

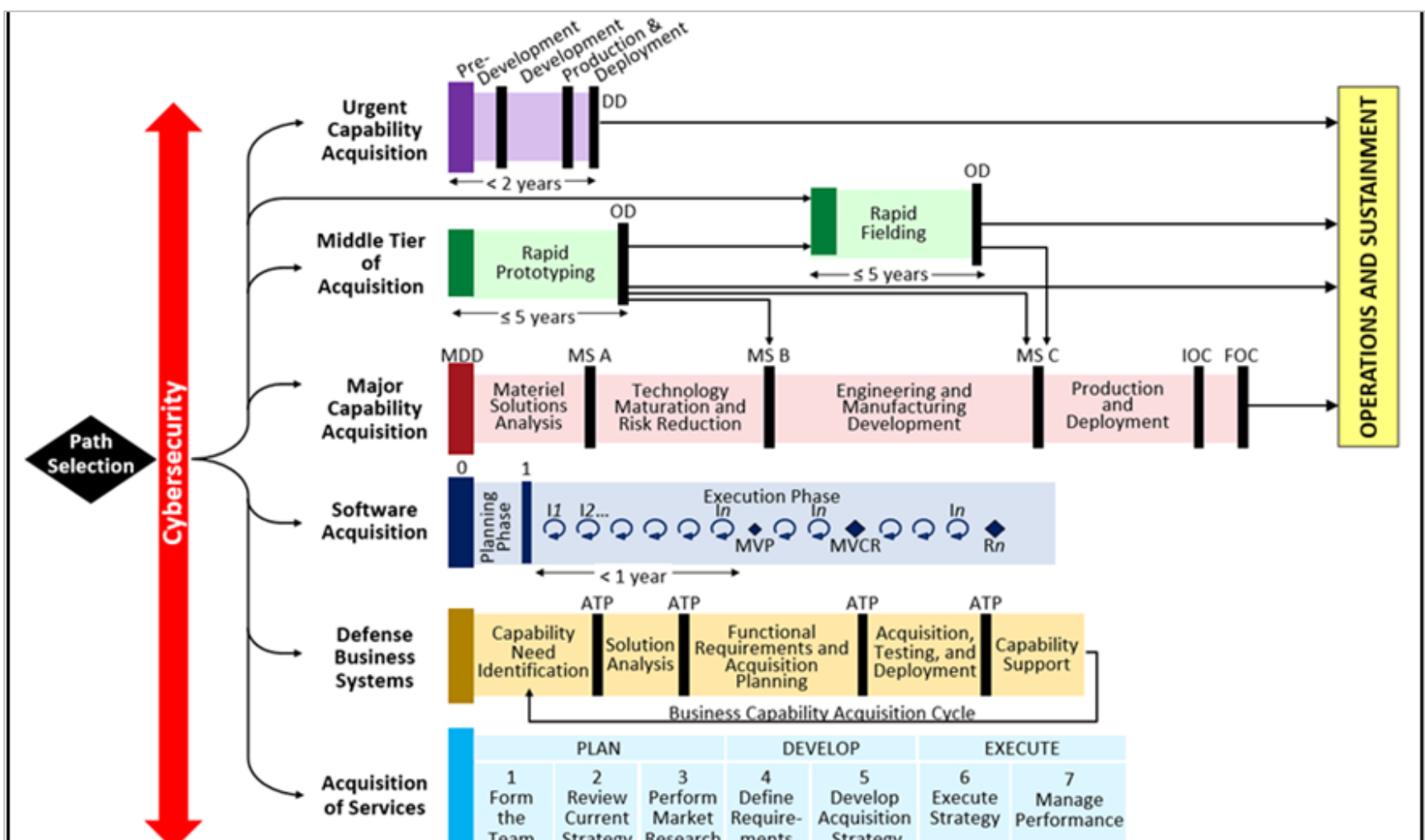
ADAPTIVE ACQUISITION FRAMEWORK: EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MIDDLE TIER OF ACQUISITION PATHWAY



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Abstract

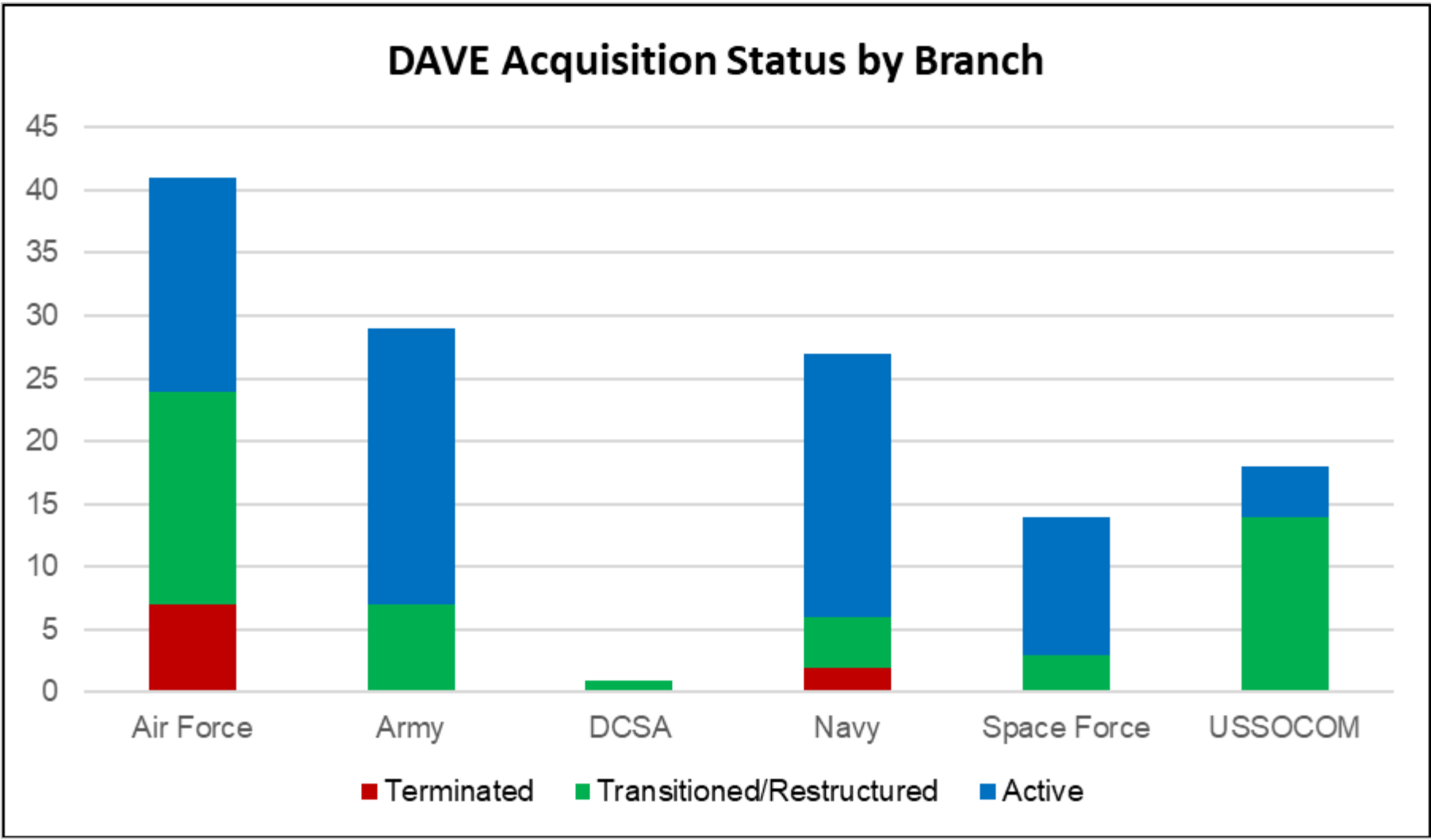
- The Adaptive Acquisition Framework (AAF) was created to provide the warfighter with innovative technologies and new capabilities at the speed of relevance.
 - The middle tier of acquisition (MTA) pathway focuses on delivering rapid capabilities through rapid prototyping or fielding.
 - Due to the pathway's infancy, how effective it is at delivering its objective needs to be clarified.



AAF. Source: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, DODD 5000.01 and DODD 5000.02 (2022).

Methods

- The analysis to determine whether the MTA pathway is effective:
 - qualitative, quantitative, statistical, cost-effective, root cause, and process mapping.
- Research and analysis used the Defense Acquisition Visibility Environment (DAVE) database as the primary source.
- Additional evaluation used past Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports



DAVE Acquisition Status by Branch. Adapted from OUSD[A&S] (n.d.).

Results & Their Impact

- Through hypothesis testing and a sample size of 55 programs, the findings concluded that the probability of a system being transitioned/restructured would fall between 71.2% (39/55) and 92.2% (50/55).
 - However, there is not enough data to conclude any branch of Service is statistically relevant to the success of an MTA.
- Following our research methodology, MTA programs that transitioned/restructured as per their acquisition status in DAVE were considered successful.
- The analysis indicated that DAVE data was insufficient to assess whether the program completed efforts within the five-year time limit required by MTA policy.
- A review of MTA program transition plan data for the programs that transitioned/restructured determined that there was no correlation impacting the program's "successful" outcome.

Recommendations

- To perform a case study between two completed MTA rapid prototyping efforts, one that succeeds versus one that fails.
 - Extract best practices from that case study.
- We recommend including interviews, questionnaires, and other investigative efforts to facilitate enough valuable information to assess the selected programs appropriately.

