COMCAM
MULTI-SERVICE TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES FOR COMBAT CAMERA OPERATIONS

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FOREWORD
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PREFACE

1. Purpose

Multi-Service Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (MTTP) for Combat Camera (COMCAM) Operations provides commanders and staffs at all echelons essential information to effectively employ COMCAM capabilities.

2. Scope

This publication details procedures to integrate and synchronize tactical and operational COMCAM support for military operations. It is designed for planners and commanders at all levels and details methods to fully integrate visual imagery documentation capabilities with warfighting staffs.

3. Applicability

This publication provides guidance for planning, employing, and integrating COMCAM forces. Use of this publication ensures synchronized COMCAM capabilities and visual imagery documentation support by tailored COMCAM force packages.

4. Implementation Plan

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b. This publication reflects current joint and Service doctrine, command and control organizations, facilities, personnel, responsibilities, and procedures. Changes in Service protocol, appropriately reflected in joint and Service publications, will likewise be incorporated in revisions to this document.

c. We encourage recommended changes for improving this publication. Key your comments to the specific page and paragraph and provide a rationale for each recommendation. Send comments and recommendations directly to—

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COMCAM
MULTI-SERVICE TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES
FOR COMBAT CAMERA OPERATIONS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMCAM

Multi-Service Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Combat Camera Operations

Overview of Combat Camera
Chapter I. COMCAM supports the joint force commander (JFC) by acquiring, processing, and distributing classified and unclassified still and motion imagery collected during ongoing military operations. Comprehensive visual information documentation (VIDOC) ensures an accurate historical record of military operations.

Roles and Responsibilities
Chapter II. Integrated COMCAM assets provide commanders a unique first hand account of tactical actions. Each Service has dedicated COMCAM units, which receive specialized training (advanced field training and weapons qualifications) to effectively integrate with any combat unit in austere and hostile environments.

Combat Camera Operations
Chapter III. COMCAM forces are tasked, deployed, and employed as an integral part of operations to ensure VIDOC of US military activities during wartime, worldwide crises, contingencies, joint exercises, and other events of significant national interest involving the Department of Defense (DOD).

Appendices
Appendix A – Service-level COMCAM Units and Capabilities
Appendix B – Joint COMCAM Tasking Matrices
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The following commands and agencies participated in the development of this publication:

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Chapter I
OVERVIEW OF COMBAT CAMERA OPERATIONS

1. Overview

COMCAM operations provide the JFC with classified and unclassified still and motion VIDOC support. Each Service’s COMCAM organizations provide Service-unique VIDOC capabilities.

2. Mission

   a. The mission of COMCAM forces is to provide Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), the Military Departments, combatant commands, and joint task forces (JTFs) with a directed imagery capability in support of operational and planning requirements during wartime operations, worldwide crises, contingencies, and joint exercises.

   b. COMCAM VIDOC enhances the commander's situational awareness and establishes a historical operations record. When operationally deployed COMCAM forces are under the direct control of the J-39 staff officer. While their efforts and products routinely support the intelligence and public affairs missions, COMCAM forces exist as a separate and distinct operational entity with a clearly defined documentation mission.

   c. COMCAM forces perform unique and highly specialized missions with VIDOC capabilities supporting the full range of military operations in all operational environments. COMCAM personnel maintain qualifications enabling them to operate with airborne forces, special operations forces (SOF), and military divers. Their capabilities range from aerial photography to underwater photography.

3. Impact

In an increasingly media-driven world and global information environment, the ability to exploit VIDOC has enabled the warfighter to gain a battlespace advantage. COMCAM forces provide commanders with visual information (VI) that directly supports their decision making and operational assessment. During recent operations, daily imagery usage included: battle briefings, targeting, operational assessment, force protection, battlespace orientation, airfield qualification, public affairs, operational awareness, information operations, psychological operations, and battle damage assessment.