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## Can Systems Engineering Enhance Policy Development?

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### Outline



- 1. What Is a Policy?
- 2. How Can We Apply SE to Improve Policies?
- 3. How Can We Implement this Approach without Scaring Policy Makers?

#### 1. WHAT IS A POLICY?



#### What's a Policy

- Lot's of definitions, but the "Merriam-Webster" shows the key elements
  - Definite course of action
  - High-level overall plan
- But what is it in Systems Engineering terms?

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Merriam- Webster	SINCE 1828	policy		
Webster		Dictionary	Thesaurus	

#### policy noun (1), often attributive

Save Word

#### pol·i·cy | \ˈpä-lə-sē 🕥 \

plural policies

#### Definition of *policy* (Entry 1 of 2)

- **1 a** : prudence or wisdom in the management of affairs
  - **b** : management or procedure based primarily on material interest
- **2 a** : a definite course or method of action selected from among alternatives and in light of given conditions to guide and determine present and future decisions
  - **b** : a high-level overall plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures especially of a governmental body

https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/policy accessed 10/10/2022





#### Policies in SE Terms

- Policies contain *requirements and constraints* for the organization
- Those requirements and constraints are *allocated or traced* to different parts of the organization
- Policies also frequently contain processes or procedures which are essentially implementation scenarios

Why not apply systems engineering techniques to analyze these policies to make sure they work prior to implementation?

#### 2. HOW CAN WE APPLY SE TO IMPROVE POLICIES?





### Apply Requirements Analysis

- Treat the policy draft(s) as a requirements document
- Analyze for quality (clarity, completeness, etc.)
- Enhance the text using these quality criteria
- Use a "document view" for presentation to stakeholders
- Capture comments in tool and produce "comment matrix"

# RA: Treat the policy draft(s) as a requirements document



- Import documents into a requirements analysis tool
- Break paragraphs into individual requirements for analysis
- Note many statements may not be written like a requirements, but still are requirements

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Scope

1.2 POLICY

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#### RA: Analyze for quality (clarity, completeness, etc.)

- A number of the standard quality factors apply directly to policies (clear, complete, consistent, and correct)
- Others may apply, depending on the specific policy (Design, Feasible, Traceable, Verifiable)

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Yes	-		strengthen the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure,			
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Design	- 11		prioritization, assessment, remediation, and security of their respective internal			
Vec	Ţ		critical infrastructure that supports primary mission essential functions.			
105			Such infrastructure shall be addressed in the plans and execution of the requirements in the National Continuity Policy			
Feasible			requirements in the reactional continuity Policy.			
No	•		3.5 U.S. efforts shall address the security and resilience of critical infrastructure in an		63%	No labels to display.
Tracable			integrated, holistic manner to reflect this infrastructure's interconnectedness			
Nee			and interdependency. This directive also identifies energy and communications			
Yes	•		systems as uniquely critical due to the enabling functions they provide across all			



#### RA: Enhance the text using these quality criteria



- Enhance the grammar
- Simplify, where possible
- Break into separate requirements, if desirable

# RA: Use a "document view" for presentation to stakeholders



- Hide information that may confuse a reader/viewer
  - e.g., columns with quality score, labels, other attributes
- Readers can then view it as they would a document in MS Word, but any comments and other information would be accessible at the paragraph level
- Hyperlinks can be provided to guide them to other documents



#### RA: Capture comments in tool and produce "comment matrix"



- Use commenting features where available
- Special reports may be desired





#### Configuration Manage Policy Documents

- Baseline
- Track change history
- Branch/fork for excursions
- Store files in database

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#### Model Processes and Procedures

- Review policies for processes and procedures
- Create a functional model
- Trace back to requirements
- Enter time distributions
- Associate costs
- Allocate to performing elements





### Capture Organization Information in Database

- Create hierarchy
- Allocate actions and requirements as appropriate





#### Allocate Tasks to Organizational Elements

- Create relationships between tasks and organizations, according to policies
- Use this information to determine if the correct organizations are being correctly tasked
- Suggest changes, as appropriate, and/or identify risks to the organization and mitigation strategies

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### Verify Processes Work through Simulation

- Uses timing and cost information for each step
- Distributions in time and cost provide a more realistic range of the process
- These distributions also provide a measure of cost and schedule risk



#### 3. HOW CAN WE IMPLEMENT THIS APPROACH WITHOUT SCARING POLICY MAKERS?





#### Implementation Strategy

- Don't tell them you are doing systems engineering
   Most people think systems engineering only applies to hardware and software
- Perform the analysis, but only show results in a form that they will easily accept
  - No UML, SysML, IDEFO, etc. drawings
  - Simple summaries of changes (i.e., document markups and text summaries)
  - o No engineering jargon!
- Wait for them to ask how you got the results
  - Then just show them the bare minimum of SE information
  - Once they buy into these, you can start show them more



### Summary

- Systems engineering can dramatically improve policy development and implementation
- You must work fast in doing your analysis use multi-purpose tools with analytics to speed up your analysis and delivery
- Only show results, not how you got there ... until necessary