

**19 JULY 1994**

**Acquisition**

**AUTOMATIC TEST SYSTEMS AND  
EQUIPMENT**



---

**NOTICE:** This publication is available digitally on the SAF/AAD WWW site at: <http://afpubs.hq.af.mil>. If you lack access, contact your Publishing Distribution Office (PDO).

---

OPR: SAF/AQKL (Mr Mark Reinke)

Certified by: SAF/AQK  
(Mr Oscar A. Goldfarb)

Pages: 4

Distribution: F

1. Efficient use of resources is necessary to guarantee the full potential of all Air Force weapon systems. Standardized automatic test systems (ATS) and equipment can provide efficiency and reduced cost by minimizing the proliferation of system-unique test equipment while ensuring that the maintenance and deployment requirements of existing and developing weapon systems and equipment are met. This directive establishes policies to encourage the development and application of standardized ATS.
2. Air Force policy is to minimize new ATS development and to acquire automatic test systems that have applications across multiple weapon systems. Each weapon System Program Director (SPD), jointly with the ATS Product Group Manager (PGM), will select ATS to meet program requirements.
3. Department of Defense (DoD) standard ATS families, or modifications to these systems, will be the first alternative evaluated for satisfying new ATS requirements. DoD families of ATS will be designated based on technology or functionality usable across multiple weapon systems.
4. When the standard ATS families cannot meet user needs, other existing DoD inventory or commercial off the shelf (COTS) systems will be the next alternatives evaluated. Specifications will be based on recognized commercial standards to the maximum extent feasible.
5. Peculiar ATS will be developed only as a last alternative.
6. The SPD will obtain a waiver for use of any ATS solution other than the standard families or COTS for depot application, as required by DoD policy. The waiver request must contain a description of the ATS requirement and a cost benefit analysis supporting the proposed acquisition approach.
7. The Air Force will select software and interface standards, commercial software engineering environments, flexible architectures, and reusable software components to facilitate the creation of a common test environment that meets the users' requirements.
8. This directive establishes the following responsibilities and authorities:

8.1. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition (Communications, Computers and Support Systems) (SAF/AQK) is responsible for policy, resource advocacy, oversight of the ATS acquisition process, and monitoring the progress toward developing an ATS acquisition approach that minimizes proliferation according to DoD policy.

8.2. Deputy Chief of Staff/Logistics, Directorate of Maintenance (HQ USAF/LGM) is responsible for assisting in the identification, definition and integration of user requirements, ensuring that reliability, maintainability, and deployability are adequately addressed in policy and processes, advocating user needs to the ATS PGM, and assisting in the identification and resolution of logistics and sustainability issues.

8.3. Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command (HQ AFMC) will establish an ATS Product Group Manager who will:

8.4. Develop and promulgate a structural collaborative (with the SPDs) process for the identification and fulfillment of ATS requirements for all Air Force weapon systems.

8.5. Employ an analysis process which considers requirements in the context of total Air Force requirements.

8.6. Develop and maintain a library of data required to evaluate Air Force-wide ATS capabilities against new Air Force requirements to ensure that existing or modified ATS families or DoD inventoried solutions are pursued when they can meet the requirement.

8.7. In response to each programs ATS requirements, co-chair an ATS Acquisition Strategy Panel with the applicable weapon SPD to review the ATS approach. Employ a decision process which includes a cost benefit analysis in determining the source of ATS to satisfy the weapon system requirement, and the acquiring organization. The ATS solution should be identified as part of the Integrated Logistics Support Plan to support a Milestone II acquisition program decision (or equivalent).

8.8. Manage designated Air Force families of ATS and be responsible for maintaining them and budgeting to meet future Air Force ATS requirements.

8.9. Develop and oversee modifications to DoD designated ATS families to ensure the resultant product will facilitate broad applications to Air Force systems.

8.10. Develop an Air Force set of ATS specifications, standards, and a test software engineering environment, based on commercial hardware and software standards.

9. These are the terms used in this directive:

**9.1. Product Group.** A grouping consisting of several like products in all life cycle phases that are characterized by an on-going development requirement as well as a much larger cumulative sustainment effort.

**9.2. Product Group Manager (PGM).** The individual managing an AFMC Product Group who is ultimately responsible and accountable for decisions and resources in overall product group management. The PGM is the single person who is charged with all cost, schedule, and performance aspects of a product group and related sustainment activities.

**10.** This policy directive implements DoD Directive 5000.1, *Defense Acquisition*, February 23, 1991; AFPD 10-6, *Air Force Mission Needs and Operational Requirements Process*, November 15, 1991; and *DoD Policy for Automatic Test Systems*, April 29, 1994.

**11.** Related policies are included in DoD Instruction 5000.2, *Defense Acquisition Management Policies and Procedures*, February 1991.

CLARK G. FIESTER  
The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition

## Attachment 1

### MEASURING COMPLIANCE WITH ATS NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY

**A1.1.** Compliance with ATS Acquisition Policy will be assessed by measuring the number of peculiar ATS developments authorized as a percentage of total new ATS requirements reviewed by the PGM in each fiscal year. See **Figure A1.1**.figure A1.1.

**Figure A1.1. Sample Metric of Peculiar ATS Development as a Percentage of Total New Requirements.**

