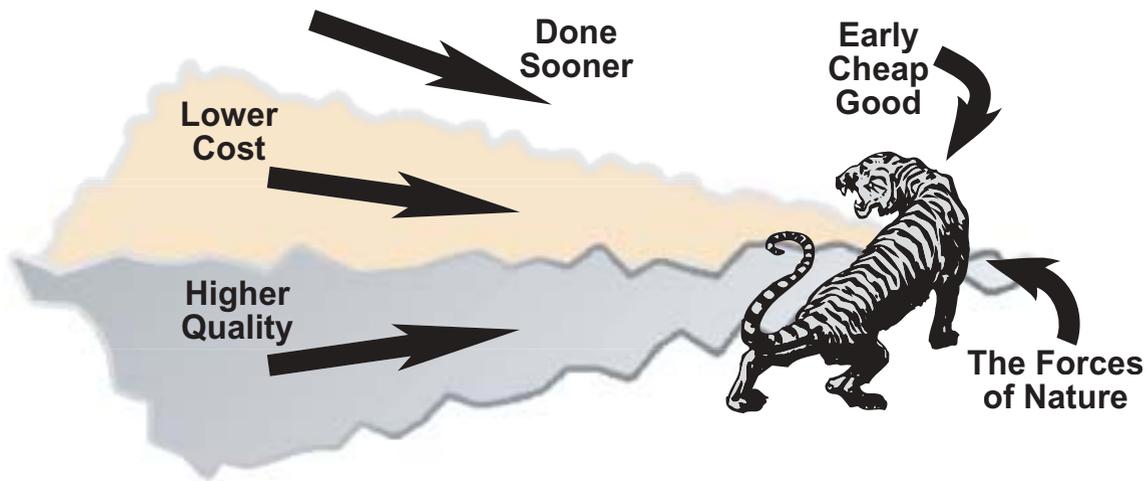# Defeating the Forces of Nature: Two Workshops on Spiral Development

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Spiral Development (SD) and Evolutionary Acquisition (EA) are key strategies for Department of Defense acquisition. Two workshops explored these techniques and recommended a number of steps to ensure widespread enjoyment of the advantages they have shown in individual projects. These workshops and their findings are summarized in a recent article, which describes how SD and EA can help defeat the "forces of nature" that deter projects from being on time, within budget, and high quality. CrossTalk *was not able to publish the article on these workshops; however, it can be viewed at <http://www.sei.cmu.edu/cbs/spiral2000/DefeatingTheForces.html>.*

WEB SITES

Software Testing Institute

www.softwaretestinginstitute.com

The Software Testing Institute (STI) provides access to quality industry publications, research, and online services. STI offers the following professional resources: a software testing discussion forum, the STI Resource guide, the Automated Testing Handbook, the STI Buyer's Guide, and privileged access to STI's industry surveys on salaries, staffing practices, industry trends, and more.

Software Program Managers Network

www.spmn.com

The Software Program Managers Network (SPMN) is sponsored by the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology, Software Intensive Systems Directorate. SPMN conveys proven industry and government software best practices to managers of large-scale Department of Defense (DoD) software-intensive acquisition programs. The SPMN 16 Critical Software Practices specifically address underlying cost and schedule drivers that have caused software intensive systems to be delivered over budget, behind schedule, and with significant performance shortfalls. They provide "hands-on" consulting, training, and direct support to DoD programs in information technology project management, requirements and risk management, and more.

Quality Assurance Institute

www.qaiusa.com

The Quality Assurance Institute (QAI) is an international organization dedicated to partnering with the enterprise-wide information quality profession in search of effective methods for detection-software quality control and prevention-software quality assurance. QAI provides consulting, education services, and assessments.

Software Technology Support Center

www.stsc.hill.af.mil

The Software Technology Support Center is an Air Force organization established to help other U.S. government organizations identify, evaluate, and adopt technologies to improve the quality of their software products, efficiency in producing them, and their ability to accurately predict the cost and schedule of their delivery.

Agile Modeling

www.agilemodeling.com

The Agile Modeling site was established to develop and promote the agile modeling (AM) methodology. It contains sections that explain AM: its goals, scope, and an overview of the values, principles, and practices of AM.