DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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SUBJECT: DoD Net-Centric Data Management Strategy: Metadata Registration

This memorandum augments information on Standards for Populating the Net provided in the Deputy Secretary of Defense Management Initiative Decision (MID) 905. MID 905 requires Military Departments and Defense Agencies to register metadata in the DoD Metadata Registry by September 30, 2003.

The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), in coordination with DoD Components, has established the DoD Metadata Registry to promote metadata interoperability and reuse. The DoD Metadata Registry serves as the Department's registry and repository of all metadata components and represents the combined functionality and holdings of the DoD Data Emporium and the DoD eXtensible Markup Language (XML) Registry. The DoD Metadata Registry is available at: http://metadata.dod.mil.

The DoD Metadata Registry supports the Department's Net-Centric Data Management Strategy by providing for the registration of structural and contextual metadata. It also incorporates a variety of metadata resources such as XML components, database schemas, and commonly used reference data sets. Phased content and capability enhancements will integrate other resources such as data elements from the Defense Data Dictionary System, data models, commonly used messaging formats, symbologies, ontologies, transformations, and mediation algorithms.

The effective management of metadata is essential to implementing the Department's Net-Centric Vision. DoD Components must implement metadata management initiatives in support of the Department's Net-Centric Vision. To support metadata management activities, DoD Components should establish and/or participate in Communities of Interest (COIs). COIs are collaborative groups of people who exchange information in pursuit of their shared goals, interests, missions, or business processes, and who therefore must have shared definitions for the information they exchange. COIs are major contributors to the development and maintenance of metadata. Accordingly, DoD Components may leverage COIs to assist in the registration of metadata.

Recognizing that metadata registration is an ongoing activity, I direct the following actions be performed as part of a phased approach for satisfying MID 905 metadata registration requirements:

- Components shall provide an analysis of the types XML information resources they will register, the quantity of metadata (as defined by the count of each type of XML information resource), and the date of expected initial registration by May 30, 2003. This information, along with any questions, should be directed to DISA, Attn: Mr. Peter Pasek, (703) 882-1365, pasekp@ncr.disa.mil.

- Components must register all supported XML information resources, such as XML schema documents, to the DoD Metadata Registry by September 30, 2003. An up-to-date list of XML information resources supported by the DoD Metadata Registry is available at: http://metadata.dod.mil.

The phased approach to metadata registration recognizes that many metadata holdings are defined using non-XML representations. To plan for the registration of metadata holdings that are not represented in XML, I direct the following:

- Components shall provide an analysis of their metadata holdings that are not represented in XML (e.g., database schema, non-XML model formats and taxonomies) by July 30, 2003. This analysis shall include the types and quantities of these holdings and information regarding any transition of these holdings to XML. This analysis, and any questions, should be directed to DISA, Attn: Mr. Peter Pasek, (703) 882-1365, pasekp@ncr.disa.mil.

Your involvement and assistance are critical to the success of the Department's net-centric transformation. We must work as a team to ensure the Strategy is accomplished, and the Registry becomes a viable, customer-oriented tool that satisfies our business and operational needs. My point-of-contact for this action is Mr. Anthony Simon at 703-602-1090 or Anthony.Simon@osd.mil.

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