THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY

05 JAN 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (ACQUISITION, LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (ACQUISITION)

SUBJECT: History of Defense Acquisition

The purpose of this memorandum is to endorse the proposal for a comprehensive history of defense acquisition presented by the U.S. Army Center of Military History, and under the oversight of the OSD Historical Office and its Defense Historical Studies Program.

During the more than fifty years since the National Security Act of 1947, the Department of Defense acquisition function has experienced great change and received extraordinarily high public visibility and congressional attention. We are missing, however, a comprehensive record of Defense acquisition accomplishments and failures from which we may have an opportunity to learn. An official history of the Department of Defense acquisition system would clearly fill this historical void and serve as a reference and instructional tool for the entire acquisition community, including our educational institutions.

The U.S. Army Center of Military History, acting as the executive agent, will bring together a staff of highly qualified historians to carry out the project. The project is planned as a six year, multi-volume effort, with ongoing research and archival collection, as well as oral histories and special research papers being made available for instructional and information purposes commencing the first year. A major long-term benefit will be the early development of a historical archive, available via the Internet, for use by the Defense Acquisition University libraries and by faculty in classroom instruction.

I appreciate your support of this worthwhile project, and the commitment each of you has made on behalf of your Service to contribute $250,000 per year for the remaining five years (FY 02-06). OSD has already provided funding for the first year and is committed to fund the project for $250,000 per year to see this project through to completion. In order for us to adequately program and make these funds available to the project, please identify a point of contact within your Service to [redacted]. The POC can work all of the funding matters, as well as keeping you abreast of progress on the project.

J. S. Gansler

cc:
OSD(DA&M)