



ACQUISITION  
AND SUSTAINMENT

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

### MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Back-to-Basics Program Management Certification Exam Requirement Deferred

Reference: (a) Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Memorandum, Summary of the Program Management Functional Integrated Product Team Meetings Regarding the Defense Acquisition Workforce Back to Basics Initiative", June 16, 2021

On November 9, 2020, the DoD Program Management (PM) Functional Integration Team led by the PM Functional Leader (ASD(A)), and Senior Component representatives, unanimously agreed to incorporate a comprehensive exam as part of the new Back-to-Basics certification standards at both the Practitioner and Advanced levels of PM certification. The exam certification requirement was established by reference (a). The rationale for these exams included:

- (a) Instilling more rigor in the PM certification process and assuring a minimum standard level of knowledge consistent with responsibilities typical at each level of certification
- (b) Alignment of the PM certification process with current commercial standards

Due to exam development delays, the exam certification requirement for the Practitioner and Advanced levels of PM certification is deferred to October 1, 2022. As of October 1, 2022, workforce members applying for either Back-to-Basics PM certification category are required to meet the exam requirement to be certified by component certification authorities.

Please ensure the deferred PM certification exam requirement is communicated to all certification authorities. My point of contact for any questions is Mr. T.R. "Randy" Pilling at [Thomas.Pilling@dau.edu](mailto:Thomas.Pilling@dau.edu) or 571-342-0428.

Christopher C. O'Donnell  
Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary  
of Defense for Acquisition

cc:  
ASD(A) Direct Reports

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