



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Information as a Joint Function

Information is such a powerful tool that it is recognized as an instrument of national power. The advent of the internet, the expansion of information technology, the widespread availability of wireless communications, and the far-reaching impact of social media have dramatically impacted operations and changed the character of modern warfare.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) has issued an out-of-cycle change to Joint Publication 1, *Doctrine of the Armed Forces of the United States*, introducing *Information* as a new, seventh joint function. This change is consistent with the 2016 DoD Strategy for Operations in the Information Environment (SOIE) and the 2016 National Military Strategy. It signals a fundamental appreciation for the military role of information at the strategic, operational and tactical levels within today's complex operating environment.

The elevation of *Information* to a joint function impacts all operations and has implications across doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and policy that must be identified in the months ahead. These include the relationship with other joint functions, as well as the effects on planning and operations. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the CJCS, as co-chairs of the SOIE Executive Steering Group, will lead efforts to examine implications and implement appropriate changes. I fully endorse this effort and expect support from across the Department.

*John Matis*



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