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**THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-0001

Reply ZIP Code:  
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MCM 24-98  
9 February 1998

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Chief of Staff, US Army  
Chief of Naval Operations  
Chief of Staff, US Air Force  
Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Commander in Chief, US Atlantic Command  
Commander in Chief, US Central Command  
US Commander in Chief, Europe  
Commander in Chief, US Pacific Command  
Commander in Chief, US Southern Command  
Commander in Chief, US Space Command  
Commander in Chief, US Special Operations Command  
Commander in Chief, US Strategic Command  
Commander in Chief, US Transportation Command  
Commander, US Element, NORAD

**Subject:** Implementation of the Unified Command Plan

1. On 29 January 1998, the President approved the enclosed revised Unified Command Plan (UCP), consistent with the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense.

2. Accordingly, effective 29 January 1998, the responsibilities of the combatant commands are revised to include:

a. Added wording that clearly defines the Caribbean Basin area of responsibility (AOR) shift between USSOUTHCOM and USACOM. This AOR shift occurred on 1 June 1997.

b. Incremental assignment of the Former States of the Soviet Union (FSU) to USEUCOM and USCENCOM. USEUCOM assumes responsibility for the six Western Slavic and Caucasus states (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan) on 1 October 1998 and USCENCOM assumes responsibility for the five Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan) on 1 October 1999.

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c. Added clarification of unassigned countries with a reference to the Western Slavic and Caucasus states and Central Asian states that will be assigned to USEUCOM and USCENTCOM respectively during the period this UCP will be in effect. Additionally, the unassigned status of the Caspian Sea was clarified.

d. Updated CINC responsibilities for force protection, mandated by DOD Directive 2000.12 and Executive Order 12656.

e. Clarified the exclusion of forces assigned to peacekeeping operations and the SecDef authority, under title 10, to make such exceptions.

f. Inserted verbiage to clarify the geographic CINC's authority as a single focal point "on military matters" in the area of responsibility.

g. Added responsibilities to USCINCSpace in the area of military representation for space matters and planning responsibilities commensurate with operational use of space.

h. Clarified USACOM responsibilities to include: roles as joint force trainer, provider, and integrator; lead for US-Canada defense; and civil authority assistance.

i. Inserted aerial refueling to USTRANSCOM's responsibilities.

j. Changed the reference in paragraph 15 from Counterterrorism to Combating Terrorism (CbT).

k. Changed the reference in paragraph 18 from the former Yugoslavia to the countries of Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Croatia.

l. Changed the reference to command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) to command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence (C4I).

3. The UCP sets forth basic guidance for all combatant commanders, delineates their geographic areas of responsibility, and specifies their functions. The UCP reflects current DOD policy.

4. This memorandum supersedes MCM-11-96, 17 January 1996, "Implementation of the Unified Command Plan."

5. Without enclosure, this memorandum is UNCLASSIFIED.

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For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

*DC Blair*  
Dennis C. Blair  
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy  
Director, Joint Staff

Enclosure

Copy to:

Secretary of State  
Secretary of Defense  
Commandant, US Coast Guard  
CINCUNC CFC  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Director, DARPA  
Director, DCAA  
Director, DIA  
Director, DIS  
Director, DLA  
Director, DSWA  
Director, DSAA  
Director, NSA/Chief, CSS  
Director, NIMA  
Chairman, US Delegation, UN  
Military Staff Committee  
USLO to SACLANT  
USMNR to SHAPE  
President, NDU

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UNIFIED COMMAND PLAN (U)

1. (U) Command of unified combatant commands will be exercised as provided for herein and as otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense.

GENERAL (U)

2. (U) The National Security Act of 1947 and title 10 of the United States Code provide the basis for the establishment of unified combatant commands.

3. (U) A unified combatant command has broad, continuing missions and is composed of forces from two or more Military Departments. The Unified Command Plan (UCP) establishes the missions, responsibilities, and force structure for commanders of unified combatant commands and establishes their general geographic areas of responsibility and functions.

4. (U) Communications between the National Command Authorities (NCA) (the President and the Secretary of Defense) and the commanders of the combatant commands shall be transmitted through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, unless otherwise directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense.

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Classified by: RADM J.W.Metzger, DDS&P, J-5  
Reason: 1.5(a)  
Declassify on: X-4

FORCES (U)

5. (U) Forces assigned to unified combatant commands will be under combatant command of the commanders of the unified combatant commands. Except as otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense, forces assigned to the combatant commands do not include forces assigned to carry out functions of the Secretary of a Military Department or forces performing peace operations under the authority, direction, or control of the United Nations or other multinational peacekeeping organizations.

6. (U) Unified combatant command forces will be assigned to such commands by the Secretary of Defense's memorandum entitled "Forces for Unified Commands."

7. (U) Except as otherwise directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense, all forces operating within the geographic area assigned to a unified combatant command shall be assigned or attached to and under the command of the commander of that command. This includes National Guard and Reserve Forces when ordered to Federal active duty.

8. (U) A force assigned or attached to a combatant command under section 162 of title 10 may be transferred from that command only as directed by the Secretary of Defense and under procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and approved by the President.

AUTHORITY (U)

9. (U) The authority of combatant commanders is established in Chapter 6 of title 10. The commander of a unified combatant command shall exercise command authority, as defined in section 164(c) of title 10, over all forces assigned to that command unless otherwise directed by the President or Secretary of Defense. In addition, the commander of a unified combatant command will, unless otherwise directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense, exercise those functions of command involving the control of assigned resources.

10. (U) When there is a vacancy in the office of the commander of a combatant command, or in the temporary absence or disability of the combatant commander, the deputy commander acts as combatant commander and performs the duties of the combatant commander until a successor is appointed or absence or disability ceases. If a deputy commander has not been designated, interim command will pass to the next senior officer present for duty eligible to exercise command, regardless of Service affiliation.

11. (U) The commander of a unified combatant command is responsible for:

- a. (U) Maintaining the security and force protection of the command, including its assigned or attached forces and assets, and protecting the United States, its possessions, and bases against attack, threat of attack, or hostile incursion.

- b. (U) Carrying out assigned missions and tasks.
  - c. (U) Assigning tasks to, and directing coordination among, the command's subordinate commands to ensure unity of effort in the accomplishment of the commander's assigned missions.
  - d. (U) Planning for and executing military operations as directed by the NCA in support of the National Military Strategy.
12. (U) The commander of a unified combatant command that includes a general geographic area of responsibility is additionally responsible for:
- a. (U) Planning and, as appropriate, implementing the evacuation and protection of United States citizens and nationals and, in connection therewith, designated other persons, in support of their evacuation from threatened areas overseas; reviewing emergency action plans within the commander's general geographic area of responsibility.
  - b. (U) Providing for US military representation, within the commander's general geographic area of responsibility, to international and US national agencies unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense. The US military representatives will provide advice and assistance to Chiefs of US Diplomatic Missions in negotiation of rights, authorizations, and facility arrangements required in support of US military missions in the region.
  - c. (U) Providing the single point of contact on military matters within the assigned area of responsibility. Unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense, whenever a commander undertakes exercises, operations, or

other activities with the military forces of nations in another commander's area of responsibility, those exercises, operations, and activities, and their attendant command relations, will be as mutually agreed between the commanders. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall prepare for the approval of the Secretary of Defense directions as appropriate.

d. (U) Providing military assessments of the security assistance programs within the commander's assigned security assistance area.

e. (U) Ensuring the coordination of regional security assistance matters under command responsibility with affected Chiefs of US Diplomatic Missions.

f. (U) Commanding, supervising, and supporting the security assistance organizations in matters that are not functions or responsibilities of the Chiefs of US Diplomatic Missions.

g. (U) Carrying out advisory, planning, and implementing responsibilities relating to security assistance within the commander's assigned security assistance areas.

h. (U) Assuming combatant command, in the event of war or an emergency that prevents control through normal channels, of security assistance organizations within the commander's general geographic area of responsibility or as directed by the NCA.

i. (U) Unless otherwise directed by the NCA, commanding US forces conducting peace or humanitarian relief operations within the commander's general geographic area of responsibility, whether as a



unilateral US action or as part of a United Nations or other multilateral organization; or supporting US forces under the authority, direction, or control of the United Nations or other multilateral organization.

j. (U) Providing the single DOD point of contact within the assigned area of responsibility for countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in support of nonproliferation policies, activities, and taskings.

k. (U) Reviewing the force protection of all combatant and noncombatant military activities in the commander's area of responsibility, except forces performing peace operations under the authority, direction, or control of the United Nations or other multilateral organizations not assigned to the commander, and identifying to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, responsible Service, and cognizant chain of command any military activity not assessed as satisfactory. Assessments of forces performing peace operations as defined above are the responsibility of the designated DOD Executive Agent and will be provided by the Executive Agent to the commander for review.

13. (U) When necessary, those geographic areas not assigned to a combatant commander will be assigned as directed by the Secretary of Defense.

#### GENERAL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY (U)

14. (U) In establishing commands, it is not intended to delineate restrictive geographic areas of responsibility for accomplishment of missions assigned. Commanders may operate forces wherever required to accomplish their

missions. Unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense, when significant operations overlap boundaries, a task force will be formed. Command of the task force will be determined by the President or the Secretary of Defense and transferred to the appropriate commander. Forces directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense may also conduct operations from or within any geographic area as required for accomplishing assigned tasks, as mutually agreed by the commanders concerned or as directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense. To provide a basis for coordination by commanders, general geographic areas of responsibility are delineated in subsequent paragraphs concerning unified combatant commands and in the enclosed map. These areas also provide the basis for coordinating intelligence and logistics planning.

15. (S) Antarctica, Canada, CONUS, Mexico, and the countries in the territory of the former Soviet Union (except as noted below) are not assigned to a combatant commander. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is responsible for providing military advice to the Secretary of Defense with respect to these unassigned areas in the same manner as CINCs do with respect to their areas of responsibility. On 1 October 1998, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan will be added to USEUCOM's area of responsibility (see paragraph 18). On 1 October 1999, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan will be added to USCENTCOM's area of responsibility (see paragraph 17). The Caspian Sea is

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UNIFIED COMBATANT COMMANDS (U)

16. (U) US Atlantic Command (USACOM). The Commander in Chief, US Atlantic Command (USCINCCOM), headquartered at Norfolk, Virginia, is the commander of a unified combatant command comprising all forces assigned for the accomplishment of the commander's missions. USCINCCOM's general geographic area of responsibility for the conduct of normal operations is the Atlantic Ocean west of 17° E (excluding the waters adjoining South and Central America south of 8° N and west of 30° W and excluding the waters south of 28° N and west of 58° W, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, its island nations and European possessions, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands). USCINCCOM's area of responsibility also includes the Arctic Ocean east of 95° W and west of 100° E, and Greenland and other islands (except the United Kingdom and Ireland) in all assigned water areas. See enclosed map.

USCINCCOM's additional responsibilities include:

- a. (U) Conducting joint training of assigned forces and assigned JTF staffs, and support other unified CINCs as required.

b. (U) As the Joint Force Integrator, developing joint, combined, interagency capabilities to improve interoperability and enhancing capabilities of technology, systems and doctrine. Providing trained and ready joint forces in response to the capability requirements of supported CINCs.

c. (U) Providing military support to US civil authorities (MSCA) and military assistance for civil disturbances (MACDIS), subject to Secretary of Defense approval and/or applicable DOD guidance, within the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

d. (U) Planning for the land defense of CONUS, domestic support operations to assist government agencies, and the combined Canada-United States land and maritime defense of Canada.

17. (U) US Central Command (USCENTCOM). The Commander in Chief, US Central Command (USCINCCENT), headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, is the commander of a unified combatant command comprising all forces assigned for the accomplishment of the commander's missions. USCINCCENT's general geographic area of responsibility for the conduct of normal operations includes Egypt, Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Republic of Yemen, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea, and Pakistan, plus the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, and Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean from 68° E, south to 5° S, and west to Kenya/

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Tanzania coastal border, including the Seychelles. On 1 October 1999, USCINCCENT will assume responsibility for Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. See enclosed map.

18. (U) US European Command (USEUCOM). The US Commander in Chief, Europe (USCINCEUR), headquartered at Patch Barracks, Vaihingen, Germany, is the commander of a unified combatant command comprising all forces assigned for the accomplishment of the commander's missions. USCINCEUR's general area of responsibility for the conduct of normal operations is Europe, including eastern European countries (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania), the United Kingdom, and Ireland; the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and its islands; the Mediterranean littoral (excluding Egypt); the continent of Africa (less Egypt, Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Djibouti). Paragraph 15 above contains additional specific responsibilities. On 1 October 1998, USCINCEUR will assume responsibility for Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Black Sea. See enclosed map.

19. (U) US Pacific Command (USPACOM). The Commander in Chief, US Pacific Command (USCINCPAC), headquartered at Camp H. M. Smith, Oahu, Hawaii, is the commander of a unified combatant command comprising all

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forces assigned for the accomplishment of the commander's missions.

USCINCPAC's general geographic area of responsibility for the conduct of normal operations is the Pacific Ocean west of 92° W; the Bering Sea, the Arctic Ocean west of 95° W and east of 100° E, the Indian Ocean east of 17° E (excluding the waters north of 5°S and west of 68° E), Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, the countries of Southeast Asia and the southern Asian landmass to the western border of India, Madagascar, and the other islands in all assigned water areas. In addition, USCINCPAC's general geographic area of responsibility for the conduct of normal operations other than air defense will include Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Paragraph 15 above contains additional specific responsibilities. See enclosed map.

20. (U) US Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM). The Commander in Chief, US Southern Command (USCINCSO), headquartered at Miami, Florida, is the commander of a unified combatant command comprising all forces assigned for the accomplishment of the commander's missions. USCINCSO's general geographic area of responsibility for the conduct of normal operations is Central and South America and the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans from 92° W, east to 30° W, north to 8° N, west to 58° W, north to 28° N, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and its island nations and European possessions, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. USCINCSO is also responsible for the defense of the Panama Canal and the Panama Canal area. See enclosed map.

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21. (U) US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). The Commander in Chief, US Special Operations Command (USCINCSOC), headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, is the commander of a unified combatant command comprising assigned forces. USCINCSOC has no geographic area of responsibility for normal operations and will not exercise those functions of command associated with area responsibility. In addition to functions specified in sections 164(c) and 167 of title 10, USCINCSOC's responsibilities include:

- a. (U) Providing combat-ready special operations forces to other unified combatant commands when and as directed.
- b. (U) Training, including joint training exercises, of assigned forces and developing appropriate recommendations to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding strategy, doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures for the joint employment of special operations forces.
- c. (U) Exercising command of a selected special operations mission if directed to do so by the President or the Secretary of Defense.

22. (U) US Space Command (USSPACECOM)

- a. (U) The Commander in Chief, US Space Command (USCINCSPACE), headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the commander of a unified combatant command comprising all forces assigned for accomplishment of the commander's missions.

USCINCSpace has no geographic area of responsibility for normal operations and will not exercise those functions of command associated with area responsibility. However, USCINCSpace's responsibilities include:

- (1) (U) Supporting the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) by providing the missile warning and space surveillance necessary to fulfill the US commitment to the NORAD Agreement.
- (2) (U) Exercising combatant command over those assigned US forces that provide warning of missile attack on CONUS and Alaska and warning and assessment of space attack.
- (3) (U) Advocating space (including force enhancement, space control, space support, and force application) and missile warning requirements of other CINCs.
- (4) (U) Conducting space operations by exercising combatant command over assigned space control, space support (including launch and on-orbit operations), and force enhancement forces, as well as forces that provide strategic ballistic missile defense for the United States.
- (5) (U) Planning for and developing requirements for strategic ballistic missile defense and space-based support for tactical ballistic missile defense.



(6) (U) Providing integrated tactical warning and attack assessment of space, missile, and air attacks on CONUS and Alaska should NORAD be unable to accomplish the assessment mission.

(7) (U) Serving as the single point of contact for military space operational matters, to include communications in accordance with the provisions of Memorandum of Policy 37 (MOP-37), Military Satellite Communications Systems, dated 14 May 1992 and subsequent revisions, except as otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense. Whenever USCINCSpace undertakes military activities with other nations or unilaterally in the area of responsibility of another CINC(s), those activities and their attendant command relations will be coordinated with the appropriate CINC(s).

(8) (U) In coordination with the Joint Staff and appropriate CINCs, providing military representation to US national agencies, commercial, and international agencies for matters related to military space operations unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense.

(9) (U) In coordination with appropriate geographic CINCs' security assistance activities, planning and implementing security assistance relating to military space operations and providing military assessments as required. Unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense, these activities shall not supersede the responsibilities of other CINCs to coordinate security assistance matters and provide advice and assistance to Chiefs of US Diplomatic Missions.

(10) (U) Coordinating and conducting space campaign planning through the joint planning process in support of the National Military Strategy.

(11) (U) Providing the military point of contact for countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in space in support of nonproliferation policies, activities, and taskings.

b. (U) USCINCSpace is also Commander, US Element, NORAD, and is normally designated CINC NORAD, commander in chief of the binational command of the United States and Canada. When, in accordance with United States-Canada agreements, CINC NORAD is a Canadian, USCINCSpace is designated Deputy CINC NORAD. CINC NORAD is responsible for the employment of forces made available by the United States and Canada, with the support of USCINCSpace and commanders of other unified combatant commands.

23. (U) US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). The Commander in Chief, US Strategic Command (USCINCSSTRAT), headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Nebraska, is the commander of a unified combatant command comprising all forces assigned for the accomplishment of the commander's missions. USCINCSSTRAT has no geographic area of responsibility for normal operations and will not exercise those functions of command associated with area responsibility. When USSTRATCOM's forces are deployed in a geographic CINC's area of responsibility, they will remain assigned to USSTRATCOM

unless reassignment is directed by the Secretary of Defense. USCINCSTRAT will have primary responsibility for strategic nuclear forces to support the national objective of strategic deterrence. In addition, USCINCSTRAT's responsibilities include:

- a. (U) Employing assigned forces, as directed.
- b. (U) Providing support to other combatant commanders, as directed.
- c. (U) Conducting worldwide airborne reconnaissance in support of strategic operations, SIOP, or other strategic missions, as directed.
- d. (U) Ensuring command, control, communications, computers and intelligence (C4I) for strategic force employment.

24. (U) US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM). The Commander in Chief, US Transportation Command (USCINCTRANS), headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, Belleville, Illinois, is the commander of a unified combatant command comprising all forces assigned for the accomplishment of the commander's mission. USTRANSCOM has no geographic area of responsibility for normal operations and will not exercise those functions of command associated with area responsibility. When USTRANSCOM's forces are deployed in a geographic CINC's area of responsibility, they will remain assigned to USTRANSCOM unless reassignment is directed by the Secretary of Defense. USCINCTRANS's responsibilities include:

- a. (U) Providing common-user air, land, and sea transportation for the Department of Defense, both in time of peace and in time of war.

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b. (U) Providing common-user airlift, sealift, aerial refueling, surface transport, and terminal services, and commercial air, land, and sea transportation, as needed to support the deployment, employment, and sustainment of US forces on a global basis, as directed by the Secretary of Defense.

OTHER COMMANDERS (U)

25. (S) The Commander, US Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command (CDRUSELEMNORAD), headquartered at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the senior US officer assigned to NORAD. US forces made available for NORAD are assigned in the Secretary of Defense's memorandum entitled "Forces for Unified Commands" to CDRUSELEMNORAD, who exercises combatant command authority over such forces. [

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[ Relationships with regard to air defense of Alaska will be identified in a memorandum of agreement between USCINCPAC and CINCNORAD unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense.

Enclosure

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# COMMANDERS' AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

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