This Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) provides an Air Force acquisition and sustainment Integrated Life Cycle Management (ILCM) framework for Air Force systems, subsystems, end items, services, and activities (for the purpose of this publication referred to as programs throughout this document). It applies to all Air Force military and civilian personnel; members of the Air Force Reserve; members of the Air National Guard; and other individuals or organizations as required by binding agreement or obligation with the Department of the Air Force.

This AFPD implements Department of Defense Directives (DoDDs) 2040.3, End Use Certificates (EUCs); DoDD 3000.09, Autonomy in Weapon Systems; DoDD 3020.49, Orchestrating, Synchronizing, and Integrating Program Management of Contingency Acquisition Planning and Its Operational Execution; DoDD 4120.11, Standardization of Mobile Electric Power (MEP) Generating Sources; DoDD 4151.18, Maintenance of Military Materiel; DoDD 4275.5, Acquisition and Management of Industrial Resources; DoDD 4400.01, Defense Production Act Programs; DoDD 5000.01, The Defense Acquisition System; DoDD 5000.52, Defense Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Workforce Education, Training, and Career Development Program; DoDD 5134.09, Missile Defense Agency (MDA); DoDD 5200.47E, Anti-Tamper (AT). This AFPD interfaces with and is consistent with DoDD 3150.1, Joint DoD-DOE Nuclear Weapon Life-Cycle Activities and AFPD 13-5, Air Force Nuclear Enterprise. If there is any conflicting policy between this AFPD and applicable Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff issuances or Department of Defense (DoD) issuances, the latter shall take precedence. AFPD
63-1/20-1 provides the flexibility required for today’s Air Force and must be used in conjunction with AFPD 10-6, Capability Requirements Development, and AFPD 99-1, Test and Evaluation. This AFPD cannot be supplemented. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication; route AF Form 847 from the field to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisition Management Policy (SAF/AQXS) workflow (usaf.pentagon.saf-aq.mbx.saf-aqxs-policy-workflow@mail.mil) through appropriate channels. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual 33-363, Management of Records, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule in the Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS). For nuclear systems or related components, ensure the appropriate nuclear related regulations are applied.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

The majority of this AFPD’s content remains the same. The revision updates format to comply with AFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management, implements new DoD Directives, and reflects Headquarters Air Force organizational changes and updated roles and responsibilities.

1. **Overview/Background.** Integrated Life Cycle Management (ILCM) is the seamless governance, using transparent processes, that integrates all aspects of infrastructure, resource management, and business systems necessary for the successful acquisition execution (requirements identification, development, testing, fielding, sustainment, and disposal) of systems, subsystems, end items, and services to satisfy validated warfighter capability needs.

   1.1. By executing the ILCM approach, the Air Force promotes the development, protection, and integration of maintainable and reliable technology throughout the life cycle that advances state of the art warfighter capabilities critical to continued superiority in air, space, and cyberspace.

   1.2. An ILCM approach improves Air Force capabilities by ensuring acquisition efficiency; ensuring robust technical planning and risk management as well as adequate developmental and operational testing; optimizing operations and sustainment of fielded capabilities; minimizing the logistics footprint; and reducing life cycle costs.

2. **Policy.**

   2.1. ILCM Applicability. ILCM shall be applied to Air Force acquisition programs throughout their life cycle in support of warfighter capability planning and validated operational requirements. “Program” includes: systems, subsystems, end items, or activities identified as Acquisition Category (ACAT) programs or pre-ACAT programs, weapon systems designated in AFPD 10-9, Lead Command Designation and Responsibilities for Weapon Systems, systems—to include Defense Business Systems (DBS)—in sustainment, and services. **Note:** ACAT criteria are listed in DoDI 5000.02.

   2.2. Governance. All acquisition programs shall have a clear acquisition chain of authority. This chain of authority applies the efficient use of Air Force resources to program execution throughout the life cycle. ILCM stakeholders advise and assist the acquisition chain of authority with its program execution responsibilities.
2.2.1. An ACAT program’s acquisition chain of authority is dependent upon Milestone Decision Authority (MDA) delegation. All acquisition management responsibilities and authorities for ACAT programs flow directly from the Defense Acquisition Executive (DAE)/Service Acquisition Executive (SAE) to the Program Executive Officer (PEO) to the accountable Program Manager (PM).

2.2.2. For the acquisition of services, the Air Force acquisition chain of authority starts with the SAE and is delegated to the Services Designated Official depending on the dollar threshold of the services being acquired.

2.3. ILCM Execution. ILCM execution requires standard processes and business practices to initiate, govern, and/or regulate actions within the ILCM enterprise. As such, the acquisition chain of authority shall:

2.3.1. Execute an acquisition program in response to a validated capability need vetted through an approved requirements process.

2.3.2. Establish an MDA for program execution. The MDA has the authority to: approve entry of a program into the next phase of the life cycle process, tailor the program to maximize efficient use of limited resources, and certify milestone criteria; be accountable for program cost, schedule, and performance reporting to higher authority, including Congressional reporting; and have authority over all matters impacting programmatic execution except when statutory or regulatory authority resides elsewhere for a specific requirement.

2.3.3. Ensure the Air Force Chief of Staff concurs with the cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance trade-offs that have been made with regard to a major defense acquisition program prior to specific decision points.

2.3.4. Authorize entry into the Defense Acquisition System at an appropriate point, consistent with phase-specific entrance criteria and statutory/regulatory requirements following completion of or in concert with a Materiel Development Decision as approved by the MDA.

2.3.5. Establish a PM throughout the life cycle. The PM shall have the authority to accomplish program objectives for development, test, production, fielding, sustainment, and disposal to meet user operational needs. The PM shall be accountable to the MDA or equivalent authority for program cost, schedule, and performance for the life cycle of the program.

2.3.6. Participate in joint and international cooperative research, development, and programs that support the best interest of the United States and fulfill valid Air Force requirements.

2.3.7. Emphasize conformance to national and international standards for safe access to global airspace, space, and cyberspace.

2.3.8. Apply standard systems engineering processes and practices to ensure the integrity, mission assurance, operational safety, suitability, and effectiveness of each system throughout the life cycle from concept development through disposal. It shall also apply integrity programs to weapon systems.
2.3.9. Develop and document test planning, execution, and level of support required for the system’s life cycle.

2.3.10. Document requirements, plans, and strategies to apply comprehensive acquisition security throughout the life cycle of the system to include cybersecurity, program protection, anti-tamper, and supply chain risk management.

2.3.11. Ensure product support is a continuous and collaborative set of activities that establishes and maintains readiness and the operational capability and availability of a system, subsystem, or end item throughout its life cycle. Product support implementation shall validate and refine the system sustainment objectives and outcomes in preparation for the Operations and Sustainment phase.

2.3.12. Ensure government-owned segments of the industrial base do not exceed the minimal assets necessary to satisfy validated warfighter capability needs.

2.3.13. Meet all statutory requirements that ensure the nation’s industrial resources are available to support national security needs with respect to Air Force programs.


3. **Roles and Responsibilities.** Organizational roles and responsibilities include:


3.2. Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition (SAF/AQ). Executes all Service Acquisition Executive (referred to in DoD policy as Component Acquisition Executive) and Senior Procurement Executive responsibilities and authorities outlined in statute and regulation. Responsible for all science and technology, acquisition, contracting, systems engineering, supply chain management, maintenance of military materiel, and product support policy, guidance, and oversight. Ensures development and maintenance of skills required for the acquisition workforce. Chairs the ILCM Executive Forum to provide an acquisition enterprise governance framework for the integrated life cycle construct.

3.3. Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller (SAF/FM). Responsible for directing and managing all comptroller and financial management functions, activities, and operations of the Air Force. Provides direction and guidance for all matters pertaining to the programming, formulation, review, and execution of plans, allocation of expenditures, and collection of all funds administered by the Air Force. Responsible for policies and programs relative to: preparing program and budget estimates; managing and overseeing the programming and financial aspects of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution process; managing economic and business case analyses; and managing and overseeing cost estimating, cost analysis, and cost reporting.
3.4. Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs (SAF/IA). Responsible for supporting PMs in their preparation and execution of Foreign Military Sales cases as part of security cooperation programs.

3.5. Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy (SAF/IE). Develops strategic level guidance and policy for matters pertaining to installations environment, safety, infrastructure, and energy.

3.6. Deputy Under Secretary of The Air Force, Management and Deputy Chief Management Officer (SAF/MG). Ensures that defense business systems accountability and modernization is in compliance with 10 United States Code §2222. Responsible for ensuring requirements for business systems and processes are as streamlined and efficient as practicable.

3.7. Director, Office of Small Business Programs, (SAF/SB). Responsible for developing, implementing, overseeing, and executing small business policy and enterprise management of the Air Forces’ Small Business Programs. Ensures future competition; develops the industrial base; and pursues maximum practicable opportunities for small business prime contract and subcontracting opportunities. Advises leadership on industrial capability and conducts education and outreach.

3.8. Chief of Safety (AF/SE). Responsible for: the formation of nuclear surety policy, munitions safety policy, flight safety policy, space safety policy, occupational safety, and system safety policy; the execution of plans; and the establishment of programs to implement Air Force safety policies and plans. Provides safety recommendations and feedback into the system design process through trends/issues identified during mishap investigations.

3.9. Director of Test and Evaluation (AF/TE). Provides guidance, direction and oversight for all matters pertaining to the formulation, review, and execution of Test and Evaluation (T&E) plans, policies, programs, and budgets. Manages the Air Force test infrastructure by ensuring adequate T&E facilities, resources, and expertise are available to support system life cycle T&E activities.

3.10. Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) (AF/A2). Serves as the lead for Air Force ISR to include planning, programming, policy, guidance, intelligence force development, and oversight for all Air Force components of the ISR functional community. Provides policy, guidance and oversight for acquisition intelligence to include, but not limited to, threat and intelligence supportability (such as intelligence mission data, doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities) inputs to requirements, capabilities planning, and life cycle acquisition processes.

3.11. Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (AF/A3). Responsible for providing policy, guidance, and oversight for air, space, and cyberspace operations, training, and sourcing of Air Force capabilities and personnel to support joint operations, and representing Air Force operations to DoD and other government agencies.

3.12. Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection (AF/A4). Issues policy implementation guidance to Air Force logistics, and Agile Combat Support activities. Responsible for materiel necessary to equip, operate, maintain, and support military activities. Organizes, trains, and equips personnel for all facets of logistics, civil engineering, and force protection programs for the Air Force.
3.13. Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements (AF/A5/8). Responsible for developing and managing the process for strategy development, long-range strategic planning, and resource allocation. Serves as the Headquarters Air Force (HAF) lead for developing, validating, approving, and prioritizing operational capability requirements; accomplishing capability and modification prioritization and initial planning through all acquisition milestones. Develops and submits Air Force Plan to Program Guidance to provide direction on Air Force Program Objective Memorandum development. Responsible for the development of an enterprise affordability assessment (for ACAT I and IA programs) determined by comparing life cycle cost estimates against future Air Force resource allocations.


3.15. Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration (AF/A10). Responsible for advocating for requirements, acquisition, programming, and budgeting processes for nuclear and global strike capabilities.

3.16. Implementing Commands. Support the MDAs and PMs by providing technical assistance, infrastructure, manpower, test capabilities, laboratory support, professional education, training and development, and management tools. Implementing Commands include Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), Air Force Space Command (AFSPC), and Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC).

4. Tailoring and Waivers.

4.1. If required, the acquisition chain of authority tailors to streamline the ILCM processes and documentation commensurate with current and projected risk. For ACAT ID and ACAT IAM programs, Air Force implementation guidance may be tailored to support DAE direction. The MDA cannot waive functional requirements which reside outside MDA authority.

4.2. Where there is a clear conflict between approved courses of action and where DoD policy/guidance does not allow for tailoring of process, regardless of ACAT level, SAF/AQ shall request waivers from the appropriate DoD office. If a waiver is required, the waiver request should be submitted to the publication OPR for appropriate staffing and approval among HAF functional authorities. Where the course of action, as approved and documented through the ILCM chain of authority, conflicts with an AFPD, the PM shall submit a request for a waiver to the certifying authority for the publication, who, in turn, obtains Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF) approval for the waiver, if warranted. Where the course of action, as approved and documented through the ILCM chain of authority, conflicts with Air Force Departmental directive issuances other than AFPDs, the PM shall submit a notification via memorandum to the publication OPR for action. The OPR takes appropriate action to either
provide direction to comply with policy, obtain a waiver to requirements, or to initiate changes to publications as appropriate to resolve the conflict IAW AFI 33-360. Resolution of conflicts between Air Force issuances is resolved by the appropriate HAF functional.

DEBORAH LEE JAMES
Secretary of the Air Force
Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References
DoDD 2040.3, End Use Certificates (EUCs), 14 November 1991
DoDD 3000.09 Autonomy in Weapon Systems, 21 November 2012
DoDD 3020.49, Orchestrating, Synchronizing, and Integrating Program Management of Contingency Acquisition Planning and Its Operational Execution, 24 March 2009
DoDD 3150.1, Joint DoD-DOE Nuclear Weapon Life-Cycle Activities, 26 August 2002
DoDD 4120.11, Standardization of Mobile Electric Power (MEP) Generating Sources, 13 April 2004
DoDD 4151.18, Maintenance of Military Materiel, 31 March 2004
DoDD 4275.5, Acquisition and Management of Industrial Resources, 15 March 2005
DoDD 4400.01, Defense Production Act Programs, 12 October 2001
DoDD 5000.01, The Defense Acquisition System, 12 May 2003
DoDD 5000.52, Defense Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Workforce Education, Training and Career Development Program, 12 January 2005
DoDD 5000.71, Rapid Fulfillment of Combatant Commander Urgent Operational Needs, 24 August 2012
DoDD 5134.09, Missile Defense Agency (MDA), 17 September 2009
DoDD 5200.47E, Anti-Tamper (AT), 4 September 2015
DoDI 5000.02, Operation of the Defense Acquisition System, 7 January 2015
AFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management, 1 December 2015
AFMAN 33-363, Management of Records, 1 March 2008
AFPD 10-6, Capability Requirements Development, 6 November 2013
AFPD 10-9, Lead Command Designation and Responsibilities for Weapon Systems, 8 March 2007
AFPD 13-5, Air Force Nuclear Enterprise, 6 July 2011
AFPD 99-1, Test and Evaluation, 3 June 2014

Prescribed Forms
None

Adopted Forms
AF FORM 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication
Abbreviations and Acronyms
ACAT—Acquisition Category
AFMC—Air Force Materiel Command
AFSPC—Air Force Space Command
AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive
AML—Acquisition Master List
BES—Budget Estimate Submission
CIO—Chief Information Officer
DAE—Defense Acquisition Executive
DBS—Defense Business System
DoD—Department of Defense
DoDD—Department of Defense Directive
DoDI—Department of Defense Instruction
HAF—Headquarters Air Force
ILCM—Integrated Life Cycle Management
ISR—Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance
IT—Information Technology
MDA—Milestone Decision Authority
NSS—National Security Systems
O&S—Operations and Sustainment
PB—President’s Budget
PEO—Program Executive Officer
PM—Program Manager
SAE—Service Acquisition Executive
SAF—Office of the Secretary of the Air Force
SAP—Special Access Program
SECAF—Secretary of the Air Force
T&E—Test and Evaluation

Terms
Acquisition—the conceptualization, initiation, design, development, test, contracting, production, fielding, deployment, sustainment, and disposal of a directed and funded effort that provides a new, improved, or continued materiel, weapon, information system, logistics support, or service capability in response to an approved need.
**Agile Combat Support**—the ability to support the objectives of a Joint Force Commander through improved responsiveness, deployability, and sustainability of the air and space forces.

**Enterprise**—the related activities performed for a common purpose including all activities, whether performed in one or more functional or organizational units.

**Integrated Life Cycle Management**—the seamless governance, transparency, and integration of all aspects of infrastructure, resource management, and business systems necessary for successful development, test, production, fielding, sustainment, and disposal of systems, subsystems, end items, and services to satisfy validated warfighter capability needs.

**Integrated Life Cycle Management Stakeholders**—the organizations and personnel involved with all aspects of ILCM.

**Life Cycle**—the span of time associated with a system, subsystem, or end item that begins with the conception and initial development of the requirement, continues through development, fielding, sustainment, until the time it is either consumed in use or disposed of as being excess to all known materiel requirements.

**Milestone Decision Authority (MDA)**—the designated individual (per DoDD 5000.01) with overall responsibility for a program. The MDA shall have the authority to approve entry of an acquisition program into the next phase of the acquisition process and shall be accountable for cost, schedule, and performance reporting to higher authority, including Congressional reporting.

**Program Executive Officer**—the individual dedicated to executive management and supervision of a portfolio of mission-related ACAT and selected programs. The PEO shall be chartered by and is accountable to the SAE.

**Program Manager**—the designated individual (per DoDD 5000.01) with responsibility for and authority to accomplish program objectives for development, production, and sustainment to meet the user’s operational needs. The PM for programs shall be accountable for credible cost, schedule, performance, and materiel readiness. ACAT I and ACAT II PMs shall be approved by the SAE and the PEO. Delegated ACAT II and III PMs shall be approved by the PEO.

**Sustainment**—the continuing materiel support which consists of the planning, programming, and execution of a logistics support strategy for a system, subsystem, or major end item to maintain operational capabilities from system fielding through disposal.

**Systems Engineering**—an interdisciplinary approach encompassing the entire technical effort to evolve and verify an integrated and total life cycle balanced set of system, people, and process solutions that satisfy customer needs. Systems engineering is the integrating mechanism across the technical and analytical efforts related to the development, manufacturing, verification, deployment, operations, support, and disposal of and user training for systems and their life cycle processes. Systems engineering develops technical information to support the program management decision-making process.