

Common Sense Project Management: “When you come to a fork in the road...” —Paul Solomon 1/11/25

Note: This revision cites the Space Acquisition Tenets of Frank Calvelli, Asst. Sec. of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration. One tenet is to “Hold industry accountable to execute on cost, schedule, and meeting performance commitments.” Another is to “Proactively manage the program by continuing to actively trace schedule, cost, and technical progress. Identify issues early in order to quickly resolve them.”

These tenets are not tenable if program managers hold onto the Earned Value Management System (EVMS) guidelines in the EVMS standard, EIA-748.

Robert Frost: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

It is time to fully de-regulate how DoD manages the acquisition of major weapon systems. The NDAA for FY 2025, the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement, DFARS, requires contractors to be compliant with the Earned Value Management System (EVMS) Standard EIA-748 guidelines for only two acquisition paths and will provide a waiver for one of them. EVMS provides no management value. In fact, EVM status reports of cost and schedule progress are often based on botched (GAO-24-106546 Navy Frigate), misleading, or manipulated metrics. We don’t need another regulation to replace the EVMS DFARS clause. Instead, we need program managers and contractors to use common sense project management and be held accountable for the results.

Robert Frost’s poem and the novel *Something of Value* provide insight for acquisition reform. *Something of Value* is the title of the book that is cited in the letter to HASC Vice Chair Wittman, Appendix 3, Subj: “Something of Value” not “Earned Value.”

Excerpt: “When we take away from a man his traditional way of life, his customs, his religion, we had better make certain to replace it with Something of Value.” So, what do we do if we take away mandatory compliance with the Earned Value Management (EVM) Standard guidelines in EIA-748? Per the Section 809 Panel report, “traditional measurement using EVM provides less value to a program than an Agile process in which the end user continuously verifies that the product meets the requirement.”

The NDAA for FY 2024 created a fork in the acquisition road. The *Final Report of the Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) Reform* also points to that fork. I recommend taking the path that gives the warfighter and the taxpayer “Something of Value” instead of EV.

This paper advocates booting the requirement to use EVM and its associated, compliance reviews. Information includes:

1. Response to W. Abba article: *It’s Time to “Reboot” EVM*
2. “When you come to a fork in the road, take it”
3. Something of Value to replace mandatory EV
4. Budgeting 101 and Scheduling 101
5. “The road less traveled by.” Don’t take it.
6. Former President Trump’s 2018 President’s Management Agenda (PMA)
7. Heritage Foundation’s Project 2025 Report (Project 2025)
8. Sen. Ernst’s letter to the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) with her ideas for trimming the fat and reducing red ink.
9. NDAA for FY 2025, Sections 804 and 805
10. EIA-748 is a not commercial standard and the use of a compliant EVMS cannot “assure the government that there is not fraud, waste, and abuse of contract funds,” as falsely claimed by the NDIA.

This paper provides a lower cost, effective alternative to EIA-748. There will be no regulatory requirement for EVMS and no compliance reviews. Tear down that regulatory wall that is a barrier to competition for non-traditional, innovative companies. If contractors believe that it is cost-beneficial to use EVM, they may continue to use it and to maintain EIA-748. However, DoD should revise its policies and guides to focus on the **product** and technical performance, not on **work**. The revised policies and guides will be based on GAO guides, system engineering (SE) standards, Project Management Institute (PMI) standards and *PMBOK® Guide*. The government would provide incentives for program managers and contractors to achieve cost, schedule, and technical objectives but no subjective award fees just for using EVM in an “Excellent” manner.

Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff stated in his paper, “Accelerate Change or Lose”:

- DoD stakeholders, Congress, and traditional and emerging industry partners must work differently to streamline processes and incentivize intelligent risk-taking in support of the Warfighter and the Nation.
- We owe it to the American taxpayers to examine how we can provide greater value at an affordable cost to the Nation’s defense.
- “Cost, schedule, and performance metrics alone are no longer sufficient metrics of acquisition success.”

DoD reported in 2021: “Congress removed the burden of resource-heavy reporting requirements of EVM in pilots, resulting in greater focus on delivering working product and value over documentation.”

Neither GAO nor other independent reviewers have ever reported that contractors, who were certified as being compliant with the EIA-748 guidelines, had fewer and smaller cost overruns or schedule delays on major weapon systems development contracts.

Wayne Abba published two examples of the successful use of an EVMS in *Defense Acquisition Magazine*, March–April 2023, “It’s Time to “Reboot” EVM.” The article cited “the burdensome rules, regulations, documentation, and administration associated with DoD regulatory compliance.” Neither case justifies retaining regulatory compliance.

In one case, EVM was applied to National Science Foundation major multi-user research *facility* projects. However, implementation and oversight is applicable by statute to “nonscientific and *nontechnical* aspects of project planning, budgeting, implementation, and management. In the other case, an Air Force development contract “did not require a DoD-compliant EVMS” (compliant with the EVMS standard EIA-748 guidelines).

Successful Prototyping Demonstrates Mature Technologies, Reduces Subsequent Risk

DoD policy, instructions, and guides permit the program manager to tailor the correct EVMS requirements for the specific nature of the program in accordance with DoD policy. Acquisition processes will be tailored based on the **risk**. (See Appendix 1 below, EVM Implementation Guide (EVMIG) and DoDD 5000.02).

Per DoDI 5000.85:

1. The acquisition pathway employed will be tailored for the unique *risk profile* of the capability being acquired.
2. A rapid, iterative approach...reduces cost, avoids technological obsolescence, and *reduces acquisition risk*. Consistent with that intent, acquisitions will rely on *mature, proven technologies and early testing*.
3. Technologies successfully demonstrated...via the Rapid Prototyping procedures in the Middle Tier Acquisition pathway, or other prototyping authorities, may be transitioned to major capability acquisition programs.

Consequently, a program manager of a major capability acquisition that has been transitioned from a prototype or prototypes with mature, proven technologies faces low technical risk. DoD policy should be revised to enable the program manager to tailor *out* the EVMS requirements and manage the product, not the EVM process. Conversely, a program manager should avoid the risk of program failure that is due to the procedural and cultural risks that are inherent when

complying with EIA-748 guidelines. When EVM is not correctly implemented, status reports of cost and schedule progress are based on botched, misleading, or manipulated metrics which obscure situational awareness and delay timely corrective actions.

Also, it is recommended that program managers of acquisitions with *mature, proven technologies* avoid use of cost plus (subjective) award fee contracts. Use incentives. DoD should *Buy a Product that Works, not a Statement of Work*.

So, we don't need another assessment of the management value of EVM. "Just do it." Get rid of the statutory and regulatory requirements for EVM.

Other Reasons to Boot EIA-748

1. EIA-748 Not Widely Accepted as a Commercial Practice

Despite the unsubstantiated claims in the *DoD EVMS Interpretation Guide* and the *NDIA EVMS Application Guide*, EIA-748 is not a widely accepted industry best practice that is used across the commercial sector. Evidence is provided in the white paper, *DOD Acquisition Reform: EVMS-lite* and *Integrated Program Management (EVMS-lite)*.

2. Program Management Improvement and Accountability Act of 2016 (PMIAA)

The PMIAA is not yet applicable to DoD. Congress should remove the exemption. See *EVMS-lite* and the November-December 2015 *Defense AT&L* article, "A Contract Requirements Rule for Program Managers (PM)." A PM's needs that are covered by the *PMBOK® Guide* but are not mentioned in EIA-748 include the technical or product baseline, requirements management and traceability, risk management, and project procurement management.

3. PMBOK® Guide includes standards and principles that meet the needs of IPM but are absent from EIA-748 or are enhancements that meet product or quality needs (Appendix 2).

4. GAO Report GAO-24-106886, the ISACA Capability Maturity Model® Integration (CMMI®) Model V3.0, contains the best leading practices for the following project management activities; requirements traceability, risk management activities, product integration, quantitative performance targets, verification, and validation. Appendix I is a table of the pertinent best project management leading practices to measure progress towards meeting technical performance requirements, verification and validation milestones, and the integration of hardware with embedded software.

Please read my Carnegie Mellon U./Software Engineering Institute Technical Note CMU/SEI-2002-TN-016, Oct. 2002, "Using CMMI® to Improve Earned Value Management." Although written in 2002, it is relevant to today's digital engineering ecosystem. Just skip the obsolete sections regarding EVM.

5. DoD Should Boot EIA-748 because it is impractical, per OMB Circular A-119 criteria. See *EVMS-lite*.

Excerpts:

"Impractical" includes circumstances in which such use would fail to serve the agency's...program needs; be inadequate or be less useful than the use of another standard.

EIA-748 is impractical based on the following evaluation factors in *OMB Circular A-119, Federal Participation in the Development and Use of VCSs and in Conformity Assessment Activities*:

- The prevalence of the use of the standard in the national and international marketplaces.
- The problems addressed by the standard and changes in the state of knowledge and technology since the standard was prepared or last revised.

EIA-748 does not address the state of knowledge and technology since it was last revised. It is still silent on the product or technical baseline, risk management, and on tracing the requirements baseline to the schedule and work packages. The Quality Gap has not been closed.

6. The use of EIA-748 fails to serve DAS policy to “Employ Performance Based-Acquisition Strategies” that support an “acquisition approach structured around the **results to be achieved** as opposed to the manner by which the **work** is to be performed.”
7. The use of a compliant EVMS cannot “assure the government that there is not fraud, waste, and abuse of contract funds,” as falsely claimed by the NDIA. Evidence is provided in *EVMS-lite*.

OPM/OMB Memo: PMIAA IPM Competencies

In 2019, OPM, in consultation with the OMB and the Program Management Policy Council, issued a memo which defined “IPM competencies to select, assess, and train program and project management talent for the 21st century.” In August 2023, the memo was updated. Neither version includes EVM as a technical competency. Both versions included four technical competencies which are not covered in the EIA-748 guidelines:

- Quality Management - Knowledge of the principles, methods, and tools of quality assurance, quality control, and reliability used to ensure that a project, system, or product fulfills requirements and standards.
- Requirements Management - Knowledge of the principles and methods to identify, solicit, analyze, specify, design, and manage requirements.
- Risk Management - Knowledge of the principles, methods, and tools used for risk assessment and mitigation, including assessment of failures and their consequences.
- Scope Management - Knowledge of the strategies, techniques, and processes used to plan, monitor, and control project scope; includes collecting requirements, defining scope, creating a work breakdown structure, validating scope, and controlling scope to ensure project deliverables meet requirements.

National Defense Industrial Strategy

USD Kathleen Hicks stated, in the National Defense Industrial Strategy, “we need to shift **from policies rooted in the 20th century** that supported a narrow defense industrial base.”

Space Acquisition Tenets

Frank Calvelli, Asst. Sec. of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration, issued a SAF/SQ memo, Subj: Space Acquisition Tenets, dated 31 October 2022. Per the memo, “Our top three priorities include driving speed into our acquisitions in order to deliver new capabilities faster...Former approaches...that took many years to develop on cost plus contracts can no longer be the norm...and most importantly, delivering programs on cost and schedule through solid program management discipline and execution.

Tenet 8 is to “Hold industry accountable to execute on cost, schedule, and meeting performance commitments.”

Tenet 9 is to “Proactively manage the program by continuing to actively trace schedule, cost, and technical progress. Identify issues early in order to quickly resolve them.” Per the memo, “There is no better way to get speed into acquisitions than to deliver programs that meet performance requirements, on schedule and on cost. This is our **most important tenet. Success is measured by executing on plan.**

These tenets are not tenable if program managers hold onto the EIA-748 guidelines. Those guidelines are *not* structured around the **results to be achieved** but focus on the **quantity of work** performed. EIA-748 thwarts proactive program management. Also, on cost plus award fee contracts, industry earns fees that are based on subjective criteria, not on objective measures of technical progress.

Does the defense industry still support the status quo regarding the DFARS EVM clause and claim that compliance with the EIA-748 guidelines from 1967 is necessary for IPM?

“When You Come to a Fork in the Road...”

Yogi Berra said, “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.” Sen. Patty Murray was the first to arrive at that fork. In 2009, she offered an amendment to the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act (WSARA). Per her statement in the Congressional Record:

1. The GAO observed that contractor reporting on EVM often lacks consistency, leading to inaccurate data and faulty application of this metric.
2. This is a garbage-in/garbage-out problem that we need to correct.
3. This amendment...would help to strengthen the Department’s acquisition planning, increase and improve program oversight, and help to prevent contracting waste, fraud, and mismanagement.

Per the 2009 DOD Report to Congress which was required by her legislation, “utility of EVM has declined to a level where it does not serve its *intended purpose*” and contractors “keep EVM metrics favorable and problems hidden.”

The Section 809 Advisory Panel Report, in 2018, concluded “EVM has been required on most large software programs but has not prevented cost, schedule, or performance issues.”

Fifteen years after Sen. Murray’s statement, the Final Report of the Legislative Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) Reform, March 6, 2024, states that EVM systems purport to assess expenditures against established delivery benchmarks but have long been criticized as ***easily manipulated and inadequate to the task***. The PPBE Report also called for metrics that provide information on the ***value received*** (Something of Value). The Commission stated that “the status quo is insufficient to the demands and realities of today’s strategic and technological environment” and argued for a “Need for Change.” The Final Report included Recommendation 7: Improve understanding of private sector practices.

Former President Trump’s 2018 PMA included Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goal 11, Improve Management of Major Acquisitions. Per PMA, “Yet major acquisitions often fail to achieve their goals because many Federal managers lack the program management and acquisition skills required to successfully manage and integrate large and complex acquisitions into their projects. These shortcomings are compounded by complex acquisition rules that reward compliance over creativity and results.”

The nominee for OMB Director Russ Vought is also a former OMB Director and a co-author of Project 2025. Project 2025 stated “Senior acquisition leaders should design a system that allows decision-makers to stay within the law but bypass unnecessary departmental regulations that are not in the best interest of the government and hamper the acquisition of capabilities that warfighters require.”

To implement changes needed by the PPBE Commission, President-elect Trump’s 2018 PMA, and Project 2025, take the fork in the road to deregulate the mandatory use of EVM.

The Path to Effective IPM

The path to effective IPM bypasses mandatory compliance with the EIA-748 guidelines. EVM itself is not necessary to provide program managers with early warning of developing trends. Per *GAO Cost*, “Typically, schedule variances are followed by cost variances and management tends to respond to schedule delays by adding more resources or authorizing overtime.”

The GAO report, GAO-25-106749 Cruiser Modernization includes GAO’s following assessment of the defense industry management value of the Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) .

Acquisition planning tool	Description	Impact of not using acquisition planning tool
Integrated Master Schedule	An integrated and reliable schedule can realistically reflect changes, show when major events are expected, and show the completion dates for all activities leading up to them. This can help determine if the program's parameters are realistic and achievable.	Given the \$3.7 billion cost of this effort, a master schedule could have been developed to integrate various types of work (e.g., modernization periods and maintenance periods). A master schedule would also have enabled the Navy to manage the critical work necessary to achieve the cruiser modernization effort and make decisions to remove some work from the scope when it was clear that the efforts were going much longer than planned. A master schedule would have also provided the means to gauge progress, identify and resolve potential problems, and promote accountability at all levels of the program. Without such a schedule, the Navy was unable to adjust to changes from the planned schedule without significant delays.

Source: GAO analysis of Department of Defense (DOD) Instruction 5000.85, and Navy Instruction 5000.2G, and Navy data. | GAO-25-106749

The IMS was one of four key contract oversight tools cited in the report. EVM was conspicuously not one of those tools. Per the report, the IMS provides “the means to gauge progress, identify and resolve potential problems, and promote accountability at all levels of the program.”

All stakeholders will benefit when program managers get “early warning of developing trends—both problems and opportunities—allowing them to focus on the most critical issues.” However, EVM is not a prerequisite to getting early warning.

DoD should revise policy and guides to provide incentives for program managers and contractors to utilize best practices from GAO Guides, PMI standards and guides, SE standards, and other digital engineering (DE) guidance. The selected best practices comprise Something of Value. My recommendations to close the Quality Gap and to provide greater value at an affordable cost to the Nation’s defense are included herein and, in the white paper, *“Integrating the Embedded Software Path, Model-Based SE, MOSA, and DE with Program Management (Embedded SW).”*

DoD should also remove the counter-productive qualitative award fee criteria in the DoD EVM Implementation Guide such as “Contractor proactively and innovatively uses EVM. Contractor plans and implements continuous performance improvement in using EVM.” Much time has been wasted by program managers, IPT leaders, and finance staff in the preparation of alleged evidence of excellence.

How can the program manager obtain valid, reliable measurement of the quality and technical maturity of technical work products? A contractor may be compliant with EIA-748 guidelines and choose not to use technical performance measures (TPM) as base measures of EV. The Quality Gap is enabled and sustained by the *NDIA EVMS Intent Guide*. Guideline 7, Identify Products and Milestones for Progress Assessment, differentiates quality from quantity:

“The purpose for identifying objective indicators is to provide a means to measure the *quantity* of work accomplished – the earned value...Performance measures are one aspect of an IPM system as *other* processes control the quality and technical content of the work performed.”

There will be a federal workforce reduction by eliminating EVM specialists. However, if something of value were to replace earned value, some of the specialists should be retrained in systems engineering (SE) skills and used to advise program teams and provide independent analysis. The specialists should verify requirements decomposition and traceability to the IMS. Then they should understand, verify, reconcile, and explain technical performance vs. reported schedule performance.

Today, those highly skilled EVM specialists waste time and money reviewing data anomalies in contractually required, automated “Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) EVMS Compliance Metrics (DECM).” DECMs provide answers to *process* questions that are not useful to the program manager. They include:

- Does Budget at Completion within the EV Cost Tool reconcile to the Work Authorization Document?

- Are required variance analysis reports being generated that exceed established internal thresholds?
- Are retroactive changes being made to the actual costs of work performed?

DCMA specialists also waste time when analyzing or developing Cost Performance Index (CPI) Estimates at Completion (CPIEAC) even though the cost performance is based on BCWP that can obscure, not spotlight, real schedule progress. Overstated BCWP results in understated EAC. Instead of wasting money on labor and software licenses for DECM, DCMA should employ these specialists to focus on tasks that really help program teams. They should focus on issues and risks related to completing the product, not on the EVM process and metrics.

The largest source of cost reductions will not be the reduction of DoD workers. The biggest cost savings will come from reducing contractor EVM specialists, consultants, and EVM software licenses. Most importantly, DoD and contractor program managers and engineers will no longer waste time on EVM tasks and will focus on the product.

Budgeting 101, Scheduling 101, and Common Sense Project Management

Sen. Joni Ernst, on the SASC, sent a letter to DOGE, dated November 25, 2024, with her ideas for trimming the fat and reducing red ink. Excerpts from her letter follow:

While you're seeking "super high-IQ small-government revolutionaries" for "unglamorous cost-cutting," all that's really needed is a little common sense.

To give you a head start, here are a trillion dollars' worth of ideas for trimming the fat and reducing red ink:

Require Commonsense Project Management Principles

For every \$1 billion Washington spends, \$102 million is wasted as projects go over budget, are delayed, or fail to meet projected goals. Implementing the most basic management systems—like establishing scopes and goals—could have saved taxpayers \$688.5 billion from the \$6.75 trillion the federal government spent this past year.

My solution to Sen. Ernst's requirement follows:

Keep it cheap and simple. Don't bother computing EV (BCWP) and trying to explain the derived, budget-based schedule variance. Go back to Budgeting 101 and Scheduling 101. Compare cumulative actual costs to budget (ACWP – BCWS). Then analyze. If there is an *apparent* cost overrun, is it real? Or are you just ahead of schedule? If there is an apparent cost underrun, are you behind schedule? Why? Are you under your hiring plan? Is development or testing by a subcontractor behind schedule and on the critical path? What's needed is thorough root cause analysis, identifying corrective actions and risks, and estimating realistic completion dates and costs.

I proposed statutory/regulatory solutions to Sen. Ernst in 2018. The revised version is my letter, Subj: Proposed NDAA Markups to Fix the PMIAA; Delete "shall not apply to DoD," dated July 7, 2021 (Appendix 5). Implementation of the recommendations could have provided common sense project management of DoD major acquisitions years ago. However, I am grateful to Sen. Ernst for prodding Mr. Musk and Mr. Ramaswamy to act on them now.

EIA-748 vs. ANSI/PMI 19-006-2019 The Standard for EVM plus PMBOK® Guide

Until the EVMS regulation is revoked, a DoD program manager must still use it for the Major Capability Acquisition path. The only standard that meets the needs of NDIS and the OMB Circular A-119 criteria is ANSI/PMI 19-006-2019, The Standard for EVM (PMI EVM Standard) in conjunction with *PMBOK® Guide*. Some of the program and project management components of *PMI EVM Standard* and *PMBOK Guide®* that are missing from the EIA-748 guidelines are product scope, risk management, and configuration management. Appendix 2 includes excerpts from *PMI EVM Standard* and *PMBOK® Guide*.

NDAA for FY 2025, Sec. 804 and 805: EVM not Required for Paths other than Major Capability Acquisitions

The NDAA for FY 2025 removes the regulatory requirement for contractors to comply with the EIA-748 guidelines (with one major exception and one detour).

Software Acquisition

SEC. 805. REVISION AND CODIFICATION OF SOFTWARE ACQUISITION PATHWAYS, provides that software acquisition and development pathways “shall **not be treated** as a major defense acquisition program for purposes of section 4201 of title 10, United States Code, or Department of Defense Directive 5000.01 without the specific designation of such software and covered hardware by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment or a service acquisition executive.” (Therefore, no EVM).

Middle Tier

SEC. 804. MIDDLE TIER OF ACQUISITION (MTA) FOR RAPID PROTOTYPING AND RAPID FIELDING, provides a detoured path for a program manager to seek a waiver from the regulatory requirement to use EVM. The excerpt from Sec. 804 follows:

(2) RAPID ACQUISITION PATHWAY DEFINED.—

In this section, the term ‘rapid acquisition pathway means the rapid prototyping or the rapid fielding acquisition pathway.

“(4) STREAMLINED PROCEDURES.—The process described in paragraph (1) may provide for any of the following streamlined procedures:

“(E) A program manager appointed...may seek an expedited waiver from any regulatory requirement, or in the case of a statutory requirement, a waiver from Congress, that the program manager determines ***adds cost, schedule, or performance delays with little or no value to the management of such program or project.***”

The DFARS EVMS clause meets the waiver criteria, as disclosed above and in the white paper, Integrating the Embedded Software Path, Model-Based Systems Engineering, MOSA, and Digital Engineering with Program Management, December 15, 2024. So, a program manager using the rapid acquisition pathway should select material in the two white papers to justify the waiver. (Seek the waiver)

Remove Major Exception: Major Capability Acquisition

That leaves one major exception. Program managers using the Major Capability Acquisition path are still stuck with the DFARS EVMS clause. However, the DFARS EVMS clause is inconsistent with DODI 5000.97 DE, DODI 5000.87 Operation of the Software Acquisition Pathway, the Musk Five-step Engineering Algorithm, and is a barrier to entry for non-traditional contractors that use DE.

DODI 5000.97

It is policy in DODI 5000.97 that DoD will conduct a comprehensive engineering program for defense systems, pursuant to DoD Instruction (DoDI) 5000.88. In support of that effort, the DoD will use DE methodologies, technologies, and practices across the life cycle of defense acquisition programs...engineering, and management activities. The digital thread allows different audiences with different perspectives to extract data from and adjust usage of models to carry out different activities, including, but not limited cost estimating. Common examples of digital artifacts include schedules.

DODI 5000.87

3b(11) Each program will develop and track a set of metrics to assess and manage the performance, progress, speed, cybersecurity, and quality of the software development, its development teams, and ability to meet users’ needs. Metrics collection will leverage *automated tools* to the maximum extent practicable. The program will continue to update its cost estimates and cost and software data reporting from the planning phase throughout the execution phase.

Musk's Five-step Engineering Algorithm for Major Capability Acquisitions

Program Managers will be unable to use the digital thread to automate transformation of schedule performance data based on ASoTs unless the EIA-748 burden is removed. Per the *DoD DE Strategy* (DE Strat), "Exchange of information between technical disciplines or organizations should take place via model exchanges and **automated transformations**." The Trump nominees to DoD are likely to employ Elon Musk's Five-step Engineering algorithm. The fifth step is "Automate."

In a DE environment, products are model-driven, providing additional opportunities to cost-effectively incorporate changes to digital models that are directly traceable to the implemented and tested work products, some of which can be automatically generated.

Barrier to Entry: Do You Really Want to Bid if there are EVMS Solicitation Clauses?

Per the National Defense Industrial Strategy Implementation Plan, a desired outcome is to streamline the acquisition process. Flexible acquisition authorities and pathways, such as...MTAs can reduce bureaucratic hurdles and enhance the speed and flexibility of contracting, allowing the DoD to engage more effectively with nontraditional defense contractors, academic institutions, and small businesses. By facilitating rapid prototyping and fielding of mature technologies, these streamlined processes ensure that innovative solutions may be developed and delivered much faster than through more traditional approaches. This also helps broaden the defense industrial base, ultimately enhancing DoD's ability to maintain a technological edge and respond swiftly to emerging challenges.

However, the DFARS EVMS clause is a barrier to entry for nontraditional defense contractors.

If you are a nontraditional, potential bidder for a contract that includes the EVMS solicitation clauses, a guide to EVMS is provided in Appendix 6, Guide to Guides for Implementing EVM in Compliance with NDIA EVM Standard EIA-748. Appendix 6 cites ten guides from DoD and the NDIA Integrated Program Management Division. There are 876 pages of guidance.

If you want to use an EVMS consultant to learn how to implement EVM in compliance with EIA-748, you can hire one or buy an excellent book from one that has 416 pages.

A sample of some of the incomprehensible or absurd excerpts from Appendix 6 includes:

- Reconcile the project value (target cost plus authorized, unpriced work) with the sum of all control account budgets, indirect budgets, management reserves, and undistributed budgets.
- This identifying threshold looks for tasks in a schedule (formal or informal) that have already begun but that have a Percent (%) Complete value that is 0% or has any inconsistencies when compared to the approved schedule.
- The training for Senior Executive Leadership would include the following skills: Overview of schedule analysis and metrics ...including: ... Schedule Performance Index (SPI), Duration-Based vs. Scope-Based % Complete.
- Successful EVMS Surveillance Programs...a robust surveillance plan that could be executed both internally and for oversight of subcontractors...provide customers and organizations with EVMS oversight responsibility a framework that can...be used to conduct surveillance of suppliers.

Do Senior Executive Leaders need skills such as Duration-Based vs. Scope-Based % Complete? Do cost engineers need to reconcile target cost plus authorized, unpriced work with the sum of other budgets? Would Senior Executive Leaders and taxpayers be better off if there were more real engineers and less cost or financial engineers?

Do potential bidders want to put up with DCMA compliance reviews? Per DCMA Business Practice 4, EVMS Surveillance, “An analysis of the contractor’s EVMS processes and data will be conducted to evaluate the ability of the system to meet the intent of the EVMS EIA Standard. When available, the data analysis should include reviewing reports and findings from the contractor’s internal surveillance activities.

Whether you are a senior executive or a real engineer, wouldn’t you rather build a product that works and not waste time on reporting cost and schedule performance towards completing the quantity of work in your SOW? Reports that have been justly criticized as being based on botched, misleading, or manipulated metrics instead of outcome-based metrics?

DoD, OMB, and GAO implementation plan:

To remove the EIA-748 burden, enable consistency between conflicting DoD instructions, reduce acquisition costs, and speed up delivery of the product, implement the following acquisition reform plan.

Step 1: DoD actions:

- DoD revise policies, guidance, and instructions to document evidence that PMIAA is applicable to DoD because DoD’s program and project management policies, procedures, and guides are consistent with the best practices in widely accepted standards for program and project management planning and delivery, including GAO Guides, PMI standards, and *PMBOK® Guide*. Appendices 1 and 2 include best practices that should be included in Something of Value.
- DoD request to OMB, through the NIST, that EIA-748 be replaced by program and project management policies, procedures, and guides that are consistent ANSI standards for program and project management planning and delivery, including PMI standards.
- DCMA discontinue EVMS compliance reviews and the DECM.
- Retrain EVM specialists and team them with SE experts to focus on the developing product and risks to program success, not on EVM compliance reviews.
- Make the Integrated Master Plan (IMP) and Systems Engineering Management Plan (SEMP) contractual requirements.

Step 2: GAO actions:

- As required by PMIAA, examine the effectiveness of the following on improving Federal program and project management: (1) The standards, policies, and guidelines for IPM issued under section 503(c) of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).
- Include the results of its examinations in its “GAO Report on Effectiveness of Policies on Program and Project Management,” in conjunction with the High Risk list.
- Revise *Agile Guide* to add MVCR and MVP as shown Appendix 1, Chapter 4, Figure 4
- Revise *Schedule Guide* to close the Quality Gap and conform to the other GAO Guides (Cost Estimating and Agile).

Step 3: OMB approve DoD request to remove references to EIA-748 and revise *Capital Programming Guide* to discontinue the use of EIA-748 and replace it with Something of Value.

Step 4: DoD establish a strategic plan for IPM that is consistent with PMIAA and OMB objectives and leads to use of standards and policies that are in accordance with *PMBOK® Guide*, *ANSI/PMI 19-006-2019*, *GAO Guides*, and SE standards.

Employ DoD DE Strategy to Lower Costs, Close the Quality Gap

Appendix 1 cites the DoD DE Strategy, June 2018 (DE Strat). Employment of DE Strat will lower costs and close the Quality Gap by providing a pathway to automatic transfer of schedule performance information from the completed digital artifacts in the engineering model to the EVM data base instead of the manual entry of estimated percent complete of

the work. The use of completed digital artifacts as base measures of schedule performance will also provide valid, reliable information for decision making instead of misleading information when estimated percent complete is based on “objective indicators” that are not consistent with meeting the requirements, technical performance, rework, and technical debt.

GAO best practices include similar guidance. Per *GAO Agile*, “Enable contract oversight through data from the program’s Agile artifacts.” Additional information is provided in *Embedded Software*.

Conclusion

DoD and OMB should sunset the use of EIA-748 and train program managers to use common sense project management. Then hold the program managers and contractors accountable for results. EIA-748 is impractical and ineffective. It fails to serve OMB and DoD’s procurement and IPM needs. It is not an ANSI standard or even a widely accepted, commercial industry practice. It has failed to keep current with changes in the state of knowledge and technology and is less useful than the *PMBOK® Guide*. It does not assure the government that there is not fraud, waste, and abuse of contract funds. It inhibits the use of DE.

The end of the path should be a set of best practices and processes for IPM, Something of Value.

EIA-748 guidelines focus on the **statement of work**, not the **product scope** or the results to be achieved. In contrast, the *ANSI Standard for Project Management*, included as Part II of *PMBOK® Guide*, states “The success of the project is measured against the **project objectives and success criteria.**” **It enables contractors to earn award fees without holding them accountable for results.**

We need policies and processes to **Buy Products that Work, not Statements Of Work.**”

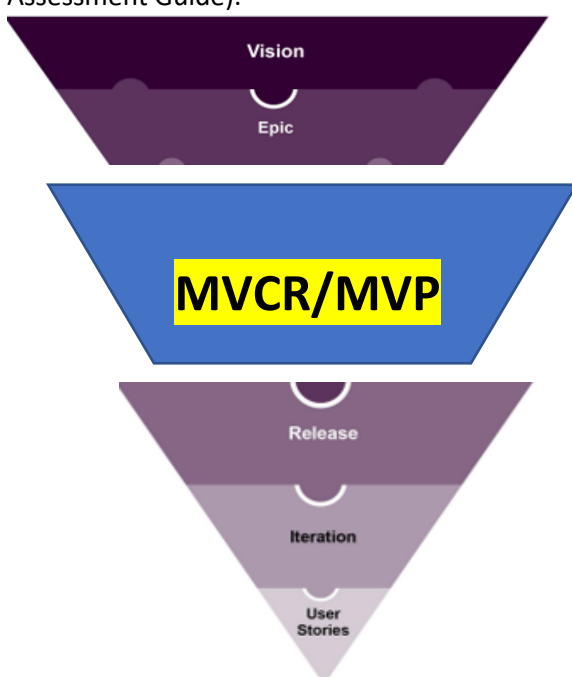
The letter to HASC Vice Chair Robert J. Wittman (Appendix 3) says it succinctly. The subject is “More Lessons Learned: “Earned Value? We don’t need no stinking Earned Value.” We don’t need more evaluations either. Take the path less traveled by (by commercial enterprises), the path without mandatory earned value.

Finally, EIA-748 falsely claims, “The EVMS guidelines incorporate best business practices to provide strong benefits for program enterprise planning and control.” If compliance with those archaic, ambiguous guidelines is so beneficial, then we don’t need a regulation. Defense contractors, “just do it.” You will get reimbursed for the costs of EVM, even if it is counterproductive.

Note: All references are available at www.pb-ev.com.

Appendix 1

Appendix 1 Elements of GAO Guides, PMBOK, and Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF) Policies to Be Included in Something of Value

GAO or AAF Document	Section	Excerpt Note: (parenthesized comments are not in document)
GAO Agile	Chapter 5	<p>..in Agile development, the term requirement is rarely used. Instead, it is replaced with terms such as ‘epic’ or ‘user story’ and often represents a capability, feature, sub-feature, or more granular expectation for the system being developed.</p> <p>This guide considers both product backlog items and user stories to be a form of requirements.</p> <p>The following best practices will be discussed in this chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elicit and prioritize requirements. • Refine requirements. • Ensure requirements are complete, feasible, and verifiable. • Balance customer and user needs and constraints. • Test and validate the system as it is being developed. • Manage and refine requirements. • Maintain traceability in requirements decomposition. • Ensure work is contributing to the completion of requirements.
GAO Agile	Chapter 4, Figure 4 (revised by author per Note) >	<p>Agile programs typically use five levels of planning to progressively define work, as illustrated in Figure 4.</p> <p>Note: (The GAO Agile Assessment Guide shows five levels of planning. The revised Figure 4 below includes two additional levels, the MVCR and the MVP. The MVP is discussed elsewhere in the GAO Agile Assessment Guide).</p>  <p>The diagram is a funnel-shaped hierarchy of planning levels. From top to bottom, the levels are: Vision (dark purple), Epic (medium purple), MVCR/MVP (blue with a yellow highlight box), Release (light purple), Iteration (very light purple), and User Stories (lightest purple). Each level is separated by a white semi-circular line.</p>

Appendix 1 Elements of GAO Guides, PMBOK, and Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF) Policies to Be Included in Something of Value		
GAO or AAF Document	Section	Excerpt Note: (parenthesized comments are not in document)
GAO Agile	Chapter 7	EVM is effective for Agile programs when it is integrated with technical performance and EVM processes are augmented with a rigorous SE process
GAO Agile	Chapter 7	It is a best practice, though, to ensure the customer and product owner are communicating on priorities and the balance between scope, schedule, and budget so that MVP functionality requirements are met.
GAO Cost	Chapter 7 WBS	Step 4 Because a product-oriented WBS reflects cost, schedule, and technical performance on specific portions of a program, it represents a cost estimating best practice.
GAO Cost	Chapter 7 WBS	Table 4: Typical Technical Baseline Elements Detailed technical system and performance characteristics Includes key functional requirements and performance characteristics; descriptions of hardware and software components (including interactions, technical maturity of critical components, and standards); system architecture and equipment configurations (including how the program will interface with other systems); key performance parameters;
GAO Agile	Chapter 6	Enable contract oversight through data from the program's Agile artifacts.
GAO Cost	Chapter 18 EVM Process	Determine which performance measures will be used to objectively determine when work is completed. These measures are used to report progress in achieving milestones and should be integrated with technical performance measures. Progress and milestone events should represent measurable performance in terms of quality and technical performance as well as cost and schedule. Measures used to report progress in achieving milestones should be integrated with technical performance measures. Management should use the EVM data captured by the CPR data to integrate cost and schedule performance data with technical performance measures
GAO Cost	Chapter 19 EVM Execution	Schedule variances are usually followed by cost variances, because as schedule increases various costs such as labor, rented tools, and facilities increase. ...Additionally, management tends to respond to schedule delays by adding more resources or authorizing overtime.
DoDD 5000.01	1.2.a	Deliver Performance at the Speed of Relevance.

Appendix 1 Elements of GAO Guides, PMBOK, and Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF) Policies to Be Included in Something of Value		
GAO or AAF Document	Section	Excerpt Note: (parenthesized comments are not in document)
DoDD 5000.01	1.2.a.(1)(e)	Actively Manage Risk.
DoDD 5000.01	1.2.g.	Employ a Disciplined Approach.
DoDD 5000.01	1.2.g.(2)	Program goals for cost, schedule, and performance parameters (or alternative quantitative management controls) will describe the program over its life cycle. Approved program baseline parameters will serve as control objectives. Deviations from approved acquisition program baseline parameters and exit criteria will be documented, recorded, and reported to the Milestone Decision Authority (MDA) or Decision Authority.
DoDD 5000.01	1.2.k	Employ Performance Based-Acquisition Strategies. “Performance-based strategy” means a strategy that supports an acquisition approach structured around the results to be achieved (technical baseline or product scope) as opposed to the manner by which the work is to be performed (statement of work).
DoDD 5000.02	4.1.b.(6)	Establish a risk management program to ensure program cost, schedule, and performance objectives are achieved, and to communicate the process for managing program uncertainty.
DoDD 5000.02	4.2c(2)	Acquisition and product support processes, reviews, and documentation will be tailored based on the program size, complexity, risk , urgency, and other complex acquisitions.
DoDI 5000.85	1.2b.(2)	To achieve that objective, the DoD will employ an adaptive acquisition framework comprised of acquisition pathways, each tailored for the unique characteristics and risk profile of the capability being acquired.
DoDI 5000.85	3.1a.(1)	A rapid, iterative approach to capability development reduces cost, avoids technological obsolescence, and <i>reduces acquisition risk</i> . Consistent with that intent, acquisitions will rely on <i>mature, proven technologies and early testing</i> .
DoDI 5000.85	3.2.c	Technologies successfully demonstrated in an operational environment via the Rapid Prototyping procedures in the Middle Tier Acquisition pathway, or other prototyping authorities, may be transitioned to major capability acquisition programs.
DoDI 5000.87	3.3.b(2)	Programs will...actively manage technical debt.
DoDI 5000.87	3.3.b(3)	The sponsor and program office will develop and maintain a product roadmap to plan regular and iterative deliveries of software capabilities. Develop and maintain program backlogs that identify detailed user needs in prioritized lists.
DoDI 5000.88	3.4 Program Technical	(3) For MDAPs, ACAT II, and ACAT III programs, the SEP will contain these elements, unless waived by the SEP approval authority:

Appendix 1 Elements of GAO Guides, PMBOK, and Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF) Policies to Be Included in Something of Value		
GAO or AAF Document	Section	Excerpt Note: (parenthesized comments are not in document)
	Planning and Management a. Systems Engineering Plan	(b) The engineering management approach to include technical baseline management; requirements traceability; configuration management; risk , issue, and opportunity management; and technical trades and evaluation criteria. (c) The software development approach to include architecture design considerations; software unique risks; software obsolescence; inclusion of software in technical reviews; identification, tracking, and reporting of metrics for software technical performance , process, progress, and quality; software system safety and security considerations; and software development resources. (g) Specific technical performance measures and metrics, and SE leading indicators to provide insight into the system technical maturation relative to a baseline plan. Include the maturation strategy, assumptions, reporting methodology and maturation plans for each metric with traceability of each performance metric to system requirements and mission capability characteristics. (k) The timing, conduct, and entry and exit criteria for technical reviews. (l) A description of technical baselines (e.g., concept, functional, allocated, and product), baseline content, and the technical baseline management process.
DoDI 5000.88	3.4.b Technical Baseline Management	If practicable, the PM will establish and manage the technical baseline as a digital authoritative source of truth.
DoDI 5000.88	3.4.c Configuration and Change Management	(3) Provide for traceability of mission capability to system requirements to performance and execution metrics.
DoDI 5000.88	3.4 f. Risk, Issue, and Opportunity Management.	(2) Risk management plans will address risk identification, analysis, mitigation planning, mitigation implementation, and tracking. Technical risks and issues will be reflected in the program’s IMP and Integrated Master Schedule (IMS).
DE Strat	1.3 Use models to support engineering activities and decision making across the life cycle	Exchange of information between technical disciplines or organizations should take place via model exchanges and automated transformations.
DE Strat	2.3 Use the authoritative source of truth across the lifecycle	As the technical baseline matures...stakeholders will generate digital artifacts. Use the authoritative source of truth to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produce digital artifacts, support reviews, and inform decisions

Appendix 1 Elements of GAO Guides, PMBOK, and Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF) Policies to Be Included in Something of Value		
GAO or AAF Document	Section	Excerpt Note: (parenthesized comments are not in document)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make informed and timely decisions to manage cost, schedule, performance, and risks.
SW Strat	3 Unifying Principles	<p>Resilient software must be defined first by execution stability, quality, and dependable cyber-survivability. These attributes can be achieved at speed by aggressively adopting modern software development practices that effectively integrate performance and security throughout the software development lifecycle.</p> <p>More Than Code - Software modernization is more than just code development. It includes the many policies, processes, and standards that take a concept from idea to reality. Considerations such as contracting and intellectual property rights, as well as transition from development to fielding, are often overlooked and underappreciated. These policies, processes, and standards must not hinder, but empower the vision of this strategy.</p>
Eng Guidebook	3.4.2 Software Engineering	Programs should employ a highly iterative approach that quickly demonstrates small progressive updates and <i>provides</i> hands-on stakeholder participation so as to reduce rework and help focus the MVP solution.
EVMIG	2.1.3.4	The PMO and the PM help ensure that all solicitations and contracts contain the correct EVMS and/or Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) requirements, tailored as appropriate for the specific nature of the program in accordance with DoD policy.
SE Guidebook	Introduction	The developer's SEMP, which is the contractor-developed plan for the conduct, management, and control of the integrated engineering effort, should be consistent with the Government SEP to ensure that Government and contractor technical plans are aligned.
SEP	1 Introduction	Describe the program's plan to align the Prime Contractor's SEMP with the PMO SEP.
SEP	2.1 Requirements Development	<p>Program should maximize traceability and the use of models as an integral part of the mission, concept, and technical baseline to trace measures of effectiveness, measures of performance, and all requirements throughout the life cycle from ... requirements authoritative sources into a verification matrix, equivalent artifact, or tool that provides contiguous requirements traceability digitally.</p> <p>Program should trace all requirements from the highest level ... to the lowest level (e.g., component specification or user story). This traceability should be captured and maintained in digital requirements management tools or within model(s). The system Requirements Traceability Matrix should be a model output that can be embedded in or attached to the SEP, or the SEP should contain a tool reference location. ... The matrix should include the verification method for each of the identified requirements.</p>

Appendix 1 Elements of GAO Guides, PMBOK, and Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF) Policies to Be Included in Something of Value

GAO or AAF Document	Section	Excerpt Note: (parenthesized comments are not in document)
SEP	3.1 Technical Schedule	Provide the current technical schedule derived from the IMP/IMS for the program, including activities/tasks and event milestones such as ... MVP/MVCR.
SEP	3.2.2 TPMs	<p>The program should add, update, or delete TPMs documented in the SEP.</p> <p>This section should include:</p> <p>A set of TPMs covering a broad range of core categories, rationale for tracking, intermediate goals, and the plan to achieve them with as-of dates</p> <p>SE leading indicators to provide insight into the system technical maturation relative to a baseline plan</p> <p>The maturation strategy, assumptions, reporting methodology, and maturation plans for each metric with each performance metric traced to system requirements and mission capability characteristics</p> <p>Whether any contractual provisions relate to meeting TPM goals or objectives</p> <p>Description of how models, simulations, the digital ecosystem, and digital artifacts will be used to support TPM tracking and reporting.</p> <p>Description of the traceability among Key Performance Parameters; KSAs; key technical risks and identified TPMs.</p> <p>Identify SW measures for SW technical performance, process, progress, and quality.</p>

Appendix 2 Elements of PMI EVM Standard and PMBOK Guide® that should be Included in Revised DoDI 5000.88 and other components of Something of Value			
DoDI 5000.88 Reference	PMI EVM Std. Section	PMBOK® Guide Section	Revised DoDI 5000.88
3.4.d.(1) IMP 3.4.b Product baseline	3.2 Developing the Project Management Plan		Develop the IMP to include the scope management plan (including product scope), requirements management plan, schedule management plan, cost management plan, quality management plan, ..., risk management plan, and procurement management plan.
3.4.c. Configuration and Change Management 3.4.c.(1) <i>functional, physical, and performance characteristics of the system design.</i> 3.4.c.(2) ... track any changes (e.g., a dynamic change log for in and out of scope changes, formal engineering change proposals) and provide an audit trail of program design decisions and design modifications.	3.2 Components: Change Management Plan Configuration Management Plan 4.6.1 Change Requests may result from an error in defining the product scope... evolving requirements	6 th ed.: 5, 5.3.3.1 Project scope statement	The WBS is used as the single structure that integrates the product scope, schedule, and cost baselines together at a common level. The WBS decomposes the scope of work to be carried out by the project team, and a WBS dictionary defines the scope (including product scope) of work for each WBS component. The product scope is the features and functions that characterize a product, service, or result.
3.4.a.(b) requirements traceability 3.4.a.(g) Specific technical performance measures and metrics with traceability of each performance metric to system requirements and mission capability characteristics.	3.2.4, 3.2.6	5.2.3.2 Requirements traceability matrix. 4.3.3.2 TPMs	The project team develops a responsibility assignment matrix (RAM) that tracks the scope (including product scope) to the responsible organization (OBS) in which all work scope and resources or cost under the EVM approach are mapped to control accounts. For procurement planning, the project team determines whether to use EVM for any procurements..., how the vendors will integrate EVM data into the overall project's EVM data and how performance management periods will be aligned. If EVM is flowed down to vendors/subcontractors, then plans should be adjusted to acknowledge the need to develop how Schedule, Cost, Risk, and other Project Management Knowledge Areas are fed from input provided by the vendors/subcontractors.

<p>3.4.f.(2) Technical risks and issues will be reflected in the program's IMP and IMS.</p>	<p>3.3 Integrating the Product Scope, Schedule, and Cost Baselines 3.3.2 Risk Management ..outputs of the risk management process as described in the <i>PMBOK® Guide</i> should be incorporated into the PMB.</p>		<p>In creating the PMB, five Knowledge Areas (Project Scope Management, Project Schedule Management, Project Cost Management, Project Risk Management, and Project Resource Management) need to be integrated in such a manner that the scope (including product scope), schedule, risk, and cost are associated at a common level across the baselines (either CA, WP, or activity) with an established performance measurement method.</p>
<p>3.4(k) The timing, conduct, and entry and exit criteria for technical reviews.</p> <p>3.4.a.(b) Software technical performance</p> <p>3.4.a.(g) Specific technical performance measures and metrics</p>		<p>6th ed.: 6.2.2.1</p>	<p>The project WBS, deliverables, and acceptance criteria documented in the scope (including product scope) baseline are considered explicitly while sequencing activities.</p>
		<p>4.3.3.2 TPMs</p>	<p>Determine the measurement method, technique or criteria to be used for progress evaluation of the activity types within a WP. Measure progress towards achieving the scope (including product scope) and technical performance goals for each CA.</p>
<p>3.4.a.(g) Specific technical performance measures and metrics</p>		<p>6th ed.: 1.2.4.7</p>	<p>Collect work performance data... including reported percent of work physically completed, quality and technical performance measures, etc.</p>
<p>none</p>	<p>4.6.2.1 Scope (including product scope) Change Analysis Changes to the ...product scope impact the resources, schedule, and cost of a project.</p>		<p>Whenever work and budget moves into, out of, or within the project, one or more CAs change. Any change should always be reflected on the RAM and authorized through change control.</p>

Appendix 3 Letter to the Hon. Robert J. Wittman

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December 16, 2023

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman
Vice Chairman, HASC
2055 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-4601

Subj: "Something of Value" not "Earned Value"

Dear Vice Chairman Wittman:

I recommended that DFARS be revised to exempt *all* contracts of the DoD from EVMS requirements based on the EVMS standard, EIA-748. Now, I recommend that DoD provide *incentives* for contractors to replace compliance with the EIA-748 guidelines with something of value from the GAO.

Something of Value is a book that portrayed the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya. A quote from that book is pertinent: "When we take away from a man his traditional way of life, his customs, his religion, we had better make certain to replace it with *Something of Value*."

In my white paper, I cited the Sec. 809 Panel report that "another substantial shortcoming of EVM is that it does not measure product quality. A program could perform ahead of schedule and under cost according to EVM metrics but deliver a capability that is unusable by the customer...Traditional measurement using EVM provides *less value* to a program than an Agile process in which the end user continuously verifies that the *product meets the requirement*."

In 1999, Gary Christle, one of the founding fathers of EVM, stated his vision in terms of the following:

- The quality of a management system is determined not by the absence of defects, but by the presence of *management value*.
- Integrate cost, schedule, technical performance, and risk management

GAO provides guidance to obtain management value in the best practices of the following guides:

- GAO-24-105506: *GAO Agile Assessment Guide: Best Practices for Adoption and Implementation*
- GAO-20-195G: *GAO Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide*
- GAO-16-89G: *GAO Schedule Assessment Guide*

Please prod DoD to fix its acquisition policies and guides by adding incentives for contractors to implement those best practices. Then, provide oversight of the extent to which DoD and the contractors achieve integrated program management by implementing those practices.



Appendix 4 Project Management Best Practices from Capability Maturity Model® Integration (CMMI®) Model V3.0 but Absent from EIA-748.

Best Project Management Leading Practices from ISACA CMMI Model V3.0 (per GAO Report GAO-24-106886) but Absent from EIA-748	
Practice Number	Practice Statement
Requirements Development and Management (RDM) RDM 2.4	Develop, record, and keep updated bidirectional traceability among requirements and activities or work products.
RDM 2.5	Ensure that plans and activities or work products remain consistent with requirements.
RDM 3.4	Identify, develop, and keep updated interface or connection requirements.
RDM 3.7	Validate requirements to ensure the resulting solution will perform as intended in the target environment.
Product Integration (PI) PI 3.1	Review and keep updated interface or connection descriptions for coverage, completeness, and consistency throughout the solution’s life.
Risk and Opportunity Management (RSK) RSK 3.5	Manage risks or opportunities by implementing planned risk or opportunity management activities.
Supplier Agreement Management (SAM) SAM 4.1	Select measures and apply analytical techniques to quantitatively manage suppliers against their performance targets.
Verification and Validation (VV) 1.1	Perform verification to ensure the requirements are implemented and record communication results.
VV 1.2	Perform validation to ensure the solution will function as intended in its target environment and record communication result.
VV 3.1	Develop, keep updated, and use criteria for verification and validation.
VV 3.2	Analyze and communicate verification and validation result.

Paul Solomon
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July 7, 2021

The Honorable Joni Ernst
Senate Armed Services Committee
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Proposed NDAA Markups to Fix the PMIAA; Delete "shall not apply to DoD"

Dear Sen. Ernst:

The Senate will soon begin markup of the NDAA for FY 2022. This is a second request to fix the PMIAA by making it applicable to DoD. You can do this by deleting the PMIAA provision:

- 2) Application to DoD.--Paragraph (1)
shall **not** apply to the Department of Defense to the extent that the provisions of that paragraph are substantially similar to or duplicative of--
(A) the provisions of chapter 87 of title 10; or
(B) policy, guidance, or instruction of the Dept. related to program management."

My previous request to you (and Sen. McCaskill) was in the attached letter, Subj: *DoD Acquisition Reform; From Earned Value Management System (EVMS) to a Project Management Standard*, dated June 4, 2018. The "Request to You" below is still pertinent. Please just substitute the current OUSD leadership for OUSD Lord, substitute Sen. Warren for Sen. McCaskill (to show bipartisan support) and cite the NDAA for FY 2022. My previous letter to Sen. Warren, subj: Subject: *Lowering Defense Costs and Initiating Acquisition Reforms*, dated May 18, 2021, is also attached.

An excerpt from the June 2018 letter to you follows.

Request to You

It is requested that you consider taking some of the following actions:

1. Discuss my recommendations with OUSD Lord and myself.
2. Request GAO to review DoD policy, guidance, and instructions and to determine if PMIAA is applicable to DoD. (I expect that GAO will verify and corroborate my allegations).
3. Determine if a markup to NDAA is needed to transform PMIAA into a law that requires *all* federal agencies to "adopt widely accepted (or ANSI-approved) management standards that are often used in the private sector, ...ensure that taxpayer dollars are safeguarded by increasing accountability throughout the federal government."

You have read the justification for the recommendations in my previous letters to you, HASC Chairman Smith, Sen. Warren, Sen. Sanders, and in the white paper.

False Claim

As you also know, I have also requested that Rep. Speier reintroduce HR 6395, Sec. 1745, *Requirements Relating to Program and Project Management (P/PM)*. I believe that real acquisition reform requires oversight and legislation by you, Rep. Speier, and possible co-sponsors.

There is a false claim in the DoD EVM System Interpretation Guide (EVMSIG). EVMSIG alleges that, when EVMS is implemented in a disciplined manner consistent with the 32 Guidelines contained in EIA-748,

“Government and industry program managers use EVM as a program management tool to provide *joint situational awareness of program status* and to assess the cost, schedule, and *technical performance* of programs for proactive course correction.”

Independent reports (by DoD and the Section 809 Advisory Panel) that are cited in my white paper refute DoD’s allegation. The white paper includes a new path with specific actions for acquisition reform. That path is based on an ANSI-accredited P/PM standard, not the sham standard, EIA-748.

Vision

Your actions will open a path towards realizing Gary Christle’s 1999 vision and closing the issues in the 2009 DoD EVM Report. Gary’s vision follows:

- The quality of a management system is determined not by the absence of defects, but by the presence of management value.
- Integrate cost, schedule, technical performance, and risk management.

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Hon. Adam Smith, HASC
Hon. Sen. Bernie Sanders
Hon. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, SASC
Hon. Jackie Speier, HASC
Hon. Kathleen Hicks, Dep. Sec. of Defense
Hon. Stacy A. Cummings, Acting Under Sec. Def. for Acquisition and Sustainment
Anthony Capaccio, Bloomberg News
Michael LaForgia, NYT

Appendix 6 Guide to EVMS Guidance

Guide to Guides for Implementing Earned Value Management (EVM) in Compliance with NDIA EVM Standard EIA-748		
Author/Title	# of Pages	Excerpts
<u>NDIA Integrated Program Management Div.</u>		
EVMS Acceptance Guide	28	How much of the work in the budget plan (planned value) has been accomplished or “earned” (EV)?
EVMS Intent Guide to the EIA Standard for EVMS (EIA-748)	56	<p>The purpose for identifying objective indicators is to provide a means to measure the quantity of work accomplished – the EV. There is a direct relationship between the budget at completion and EV. The time-phased budget assigned to the work scope is the basis for computing the EV for work accomplished. Performance measures are one aspect of an integrated program management system as other processes control the quality and technical content of the work performed.</p> <p>A project baseline that reflects the common agreement between the two parties, for example a customer and contractor, provides a common reference point for progress assessment. It provides recognition of contractual requirements and precludes unauthorized changes to the performance measurement baseline. The project target cost must be reconciled with the performance measurement baseline and management reserve.</p> <p>Intent: Reconcile the project value (target cost plus authorized, unpriced work) with the sum of all control account budgets, indirect budgets, management reserves, and undistributed budgets.</p>
Guide to Managing Programs Using Predictive Measures	129	This identifying threshold looks for tasks in a schedule (formal or informal) that have already begun but that have a Percent (%) Complete value that is 0% or has any inconsistencies when compared to the approved schedule.
Industry Practice Guide for Agile on EVM Programs	80	Removal of the Story from QBD may result in an increase in Feature WP % since the percentage of unfinished effort has decreased. Reflect changes in IMS Forecast dates and EV Cost Tool EAC.
Guide to the Integrated Baseline Review (IBR)	37	Quantifiable Backup Data (QBD). This is used to validate the Supplier has established and is using objective methods for assessing progress in accordance with their established EVMS EV techniques. The EVT is established based on how the work is planned (BCWS) and BCWP is earned consistent with the EVT. Only a sampling should be provided for demonstration.
Planning & Scheduling Excellence Guide	256	% vs. Time Analysis compares the calculated time or duration-based % complete with scope-based % complete value (may be either Physical or EV % Complete). The training for Senior Executive Leadership would include the following skills: Overview of schedule analysis and metrics (with a focus on how to use these metrics to make programmatic decisions and influence behavior) including:

Guide to Guides for Implementing Earned Value Management (EVM) in Compliance with NDIA EVM Standard EIA-748

Author/Title	# of Pages	Excerpts
		CPLI, BEI, SPI, Duration-Based vs. Scope-Based % Complete, Schedule Rate Chart, CEI, Critical Path Method and Analysis, Schedule Risk and Opportunities Assessment, and standard Schedule Health Assessment Metrics.
Surveillance Guide	29	This document provides surveillance guidance and characteristics of successful EVMS Surveillance Programs. It is intended to assist suppliers in developing a robust surveillance plan that could be executed both internally and for oversight of subcontractors. This guidance may also provide customers and organizations with EVMS oversight responsibility a framework that can likewise be used to conduct surveillance of suppliers. Suppliers planning their Surveillance Programs should refer to the latest customer surveillance guidance for information on how the customer plans and conducts EVMS Surveillance Reviews to enable better coordination of their internal, subcontractor, and joint surveillance planning and execution. A standard approach to effective surveillance benefits all parties. It ensures a common understanding of expectations, encourages efficiencies through the use of a uniform process, and gives consistent guidance to organizations responsible for EVMS surveillance. This NDIA IPMD Surveillance Guide is recommended for use by all stakeholders involved in EVMS surveillance.
Contracting with EVM Requirements	70	The use of a compliant EVMS can assist a business with establishment of sound business practices, as well as assure the government that there is not fraud, waste, and abuse of contract funds. To Complete Performance Index (TCPI) indicates the future required cost efficiency (i.e., effort) to achieve a target. This can be based on BAC or EAC. The differences between the CPI and the TCPIBAC or TCPIEAC indicate the achievability or realism of the projected EAC and may be used by management to evaluate the EAC realism. Any significant difference between the CPI and the TCPI, should be accounted for by management in their forecast of the final cost.
Total NDIA pages	685	
DoD		
DoD EVM Implementation Guide	88	EARNED VALUE TECHNIQUE (EVT): A specific technique (e.g., Milestone Method, % Complete, 50/50, 0/100, Units Complete, Apportioned Effort, LOE, etc.) selected to represent the measurement of work scope progress and accomplishment in a work package.
DoD EVMS Interpretation Guide	103	The Guidelines have been published as the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA) standard EIA-748, EVMS. The DoD only recognizes the Guideline statements within the EIA-748 and periodically reviews the Guidelines to ensure they continue to meet the government's needs.
Total DoD pages	191	
Humphreys and Associates		

Guide to Guides for Implementing Earned Value Management (EVM) in Compliance with NDIA EVM Standard EIA-748

Author/Title	# of Pages	Excerpts
Book: Project Management Using EV	416	In addition to becoming an industry-wide standard, U.S. Government agencies use the EIA-748 Standard for EVMS Guideline requirements as the basis to perform contractor EVMS compliance reviews and recurring surveillance reviews when an EVMS is contractually required.
Article: Using EV Assessment and the % Complete Technique	2	To make the % complete EV technique more reliable, the concept of Quantifiable Backup Data (QBD), or metrics, was instituted. The QBD requires that the CAM define detailed objective completion criteria and the budget associated with each detail before work commences. The monthly EV is then based on the completion of each detail rather than based against the total work package budget. The QBD are maintained by the CAM but are still under change control after the baseline has been established. There still may be some subjectivity with this technique; thus, many projects still practice the "90% rule" (or 75% or 80%, etc.) for work packages using this technique.