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# PROCUREMENT NEWS

## ARMY SOFTWARE ACQUISITION IS CHANGING: INSIDE DIRECTIVE 2026-19

**Issued July 22, 2026, Directive 2026-19** marks a significant shift in the Army's approach to software acquisition. The directive rescinds AD 2024-02, requires use of the Software Acquisition Pathway for all software development, and establishes commercial solutions as the preferred approach making custom software development the exception rather than the norm.

Directive 2026-19 extends across the Regular Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve, establishing a consistent approach to software acquisition across the force. At its core, the policy introduces several key requirements that will shape how software solutions are evaluated, acquired, and developed.

- Commercial solutions take priority.
- Build security and testing into the path to faster delivery.
- Use enterprise software contracts before pursuing new acquisition paths.
- All software development must move through the Software Acquisition Pathway.

The directive is part of a broader Department of Defense acquisition reform initiative shaped by two executive orders and a series of Secretary level memoranda. Its requirements are expected to be incorporated into a new Army regulation within two years.

*For additional information on this directive, contact our experts at JA White.*