

WRITING STYLE GUIDE AND PREFERRED USAGE FOR DoD ISSUANCES

1. **GENERAL PRINCIPLES.** Write DoD issuances clearly and concisely, applying the following general principles of effective writing.
- a. When drafting your document, use an outline. This will help you organize your issuance and keep it focused and on track.
 - b. Use short simple words. Limit sentences to one thought and keep them brief (an average of 20 or fewer words).
 - c. Use the correct words. (See Appendix 1 for a glossary of preferred usage and Appendix 2 for a list of hyphenated modifiers used in DoD issuances.)
 - d. Write in the active versus passive voice; name an actor with the action being taken immediately after the noun. (See Figure 1 for characteristics and examples.)
 - e. Use parallel construction (the same grammatical structure for similar or related ideas). (See Figure 2 for examples.)
 - f. Avoid long, rambling paragraphs. If a paragraph is longer than 20 lines, it should probably be restructured to include subparagraphs.
 - g. Organize the material. Where the issuance templates do not provide a specific structure, organize sections, enclosures, and appendixes so that earlier paragraphs serve to make later paragraphs clear. When possible, use paragraph headings to highlight important concepts so the reader may see at a glance what the paragraph is about.

Figure 1. Characteristics and Examples of Passive and Active Voice

PASSIVE VOICE	ACTIVE VOICE
<p><u>Frequently omits the doer of the action</u> An information copy of the board meeting minutes shall be forwarded to the members. A military chaplain of a particular religious organization may be appointed as a consultant.</p>	<p><u>Identifies the doer</u> The Chair shall forward an information copy of the board meeting minutes to the members. The Board may appoint a military chaplain of a particular religious organization as a consultant.</p>
<p><u>Frequently is longer as less direct; frequently includes a “by” phrase</u> A written agreement shall be executed by the parties. Implementing instructions shall be issued by the DoD Components.</p>	<p><u>Gets to the point</u> The parties shall execute a written agreement. The DoD Components shall issue implementing instructions.</p>

Figure 2. Examples of Parallel Construction

EXAMPLE 1
<p><u>Not Parallel</u></p> <p>1. The physical review of the ID card shall verify that the identification matches the beneficiary, the correct entitlement dates, whether medical care for the beneficiary is authorized, and that no one has tampered with the card.</p> <p><u>Parallel</u></p> <p>1. The physical review of the ID card shall verify that the identification matches the beneficiary, the entitlement dates are correct, the beneficiary is authorized medical care, and the card has not been tampered with.</p>
EXAMPLE 2
<p><u>Not Parallel</u></p> <p>1. <u>PURPOSE</u>. This Instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Reissues Reference (a) to establish policy and assign responsibilities for the authorization and support of private organizations located on DoD installations.b. Reference (b) is hereby canceled.c. Reference (c) will continue to be authorized to establish procedures that implement this Instruction. <p><u>Parallel</u></p> <p>1. <u>PURPOSE</u>. This Instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Reissues Reference (a) to establish policy and assign responsibilities for the authorization and support of private organizations located on DoD installations.b. Cancels Reference (b).c. Continues to authorize the publication of Reference (c) to establish procedures to implement this Instruction.

2. RULES SPECIFIC TO DoD ISSUANCES

a. References

(1) ALWAYS reference:

(a) The issuance that provides the purpose of (reason for) the issuance being drafted AND any other issuances that inform its content.

(b) For issuances signed by anyone other than the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the instrument that provides that position the authority to sign it. This is typically the Charter DoD Directive of the OSD Principal Staff Assistant.

(2) DO NOT copy from, quote from, or paraphrase material in a reference. DO explain the relationship between the issuance and each reference cited; e.g. (emphasis added):

(a) “All proposals to construct new or modify existing DoD urban training facilities shall be evaluated IN ACCORDANCE WITH DoDI 1322.27 (Reference (e)).”

(b) “Civilian manpower requirements shall be sourced and designated IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANPOWER POLICY AND PROCEDURES IN DoDI 1100.22 (Reference (c)).”

(c) “The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas’ Security Affairs shall serve as the Domestic Crisis Manager AMONG OTHER DEFENSE-WIDE CRISIS MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED IN DoDD 3020.44 (Reference (k)).”

b. Helping Verbs. Use the following helping verbs to clarify the actor’s level of obligation.

(1) Use SHALL to denote a MANDATORY action.

(2) Use WILL to denote an optional action or an action in the future.

(3) Use MAY to denote an optional action that the actor is authorized to perform (a right, privilege, or power that the actor may exercise at his or her discretion).

c. Generic Pronouns. Do not use “he” or “she” or “his” or “her” separately as generic (possessive) pronouns; use “he or she” or “his or her.” If possible, avoid gender specificity by using “they” or “their.”

d. Personal Pronouns and Point of View. Do not use the personal pronouns “I,” “we,” and “you.” Always write in the third person, using “he or she,” “it,” and “they.”

e. Abbreviations and Acronyms. Write terms out the first time they appear in the text and place the abbreviation or acronym in parenthesis following it. Use the acronym consistently thereafter: do not repeat the term. A glossary of acronyms and abbreviations is MANDATORY for issuances containing more than 15 acronyms.

(1) Acronyms as Adjectives Only. The following acronyms and abbreviations may be used as adjectives only: U.S., DoD, POTUS, SecDef, DepSecDef, CJCS, VCJCS, DJS, VDJS, JCS, JS. Spell the terms out when using them as nouns. In most cases, “Presidential” should be used instead of POTUS.

(2) Acronyms that Do Not Need to be Established. The acronyms “DoD,” “OSD,” and “U.S.” do not need to be established upon first use.

(3) Combatant Command Acronyms

(a) The Combatant Commands are legally named “United States Central Command,” “United States Joint Forces Command,” etc. The acronyms therefore are: USCENTCOM, USEUCOM, USJFCOM, USNORTHCOM, USPACOM, USSOUTHCOM, USSOCOM, USSTRATCOM, and USTRANSCOM.

(b) The abbreviation for “Combatant Command” is “CCMD” – NOT “COCOM.” (Per Joint Publication (JP) 1-02, “Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms,” “COCOM” refers to “(combatant command) command authority” and not to the Combatant Command.)

(c) The abbreviation for “Combatant Commander” is “CCDR.”

(4) Military Terms. Use the approved abbreviations and acronyms in JP 1-02.

(5) Article Usage With Abbreviations and Acronyms

(a) Do not use the articles “the,” “a,” and “an” before abbreviations and acronyms when they are used as nouns, with this EXCEPTION: ALWAYS use “the” when referring to DoD and OSD Component Heads (e.g., “the USD(P)”).

(b) The use of “a” and “an” depends on the SOUND of the acronym that follows, not on the first letter. For example, the vowel sound at the beginning of the acronym “MP” (pronounced “EM-pea”) requires that “an” be used. However, “a” is used before “MOOTW,” since the acronym is pronounced “MOO-twah.”

f. Footnotes, Endnotes, and Use of the Term “Note.” Do not use the term “NOTE” in DoD issuances. Do not use endnotes in DoD issuances. Use footnotes ONLY to indicate where the reader may obtain a reference that is not readily available on a Government website.

g. Use of the Term “See” and of Parenthetical Remarks. When the term “see” is used as directional material, place the phrase in parentheses at the end of the sentence as a stand-alone sentence, as in the following parenthetical remark. (See paragraph 2.f. for use of the term “note.”) Avoid the use of other parenthetical remarks. If the information is important to the issuance, incorporate it into the appropriate sentence or paragraph.

h. Use of Directional Terms. Do not use directional terms or phrases (e.g., “above,” or “below”) when referring to a part of the issuance. Cite the particular paragraph being discussed. Avoid using “as follows” or “the following” if possible.

i. Use of Latin Plurals. Do not use Latin plurals; use their English equivalents (e.g., memorandums, NOT memoranda; forums, NOT fora; data, NOT datum).

j. Names of Ships and Exercises. Always capitalize the names of ships (e.g., “USS AGILE,” “USNS IMPECCABLE – not “USS Agile,” “USNS Impeccable”) and military exercises (e.g. “Operation SOUTHERN WATCH” – not “Operation Southern Watch”).

3. RESOURCES FOR WRITING DoD ISSUANCES. Use the resources in priority order below when you have questions on English usage, writing style, format, content, and organization of DoD issuances.

a. The Issuance Process¹

(1) Format, content, and organization Standards for each type of issuance.

(2) Frequently Asked Questions.

(3) Common Mistakes.

(4) DoD 5110.4-M, “DoD Manual for Written Material.”

(5) JP 1-02.

b. Other Resources

(1) United States Government Printing Office Style Manual (current edition including supplements).²

(2) Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (current edition).³

(3) The Chicago Manual of Style.⁴

¹ Available at http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/process_home.html

² Available at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/styleman>

³ Available at <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary.htm>

⁴ Available at <http://www.bkstor.com>

APPENDIX 1

GLOSSARY OF PREFERRED USAGE FOR DoD ISSUANCES

This glossary provides preferred capitalization, terminology, wording, and use of abbreviations and acronyms for DoD issuances to ensure they are written simply, clearly, and consistently. For military terminology, use JP 1-02. For questions about usage not answered in this glossary or JP 1-02, consult the resources in section 3.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
<u>A</u>	
a great deal of	much
a minimum of	at least
a number of	some
abrogate	abolish, cancel
accelerate	speed up, hasten
accompanied by	with
accompany	go with
accomplish	do
accorded	given
according to	DO NOT USE when citing a reference. Use “in accordance with,” which means consist with, i.e., whatever is being done is consistent with the particular issuance being referenced. (When citing a reference that authorizes or requires publication of the proposed issuance, or that authorizes or requires the proposed issuance to take a certain action, use “pursuant to.”)
accordingly	so, then
accrue	increase, collect
activate	start, drive, turn on
active duty	Not capitalized. Includes active duty for training. To exclude the training, use “active duty (other than for training).”
Active Reserve	Capitalized
active service	Not capitalized. Use when referring to military experience that may be credited toward promotion or retirement. Do not use “active duty.”
adjacent to	next to
advantageous	helpful

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
affect, effect	Often used incorrectly. The verb “affect” means “to influence” and is used with an object. Do not use the word “affect” as a noun. The verb “effect” means “to bring about, accomplish, make happen.” The noun “effect” means a “result” or “consequence” of an action.
affix	put, attach
afford an opportunity	allow, let
after the conclusion of	after
agency	Capitalized only when part of a proper noun.
aggregate	total, sum
all of	all
ambassador	Use lowercase, except when referring to a specific person
ameliorate	improve
antedate	precede
antithesis	opposite, contrast
any of	any
any place	anywhere
apparent	clear, plain
appendix	plural, “appendixes”
appreciable	many
approximately	about, close, near
are in receipt of	received
armed forces	In lowercase, a generic term for the military forces of a nation or a group of nations.
Armed Forces; Armed Forces of the United States	Use “Military Services” for consistency throughout DoD issuances. All three terms denote collectively all components of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard.
Armed Services	Use “Military Services.”
arrived at a decision	decided
as a basis for	for
as a matter of fact	in fact
as a means of	to
as a result of	because
as of	by

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<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
as prescribed by	pursuant to
as to whether	whether
ascertain	find out, learn
assignment	Use to refer to an order to a particular duty, organization, or station for a long or indefinite time.
assist	help, aid
assure	ensure
at all times	always
at an early date	soon
at the present time	now
at the time of	during
attached hereto	attached
attains the age of ...	becomes ... years old
attempt	try
augment	raise, expand, add to, extend, enlarge, increase
<u>B</u>	
based on the fact that	because
be cognizant of	know
before-mentioned	Avoid using this term as it is usually redundant.
benefit	help
biannual, biennial	“Biannual,” like “semiannual,” means twice a year. “Biennial” means every 2 years.
bimonthly	Means every 2 months. Use “semi-monthly” to express twice monthly.
businessman or businesswoman	business executive, manager, entrepreneur, business owner
by means of	by, with
by virtue of	by, under
<u>C</u>	
calculate	compute
can	action is optional.
cease	Stop
CENTCOM	DO NOT USE. Approved acronym per JP 1-02 is USCENTCOM.

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<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff	Spell this term out when used as a noun. The acronym “CJCS” is used as an adjective only.
chairman or chairwoman	chair or chairperson
CJCS	Use as an adjective only. Spell out “Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff” when used as a noun.
close proximity	near
COCOM	DO NOT USE as an acronym for “Combatant Command.” Use “CCMD.” (Per JP 1-02, “COCOM” refers to “(combatant command) command authority” and not to the Combatant Command.)
cognizant of	aware of, knows, understands, comprehends
coincidentally	at the same time
Combatant Command	Correct abbreviation is “CCMD” – not “COCOM.”
Combatant Commander	Abbreviation is “CCDR.”
combine	join
comes into conflict	conflicts
Commander-in-Chief	Use ONLY when referring to the President of the United States.
commence	begin
compare	Use “compare to” when discussing similarities between objects that are different; use “compare with” when discussing similarities or differences between objects that are the same.
concerning	about, on
conclude	end, close
concur	Use “concur with” when concurring with a person; use “concur in” when concurring in an idea, proposal, document, or recommendation.
Congressman or Congressperson	Use “Member of Congress” or “Congressional Representative.”
consummate	complete, bring about
contained in	in
contain	has
contiguous	next to
continuously, continually	Often used incorrectly. The first word means “without interruption;” the second, “intermittently at frequent intervals.”
contribute	give

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
councilman	council member
course of time	time
crewman	crew member
criterion	standard, norm
<u>D</u>	
daughter and/or son	child, children
decision maker, decision making	Hyphenated only when used as an adjective: “decision-making abilities.”
deem	consider
defense	Capitalized only when referring to an OSD Defense Agency (go to EXPLAINING COMPONENT HEAD COORDINATION for a listing of the OSD Defense Agencies) or when part of a proper noun.
Defense Agency	Capitalized when referring to the OSD Defense Agencies.
demonstrates	shows
depart	leave
Department of Defense, DoD	Spell the term out when used as a noun; use the acronym only as an adjective. (The acronym does not need to be established upon first use or included in the glossary.)
dependent	Avoid using this word except when required by law; e.g., use of the word “dependent” may be required to satisfy explicit statutory requirements about entitlement to benefits and/or privileges. Instead, use such terms as “family member,” “spouse,” “parent,” “unmarried child,” or “beneficiary.”
depict	describe, show
deprivation	loss
DepSecDef	Use as an adjective only. Spell out “Deputy Secretary of Defense” when used as a noun.
despite the fact that	although, though
detail	Use to define a particular duty, organization, or station as temporary.
determine	decide, find
discontinue	drop, stop
disseminate	issue, circulate, send out
DJS	Use as an adjective only. Spell out “Director of the Joint Staff” when used as a noun.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
DoD, Department of Defense	Use the acronym only as an adjective; spell the term out when used as a noun. (The acronym does not need to be established upon first use or included in the glossary.)
DoD Components, the downward adjustment	ALWAYS use “the” when referring to the DoD Components. decrease
due to the fact that	because, since, due to
during periods when	when
during such time	while
<u>E</u>	
echelons	levels
effect, affect	Often used incorrectly. The verb “effect” means to “bring about, accomplish, make happen.” The noun “effect” means a “result” or “consequence” of an action. The verb “affect” means “to influence” and is used with an object. Do not use the word “affect” as a noun.
effect an improvement	improve
e.g. and i.e.	Often used incorrectly. The abbreviation “e.g.” means “for example” (describing one of many examples). The abbreviation “i.e.” means “that is” (only the items mentioned apply). NEITHER of these terms can be used with “etc.”
elementary	simple, basic
elicit	draw out, bring out
eliminate	cut, drop, end
elucidate	explain, clarify
e-mail	Hyphenate; do not use “email”
emphasize	stress
employ, employed	use, used
enclosed herewith	enclosed
encompass	enclose, include
encounter	meet
encourage	urge, persuade
endeavor to ascertain	find out
enlisted man or woman	enlisted member, enlistee
ensure	use “insure” only when referring to monetary insurance. Avoid use of “ensure” when assigning responsibilities or describing procedures in DoD issuances as it is passive and difficult for the

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<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
	individual or agency responsible to measure success or failure. Use more active verbs (oversee, direct, require).
enumerate	count, list
equitable	fair
equivalent	equal
EUCOM	DO NOT USE. Approved acronym per JP 1-02 is USEUCOM.
evident	clear
exacerbate	make worse
Executive Branch	Capitalized
Executive Order	Capitalize when citing number; e.g., “Executive Order 12334.” Use lowercase when the meaning is general; e.g., “those executive orders.” Correct abbreviation is “E.O.”
Executive Department	Capitalized
Executive Secretary, OSD	Executive Secretary of the Department of Defense
exercise care	be careful
expedite	hasten, speed
<u>E</u>	
fabricate	construct, make, build, invent
facilitate	ease, help
failed to	did not
father or mother	Use “either parent” or “parent.”
feasible	possible, practical
Federal	Capitalized
federally	Not capitalized
female or male	Use “person” or “individual.”
finalize	complete, finish
fireman	firefighter
for the month of ...	for
for the purpose of	for
for the reason that	because, since
foreman	supervisor, manager
forfeit	give up, lose
formulate	make, devise, prepare

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
fullest possible extent	as much as possible
fundamental	basic
furnish	give, supply, send
<u>G</u>	
generally	Avoid using this word unless contrasted with “specifically.”
give consideration to	consider
give encouragement to	encourage
government	Use lowercase except when referring to the U.S. Government. This rule does not apply to “governmental.”
grade and rank	Use “grade” to designate pay grade; e.g., “O-1” or “E-2.” Use “rank” to refer to the order of precedence or seniority within a grade.
grandfather and/or grandmother	Use “grandparent” or “grandparents.”
<u>H</u>	
has the capability to, of	can
have need for	need
have the effect of	effect
he, him, his; she, her, hers	Avoid gender-specific language; if possible, use “they” and “theirs.” If not, use “he or she” instead of he; “him or her” instead of him; “his or hers” instead of his.
held a meeting	met
henceforth	from now on
heretofore	until now, up to now
husband or wife	spouse
<u>I</u>	
identical	same
i.e. and e.g.	Often used incorrectly. The abbreviation “e.g.” means “for example” (describing one of many examples). The abbreviation “i.e.” means “that is” (only the items mentioned apply). NEITHER of these terms can be used with “etc.”
illustrate	show
impede	block
imperative	urgent
implement	carry out
in a case in which	when, where

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<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
in a situation in which	when
in addition	also, besides, too
in an effort to	to
in case	if
in accordance with	When citing a reference, use to indicate that whatever is being done in the proposed issuance is consistent with that reference. (When citing a reference that authorizes or requires publication of the proposed issuance, or that authorizes or requires the proposed issuance to take a certain action, use “pursuant to.”)
in conjunction with	with
in connection with	by, in, for
in lieu of	instead of, in place of
in order that	so that
in regard to	about
in relation to	related to, for
in spite of the fact that	though, although
in the amount of	for
in the case of	when, where
in the course of	during, in, while
in the event of	if
in the majority of cases	usually
in the near future	soon
in view of	since, because
inception	start
incorporate	merge, join
indicate	show
initial	first
initiate	begin, start
innate	basic, native, inborn
insure	ensure, unless referring to monetary insurance
integrate	combine
inter-Service	When referring to the Military Services
is authorized and directed	shall

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
is authorized to	may
is cognizant of	knows
is dependent upon	depends on
is directed	shall
is entitled to	may
is responsible for selecting	selects
it is obvious that	clearly, obviously
it is the responsibility of ... to	shall
<u>J</u>	
JCS	Use as an adjective only. Spell out “Joint Chiefs of Staff” when used as a noun.
JFCOM	DO NOT USE. Approved acronym per JP 1-02 is USJFCOM.
journeyman	trainee, beginner
JS	Use as an adjective only. Spell out “Joint Staff” when used as a noun.
justify	prove
<u>K</u>	
<u>L</u>	
last and latest	“Last” means final; “latest,” most recent.
least and less	Use “least” when more than two persons or things have been mentioned; use “less” when only two have been mentioned.
Legislative Branch	Capitalized
lengthy	long
like	Never use “like” to introduce a subject and its verb; e.g., “He wrote as (not “like”) he spoke.”
locate	find
<u>M</u>	
magnitude	size
mailman	mail carrier
make a decision	decide
make a determination	determine
make application	apply

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<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
make every effort	try
make inquiry regarding	inquire, ask
make provisions for	provide
male or female	Use “person” or “individual.”
man or woman	person, human, human being, individual
manhour	work hour, staff hour
mankind	humanity, human beings, humankind
manmade	artificial, synthetic, manufactured
manned	staffed
manpower	human resources, workforce, labor force
manufacture	make
Marine Corps and Navy, U.S.	Although they are in the same Military Department and under the same Secretary, the Marine Corps and the Navy are separate Military Services. Therefore, the term “Navy” does not include the Marine Corps.
maximize	increase
maximally	to the maximum extent possible
may	Action is optional.
memorandum	plural, “memorandums”
military and naval	Do not use. The term “military” includes “naval.”
Military Departments	The Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force, including the Reserve Components, which include the Army and the Air National Guards of the United States.
Military Secretaries	<p>When referring to the Secretaries of the three Military Departments and the Secretary of Homeland Security (for the U.S. Coast Guard when it is not operating as a Service in the Navy), use “the Secretary concerned.”</p> <p>When referring only to the Secretaries of the three Military Departments, use “the Secretary of the Military Department concerned,” “the Secretary of each Military Department,” or “the Secretaries of the Military Departments.”</p> <p>Do not use “the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force,” or “the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force.”</p>
Military Services	The branches of the Armed Forces of the United States, established by act of Congress, in which persons are appointed, enlisted, or inducted for military service, and which operates and is administered within a Military or Executive Department.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
	The Military Services are the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. The term “Military Services” includes the Reserve Components, which include the Army and the Air National Guards of the United States.
minimal	least, lowest, smallest
minimally	at a minimum
minimize	reduce
mitigate	lessen, ease
modification	change
monitor	check, watch
mother or father	“either parent” or “parent”
must	Connotes that action is mandatory.
<u>N</u>	
national	Capitalized only when part of a proper noun.
National Command Authorities	DO NOT USE. Refer to the President or the Secretary of Defense.
National Guard	<p>Take special care with the National Guard. The State organizations, which are the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, must be distinguished from their Federal counterparts, which are the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States.</p> <p>Taken together, the State organizations make up the “National Guard.” The Federal organizations, however, cannot be taken together because the Army National Guard of the United States is a component of the Army, while the Air National Guard of the United States is a component of the Air Force.</p> <p>The National Guard, together with the Navy Militia, make up the organized, federally-recognized militia of the 50 States. When members of the National Guard enter active service, they are “called into Federal service.” Once on duty, they are “in Federal service.”</p>
Navy and Marine Corps, U.S.	Although they are in the same Military Department and under the same Secretary, the Navy and the Marine Corps are separate Military Services. Therefore, the term “Navy” does not include the Marine Corps.
necessitate	cause, need, require
negligible	small, trifling
nevertheless	however, even so, but

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
normal, normally	Avoid using these words unless contrasted with “not normal” or “not normally.”
NORTHCOM	DO NOT USE. Approved acronym per JP 1-02 is USNORTHCOM.
not infrequently	often
not later than	by, before
not often	seldom
numerals	Use Arabic numerals for units of measurement, time, and money. Otherwise, use an Arabic numeral for the number 10 or more; for a number smaller than 10, write the number out.
numerous	many, most
<u>O</u>	
obtain	get
obviate	prevent
officer	Do not refer to a civilian official as an “officer.” Refer to a civilian official as a “person,” “employee,” or “official.”
on account of	because
on and after July 1, 1990	after June 30, 1990
on behalf of	for
on his or her own application	at his or her request
on the occasion	when, on
originate	start
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense. Use acronym only. Acronym does not need to be established.
ought	Action is required unless justifiable reason exists for not taking action.
over	Use “more than” when referring to a number; e.g., “There were more than (not “over”) 500 people at the meeting.”
owing to the fact that	since, because
<u>P</u>	
parameters	limits, boundaries
parenthetical expressions	Avoid placing phrases in parentheses when they are stronger as part of the sentence.
part (of the Code of Federal Regulations)	Lowercase

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<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
participate in	take part
party	Avoid using when referring to a person
per	Do not use this word for the English article “a.” Avoid the Latin terms “per annum” and “per day.” Instead, use “a year” and “a day.”
	Do not use this word for “in accordance with” or “pursuant to.”
percentum	percent
perform	do
permit	let, allow
person	If referring to a member of a Military Service, use “Service member,” “member,” “officer,” or “enlisted member.” If not a member of a Military Service, refer to him or her as a “person.”
pertaining to	about, of, on
policeman	police officer
portion	part
possess	have
practicable	possible, workable
practically	Vary this overworked word with “virtually,” “almost,” and “nearly.”
preclude	prevent
predicated	based
predominant	dominant, main, chief
preeminent	chief, outstanding, foremost, first
prepared	ready
prevail upon	persuade
prevalent	widespread
preventative	preventive
previous	past
previously, previous to, prior to	before
Principal Staff Assistant	Capitalized
probability	chance, likelihood
process of preparation	being prepared

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
promulgate	issue, publish
prototype	first or original, model
provided, provided that	if
provides guidance for	guides
providing	Do not use when the meaning is “if” or “provided;” e.g., “Providing low-cost houses is a problem, but the problem will be met provided (or if) the builders get supplies.”
provisions of	Avoid using this term as it is usually redundant.
public law	capitalize when citing section and number (e.g., “section 456 of Public Law 98-176”) use lowercase when the meaning is general (e.g., “those public laws”). Correct abbreviation is “PL”
purchase	buy
pursuant to	Use when citing a reference that authorizes or requires publication of the proposed issuance, or that authorizes or requires the proposed issuance to take a certain action. (Use “in accordance with” when citing a reference that the proposed issuance is consistent with, i.e., to indicate that whatever is being done in the proposed issuance is consistent with that reference.)
<u>R</u>	
reach a decision	decide
reason is because, reason is that	because
recipient of	gets, got
reflect	show
Reserve Components	Capitalized
retain	keep
retirement pay	retired pay
rudiments	first steps, basics
<u>S</u>	
section (of the United States Code or of a public law)	Lowercase
SecDef	Use as an adjective only. Spell out “Secretary of Defense” when used as a noun.
shall	Action is mandatory.
should	Action is required unless justifiable reason exists for not taking action.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
so as to	to
SOCOM	DO NOT USE. Approved acronym per JP 1-02 is USSOCOM.
solicit	ask for
some of	some
son and/or daughter	child, children
SOUTHCOM	DO NOT USE. Approved acronym per JP 1-02 is USSOUTHCOM.
specified (as in mentioned or listed)	named
Specified Command	DO NOT USE. Use “Combatant Command” or name the specific command.
spokesman	spokesperson
State	Capitalize when referring to one or more of the United States.
STRATCOM	DO NOT USE. Approved acronym per JP 1-02 is USSTRATCOM.
subsequent	later, after, next
subsequent to, subsequently	next, later, following, then, after
successfully completes or passes	completes or passes
<u>T</u>	
terminate	end
terrible disaster	disaster
terms to avoid	Avoid using pairs of words having the same effect, such as those below. Instead, use the broader or narrower term, as the meaning requires. “any and all” “authorized and directed” “authorized and empowered” “by and with” (except for Senate confirmation cases) “desire and require” “each and all” “each and every” “final and conclusive” “full and complete” “full and adequate” “full force and effect” “means and includes” “necessary or desirable” “null and void”

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
	<p>“order and direct” “over and above” “sole and exclusive” “terms and conditions” “type and kind” “unless and until”</p>
that and which (to begin restrictive and nonrestrictive clauses)	<p>“That” introduces a restrictive clause; “which” introduces a nonrestrictive clause. A test of whether a clause is one or the other is to omit it. If the omission changes the meaning, results in a statement that doesn't make sense, or is incomplete, the clause is restrictive. If the clause can be omitted without changing the meaning, it is nonrestrictive.</p> <p>A restrictive clause is not set off by commas; e.g., “The fish that I caught is a pike.” A nonrestrictive clause is set off by commas; e.g., “The talks, which ended Monday, concerned export equipment.”</p>
the following	this, these
the question as to whether	whether
there is no doubt that	doubtless, no doubt
this date	today
thus	so
to the extent that	as far as
transcend	go beyond
TRANSCOM	DO NOT USE. Approved acronym per JP 1-02 is USTRANSCOM.
transmit	send
transpire	happen, occur
<u>U</u>	
under	DO NOT USE when citing a reference. (Use “in accordance with” when citing a reference that the proposed issuance is consistent with, i.e., to indicate that whatever is being done in the proposed issuance is consistent with that reference. Use “pursuant to” when citing a reference that authorizes or requires publication of the proposed issuance, or that authorizes or requires the proposed issuance to take a certain action.)
unified command	DO NOT USE. Use “Combatant Command” or name the specific command.
uniformed services	The uniformed services are the Army; the Navy; the Air Force; the Marine Corps; the Coast Guard; the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and the Commissioned Corps of the National

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
	Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Proposed issuances that apply to the Commissioned Corps of DHHS and NOAA, must be coordinated with those organizations.
United States, U.S.	Use the abbreviation only as an adjective; spell the term out when used as a noun. Abbreviation does not need to be defined upon first use or included in the glossary. When the definition exceeds the continental limits of the United States, use “the United States, its territories and possessions, and all waters and airspace subject to its territorial jurisdiction.”
United States Armed Forces	See “Armed Forces of the United States.”
United States Code	Capitalized; correct abbreviation, “U.S.C.”
until such time as	until
upon	on
U.S. Government	Capitalized
USCENTCOM	United States Central Command
USEUCOM	United States European Command
USJFCOM	United States Joint Forces Command
USNORTHCOM	United States Northern Command
USPACOM	United States Pacific Command
USSOUTHCOM	United States Southern Command
USSOCOM	United States Special Operations Command
USSTRATCOM	United States Strategic Command
USTRANSCOM	United States Transportation Command
utilize, utilization	use
<u>V</u>	
validate	confirm
value	cost, worth
VCJCS	Use as an adjective only. Spell out “Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff” when used as a noun.
VDJS	Use as an adjective only. Spell out “Vice Director of the Joint Staff” when used as a noun.
verbatim	word for word, exact
viable	workable
virgule (/)	Use “and,” “or,” or “and/or” depending on the meaning; e.g., instead of “production/deployment,” use “production and

<u>Term</u>	<u>Preferred Usage or Comment</u>
	deployment,” “production or deployment,” or “production and/or deployment.”
<u>W</u>	
website, Website	When referring to a website in general, it will be lowercase. When referring to a website by name, e.g., “DoD Issuances Website,” it must be capitalized.
whenever	when
whereas	since, while
whereby	by which
wherein	in which, where
whether or not	whether, if
which (to begin a nonrestrictive clause)	“Which” introduces a nonrestrictive clause. A test of whether a clause is one or the other is to omit it. If the clause can be omitted without changing the meaning, it is nonrestrictive. A nonrestrictive clause is set off by commas; e.g., “The talks, which ended Monday, concerned export equipment.”
widow or widower	surviving spouse
wife or husband	spouse
will	Do not use in place of “shall.” Applies only to a statement of future condition; does not connote obligation.
with a view to	to, for
with reference to	on, about
with regard to	on, about
with respect to	on, about
with the exception of	except for
with the purpose of	to
workman	worker
workman's compensation	worker's compensation
<u>X</u>	
X-ray	Do not use as a verb. Use “examine,” “treat,” or “photograph with X-rays.”

APPENDIX 2

LIST OF HYPHENATED MODIFIERS USED IN DoD ISSUANCES

built-in	high-level	retail-level
	high-speed	record-keeping
cargo-handling	in-depth	roll-on, roll-off
case-by-case	intelligence-related	
combat-ready		security-related
common-use	joint-interest	self-propelled
computer-based	joint-Service	self-sustaining
container-handling		Service-unique
cost-effective	land-based	shipboard- installed
		short-term
cross-country	large-scale	single-Service
	life-cycle	single-source
day-to-day	live-in	single-user
decision-making	long-distance	stand-alone
DoD-appropriated	long-haul	State-owned
DoD-associated	long-range	
DoD-established	long-term	
DoD-incurred		tax-exempt
DoD-wide	military-controlled	technology- sharing
		theatre-specific
double-spaced	minimum-essential	time-phased
		two-person
energy-related	off-base	
exclusive-use	off-campus	
	off-duty	uni-Service
first-class	off-the-shelf	
first-rate	on-board	well-informed
flag-raising	one-time	work-sharing
full-scale		
full-time	part-time	X-ray
general-purpose	personnel-intensive	
Government-controlled	point-to-point	
Government-owned	post-development	