



Accelerating Warfighting Capabilities

23rd Annual Acquisition Research Symposium & Innovation Summit

May 6 - 7, 2026

Panel #2

**Engineering the Software-Defined Enterprise:
Agile Pathways, MBSE, and AI Assurance**

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 – 11:45 – 1:00 Eastern

Introductions

Panel Chair

- **Mr. Thomas W. Simms**

Topics

- **The Pentagon's Revolution in Software-Defined Warfare and Its Testing Dilemma**
 - HON Nickolas Guertin
 - HON Douglas Schmidt
 - Mr. John Robert
- **Digital Engineering to Improve the Quality of a Capability Needs Statement**
 - Mr. Alfred (Fred) Schenker
- **Transforming Acquisition for Speed, Agility, and Effectiveness**
 - Ms. Rita Creel
 - Ms. Carol Smith
 - Ms. Brigid O'Hearn

Agenda

Chair's Introduction to the Topic and Presenters	11:45-11:48 (3 min)
Mr. Simms' (Chair) Opening Remarks	11:48-11:57 (9 min)
Paper #1: The Pentagon's Revolution in Software-Defined Warfare and Its Testing Dilemma	11:57-12:12 (15 min)
Paper #2: Digital Engineering to Improve the Quality of a Capability Needs Statement	12:12-12:27 (15 min)
Paper #3: Transforming Acquisition for Speed, Agility, and Effectiveness	12:27-12:42 (15 min)
Chair's Comments	12:42-12:45 (3 min)
Q&A Managed by the Chair	12:45-1:00 (15 min)

Department of War (DoW) Acquisition Transformation Strategy

On November 7, in response to EO 14265, “Modernizing Defense Acquisitions and Spurring Innovation in the Defense Industrial Base,” DoW announced the **Acquisition Transformation Strategy** – emphasizing the need to accelerate the delivery of new technology and advanced capabilities to the warfighter and maintain military superiority.

*Streamline T&E requirements - “Provide a roadmap and policy recommendations to establish accredited **test pipelines that enable continuous updates to fielded systems**, validate module interfaces to establish boundaries to permit component substitutions **without full system requalification...**”*

*“Structure programs as **schedule-driven capability increments** with aggressive production delivery schedules, unit-cost ceiling goals, and broad mission effectiveness goals. Make trade-offs throughout the development to **permit iterative enhancement and rapid delivery of subsequent increments.**”*

*“The Department will **integrate and scale adoption and investments in digital engineering and model-based engineering**, including mission engineering, **model-based systems engineering...**”*

*“Additionally, scaling tools, policies, and practices to maximize the use of modeling and simulation and **automated testing will allow the Department to accelerate and continually validate software.**”*



SECRETARY OF WAR
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

NOV - 7 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOW FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Transforming the Defense Acquisition System into the Warfighting Acquisition System to Accelerate Fielding of Urgently Needed Capabilities to Our Warriors

Rebuilding the Arsenal of Freedom

of War (DoW) put to accelerate the fielding superiority of our Air transformed the way the Defense Acquisition “Modernizing Defense and an overhaul of capabilities for our V changes are essential weapon systems to modernization of key national industrial base

Effective implementation (WAS) and will now operational capability warfighting function from three systemic necessary authorities that reward complete time delivery; and (3 investment, efficient cannot surge or adapt

The core priority acquisition workforce empowering those of unnecessary layers to prioritize flexible real relevance. Every project directly supports accelerated Directed Implementation transformation.



Rebuilding the Arsenal of Freedom



U.S. Department of War