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

SUBJECT: Irregular Warfare Implementation Guidance

Irregular Warfare (IW) is a critical tool for the Department of Defense to campaign across the spectrum of conflict, enhance interoperability and access, and disrupt competitor warfighting advantages while reinforcing our own. It is an essential piece of the Department's contribution to whole-of-government activities to deter, prepare for, and prevail during conflict. In this effort the Irregular Warfare Implementation Guidance (IWIG) is an important step towards better coordination of our efforts with those of our interagency stakeholders, allies, and partners.

The IWIG represents an evolution in how the Department conceptualizes and executes IW — refocusing our strategy and force design from the complexities of counterterrorism to the realities of an intricate and competitive security environment. The challenge of deterring two major nuclear powers adept at gray zone operations — the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation — demands this transformational approach. Therefore, I hereby issue the attached IWIG in order to provide Department-wide direction for conceptualizing, institutionalizing, and operationalizing IW across the Joint Force.

The Irregular Warfare Executive Steering Committee (IW ESC) serves as the principal forum for coordinating and integrating IW matters. Co-chaired by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict and the Joint Staff Director for Joint Force Development, the IW ESC is hereby designated as a supporting tier governance forum in accordance with Department of Defense Directive 5105.79, "DoD Senior Governance Framework." I direct the co-chairs to establish a charter for the IW ESC.

Recommendations from the IW ESC, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)) and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be periodically briefed to the Deputy Secretary of Defense and, as appropriate, be brought before the Deputy's Management Action Group for consideration.

The USD(P), in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Director of Administration and Management, and other appropriate Components, will update Department of Defense Directive 3000.07, "Irregular Warfare" to reflect the changes in the IWIG and my direction above.

Attachment:  
As stated

UNCLASSIFIED when separated from Attachment

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