



**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

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MCM 0044-08
23 December 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chiefs of the Services
Commanders of the Combatant Commands
Commander, U.S. Element, NORAD

Subject: Distribution of Unified Command Plan 2008 (UCP 08)

1. The President approved UCP 08 (enclosure) on 17 December 2008, and it is effective immediately.

2. The UCP establishes the missions and responsibilities for commanders of combatant commands and establishes their geographic areas of responsibility. UCP 08 revisions include the following:

a. Codifies USAFRICOM as a geographic combatant command through assignment of specific missions, responsibilities, and geographic boundaries; the command became fully operation capable 1 October 2008.

b. Codifies a new "Pandemic Influenza" mission and assigns it under USNORTHCOM.

c. Codifies a new "Cyberspace Operations" mission and assigns it under USSTRATCOM.

d. Applies a standardized "synchronizing planning" construct to the following global missions:

(1) Global Operations Against Terrorist Networks (USSTRATCOM)

(2) Pandemic Influenza (USNORTHCOM)

(3) Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (USSTRATCOM)

(4) Global Missile Defense (USSTRATCOM)

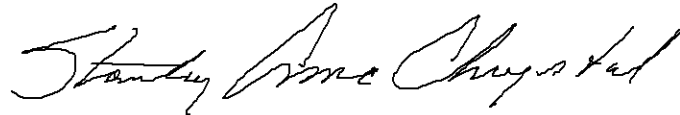
(5) Cyberspace Operations (USSTRATCOM)

e. Assigns all combatant commanders responsibility to plan and conduct military support to stability, security, transition, and reconstruction operations, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief.

f. Adopts a new format; organizes text into stand-alone combatant commander sections and streamlines the language for improved readability.

3. This memorandum supersedes MCM-0004-06, 31 May 2006, "Distribution of Unified Command Plan 2006 (UCP 06)."

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



STANLEY A. MCCHRYSTAL
Lieutenant General, USA
Director, Joint Staff

Enclosure

Copy to:

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Secretary of State
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 Military Staff Committee
USLO to SACLANT
USMNR to SHAPE
President, NDU

~~FOUO~~



Unified Command Plan

17 December 2008

~~FOUO~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 17, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Unified Command Plan 2008

Pursuant to my authority as Commander in Chief, I hereby approve and direct implementation of the revised Unified Command Plan.

Consistent with 10 U.S.C. 161(b)(2) and 3 U.S.C. 301, you are directed to notify the Congress on my behalf.

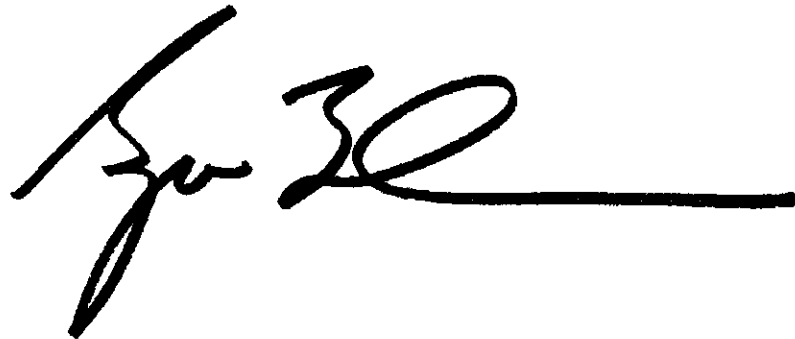
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Bush", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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UNIFIED COMMAND PLAN

GENERAL

1. The National Security Act of 1947 and title 10 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) provide the basis for the establishment of combatant commands. The Unified Command Plan (UCP) establishes the missions, responsibilities, and geographic areas of responsibility (AORs) for commanders of combatant commands (“combatant commanders”). A “geographic combatant commander” is a commander of a combatant command that includes a geographic AOR. A “functional combatant commander” is a commander of a combatant command with transregional responsibilities. Command of combatant commands will be exercised as provided for herein and as otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense (the “Secretary”).
2. Several key strategic documents provide direction for the execution of missions established in the UCP. Though not all-inclusive, the list of documents in Appendix A represents the core of such strategic direction and is hereafter referred to as “strategic guidance.”
3. Communications between the President or the Secretary (or their duly deputized alternates or successors) and the combatant commanders shall be transmitted through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (the “Chairman”) unless otherwise directed. Throughout this document, where not specified, “otherwise directed” and “as directed” refer to direction by the President or the Secretary.

