**ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT**

JUN 2 0 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES
COMPONENT STANDARDIZATION EXECUTIVES

SUBJECT: Waiver for the Use of Military Specifications

Section 875 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 states that, in general, military specifications shall be used in procurements only to define an exact design solution when there is no acceptable commercial or non-Government standard or when the use of a commercial non-Government standard is not cost effective. It further established a requirement for programs to obtain a waiver for the use of military specifications by either the appropriate Milestone Decision Authority, the appropriate Service Acquisition Executive, or the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

The creation and maintenance of military specifications is overseen by the Defense Standardization Council (DSC), in accordance with Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4120.24, "Defense Standardization Program (DSP)," and the associated DoD Manual 4120.24, "Defense Standardization Program Procedures," which implements section 12(d) of Public Law 104-113, "The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995;" the Federal Acquisition Regulation, paragraph 11.101(b); and Office of Management Budget Circular A-119. The DSP has significantly reduced our reliance on military specifications. Military specifications that have been deemed necessary by the DSC are entered into the ASSIST database, the official source of DoD standardization documents made available to our acquisition community.

Because of the aggressive stance taken by the DSP, I hereby grant a waiver for the use of approved military specifications and standards that are housed in the ASSIST database for procuring new systems, major modifications, upgrades to current systems, non-developmental and commercial items, and programs in all acquisition categories.

Ellen M. Lord