



# CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION

---

J-3  
DISTRIBUTION: A, B, C, JS-LAN

CJCSI 3205.01C  
27 January 2010

## JOINT COMBAT CAMERA (COMCAM)

### References:

- a. DOD Instruction 5040.04, 6 June 2006, "Joint Combat Camera (COMCAM) Program"
- b. CJCSM 3122.01A, 29 September 2006 (current as of 6 December 2007), "Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPES)"
- c. CJCSM 3122.03C, 17 August 2007 (current as of 3 May 2004), "Joint Operation Planning and Execution System Volume II, Planning Formats and Guidance"
- d. Joint Publication 1-02, Amended 19 August 2009, "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 immeasurable value to decision makers in the OSD, Joint Staff, and combatant commands. COMCAM imagery is also significant for public affairs, public diplomacy and psychological operations.

2. Cancellation. CJCSI 3205.01B, 25 August 2006, "Joint Combat Camera."

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, and joint exercises. This instruction provides direction on

execution oversight of COMCAM mission requirements.

b. COMCAM imagery is a fundamental tool of decision makers and commanders that provides essential battlefield information. 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. It is a deployable force multiplier that provides commanders with combat-trained documentation teams that are primary suppliers of operational imagery to support battlefield information superiority.

d. Commanders involved in wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, 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. 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 Volumes I and II (references b and c) and DODI 5040.4. 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 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 OSD Defense Visual Information Directorate 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 Joint Imagery Management Operations Cell (JIMOC) from Service-specific assets for use in a particular theater or crisis. The Defense Visual Information, 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 or as 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.

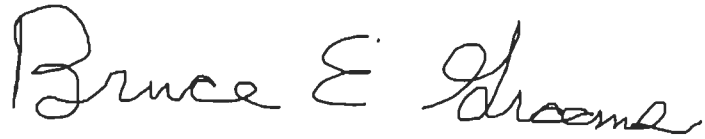
(4) Ensure the Service components establish COMCAM POCs in its information operations directorates.

7. Summary of Changes. This version has been changed to mirror the recently established Defense Imagery Management Operations Center (DIMOC) and the in-theater Joint Imagery Management Operations Cell (JIMOC) and disestablishment of the Joint Combat Camera Center (JCCC).

8. Releasability. This instruction is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited. DOD components (to include the combatant commands), other Federal agencies, and the public may obtain copies of this instruction through the Internet from the CJCS Directives Home Page--  
[http://www.dtic.mil/cjcs\\_directives](http://www.dtic.mil/cjcs_directives).

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

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce E. Grooms". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

B. E. GROOMS  
RADM, USN  
Vice Director, Joint Staff

Enclosure:

GL - Glossary

(INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)

## 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. Also called COMCAM.
- b. COMCAM Imagery. Visual information documentation covering air, sea and ground actions of the Armed Forces of the United States in combat or combat support operations in related peacetime training activities such as exercises, war games, and operations.
- c. Imagery. A likeness or presentation of any natural or man-made feature or related object or activity, and the positional data acquired at the same time the likeness or representation was acquired, including: products produced by space-based national intelligence reconnaissance systems; and likeness and presentations produced by satellites, airborne platforms, unmanned aerial vehicles, or other similar means (except that such term does not include handheld or clandestine photography taken by or on behalf of human intelligence collection organizations).
- d. Operational Documentation. Visual information documentation of activities to convey information about people, places, and things. It is general purpose documentation normally accomplished in peacetime. Also called OPDOC.
- e. Technical Documentation. Visual information documentation (with or without sound as an integral documentation component) of an actual event made for purposes of evaluation. Typically, technical documentation contributes to the study of human or mechanical factors, procedures, and processes in the fields of medicine, science, logistics, research, development, test and evaluation, intelligence, investigations, and armament delivery. Also called TECDOC.
- f. 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.
- g. Visual Information Documentation. Motion media, still photography, and audio recording of technical and nontechnical events while they occur, usually not controlled by the recording crew. Visual information documentation encompasses Combat Camera, operational documentation, and technical documentation. Also called VIDOC.

(INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)