

Memorandum

Transforming Advana to Accelerate Artificial Intelligence and Enhance Auditability

January 9, 2026

Overview

On January 9th, 2026, the Secretary of War released a [memo](#) titled “*Transforming Advana to Accelerate Artificial Intelligence and Enhance Auditability*” that aims to restructure Advana to take full advantage of the capabilities of AI support warfighting, intelligence, and enterprise needs with the speed, security, and auditability required.

Harnessing the power of Department of War data to accelerate warfighting, intelligence, and enterprise missions is essential to meeting the Secretary's priorities for the Department.

Advana Program Components

Effective Immediately, the Undersecretary of War for Research and Engineering (USW R&E) and the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer (CDAO) will restructure Advana into three distinct program components:

- *War Data Platform (WDP) program team*: Focused on core data integration layer of Advana to provide standardized data access; streamline rapid development and deployment of agentic AI department-wide
- *Advana for Financial Management program team*: Focused on supporting the Undersecretary of War Comptroller (USW(C)) Audit Remediation Team to achieve a clean audit in FY27-28
- *WDP Application Services program team*: Focused on rationalizing all other existing (non-audit related) Advana application environments. Supports migration to new WDP environments, integration of agentic AI and other applications

These teams will be overseen by new CDAO leadership starting in **January 2026**. The CDAO will provide status updates every **45 days** to the Secretary of War until Full Operational Capability (FOC) of the program teams is achieved.

Directed Actions

This memo directs multiple actions to be undertaken by the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer (CDAO) and Under Secretary of War Comptroller (USW(C)).

Key actions are:

- **Within 30 days**, the CDAO will assign additional existing Advana program personnel resource and establish a dedicated control plane and community space to prioritize financial management use cases
- **Within 60 days**, provide the SecWar with a plan to ration rationalize and expand core data integration layer into new WDP and, in partnership with USW (C), conduct review of all existing Advana applications and tools and transition or divest any that do not advance audit or other critical DoW use-cases
- **Within 120 days**, in coordination with USW (A&S), formalize requirements documentation for the War Data Platform (WDP)
- **Within 270 days**, provide possible recommendations for establishment of programs of record

What Does This Mean for Government?

This memo provides a clear signal that the SecWar is looking to enhance the Department’s financial readiness. The Department must be ready to:

- Justify any current spending once audits begin and consolidate any spending
- Work with the new Advana teams to advance data capabilities across the Services
- Understand the new positions and oversight for financial auditability
- Utilize agentic AI and other capabilities to advance this memo’s goals

What Does This Mean for Industry?

For contractors, integrators, and developers involved in AI and financial systems, this memo is a signal that the Department is tackling these issues their solutions can assist with. Key developments contracts should be aware of are:

- Providing agentic AI solutions , clean audit and data integration capabilities, and financial readiness solutions
- New program leaders for these teams for outreach once they are appointed
- New programs of record, if created, may be targetable by contractors if tagged to procurement capabilities

This memo focuses on internal Department overhauls, but once data platforms and teams are created, contractors can provide automated solutions to assist in furthering financial readiness and auditability.

Timeline

Policy	Key Dates	Focus & Key Provisions
Executive Order 14179: Removing Barriers to Artificial Intelligence	January 23, 2025	Scrapped Biden-era AI oversight, directed federal agencies to align AI use with national competitiveness, innovation, and ideological neutrality.
Memo: Reforming the Joint Requirements Process to Accelerate Fielding of Warfighting Capabilities	August 20, 2025	Rescinds the Joint Capabilities and Development System (JCIDS) and provides new resources and organizations to track DoW portfolios.
Artificial Intelligence Strategy for the Department of War	January 9, 2026	Formalizes AI as a core warfighting capability across DoW operations and streamlines integration and acceleration of adoption

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