



ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

February 4, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Back-to-Basics Implementation for the Defense Acquisition Workforce

References: (a) Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Memorandum, "Back to Basics for the Defense Acquisition Workforce", September 2, 2020
(b) Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Memorandum "Defense Acquisition Workforce Leadership Team Meeting Minutes – Back-to-Basics Implementation", December 21, 2020

On September 2, 2020, the phased implementation of the Back-to-Basics (BtB) 21st Century Acquisition Workforce talent management framework was announced, per reference (a). To support the National Defense Strategy, it is imperative that we significantly improve our acquisition workforce functional area framework and prioritize limited training resources for the Defense Acquisition Workforce who develop, acquire, and sustain operational capability.

Through BtB we will streamline certification requirements, expand job relevant and credential opportunities, and design-in continuous learning for the workforce. In reference (a), Functional Area Leads were designated for the consolidated functional areas: Program Management, Contracting, Life Cycle Logistics, Engineering and Technical Management, Test and Evaluation, and Business - Financial Management and Cost Estimating. The Functional Area Leads, through their joint task force teams, have completed the first phase of BtB framework updates. The Workforce Leadership Team, chaired by the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, has reviewed, and I approve, the reference (b) (attached) initial phase implementation updates and planned next steps.

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Stacy A. Cummings
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Acquisition)
Performing the Duties of Under Secretary of
Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment

Attachment:
As stated

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