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Joint Chiefs of Staff

The **Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS)** is the body of the most senior uniformed leaders within the <u>United States Department of Defense</u>, that advises the president of the <u>United States</u>, the secretary of defense, the <u>Homeland Security Council</u> and the National Security Council on military matters. The composition of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is defined by <u>statute</u> and consists of a <u>chairman (CJCS)</u>, a <u>vice chairman (VJCS)</u>, the service chiefs of the <u>Army</u>, <u>Marine Corps</u>, <u>Navy</u>, <u>Air Force</u>, <u>Space Force</u>, and the <u>chief of the National Guard Bureau. [1][2][JCS 1]</u> Each of the individual service chiefs, outside their JCS obligations, work directly under the secretaries of their respective military departments, e.g. the <u>secretary of the Army</u>, the secretary of the Navy, and the secretary of the Air Force. [3][4][5][6]

Following the <u>Goldwater–Nichols Act</u> in 1986, the Joint Chiefs of Staff do not have operational command authority, either individually or collectively, as the <u>chain of command</u> goes from the president to the secretary of defense, and from the secretary to the regional <u>combatant commanders</u>. Goldwater–Nichols also created the office of vice chairman, and the chairman is now designated as the principal military adviser to the secretary of defense, the Homeland Security Council, the National Security Council and the president.

The <u>Joint Staff</u> (JS) is a headquarters staff in the <u>Pentagon</u>, composed of personnel from each of the six service branches, that assists the chairman and the vice chairman in discharging their responsibilities and is managed by the <u>director of the Joint Staff</u> (DJS).[9]

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Administration				
Parent	U.S. Department of			
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Staff	The Joint Staff (for the			
organization	Chairman and the Vice			
	Chairman; the service chiefs			
	and the National Guard			
	Bureau chief have their own			
	staffs assisting them)			
Seat	The Pentagon			

Role and responsibilities

After the 1986 reorganization of the Armed Forces undertaken by the Goldwater–Nichols Act, the Joint Chiefs of Staff does not possess operational authority over troops or other units. Responsibility for conducting military operations goes from the president to the secretary of defense directly to the commanders of the unified combatant commands and thus bypasses the Joint Chiefs of Staff completely.

Today, their primary responsibility is to ensure personnel readiness, policy, planning and training of their respective services for the combatant commanders to utilize. The Joint Chiefs of Staff also act in an advisory capacity for the president of the



The Joint Chiefs of Staff in December 2020.

United States and the secretary of defense. In addition, the <u>chairman</u> of the Joint Chiefs of <u>Staff</u> acts as the chief military advisor to the president and the secretary of defense. In this strictly advisory role, the Joint Chiefs constitute the third-highest deliberatory body for military policy, after the <u>National Security Council</u> and the <u>Homeland Security Council</u>, which includes the president and other officials besides the chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

While serving as the chairman or vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, chief of staff of the Army, commandant of the Marine Corps, Chief of Naval Operations, chief of staff of the Air Force, or commandant of the Coast Guard, the salary is \$15,583.20 a month, [10] regardless of cumulative years of service completed under section 205 of title 37, United States Code.

Current members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Position	Photograph	Name	Service	Flag
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	General Mark A. Milley	<u>United States Army</u>	**
Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff		General John E. Hyten	United States Air Force	**
Chief of Staff of the Army		General James C. McConville	<u>United States Army</u>	* * *
Commandant of the Marine Corps	÷ × × × × × × × × × × × × × × × × × × ×	General David H. Berger	United States Marine Corps	* * * *
Chief of Naval Operations	****	Admiral Michael M. Gilday	<u>united States Navy</u>	* * *
Chief of Staff of the Air Force		General Charles Q. Brown Jr.	United States Air Force	**
Chief of Space Operations	≥ 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	General John W. Raymond	United States Space Force	***
Chief of the National Guard Bureau		General Daniel R. Hokanson	United States Army	* * *

Commandant of the Coast Guard

Although it is a branch of the Armed Forces pursuant to 14 U.S.C. § 101 (https://www.law.cornell.edu/us code/text/14/101), the Coast Guard operates under the Department of Homeland Security rather than the Department of Defense, except when the president (e.g., in times of war or national emergency) transfers it to the Department of the Navy. [11] The commandant of the Coast Guard is not a *de jure* member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff but is sometimes regarded as a *de facto* member, being entitled to the same supplemental pay as the Joint Chiefs, [12] and occasionally attending meetings of the JCS by invitation. [13] Unlike the Joint Chiefs, who are not actually in the military's operational chain of command, the commandant is both the administrative and the operational commander of the service.

Position	Photograph	Name	Service	Flag
Commandant of the Coast Guard	INITE	Admiral Karl L. Schultz	<u>w</u> United States Coast Guard	* * *

History

Joint Board

As the U.S. military grew in size following the American Civil War, joint military action between the Army and Navy became increasingly difficult. The Army and Navy were unsupportive of each other at either the planning or operational level and were constrained by disagreements during the Spanish–American War in the Caribbean campaigns. [14][15] The Joint Army and Navy Board was established in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt, comprising representatives from the military heads and chief planners of both the Navy's General Board and the Army's General Staff. The Joint Board acting as an "advisory committee" was created to plan joint operations and resolve problems of common rivalry between the two services. [14][15]

Yet, the Joint Board accomplished little, as its charter gave it no authority to enforce its decisions. The Joint Board also lacked the ability to originate its own opinions and was thus limited to commenting only on the problems submitted to it by the secretaries of war and Navy. As a result, the Joint Board had little to no impact on the manner in which the United States conducted World War I.



United States secretary of defense Harold
Brown and deputy secretary of defense
Charles W. Duncan Jr with Chairman of
the Joint Chiefs of Staff General George
S. Brown and the other members of the
Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon 1977.

After World War I, in 1919 the two secretaries agreed to reestablish and revitalize the Joint Board. The mission of the General Staff was to develop plans for mobilization for the next war; the U.S. was always designated "blue" and potential enemies were assigned various other colors. [16]

This time, the Joint Board's membership would include the chiefs of staff, their deputies, and the chief of war plans division for the Army and director of plans division for the Navy. Under the Joint Board would be a staff called the Joint Planning Committee to serve the board. Along with new membership, the Joint

Board could initiate recommendations on its own initiative. However, the Joint Board still did not possess the legal authority to enforce its decisions.

World War II

U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt and British prime minister Winston Churchill established the Combined Chiefs of Staff (CCS) during the 1942 Arcadia Conference. [17] The CCS would serve as the supreme military body for strategic direction of the joint U.S.-UK war effort.

The UK portion of the CCS would be composed of the British Chiefs of Staff Committee, but the United States had no equivalent body. The Joint Board's lack of authority made it of little use to the CCS, although its 1935 publication, Joint Action of the Army and Navy, did give some guidance for the joint operations during World War II. The Joint Board had little influence during the war and was ultimately disbanded in 1947.

As a counterpart to the UK's Chiefs of Staff Committee in the CCS, and to provide better coordinated effort and coordinated staff work for America's military effort, Admiral William D. Leahy proposed a "unified high command" in what would come to be called the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Modeled on the British Chiefs of Staff Committee, the JCS' first formal meeting was held on 9 February 1942, to coordinate operations between War and Navy Departments. [17][18] The official history of the Army



Joint Chiefs of Staff meeting (circa 1943). From left to right are: Gen. Henry H.

Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Forces;

Adm. William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy; Adm. Ernest J. King, Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations; and Gen. George C.

Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

Air Forces noted that although there was "no official charter establishing this committee...by the end of February it had assumed responsibilities toward the American war effort comparable to the CCS on the combined level." On 20 July 1942, Admiral Leahy became the "Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief", with all individual service chiefs operating under his authority.

The first members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were: [20]

Name	Service	Position
Admiral William D. Leahy	USN	Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy Special Presidential Military Advisor
General George C. Marshall	USA	Chief of Staff of the United States Army (CSUSA)
Admiral Ernest J. King	USN	Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations (COMINCH-CNO)
General Henry H. 'Hap' Arnold	USA	Chief of the Army Air Forces and Deputy Chief of Staff for Air

Each of the members of the original Joint Chiefs was a four-star flag or general officer in his service branch. By the end of the war each had been promoted: Leahy and King to <u>Fleet Admiral</u>; Marshall and Arnold to General of the Army. Arnold was later appointed to the grade of General of the Air Force.

One of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's committees was the Joint Strategic Survey Committee (JSSC). The JSSC, "one of the most influential planning agencies in the wartime armed forces", was an extraordinary JCS committee that existed from 1942 until 1947. [21] Members included Lieutenant General Stanley D.

Embick, U.S. Army, chairman, 1942–1946, Vice Admiral Russell Willson, U.S. Navy, 1942–1945, Vice Admiral Theodore Stark Wilkinson, U.S. Navy, 1946, and Major General Muir S. Fairchild, U.S. Army Air Force, 1942–?.

National Security Act of 1947

With the end of World War II, the Joint Chiefs of Staff was officially established under the National Security Act of 1947. Per the National Security Act, the JCS consisted of a chairman, the chief of staff of the Army, the chief of staff of the Air Force (which was established as a separate service by the same Act), and the chief of naval operations. The commandant of the Marine Corps was to be consulted on matters concerning the Corps, but was not a regular member; General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Commandant in 1952–55, was the first to sit as an occasional member. The law was amended during the term of General Louis H. Wilson, Jr. (1975–79), making the commandant a full-time JCS member in parity with the other three DoD services.

The position of vice chairman was created by the <u>Goldwater-Nichols Act</u> of 1986 to complement the CJCS, as well as to delegate some of the chairman's responsibilities, particularly resource allocation through the <u>Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC)</u>.

General Colin L. Powell (1989–1993) was the first African American to serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Charles Q. Brown Jr. was the first African-American to be appointed as Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force and the first African-American to lead any branch of the services. General Richard B. Myers (Chairman, 2001–2005) was the first Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Peter Pace (Vice Chairman 2001–2005; Chairman, 2005–2007) was the first Marine to serve in either position. No woman has ever served on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



The Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1960. From left to right are: Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer; Navy Chief of Operations, Adm. Arleigh Burke; Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Nathan F. Twining; Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Thomas D. White; Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David M. Shoup.



The Joint Chiefs of Staff and several combatant commanders gathered at the Pentagon on 1 July 1983.

National Defense Authorization Act of 2012

A provision in the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act added the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Guard historians called it the "most significant development" for the National Guard since the Militia Act of 1903. $\boxed{1}$

National Defense Authorization Act of 2020

The 2020 National Defense Authorization Act established the U.S. Space Force on 20 December 2019. The Space Force is headed by the chief of space operations, who reports directly to the secretary of the Air Force. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 9082 (https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/10/9082), the chief

of space operations became a statutory member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 20 December 2020. [22]

Organization and leadership positions

Chairman

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is, by law, the highest-ranking military officer of the United States Armed Forces, and the principal military adviser to the president of the United States. He leads the meetings and coordinates the efforts of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, comprising the chairman, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the chief of staff of the United States Army, the commandant of the United States Marine Corps, the chief of naval operations, the chief of staff of the United States Air Force, the Chief of Space Operations (statutory member after December 2020), and the chief of the National Guard Bureau. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have offices in the Pentagon. The chairman outranks all service chiefs, but does not maintain authority over them, their branches or the Unified Combatant



The Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2002

Commands. [24] All combatant commanders receive their orders directly from the secretary of defense. [25]

On 20 July 1942, Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy became Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief (20 July 1942 – 21 March 1949). He was not technically the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Leahy's office was the precursor to the post of "Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff". That post was established and first held by General of the Army Omar Bradley in 1949.

The current and 20th chairman is General Mark A. Milley, who began his tenure on 30 September 2019.

Vice Chairman

The position of <u>Vice Chairman</u> of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was created by the <u>Goldwater-Nichols Act</u> of 1986. The vice chairman is a four-star-general or <u>admiral</u> and, by law, is the second highest-ranking member of the U.S. Armed Forces (after the chairman). In the absence of the chairman, the vice chairman presides over the meetings of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He may also perform such duties as the chairman may prescribe. It was not until the National Defense Authorization Act in 1992 that the position was made a full voting member of the JCS. [26]

The current vice chairman is General John E. Hyten, who began his tenure on 21 November 2019.

Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman

The senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (SEAC) advises on all matters concerning joint and combined total force integration, utilization, development, and helps develop noncommissioned officers related joint professional education, enhance utilization of senior NCOs on joint battle staffs, and support the chairman's responsibilities as directed.

Command Sergeant Major <u>William Gainey</u>, was the first SEAC, serving from 1 October 2005. The current SEAC is <u>Ramón Colón-López</u>, who was sworn in by General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on 13 December 2019, replacing SEAC John W. Troxell.

Joint Staff

The Joint Staff (**JS**)^{[27][28]}:2020-01-24-100230-123 is a military headquarters staff based at the Pentagon, (with offices in Hampton Roads, Virginia, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington and Fort McNair, District of Columbia) composed of personnel from all the five armed services, assisting the chairman and the vice chairman in discharging their responsibilities. They work closely with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the military department staffs, and the Combatant Command staffs.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) is assisted by the director of the Joint Staff (DJS), a three-star officer who assists the chairman with the management of the Joint Staff, an organization composed of approximately equal numbers of officers contributed by the Army, the Navy and Marine Corps, the Air Force, and the Coast Guard, who have been assigned to assist the chairman in providing to the secretary of defense unified strategic direction, operation, and integration of the combatant land, naval, space, and air forces.

The <u>27th</u> secretary of defense has tasked the Joint Staff with developing a <u>Joint Warfighting Concept [JadConcept 1]</u> for the services by December <u>2020. [29]</u> Developing Joint all-domain command and control (JADC2) as a concept [JadConcept 1] is a key goal of the <u>20th CJCS. [29]</u> An OSD/Joint Staff <u>Cross-Functional Team</u> for JADC2 is <u>underway. [30]</u> The 27th secretary of defense ordered the four services and the Joint Staff to create a new joint warfighting concept for All-domain operations, operating simultaneously in the air, land, sea, space, cyber, and the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS). [31] The Joint Chiefs and Combatant Commanders witnessed demonstrations of the concept in September 2020. [32]

Organization

The Joint Staff includes the following departments where all the planning, policies, <u>intelligence</u>, <u>manpower</u>, communications and logistics functions are translated into action. [33]

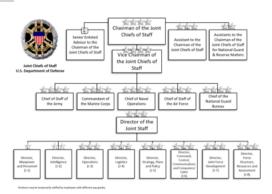
- Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - Director, Joint Staff assists the Chairman in his role as advisor to the President and Secretary of Defense, coordinates and directs activities of the Joint Staff in support of the Chairman, and serves as the staff inspector general.

Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge Agency overview Formed 1949 Headquarters The Pentagon Employees Approx. 1,500 Agency Lt Gen Glen D. executive VanHerck (DJS)

Department of

Defense

The Joint Staff



Parent

agency

The Joint Staff Organization Chart as of March 2018

- Vice Director, Joint Staff
 - J1 Director, Manpower and Personnel
 - J2 Director, Intelligence
 - J3 Director, Operations
 - J4 Director, Logistics
 - J5 Director, Strategy, Plans, and Policy
 - J6 Director, Command, Control, Communications, and Computers / Chief Information Officer
 - J7 Director, Joint Force Development
 - J8 Director, Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment
 - Director of Management
 - Joint History Office record activities of the chairman and the Joint Staff
- Assistant to the Chairman oversees matters requiring close personal control by the chairman with particular focus on international relations and politicomilitary concerns
- Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman (SEAC) advisor to the chairman on all matters involving joint and combined total force integration, utilization, health of the force, and joint development for enlisted personnel



Members of The Joint Chiefs of Staff with U.S. Secretary of Defense in 1973.



The Joint Chiefs of Staff (seated) and the directors of the Joint Staff directorates (standing), November 1989.

Directorates of the Joint Staff

The Joint Staff includes the following departments where all the planning, policies, <u>intelligence</u>, manpower, communications and logistics functions are translated into action. [33]

- Joint Staff Information Management Division (United States)
- DOM Directorate of Management
- J1 Personnel and Manpower
- J2 Intelligence
 - The National Military <u>Joint Intelligence Center</u> (NMJIC) is part of the J2 directorate and is staffed by Defense Intelligence Agency personnel
- J3 Operations
 - The <u>National Military Command Center</u> (NMCC) is part of the J3 directorate
- J4 Logistics
- J5 Strategic Plans and Policy
- J6 Command, Control, Communications and Computers/Cyber^[34]
 - The J-6 directorate is one of a group of agencies that administer the <u>SIPRNet</u>. Other administrators include: the <u>National Security Agency</u>, the <u>Defense Intelligence Agency</u>, and the Defense Information Systems Agency. [35] The J-6 chairs the DOD's Military Command, Control,

Communications, and Computers Executive Board (MC4EB)^[36] which works in conjunction with the multinational Combined Communications-Electronics Board.

- The J-6 <u>Joint Deployable Analysis Team (JDAT)</u> conducts assessments in conjunction with Combatant Command exercises, experiments, and test and evaluation events.^[37]
- J7 Joint Force Development
 - The J-7 is responsible for the six functions of joint force development: Doctrine, Education, Concept Development & Experimentation, Training, Exercises and Lessons Learned.
- J8 Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment

Joint Chiefs of Staff: Civilian awards

The Joint Chiefs may recognize private citizens, organizations or career civilian government employees for significant achievements provided to the joint community with one of the following decorations/awards. [38]

- CJCS Award for Distinguished Public Service (DPS)
- CJCS Award for Outstanding Public Service (OPS)
- CJCS Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award
- CJCS Joint Meritorious Civilian Service Award
- Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award (JCSCA)
- Joint Civilian Service Achievement Award (JCSAA)

Coast Guard

Although, as discussed above, the <u>commandant of the Coast Guard</u> is not an <u>ex officio</u> member of the JCS like the other service chiefs, Coast Guard officers are legally eligible to be appointed as Chairman and Vice Chairman, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 152(a)(1) (https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/10/152 #a_1) and 10 U.S.C. § 154(a)(1) (https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/10/154#a_1) respectively, which use the collective term "armed forces" rather than listing the eligible services, as well as to other positions on the Joint Staff. As of 2020, no Coast Guard officer has been appointed Chairman or Vice Chairman, but Coast Guard officers routinely serve on the JCS staff, including one <u>vice admiral</u> who was appointed to serve as J6 in 2016.

Gallery









The Joint Chiefs of Members Staff during its early Joint Chiefs of Staff Staff in 1961. days in 1949.

at The Pentagon in 1958.

of the The Joint Chiefs of The Joint Chiefs of

Staff in 1971.







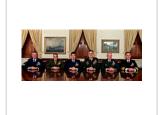


Staff in 1977.

The Joint Chiefs of The Joint Chiefs of Members Staff in 1981.

of Joint Chiefs of Staff Staff in 1986. during President Ronald Reagan Inaugural Parade in January 20, 1981.

the The Joint Chiefs of









Staff in 1997

The Joint Chiefs of The Joint Chiefs of Members Staff in 2002.

of Joint Chiefs of Staff Staff at the Senate render a salute for Armed the late President Committee Ronald Reagan at testimony in The Andrews Air Force Capitol Hill 2010. Base in 2004.

the The Joint Chiefs of Services

See also

- Armed Forces Council (Canada)
- Chiefs of Staff Committee (United Kingdom)
- General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation
- General Staff of the Israel Defense Forces
- Joint Chiefs of Staff (Republic of Korea)
- Staff (military) see Modern United States military usage for organization of Joint Staff (J1 through J8)

Notes

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 - All of the Joint Chiefs, except for the Commandant of the Marine Corps, are working from home as of 6 October 2020 as a result of possible exposure to COVID-19 from Vice Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Adm. Charles Ray during several recent meetings of the chiefs.
- 1. JADC2 as a concept— Like the Integrated Tactical Network, instances of a concept can exist before acquisition— see PEO C3T (2018) Integrated Tactical Network (https://peoc3t.army.mil/tr/itn.php)

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- 12. <u>37 U.S.C.</u> § 414(a)(5) (https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/37/414#a_5) Personal money allowance (\$4,000 per annum in 2009)
- 13. The Changing of the Guard (http://nation.time.com/2012/01/04/the-changing-of-the-guard/)
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- 30. Theresa Hitchens (14 November 2019) OSD & Joint Staff Grapple With Joint All-Domain Command (https://breakingdefense.com/2019/11/osd-joint-staff-grapple-with-joint-all-domain-command/)
- 31. Colin Clark (18 Feb 2020) Gen. Hyten On The New American Way of War: All-Domain Operations (https://breakingdefense.com/2020/02/gen-hyten-on-the-new-american-way-of-war-all-domain-operations/)
 - "A computer-coordinated fight": in the air, land, sea, space, cyber, and the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS)
 - "forces from satellites to foot soldiers to submarines sharing battle data at machine-to-machine speed"
 - "it's the ability to integrate and effectively command and control all domains in a conflict or in a crisis seamlessly"—Gen. Hyten, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs
 - All-Domain Operations use global capabilities: "space, cyber, deterrent [the nuclear triad (for mutually assured destruction in the Cold War, an evolving concept in itself)], transportation, electromagnetic spectrum operations, missile defense"
- 32. Theresa Hitchens (3 Sep 2020) ABMS Demo Proves AI Chops For C2 (https://breakingdefense.com/2020/09/abms-demo-proves-ai-chops-for-c2/) The acquisition method for several of the capabilities being demonstrated would be indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (ID/IQ), but the decisions to buy would be made by the Combatant Commands. —Air Force acquisition executive Will Roper
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External links

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- Joint Action of the Army and the Navy (http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USN/ref/Joint/index.html)
 (1935 Joint Board publication)
- Joint Chiefs of Staff (https://archive.org/details/joint-chiefs) on the Internet Archive

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