



DAF Modernization Process Model

Executive White Paper

Purpose

The DAF Modernization Process Model (MPM), formerly the Acquisition Process Model (APM), is the Department of the Air Force enterprise process reference and workforce enablement capability for understanding, navigating, and executing the modernization lifecycle. The MPM connects acquisition, requirements, resourcing, engineering, contracting, test, sustainment, and related activities with current policy, roles, decision points, training, templates, tools, and authoritative resources. It provides a common framework that helps the workforce translate law and policy into executable, tailorable actions to support accelerated delivery of capability.

Background

Since its institutionalization in 2016, the MPM has evolved from a static, primarily ACAT I-focused acquisition reference into a dynamic enterprise capability assimilating all Adaptive Acquisition Framework pathways with associated cross-functional processes. Rapidly updated as law, policies, organizations, roles, and processes change, the MPM provides a near-real-time view of the modernization lifecycle and helps the workforce understand how changes in one area may impact activities, decisions, and processes across the enterprise—enabling the DAF to better integrate and manage change.

Discussion

The MPM provides all levels of the workforce with the following benefits:

- 1) **Process Understanding: What work we do and who does it** - Provides an integrated, repeatable view of modernization activities at multiple levels of detail, allowing users to understand process flow, roles, dependencies, decision points, and cross-functional interactions.
- 2) **Authoritative Reference Integration: Why we do the work** - Connects process activities to current laws, policies, guidebooks, templates, training, best practices, and other authoritative resources, reducing the time required to locate and interpret guidance.
- 3) **Rapid Policy-to-Workforce Translation: How change is operationalized** - Provides a mechanism to rapidly incorporate significant changes such as the PEO-to-PAE transition, Joint Force Requirements Process updates, Revolutionary FAR Overhaul changes, interim Air Force requirements guidance, Cyber DT&E, Value Engineering, and other modernization policy updates. NOTAMs are used when needed to provide timely awareness ahead of formal model updates.
- 4) **Enterprise Integration and Collaboration** - Serves as a common integration point with SAF/AQC, SAF/AQXI, AFLCMC, AFIT/DIICE, UDRI, and other organizations. Current efforts include aligning the MPM with contracting resources and using MPM content to refine Cameo/SysML representations of the acquisition lifecycle and identify opportunities to streamline the Adaptive Acquisition Framework.
- 5) **Digital and AI-Enabled Decision Support** - Establishes a structured modernization knowledge foundation for digital modeling and AI-enabled workforce tools. Current efforts include MPM modeling and functional testing of the MPM AI Prompt Library to enhance user navigation of MPM resources, with a focus on the quality, accuracy, and reliability of results within approved GenAI environments.

Strategic Value

The MPM has matured beyond a static process map into a living enterprise modernization knowledge and decision-support capability. Continued investment allows the DAF to build on an established, increasingly utilized foundation for rapidly operationalizing policy, improving workforce consistency, strengthening cross-functional integration, and enabling the next generation of digital and AI-assisted modernization execution.

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Bottom Line: The MPM transforms complex modernization policy and processes into actionable workforce knowledge.