

- a. Program Authority. The Program Authority is the acquisition project manager. The Program Authority in conjunction with the Contracting Authority and Program Sponsor has cognizance over the acquisition and acceptance of the asset or system. In executing its acquisition responsibilities, the Program Authority shall work collaboratively with the Technical Authority from program inception to include and administer established policies, standards, guidelines, architecture, and best practices provided by the Technical Authority. The Program Authority, in conjunction with the Contracting Authority, also implements the results of the Technical Authority's adjudication of changes and deviations to the established standards. The Program Authority will facilitate collaborative efforts between industry and government members.
- b. Program Sponsor. The Program Sponsor is the organization entity that establishes the requirements and directly benefits from the use of the acquired system that addresses those requirements. The Program Sponsor shall work collaboratively with the Technical Authority from conceptual design to ensure the requirements and capabilities are developed and established with due regard for technical policies, standards, guidelines, architecture, configuration management, and best practices provided by the Technical Authorities. The Program Sponsor implements the results of the Technical Authority's adjudication of changes and deviations to the established standards.
- c. Technical Authority (TA). The Technical Authority for all C4IT Systems is the Assistant Commandant for C4IT and Chief Information Officer (CIO), Commandant (CG-6). Technical Authority is an inherently governmental function. The Technical Authority is responsible for establishing, monitoring, and approving technical policies, standards, guidelines, and best practices for overall C4IT system design, development, and sustainment in concert with the incorporation and integration of these systems in the assets of the Coast Guard. In executing this responsibility, the Technical Authority shall:
 - (1) Work with the Program Authority, other technical authorities and platform managers from program inception to orchestrate the design, development, deployment and life cycle maintenance of enterprise C4IT systems as well as provide technical expertise, standards, and guidelines to which the system must adhere.
 - (2) Work with the Program Sponsor to ensure all requirements comply with C4IT standards, policies, and guidelines and to help ensure resulting requirements best reflect best technical practices.
 - (3) Be responsible for adjudicating all changes and deviations to these standards and their interpretation.
 - (4) Define and maintain effective technical and internal controls on all enterprise or interconnected C4IT systems to ensure standardization, configuration management, and Information Assurance (IA) compliance.

- (5) Drive down costs of system life cycle operations and maintenance through effective convergence activities designed to ensure alignment with the Coast Guard Enterprise Architecture.
 - (6) Ensure technical standards, tools, and processes deliver the reliability, security, and performance required by the Program Authority and meet Coast Guard mission needs.
 - (7) Ensure enterprise and interconnected C4IT systems are appropriately certified and accredited to meet the established requirements.
 - (8) Ensure enterprise and interconnected C4IT systems are supported properly throughout their life cycle.
 - (9) Ensure timely, sound technical decisions and responsiveness to technical questions.
6. TECHNICAL AUTHORITY PROCESSES AND CERTIFICATIONS. Technical Authority processes and associated certifications are an essential aspect of independent technical authority, providing objective evidence of safety, reliability, and affordability. These processes will be further defined in subsequent instructions.
 7. CONCLUSION. Technical Authority is an essential element to ensure the Coast Guard C4IT Systems are usable, reliable, maintainable, safe, and secure. Through the close partnership between the Technical Authority, Program Authority, and Program Sponsors, the Coast Guard can ensure continued mission readiness.
 8. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. Environmental considerations were examined in the development of this Instruction and have been determined not to be applicable.
 9. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

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