February 28, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

Subj: NAVY MARINE CORPS PORTAL POLICY GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM
        NUMBER 1

     The Department of the Navy (DON) is rapidly deploying
significant information management capabilities that will
provide substantial enhancements to the daily operations and
quality of the workforce of the Navy-Marine Corps team.
Knowledge sharing, access, interoperability and security will be
significantly enhanced through the implementation of the Navy
Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) and fleet forces are being equipped
with the most advanced Command, Control, Communications, and
Computer (C4) capabilities through the Information Technology
for the 21st Century (IT21) program. Network infrastructures in
overseas locations are being enhanced by the Navy Base Level
Information Infrastructure (BLII) program, and the fielding of a
Marine Corps digital backbone to support the Marine Corps
Operating Forces. These infrastructure programs will provide the
foundation for seamless access to information across DON. As
this integrated environment is established, it will provide
every Sailor, Marine and civilian in the Department with the
hardware and basic tools necessary to efficiently access and
effectively use our information and knowledge assets.

     In order to realize the benefits of our significant
information technology infrastructure investment, a framework
for organizing, managing and accessing department information
must be established. This framework will be a single integrated
enterprise portal structure for use throughout DON.

     Portals are web-based, user-customized, network accessible
Information Technology systems that provide a single point of
access to multiple systems and information resources. The Navy
Marine Corps Portal will be one component of several to satisfy
the information management infrastructure requirement within
DON. Other components will likely include NMCI, IT-21 and BLII,
other initiatives (Enterprise IT Architecture, Data Management &
Interoperability), and modification to functional business
processes and Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures.

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The NMCP will be a single integrated enterprise portal structure that promotes a knowledge-centric environment, which will:

  a. Limit duplicative investments in portal technology within DON

  b. Improve efficiency and effectiveness in portal usage through reduction in investments, promotion of common best practices and facilitation of authoritative data bases

  c. Promote DON-wide process engineering

  d. Support functional and organizational collaboration across the DON.

The DON is committed to capitalizing on its new integrated infrastructure by the deployment of the NMCP across the DON. The NMCP will provide improved access to applications and will enable collaboration across the DON. The NMCP will be the access portal for sharing DON information with other DoD Components, federal agencies, and coalition forces across their Enterprise Portals/Information Systems.

As we embark on this effort, it will be imperative that we focus on incorporating evolving technologies while, at the same time, providing continuity of operations. Therefore, the *NMCP* technical architecture must be flexible, conform to commercially accepted "web service" standards, and be consistent with both commercial and DON standards, in order to ensure interoperability and security. The use of Extensible Markup Language (*XML*) based "web service" standards must comply with the "*DON Chief Information Officer (CIO) XML Developers Guide.*" We must also continue to seek the best solutions from across the Department of the Navy and not stifle innovation. Lessons learned and user requirements from ongoing portal development efforts will be incorporated into the NMCP development. Our end objective will be a single NMCP which will provide shared information to the entire Department and other potential users yet, contain sufficient flexibility to be customized by commands, functional communities, and individual users.

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     This is the first in a series of guidance memoranda, which
will issue NMCP policy and standards. The following are the
fundamental operating principles.

     The NMCP shall:

     a. Be capable of integrating and viewing data from shared
sources and accessing the data or applications using the DON
Chief Information Officer (CIO) specified commercial standards
for web services. Additional standards to ensure
interoperability will be kept to a minimum. Using these
standards the NMCP will ensure interoperability with other
Military Department and DoD portals. The DON CIO shall ensure
that test procedures and criteria are established to ensure
interoperability during NMCP development.

     b.   Provide access to Constituent (Subordinate) Portals.

          (1) Web services delivered through Constituent Portals
must be registered in the NMCP Service Registries.   When
accessed through the NMCP, these web services will incorporate
the NMCP "common look and feel".

          (2) Local, command level content pages within the
Constituent Portals will be accessed through the NMCP.

          (3) Applications that cannot be decomposed into web
services will be accessed through the Constituent Portals using
the NMCP single sign-on.

          (4) Ultimately, access to Constituent Portals will occur
only through the NMCP. This will happen after NMCP is fully
developed and the Constituent Portals have had a reasonable time
to integrate into NMCP.

          (5) Further development of Constituent Portals must
incorporate NMCP integration and architecture into their system
design.

          (6) "Single sign-on" authorization from the NMCP will be
used for the Constituent Portal access.

     c.   Provide single point access with "single sign-on"
authorizations to all web services, applications and

authoritative data sources. "Single sign-on" will use the
Department of Defense Public Key Infrastructure on the Common
Access Card (CAC) as the enabling mechanism.

    d. Employ a modular, standards based, technical
architecture with non-proprietary implementation designed to
rapidly respond to technology change.

    e. Once fully developed and implemented, be the portal for
all Navy and Marine Corps commands, and will also serve as the
access through which all Navy and Marine Corps Commands will
access information for mission accomplishment.

    f. Be a component of the DON information management
structure along with the planned and existing NMCI, IT21 and
BLII network infrastructure and architecture.

    The DON Information Leadership Council acting in
conjunction with Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research,
Development and Acquisition (ASN(RD&A)) and other appropriate
authorities will, in the near future, coordinate the nomination
of the NMCP Program Manager. Designation of the NMCP Program
Manager and the NMCP Portal Manager and any necessary
realignment of resources must be accomplished during Fiscal Year
(FY) 2003 to begin to achieve the efficiencies associated with
an integrated, DON-wide portal structure. In the interim, all
Navy and Marine Corps commands should ensure that on-going or
planned initiatives conform to the above operating principles
for the enterprise portal structure.

    Additionally, the DON CIO shall:

    a. Identify a common set of commercial standards for web
services and portal integration. This will constitute the NMCP
Portal technical architecture.

    b. Initiate the development of a common set of taxonomies
to be implemented across the NMCP. Taxonomy development will
include input from all major claimants to ensure all relative
taxonomy profiles for operational and administrative
requirements are included. This will constitute the NMCP Portal
operational architecture.

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     It is imperative that we embark on this path toward
universal interoperability designed to share knowledge and
functionality. My point of contact for this matter is Ms.
Gretchen Schlag, (703) 602-6729, schlag.gretchen@hq.navy.mil.

Hansford T Johnson

Hansford T. Johnson
Secretary of the Navy
Acting

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