



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY, AND LOGISTICS)
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER)
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (POLICY)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMMAND,
CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE)
SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Common Specification for Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) --
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

In Executive Order 13111, the President directed the Department of Defense to work with other government agencies, academia, and private industry to develop a common specification for instructional software that would make possible interoperability and reuse across federal agencies. In separate actions, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense directed us to develop a strategy and plans for implementing learning technologies on a broad scale across the department.

We are pleased to announce that, in response to those mandates, on 31 January 00 we released Version 1.0 of a common specification, called the Sharable Courseware Object Reference Model (SCORM). This new specification provides the foundation for how the Department of Defense, and others, will use learning and communications technologies to build, and operate in, the learning environment of the future. The release of SCORM 1.0 is a critical first step, but there is more work to be done.

Today, we challenge the department's education and training developers to work collaboratively, across the department, academia, and the private sector, to develop ADL prototypes and content that conform to the new SCORM specification. Doing so is essential to refining the SCORM and to creating sufficient amounts of reusable and platform-independent learning in order to educate, train, and aid performance -- better, faster, and at lower cost. In that regard, we would appreciate your giving this announcement the widest possible distribution.

To support your collaborative endeavors, we have established several ADL Co-Laboratories, which can be accessed physically or over the Internet. We have asked these ADL Co-Laboratories to develop and make available, to all DoD components and ADL partners, software and guidelines they can use to ensure that their learning management systems, authoring tools, and learning content are "ADL compliant." In addition, we have asked the ADL

Co-Laboratories to host a series of public events throughout the year, to review progress in meeting our collective requirements for reuse, adaptability, interoperability, cost-effectiveness, and global access.

Tom Longstreth, the Deputy Under Secretary for Readiness, is guiding the development and implementation of the Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative and the SCORM specifications. His Director for Readiness and Training Policy and Programs, Mike Parmentier, manages the ADL Initiative, and Don Johnson is the ADL staff focal point. For additional information about the SCORM, ADL Initiative, or ADL Co-Laboratories, we invite you to visit the website at www.adlnet.org. Alternatively, you can contact Mike or Don at 614-9550.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles L. Cragin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "L".

Charles L. Cragin
Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Personnel and Readiness)