



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

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MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer

The Department has made significant strides in unlocking the power of its data, harnessing artificial intelligence (AI), and providing digital solutions for the joint force. Many components have contributed to this progress. Yet stronger alignment and synchronization are needed to accelerate decision advantage and generate advanced capabilities for our warfighters.

Accordingly, effective February 1, 2022, there will be within the Office of the Secretary of Defense a new position of Chief Digital and AI Officer (CDAO), reporting directly to me and through me to the Secretary of Defense. The CDAO will serve as the Department's senior official responsible for strengthening and integrating data, artificial intelligence, and digital solutions in the Department.

The Office of the CDAO shall perform in an initial operating capability (IOC) upon its stand-up, with a goal of reaching full operating capability (FOC) no later than June 1, 2022. By January 15, 2022, Mr. James Mitre, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, will submit for my approval an implementation plan to reach these IOC and FOC milestones. Mr. Mitre will work closely with all affected DoD stakeholders, congressional staff, and outside experts in developing his recommendations.

Nothing in this memorandum shall be interpreted to supersede existing statutory requirements. At its IOC, the Office of CDAO will bear the following relationship to related OSD AI, digital, and data offices:

- Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC). The Office of the CDAO shall serve as the successor organization to the JAIC, reporting directly to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, pursuant to Section 238 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2019, as amended.
- Defense Digital Service (DDS). The CDAO shall serve as an intervening supervisor between DDS and the Immediate Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, consistent with DoD Directive 5105.87.
- Chief Data Officer (CDO). The CDO shall be operationally aligned to the OCDAO, while continuing to report to the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense through the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense (DoD CIO), as required by Section 903(b)(3) of the NDAA for FY 2020.

Thank you in advance for your support in our efforts to adopt industry best practice and accelerate innovation.



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