



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

JUL 04 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SAF/AQ

SUBJECT: Transition of Air Force Program Executive Officers to Portfolio Acquisition Executives

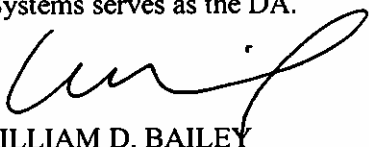
References: (a) *Transforming the Defense Acquisition System into the Warfighting Acquisition System to Accelerate Fielding of Urgently Needed Capabilities to our Warriors* – SECWAR Memo, 7 November 2025
(b) *Establishment of Initial Portfolio Acquisition Executives, Tranche 1* – SAF/AQ Memo, 19 December 2025
(c) *Directive on Acquisition Transformation (Acquisition Tiger Team) Recommendations* – SAF/AQ Memo, 23 April 2026

Following the SECWAR direction to transform to the Warfighting Acquisition System, the Air Force transitioned five Program Executive Officers (PEOs) to Portfolio Acquisition Executives (PAEs) on December 19, 2025. This initial tranche of PAEs have served as pathfinders as new authorities have been delegated to these positions based on recommendations of the Acquisition Transformation Tiger Teams. The last six months have demonstrated that the alignment of authority and accountability directly at the point of execution is essential to delivering capability at the speed required to win.

As the transition to the Warfighting Acquisition System continues, we will continue to capture lessons learned and refine our processes. However, enhanced integration and rapid decision-making enabled by the new PAE structure make clear we must scale today. PAEs operate at the speed necessary to win, and waiting for perfect implementation only leaves constraints in place that delay capability delivery to our warfighters.

Effective July 4, 2026, all Air Force PEOs are redesignated as PAEs. All PAEs have full access to current authorities, to include the authorities provided in the SAF/AQ Memo dated April 23, 2026, as well as any future delegations based on recommendations from the Acquisition Tiger Teams.

Additionally, I delegate Decision Authority (DA) responsibility, including Milestone Decision (MDA) Authority, for all acquisition programs for which I currently serve as the DA to the PAE assigned to that program, except for the SAE Special Interest Programs identified in Attachment 1. I reserve the right to designate any programs, whether they are currently delegated or not, as SAE Special Interest. This delegation does not apply to any ACAT 1D programs or programs for which the Direct Reporting Portfolio Manager-Critical Major Weapon Systems serves as the DA.


WILLIAM D. BAILEY
Performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Acquisition, Technology & Logistics)
Director & Portfolio Acquisition Executive, Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office

Attachment:

1. Decision Authority Delegation to PAEs

Attachment 1

Decision Authority Delegation to PAEs

SAE Special Interest Programs:

Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM)
Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW)
B-52 Radar Modernization Program (RMP)
DAF Integrated Fires Command and Control (DIFC2)
E-7A Production & RP
Family of Advanced Beyond Line-of-Sight Terminals Force Element Terminal (FAB-T FET)
F-15 Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (F-15 EPAWSS)
F-15EX
F-22 Software Pathway for Expediting Enhanced Delivery (F-22 SPEED)
Hypersonic Attack Cruise Missile Rapid Prototyping (HACM RP)
Joint Fires Network – Software Acquisition Pathway (JFN SWP)
Kessel Run Air Operations Center Weapon System (KR AOC)
KC-46A Tanker Modernization
Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO)
PNT Software Defined User Equipment
Stand-In Attack Weapon Rapid Prototyping (SiAW – RP)
Stand off Attack Weapon (SoAW)
T-7 Advanced Pilot Training

On Hold – Programs being canceled:

Air Force Integrated Personnel and Pay System
Next Generation Air-refueling System

All other delegation information can be located at: [The Warfighting Edge – DAF Acquisition Transformation Website.](#)