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Memorandum

Project Agincourt – Pathway to the Autonomous Warfare Command

September 30, 2026

Overview

The Secretary of War released a memorandum titled "Project Agincourt – Pathway to the Autonomous Warfare Command" that establishes the procedures for the Department of War to create a 4-star functional combatant command that will lead the Joint Force in unmanned and autonomous warfare. This order establishes that the Direct Reporting Portfolio Manager for Unmanned Systems (DPRM-UxS) will lead Project Agincourt. Owen West, Director of the Defense Innovation Unit, will serve as the Chief Executive Officer and Max Strasiser, Navy SEAL Senior Chief, will serve as the Chief Operating Officer.

Within **30 days of this order,** DPRM-UxS, with the support of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will submit a plan of action and milestones (POAM) to the Secretary of War for approval and will include Service force contributions, resources, required authorities, milestones, and more.

Project Agincourt

This memorandum orders two missions for Project Agincourt and DPRM-UxS to achieve:

- Establish the pathway for the **Autonomous Warfare Command,** a 4-star functional command that will posses direct manpower, budget, acquisition authority, and dedicated military pathways for officers and enlisted personnel. DPRM-UxS will drive immediate shifts required and collaborate with Congress on legislation to establish AUTOWARCOM by **October 1, 2027.**
- DPRM-UxS will prototype a new acquisition model for unmanned and autonomous systems that will yield a repeatable procurement system that provides the ability to adapt in combat on the right side of cost exchange.

Timeline

Policy	Date	Focus & Key Provisions
Memo: Establishment of the Direct Reporting Portfolio Manager for Unmanned Systems	June 29, 2026	Centralizes oversight of most unmanned and autonomous systems across DoW.
Drone Dominance Program	December 2, 2025	Follow-up on EO 14307; establishes a rapidly scaled procurement process for deployment of sUAS. Structured around 4 Gauntlets.
Memo: Unleashing U.S. Military Drone Dominance	July 10, 2025	Rescinds any restrictive policies on drone procurement/production; aimed at bolsterin U.S. manufacturing of drones and increased adoption in the DoW
EO 14307: Unleashing American Drone Dominance	June 6, 2025	Prioritizes safe commercialization of drone technologies and integration into American airspace; includes prioritization of U.S. manufactured drones over foreign-made alternatives.

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Implications for the Department of War

The Department of War will now face mandates to:

- Begin initial work immediately under existing authorities.
- Reallocate resources in alignment with future AUTOWARCOM plans across all Service branches
- Recommend a rebalanced Joint Force investment allocation. The Services and DRPM-UxS will work together on this and send it to the Deputy Secretary of War

This EO also signals a shift in unmanned and autonomous systems procurement and ownership with it underneath one umbrella with all budgeting and authority allocated once established.

What Does This Mean for Industry?

For contractors, integrators, and developers involved in autonomous systems and the Department of War, this memo is a clear signal of the DoWs initiative to streamline, consolidate, and advance more drone technologies in their service.

Key takeaways for vendors:

- Faster, non-traditional buying: commercial-first, prototype-style buying is likely and encouraged, but no contract vehicle is named yet outside of already established methods.
- Vendors must align with Department needs; the DoW will adopt, test, and modify what works and will target adaptability at cost.
- Vendors must be aware of future budget shifts and review new funding lines through future consolidations after establishment to understand purchasing and adoption.

The memo also signals a shift in strategy: the Department is buying adaptability, not a particular product. Vendors' ability to update and scale may matter as much as the initial capability.

Expect some immediate change through the Accountability and Implementation Requirements, **but be aware of the 30-day PAOM, monthly service reports, and plan for full establishment on October 1, 2027.**

About Technology by Policy

Tech by Policy is a Carahsoft initiative that helps technology vendors align their solutions to evolving federal, state, and local policy priorities to accelerate growth in the public sector. The program connects policy to procurement—translating executive orders, modernization mandates, and compliance frameworks into actionable go-to-market strategies.

By mapping technology capabilities to government missions, Tech by Policy enables vendors to build visibility, strengthen credibility, and drive adoption through policy-aligned positioning, campaigns, and education.

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