



# Department of Defense

## INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 5040.04

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ASD(PA)

SUBJECT: Joint Combat Camera (COMCAM) Program

References: (a) DoD Directive 5040.4, "Joint Combat Camera (COMCAM) Program," August 13, 2002 (hereby canceled)  
(b) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "DoD Directives Review – Phase II," July 13, 2005  
(c) DoD Directive 5122.5, "Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs," September 27, 2000  
(d) DoD Instruction 5040.02, "Visual Information (VI)," August 30, 2005  
(e) DoD Instruction 5040.6, "Life-Cycle Management of DoD Visual Information," April 10, 2001  
(f) DoD Directive 5230.9, "Clearance of DoD Information for Public Release," April 9, 1996

### 1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Instruction:

- 1.1. Reissues Reference (a) as a DoD Instruction according to the guidance in Reference (b).
- 1.2. Establishes policy and assigns responsibilities for the Joint Combat Camera (COMCAM) Program under the authority of Reference (c).
- 1.3. Updates, in conjunction with References (c) through (e), policies and responsibilities for the conduct of COMCAM in support of joint, combined, and Service-specific military operations of joint interest.
- 1.4. Continues to authorize the Joint COMCAM Program.
- 1.5. Establishes the DoD Joint Combat Camera Planning Group (JCCPG).

## 2. APPLICABILITY

This Instruction applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the “DoD Components”). The term “Military Services,” as used herein, refers to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. Combat Camera (COMCAM). The acquisition and utilization of still and motion imagery in support of combat, information, humanitarian, special force, intelligence, reconnaissance, engineering, legal, public affairs, and other operations involving the Military Services.

3.2. COMCAM Forces. U.S. military personnel trained and employed to acquire, process, and transmit classified and unclassified still and motion imagery in support of air, sea, and ground military operations.

3.3. COMCAM Imagery. Still and motion images of military operations, equipment, and people acquired by COMCAM Forces, regardless of the medium in which the images are acquired, transmitted, or displayed.

3.4. Joint-Interest Imagery. Imagery that depicts subjects of known or probable interest to OSD, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, or more than one DoD Component. All COMCAM imagery shot in the joint environment is assumed to be joint-interest imagery. Other imagery, both from COMCAM sources and other-than-COMCAM sources (such as Public Affairs (PA) and photojournalists), that depicts subjects of known or probable interest to OSD, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, or more than one DoD Component, is also joint-interest imagery.

## 4. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

4.1. COMCAM is an essential battlefield information resource that supports strategic, tactical, and operational mission objectives. It is a deployable force multiplier that provides Commanders with combat-trained documentation teams that are primary suppliers of operational imagery to support battlefield information superiority.

4.2. COMCAM shall provide OSD, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Military Departments, the Combatant Commands, and the Joint Task Forces (JTFs) with a directed imagery capability in support of operational and planning requirements during wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, and joint exercises. The COMCAM mission can support, but is independent from, unique imagery operations and systems designed to meet specific visual information (VI) mission requirements, as is the case with Intelligence, Operational Test and Evaluation, and certain other DoD functions.

4.3. COMCAM Forces shall be tasked, deployed, and employed as an integral part of operations to ensure documentation of the entire scope of U.S. military activities during wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, joint exercises, and other events involving the DoD Components having significant national interest.

4.4. COMCAM imagery shall be forwarded immediately to a central DoD reception and distribution point as a shared resource to simultaneously support the operational and planning requirements of OSD, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Military Departments, and the Combatant Commands. Those requirements include situational awareness, information operations, mission assessment, legal documentation, and PA.

4.5. Except when it would delay forwarding, review of unclassified COMCAM imagery for possible public release shall be accomplished in theater, at the lowest practical level. Such review shall be accomplished according to Reference (f).

4.6. The DoD Joint Combat Camera Center (JCCC) shall serve as the central DoD reception and distribution point for COMCAM imagery. The JCCC shall distribute COMCAM and other joint-interest imagery to OSD, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Military Departments, the Combatant Commands, the Defense Agencies, and the other DoD Components.

## 5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (ASD(PA)) shall:

5.1.1. Serve as the OSD Principal Staff Assistant for the Joint COMCAM Program.

5.1.2. Provide and monitor the implementation of DoD COMCAM policy and issue supplemental guidance and instruction, as required, to ensure program effectiveness.

5.1.3. Conduct management oversight of the Joint COMCAM Program.

5.1.4. Operate and maintain the JCCC as the DoD central reception and distribution point for classified and unclassified COMCAM and other joint-interest imagery.

5.1.5. Establish and coordinate communication requirements with the Combatant Commands to transmit COMCAM imagery to the JCCC.

5.1.6. Recommend to the Commanders of the Combatant Commands to deploy and employ COMCAM Forces to document events likely to yield high-value imagery for public affairs and other applications.

5.1.7. Provide technical training for COMCAM personnel.

5.1.8. Distribute information to assist those who plan for and use COMCAM imagery.

5.1.9. Chair the JCCPG to provide contingency, deliberate, and exercise planning support, and to establish procedural and technical interoperability standards for COMCAM Forces, equipment, and systems.

5.1.10. Operate a central DoD VI records center to retain, preserve, catalog, and make COMCAM-generated record material accessible.

5.1.11. Provide a primary and alternate COMCAM representative to the National Military Command Center (NMCC), the Executive Support Center, and the Global Situational Awareness Facility when necessary to facilitate COMCAM integration into operations.

5.1.12. Coordinate with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Combatant Commands in the development of joint COMCAM doctrine.

5.2. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration shall provide the strategic telecommunications technology and services required to ensure the availability, reliability, and security of COMCAM imagery commensurate with its intended use.

5.3. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

5.3.1. Organize, train, and equip COMCAM personnel and units to provide highly responsive imagery acquisition, processing, and transmission capabilities in support of operational and planning requirements during wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, and joint exercises. COMCAM resources shall be sufficient to support the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan force structure.

5.3.2. Ensure that personnel and the units tasked in support of joint or combined COMCAM missions are properly trained to function effectively in a joint or combined operational environment.

5.3.3. Establish readily deployable and adaptive COMCAM force packages that may operate within JTF component commands and/or be integrated into a JTF headquarters staff. Ensure that COMCAM force packages have unit-type codes registered in the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff-type unit characteristics file to meet the full spectrum of requirements to

support Combatant Commands during wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, and joint exercises.

5.3.4. Coordinate with the Combatant Commands and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff through the JCCPG to ensure that COMCAM personnel, equipment, doctrine, and training are interoperable and complementary.

5.3.5. Provide COMCAM or VI personnel to supplement the imagery capabilities of the JCCC and the Combatant Commands for extended operational periods.

5.3.6. Designate a qualified officer to be a member of the JCCPG.

5.4. The Secretary of the Army shall:

5.4.1. As the Network Infrastructure Services Agency for the Pentagon, provide information technology services to the JCCC.

5.4.2. As the VI service center for the National Capital Region, provide visual information support to the JCCC.

5.4.3. Ensure availability of static line and free fall jump-qualified COMCAM personnel to support operational requirements.

5.5. The Secretary of the Navy shall:

5.5.1. Ensure the availability of COMCAM personnel with shipboard and underway experience.

5.5.2. Ensure the availability of aircrew- and diver-qualified COMCAM personnel with appropriate equipment to support operational requirements.

5.5.3. Ensure the availability of Marine Corps COMCAM personnel to support operational requirements.

5.5.4. Appoint an officer from the Marine Corps to serve as a member of the JCCPG.

5.6. The Secretary of the Air Force shall:

5.6.1. Ensure availability of aircrew-qualified COMCAM personnel to support operational requirements.

5.6.2. Ensure availability of COMCAM personnel qualified and equipped to centrally manage, process, and distribute both classified and unclassified Weapons Systems Video (WSV) collected from each of the Military Services, to support theater-level operational requirements. Equipment and management process shall meet interoperability requirements and reporting

timelines of joint-automated systems supporting the joint-targeting cycle, as identified by the Joint Staff and joint doctrine.

5.7. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall:

5.7.1. Identify and include in all applicable implementing orders COMCAM objectives, priorities, and taskings in support of OSD, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, and the Military Departments during wartime operations, worldwide crises contingencies, joint exercises, and other events involving the DoD Components having significant national interest.

5.7.2. Plan for and coordinate the deployment of COMCAM Forces with the Combatant Commands and the Military Departments.

5.7.3. Issue joint COMCAM doctrine.

5.7.4. Establish a position on the Joint Staff to coordinate integration of COMCAM Forces into operations and identify imagery requirements for the Joint Staff. The incumbent shall be the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff representative on the JCCPG.

5.7.5. Request joint COMCAM representation to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff response cell in the NMCC during crises to coordinate imagery mission requirements and direct imagery distribution.

5.8. The Commanders of the Combatant Commands through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall:

5.8.1. Plan for, task, deploy, and employ COMCAM Forces during wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, joint exercises, and other events involving the DoD Components having significant national interest. In all applicable crisis action and deliberate plans, include a COMCAM Appendix 9 to Annex C that establishes a Joint COMCAM Concept of Operations and initial imagery requirements.

5.8.2. Expeditiously provide classified and unclassified COMCAM imagery to the JCCC for immediate distribution.

5.8.3. Assist COMCAM Forces in coordinating facilities, transportation, and communications, and provide other logistical support to sustain deployed personnel.

5.8.4. Plan to employ COMCAM Forces during the initial phases of an operation to ensure comprehensive mission documentation. Ensure that COMCAM Forces have full mission access, as is reasonably and tactically feasible, during each phase of the operation.

5.8.5. Identify a COMCAM staff position within the J3 to plan for the employment of COMCAM Forces. The COMCAM staff position shall have the primary responsibility to integrate COMCAM Forces in theater, establish mission priorities, and coordinate imagery requirements for the supported staff. The incumbent shall be the Combatant Command representative on the JCCPG.

5.8.6. Ensure that tasking orders and requests for forces identify the operational controlling authority for COMCAM Forces in advance of deployment and provide an in-theater point of contact for initial coordination.

5.8.7. Establish a Joint COMCAM Management Team (JCMT) in JTFs, when appropriate, to prioritize COMCAM imagery missions and direct documentation and imagery distribution efforts. The JCMT shall receive guidance from the Combatant Command or the supported JTF Commander.

5.8.8. Assign operational control for the theater WSV COMCAM team to the JTF. The WSV team shall normally be collocated with the Commander, Air Force Forces, or the Joint Force Air Component Commander.

5.8.9. Ensure COMCAM imagery is reviewed for protection of classified information and transmitted according to applicable security regulations and local instructions.

5.8.10. Include within Annex F of the Operations Plan procedures to ensure that unclassified COMCAM imagery is reviewed by a PA representative and designated either cleared or not cleared for distribution to sources external to the Department of Defense. Authority to clear imagery for release may be delegated to the JTF or the DoD Component Command PA representative to expedite the movement of imagery.

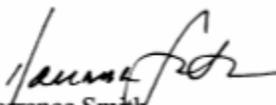
5.8.11. Coordinate with the JCCC and publish specific guidelines for imagery distribution, clearance, and security classification requirements.

5.8.12. Include within Annex K of the Operations Plan the communication requirements necessary for the transmission of COMCAM imagery to the JCCC.

5.8.13. Ensure COMCAM Forces participating in joint exercises receive training based on criteria from the Mission-Essential Task Listing.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Instruction is effective immediately.



Dorrance Smith  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
for Public Affairs

Enclosures – 1

E1. Committees, Working Groups, and Panels

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, AND PANELS

The JCCPG shall:

E1.1. Discuss, explore, develop, propose, and provide recommendations to and advise and assist the ASD(PA) on matters pertaining to COMCAM exercise, contingency, deliberate and crisis action planning support, and procedural and technical interoperability standards for COMCAM Forces, equipment, and systems.

E1.2. Be chaired by the ASD(PA) or his or her designee, and consist of representatives from the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, and the Military Services.

E1.3. Meet annually or as requested by the Chair or a member.

E1.4. Establish working groups as deemed appropriate by the Chair.