

News Release



Defense Threat Reduction Agency

U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction

Standing Joint Force Headquarters for Elimination

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Department Realigns Counter-IED Capabilities Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency to move under Defense Threat Reduction Agency

WASHINGTON – The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics has notified Congress of the Department's intent to realign the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency (JIDA) under the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).

This move is in response to the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act which prohibited JIDA from standing up as a separate agency and directed the capabilities of JIDA be transitioned to a military department or an existing defense agency.

"Our core competencies have proven to be a mission enhancing capability that Congress and the Department want to retain, incorporate, and leverage in future endeavors to support the warfighter at the speed and scope of the modern battlefield," said Lt. Gen. Michael H. Shields, JIDA's director. "The NDAA language does not change our scope, focus, customers, or mission. JIDA's support to the combatant commands and deployed U.S. joint forces will continue unchanged."

Per the NDAA, Congress was informed last Friday, which responds to the NDAA requirement to notify to the congressional defense committees not later than Jan. 31, 2016.

"First and foremost, the Counter Improvised-Threat and the Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction missions will be preserved and enhanced under this transition. Both these missions are critical for the safety of the nation's warfighters and to the national security of our country and that of our allies," said Mr. Ken Myers, DTRA's director.

Congressional defense committees asked for a complete transition plan not later than Aug. 21, 2016 with transition completed not later than Sept. 30. Based on these deadlines, the two agencies will work collaboratively to develop and implement the transition plan.

"The NDAA language keeps us from growing headquarters functions—a consistent theme throughout the NDAA," Shields said. "More importantly, Congress clearly articulated their support to sustain the capabilities of JIDA."

Formerly the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), JIDA began transition as the Department's newest combat support agency in March 2015 at the direction of the Deputy Secretary of Defense to retain certain enduring counter-IED capabilities of JIEDDO.

Since March, JIDA has been in a period of transition with a goal of October 2016 to reach full operational capability, and be aligned under the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. That transition effort will now shift to enable alignment under the authority, direction, and control of DTRA, which is an already established combat support agency.

“Realigning JIDA under DTRA will enhance upstream threat prevention and defeat capabilities,” said Myers. “Other areas of collaboration will include sharing science and technology information, collaborating on security cooperation and building partner nation capacities, leveraging acquisition and information technology strengths, sharing expertise particularly in anticipating and identifying emerging threats, and improving each other’s situational awareness regarding indications and warning on global threats.”

Once transitioned under DTRA later this year, JIDA will be referred to as the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization (JIDO).

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DTRA is the U.S. Department of Defense’s official Combat Support Agency for countering weapons of mass destruction, addressing the entire spectrum of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive threats. DTRA’s programs include basic science research and development, operational support to U.S. warfighters on the front line, and an in-house WMD think tank that aims to anticipate and mitigate future threats long before they have a chance to harm the United States and our allies. SCC-WMD, the U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, synchronizes Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction efforts across our military’s geographic commands and leverages the people, programs and interagency relationships of DTRA at a strategic level. We work with the military services, other elements of the United States government, and countries across the planet on counterproliferation, nonproliferation and WMD reduction issues with one goal in mind: Making the World Safer.