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**Defense Information Systems Agency**  
Department of Defense

**UNITED STATES  
MESSAGE TEXT  
FORMATTING (USMTF)  
PROGRAM**



**Joint Interoperability Test Command**

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**Joint Interoperability  
Test Command**

*Increasing Combat Effectiveness  
Through Interoperability*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The United States Message Text Formatting (USMTF) Program is a set of character-oriented message text formats used in support of C4I systems for the exchange of information. The objectives of the USMTF Program are to:

- Produce messages that are both human readable and machine processable.
- Reduce the time and effort required drafting, transmitting, analyzing, interpreting, and processing messages.
- Improve information exchange through vocabulary control.
- Provide uniform reporting procedures to be used in all defense conditions from peacetime through crises, war, and post-attack.
- Facilitate exchange of information between the United States (U.S.) and allied commands and reduce or eliminate dual reporting by U.S. units when they operate with allied commands or units or after their change of operational control to allied nations or organizations.

Per Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction (CJCSI) 6212.01E, Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC) is the responsible organization for certifying joint interoperability of all Department of Defense (DoD) Information Technology and National Security Systems (IT & NSS) that exchange and use information to enable units/forces to operate effectively in Joint, Coalition, and interagency operations. JITC accomplishes this by conducting standards conformance and joint interoperability testing.

The diverse nature of DoD IT & NSS, each with a wide range of capabilities, presents many challenges for today's warfighter. The demand for USMTF interoperability between the Services and

agencies (S/As) establishes the need for a testbed that allows for the verification of standards conformance and interoperability. To conduct this testing, JITC uses various means, including the Common Message Processor (CMF), USMTF Test Tool (MTT), and IRIS. Contact the JITC USMTF Testing point of contact (POC) (see information on next page) for the current certification status of these programs/tools.

*Visit our World Wide Web Homepage at <http://jitc.fhu.disa.mil/tadil>*

## STEPS REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION

JITC, in conjunction with the Program Managers (PMs), plans and conducts standards conformance evaluation during the development and acquisition procurement processes. JITC provides input to the Development Test and Operational Test Readiness Review processes on whether a system is ready for testing, from an interoperability perspective.

The following are the steps a program should take in preparation for Joint Testing and Certification:

**All policy documents pertaining to joint interoperability testing and certification are on our web site at <http://jitc.fhu.disa.mil/ciidocs.htm>**

***1. Contact your Service Participating Unit Test Coordinator (PTUC) to coordinate Joint Testing and Certification. If you aren't sure who your PTUC is, contact JITC for the latest POC.***

***2. Contact the appropriate JITC System POC (see Command and Control (C2) Systems Branch POC information on next page) to coordinate certification testing requirements and to ensure inclusion in the System Tracking***

***Program. PMs should accomplish this early in program development to ensure certification is achieved to support a milestone decision.***

***3. Plan and budget for Standards Conformance an Joint Interoperability Testing during development in accordance with (IAW) Chairman of the CJCSI 6212.01E.***

***4. Include Joint Testing and Certification in Mission Needs Statements, Initial Capabilities Documents, and Test and Evaluation Master Plans (CJCSI 6212.01E).***

***5. Provide system USMTF message implementations and system descriptions to JITC to support the development of test plans and procedures.***

## INTEROPERABILITY TEST SUPPORT

JITC provides test analysis and recommendations to users on a fee for service basis. In addition, S/As may also be able to provide testbed support to provide a full range of USMTF testing capabilities required for standards conformance and interoperability certification. JITC may be able to issue certifications based on Service testing if documentation supports a certification decision.

## JITC USMTF INITIATIVES

JITC develops a comprehensive set of standards conformance test messages for each annual release of the USMTF baseline. The message set includes samples of each USMTF message type, and includes negative test messages (messages with intentional errors). These messages are available upon request for system testing purposes. JITC is also enhancing its XML-MTF testing methodology and analysis capabilities.