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POLICY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

FEB 27 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Guidance on Geographic Combatant Command Online Influence Activities

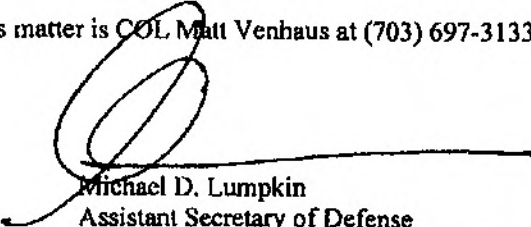
Section 344 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 limits the availability of funds for the Trans Regional Web Initiative (TRWI) websites that U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) centrally funds and operates for online influence activities in support of the Geographic Combatant Commands. Accordingly, USSOCOM should terminate TRWI at the end of its current period of performance and work with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (OUSD(P)) to explore options to transition strategic components to an appropriate non-DoD department or agency.

The termination of USSOCOM's TRWI program in response to Section 344 does not preclude commanders from conducting military information support operations on the internet, nor does Section 344 prohibit all DoD use of the internet for military information support operations (MISO), such as those in support of commanders' counterterrorism, security and stability objectives. Geographic Combatant Commanders may, consistent with current policy, utilize online communications media for MISO, and are encouraged to focus such operations at the tactical and operational levels.

Geographic Combatant Commanders may also retain the website names and URL addresses of websites currently operating as part of TRWI, provided they assume responsibility from USSOCOM to manage and operate the sites and re-configure the sites to focus on operational and tactical objectives.

Upon USSOCOM terminating its central funding and management of TRWI, Geographic Combatant Commands desiring to conduct online influence activities will assume responsibility for securing funding from their supporting Military Department or Service components. Geographic Combatant Commands are encouraged to work with OUSD(P) during the budgeting and review process to develop programs tailored to the needs of the Geographic Combatant Commands and in accordance with the FY2015 Global Engagement Guidance response from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, should Commanders determine that such programs are required.

My point of contact on this matter is COL Matt Venhaus at (703) 697-3133 or john.m.venhaus.mil@mail.mil.



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