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MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE

SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES
CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM
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INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
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DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE
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ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center

The 2018 National Defense Strategy (NDS) foresees that ongoing advances in artificial intelligence (AI) “will change society and, ultimately, the character of war.” To preserve and expand our military advantage and enable business reform, we must pursue AI applications with boldness and alacrity while ensuring strong commitment to military ethics and AI safety. A new approach is required to increase the speed and agility with which we deliver AI-enabled capabilities and adapt our way of fighting.

Toward this end, the DoD Chief Information Officer (CIO) will establish a Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC) with the overarching goal of accelerating the delivery of AI-enabled capabilities, scaling the Department-wide impact of AI, and synchronizing DoD AI activities to expand Joint Force advantages. The Director of the JAIC will report to the DoD CIO. The JAIC will enable the Military Departments and Services, Joint Staff, Combatant Commands (CCMDs), Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), and other DoD Components, to swiftly introduce new capabilities and effectively experiment with new operational concepts in support of DoD’s warfighting missions and business functions. The JAIC will achieve this goal by:

- Guiding the execution of National Mission Initiatives (NMI), large-scale efforts to apply AI to a cluster of closely related, urgent, joint challenges. NMIs will be



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developed in partnership with the Military Departments and Services, Joint Staff, CCMDs, other DoD components, and mission owners;

- Leveraging NMIs and DoD cloud adoption to establish a Department-wide common foundation for execution in AI that includes the tools, shared data, reusable technologies, processes, and expertise to enable rapid delivery and Department-wide scaling of AI-enabled capabilities;
- Collaborating within DoD, across government, and with industry, academia, and U.S. allies to strengthen partnerships, highlight critical needs, solve problems of urgent operational significance, and adapt AI technologies for DoD missions; and
- Working with OSD components and other relevant organizations to develop a governance framework and standards for AI development and delivery.

To establish the JAIC, the DoD CIO will report back within 30 days with a list of initial NMIs to be launched within the next 90 days, proposed FY18 and FY19 resourcing plans, and personnel assignment needs. The NMI list will be developed in consultation with the Military Departments, Joint Staff, CCMDs, and mission owners and should include the Algorithmic Warfare Cross-Functional Team, Project Maven, which will be transitioned to the JAIC. The DoD CIO will work with the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and the DoD Chief Management Officer to secure appropriate resourcing to initiate the stand-up of the JAIC and enable implementation of select AI initiatives in FY18.

The Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, in coordination with the DoD CIO, will evaluate the JAIC resourcing for FY19 and beyond, during the upcoming Program and Budget Review. Such resources will consider the continuation of the initial NMIs; initiation of additional NMIs; any resources needed for the JAIC collaboration with industry or academia, as appropriate; and the JAIC coordination across the whole of government and with our international partners on critical issues related to the standards, ethics, and safeguards necessary to advance AI technology.

The JAIC is intended to enhance the ability for DoD components to execute new AI initiatives, experiment, and learn within a common framework. DoD and OSD components therefore are highly encouraged to collaborate with the JAIC upon initiation of new AI initiatives. Components will initially coordinate each AI initiative that totals more than \$15 million annually with the JAIC in order to ensure DoD is creating Department-wide advantages. This threshold will be reviewed annually as investments in AI mature. The JAIC Director will maintain an accounting of DoD AI initiatives as a means of synchronizing efforts and fostering collaboration. The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering will continue to promote development of new AI technologies, systems, and concepts that support AI capability delivery.

This effort is a Department priority. Speed and security are of the essence. I expect all offices and personnel to provide all reasonable support necessary to make rapid enterprise-wide AI adoption a reality.

