



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-5000

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INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS  
DOD CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER  
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE  
AGENCY  
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE  
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY/CENTRAL  
SECURITY SERVICE  
DIRECTOR, JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT  
ORGANIZATION

SUBJECT: Compliance with Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Data and Metadata Standards

REFERENCES: (a) National System for Geospatial-Intelligence (NSG) GEOINT  
Standards Guide (GSG)  
(b) DoD IT Standards Registry (DISR) Online

Over the past several years the Department of Defense has rapidly fielded numerous new Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) systems in support of combat operations. The fielding of these new systems has provided unprecedented levels of ISR support to operational commanders, but has also had the unintended consequence of proliferating proprietary and non-standard GEOINT sensor data and metadata, thus making interoperability and data discovery challenging.

Our ISR professionals have mitigated this effect by manually moving data between networks and forcing collaboration when possible. More often than not, however, the data remains locked in the ground station, to be exploited only by the processing, exploitation, and dissemination cell of a specific aerial platform. Standards and consistent metadata are preconditions for interoperability and thus it is essential that we move from this platform-centric state to a data-centric construct. A data-centric construct will allow the entire intelligence enterprise to use similar exploitation and analytic tools within each GEOINT data set, as well as ensure discoverability for multi-intelligence fusion efforts.

Therefore, all initiatives endorsed by the ISR Task Force must provide verification of GEOINT data standards compliance in order to receive full program funding support. These standards have been established by the National System for Geospatial Intelligence members and are delineated in references (a) and (b). The attached guidelines further refine the compliance verification requirements. This requirement supports the efforts of the ISR Task Force, the U.S. Central Command, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and the Coalition interoperability Assurance and Validation team to improve the standards conformance and



interoperability of ISR systems. This effort also serves to maximize today's ISR capabilities and helps position the theater to transition capabilities for enduring missions of the U.S., Afghan and NATO partners.

The ISR Task Force and the National System for Geospatial-Intelligence Interoperability Action Team will monitor standards compliance and report status to the ISR Task Force Director every six months. Thank you for your continuing efforts to provide the best possible ISR capabilities to our warfighters and decision-makers. My point of contact for this issue is Col Anne Weinberg, Exploitation & Collaboration Division Chief, ISR Task Force, 703-604-1485 or [anne.weinberg@osd.mil](mailto:anne.weinberg@osd.mil).



Thomas A. Ferguson  
Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense  
for Intelligence

Attachment:  
As stated

cc:  
Director, Defense Information Systems Agency  
Commander, Joint Interoperability Test Command

GUIDELINES FOR ADHERENCE TO DATA AND METADATA STANDARDS  
FOR  
INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE TASK FORCE (ISR-TF)  
SPONSORED GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE (GEOINT) ISR PROGRAMS

In order to receive ISR-TF advocacy and full program funding support, the ISR-TF requires that systems verify adherence to appropriate data and metadata standards. ISR-TF advocated ISR programs will provide their GEOINT standards compliance test plan to the TF via the National System for Geospatial-Intelligence (NSG) Interoperability Action Team (NIAT) in partnership with the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC). NIAT standards identification and implementation assistance as well as JITC testing tools will be made available to all ISR-TF flagged programs. JITC will perform the GEOINT standards conformance testing, and test results shall be made available to the NIAT, U.S. Central Command and the ISR-TF for conformance and operational impact assessments. NIAT will also work with the Coalition Interoperability Assurance and Validation team to assess architectural and analytical impacts to various mission threads in the Joint and Coalition environments. These assessments will be used by the ISR-TF to determine remaining funding support.

Emerging and fielded Hyperspectral Imaging (HSI), Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), Wide Area Motion Imagery (WAMI), Full Motion Video (FMV), Electro-optical/Infrared (EO/IR) Still Imagery, and Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI) systems with ISR-TF oversight shall implement the most current versions of GEOINT standards approved by the GEOINT Functional Manager within the NSG GEOINT Standards Guide and the DoD Information Technology Standards Registry Online which are appropriate to each system in order to facilitate migration to a data-centric approach to processing, exploitation, and dissemination.

For fielded systems, this plan shall be integrated in the Systems' next incremental upgrade. The following actions are to be completed and reported to the ISR-TF:

- Within 45 days, JITC will develop a conformance testing plan and operational assurance and validation way ahead for ISR TF funded programs, with the expectation that this will become a best practice for the broader rapid acquisition/quick reaction capability (QRC) program community.
- Within 90 days, emerging and fielded HSI, LiDAR, WAMI, FMV, EO/IR Still Imagery, and GMTI systems receiving advocacy from the ISR-TF shall produce plans to address how they will become compliant to the most current approved version of the appropriate data and metadata standards (MIL STD 2500C, MISP, and STANAG 4607).
- Within 120 days, request Service Acquisition Executives evaluate ISR-TF/JITC practice and issue equivalent guidance to broaden compliance with appropriate standards and JITC conformance testing for rapid acquisition/QRC programs.