Pentagon plans four-star Autonomous Warfare Command by October 2027

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SECRETARY OF WAR

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MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP COMMANDERSOFTHECOMBATANTCOMMANDS DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOW FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Project Agincourt - Pathway to the Autonomous Warfare Command

-After its Cold War victory, the U.S. steadily reduced its budget allocation for defense. Our military adapted by buying fewer, increasingly sophisticated weapons - a strategy that worked for forty years. Warfare, however, has changed dramatically and suddenly. Advanced computing now enables precise, low-cost weapons to be produced at massive scale. These systems increasingly threaten our costly legacy platforms and disrupt our force projection. Urgent change is required. We do not have a decade to transition our procurement and doctrine. Procrastination puts American lives at risk.

To execute this mandate, I direct the Direct Reporting Portfolio Manager for Unmanned Systems (DRPM-UxS) to lead Project Agincourt. Project Agincourt will execute the following m1ss10ns:

• Establish the pathway to the Autonomous Warfare Command, a~ functional combatant co~d that will lead the Joint Force in unmanned anciautonomous

> wartare.

This command will possess directed manpower, budget, acquisition authorities and create dedicated military career pathways for Officers and Enlisted personnel. DRPM-UxS will drive the immediate organizational shifts required and collaborate directly with Congress to secure necessary legislation with a target establishment date of October 1, 2027.

• Execute the existing DRPM-UxS mission while prototyping a new acquisition model for unmanned and autonomous systems. Teaming operators with innovators and competitive manufacturers, DRPM-UxS will push decisions and dollars to the edge of our operational forces. This must yield a repeatable procurement system whose output is not a particular drone, but the ability to adapt in combat, on the right side of the cost exchange. Success requires fusing development with operations and aggressively scaling what works.

To spearhead this transformation, Owen West and Max Strasiser will serve as the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer, respectively, of the DRPM-UxS. DRPM-UxS will work collaboratively with the Services to recommend a rebalanced Joint Force investment allocation to the Deputy Secretary of War. Within 30 days of this memorandum, DRPM-UxS, with the support of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), will submit a plan of action and milestones (POAM) for my approval. Concurrently, the CJCS will designate a senior Joint Staff planning counterpart to support this effort. Initial work will proceed immediately under existing authorities, concurrent with the execution of the attached Accountability and Implementation Requirements.

1111111111111111 OSD010441-26/CM DO 13361-26 Autonomous Warfare Command will define joint needs and integrate Service-provided forces in support of geographic combatant commanders. It will test equipment and force designs with realistic opposition in demanding exercises and rugged environments, modify rapidly, and field

what works. We must build a wartime arsenal whose main product is adaptation at the edge. Our warfighters - and the American people who rely on them for protection - deserve nothing less.

Attachment: As stated

2Attachment Accountability and Implementation Requirements

1. Joint Plan. The 30-day POAM will identify priority operational efforts, Service force contributions, force-generation responsibilities, command relationships, DRPM-UxS absorption, test-and-update support, resources, required authorities, and milestones for command establishment. It will assign responsible officials, define initial operating capability, and identify measures of adaptation and Service adoption. Unresolved choices will include alternatives and recommended decisions. The Military Departments, affected combatant commands, and supporting offices will provide empowered representatives and identify available personnel, resources, and support, with shortfalls for decision. The target date for the establishment of the Autonomous Warfare Command is October 1, 2027.

2. Manning and Career Pathways. As part of the POAM, the Secretaries of the Military Departments, coordinated by the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness, will provide phased manning plans and proposals to establish or adapt military occupational specialties (MOSs), ratings, or equivalent career fields for unmanned and autonomous systems. These proposals will address immediate staffing under existing authorities, enduring training and career progression, and resource requirements, building on existing specialties and identifying gaps.

3. Accountability. DRPM-UxS will report monthly to me on operational results, Service adoption, progress against the plan, and decisions required. Unresolved matters will be raised promptly to the Deputy Secretary for resolution within delegated authority or elevated to me.