

II. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The primary goal of this study was to ascertain Navy's need and technological ability to move toward COTS hardware and software for C³ and combat weapon systems. By employing experts from industry and academia, Navy, represented by OP-094 as requirements sponsor and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development & Acquisition (ASN (RD&A)) as acquisition sponsor, wanted industry's perspective on Navy's conduct of requiring and acquiring computer hardware and software.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) evolved over several months in late 1990 and early 1991. This timeframe overlapped the Gulf War between Iraq and United Nations coalition forces. This conflict exposed numerous C³ shortcomings in architecture and engineering and was one of the focal points for the study.

This report specifically addresses the current status of the Navy acquisition policy relative to C³, evaluates Navy C³ performance in Desert Storm, and assesses the ability of meeting naval warfare needs with COTS equipment. Recommendations are made in areas of accountability, policy, education, and acquisition.