DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-6000

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

SUBJECT: Common Operating Environment (COE)

Reference: DEPSECDEF Memorandum, Global Information Grid Enterprise Services (GIG ES): Core Enterprise Services (CES) Implementation, November 10, 2003

The guidance in this memorandum supersedes the Common Operating Environment (COE) guidance provided in the referenced memorandum. The COE (formerly called the Defense Information Infrastructure COE) is a legacy integration framework that enables software portability and software reuse when using selected operating systems. The COE provides a structured basis for software to access and use a standard set of services and functions on a workstation or server. The levels of COE compliance are provided in the Integration and Runtime Specification (I&RTS) V4.3 that can be found at https://dod-cad.mont.disa.mil/web/general.jsp.

COE compliance is required for software intended to run on the DoD Global Command and Control System – Joint (GCCS-J) workstations or servers or the GCCS Family of System derivatives, i.e., GCCS-A/M/AF. The minimum level of compliance is Level 6 to allow for information sharing with other software modules. This requirement will phase out as GCCS-J is taken out of the inventory and software applications are migrated to the Joint Command and Control (JC2) portfolio. The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) will plan and resource COE sustainment support until GCCS-J is retired. DoD Components are encouraged to reevaluate other applications of the COE and determine whether this capability is still warranted. This guidance does not affect use of any other integration framework.

Addressees are requested to assure the widest distribution of this memorandum. Request Director, Joint Staff forward this memorandum to the Combatant Commands and assure the requirement is properly reflected in JCIDS documentation. This guidance will be incorporated into a revision of DoD Instruction 4630.8.

Point of Contact for this guidance is Mr. Leonard Tabacchi, (703) 607-0556, leonard.tabacchi@osd.mil or Mr. Jack Zavin, (703) 607-0238, jack.zavin@osd.mil.

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