated tools for development, integration, testing, and delivery to iteratively deploy software capabilities to the operational environment.
**Pathway: Defense Business Systems**

**Purpose**
To acquire information systems that support DoD business operations, or non-developmental, software intensive programs that are not business systems.

**Characteristics**
- Assesses the business environment and identifies existing commercial or government solutions that could be adopted to satisfy DoD needs.
- DoD reviews and revises its business processes to align more closely with commercial or government IT best practices.
- Customization of a selected information technology (IT) solution is minimal.
- DoD reduces risk and maximizes benefits by using off-the-shelf software that has been successfully demonstrated in the commercial marketplace.

“MULTIPLE PATHWAYS FOR TAILORED SOLUTIONS” • HTTPS://WWW.DAU.EDU/AAF
Pathway: Acquisition of Services

Purpose
To acquire services from the private sector to include knowledge-based, construction, electronics and communications, equipment, facilities, logistics, medical, research and development, and transportation.

Characteristics
• Identify the required services, research the potential contractors, contract for the services, and manage performance.
• The pathway employs a seven-step process that is broken down into three phases: planning, developing, and executing.
• Seven steps should be used to the maximum extent possible to ensure the use of proven, repeatable processes and procedures contributing to successful services acquisitions.
AAF Website and AAFDID Tool

Integrates all the new **policies, guides, and resources** online for the acquisition workforce

**WHAT** is required

**HOW** to do each activity

Navigate the pathways with greater speed and success!

[https://aaf.dau.edu](https://aaf.dau.edu)