

CHANGE IN ACQUISITIONS MENTALITY IN REGARD TO ENGINEER KITS WITHIN THE MARINE CORPS



NAVAL
POSTGRADUATE
SCHOOL

Abstract

- Currently the Marine Corps buys kits the same way that they buy other items, with one large buy or a few smaller buys. These buys are triggered from needs requests sent by the operating forces, due to obsolescence of gear, or a new requirement. This, in my opinion, leaves too much room for Marines to make do with what they have. Leaving little room for improvement of tools and equipment keeping pace with industry standards. This capstone project is evaluating “if an evolutionary acquisitions approach would be beneficial to the performance and lifetime cost currently associated with engineering kits (kits are Carpenter Kits, Pioneer Kits, Airfield Damage Repair Kit).” My thought is that by setting up incremental evaluations of engineer kits based on time rather than needs request the program office can better evaluate if the Marine Corps equipment is keeping up with industry, the mission, and create a forcing function for new equipment acquisition without having to replace all the other parts of the tool kit.



Carpenter's Tool Kit



Pioneer Tool Kit

Methods

- Methodology this capstone project will be a document review and industry research. The research will consist of a review of the source documents from three kits spread throughout PMES. Source documentation will come from CD&I and PMES. Industry standard and production plans and improvement plans will also be included to see if an incremental acquisitions approach matches with industry. Industry evaluation will focus on the rate of industry improvement and the historical timeline for when items such as batteries are updated.

Results & Their Impact

- Current acquisitions strategies cause modernizations to be out of sync with industry evolution of technology.
- More difficult to replace and modernize all items found within, rather than modernizing specific items.
- Current Strategies make it difficult to add new tools as the capability need changes.
- Incremental modernizations would allow for the use of both Operations and Maintenance Funding and Procurement Funding.



Airfield Damage Repair Kit

Recommendations

- Take advantage of the Adaptive Acquisition framework.
- Plan for incremental reviews and updates to each kit based on industry innovations.
- Pick a few tools to add or modernize with each increment.
- Fleet should be involved a minimum of 2 years prior to next modernization increment.

