**Purpose**

The Acquisition Process Model (APM) is a tool designed to serve as the standard Air Force acquisition process reference and guide for all stakeholders. The APM provides a comprehensive "Big A" acquisition process perspective primarily focused on ACAT I programs, i.e., an integration of the DoD 5000 process (Acquisition), the JCIDS process (Requirements), and the Planning, Programming, Budget, and Execution process (Funding). In September 2016, as directed by the USecAF and VCSAF as part of the Air Force Strategic Master Plan, SAF/AQ signed a memorandum institutionalizing the APM.

**Background**

Given the increasing downward pressure on defense budgets and continual change in the Air Force acquisition process, acquisition professionals need the "as-is” process from which to enable process efficiencies. To this end, the APM provides a comprehensive model to depict and provide understanding of the end to end acquisition process (and links to the over 290 laws, policies, and guidebooks).

**Discussion**

Action officers and staffers receive the following benefits from the APM:

1. ***Process Understanding: What work we do and who does it*** - The APM presents a standard, repeatable process for acquisition. The APM is organized in a work breakdown structure fashion, allowing stakeholders to understand aspects of the process from varying levels of detail as necessary.
2. ***Integrated Reference Document Source: Why we do work*** - The APM provides current links to the relevant law/policy/guidance underlying each process.
3. ***Flexible Search Capability: How we do work*** - The APM allows any stakeholder to search the overarching process from a variety of perspectives, such as key word/phrase, organization, or reference document.
4. ***Process Integration:*** - The APM enhances integration with other process models/architectures, such as the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center Standard Processes.
5. ***Context for Process Improvement:*** - SAF/AQX has successfully used the APM in various Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) events. For example, a CPI effort to improve acquisition program reporting leveraged the model to identify improvements expected to generate $7+ million in benefits over a 3-year period.

SAF/AQX conducts continual surveillance to ensure the APM incorporates policy changes in a timely manner. Please forward examples of best practices of work performed and other feedback on the APM to the POC below.

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