

# ***Headquarters U.S. Air Force***

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## **Air Force Engineering**



**THOMAS F. CHRISTIAN, SES**  
**Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary**  
**(Science, Technology and Engineering)**

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# ***Discussion Topics***

- **Air Force Engineering Enterprise**
- **Own the Technical Baseline**
- **Digital Thread**
- **Summary**



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# **Air Force Engineering Enterprise (AFEE)**

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**AFEE**

**Priorities & Governance**

## SecAF Direction: Fix Engineering

- Creates four priorities
  - 1 - Enterprise Governance & Policy
  - 2 - Engineering Decisions & Communication
  - 3 - Technical Information Management & Standardization
  - 4 - Workforce Core Competencies, Structure, Development & Deployment
  
- Strategic governance structure
  - Senior Advisory Group (SAF/AQ, AFMC/CA, AFSPC/CA, AF/ST)
  - EE Executive Council (SAF/AQR, AFMC/EN, SMC/EN, AF SE SL)
  - EE Priority Champions (SEs from across EE)



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# A FEE

## Strategic Planning & Implementation

### A FEE strategic planning model

- Strategic Plan: Signed by SecAF May 14
- Roadmap: Formal coordination complete; ECD 1QFY15
- Action Plans: In work; ECD 2QFY15

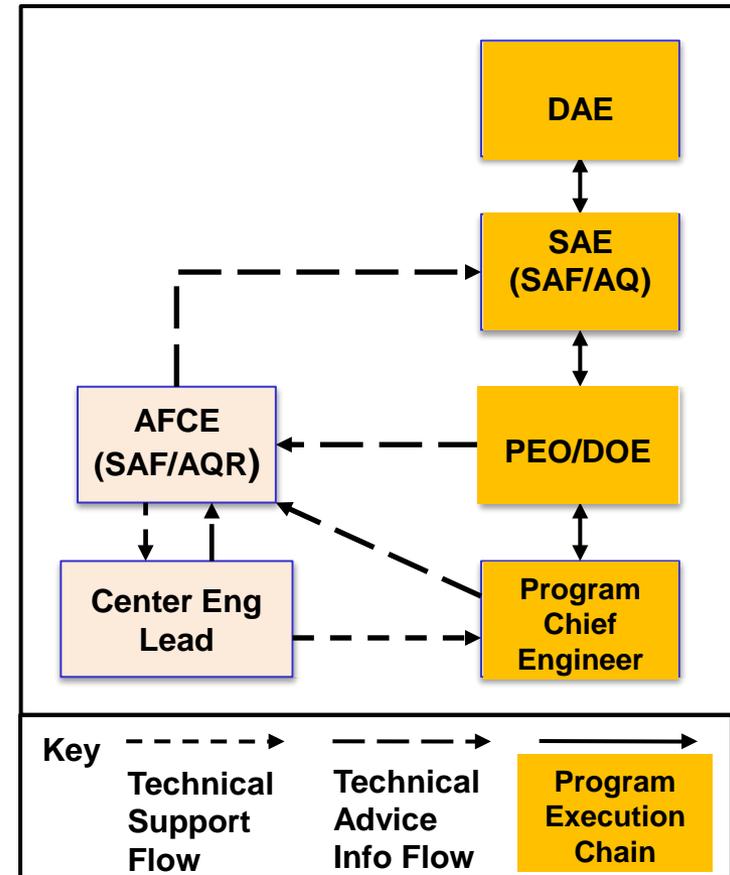


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# AFEE Technical Authority

- Oct 13 AF Tech Authority memo signed by SAE:
  - Air Force Chief Engineer (AFCE) will:
    - a) Provide tech advice to SAE
    - b) Engage DOEs, Chief Engineers, and Center-level engineers on tech matters
    - c) Oversee engineering policy and guidance
    - d) Direct program assessments as needed
  - Expectations:
    - a) AFCE may delegate to Center/ENs:
      - i. OSD PSA Support, and
      - ii. Participation in principal tech reviews
    - b) AFCE may direct program assessments
    - c) Program engineering will discuss tech status w/ AFCE prior to SAE reviews





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# **Own the Technical Baseline (OTB)**

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# OTB

## Genesis and Goal

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- Dr. LaPlante acquisition enterprise priorities:
  1. Program execution
  2. Transparency
  3. *Own the Technical Baseline for Important Programs*
  4. Improve Business Acumen and Small Business
  5. Build the Future Air Force
  
- OTB Goal: Ensure government engineers have access to and can apply the level of knowledge needed to make informed decisions which can improve program performance
  
- Dr. LaPlante on OTB:
  - “Government is the decision maker and owns the knowledge”
  - “OTB may seem like a new idea; it's going back to our roots
  - “Better to work for a strong program office”



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**OTB**

## ***Implementation***

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- Knowledge to be measured by access & application of key attributes of the technical baseline:
  1. System Design
  2. Interface Controls
  3. End-to-End System model and ability to exercise it
  4. Development and Operational Performance Data
  5. Data rights and open architectures
  6. Cost Data
  7. Technical Risks & Issues
  
- AQR working across Engineering Enterprise (AFMC, SMC, DOEs and MITRE) to implement OTB on four pilots and ACAT I programs
  - Measure access to/application of knowledge and technical skills gaps
  - Pilots to periodically report metrics, balance to be baselined



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# Digital Thread/Digital Systems Model

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# *Digital Thread / Digital Twin*

## *The Analytical Framework*

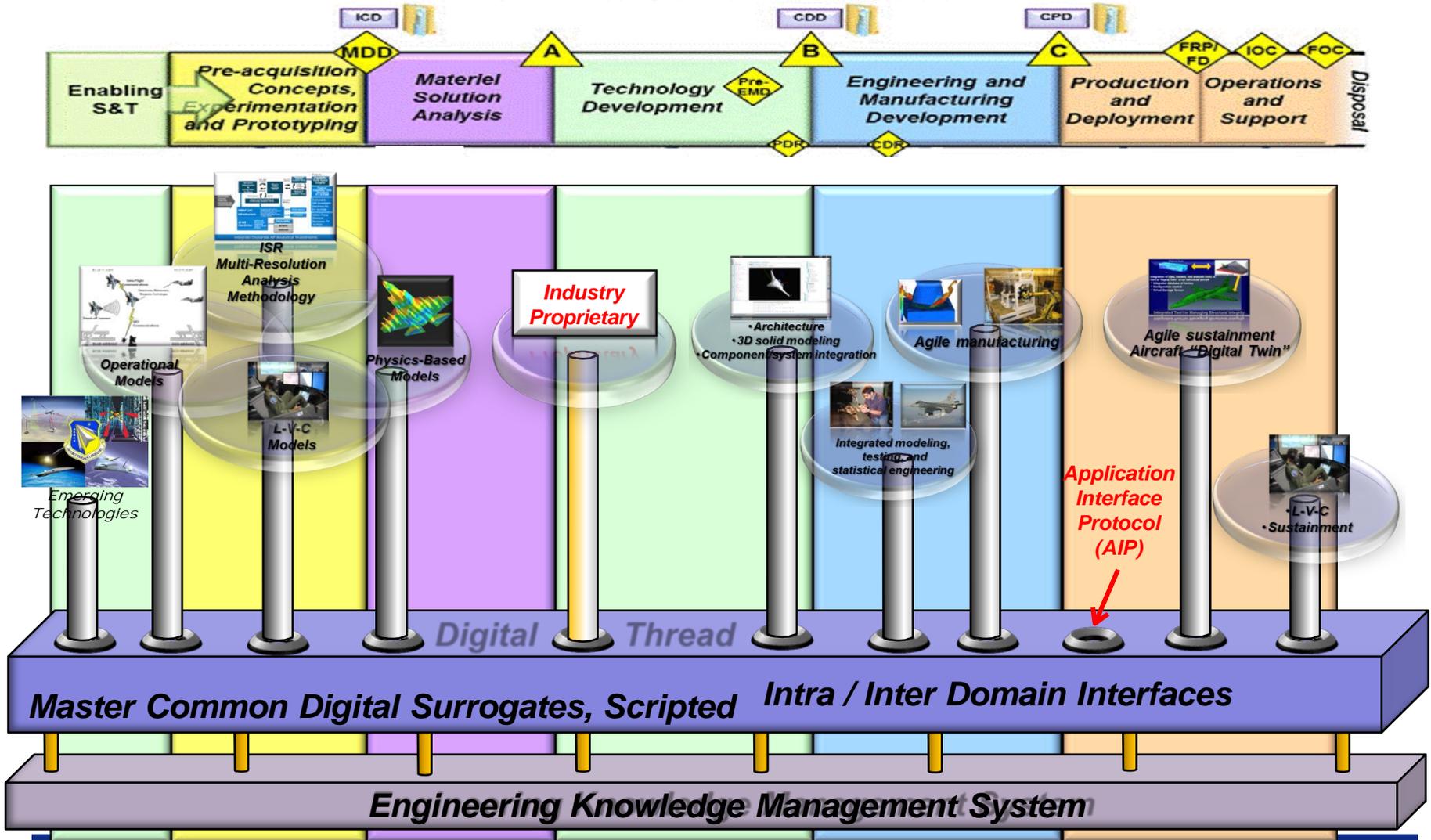
- **Digital Thread** - An extensible, configurable and enterprise-level framework that seamlessly expedites the controlled interplay of authoritative data, information, and knowledge to inform decisions during a system's life cycle by providing the capability to access, integrate and transform disparate data into actionable information.
- **Digital Twin** - An integrated multi-physics, multi-scale, probabilistic simulation of an as-built system that uses the best available physical models, sensor information, and input data from the Digital Thread and a Digital System Model to mirror the life of its corresponding physical twin.

**Complementary, Integrable Concepts that put  
Engineering Back Into Systems Engineering**



# Digital Thread / Digital Twin Architecture

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# *Summary*

- **AFEE efforts tied to advancing Better Buying Power 3.0 and SAF/AQ priorities**
  
- **Government must be a smart buyer of weapons systems**
  - Requires a competent technical workforce
  - Requires that engineers have a voice in the program execution chain
  
- **Long-term effort to rebuild competencies to properly “Own the Tech Baseline”**