



Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

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USD(A&T)

SUBJECT: DoD Response to Radiological Accidents

- References: (a) DoD Directive 5100.52, "DoD Response to an Accident or Significant Incident Involving Radioactive Materials," December 21, 1989 (hereby canceled)
- (b) Federal Emergency Management Agency, "Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP)," April, 1996¹
 - (c) [DoD 5025.1-M](#), "DoD Directives System Procedures," August 1994
 - (d) DoD 5100.52-M, "Nuclear Weapon Accident Response Procedures (NARP)," September 1990
 - (e) through (s), see enclosure 1

1. PURPOSE

This Directive:

- 1.1. Replaces reference (a) and updates policy and responsibilities for responding to a radiological accident.
- 1.2. Promulgates DoD policy and planning guidance to implement reference (b).
- 1.3. Authorizes publication of DoD 3150.8-M, "Radiological Response Procedures," in accordance with reference (c).
- 1.4. Continues to authorize publication of reference (d) in accordance with reference (c).

¹ Available from HQ, FEMA, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472.

1.5. Authorizes publication of DoD 3150.8-G, "Radiological Remediation Guide," in accordance with reference (c).

2. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments (including the Coast Guard when it is operating as a Military Service in the Navy), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified Combatant Commands, the Defense Agencies, and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components"). The term "Military Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps.

3. DEFINITIONS

Terms used in this Directive are defined in enclosure 2.

4. POLICY

It is DoD policy to:

4.1. Respond to and resolve radiological accidents resulting from radioactive material in DoD custody.

4.2. Provide DoD resources, consistent with operational availability, to assist Federal, State, and local responses to radiological emergencies as outlined in the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (reference (b)), the Federal Response Plan (reference (e)), DoD Directive 3025.1 (reference (f)), and DoD Directive 3150.5 (reference (g)).

4.3. Assist foreign governments under DoD Directive 5100.46 (reference (h)) and as directed under 10 U.S.C. 404 (reference (i)) and E.O. 12966 (reference (j)).

4.4. Conduct recurring radiological emergency training and exercises, using credible scenarios, at DoD facilities where the potential exists for a radiological accident. Training and exercises should incorporate activities that address assistance to civilian authorities in maintaining public safety, health, and well-being. National-level exercises shall incorporate DoD responsibilities and objectives under reference (b) or as required by applicable host-nation agreements.

4.5. Neither confirm nor deny the presence or absence of nuclear weapons, except as authorized under DoD Directive 5230.16 (reference (k)).

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology shall ensure that:

5.1.1. The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs (ATSD(NCB)) shall:

5.1.1.1. Establish policy and procedures and exercise staff coordination for DoD radiological response and assistance in accordance with responsibilities assigned by DoD Directive 5134.8 (reference (k)).

5.1.1.2. Conduct oversight of the Department of Defense's response capabilities by managing the Department of Defense's national-level exercise program.

5.1.1.3. Serve as technical advisor to the Secretary of Defense and OSD Principal Staff Assistants on radiological accidents, weapons composition, characteristics, and safety features; interdepartmental responsibilities and the Federal radiological emergency response system; and technical capabilities of the various Federal response elements.

5.1.2. The Director, Defense Nuclear Agency, under the ATSD(NCB), shall maintain a deployable advisory team to assist Commander in Chief (CINC) response forces and shall serve as the DoD-lead (excluding naval reactors) for coordinating DoD radiological accident response planning, training, and national-level exercises, with other Federal and international agencies and activities, in accordance with DoD Directive 5105.31 (reference (m)).

5.2. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy shall serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense and OSD Principal Staff Assistants on the consequences management aspects of emergency planning to respond to radiological accidents.

5.3. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall ensure that the Defense for Health Affairs, shall develop and maintain, in coordination with the Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA), a deployable advisory team to deal with medical radiobiological aspects of an accident and serve as the DoD lead on medical radiobiological matters on radiological accident response and training.

5.4. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

5.4.1. Develop, maintain, and provide initial emergency response forces, based on installation-specific capabilities, missions, and Service requirements, to deal with the effects of a radiological accident on-site and assist civil authorities in determining measures to protect life, property, and the environment until the arrival of the Unified Combatant Commander's Response Task Force (RTF).

5.4.2. Provide and equip specialized forces and capabilities, to include medical, as required by the supported Unified Combatant Commander.

5.4.3. Provide adequate funding for initial response forces and specialized forces supporting RTFs to ensure their operational capabilities and allow participation in exercises.

5.5. The Commanders of the Unified Combatant Commands, having potential for radiological accidents, and primary responsibility for the DoD response, shall:

5.5.1. Direct and coordinate the DoD response actions. If applicable, response actions shall be coordinated with the U.S. Chief(s) of Mission in affected country(ies). The CINC, U.S. Atlantic Command shall also direct the response for accidents occurring within the Continental United States.

5.5.2. Plan for, establish, maintain, and exercise RTFs to manage actions required to respond to a radiological accident. RTFs shall be commanded by flag rank officers.

5.5.2.1. The flag rank RTF commander should be selected from the Service with nuclear weapon or radiological material custody responsibility at the time of the accident and from the installation or force in whose area of responsibility the accident occurred.

5.5.2.2. Each responsible Unified Combatant Commander having potential for a radiological accident shall conduct an RTF exercise at least once each year. The scope and duration of the exercise will be determined by the sponsoring command. Flag-rank participation in RTF exercises is mandatory.

5.5.3. Provide available administrative, medical, logistical, communications, and other radiological response resources to the Department of Energy (DoE) and other Federal response organizations supporting a non-DoD radiological accident, in accordance with the FRERP (reference (b)) or DoD Directive 4000.19 (reference (n)), as applicable.

5.5.4. Coordinate military support requirements to civilian authorities in accordance with DoD Directive 3025.1 (reference (f)) for domestic accidents, or in accordance with DoD Directive 5100.46 (reference (h)) for accidents occurring outside the United States, its territories, or possessions.

5.6. The Secretary of the Army shall provide for military support to civil authorities in accordance with DoD Directive 3025.1 (reference (f)). This responsibility shall not supersede other responsibilities of the Unified Commanders for executing the Department of Defense's response to a radiological accident.

5.7. The Secretary of the Navy shall ensure that the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, shall:

5.7.1. Be responsible, in accordance with E.O. 12344 (reference (o)), for the safety of reactors and associated naval nuclear propulsion plants and control of radiation and radioactivity associated with naval nuclear propulsion activities.

5.7.2. Develop, in coordination with other DoD Components, planning guidance, response elements and structure, and exercise programs for dealing with accidents involving DoD mobile reactors and associated radioactivity.

5.7.3. Coordinate the response to a naval nuclear reactor accident with the Unified Combatant Commander in whose area of responsibility the accident occurred.

5.8. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall:

5.8.1. Advise the Secretary of Defense on the DoD response to a radiological accident.

5.8.2. Initiate and manage the national-level DoD response to the radiological accident, through the National Military Command Center (NMCC), for the Secretary of Defense, until control can be transferred to the responsible Unified Combatant Commander.

5.8.3. Maintain a Joint Nuclear Accident Incident Response Team (JNAIRT) to assist in carrying out the Chairman's responsibilities. To expedite the DoD response, the NMCC and the JNAIRT shall have authority to dispatch required specialized crisis response teams and logistic support to the scene of the accident.

5.9. The Commander in Chief, United States Transportation Command, shall provide Special Assignment Airlift Mission support for deployment of DoD and inter-departmental response organizations.

5.10. The Heads of the DoD Components shall:

5.10.1. Establish, maintain, and exercise capabilities to respond to radiological accidents and participate in joint and DoD committees supporting the DoD radiological programs, based on DoD Component-specific needs and mission requirements.

5.10.2. Upon request, reimburse the other DoD Components for costs incurred for requested radiological assistance that are not included in their normal operating expenses and that are directly chargeable to, and caused by, the assistance provided.

6. INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

6.1. Radiological accidents shall be immediately reported directly to the NMCC using the most expeditious means available in accordance with CJCSI 3150.03 (reference (p)).

6.2. Events involving accidental or unauthorized launch by U.S. Forces or U.S.-supported allied forces of a nuclear-capable weapon system or any other event that could create a risk of war shall be reported directly to the National Command Authorities by the on-duty Deputy Director for Operations, NMCC. This report shall be consistent with U.S. obligations under the Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of Outbreak of Nuclear War Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (reference (q)).

6.3. Any accident that may have caused a release of radioactive material that may result in international trans-boundary consequences of radiological safety significance shall be reported directly to the National Command Authorities by the on-duty Deputy Director for Operations, NMCC. This report shall be consistent with U.S. obligations under the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (which applies, for example, to any nuclear reactor wherever located, but that does not apply to nuclear

weapons and related activities) and with the related U.S. statement that "the United States will also voluntarily provide notification with respect to any other nuclear accident that has or may have trans-boundary effects of radiological safety significance" (which does apply to nuclear weapons and related activities) (reference (r)).

6.4. The responsible Unified Combatant Commander shall prepare and forward a final written report to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff after completing an investigation of the accident and provide information copies to the Military Services, other Unified Combatant Commanders, and the DNA.

6.5. The information requirements identified in this Directive have been assigned Report Control Symbol DD-A&T(AR)1168 in accordance with DoD 8910.1-M (reference (s)).

7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. White", is written over a horizontal line.

John P. White
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures - 2

- E1. References, continued
- E2. Definitions

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES, continued

- (e) Federal Emergency Management Agency, "Federal Response Plan (FRP)," April 1992²
- (f) [DoD Directive 3025.1](#), "Military Support to Civil Authorities (MSCA)," January 15, 1993
- (g) [DoD Directive 3150.5](#), "DoD Response to Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) Incidents," March 24, 1987
- (h) [DoD Directive 5100.46](#), "Foreign Disaster Relief," December 4, 1975
- (i) Section 404 of title 10, United States Code
- (j) Executive Order 12966, "Foreign Disaster Assistance," July 14, 1995
- (k) [DoD Directive 5230.16](#), "Nuclear Accident and Incident Public Affairs (PA) Guidance," December 20, 1993
- (l) [DoD Directive 5134.8](#), "Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy (ATSD(AE))," June 8, 1994
- (m) DoD Directive 5105.31, "Defense Nuclear Agency," June 14, 1995
- (n) DoD Directive 4000.19, "Interservice, Interdepartmental, and Interagency Support," April 15, 1992
- (o) Executive Order 12344, "Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program," February 1, 1982
- (p) Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3150.03, "Joint Reporting Structure, Event/Incident Reports," December 1, 1993
- (q) "Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of Outbreak of Nuclear War Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics," September 30, 1971, 22 United States Treaties (U.S.T.) 1590
- (r) "Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident," September 26, 1986, 25 International Legal Materials (I.L.M.)
- (s) [DoD 8910.1-M](#), "DoD Procedures for Management of Information Requirements," November 1986

² Available from HQ, FEMA, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472.

E2. ENCLOSURE 2

DEFINITIONS

E2.1.1. Consequences Management. Those planning actions and preparations taken to identify, organize, equip, and train emergency response forces and to develop the executable plans implemented in response to an accident; and, the actions taken following an accident to mitigate and recover from the effects of an accident.

E2.1.2. Nuclear Component. Weapon components composed of fissionable or fusionable materials that contribute substantially to nuclear energy released during detonation. Nuclear components include radioactive boosting materials.

E2.1.3. Nuclear Weapon Accident. An unexpected event involving nuclear weapons that results in any of the following:

E2.1.3.1. Accidental or unauthorized launching, firing, or use by U.S. Forces or U.S.-supported allied forces of a nuclear-capable weapons system.

E2.1.3.2. An accidental, unauthorized, or unexplained nuclear detonation.

E2.1.3.3. Non-nuclear detonation or burning of a nuclear weapon.

E2.1.3.4. Radioactive contamination.

E2.1.3.5. Jettisoning of a nuclear weapon.

E2.1.3.6. Public hazard, actual or perceived.

E2.1.4. Nuclear Weapon Significant Incident. An unexpected event involving nuclear weapons, nuclear components, or a nuclear weapon transport or launch vehicle when a nuclear weapon is mated, loaded, or on board, that does not fall into the nuclear weapon accident category but that:

E2.1.4.1. Results in evident damage to a nuclear weapon or nuclear component to the extent that major rework, complete replacement, or examination or recertification by the DoE is required.

E2.1.4.2. Requires immediate action in the interest of safety or nuclear weapons security.

E2.1.4.3. May result in adverse public reaction (national or international).

E2.1.4.4. Could lead to a nuclear weapon accident and warrants that senior national officials or agencies be informed or take action.

E2.1.5. Radiological Accident. A loss of control over radiation or radioactive material that presents a hazard to life, health, or property or that may result in any member of the general population exceeding exposure limits for ionizing radiation.

E2.1.6. Response Task Force (RTF). A DoD response force appropriately manned, equipped, trained and able to perform and coordinate all actions necessary to control and recover from a radiological accident or significant incident. RTFs are organized and maintained by those Unified Combatant Commanders having potential for a radiological accident and primary responsibility for managing the DoD response.