



June Message to the DoD Team

Team, this month our department continues the drumbeat of steadiness and readiness: steadiness as we ensure our diplomats have room to negotiate as they engage on a range of issues worldwide, and readiness as we drive along our National Defense Strategy's three lines of effort - increasing lethality, enhancing existing alliances while building new partnerships, and reforming our department for efficiency and affordability.

In support of our National Defense Strategy, this week, I directed our department's [Chief Information Officer Dana Deasy](#) to stand up **the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC)**. The JAIC will enable teams across DoD to swiftly deliver new, AI-enabled capabilities and experiment with new operating concepts in our military missions and business operations. You know what we need here: speed and agility. We also need to evolve our partnerships with industry and academia. This department *will* lead in this arena. Plenty of people talk about the threat from AI; we want to *be* the threat.

Regarding our second line of effort, **strengthening alliances and building new partnerships**, senior leaders from across our department are constantly building connective tissue between our militaries and those of our allies and partners, and this month was no different. Here at the Pentagon, our senior leaders conducted bilateral meetings with diplomatic and defense officials from Australia, Jordan, and the United Kingdom. They also took to the road, driving this line of effort from Asia to Europe to the Middle East.

This month, **our department also recognized 72 outstanding career executives and senior professionals with the Presidential Rank Award**, their highest possible recognition. As Secretary Mattis says, "Organizations get the behavior they reward." We are recognizing leaders who drive real, significant change across our department. These 72 recipients have set stratospheric expectations for the future. These honorees will lead implementation of our National Defense Strategy; I am confident they will bring our three lines of effort to life. It is incumbent upon all of us to do likewise.

This is critical, for the actions we take over the next few years will shape what our department looks like for the next *thirty* years. As we rethink how we compete on different timelines, across diverse operating spaces, and develop the immense talent already available to us, remember your work will determine whether we win or lose in the battlespaces of tomorrow - air, land, sea, cyberspace, and outer space.

Lastly, **next week we celebrate 242 years of our American experiment in self-government**. For most Americans, the Fourth of July will be a chance to enjoy a day off from work, spend an afternoon with family and friends at backyard barbeques, and watch fireworks. They will do so in complete safety because so many in our Department of Defense family will spend that day on the job: on base, on deck, on duty. Thank you for this sacrifice; we are the land of the free because of the brave.

And for those of you who will get some time to celebrate, remember to stay safe! This Fourth of July, as always, I remain incredibly proud to serve alongside you.

-Pat