CMMI: The DoD Perspective

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DoD’s Software Challenge

“DoD estimates that it spends about 40% of its RDT&E budget on software - $21B for FY2003” – GAO

“[Software] continues to grow in importance in our weapons systems - and remains a significant contributor to program cost, schedule and performance shortfalls.” – Pete Aldridge
Today’s Development Challenges

Huge system/software engineering endeavors in aircraft, space vehicles, command and control, ground infrastructure, battle management, etc

- Several million SLOC programs
- “Hybrid” systems combining legacy re-use, COTS, new development
- Multi-contractor teams using different processes; Dispersed engineering & development locations
- New technologies/products – rapid change and evolution; are they mature; obsolescence
- Business/operational needs change - often faster than full system capability can be implemented
- Skillset Shortfalls; Cost and schedule constraints
- Demands for increased integration, interoperability, system of system capabilities
Increasing System Complexity
Capability Delivered in Software

Ref: Defense Systems Management College
Software is Even in Bullets!

150K SLOC - Weapon
2K SLOC - Ammunition
Ada

130K SLOC
Ada, C++, C, Assembly

Infantry Combat Weapon

Wide Area Munition
And Software Connects Systems…
Environment

Operational Need/Advocacy

Direction

Requirements

Predictable Performance

Operational Insight

New Capabilities

Operational
Commitment

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Introduction: Current Environment

Providing enhanced capability to the warfighter is a complex and conflict-ridden endeavor.

*Operational forces* demand war-winning systems. They need evolutionary enhancements to existing systems to maintain a cutting edge on the battlefield.

*Acquirers* need to maintain cost, schedule, and technical baselines to uphold their duty as stewards of the taxpayers’ money and to satisfy oversight requirements.

*Contractors* need to win contracts to stay in business and sustain the industry base.

Underpinning these conflicts is an ever-increasing demand on systems and software engineering to solve the complexities of an interconnected battlespace.
The Acquirer’s Job

What are the key activities you perform when you acquire systems?

- Requirements Management
- Risk Management
- Program Integration
- Configuration Management
- Verification and Validation
- Project Planning

Need to counter these attitudes:

- “I'd rather have it wrong than have it late.” — Industry senior manager
- “Ad hoc, catch as you can...that’s our motto.” — PMO
- “We do not work problems until they’re unrecoverable.” — PMO
- “I don’t want an ATAM [to reveal problems] on my watch.” — PMO
Visibility into the Team’s Capability

Operational Need

Acquirer
- CMMI-AM or CMMI-ACQ
  - Acquisition Planning
  - RFP Prep.
  - Solicitation
  - Source Selection
  - Program Leadership Insight / Oversight
  - System Acceptance
  - Transition

Developer
- Plan
- Design
- Develop
- Integrate & Test
- Deliver

CMMI-SE/SW/IPPD/SS
The “Team”

Contractor A
ML 3

Contractor B
ML 4

Contractor C
ML 5

Acquirer
ML ?

My Program

CMMI Math: 3 + 4 + 5 + ? = ?
DoD’s Problem Statement

Many DoD contractors advertise high levels of process capability or organizational maturity as measured by either the Continuous or Staged representations of Capability Maturity Model Integration, yet from the perspective of acquisition program managers on some high visibility *individual programs*, strong systems engineering and project management practices still appear to be lacking.
Example

Large DoD program with multiple, geographically dispersed engineering locations.

Multi-contractor teams (10+) using different processes.

Several million lines of code.

Systems engineering challenges.

Combination of legacy, re-use, COTS integration and new development.

All contractor sites are Maturity Level 3 or higher.

18 months after contract award, the program office conducted a CMMI “Class B” appraisal on the team.
Characterizing Results

Project Mgmt Processes:
- Project Planning
- Project Monitoring & Control
- Integrated Project Mgmt
- Risk Management

Engineering Processes
- Requirements Mgmt
- Requirements Definition
- Technical Solution
- Product Integration
- Verification (Peer Reviews)

Support Processes
- Measurement & Analysis
- Product and Process Quality Assurance
- Configuration Mgmt
- Decision Analysis

Process Mgmt
- Organizational Process Focus
- Organizational Process Definition
Issues Identified - Program Management

Lack of project plans or having only incomplete, conflicting or out of date project plans

Ineffective use of Integrated Master Schedule as basis for planning/tracking status across program

Undefined engineering and management processes on program

Inability to track and manage actions to closure

Inadequate cost estimation processes, methods, data and tools

Inadequate staffing and training project personnel

Tracking dependencies between or across teams not defined

Managing project data ad hoc

Inability to proactively identify and manage risks
Issues Identified - Engineering

Lack of understanding of the program’s requirements

Inability to trace requirements to architecture/design or to test plans/procedures

Poor linkage of functional and performance requirements

Inconsistent requirements management at different levels

No criteria for making architectural/design decisions among alternatives

Not capturing entire technical data package (requirements, design and design rationale, test results, etc)

Efficiency of design process/methods in question

Late definition of integration and test procedures
Issues Identified – Support Processes

Difficult to identify items in configuration management baselines

Lack of ability to manage individual “versions” in incremental development

Inability to effectively managing changes to work products throughout lifecycle

Not conducting audits to establish/ensure integrity of baselines throughout incremental engineering and development

Inefficient change management process (cycle time, volume of changes)

Quality Assurance audits of products and processes not consistent

QA involvement in system and software engineering processes not consistent

No metrics to manage engineering activities (outside of cost/schedule data)
Increasing the integrity and credibility of the model

Emphasizing project “start-up” and process deployment

Increasing the integrity and credibility of the appraisal process

“Raising the bar” for SCAMPI Lead Appraisers

CMMI is a key enabler as the DoD acquires increasingly complex capabilities and systems
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