THE JOINT STAFF
WASHINGTON, DC

Reply ZIP Code:
20318-6000

18 January 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR VENDORS OF COMMERCIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES AND SWITCHES

Subject: Joint Interoperability Testing and Certification of Commercial Telecommunications Devices/Switches

1. Telecommunications device and switch vendors should ensure all marketing and sales people are aware of and adhere to the following critical DOD requirements. References 1 and 2 require that all procured telecommunications devices/switches shall be joint interoperability certified by Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC) and granted information assurance (IA) certification and accreditation by the Defense Information System Network (DISN) Designated Approval Authorities (DAAs). In addition, heads of DOD Components shall only use telecommunication switches listed on the Approved Products List (APL) of certified and accredited Defense Switched Network (DSN) equipment (see reference 3). The APL is the DOD-approved list from which the Combatant Commands, Services, and Agencies may purchase DSN-related telecommunications devices/switches.

2. In accordance with DOD and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) instructions, the Military Communications Electronics Board (MCEB) Interoperability Test Panel (ITP) processes interoperability certification requests for all uncertified telecommunications switches connected or being considered for connection to the DISN and forwards its recommendation to ASD (NII)/DOD CIO for decision prior to their purchase and installation at a Combatant Command/Service/Agency location. These conditions may only be waived on a case-by-case basis in accordance with procedures outlined within the DODI (reference 3) to satisfy an urgent operational need, supporting ongoing operations. IA certification and accreditation of these systems are also required.

3. To facilitate your cooperation, I have attached the current list of Service/Agency ITP representatives. Combatant Commands forward their requirements to the ITP via the Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) representative. The ITP Point of Contact for these procedures is the Joint Staff's J6 Information

Integration Division, J6I, DSN 222-0905, Commercial 703-692-0905, J6I-Testing&EnforcementBranch@js.pentagon.mil.

BRIAN P. HAMILTON
COL, USA
Chairman, Interoperability Test Panel

References:

1. DOD Instruction (DODI) 8100.3, "Department of Defense Voice Networks," 16 Jan 2004
2. Public Law 107-314 section 353
3. Approved Products List, http://jitc.fhu.disa.mil/tssi/apl.html