MEMORANDUM FOR

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, 100 NAVY PENTAGON, WASHINGTON DC 20350
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, 1670 AIR FORCE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON DC 20330
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS, 3000 MARINE CORPS, PENTAGON, WASHINGTON, DC 20350
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, 2000 NAVY PENTAGON, WASHINGTON DC 20350
CHIEF OF STAFF, AIR FORCE, 1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON DC 20301

SUBJECT: Army Credentialing Assistance Program

1. I am pleased to share the Army's newly approved Credentialing Assistance (CA) Program (enclosure). In response to the enabling language in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, we developed a CA Program to support Soldiers who choose to pursue "self-directed" credentialing outside of institutional Army training. The program will supplement the Army's current credentialing programs offered through Army schools as part of institutional training.

2. The CA Program will particularly benefit Soldiers in combat arms positions because it will allow them to develop a marketable skill, not necessarily aligned to their military occupational specialty, which will help them find civilian employment post-service. Credentials offered through the Army's credentialing program will have a military nexus to ensure that the Army benefits from the program during the Soldier's service.

3. We believe that credentialing promotes a Soldier's professionalism, competence, and readiness while in uniform and prepares them for civilian careers. Toward that end, the Army will begin a limited user test later this summer at Fort Hood, Texas. The test will serve as a proof of concept before Armywide implementation of the program. We look forward to providing feedback on the results of the limited user test and cross sharing ideas on this ongoing initiative.

Mark T. Esper

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