



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretaries of the Military Departments
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Under Secretaries of Defense
Commanders of the Combatant Commands
Assistant Secretaries of Defense
Directors of the Defense Agencies
Directors of the DOD Field Activities
Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation
Director, Net Assessment
Director, Operational Test and Evaluation
Director, Administration and Management
Deputy Chief Management Officer

Subject: Joint Capability Areas (JCAs)

The Deputy Secretary of Defense approved JCAs as the Department's capability management language, and framework in the below referenced memorandum. The memorandum also directed further refinement of JCA, development of a JCA management plan, deployment of an authoritative JCA database, and an update to the Deputy's Advisory Working Group (DAWG) no later than December 2008.

The Joint Staff collaborated with OSD, Services, combatant commands, and combat support agencies to accomplish these tasks. This memorandum is provided in lieu of a JCA update to the DAWG during this busy transition time. All tasks were accomplished, or are on track for successful completion, as indicated below:

1. The JCAs underwent a rigorous refinement to provide increased fidelity below the tier 3 level supporting certain communities of interest (e.g. planning and training, etc.). The enclosed JCA definitions and framework were reviewed and endorsed by the JCA community without any unresolved issues. It constitutes the Department's approved capability management language and framework that will be maintained on the Joint Doctrine, Education and Training Electronic Information System (JDEIS) portal.

2. A JCA Management Plan is being staffed for final review with the JCA community of interest. Once approved, this plan will guide future management, refinement, and development of the JCAs.



3. The JCA Management System (JCAMS) was successfully deployed on the JDEIS portal as the authoritative JCA database. JCAMS is being expanded to map JCAs to the Universal Joint Tasks, Program Elements, and Joint Operations Concepts to improve and increase JCA utility. Additional, JCA linkages are being developed to benefit the Department's capability-based processes. These include capability portfolio management, adaptive planning, readiness reporting, and the analytic agenda.



Peter F. Verga
Acting, Principal Deputy Under
Secretary of Defense for Policy



Stanley A. McChrystal
Lieutenant General, USA
Director, Joint Staff

Enclosure:
JCA Definitions and Framework

Reference:
DSD memorandum, dated 14 February 2008, "Joint Capability Areas (JCAs)"

Copy to:
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
Chief of Naval Operations
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force
Commandant of the Marine Corps