



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF WAR
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

JAN 09 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOW FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Transforming Advana to Accelerate Artificial Intelligence and Enhance Auditability

Restructuring for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Era

Data-driven decision-making is fundamental to maintaining our warfighting advantage and making the Department a more efficient enterprise. Created during President Trump's first administration, the Advana program has become a cornerstone of the Department's efforts to exploit our extensive data assets — not just for enterprise efficiency but for military advantage. However, the evolution of Advana's data platform and application ecosystem over the last six years has led to a complex technical and programmatic architecture that we now must rationalize in order to capitalize on the full potential of AI and support warfighting, intelligence, and enterprise needs with the speed, security, and auditability required. Therefore, I direct the following set of actions to effect this critical transformation of Advana.

Effective immediately, the Under Secretary of War for Research and Engineering and the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer (CDAO) will restructure the Advana program into three distinct program components each with a clear focus:

1. **War Data Platform (WDP) program team**, focused on expanding the core data integration layer of Advana to provide standardized data access that streamlines secure, rapid development and integration of agentic AI and other applications Department-wide;
2. **Advana for Financial Management program team**, focused on supporting the Under Secretary of War (Comptroller) (USW(C)) Audit Remediation Teams in our critical mission to achieve a clean audit opinion on the fiscal year (FY) 27 Defense Working Capital Fund (DWCF) financial statements and FY28 agency-wide financial statements, leveraging an enhanced and dedicated technical team to optimize the legacy Advana application environment for Financial Management and leverage the WDP; and
3. **WDP Application Services program team**, focused on rationalizing all other existing (non-audit related) Advana application environments, supporting migrations to the new WDP architecture, and supporting self-service integrations of new agentic AI and other applications by Department of War (DoW) organizations.



Each of these three focused programs will be led by top technical leaders, with enhanced engineering resources, overseen by the new CDAO leadership team starting in January 2026. The CDAO will provide my office with a status update every 45 days until Full Operational Capability (FOC) of the WDP and Advana for Financial Management programs is achieved.

Ensuring Support for the Secretary's FY28 Clean Audit Priority

As part of their effort to expand the core WDP for warfighting and intelligence missions, the CDAO and Chief Data Officer will also work closely with the Department's Deputy Chief Financial Officer to prioritize ingestion, consolidation, and quality assurance of the Department's financial, acquisition, logistics, and readiness data pipelines to accelerate progress toward achieving a clean FY27 DWCF audit and clean FY28 agency-wide audit. To this end, I direct the following actions:

The CDAO will:

- Within 30 days, assign additional existing Advana program personnel resources to the Advana for Financial Management program
- Within 30 days, establish a dedicated control plane and community space to prioritize financial management use cases and ensure Comptroller has the same independence and control as a Service
- Within 60 days, provide my office with a plan to rationalize and expand the core data integration layer into a new WDP that can accelerate the Department's integration of AI capabilities and enhance auditability
- Within 60 days, and in partnership with the USW(C), conduct a review of all existing Advana applications and tools and transition and/or divest those applications that do not advance audit or other critical DoW use-cases
- Within 120 days, in coordination with the Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment, formalize requirements documentation for the WDP. And within 270 days after the WDP and Advana for Financial Management FOCs are complete, provide a recommendation for potential establishment of programs of record, if warranted
- Surge new technical talent to be hired by the DoW via the Office of Personnel Management's new "Tech Force" program to provide rapid additional support for USW(C)'s audit mission

The USW(C) will:

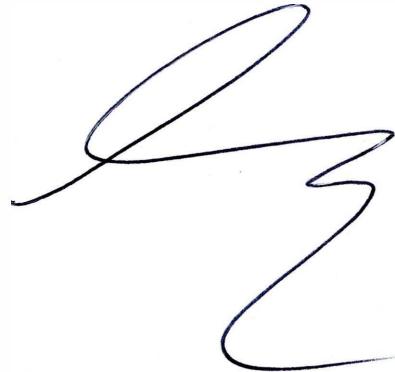
- Within 30 days, designate a program manager to oversee the Advana for Financial Management program team and application environment, and establish a governance model with the CDAO to ensure data strategy and technical priority alignment

The CDAO and USW(C) will:

- Integrate any technical talent the Department of the Navy may offer for temporary assignment to the Advana for Financial Management, War Data Platform, and/or WDP Application Services teams. This will rapidly augment existing engineering resources and leverage the leading role Navy has played in supporting the Department's audit and Advana efforts to-date. I commend Navy leadership for their willingness to support these critical joint missions

This memorandum, as coordinated with the Office of the Secretary of War, updates the previous Advana program guidance issued in the June 16, 2025 memorandum, "Achieving a 2028 Unmodified Financial Statement Audit Opinion."

Harnessing the power of our data to accelerate warfighting, intelligence, and enterprise missions is essential to meeting the Secretary's priorities for the Department. This transformation of Advana into a modernized War Data Platform will enable us to execute with the pace and agility required, capitalizing on the strong data foundation Advana has built.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Kirby", is positioned here.