THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Environmental Management System

The Department of Defense (DoD) must recognize and seize opportunities to enhance its overall mission performance through better environmental management. Environmental management must become an active tool for mission effectiveness and efficiency. Systematic environmental management must be an integral part of our day-to-day decision-making and long-term planning processes across all missions, activities and functions. To that end, DoD Components shall adopt an environmental management system and work to integrate it in all core business areas. Our goal is to establish robust systems that sustain compliance, avoid risk and pollution, inform the public, and promote interoperability among the DoD Components, other nations' militaries, and with industry.

Recognizing the diversity of our missions, each DoD Component shall implement an environmental management system that best suits its mission needs. Although it is not a requirement, DoD Components are encouraged to implement a complementary management system for safety and occupational health. They may also adopt the International Organization for Standardization Environmental Management System Standard, ISO 14001; however, DoD Components should pursue third party registration only when it provides a clear and documented benefit to the mission.

At a minimum, DoD Components shall implement a documented environmental management system meeting the requirements of Executive Order 13148, "Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management." In addition, each

DoD Component's environmental management system shall include the following elements:

- Public commitment by senior leaders to environmental compliance, pollution prevention, and continual improvement of the management system;
- Integrated planning, including goals and targets for reducing environmental impacts and supporting mission priorities;
- Operations to assure attainment of those goals and targets, and training to ensure individual competence and responsibility;
- Procedures for self-evaluation and corrective action, including priority inclusion of identified needs in budget processes; and
- Periodic review of the management system by senior leadership, with recommendations for improvement and publication of the review.

The importance of our missions demands this commitment to continual improvement in our environmental management systems. This is an untapped resource for improving our overall mission performance. Your leadership in achieving the full potential of this initiative is essential.

E. C. Aldridge, Jr.