



ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

MAR 10 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR A&S DIRECT REPORTS

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Joint Production Accelerator Cell

I am establishing the Joint Production Accelerator Cell (JPAC) within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment (OUSD A&S). The JPAC is charged with building enduring industrial production capacity, resiliency, and surge capability for key defense weapon systems and supplies.

OUSD(A&S) will institutionalize and substantially restructure the Munitions Industrial Deep Dive (MIDD) from a crisis-management, reactive team to one that proactively and continuously analyzes and identifies opportunities to optimize production capacity, resiliency, and surge ability. Further, we propose expanding its scope beyond munitions to defense weapons systems and suppliers overall.

The JPAC, will serve as a key enabler of the National Defense Strategy (NDS), focused on building Enduring Advantages in the form of an agile defense industrial base to counter the pacing challenge and other evolving threats to U.S. national security. It will also further Administration priorities to revitalize the overall domestic U.S. industrial base and leverage the industrial capabilities of our allies and partners to achieve national security and economic security goals.

The JPAC will focus on developing actionable recommendations to build production capacity for a specific set of weapons systems. These systems may evolve with the threat environment, and will be selected by USD(A&S) based on periodic deliberative processes with senior Department leaders. Ultimately, the JPAC will be the principal advisor to USD(A&S) on the optimal production strategies for these systems and sub-components to meet current demand from the Department and allies and partners, while building hedges for future contingencies and being sustainable over the long-term through the following objectives:

1. Analyze production capacity for systems and key subcomponents and identify the limiting factors to meeting known U.S. and ally/partner demand and potential surge contingencies;
2. Recommend mitigations to address production constraints, including funding and non-funding solutions;
3. Explore opportunities to integrate digital engineering and advanced manufacturing techniques at scale for major weapons systems;
4. Provide guidance to senior Department leaders on impact of potential acquisition, budget, and policy decisions on suppliers and production capacity;
5. Engage industry stakeholders and manufacturing experts to integrate best practices into the defense industrial base and keep pace with modern manufacturing;

6. Develop authoritative data sources within the Department for production information on key weapon systems and their component parts.

I will serve as the senior OSD oversight and coordinating representative for the JPAC, and provide support to the team in leveraging DoD and other government agency resources.

The JPAC will be led by an Executive Director, to which I am appointing Dr. Erin Simpson effective immediately. The Executive Director of JPAC will serve as the principal advisor to USD(A&S) on optimal production strategies for selected systems and sub-components to meet current demand from the Department and allies and partners, while building hedges for future contingencies and being sustainable over the long-term. The Executive Director will be responsible for management and execution of all JPAC activities and coordination with other components in the Department.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. A. LaPlante'.

William A. LaPlante