OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
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DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
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DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Strategic Direction for a DoD Architecture Framework

The Defense Science Board concluded that a key means for ensuring interoperable and cost-effective military systems is to establish comprehensive architectural guidance for all of DoD. The Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) Architecture Framework Version 1.0 was subsequently offered to all DoD Components for use in June of 1996. Many of you began to use it with positive results in developing your C4ISR architectures.

Representatives from the Unified Commands, Services, and Agencies, working under the auspices of the DoD Architecture Coordination Council (ACC), incorporated lessons learned from the trial implementation of Version 1.0 of the Framework and collaboratively produced Version 2.0 that more completely satisfies the need for comprehensive DoD-wide architectural guidance as recommended by the Defense Science Board. Further evolution of the Framework will be based upon experience gained and the collective needs of the Department.

The utilization of C4ISR Architecture Framework Version 2.0 will allow architectures to be compared and integrated within DoD Components and across joint boundaries so that Warfighter interoperability and C4ISR investment decisions can be addressed from a common frame of reference. Experiences with Version 1.0 demonstrate that the concepts and methodology embodied in the C4ISR Architecture Framework can be applied across the

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DoD community. Further, Version 2.0 C4ISR Architecture Framework is wholly consistent with the DoD Chief Information Officer's (CIO) responsibility to develop and implement an agency-wide architecture "model" and an Information Technology Architecture (ITA) which conforms to this model.

We see the C4ISR Architecture Framework as a critical element of the strategic direction in the Department, and accordingly direct that all on-going and, planned C4ISR or related architectures be developed in accordance with Version 2.0. Existing C4ISR architectures will be redescribed in accordance with the Framework during appropriate revision cycles. We also direct all addressees examine the C4ISR Architecture Framework as a basis for a single architecture framework for all functional areas/domains within Department. The ACC with the active participation of the C4ISR community has established a process by which the evolution of the C4ISR Architecture Framework will continue in a manner responsive to the needs of operations and acquisition elements of the DoD.

The successful evolution to a DoD Architecture Framework is dependent upon your active participation and a continued commitment to interoperable and cost effective military systems.

Request the Director, Joint Staff forward this memorandum to the Unified Commands.

Version 2.0 of the C4ISR Architecture Framework is available at www.cisa.osd.mil.

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