



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-6000

May 2, 2002



COMMAND, CONTROL,
COMMUNICATIONS, AND
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS AND
COMPUTERS (J-6)
SECRETARY, JOINT REQUIREMENTS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Transformational Communications Study (TCS)

Thank you for your memorandum dated April 10, 2002. I appreciate your support in transforming DoD's communications infrastructure to eliminate bandwidth as a constraint using laser communications technology

I look forward to working with you to address your concerns, and I remain confident that we will conclude that the emerging transformational communications architecture will offer greater and more flexible capabilities than previously planned systems. I am committed to meeting the Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) 2010 Full Operational Capability (FOC) capabilities as currently stated, as well as supporting additional Wideband Gapfiller Satellites (WGS) to ease the transition to a network centric concept of operations.

Secretary Rumsfeld, General Myers, and General Pace have all testified before Congress that one of the most important aspects of transformation is our ability to think differently about how we operate. The asymmetric nature of much of our communications needs lends itself to an internet protocol (IP)-based packet-switched approach, rather than the circuit-switched approach that dominates our operations today.

Our goal must be to guide the TCS to develop an affordable wideband SATCOM system concept that includes both laser and Radio Frequency (RF) communications. This transformational concept enables an architecture that will support evolution to an even more capable system as new technologies emerge. Our approach to the Wideband/Lasercomm system is an evolutionary acquisition approach that will allow us to field a very capable Block I system with first launch in 2009 with even more capability in subsequent blocks.

Your suggestion that each Service and the strategic community brief me on their communications and operational employment concepts is excellent. I would request that these briefings include concepts for IP-based, packet-switched networking, and use of Global Information Grid (GIG) bandwidth expansion, teleports and Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) to address the warfighter's needs. I anticipate many more opportunities for us to continue this dialogue on transformational communication systems.

John P. Stenbit



cc:

Under Secretary of Defense (AT & L)

Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)

Secretary of the Army

Secretary of the Navy

Secretary of the Air Force

Under Secretary of the Air Force

CINC USSPACECOM

CINC USSTRATCOM

Director, J-8