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CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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SUBJECT: Universal Core (UCore) Guidance in Support of Enhanced Information Sharing

On March 31, 2009, the UCore 2.0 baseline was released for general use. UCore 2.0 is an information sharing initiative that significantly increases our ability to comply with the White House's National Strategy for Information Sharing. The April 17, 2008 memorandum, "Department of Defense and Intelligence Community (IC) Initial Release of Universal Core (UCore)," recognized the benefits of UCore and confirmed that it is consistent with both DoD and IC information sharing strategies.

The UCore 2.0 baseline provides a minimum set of commonly needed information (who, what, when, where), and includes a message framework to package information consistently. UCore 2.0 is based on standards and specifications from the DoD Information Technology Standards Registry, and is registered in the DoD Meta Data Registry.

The UCore, coupled with domain common cores (e.g., C2 Core) and shared vocabularies from communities of interest (COIs), has the potential to dramatically improve DoD internal and external information sharing. Guidance will be updated to include the use of UCore, domain common cores, and COI shared vocabularies. Although austere environments present some unique challenges, UCore should be used to the maximum extent practical as work continues to enhance performance in these environments.

In order to realize the maximum benefits from the UCore, DoD components must begin planning efforts for its adoption by programs of record and in the transition of legacy environments. As an aid to Department level planning, it is important for each agency to confirm its commitment and strategic approach to UCore implementation. Conformance with UCore should be an element of the data plans required in major acquisition milestone reviews and will be evaluated as part of the Enhanced Information Support Plan (EISP) review process. Please describe your general approach to UCore implementation, with target dates for key milestones, using the questionnaire format posted on the UCore Implementation wiki, https://www.intelink.gov/wiki/UCore_Implementation or by return correspondence to the Enterprise Services and Integration Directorate, by September 1, 2009.

For detailed information about UCore, refer to the UCore Website located at https://ucore.gov . The DoD CIO points of contact for this action are Mr. Clay Robinson, (703) 602-0937 or clay.robinson@osd.mil and Ms. Oma Cox, (703) 602-1090 or oma.cox@osd.mil.

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