

Air Force Audit Agency**Draft Report (Project 95064034)****Simulators for Mature Weapon Systems**

Recommendation 2. HQ AFMC (Contracting Directorate) (AFMC/PK) should require the SPO and TSPG contracting personnel to:

a. Include an associate contractor requirement in aircraft and simulator contracts when data exchange is anticipated.

b. Enforce associate contractor requirements in accordance with contractual clauses and AFMC FAR Supplement 5317.93.

Management Comments. The AFMC FAR Supplement (AFMC FARS) at 5317.93, Associate Contractor Agreements, requires the contracting officer to include a clause tailored to the specific program circumstances in contracts when the work will require that some number of contractors working on the program must cooperate, share resources, or otherwise jointly participate in working on contracts or projects. It also lists several elements which should be included in the agreements. The clause, AFMC FARS 5352.217-9025, is an example of how the clause should be structured. It should be noted that the AFMC FARS language was implemented in December 1995 as a result of the Lightning Bolt #4 initiative and eliminated the local policy at three of our contracting offices. The language was not AFMC policy at the time of the contracting actions cited in the audit report, and it will take a period of time to see if the language is adequate. Interim reviews by our Inspector General teams will provide an indication of the success of the policy and any necessity for revision. The enforcement of a contract clause is the responsibility of the contracting officer, but the contracting officer must be advised of any problem of noncompliance by those with the responsibility for managing and monitoring a program and its contracts. A letter of emphasis will be issued to our field contracting offices highlighting the audit report findings and the importance of ACAs throughout the life cycle of a weapon system. The letter should be issued by 30 June 1996.