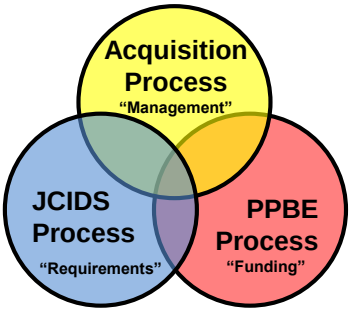
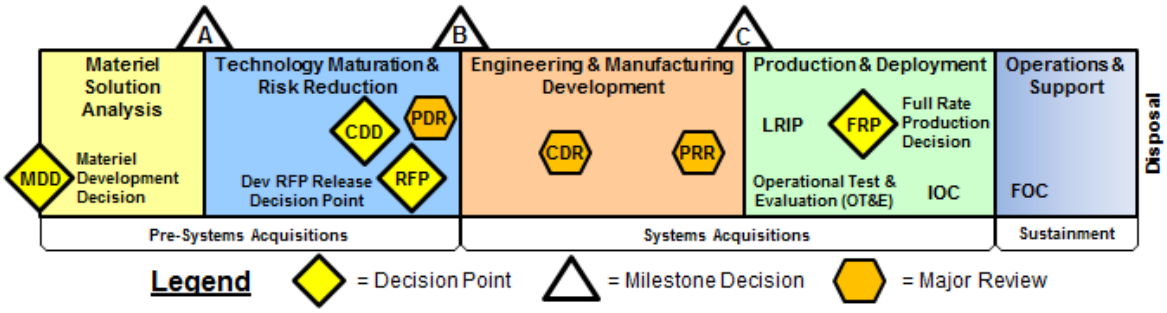
AcqNotes Quick Sheet
Defense Acquisition System

The Defense Acquisition System is made up of three (3) processes; Acquisition Process, Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) Process, and Planning, Programing, Budget and Execution (PPBE) Process. The system is governed by DoD Instruction 5000.02 "Operation of the Defense Acquisition System" that provides the policies and principles and forms the management foundation for all defense programs. It also identifies the specific statutory and regulatory reports and other information requirements for each milestone review and decision point. All three processes must work together to insure the successful execution of a defense program.



Acquisition Process

The Acquisition Process is the management process of a defense program. It's an event based process where a defense program goes thru a series of processes, milestones and reviews from beginning to end. Each milestone is the culmination of a phase were it's determined if a program will proceed into the next phase. The management technique that integrates all these essential acquisition activities is called; Integrated Product and Process Development (IPPD).



The Acquisition Process is made up of five (5) phases. Each phase has specific DoD regulations and federal statute that must be met. At the end of each phase there is a Milestone Review (A,B,C) to determine if the program has met these required regulations and statues to continue on into the next phase. The phases are listed below.

- **Materiel Solution Analysis (MSA) Phase:** assesses potential solutions for a needed capability in an Initial Capabilities Document (ICD) and to satisfy the Entrance Criteria for the next program milestone.
- **Technology Maturation & Risk Reduction (TMRR) Phase:** reduce technology risk, engineering integration, life-cycle cost risk and to determine the set of technologies to be integrated into a full system.
- **Engineering & Manufacturing Development (EMD) Phase:** system is developed and designed before going into production.
- **Production & Deployment (PD) Phase: manufacture** system that satisfies an operational capability is produced and deployed to an end user.
- **Operations & Support (O&S) Phase:** a system is used and supported by users in the field.

Each defense program falls into an Acquisition Category (ACAT) depending on its overall funding level and importance. The category dictates the level of oversight a program will require and that oversight is provided by a Milestone Decision Authority (MDA) which is appointed by DoD senior leadership. The most expensive defense programs are known as Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs) or Major Automated Information System (MAIS) and have the most extensive statutory and regulatory reporting requirements. The ACAT levels are shown below:

- **ACAT I**: R&D of more than $480M and total procurement $2.79 Billion
- **ACAT II**: R&D of more than $185 and total procurement $835 Million
- **ACAT III:** Less than ACAT II
- **ACAT IV**: Only for the Navy and Marines

Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) process

The Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) process is focused on the development of requirements. It was created to support the statutory responsibility of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) to validate joint warfighting requirements. It plays a key role in identifying the capabilities required by the warfighters to support the National Defense Strategy (NDS), the National Military Strategy (NMS), and the National Strategy for Homeland Defense.

The primary objective of the JCIDS process is to ensure the capabilities required by the joint warfighter are identified, along with their associated operational performance criteria (requirements), in order to successfully execute the missions assigned. This is done through an open process that provides the JROC the information needed and supports the Acquisition Process and Planning, Programming, Budget and Execution (PPBE) Process.

The process consists of four (4) steps.

1. **Capabilities Base Assessment (CBA):** validate capability gaps thru mission identification, operational characteristics, non-materiel viability and recommended solution types.
2. **Approval of the Initial Capabilities Document (ICD) and Courses of Action:** validate capabilities required to perform the mission as defined; the gap in capabilities along with their priorities and operational risks; and the need to address the capability gaps.
3. **Approval of the Capability Development Document (CDD):** validate the Key Performance Parameters (KPP) and their associated threshold and objective values; assesses the risks in meeting those KPPs in terms of cost, schedule and technological maturity; and assesses the affordability of the system as compared to the operational capability being delivered.
4. **Approval of the Capabilities Production Document (CPD):** ensure the system being delivered meets the needs originally defined in the ICD at an affordable cost.

Planning, Programing, Budget and Execution (PPBE) process

The Planning, Programing, Budget and Execution (PPBE) process focused on the Financial Management and resource allocation for current and future defense programs. The process is established by the Secretary of Defense who provides priorities and goals under the main guidance of DoD Directive 7045.14 “PPBE Process”.

The PPBE process consists of four (4) distinct but overlapping phases:

1. **Planning**: The Planning phase is the definition and examination of alternative strategies, the analysis of changing conditions and trends, threat, technology, and economic assessments in conjunction with efforts to understand both change and the long-term implications of current choices.
2. **Programming**: The Programming phase defines and analyzes alternative force structures, weapon systems, and support systems together with their multi-year resource implications and the evaluation of various tradeoff options.
3. **Budgeting**: The Budgeting phase includes formulation, justification, execution, and control of the budget. The primary purpose is to scrutinize the first one or two years of a programs budget to ensure efficient use of resources.
4. **Execution**: The Execution phase is the real world application of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution process.

Main Defense Acquisition System References:

- Defense Acquisition Guidebook (DAG)
- DoD Instruction 5000.02 “Operation of the Defense Acquisition System”
- CJCS Instruction 3170.01 “Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS)”
- DoD Directive 7045.14 “PPBE Process”