



**NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND
AND
UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND**



OCT 13 2009

Mr Secretary / Chairman
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

FROM: Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM
250 Vandenberg St Ste B016
Peterson AFB CO 80914-3801

SUBJECT: Defense Science Board (DSB) Task Force on Achieving Interoperability in a
Net-Centric Environment

1. We have thoroughly reviewed the subject DSB report and would like to thank the DSB Task Force for documenting many of the efforts in work among the active homeland security mission partners. As Department of Defense (DOD) experts in interoperability, we participated in the development of this report and shared many of our efforts and initiatives with the Task Force during its deliberations. We fully understand the importance of establishing interoperability with our mission partners—it has been a full time job for our staff since 1958.
2. Through our involvement with this Task Force we have re-affirmed our commitment to on-going efforts and enhanced our perspective for the way ahead. However, much work has been done since this Task Force's efforts concluded in October 2008, including a change to the DOD construct to meet these new challenges (e.g. Quadrennial Defense Review and standup of Cyber Command).
3. I am confident that through our well established interagency relationships we have properly prioritized the issues identified within this report and other actions required to provide untethered, and persistent, collaboration among our mission partners before, during, and after a crisis. We have addressed these through existing programs such as our Integrated Priority List, Joint Mission Essential Tasks, Joint Concept Technology Demonstrations, cooperative opportunities of the Defense Interoperability Communications Exercises, and the Coalition Warfighter Interoperability Demonstrations, as well as combined Tier I and II training events, and synchronization of DOD and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) science and technology efforts.
4. The responsibility to ensure there is steady and continual improvement in interagency interoperability clearly lies with DHS, NORAD and USNORTHCOM as the Nation's leads for homeland security and homeland defense. Establishing an additional oversight group, as recommended in the DSB report, strains limited resourcing and would not be consistent with the authority and responsibilities assigned to the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Combatant Commander as defined in the Unified Command Plan.
5. Our point of contact is RDML Webber, N-NC/J6, DSN: 692-3475.

*Chris - ✓/R -
Gene*
VICTOR E. RENUART, JR.
General, USAF

cc:
ASD/HD Secretary Stockton
USD/AT&L Honorable Ashton Carter

OSD 11702-09

