

Performance Metric: Reduce Major Defense Acquisition Program (MDAP) acquisition cycle time (lagged)

Acquisition Cycle Time	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Target/Actual	FY 2004 Target/Actual ^a	FY 2005 Target/Actual ^a	FY 2006 Target
Acquisition cycle time (for new starts from FY 1992 through FY 2001) (months)	102	103	102/104	101<99	<99/TBD	<99 To be provided Oct-Nov 04
Acquisition cycle time (for new starts after FY 2001) (months)	N/A	N/A	76/93	80<66	<66/TBD	<66 To be provided Oct-Nov 04

^aThe results for FY 2004/5 will not be available until the release of the December 2005/4 SARs are released in April 2006/5.

Metric Description. Acquisition cycle time is the elapsed time, in months, from program initiation—when the Department makes a commitment to develop and produce a weapon system—until the system attains Initial Operational Capability (IOC). This metric measures the average cycle time across all Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs). During the 1960s, a typical defense acquisition took seven years (84 months) to complete. By 1996, a similar acquisition required 11 years (132 months) from program start to IOC. To reverse this trend, the Department established an objective to reduce the average acquisition cycle time for MDAPs started since 1992 to less than 99 months, a reduction of 25 percent. DoD achieved that initial objective. It did so through rapid acquisition with demonstrated technology, time-phased requirements and evolutionary development, and integrated test and evaluation. To continue that improvement, the Department will seek to reduce the average cycle time to less than 66 months for all MDAPs started after FY 2001. To achieve that objective, the Department is introducing improvements to development and production schedules similar to those it initiated for managing system performance and cost. Rapid development and fielding of weapon systems—leveraging new technologies faster—will enable U.S. forces to stay ahead of potential adversaries.

V&V Method. The key measure for this objective is the average elapsed time from program start to IOC, measured in months. Average acquisition cycle time is computed using schedule estimates from the Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs). SARs and the underlying data, which are maintained in the Consolidated Acquisition Reporting System (CARS), are used to verify and validate the measured values. The Department also monitors MDAPs through the Defense Acquisition Executive Summary (DAES) reporting system and the Defense Acquisition Board (DAB) review process. In FY 1998, the Department began to evaluate cycle times of new MDAPs (as well as schedule changes for ongoing programs) during its annual program and budgeting process. For the FY 2003 actual, there are 6647 MDAPs in the post-FY 1992 calculation, but only 154 MDAPs in the post-FY 2001 calculation.