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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL
INSPECTOR GENERAL
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Joint Requirements and Management Board

The President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management has recommended establishment of a Joint Requirements and Management Board (JRMB) which would play an important decision-making role with respect to joint and major Service acquisition programs. Implementation of this, and other, recommendations will require statutory changes to the defense acquisition structure, including the establishment of an Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition. Legislation to effect these changes is currently pending before the Congress; however, the Department of Defense is committed to moving expeditiously to effect acquisition reform and the legislative process may take several months to complete. Accordingly, the Secretary and I have decided to move ahead with that part of the Commission's JRMB recommendation which can be implemented without legislation.

The following actions will be taken:

- The Defense Systems Acquisition Review Council (DSARC) is disestablished and will be replaced by a restructured JRMB, an organization with broader responsibilities. The JRMB will assume DSARC responsibilities for Milestone I, II, and III reviews; aid in defining and validating new system requirements; examine trade-offs between cost and performance; explore alternatives to new R&D starts (such as off-the-shelf procurement and product improvement programs); and recommend full-scale development and high rate production in joint and major Service programs.
- The current JRMB will be renamed and continue to carry out its present responsibilities, as directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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• Until the establishment of an Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition), the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering will serve as Chairman of the JRMB and, in this capacity, will chair all milestone reviews.

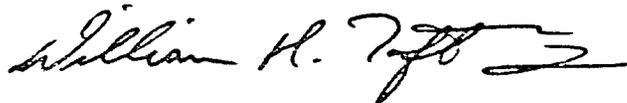
• Until the establishment of Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will designate a representative to serve as Vice Chairman of the JRMB. A principal responsibility of this individual will be to ensure that professional military judgment, including the views of the Commanders of the Unified and Specified Commands, is afforded full and proper consideration in the Board's deliberations.

• For the present, the current members of the DSARC will serve on the JRMB. Upon the designation of Service Acquisition Executives, they will represent their respective military departments on the JRMB.

• I will continue to serve as the Defense Acquisition Executive and will work closely with the JRMB to ensure its integration as a vital institution in the acquisition process.

• The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering will revise DoD Directive 5000.1, "Major System Acquisitions," and DoD Instruction 5000.2, "Major System Acquisition Procedures," as soon as possible, to reflect disestablishment of the DSARC and the structure and role of the newly established JRMB.

These changes are effective immediately. They should facilitate the transition to a JRMB structure more closely along the lines recommended by the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management once appropriate legislation has been enacted.



William H. Taft, IV