MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION)

SUBJECT: Virtual Environments

Virtual and simulated environments offer an unprecedented opportunity for the Department of the Navy (DON) to transform how it connects people, ideas, and information. They also provide a risk-friendly environment to experiment with innovative ideas and have the potential to reduce cost. The appropriate Navy and Marine Corps activities shall fully support this effort and pertinent findings from the Marine Corps’ Simulation Assessment Working Groups will inform this initiative.

The DON has been exploring the use of virtual environments across four primary domains:

- Training and Education
- Modeling and Simulation
- Integration and Interoperability
- Rapid Prototyping

Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) (ASN (M&RA)) will co-lead, with Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) (ASN (RD&A)), in a DON wide effort to:

- Identify centers of excellence within the DON, across the Department of Defense, commercial industry, then document findings and lessons learned.
- Identify where, and in what conditions virtual environments demonstrate value.
- Develop a roadmap for the DON that includes the opportunities, risks, and barriers associated with scaling up the use of virtual environments.

ASN (M&RA) and ASN (RD&A) will present a plan of actions and milestones to the Under Secretary of the Navy within 60 days of this memo and implementation will begin immediately upon approval.

Ray Mabus
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cc:
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