



# CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION

J-3

DISTRIBUTION: A, C, S

CJCSI 3205.01D

20 October 2014

## JOINT COMBAT CAMERA (COMCAM)

### References:

- a. CJCSM 3122.01 Series, "Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPES) Volume I, Planning Policies and Procedures"
- b. CJCSM 3130.03, 18 October 2012, "Adaptive Planning and Execution (APEX) Planning Formats and Guidance"
- c. DoD Instruction 5040.02, 27 October 2011, "Visual Information (VI)"

### Other Related Documents:

1. ATP 3-55.12, April 2013, "Combat Camera: Multi-Service Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Combat Camera (COMCAM) Operations"
2. Joint Publication 1-02, 8 November 2010 as amended through 15 August 2014, "Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms"

1. Purpose. This instruction establishes policy and defines procedures for tasking and using COMCAM assets. COMCAM imagery serves as a visual record of an operation and is of significant value to decision makers in the OSD, Joint Staff, and Combatant Commands. COMCAM imagery is also significant for public affairs, public diplomacy and military information support operations.

2. Superseded/Cancellation. CJCSI 3205.01C, 27 January 2010, "Joint Combat Camera" is superseded.

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to all consumers of COMCAM products and services, and all those who task and employ COMCAM assets.

#### 4. Policy

a. The mission of COMCAM is to provide the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), the Military Departments (MILDEPs), 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, humanitarian operations, and joint exercises. This instruction provides guidance on minimum capability requirements for joint service COMCAM providers and direction on execution oversight of COMCAM mission requirements.

b. COMCAM imagery is a fundamental tool of decision makers and commanders at all levels, providing an essential battlefield information capability. Requirements for COMCAM include imagery to counter misinformation, legal and evidentiary documentation, imagery for battlefield and environmental assessments, Military Information Support Operations (MISO) and Civil Affairs support, in addition to media requirements and historical documentation. COMCAM imagery is to be shared, as required, to simultaneously support operational and planning requirements of OSD, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, MILDEPs, Combatant Commands, Defense Agencies, and other DoD Components.

c. COMCAM is an essential battlefield information resource that supports strategic, tactical, and operational mission objectives. As the primary suppliers of operational imagery to support battlefield information superiority, COMCAM documentation teams will be combat trained and equipped, quickly deployable and able to operate in austere and hostile environments. COMCAM assets will provide the ability to acquire and transmit sensitive imagery through classified systems into a central collection point for further dissemination and product development.

d. Commanders involved in wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, humanitarian operations, joint exercises, and other events involving DoD Components having significant national interest will plan for, task, sustain, and employ COMCAM forces. Commanders will also expeditiously process through their respective Joint Imagery Management Operations Cell (JIMOC) and forward COMCAM imagery with captions to the Defense Imagery Management Operations Center (DIMOC).

e. The DIMOC is the central DoD reception and distribution point for COMCAM imagery, both classified and unclassified, providing national level leaders and commanders the ability to draw from a central repository of imagery. The DIMOC electronically processes and edits imagery acquired by DoD photographers, primarily operating in joint and Service combat camera teams, deployed to wartime, contingency and humanitarian operations, joint

exercises, and other operations involving U.S. military forces. The DIMOC distributes imagery to OSD, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Services, Combatant Commands, Defense Agencies, other DoD Components, and other Federal Agencies.

5. Definitions. See Glossary.

6. Responsibilities

a. Joint Staff

(1) All directorates preparing implementing orders are required to ensure they comply with the Joint Operation Planning and Execution System Volume I and APEX planning formats and guidance (references a and b) and DoDI 5040.02 (reference c). The Joint Staff is to plan for and task COMCAM assets per the Combatant Commander's requirements for wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, joint exercises, and other events involving DoD Components.

(2) All Planning Orders or PLANORDs issued by the Joint Staff will contain COMCAM coordination and documentation sections. The relevant planning authority will determine and express (even if negative) requirements for visual information for the operation under consideration. COMCAM-specific tasking will be coordinated with the Defense Media Activity (DMA) Defense Visual Information Component and the Joint COMCAM Program Manager for technical feasibility and supportability.

(3) Disseminate joint COMCAM doctrine.

b. Operations Directorate, Joint Staff

(1) The Director for Operations (DJ-3) is the Joint Staff cognizant authority for COMCAM products involving operations and force deployments.

(2) The DJ-3 will designate a responsible individual from the Deputy Director for Global Operations (DDGO), J-39, staff as the point of contact (POC) for COMCAM coordination and action involving visual information requests, products, and services.

(3) DDGO POC will:

(a) Plan for and coordinate integration of COMCAM forces into operations and identify imagery requirements for the Joint Staff.

(b) Coordinate with the Combatant Commands, OCJCS Public Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) to ensure OSD

and joint requirements are included in implementing orders. Emerging imagery requirements will be passed through the Combatant Commands to the JTF-level for assignment to COMCAM teams.

(c) Provide assistance in constructing appropriately capable, task organized, COMCAM team(s) and a JIMOC from Service-specific assets for use in a particular theater or crisis. The DMA Defense Visual Information Component, Joint Combat Camera Program Manager, is also available for assistance.

(d) Act as the CJCS representative on the Joint Combat Camera Planning Group.

c. OCJCS Special Assistant for Public Affairs

(1) Designate a responsible individual by letter as the POC for COMCAM coordination and action involving visual information (VI) requests, products, and services.

(2) OCJCS Public Affairs POC will:

(a) Ensure Public Affairs coordination on all appropriate VI issues and tasking.

(b) Serve as liaison to the OSD DIMOC.

d. Combatant Commanders

(1) Will ensure, except when it would delay forwarding, review of unclassified COMCAM imagery for possible public release will be accomplished in theater, at the lowest practical level.

(2) Identify a COMCAM POC in the J-39 (Information Operations) division to serve as Joint Staff liaison and Joint Combat Camera Team tasking authority when teams are deployed supporting the Combatant Commander's part of an established in-theater JTF. The POC will provide guidance and tasking direction to ensure COMCAM teams provide adequate coverage of critical events, and to maximize the teams' responsiveness. Rapid development and dissemination of COMCAM products that support strategic and operational information operations objectives is the desired end state.

(3) Ensure a Joint Imagery Management Operations Cell is established from Service-specific assets for use in a particular theater or crisis.

(4) Ensure the Service Components establish COMCAM POCs in its information operations directorates.

e. Director, Defense Media Activity

(1) Provide a qualified officer to serve as Joint Staff COMCAM Liaison Officer (LNO). The LNO will be fully integrated with the DJ-3/DDGO Strategic Effects Division and will effectively plan and coordinate the integration of COMCAM and Visual Information forces into operations and identify imagery requirements for the Joint Staff and DMA.

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

7. Summary of Changes. This version has been changed to correspond with the recently published DoDI 5040.02 that establishes policy, assigns responsibility, and prescribes procedures related to the Joint COMCAM Program.

8. Releasability. UNRESTRICTED. This directive is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited on NIPRNET. DoD Components (to include the Combatant Commands), other Federal agencies, and the public may obtain copies of this directive through the Internet from the CJCS Directives Electronic Library at <[http://www.dtic.mil/cjcs\\_directives](http://www.dtic.mil/cjcs_directives)>. Joint Staff activities may also obtain access via the SIPR directives Electronic Library Web sites.

9. Effective Date. This INSTRUCTION is effective upon receipt.

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

  
FREDERICK S. RUDESHEIM  
Major General, USA  
Vice Director, Joint Staff

Enclosures:

- A - Mission Support Functions for Combat Camera
- GL - Glossary

(INTENTIONALLY BLANK)

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution A, C, plus the following:

	<u>Copies</u>
Defense Media Activity .....	1

(INTENTIONALLY BLANK)



ENCLOSURE A

MISSION SUPPORT FUNCTIONS FOR COMBAT CAMERA

1. COMCAM is a primary supplier of operational imagery to support the commanders' objectives and the Commander's Critical Information Requirements. This is achieved through directed imagery support to a wide variety of operations and mission functions including, but not limited to, the following:
2. Information Operations – imagery is a vital information component used to support processes and products for Military Information Support Operations, MILDEC, Civil Affairs and Key Leader Engagement, and for countering misinformation, dis-information and propaganda.
3. Battle Damage Assessment and Environmental Assessment – Visual documentation of battle damage sustained or inflicted, and visual documentation of environmental conditions before, during and after an operation or exercise.
4. Operational and Situational Assessment – Imagery to provide commanders a visual assessment of current conditions and variables on the ground.
5. Sensitive Site Exploitation (SSE) – Visual documentation of SSE collected on site and submitted for compilation, review and analysis.
6. Legal and Evidentiary Documentation, Investigation Support – Visual documentation used to refute or provide evidence, as well as a record of status, actions, conditions, etc., for potential or actual legal review or proceedings.
7. Intelligence – Imagery to provide to collection, analytics, assessments, facial recognition, etc.
8. Force Protection – Documentation and assessment of current measures, capabilities in place, potential threats or weaknesses, either adversary or own.
9. Counterdrug Operations – documentation of operational efforts, evidence and contraband seized, adversary TTPs.
10. Foreign Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief – Conditions, obstacles, requirements and efforts, for interagency and State Department situational awareness as well as for public release.
11. Noncombatant Evacuation – Documenting the progress and challenges of evacuating noncombatant personnel from areas of concern, especially for situational awareness at higher DoD and State Department levels.

12. Public Affairs – providing imagery of operations and engagements specifically for public release to the media, especially in areas out of reach of normal PA assets or civilian media.

13. Historical Documentation – Documentation of all aspects of operations from beginning to end for the historical record.

## GLOSSARY

- a. **Combat Camera.** 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 by COMCAM forces specifically trained, organized, equipped, and tasked to provide such support. Also called COMCAM.
- b. **COMCAM Forces.** U.S. military personnel specially trained and employed to acquire, process and transmit classified and unclassified still and motion imagery in support of air, sea and ground military operations including combat operations. COMCAM forces reside in specially designated units or as organic COMCAM embedded in combat units.
- c. **COMCAM Imagery.** Still and motion images of military operations, equipment, and personnel acquired by COMCAM forces, regardless of the medium in which the images are acquired, transmitted or displayed.
- d. **Imagery.** A visual representation of a person, place, or thing recorded and stored in any format, in electronic or in a physical medium.
- e. **Visual Information.** Use of one or more of the various visual media with or without sound. Generally, visual information includes still photography, motion picture photography, video or audio recording, graphic arts, visual aids, models, display, visual presentation services, and the support processes. Also called VI.
- f. **Visual Information Documentation.** Motion still and audio recording of technical and non-technical events made while they occur, usually not under the production control of the recording element. Visual information (VI) documentation includes documentation by COMCAM forces. Also called VIDOC.

(INTENTIONALLY BLANK)