SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY, & LOGISTICS

Trusted Experts

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Supportability Analysis for Rapid Acquisition

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Synchronize the planning of special operations and provide SOF to support persistent, networked, and distributed Geographic Combatant Command (GCC) operations to protect and advance our nation’s interests.

SOF AT&L Rapid Acquisition
Survival, Support, and Equipment Systems
SOF AT&L Acquisition Policy

• USSOCOM D 70-1, *Acquisition Management System Policy*
  • Rapidly deliver *acquisition* solutions to meet validated SO-p requirements.

• USSOCOM Capability Life-Cycle
  • Significant contributor to SO-p rapid acquisition is the coordination of serial phases through *overlapping and parallel* command-driven processes.

• Principles
  • Commander-Focused
  • Operator Informed
  • Risk/Opportunity Management
  • Empowered
  • Transparency
  • Full Life-Cycle Owner
  • Agility

• Elite Warfighting Force
  • 69,700 SOF Operators
  • Global and regional-specific missions
    • Execute 12 core activities/other activities as directed by POTUS
Unity of Purpose (Culture)

• A short “chain of command”
  • MDA authority resides at the PEO-level (non-SES)

• Savings is in staff/people
  • Decision makers exist at the lowest levels
    • PM assumes programmatic risks/not “Risk Adverse”
      • “Legal, Moral, Ethical” move out! Buy Down Risk
    • Rapid/agile processes: PM moves as deliberate/fast as required to meet SOF mission.
    • Take risk & manage it

• Strong relationships with industry/laboratory/academia partners
  • Understand current technologies that underpin capability and possess readiness levels to apply to threshold requirements as well as to the pursuit of objective requirements
  • Maximize acquisition instruments and arrangements; i.e. R&D projects, DAC, rapid prototyping, CRADA, technology investments, prize achievements/competitions
Program Manager

• Acquisition Strategy
  • “Modernization through Sustainment” – invest in measurable leaps in technology
  • Preparatory research & development/mature capabilities towards CPD objectives

• Systems Acquisition Management Plan
  • PSM/Logisticians intimately involved with section 7 (Logistics Management) language
    • Logistics management information systems determinations
    • Continuous revised support strategies based on lessons learned
    • Compile known Best Practices from commercial community for potential benchmark
    • CLS workload estimating and analysis with Center of Excellence (Special Operations Forces Support Activity)
    • SOF force strength & deployment analysis to determine sustainment/supportability needs

• Testing and Evaluation
  • Execute multiple limited and extended user evaluations conducted with SOF operators and OEMs/leverage SOF Service Components OT&E events

• Smart Contracting
  • SOF is small – contract award to a single vendor after competition an absolute benefit
    • Quality control/configuration/modernization/warranty management = SPEED
Logistics & Supportability

• Special Operations Forces Personal Equipment Advanced Requirements (SPEAR) Program
  • ‘Keep SOF operators technologically advanced into the 21st century’
    • FY18 TOA: $60M/RDT&E and O&M only program (10 sub-programs)
    • Equipment modernization cycle every 15-24 months; gear accountability managed to each individual operator for entire SOF career

• Supportability – Acquisition at the speed of SOF
  • Center of Excellence – Special Operations Forces Support Activity (SOFSA)
    • CLS used in execution of ILS elements/functions; maximum contract flexibility
  • O&S Costs
    • Predictive analysis tools/scenarios/demand data/force deployment models
      • 5-year predictable deployment schedule; not-inclusive of SSCs
      • Critical to spend plan execution & inventory posture/cyclical 30-day demand analysis
      • Multiple patterns/signatures required/geographic specific requirements
  • Cost Plus-Fixed Fee Contract (Base plus 4 x 1-year options)
    • SOF demands on SOFSA continuously change
    • Allows for maximum flexibility in support of global SOF operations
Logistics & Supportability

• Sustainment Challenges:
  • Due to speed of development; logistics/supportability may not be fully considered during each effort
    • Impact to fielding/modernization schedule
  • Predictability of equipment purchases to equipment demand
    • OSD spending goals
  • Frequent changes in SOF mission & environment drive maintenance requirement changes at SOFSA
  • Price for COTS purchases is not fixed over a period of time
    • OEM can and does adjust costs
  • Limited Commercial Manufacturing Capability
    • Contract awards normally to niche OEMs/small businesses
    • Lead times and DMSMS management

• Sustainment Success:
  • COTS solutions expedite SOF modernization efforts
  • Meet high materiel availability rates based on low-density of equipment required
  • Reduced total ownership costs
Recommendations

• Involve combat experienced users
  • Broad CDD/CPD objectives allow for continued improvement

• Buy-Down Risk & Manage It
  • Leverage rapid prototyping

• Empower PEOs, PMs, PARCs, KOs
  • SAMP – tailorable, concise, one-stop document

• Smart Contracting
  • Exploit commercial procurement

• Testing
  • Use operational/combat environments; validate critical functions
  • Assess and manage risk
Questions?