

Beyond MilSpec Reform: Strategic Plan 2000



“The Plan’s focus areas, which link standardization with interoperability, logistics readiness and reduction in total ownership costs, is on target with helping us achieve the goals of Joint Vision 2010.” — J. S. Gansler

From the Director

For the past five years, much of our direction has come from the MilSpec Reform initiative, and most of our attention has been focused on completing actions related to MilSpec Reform.

documents. Our library of acquisition specifications and standards is fundamentally different from what it was prior to MilSpec Reform.

Two years ago, the Departmental Standardization

This Strategic Plan sets forth a future direction for the Defense Standardization Program (DSP). We have nearly completed our MilSpec Reform efforts, and now we must focus our resources on standardization to achieve strategic goals of the Department of Defense. Our Strategic Plan provides rationale, the philosophical underpinning, and the long-term goals for our future direction. The Strategic Plan Implementation provides the approach to accomplishing the strategic goals and objectives. Integrated Process Teams being



Gregory E. Saunders
Director, Defense Standardization Program Office

Strategic Plan 2000 provides rationale, philosophical underpinning, and long-term goals for our future direction.

MilSpec Reform was our mantra as we dramatically changed the landscape of MilSpecs and Standards—canceling, inactivating, revising, converting to commercial or performance

Officers (DepSOs) and Standardization Executives met in a two-day off-site meeting to begin the strategic planning for what would come after MilSpec Reform. It has been a long process to reach consensus on our new focus and direction. Last month, these efforts culminated in approval of the **Defense Standardization Program Strategic Plan 2000**. The plan was signed by each Standardization Executive and has been endorsed by the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

Web Site and look at the plan. It concisely states our Purpose, Mission, Vision, and the six focus areas and goals that will turn us back to our core responsibility of promoting standardization

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Look at the Web site—
<http://www.dsp.dla.mil/dspvision.htm>

assembled and directed by the DepSOs will develop the detailed milestones and plans for achieving the objectives. Please take a few minutes to visit the Defense Standardization Program

based on sound business and engineering principles. We look forward to working with you to achieve these goals to support our warfighters, reduce costs, and improve operational readiness.

International Standardization Agreements

Are international standardization agreements (ISAs) consistent with the requirements of MilSpec Reform? If the ISAs are intended for use in acquisitions, the Defense Standardization Program (DSP) is developing a program to ensure that they are.

Until one year ago, there was no policy, consistent across DoD, on participation on ISA committees, ratification of ISAs, or implementation of ISAs. Further, there was no DoD-wide database that listed information about DoD employees serving on ISA committees, or how (or even whether) ISAs were ratified or implemented.

Policy. The Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (AT&L) and his principal deputy issued new “DoD Policies and Procedures for U.S. Participation in the Development and Ratification of International Standardization Agreements (ISAs) Intended for Use in Defense Acquisitions” in a January 15, 1999 memo to the Secretaries of the Military Departments. Dr. Gansler established the policy, responsibilities, and procedures for each stage of Participation, Ratification, Implementation, Complying with Agreements, Cancellation of an

implementing document, and Withdrawal of ISA Ratification. The policy also covers indexing and distribution of the ISAs through the Defense Automation and Production Service (DAPS). The military departments and agencies are developing guidance for implementation

The program has achieved progress in three important areas: policy, ASSIST database, and Web-based tracking system.

of the policy and procedures in their international standardization activities.

Database. Basic information on individual ratified ISAs, such as names of U.S. points of contact, identification of implementing documents, and U.S. reservations to an ISA, is being

incorporated into the ASSIST database. A recent memo directs that a form be submitted to the DoDSSP for each ratified ISA now listed in the ASSIST database and for any unlisted ISA ratified by the U.S. **Any ISA without a proper form will be removed from the database and will no longer be available from the DoDSSP.** The full text of some ISAs is on the ASSIST. These may be downloaded, although a password may be needed for some of the ISAs.

Tracking. Finally, the DSP developed a Web-based information system to track DoD participation on ISA bodies (see related article “Web Site Listing of Department of Defense Personnel Serving on International Standardization Agreements Committees” on back page of this DSP JOURNAL UPDATE).

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WELCOME to the inaugural issue of the **DEFENSE STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM JOURNAL UPDATE**. Published four times a year as a supplement to the semi-annual *Defense Standardization Program Journal* (to debut this spring), UPDATE is a forum to keep the Standardization community posted on current and compelling news.

Your contributions are welcome and encouraged—letters, articles, news items, commentary and photographs. Flow of information and improved communications in recent years have played a key role in the effectiveness of standardization initiatives nationally and around the world. Take part in these efforts to strengthen our mission, for the benefit of our community and the people we serve.

Send materials to DEFENSE STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM JOURNAL/UPDATE at 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 4235, Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060-6221.



UPDATE DEFENSE STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM JOURNAL

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Under Secretary Gansler Expects DoD Participation On NGS Committees

Dr. Jacques Gansler, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (AT&L), recently expressed concern with the declining DoD participation on non-Government Standards (NGS) technical committees. He recognized that creating appropriate NGS documents is an excellent means of achieving commercial and military integration; therefore, any decline in committee participation by DoD employees is cause for concern. To encourage continued participation and stimulate new DoD interest in NGS activity, Dr. Gansler sent a memorandum to the Service Acquisition Executives (SAEs) and Directors of Defense Agencies asking them to ensure the Department is adequately represented on relevant committees (*see memo at right*).

SD-11. Where do we get data on employee participation to pass on to Dr. Gansler, and to see if we have appropriate representation on NGS committees? The Directory of DoD Participation

Register in SD-11, keep information current—then actively participate in NGS committees.

on Non-Government Standards Technical Committees (SD-11) on-line database, which is used to register participation on industry committees. The process is simple. Go to the Web site: <http://dsp.dla.mil/sd11> and follow the onscreen instructions. If a DoD employee is a representative to a NGS committee (i.e., anyone who participates on DoD time and money) then he or she should be registered in the database. All DoD employees who serve on technical committees should enter their information and keep it current. Active participation is important—Dr. Gansler expects the SAEs and Agency Directors to ensure adequate DoD representation on NGS committees that are vital to DoD interests.

Responsibility. Dr. Gansler's memorandum lays the foundation for each Service or Agency to review its effectiveness at ensuring that DoD employees continue developing documents that support DoD goals.

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The Under Secretary of Defense/
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October 14, 1999

Memorandum for: Service Acquisition Executives: U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force; Director, Defense Logistics Agency; Director, Defense Information Systems Agency; Director, National Security Agency/Central Security Service; Director, National Imagery and Mapping Agency

Subject: Participation on Non-Government Standards Committees



Interoperability is the cornerstone to fulfilling the operational concepts embodied in Joint Vision 2010. Much of our success in achieving interoperability depends on making smart use of an integrated industrial base capable of meeting both commercial and military demands, and that industrial base relies on the availability of appropriate non-Government standards. The Department of Defense (DoD) has a proud tradition of being at the forefront of standards development for the kinds of advanced technology products and processes that are vital to our national defense and, ultimately, to U.S. industrial competitiveness. Being an engaged and educated customer facilitates development of the standards necessary to support such DoD goals as interoperability and coalition warfighting capability. Use of non-Government standards in lieu of military documents is an important part of our strategy to foster civil/military integration. It is essential that we participate on appropriate non-Government standards committees to ensure that the standards meet our needs and to keep abreast of the latest technological developments in commercial industry. Therefore, I am concerned that the number of DoD participants on non-Government standards committees has dropped dramatically from over 2,200 DoD participants in 1994 to fewer than 500 today. This is a situation that must be rectified. Active DoD participation on relevant non-Government standards committees is of paramount importance. I expect you and your Standardization Executive to ensure adequate DoD representation on non-Government standards committees that are vital to DoD interests. The Defense Standardization Council should help to coordinate action among the Military Departments and Defense Agencies. I appreciate your support in this matter and look forward to improvements.

/signed/ J. S. Gansler

Editor's note: Dr. Gansler was confirmed as Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology on November 5, 1997. An engineer and economist, he has held many executive and consulting positions in the private sector and for the federal government; and is the author of Defense Conversion: Transforming the Arsenal of Democracy; Affording Defense; and The Defense Industry; as well as numerous book chapters, journal articles, and Congressional testimonies.

New Web Site Database of DoD Personnel Serving on ISA Committees

The Defense Standardization Program (DSP) Office is currently creating a Web-based directory of DoD employees who participate on such International Standardization Agreement (ISA) committees as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Air Standards Coordinating Committee (ASCC), and the American-British-Canadian-Australian Armies (ABCA). This database is linked to the DSP Home Page and can be reached at: <http://www.dsp.dla.mil/isa>. DoD users will be able to view alphabetical listings of ISA bodies, committees, DoD participants, and to access official contact information for associated participants.

This effort will allow DoD to disseminate basic information vital to the effective management and operation of ISA activities. Without this automated tool, it will be difficult to manage DoD participation on NATO and other multinational treaty standards organizations. We will soon ask the Military Departments and Defense Agencies to register their ISA committee participants in the online ISA database. Participants will be able to add, remove, or modify their respective committee information at any time.

— John Tascher/DSP
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January 2000

Mind Yourself...

To err is human, but when the eraser wears out ahead of the pencil, you're overdoing it.

—Josh Jenkins