OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Policy for Registration of Extensible Markup Language (XML)

References: (a) DoD Joint Technical Architecture (JTA), Version 3.1, March 31, 2000
(b) DoD 5000.2-R, Mandatory Procedures for Major Defense Acquisition Program (MDAP) and Major Automated Information System (MAIS) Acquisition Programs, June 10, 2001

This memorandum provides policy for registering XML components. Extensible Markup Language (XML), a subset of the internationally accredited standard ISO8879, has recently emerged as the industry data/metadata interchange format of choice. The DoD Joint Technical Architecture (JTA) (reference a), lists XML as a mandated standard, without an appropriate waiver (reference b), for any domain and application specific markup languages defined through tagged data items.

To support interoperability and minimize overhead, the Department is establishing a single clearinghouse and registry for creating, finding, reusing, and unambiguously identifying XML components. It will promote interoperability, efficiency, and reuse of XML components.

The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) is designated as the Executive Agent (EA) for establishing, in coordination with DoD Components, the DoD XML Registry and Clearinghouse. This will be accomplished by identifying best practices, establishing partnerships with industry, public-interest groups and other governmental activities, and coordinating XML education and outreach. Storage and retrieval of XML components will be performed in a way that takes full advantage of distributed network capabilities for reliable access and reference. This will facilitate the harmonization of XML registries and components among industry and government organizations.

The DoD XML Registry and Clearinghouse is the authoritative source for XML components. All Program Managers (PMs) that use XML as an interchange format must register XML components in accordance with procedures established by DISA. They shall conform to the following order of precedence. When appropriate, reuse existing XML components obtained

from the DoD Registry and Clearinghouse. If not appropriate, PMs and developers may adopt existing industry XML components. When industry XML components are adopted, that fact shall be registered. If reuse or adoption is not appropriate, new XML components unique to the program may be developed and registered.

The designation of DoD "Community Managers" to represent the Communities of Interest (COIs), supported by existing managerial bodies, constitutes sufficient XML governance for DoD. Community Managers shall review registration submissions to deconflict XML components already registered and in use by the community. In addition, the Community Manager will verify that the submission properly belongs in the community.

This memorandum is effective immediately and shall be reviewed annually to ensure that this XML registration approach remains viable and takes advantage of the latest developments in the commercial sector.

Addressees should ensure the widest distribution of this memorandum. Request Director, Joint Staff forward this memorandum to Unified Combatant Commands.

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(Acquisition, Technology,
and Logistics)

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