

# DoD's Software Acquisition Pathway

Digital Delivery at the Speed of Relevance

NPS: Innovations in DoD Software Acquisition

3 Feb 2021

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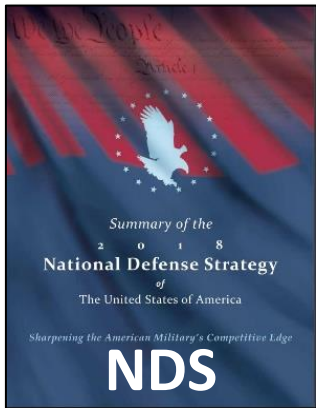


<https://aaf.dau.edu/aaf/software/>



# Urgency to Modernize

...prioritize speed of delivery, continuous adaptation, and frequent modular upgrades.



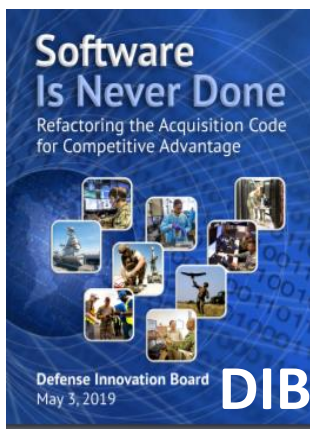
The DoD must have the ability to update our systems rapidly.



Speed & Cycle time matter.

Faster is more reliable, secure, and possible.

Establish a new software acquisition pathway





# Congress and DoD Drive Software Reforms



## Recent NDAAs

- **FY18 Sect 873/874 Agile Pilots**
- **FY20 Sec 800 Software Acquisition**
- **FY20 Sec 862 Software Training**
- **FY20 Sec 230 Digital Careers**

## Leadership Direction

- **Gen Hyten: Insert speed, take risk**
- **Ms. Lord: Software runs through all our programs**
- **Dr. Roper: Change software daily**

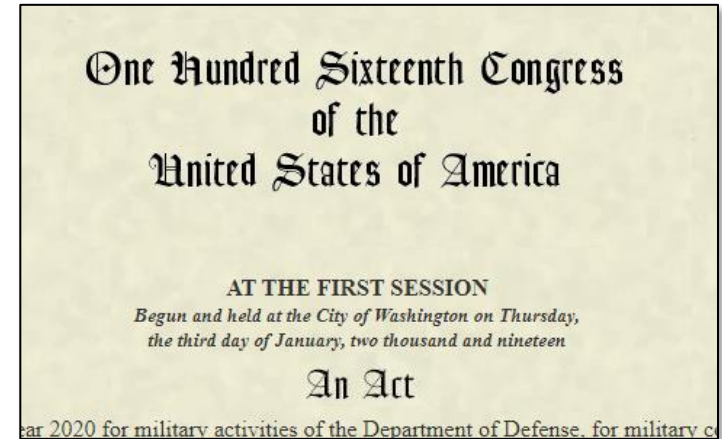




# FY20 NDAA Section 800

## Directed DoD to create two software acquisition pathways

Applications and  
Embedded Systems



- Software programs shall not be treated as an MDAP
- Exempt from JCIDS (unless VCJCS, A&S, SAEs agree on new process)
- Streamline SW requirements, budget, acquisition processes
- Demonstrate viability and effectiveness of capabilities for operational use within one year after funds first obligated



# Key Elements of SW Acquisition Pathway

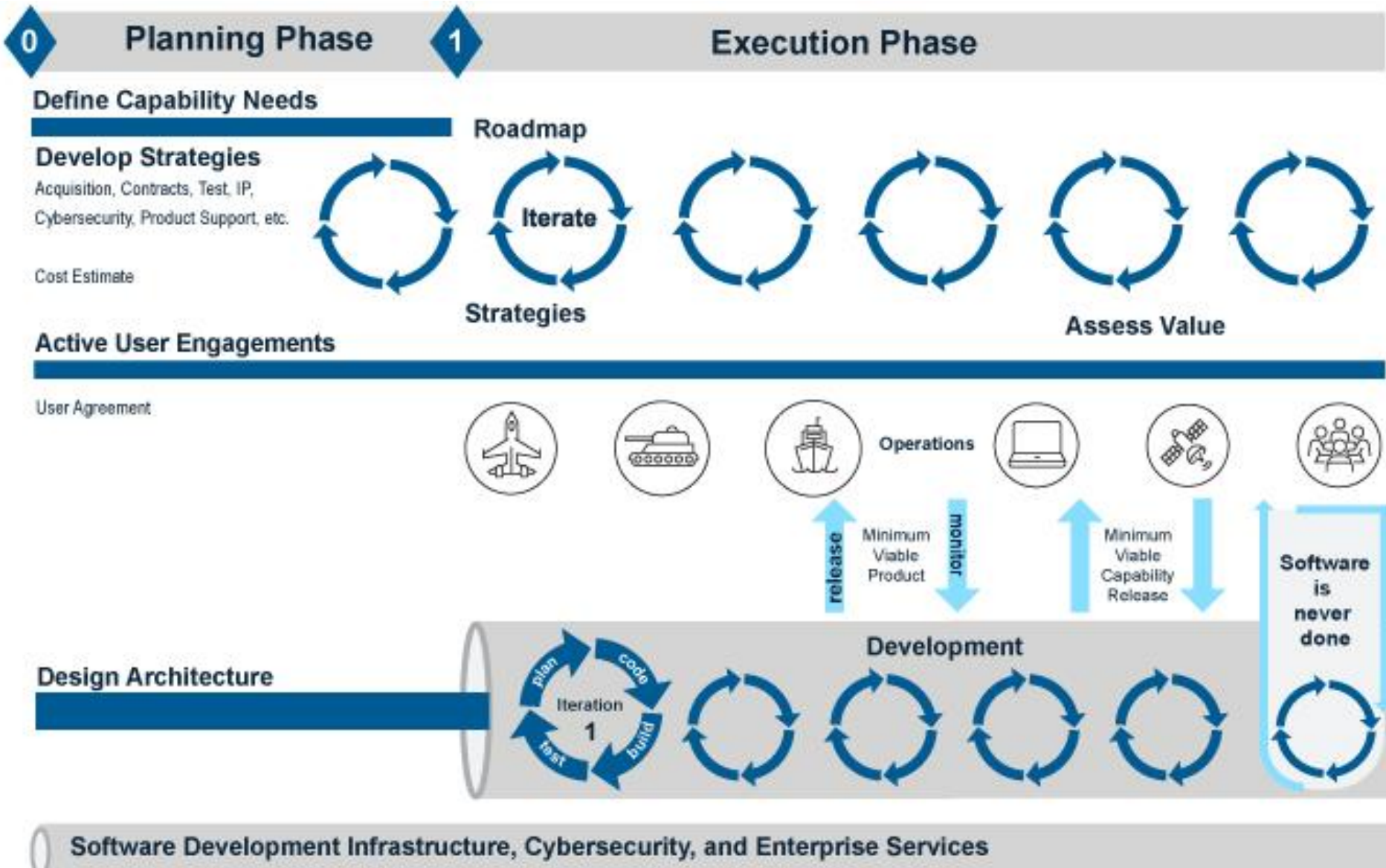
- Modern SW development practices
- Human-centered design
- Active, committed user engagement
- Enterprise services/platforms
- Rapid and iterative deliveries
- Gov't-industry software teams
- Automated tools



Source: [DODI 5000.02](#)  
[Section 4.2](#)

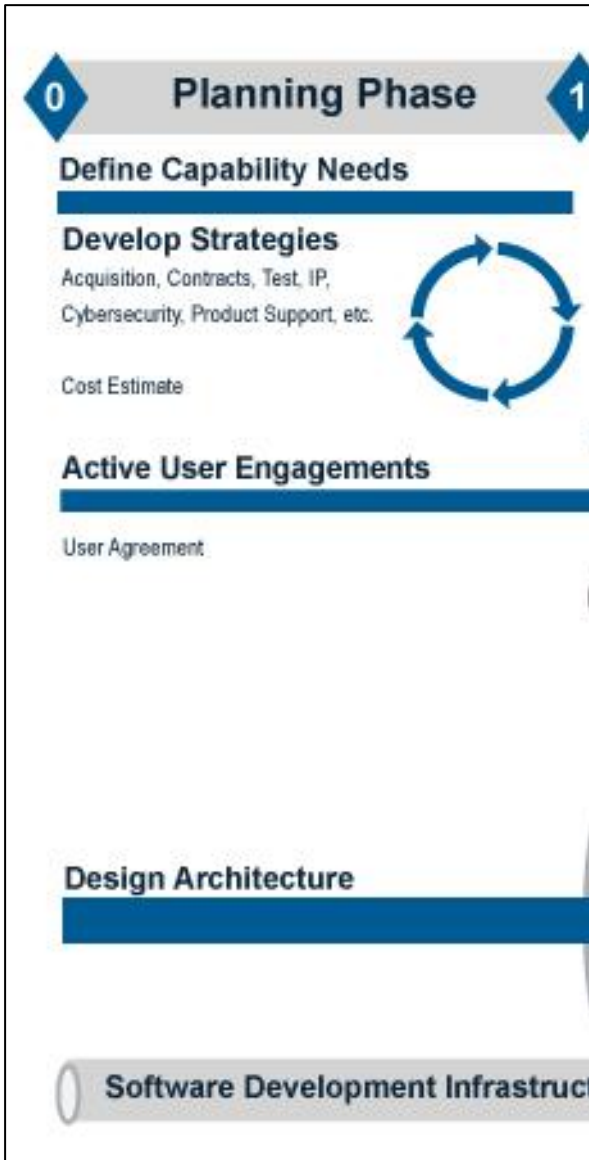


# Software Acquisition Pathway





# Planning Phase



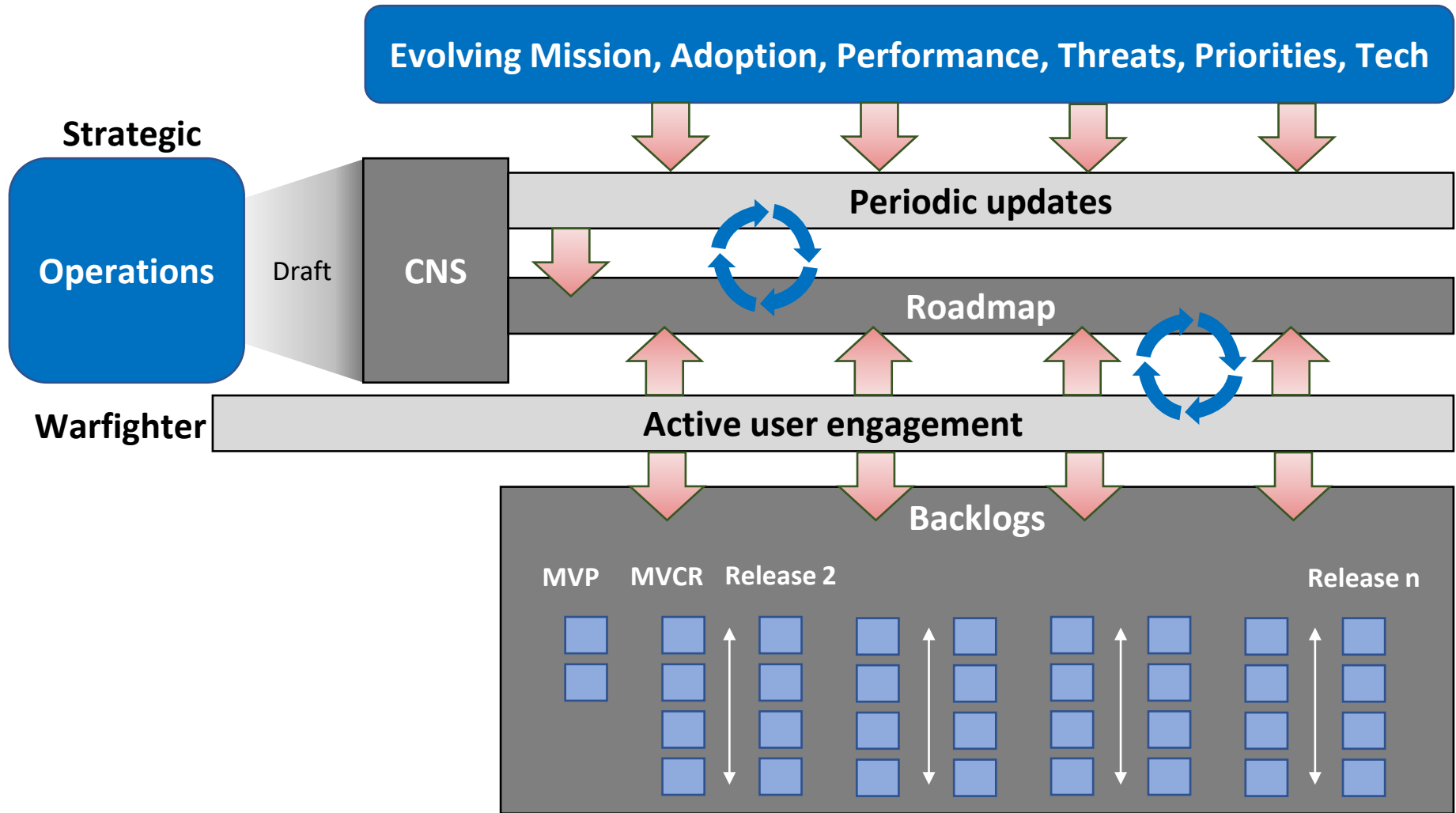
**Focuses on understanding the users' and systems' needs and planning the approach to deliver capabilities to meet those needs**

## Key Artifacts

- Capability Needs Statement
- User Agreement
- Program Strategies
  - Acquisition Strategy
  - Contracting Strategy + IP Strategy
  - Test Strategy + Cybersecurity Strategy
  - Product Support Strategy
- Cost Estimate



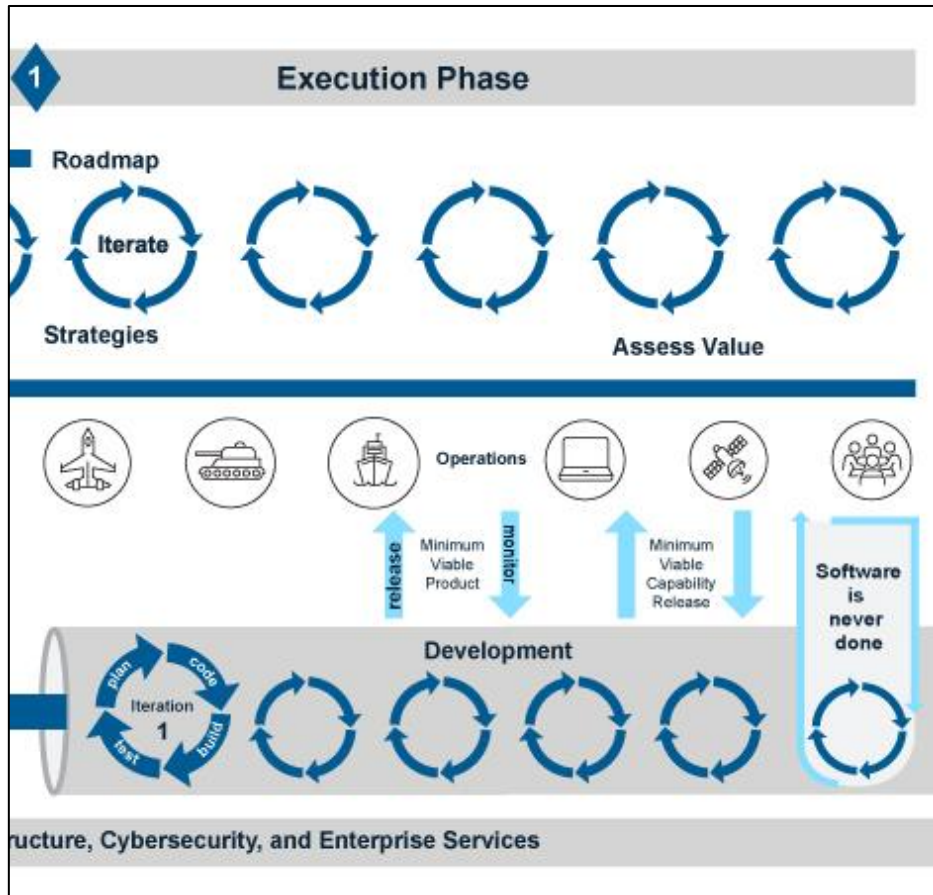
# Evolving Software “Requirements”







# Execution Phase – Key Activities

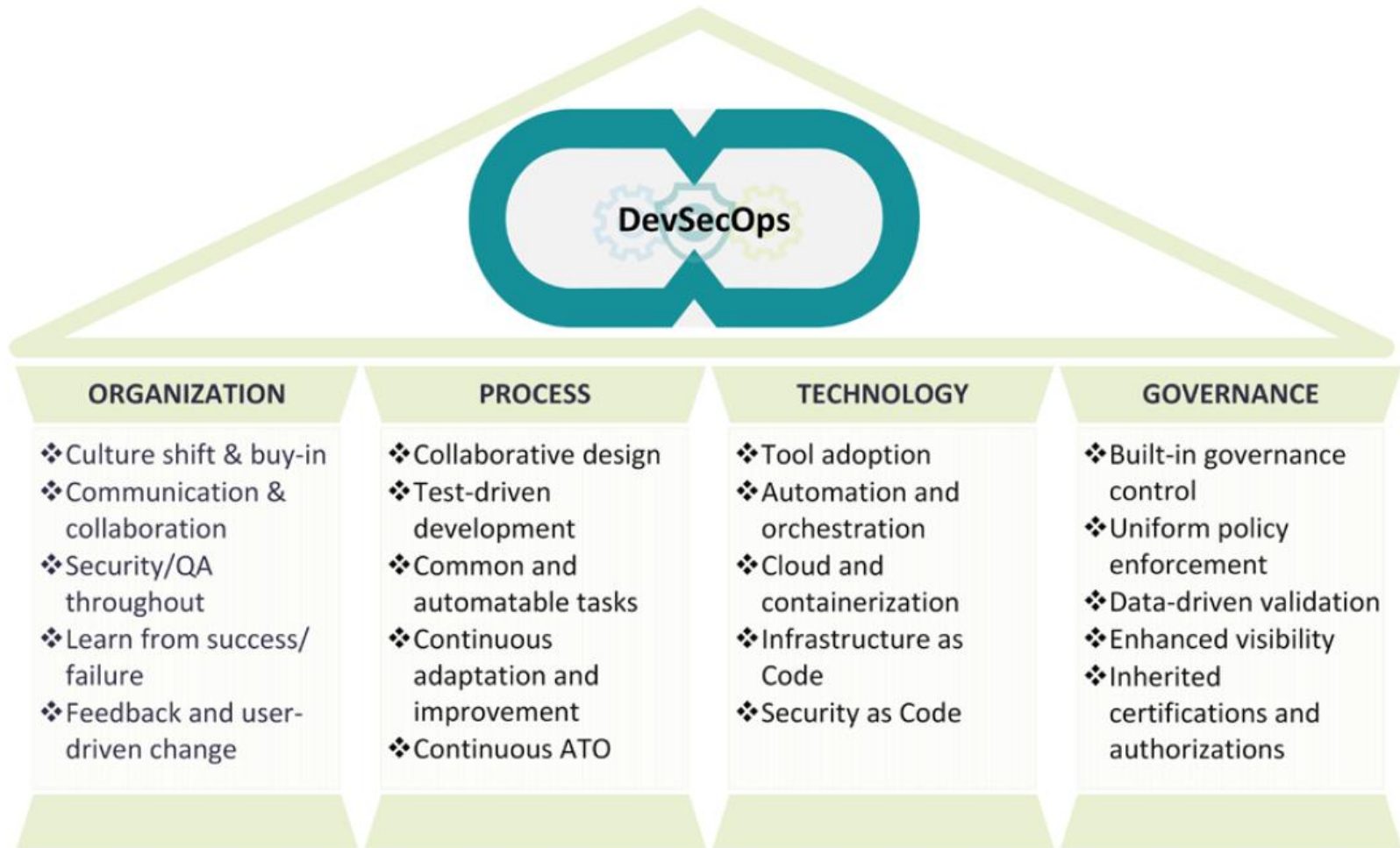


- Product Roadmap
- Program Backlogs
- Active User Engagements
- Develop, Deliver Software
- Track Metrics
- Value Assessments

**Continuous improvement to maximize mission impact.**



# DevSecOps Reference Design Pillars



***“DevSecOps is the preferred software practice for DoD to deliver at speed of relevance” – DoD CIO, USD(A&S)***



# Benefits of Software Acquisition Pathway

- Tailored acquisition processes for modern software development
- No formal milestones – Delegated decision authorities
- Exempt from JCIDS (unless VCJCS, A&S, SAEs agree on new process)
- Streamlined reviews and documentation – No MDAPs
- Leverage enterprise services and not “rebuilding the SW factory”

**Software Acquisition Pathway and DevSecOps provide the framework that prioritizes speed, flexibility, and rigor**



# SWP on AAF Website

Integrated policies, guidance, and resources to navigate the SWP with greater speed and success.



Home Pathways ▾ Guidance ▾ Policies and Guides AAF Feedback 🔍

## SOFTWARE ACQUISITION

AAF > Software Acquisition

[Return to AAF Pathways](#)

### Phases

[Planning Phase](#)  
[Execution Phase](#)

### Activities

[Define Capability Needs](#)  
[Develop Strategies](#)  
[Cost Estimation](#)  
[Active User Engagement](#)  
[MVP and MVCR](#)  
[Metrics and Reporting](#)  
[Design and Enterprise](#)  
[Services](#)  
[Glossary](#)

### Powerful Examples

[Kessel Run](#)

## Software Acquisition

*This pathway is to facilitate rapid and iterative delivery of software capability to the user.*

 [See what's changed recently.](#)

### How to use this site

*Reference Source: DODI 5000.02 Section 4.2*

This pathway is designed for software-intensive systems. The pathway objective is to facilitate rapid and iterative delivery of software capability to the user. This pathway integrates modern software development practice such as Agile Software Development, DevSecOps, and Lean Practices. Capitalizing on active user engagement and leveraging enterprise services, working software is rapidly and iteratively delivered to meet the highest priority user needs. Tightly coupled mission-focused government-industry software teams leverage automated tools for development, integration, testing and certification to iteratively deploy software capabilities to the operational environment.

<https://aaf.dau.edu/aaf/software/>

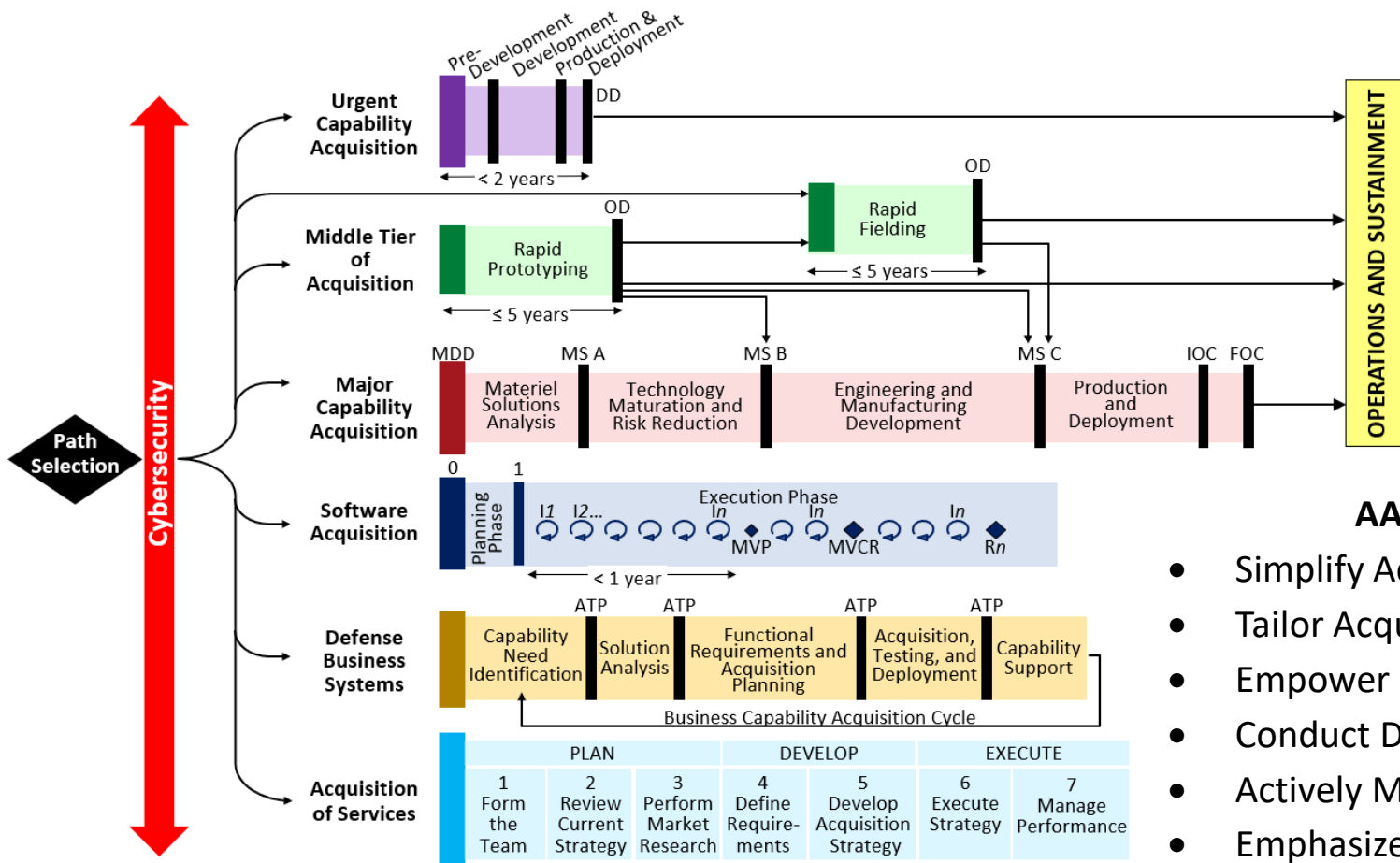




# Backup Slides



# Adaptive Acquisition Framework



## AAF Tenets

- Simplify Acquisition Policy
- Tailor Acquisition Approaches
- Empower Program Managers
- Conduct Data Driven Analysis
- Actively Manage Risk
- Emphasize Sustainment

**A set of acquisition pathways to enable the workforce to tailor strategies to deliver better solutions faster.**

<https://aaf.dau.edu/>



# Information Requirements

**Balance speed with rigor – Focus on SW over extensive docs**

Entering the Planning Phase	
ADM signed by DA	Draft CNS
Entering the Execution Phase	
Capability Needs Statement	User Agreement
Acquisition Strategy	Cybersecurity Strategy
Test Strategy	IP Strategy
Product Support Strategy	Information Support Plan
Program Cost Estimate and ICE	CARD
During the Execution Phase	
System Architecture	Product Roadmap
Program Backlogs	Strategy Updates
CARD/Cost Estimate Updates	Value Assessment
Metrics and Reporting	

See details at: <https://aaf.dau.edu/aaf/software/develop-strategies/>



# Capabilities Needs Statement (CNS)

**A high-level capture of need with enough information to define the software solution space and consider the threat environment.**

- Sponsor and Requirements Manager ID operational software capabilities needed
- Draft CNS to start the Software Pathway
- Refine during Planning Phase and approve prior to entry into Execution Phase



**A&S Acquisition Enablers shop collaborating with Components to encourage adoption of flexible and streamlined requirement processes for the SWP.**

**Clear Understanding of What is Needed**





# User Agreement

**Agreement between the operational and acquisition communities to ensure active user involvement and informed decision making.**



- Ensure proper resourcing of user involvement to support development
- Commit to active user involvement throughout design and development during planning phase
- Signed by sponsor, PMO prior to entry into Execution Phase

**Establish Strong Ties to Users from Start**



# Contracting Considerations

Instead of a single monolithic contract for Software solution dev...



Portfolio of contracts of leveraging Modular Contracting\*

## Example Modular Contracting Strategy

## Agile S/W Dev Contracts

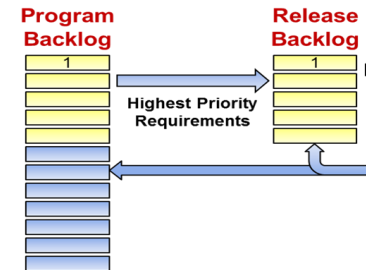
(may have separate contracts for each dev team)

Objective: Support small, frequent releases, respond to change, consider programmatic risks, and program scope/objectives

	Contract Strategies
Agile S/W Dev Team(s) (Services)	FAR 8.4, FAR 12, FAR 13.5, FAR 16.5
Microservice Solutions (Tools)	FAR 8.4, FAR 12, FAR 13.5, FAR 16.5
DevSecOps-aaS (Manage CI/CD Pipeline)	FAR 8.4, FAR 12, FAR 13.5, FAR 16.5
Platform-aaS (CI/CD Pipeline)	FAR 16.5, BOAs (i.e., Platform One)
Infrastructure-aaS (Cloud solution)	FAR 16.5 (i.e., Cloud One, AWS GovCloud)



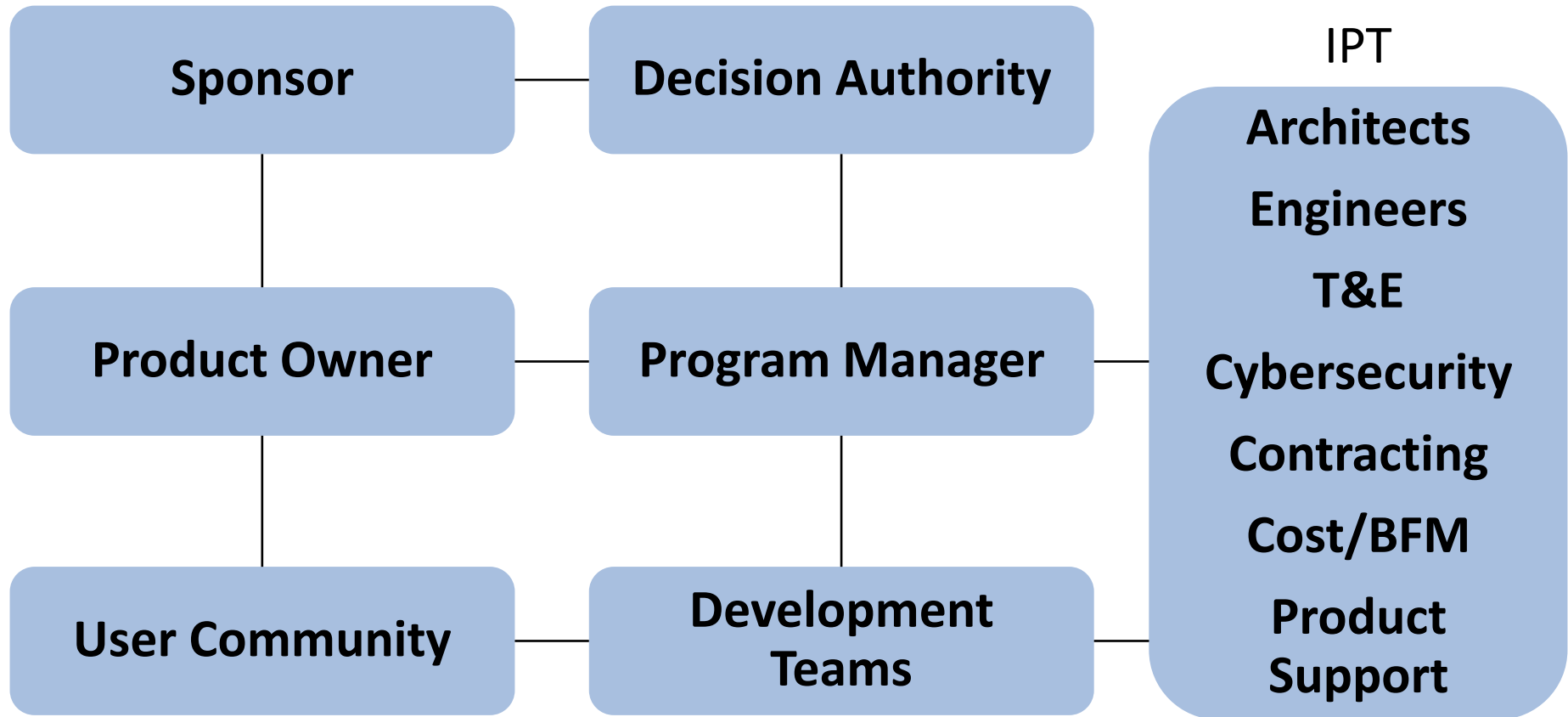
**Contract Requirements**  
Tasks and activities describing Agile S/W development needs to develop and deliver solution



**Agile Requirements**  
Capabilities expressed in user stories and continuously managed in backlogs to achieve solution required by contract



# Key Players in Software Acquisition Pathway



**Integrated Teams Across Operations and Acquisition;  
Government and Vendors; All Functions and Levels**



# Two Paths within Software Acq Pathway

## **Application Path**

Rapid development and deployment of software running on commercial hardware (including modified hardware) and cloud computing platforms.

## **Embedded Software Path**

Rapid development and insertion of upgrades and improvements for software embedded in weapon systems and other military-unique hardware systems.