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CJCSI 3122.06E  
30 April 2018

**(U) SENSITIVE TARGET  
APPROVAL AND REVIEW  
(STAR) PROCESS**



**JOINT STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318**

~~Classified By: Lt. Gen John L. Dolan USAF, DIA~~  
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# CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INSTRUCTION

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## (U) SENSITIVE TARGET APPROVAL AND REVIEW (STAR) PROCESS

### References:

See Enclosure F

1. (U) Purpose. To provide Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) process and procedural guidance to Combatant Commanders (CCDRs) and their staffs for Sensitive Targets (STs) in deliberate and crisis action planning (CAP).

2. (U) Superseded/Cancellation. This instruction supersedes CJCSI 3122.06D, 12 November 2013, "Sensitive Target Approval and Review (STAR) Process."

3. (U) Applicability. This instruction applies to the Joint Staff and commanders of unified commands.

4. (U) Responsibilities. The Joint Staff J-3 is the lead agent for updates or changes.

5. (U) Summary of Changes

a. (U) This publication contains revisions to the previous instruction. This revision provides CJCS "Judgment in Targeting" language, removes the noncombatant civilian casualty cutoff value (NCV) concept and threshold terminology from the instruction, and aligns CJCSI 3122.06E with changes made to CJCSI 3160.01C, "No-Strike and the Collateral Damage Estimation (CDE) Methodology." The revision also revises the CDE paragraph to explain CCDRs' options once CDE Level 5 is assessed and adds a flowchart to assist CCDRs' in determining when to utilize the STAR process.

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b. (U) The Joint Force places a high value on preserving and protecting innocent human life. The removal of the NCV concept and terminology from this instruction and the targeting process does not signify a change in targeting standards. U.S. values and the law of war provide the overarching framework that guides U.S. military operations and targeting decisions. Consistent with these fundamental values and legal obligations, commanders will issue clear guidance and conduct all operations in compliance with the law of war with due regard for the protection of innocent human life. With this in mind, all target engagement authorities will continue to conduct a comprehensive law of war proportionality analysis and employ feasible precautions to minimize the effects of combat on the civilian population and noncombatants. Recognizing that each operation is unique, commanders and their designees will assess each target individually and use their judgment when authorizing a strike.

~~6. (U) Reliability. RESTRICTED. This directive is not approved for electronic release on the SIPRNET/WWW. Electronic release is restricted to JS activities only through controlled access via the SIPRNET Directives Electronic Library. Approval from the office of primary responsibility (OPR) is required for further release of this directive in electronic format.~~

7. (U) Effective Date. This INSTRUCTION is effective upon receipt.

For the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



KENNETH F. MCKENZIE, JR.  
LtGen, U.S. Marine Corps  
Director, Joint Staff

Enclosures

- A - Background
- B - Sensitive Target Approval and Review Procedures and Products
- C - References

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ENCLOSURE A

(U) BACKGROUND

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2. (U) Commander's Judgment in Targeting. Commanders, at all levels, have a great responsibility to exercise leadership when making judgments about targeting. Judgments in targeting do not often lend themselves to quantitative analysis. Rather, sound professional military judgment most often involves weighing unlike quantities and values based upon understanding of the operational context, moral and ethical considerations, and time-tested principles related to the effective warfighting, such as mass, objective, economy of force, restraint, and legitimacy. Commanders, or their designees, will conduct all operations in compliance with the law of war principles of military necessity, humanity (unnecessary suffering), distinction, proportionality, and honor and with due regard for the protection of innocent human life, and also follow this guidance when authorizing strikes or deciding whether to elevate a targeting decision to a higher level of command.

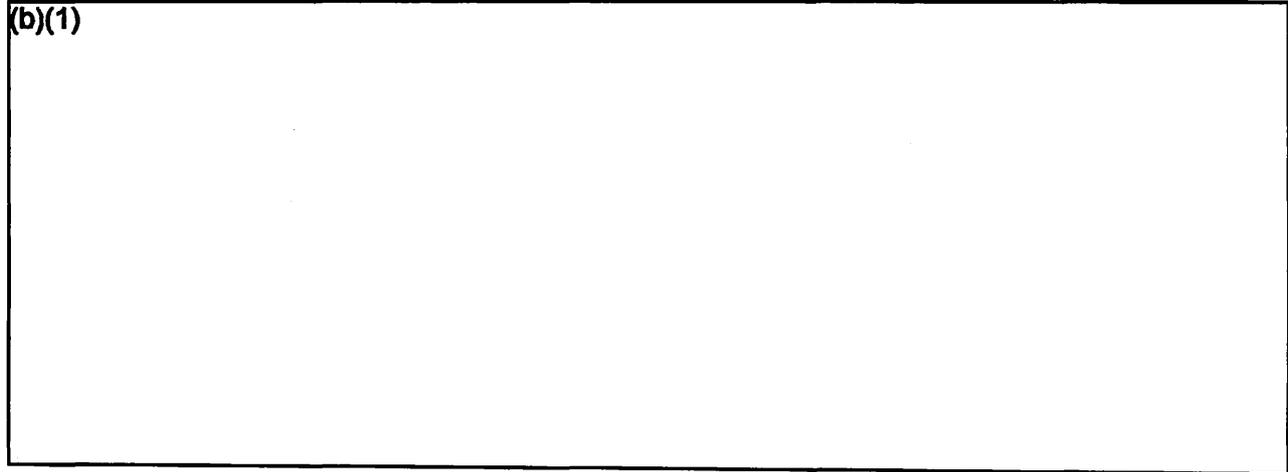
a. (U) The decision to authorize a strike or to elevate a targeting decision when there is potential for civilian or noncombatant loss of life or injury, or loss of property, will not be determined solely through a mechanistic or numeric process, nor will it be based on quantified casualty estimates alone. Instead, decisions will be grounded in our values, sound professional military judgment, and law of war principles, and will be based on relevant factors, including political and strategic implications; time sensitivity; availability of resources; risk to force; nature of the threat; and other operational considerations. For example, it may be prudent in some circumstances to elevate a targeting decision involving high risk of undesirable incidental effects if a higher-level commander is better positioned to evaluate the risk against the expected advantage of conducting the strike, or the higher-level commander can implement additional precautions to help reduce risks to civilians and noncombatants due to greater resources under his or her control. Consistent

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with the above guidance and factors, commanders will take all feasible measures and issue clear guidance at his or her level to minimize or eliminate the loss of innocent human life when conducting operations.

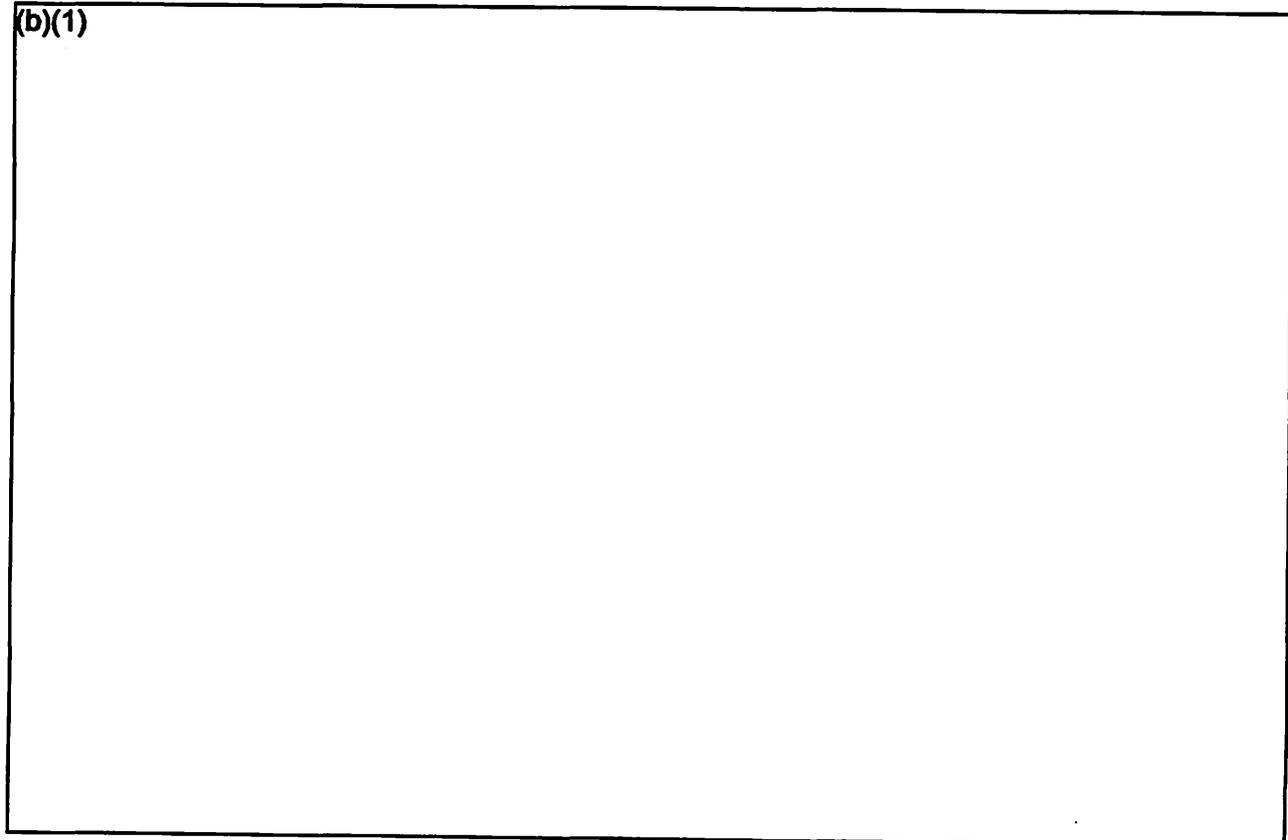
b. (U) CCDRs are not prohibited from establishing criteria that determine at which echelon within their command's targeting decisions are made.

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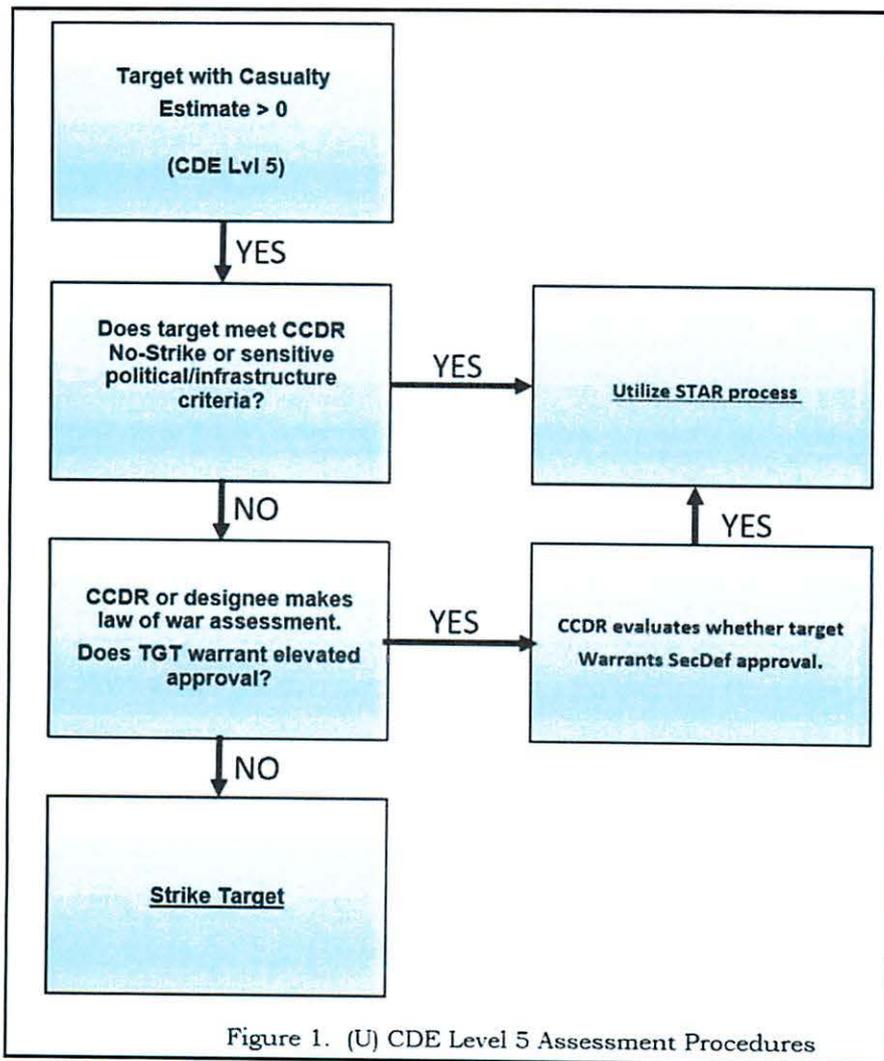
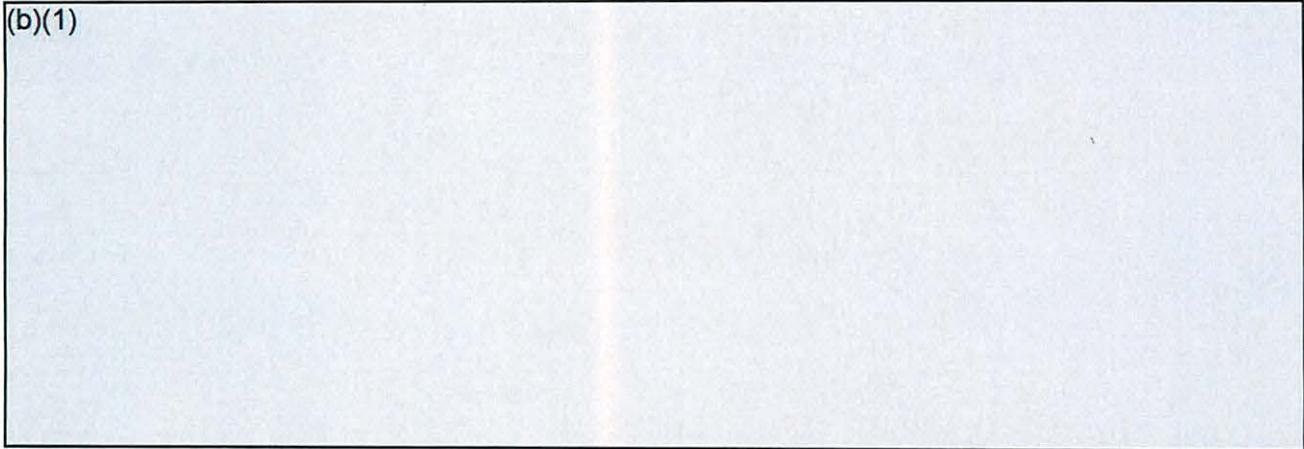


4. (U) Sensitive Target Criteria

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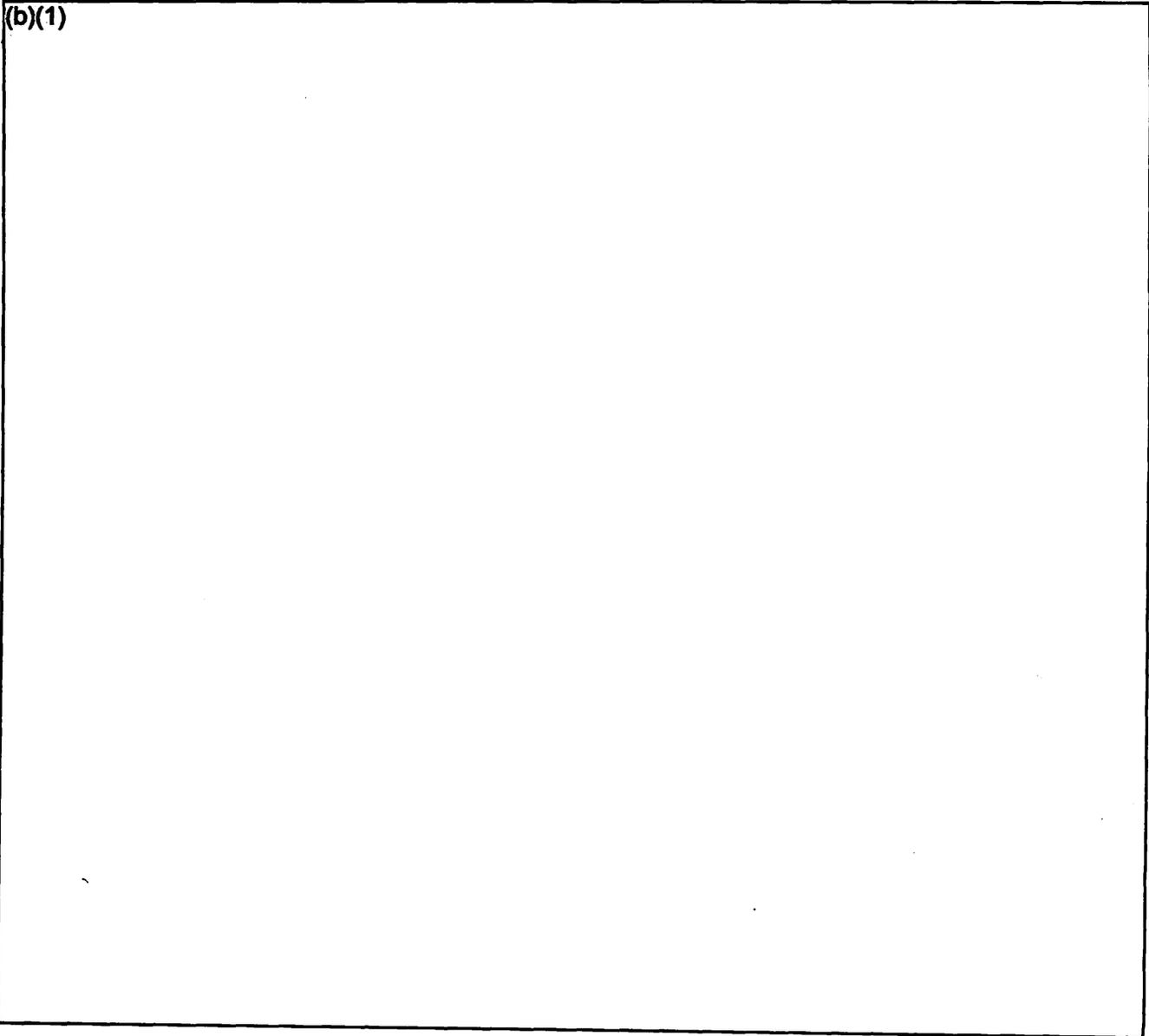
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(2) (U//~~FOUO~~) Significant Consequences from Cyberspace Operations (CO). CO have the potential to cause functional and physical effects on computer-controlled networks, information and information systems, critical infrastructure, and key resources. Targets engaged via CO effects that are reasonably likely to result in loss of life, significant responsive actions against the United States, significant damage to property, serious adverse U.S. foreign policy consequences, or serious economic impact on the United States are considered a ST unless such effects and targets are previously authorized by the SecDef.

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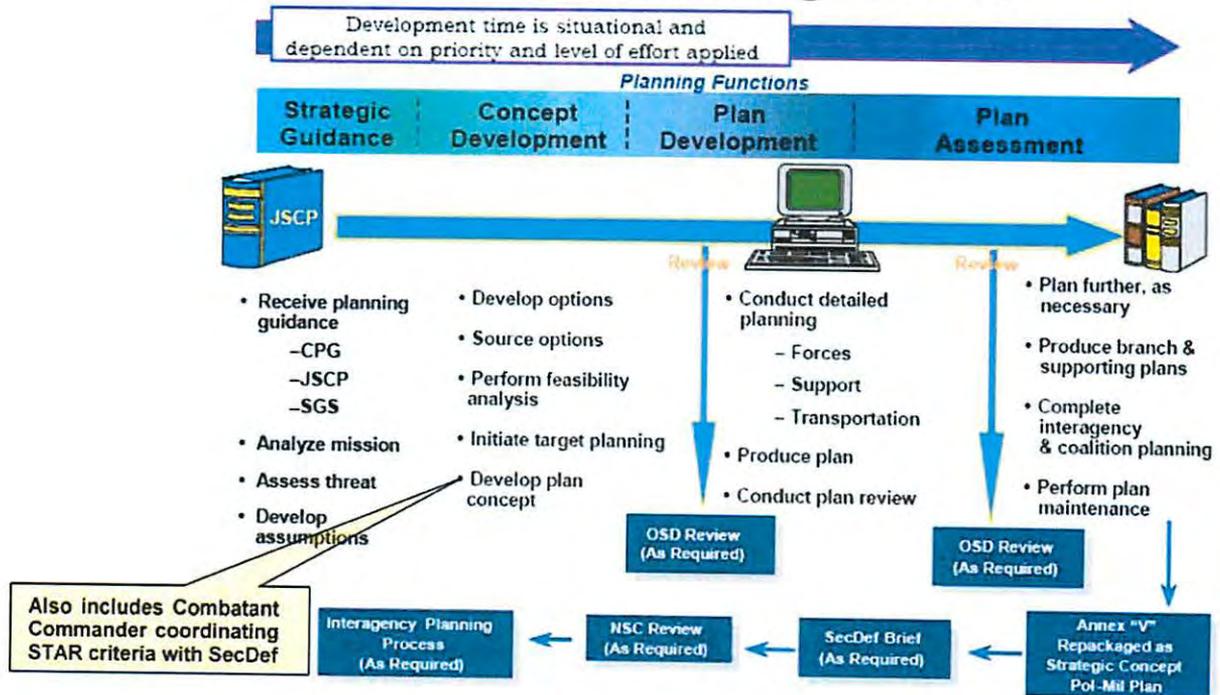


5. (U) Sensitive Target Approval and Review (STAR) Process

a. (U) Target Development and Prioritization, Phase II of the Joint Target Cycle, is accomplished before STAR target nominations are forwarded for approval and review. Developed targets that meet ST criteria are sensitive targets.



### The Joint Planning Process



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A-6

Enclosure A

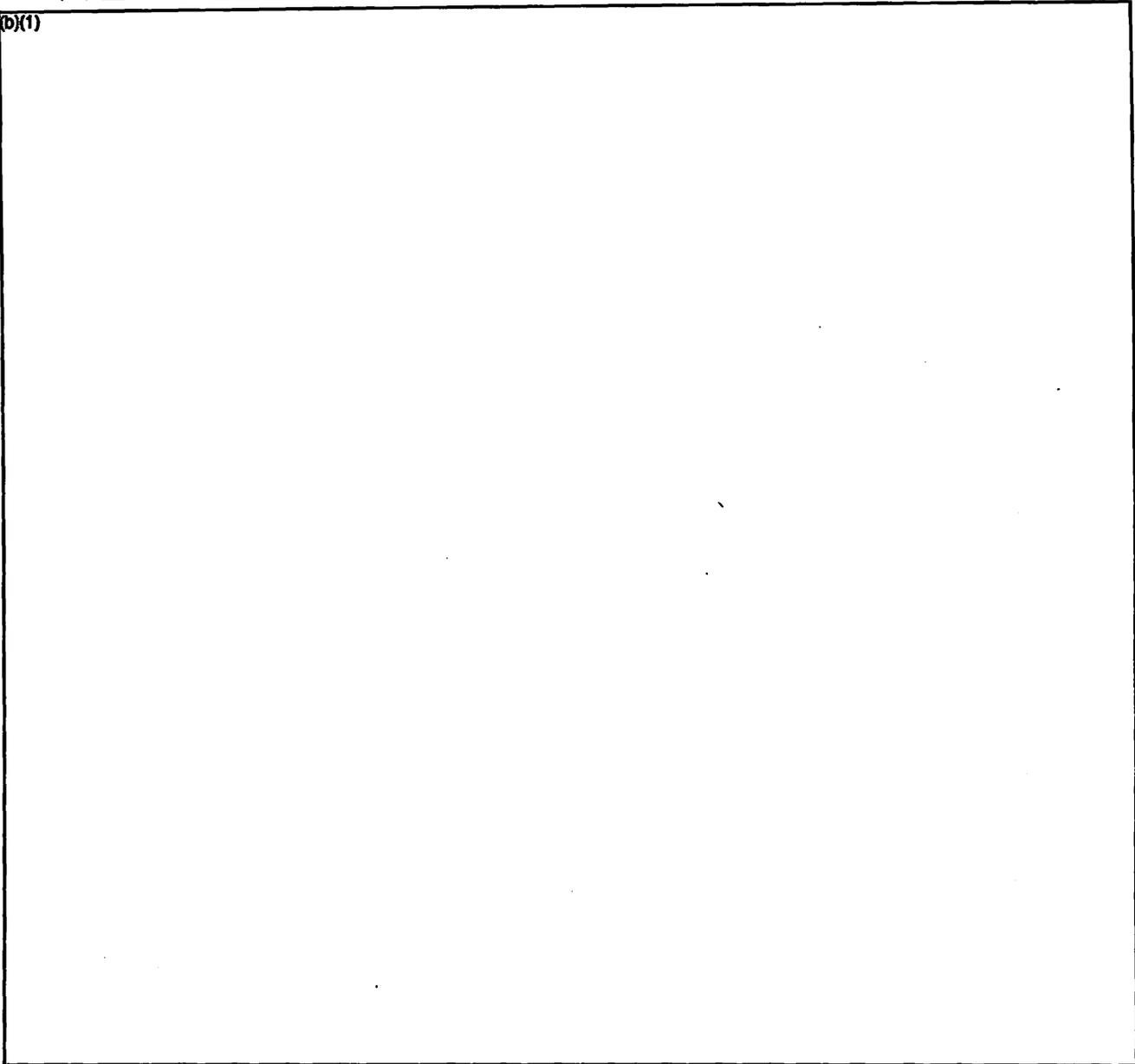
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ENCLOSURE B

(U) SENSITIVE TARGET APPROVAL AND REVIEW  
PROCEDURES AND PRODUCTS

1. (U) Deliberate Planning Overview

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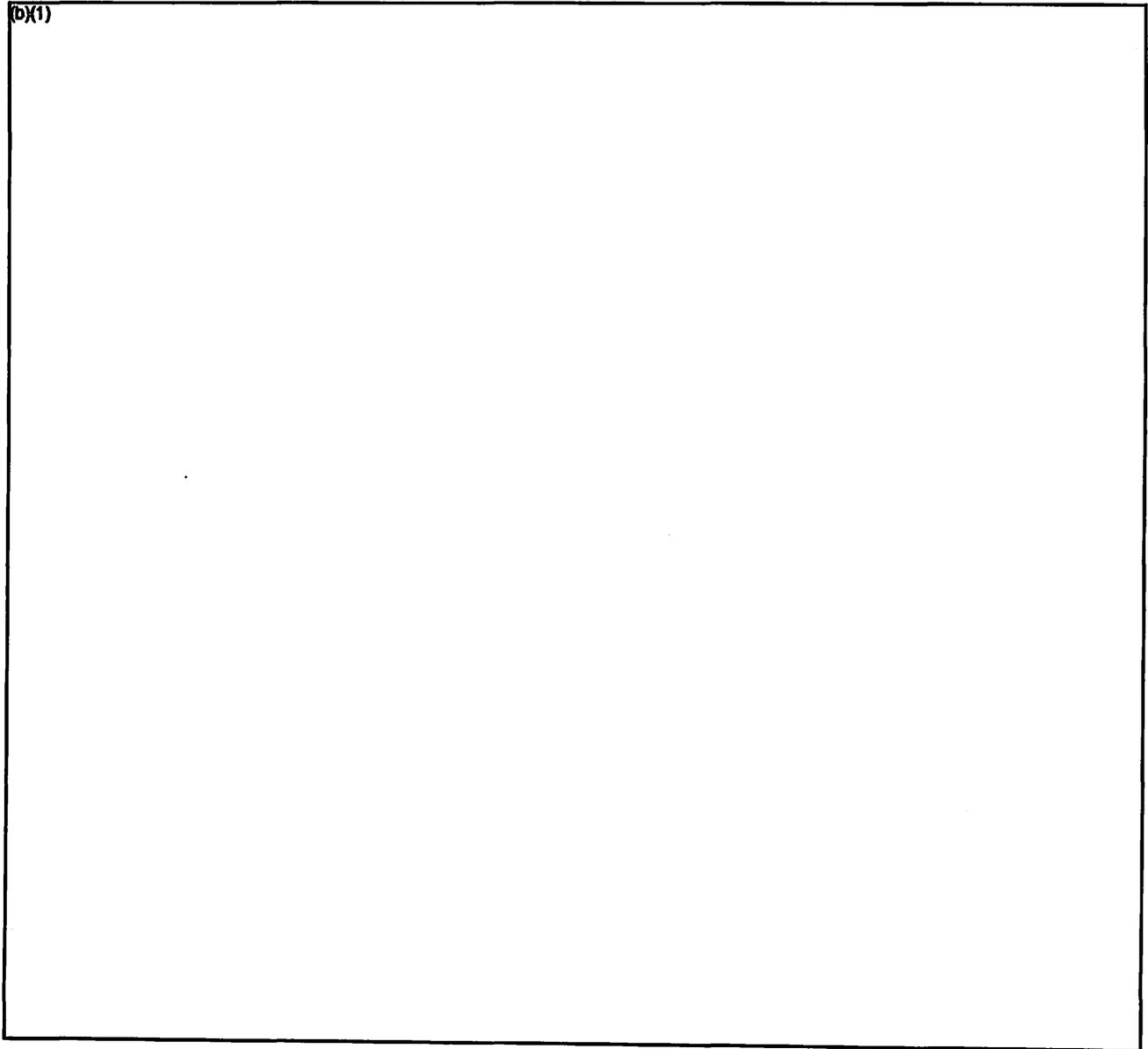


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2. (U) Deliberate Planning Sensitive Target Approval and Review Procedures  
(Figure 3)

(b)(1)



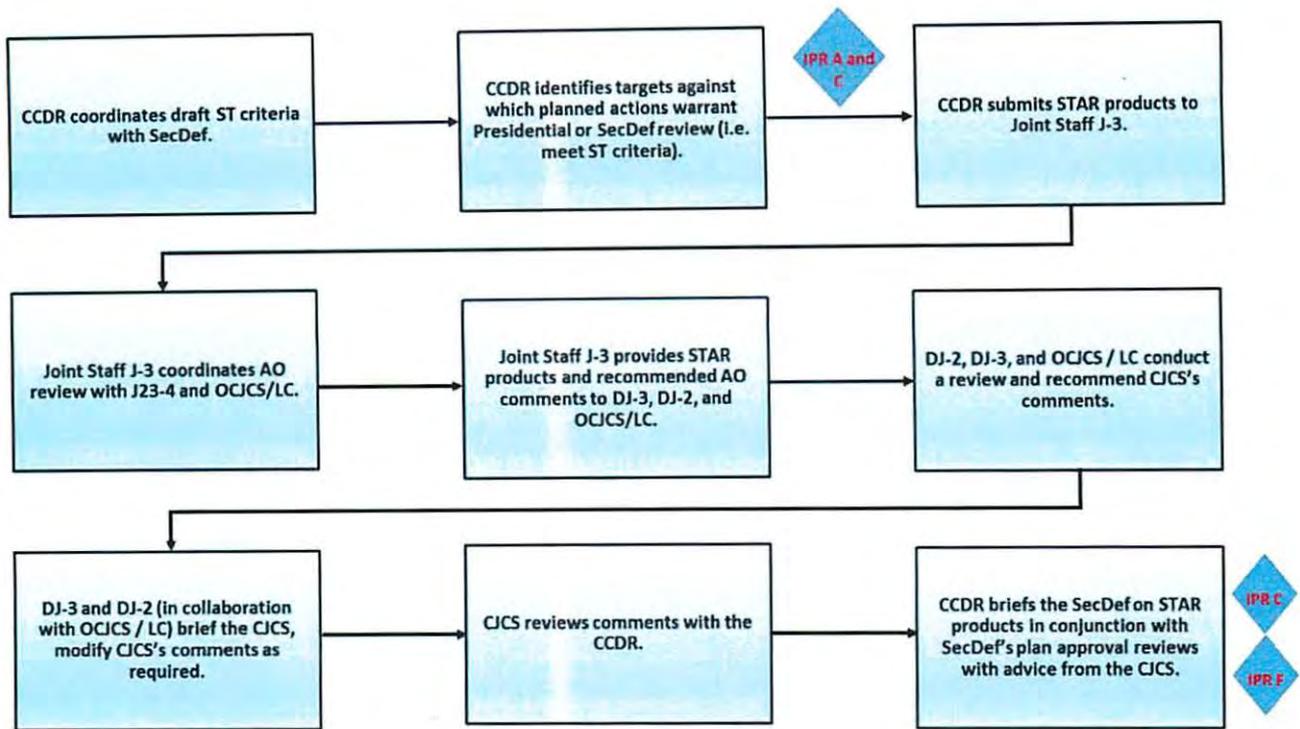


Figure 3. (U) Deliberate Planning STAR Procedures

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### 3. (U) Crisis Action Planning Overview

(b)(1)

b. (U) CCDRs should forward STAR products IAW GEF and Joint Strategic Campaign Plan guidance as depicted in Figure 4 for SecDef's review. As in deliberate planning, Appendix A provides the recommended format of a STAR submission product. Appendix A emphasizes the importance of discussing STs in the context of the ongoing conflict and linking the target(s) to desired effects while showing how those effects support national guidance. Examples of

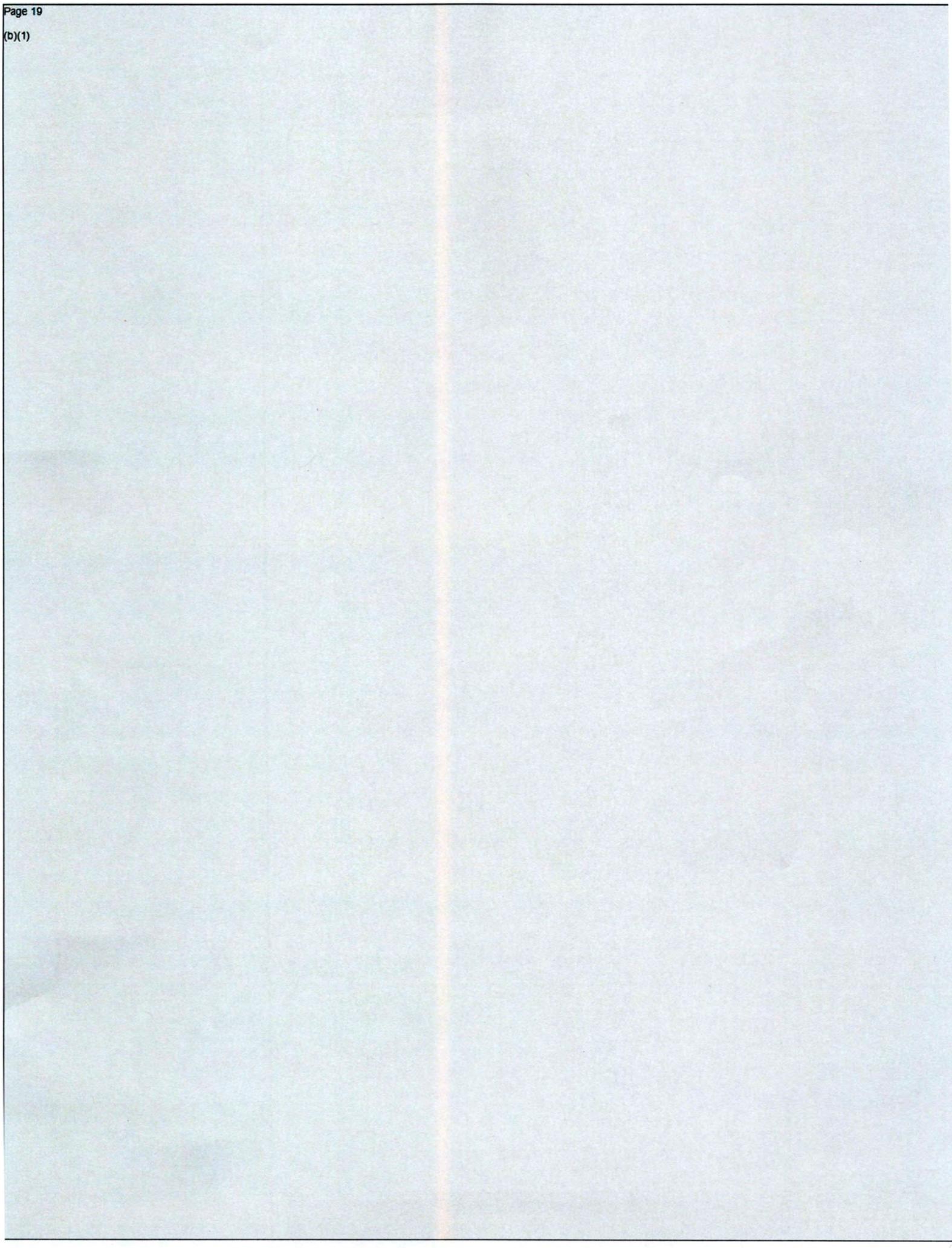
previously submitted STAR products are available upon request to JS Targets (J23-4) SVOIP 221- 0888 or TSVOIP 984-4406.

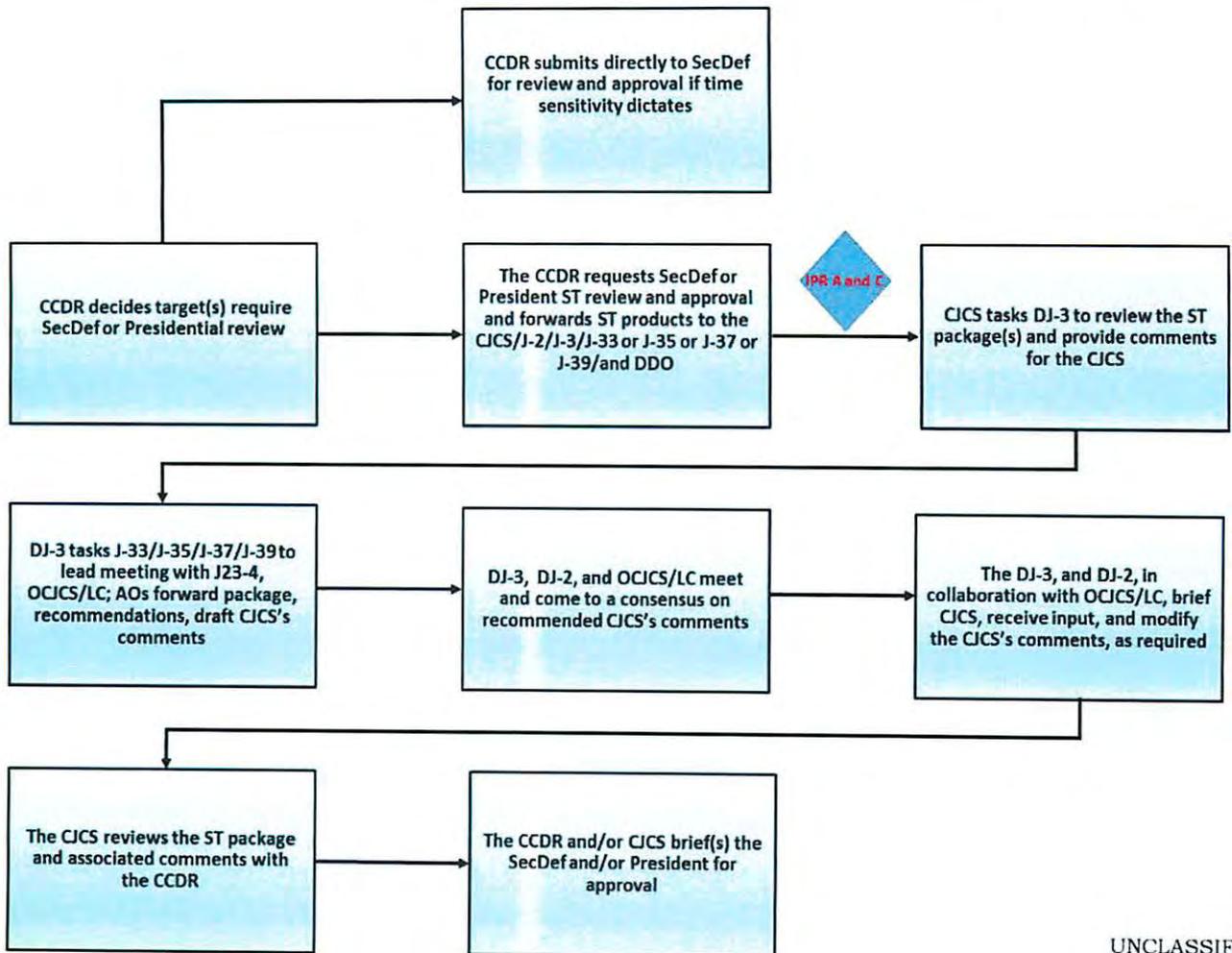
4. (U) Crisis Action Planning Sensitive Target Approval and Review Procedures (Figure 4).

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APPENDIX A TO ENCLOSURE B

(U) RECOMMENDED SENSITIVE TARGET APPROVAL AND REVIEW PRODUCT CHECKLIST AND SUMMARY SLIDE

1. (U) This appendix provides general guidance on STAR products. Paragraph 3 serves as a recommended checklist for STAR product creation. The intent is to provide general guidance, based on CCMD best practices and feedback from previous STAR submissions, but not limit the CCMD's flexibility. Following the checklist is an example STAR slide. Although the example slide is for a fixed facility, both the checklist and the slide may be applied, with modifications, to any type of target. The example slide provides general guidance and serves as the recommended format based on best practices. Creating the right format can be difficult as STAR products have more than one audience (CCDRs, SecDef, and possibly the President). The checklist and example slide attempt to strike a balance between the desires of the DOD STAR approving authority and ultimate customer, the SecDef or the President.

2. (U) The recommended STAR product checklist applies to both deliberate planning and CAP. Parts of the checklist may require greater emphasis or more slides based on the circumstances. Ensure the sensitive target being proposed is couched in the context of the overall OPLAN, CONPLAN, or order and linked to the desired objectives and effects. The STAR content will vary depending on the stage of the planning process or the particular operation. For operations still in the planning stage, the OPLAN/CONPLAN, objectives, and effects sections may be more extensive (may require more slides). Targets submitted in the middle of ongoing operations will likely require less in these sections (one slide as in Appendix A, Enclosure B).

3. (U) Recommended STAR Product Checklist

a. (U) Objectives, Guidance, and Authorities.

(1) (U) Governing CONPLAN, OPLAN, OPORD, and/or EXORD.

(2) (U) Name and/or Number, date (e.g., OPLAN 1234, Defense of Country X, Oct 07).

(3) (U) Objectives in the plan this target supports.

- (4) (U) Other information as required (e.g., applicable ROE).
- b. (U) Target Admin Information.
  - (1) (U) Target Name.
  - (2) (U) Target Identification or Entity Identifier number (e.g., Basic Encyclopedia Number, Counter Terrorism Identification Number, etc.) and O-Suffix.
  - (3) (U) Target Location information (country, city, geographic coordinates, IP address; indicate if unknown).
  - (4) (U) Category Code and Title.
- c. (U) Target Graphics (when applicable).
  - (1) (U) Collateral damage estimation graphic (CDE-G) or other graphic that best displays the reason for Target Sensitivity (e.g., DTRA Plume analysis graphic).
    - (a) (U) Desired point of impact labeled.
    - (b) (U) Facility outline annotated.
    - (c) (U) Collateral Effects Radius (CER) with labels in feet or meters.
    - (d) (U) Denote CER distances used that differ from published tables and state reason for differences.
    - (e) (U) Label collateral objects that may be affected as appropriate with emphasis on law of war protected objects (e.g., Category I – Mosque).
  - (2) (U) A CDE-G may not always be appropriate for the intended audience. In those cases, the CDR may substitute an appropriate graphic on the STAR slide.
- d. (U) Target Functional Characterization.
- e. (U) Target Significance and Expectation.
  - (1) (U) Target Significance.

(2) (U) Target Expectation.

f. (U) Source Summary and Confidence Level Statement.

(1) (U) Summarize the quality, type, currency, and amounts of intelligence that supported this assessment.

(2) (U) State the confidence level of the supporting intelligence, including the justification of the confidence level.

(3) (U) Include any key intelligence gaps.

g. (U) Intelligence Community Vetting Assessment.

(1) (U) Concur. Agency concurs in all seven elements related to the target's functional characterization.

(2) (U) Concur Partially. Agency concurs in one or more of the seven elements but cannot assess all.

(3) (U) Non-concur. Agency substantively non-concurs in any one of the seven elements.

(4) (U) No Reporting/Expertise. Agency can assess none of the seven elements, or the organization lacks subject-matter expertise on the target nominated at the time of the request.

h. (U) Proposed Action.

(1) (U) Kill, capture, destroy, disrupt, damage, deny service, etc.

(2) (U) Damage criteria.

(3) (U) Method used, including appropriate details (type of force/weapon/fusing, size, number, delivery/insertion means, etc.).

i. (U) Collateral Effects.

(1) (U) Physical.

(a) (U) Casualty estimates, day and night, and episodic.

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(b) (U) Estimate of damage to collateral entities; annotate entities on graphic as appropriate.

(2) (U) Information Operations: Qualitative assessment of potential collateral effects.

(3) (U) Environmental.

(a) (U) Chemical, Biological, or Radiological (CBR) plume.

(b) (U) Estimate of effect on surrounding air quality, soil, foliage, and water, including duration.

(4) (U) Local and regional public sentiment (strategic communication).

(5) (U) Diplomatic (local and regional governments).

(6) (U) Law of War protected objects affected (include Category; e.g., CAT I Mosque).

(7) (U) Economic.

(8) (U) Cyberspace Operations: Assessment of potential collateral effects.

j. (U) Mitigation techniques employed (e.g., specific IP addresses targeted, delayed fuse, night attack).

k. (U) Reasons alternate actions and methods to achieve effects are not recommended.

(b)(1)

m. (U) Strategic Risk Assessment.

n. (U) CCDR (JTF CDR) Recommendation for Approval: Signature and DTG.

**CLASSIFICATION**

**Target Title**  
BE# 12345678, City, Country (123456 S 0123456W)

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**OPLAN 1234, Operation "DAGGER"**

- Objective 2.1 Deny Terrorist Safe Haven
- Objective 3.2 Destroy Terrorist C3

**Description**

- Single story masonry residence in civilian populated neighborhood

**Significance & Effects:**

- Leaders of neighborhood terrorist cell reside here along with C3 equipment
- Will degrade terrorist coms by 50% and eliminate 1 of 2 leadership safe houses

**Supporting Intelligence**

- SIGINT: High confidence May 07 – phone call
- HUMINT: High conf. May 07 – cell member
- IMINT: Mod conf. May 07 – terrorist vehicles

**Intel Community Assessment**

- Concur: DIA, NSA, NGA
- Abstain: CIA

**Proposed Action**

- Kill terrorists, destroy C3 equipment
- Aircraft Ground Attack
- 2 x 500lb PGM Delay Fuse, 290-310 HDG (GBU-38 No Restriction)

**Collateral Effects:**

- Collateral Damage Level X / 115 FT blast ring
- Casualty Estimate: Day 19 Night 49  
Episodic: 200 First Friday of every month
- No CAT / LOAC concern in blast area
- Local Sentiment: Will be negative – home owners well liked

Notional Target Graphic

Target

CDE 4 CER

**NOTE:** Ringsize and casualty estimate are notional

**Mitigation Recommendation:**  
Day attack will help minimize potential for civilian casualties

**Alternate Actions**  
Ground assault: Risk loss of element of surprise

**Chairman's Comments:**

**NOTE:** Classification will depend on content

**CLASSIFICATION**

Note: CJCS's comments block in Figure 5 is added by the Joint Staff after a CCDR submits STs. This slide, or slides, will be combined with a Joint Staff Summary Sheet and Map and placed in a Special Book for the SecDef and/or President for review and approval.

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Appendix A  
Enclosure B

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## APPENDIX B TO ENCLOSURE B

### (U) EXAMPLE SENSITIVE TARGET APPROVAL AND REVIEW (STAR) CONOPS MESSAGE

REF A. CPG, XXXX REF B. JSCP, XXXX

1. IAW REFS A AND B, FORWARD A SENSITIVE TARGETS PACKAGE FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (SECDEF) OR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES REVIEW PRIOR TO EXECUTION. COMMUNICATE TO SECDEF OR THE PRESIDENT THE REASONS YOU BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO STRIKE THESE TARGETS AND WHY THESE TARGETS WARRANT SECDEF OR PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW. WITH THESE SENSITIVE TARGETS FORWARD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- A. SECDEF OR PRESIDENT ASSIGNED MISSION.
- B. OPLAN DESIRED ENDSTATES.
- C. OPLAN PHASES OR OVERVIEW, INCLUDING VALIDITY OF ASSUMPTIONS.
- D. DESIRED TARGETING EFFECT(S) THAT SENSITIVE TARGETS SUPPORT.
- E. LINKAGE OF EFFECT(S) TO OPLAN ENDSTATE(S).
- F. SENSITIVE TARGET DISCUSSION, INCLUDING:
  - (1) TARGET IDENTIFICATION (NUMBER OR SIMILAR UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER SUCH AS A BE NUMBER).
  - (2) FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERIZATION.
  - (3) TARGETING OBJECTIVE (E.G., DESTROY, SUPPRESS).
  - (4) LINKAGE OF THIS TARGET TO DESIRED TARGETING EFFECT(S) DISCUSSED IN PARA 1.D. ABOVE.
  - (5) ANY PRECONDITIONS OR TRIGGERING EVENTS TO INITIATE TARGET STRIKE (E.G., ENEMY USE OF WMD) OTHER THAN ONSET OF GENERAL HOSTILITIES AND EXECUTION OF YOUR COA.
  - (6) TARGET SENSITIVITY (E.G., CASUALTIES, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, NEUTRAL COUNTRY IMPACT, INTEL GAINS OR LOSSES).
  - (7) CASUALTY ESTIMATE REGARDLESS OF SENSITIVITY ISSUE.
  - (8) DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL UNDESIRE CONSEQUENCES OF STRIKING THE TARGET.
  - (9) CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ACHIEVING THE TARGETING OBJECTIVE.

2. FORWARD ALL KNOWN SENSITIVE TARGETS AT THIS TIME. AS ADDITIONAL SENSITIVE TARGETS BECOME KNOWN, FORWARD THOSE TARGETS AND ANY CHANGES AS AN ADDENDUM TO THIS PACKAGE TO EXPEDITE REVIEW.

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Appendix B  
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3. USE THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS MEANS TO PASS INFORMATION THROUGH THE J-3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL OPERATIONS USING SECURE CHANNELS.

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Appendix B  
Enclosure B

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## ENCLOSURE C

### (U) REFERENCES

- a. CJCSI 3160.01 series, “No-Strike and the Collateral Damage Estimation (CDE) Methodology”
- b. 2015-17, “Guidance for the Employment of the Force”
- c. CJCSI 3141.01 series, “Management and Review of Contingency Plans”
- d. CJCSM 3122.01 series, “Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPEs) Volume I Planning Policies and Procedures”
- e. CJCSI 3110.01 series, “Joint Strategic Campaign Plan (JSCP)”

### (U) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. CJCSI 3370.01 series, “Target Development Standards”
2. CJCSM 3122.03 series, “Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPEs) Volume II Planning Formats and Guidance”
3. CJCSM 3122.08 series, “IJSTO Supplement to Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (Volume II) Planning Formats and Guidance”
4. Joint Publication 3-12, 5 February 2013, “Cyberspace Operations”
5. Joint Publication 3-60, 31 January 2013, “Joint Targeting”

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