

What is Driving Weapon System Operation Readiness?

Moshe Schwartz
Anthony Distasio
Arzoo Dawoodani

May 7, 2026

Readiness Rates Are Low

- From 2011-2021, “sustainment challenges worsened” for 10 Navy ship classes, decreasing ship availability hours for operations or training
- In 2024, the Department did not meet mission capable rate goals for 42 of 45 aircraft supporting military-related missions

Why Are Readiness Rates Low?

- Workforce
- Underfunded maintenance and infrastructure accounts
- Spare parts
- Outdated acquisition processes
- Aging weapon systems

\$18 billion; 15 years

83-95% \neq 98%

30 years old

60%

Doesn't help the readiness of our systems

A Path to Improving Readiness

A faint, light blue illustration of a classical building with a large dome and several arched windows or doorways is visible in the background. The building is centered and occupies the right half of the frame.

Plan Sustainment Early

Leverage IT To Improve Sustainment and Maintenance Management

- Predictive analytics
- Establish IT Tiger Team
- Leverage technology (integrated planning and sustainment)

Don't Blame IP

Manage it better

Invest in Workforce and Infrastructure

Be Creative

- Reverse engineering
- Protect at-risk subcontractors
- More reliance on commercial capabilities at the lower levels

Questions?

A faint, light blue illustration of a domed building, possibly a university or government building, is visible in the background. The building features a central tower with a spire and several arched windows along its base. The entire scene is set against a solid blue background.