

# The Joint Capabilities Integration Development System:

## How Do We Start and Why Do We Use It?

By Mr. James Harshbarger

This is the first in a series of articles about the Joint Capabilities Integration Development System (JCIDS) and is designed to provide an understanding of the JCIDS practices and the supporting processes and documentation that lead through the procedure.

The JCIDS process is just over four years old and is changing rapidly to keep pace with the needs of combatant commanders and Soldiers. While some people might tell you it is a very boring field to work in, I would beg to differ. What could be more exciting than working on the documents that will give U.S. Soldiers the advantage on both current and future battlefields? The process may take three to six years to field, but the excitement is never-ending. The following paragraphs provide a quick snapshot of how the process works.

The JCIDS process leverages commercially available products while promoting further development of joint future concepts and integrated architectures. The JCIDS process (see figure below)—which includes the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities (DOTMLPF) analysis and capabilities-based assessment (CBA)—identifies capability gaps and redundancies, assesses the risk and priority of the gaps, and identifies an approach (materiel and/or nonmateriel), or combination of both approaches, to address these gaps. This analysis process should leverage the abilities and knowledge of all Department of Defense components and other resources and contribute appropriately to the joint force commander's ability to most effectively deliver the desired effects. JCIDS documents include the following:

- Joint capability document (JCD)
- Initial capabilities document (ICD) (which identifies gaps)

- Capability development document (CDD)
- Capability production document (CPD) (which supports materiel solutions)
- Document change request (DCR) (which supports non-materiel solutions)

Throughout the process, proposals are evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the joint force envisioned in strategic policy guidance documents, joint future concepts, integrated architectures, and capability roadmaps at each milestone or gate (see figure below). For the Army, there are four levels of staffing to ensure that this process is adhered to:

- Worldwide staffing
- United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) staffing
- Headquarters, Department of the Army, one- and three-star staffing
- Joint level staffing (Phases 1 and 2)

The next article will explain the levels of staffing as addressed in Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3170.01F and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Manual 3170.01C.



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