



# CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION

J-3

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CJCSI 3205.01

21 September 1998

## JOINT COMBAT CAMERA

- References:
- a. DODI 5040.4, 30 September 1996, "Joint Combat Camera (COMCAM) Program"
  - b. Joint Pub 5-03.1, 4 August 1993, "Joint Operations Planning and Execution System Volume I, (Planning Policies and Procedures)"
  - c. CJCSM 3122.03 Series, "Joint Operations Planning and Execution System Volume II (Planning Formats and Guidance)"

1. Purpose. This instruction establishes policy and defines procedures for tasking and using Combat Camera (COMCAM) assets.

2. Cancellation. JAI 3500.01, 23 August 1990, Joint Combat Camera Instruction, is canceled.

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to all consumers of COMCAM products and services.

4. Policy

a. COMCAM imagery is a fundamental tool of decision makers and commanders, which provides essential battlefield information. COMCAM imagery is to be shared, as required, to simultaneously support operational and planning requirements of the NCA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Military Departments (MILDEPs), combatant commands, Defense agencies, and other DOD components.

b. Commanders involved in joint and combined operations will plan for, sustain, and employ COMCAM forces. Commanders will also expeditiously process and forward COMCAM imagery with captions to the Joint COMCAM Center (JCCC).

c. JCCC is the central DOD repository of COMCAM imagery and will receive, process, and distribute COMCAM products as needed.

5. Definition. Combat Camera is defined in Joint Pub 1-02 as:

"Visual information documentation covering air, sea, and ground actions of armed forces in combat and combat support operations, and in related peacetime training activities such as exercises, war games, and operations."

(Note: Very often, the still photos and videos taken by COMCAM personnel are the only visual record of an operation and are of immeasurable value to decision makers in the NCA, Joint Staff, and combatant commands. COMCAM requirements should not be confused with public affairs or press media pool requirements. Although COMCAM imagery may eventually be used by public affairs offices, its primary use is as an operational decision-making tool.)

6. General

a. The mission of COMCAM is to provide the NCA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, MILDEPs, and the combatant commanders with a directed imagery capability in support of operational and planning requirements during world crises, contingencies, exercises, and wartime operations. This instruction provides direction on execution oversight of COMCAM mission requirements.

b. DODD 5040.4 directs the Joint Staff to:

(1) Establish a COMCAM position under the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to coordinate COMCAM imagery requirements.

(2) Promulgate joint COMCAM doctrine and direct imagery distribution.

(3) Identify and include in all applicable implementing orders COMCAM objectives, priorities, and taskings in support of the NCA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, combatant commands, and MILDEPs during crisis situations, planned and contingency operations, and joint exercises.

(4) Plan for and coordinate the employment of COMCAM forces with the combatant commands and the MILDEPs.

(5) Request Joint COMCAM representation in the CJCS response cell in the NMCC during crises to coordinate imagery mission requirements and direct imagery distribution.

(6) Coordinate COMCAM support for all joint operations and exercises where significant media and public affairs interest is anticipated.

(7) Coordinate communication requirements for transmission of COMCAM imagery from the combatant commands to JCCC.

(8) Identify the CINCs' requirements to the JCCC and coordinate the needed imagery format, distribution, and security classifications.

c. COMCAM is a deployable force multiplier that provides combat trained, military visual information documentation teams capable of gathering, processing, distributing and archiving visual image documentation in near real time that can be incorporated into any deployment force as required.

## 7. Responsibilities

### a. Joint Staff

(1) All directorates preparing implementing orders are required to ensure that they comply with JOPES Volumes I and II and DODD 5040.4. The Joint Staff is to plan for and task COMCAM assets per CINC requirements for joint training, exercises, and operations.

(2) All orders issued by the Joint Staff will contain COMCAM coordination and documentation sections. COMCAM-specific tasking will be coordinated with the Defense Visual Information Directorate, OSD, for technical feasibility and supportability.

### b. Operations Directorate, Joint Staff

(1) The Director for Operations (J-3) is the Joint Staff cognizant authority for COMCAM products involving operations and force deployments.

(2) As tasked by the Director, J-3, the Joint Operations Division will designate a responsible individual by letter as the POC for COMCAM

products, coordination, and action involving visual information requests, products, and services.

(3) J-3 POC will:

(a) Act as the liaison for all requests of COMCAM products and will ensure appropriate tasking through the orders tasking process.

(b) Ensure directorates requesting COMCAM materials in support of planned or current training, exercises, and operations will coordinate with J-3. If requested COMCAM materials are sensitive or classified in nature, they will be received for and handled in accordance with applicable instructions.

(c) Coordinate with the combatant commands, CJCS Public Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs to ensure NCA, OSD, and joint requirements are included in implementing orders.

(d) Act as the intermediate reviewing official and clearing house for products forwarded to the Joint Staff from the combatant commands.

(e) Provide assistance in constructing appropriately capable, task organized, COMCAM team(s) from Service-specific assets for use in a particular theater or crisis. The American Forces Information Service, Defense Visual Information, Joint Combat Camera Program Manager, is also available for assistance.

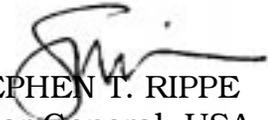
c. CINCs. The CINCs will retain release authority for all COMCAM products until operation termination.

7. Annual Review. The Director for Operations will ensure annual review of this instruction.

8. Releasability. This instruction is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited. DOD components (to include the combatant commands), other Federal agencies, and the public may obtain copies of the instruction through the Internet from CJCS Directives Home Page--<http://wwwdtic.mil/doctrine/jel/cjcsd.htm>. Copies are also available through the Government Printing Office on the Joint Electronic Library CD-ROM.

9. Effective Date. This instruction is effective upon receipt.

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



STEPHEN T. RIPPE  
Major General, USA  
Vice Director, Joint Staff

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