DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND
NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, DC 20361 -0001

IN REPLY REFER TO
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AIR-511
11 Sep 87

NAVAIR INSTRUCTION 5451.90

From: Commander, Naval Air Systems Command

Subj: SYSTEMS ENGINEERING CORE TEAM

Ref: (a) NAVAIRINST 5451.87A

1. Purpose. To publish the functions and responsibilities of the Systems Engineering CORE Team (SECT).

2. Background. As naval systems become more complex and interdependent, the need to control their design, production, and support in a manner that efficiently optimizes performance while minimizing cost throughout their life cycle is increasingly critical. Naval Air Systems Command Headquarters (NAVAIRHQ), recognizing the importance of applying a systems approach to acquisition on a corporate basis, has instituted a process to define, staff, and implement sound systems engineering techniques throughout the acquisition process. In September 1984, the Deputy Commander, Naval Air Systems Command established the SECT to help further develop, communicate, and promote a sound systems engineering approach suitable for all NAVAIRHQ acquired systems. While much of the initial framework has now been developed, continued participation of the SECT in the evolution of the systems approach to naval air systems and battle force systems is important. The SECT provides for continued participation in this evolution.

3. Membership. The SECT consists of one member from each of the activities listed below. The chairperson will be designated by the SECT membership and will be rotated among the activities as necessary. The principal member should be a person that has an active role in systems engineering and will be designated by each activity. Each activity will submit the name, code and phone number of their designated principal member to NAVAIRHQ, Director for Systems Acquisition (AIR-51) by the beginning of each fiscal year. The permanent principal member from NAVAIRHQ is AIR-511A.

a. Principal Members

Naval Air Systems Command Headquarters
Naval Air Development Center
Naval Air Engineering Center
Naval Air Test Center
Naval Avionics Center
Naval Weapons Center
Pacific Missile Test Center

b. Adjunct Members

Activities identified in enclosure (6) of reference (a) may be included as adjunct members of the SECT at the request of the chairperson.

B-11754 1

c. Systems Engineering Advocate

The Systems Engineering Advocate is a rotational position located at NAVAIRHQ. The Systems Engineering Advocate is identified and provided on a continuing basis by each field activity serving as a principal member of the SECT. The duration of each incumbent is 4 months with 2 weeks overlap to ensure smooth transition and continuity.

d. NAVAIRHQ Focal Point

The NAVAIRHQ focal point for all matters pertaining to systems engineering is AIR-51. In this role, AIR-51 will ensure that all recommendations are expeditously passed through the chain of command for appropriate action.

4. Functions

a. SECT Functions

(1) Advise and assist NAVAIRHQ with continuing development of the framework for policy and procedures to implement systems engineering management and technical support of naval air warfare systems.

(2) Provide ongoing assistance, advice, and coordination that promotes and improves implementation and execution of systems engineering strategies and processes within NAVAIRHQ, field activities, and research and development centers.

(3) Provide a forum for sharing and promoting advances in systems engineering, formulating systems engineering strategies, and analyzing general systems engineering problems.

(4) Provide NAVAIRHQ focal point for systems engineering recommendations regarding the formulation of systems engineering policy and practices.

(5) Act as a continuing communications link with NAVAIRHQ and the activities participating in the SECT to share advances, formulate strategies, discuss general problems, and promote communication. Advocate and improve the establishment, implementation, and execution of the systems approach within NAVAIRHQ, respective SECT field activities, and research and development centers.

(6) Provide NAVAIRHQ focal point for systems engineering and to the commanders of the participating activities recommendations that promote improvements in education of personnel engaged in systems engineering management and technical support. This may include fostering formal college or university level training programs.

(7) Provide NAVAIRHQ focal point for systems engineering and to the commanders of the participating activities recommendations that promote internal review processes including systems engineering as a part of the process.

(8) Provide NAVAIRHQ focal point for systems engineering advice concerning the establishment of sound systems engineering management and technical support for specific NAVAIRHQ programs.

(9) Coordinate between activities the resolution of general organization interface issues related to systems engineering.

b. Systems Engineering Advocate Functions

(1) Advise and assist the Systems and Engineering Group, the SECT, and other NAVAIRHQ offices in the development, standardization, and maintenance of policy, procedures, standards, and instructions that promote and implement the systems engineering discipline. This responsibility includes review of systems engineering technical support and management practices for the purpose of recommending improvements.

(2) Assist the Systems and Engineering Group and the SECT in effectively communicating the concepts of the Systems Engineering Initiative. This responsibility includes review of training in all aspects of systems engineering with all activities participating in the SECT for purpose of recommending improvements.

(3) Act as the executive secretary to SECT, schedule meetings, publish minutes and actions, and conduct other business and coordination actions as necessary to ensure the smooth operation of the SECT.

(4) Arrange the smooth transition of Systems Engineering Advocate activities to the succeeding incumbent by providing adequate data and briefs.

5. Responsibilities. The SECT executes its responsibilities in the following manner.

a. Internally identifies, plans, and executes its tasks with overall guidance and priority being provided when necessary by NAVAIRHQ's focal point (AIR-51).

b. Convenes at a frequency and location determined by the chairperson.

c. Prepares formal action item summaries, findings, letters of recommendation, and guidance on an as needed basis determined by the SECT or AIR-51.

d. Functions as a team promoting advances in systems engineering (technical and management) for NAVAIRHQ.

e. Annually briefs its recommendations and activities to the Assistant Commander for Systems and Engineering and Assistant Commander for Fleet Support and Field Activity Management.

R. V. JOHNSON
Deputy Commander

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