



# Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 1330.12

November 1, 2000

Certified Current as of November 21, 2003

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USD(P&R)

SUBJECT: United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO)

- References: (a) DoD Directive 1330.12, subject as above, November 9, 1987 (hereby canceled)
- (b) Chapter 2201 of title 36, United States Code
  - (c) [DoD Instruction 1330.13](#), "Armed Forces Professional Entertainment Program Overseas," September 8, 1985
  - (d) Title 10, United States Code
  - (e) through (g), see enclosure 1

## 1. REISSUANCE

This Directive reissues reference (a) in accordance with reference (b).

## 2. PURPOSE

This Directive establishes the policies governing Department of Defense (DoD) support to the USO pursuant to reference (b), and reauthorizes the publication of DoD Instruction 1330.13, "Armed Forces Professional Entertainment Program Overseas," reference (c).

## 3. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities of the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components").

#### 4. DEFINITION

United Service Organizations, Inc. A voluntary civilian organization through which the people of the United States may serve the religious, spiritual, social, welfare, educational and entertainment needs of the men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces. The USO is a non-governmental, but congressionally chartered organization. The USO mission is to enhance the quality of life of the personnel within the U.S. Armed Forces military communities and to create a partnership between the U.S. military and civilian communities worldwide.

#### 5. POLICY

It is DoD policy to:

5.1. Make DoD resources, other than direct expenditure of funds, available to the USO, to support the Department of Defense's mission and the mission of the USO, to the maximum extent permitted by law and DoD policy (references (b) and (d) through (g)). The enclosed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (enclosure 2) outlines the scope of this support, as agreed to between the Department of Defense and the USO.

5.2. Direct communication concerning the entertainment of U.S. Armed Forces personnel is authorized between the USO and the Armed Forces Professional Entertainment Office. Specific instruction on overseas programs may be found at DoD Instruction 1330.13 (reference (c)).

#### 6. RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1. The Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) shall serve as the official liaison between the Department of Defense and the USO, and shall designate a member of his/her office to serve as his/her principal assistant for USO matters. This individual shall coordinate with the liaison officers designated under paragraph 6.3., below. All policy questions related to the USO shall be referred to the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) (USD(P&R)).

6.2. The Heads of DoD Components shall implement this Directive.

6.3. The Military Departments, their respective major commands, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Commanders of the Combatant Commands shall each appoint a liaison officer to the USO. These liaison officers shall coordinate, as appropriate, with the principal assistant to the USD(P&R) for USO matters. The names of these liaison officers will be provided to the USD(P&R) and to the President, United Service Organizations, Inc., World Headquarters, 1008 Eberle Place, SE, Suite 301, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5096.

6.4. The Secretary of the Air Force shall serve as the executive agent for coordinating USO entertainment within the Department of Defense.

#### 7. AUTHORITIES

The USD(P&R) is authorized to negotiate agreements between the Department of Defense and the USO to implement this Directive and the attached MOU.

#### 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.



Rudy de Leon  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures - 2

- E1. References, continued
- E2. DoD/USO MOU

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES, continued

- (e) Title 21, United States Code
- (f) DoD 5500.7-R, "Joint Ethics Regulation (JER)," August 1993
- (g) [DoD Directive 5410.18](#), "Community Relations," July 3, 1974

E2. ENCLOSURE 2

DoD/USO MOU

Department of Defense (DoD)  
and  
United Service Organization, Inc. (USO)

E2.1.1. The Department of Defense (DoD) recognizes the longstanding and mutually beneficial relationship that has existed, and continues to exist, between the Department and the United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO).

E2.1.2. The USO was founded at the request of the President of the United States in 1941. This relationship is also reflected in the Congressional Charter passed in 1979. The importance of this relationship to the men and women of the Armed Services is recognized by DoD Directive 1330.12, "United Service Organizations, Inc."

E2.1.3. The purpose of the USO is to provide a vehicle by which the people of the United States of America may help serve the religious, spiritual, social, welfare, educational and entertainment needs of the men and women of the Armed Forces in peace and in war within or outside the territorial limits of the United States, and to contribute to the morale of these men and women. The USO mission is to enhance the quality of life of the personnel within U.S. Armed Forces military communities and to create a partnership between U.S. military and civilian communities worldwide.

E2.1.4. The USO is a principal, but not exclusive, channel through which the public participates in a program for the U.S. Armed Forces and, therefore, it plays an active role in coordinating local civilian community resources for the U.S. Armed Forces, and in fostering a general civilian interest in the welfare of the U.S. Armed Forces personnel and their families.

E2.1.5. Under its statutory charter, the USO may serve as a conduit of public support to meet the morale and welfare needs of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States. To achieve this underlying statutory purpose and to further support the morale of the men and women of the Armed Forces, the USO agrees to undertake the additional mission of educating and communicating with the American public about the military, its mission and sacrifices. The Department recognizes and supports this mission, which is particularly important in an era of the all-volunteer force and with the prosperity that America enjoys. This prosperity is a direct result of the strength of the U.S. military as a deterrent and its ability to project a peace across the

world. With the size of the all-volunteer force today, not all Americans have the opportunity to serve their country in the military; this heightens the importance of re-connecting the American military with the American public and ensuring that Americans in all walks of life see and learn the value of a strong military, and that they are aware of the sacrifices that are made by the men and women of the Armed Forces of today. Recognizing the importance of this mission, the Department of Defense agrees to support the USO in these efforts to the maximum extent permitted by law and as agreed to by the President of the USO and the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), who is designated by the Secretary of Defense as the official the Department of Defense liaison to the USO.

E2.1.6. The Department recognizes that in some locations and situations overseas, the USO is the primary provider of morale support services to the military personnel of the Armed Forces. In other locations, the USO supplements services to support the Armed Forces. In both cases, it is the Department's goal to support fully USO activities, consistent with mission requirements and in accordance with applicable law and Department policy. In the case of perceived duplication of services, unless the USO service seriously detracts from the Department of Defense Morale, Welfare and Recreation program affected, the USO service will be authorized to continue. Conflicts concerning duplication of services will be forwarded to Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) for resolution.

E2.1.7. The USO may serve the U. S. Armed Forces through the establishment of USO Centers, activities, programs and facilities, as agreed to between the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and the President of the USO.

E2.1.8. The Department recognizes that the USO World Headquarters is the official contact for USO chartered councils, boards of directors, cooperating agencies and all USO activities and centers; and that the USO is responsible for the coordination of the work of USO affiliates in any program for military personnel financed by the USO.

E2.1.9. The Department recognizes that, under current law, the USO as a private corporation may compete for DoD contracts in accordance with the Competition in Contracting Act and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

E2.1.10. The Department further recognizes that, under current law, the USO as a private corporation may negotiate with corporations and organizations to co-sponsor initiatives, programs, or facilities for the benefit of the men and women of the Armed Forces. To the extent permitted by law, the Department agrees that Commanders may make facilities under their jurisdiction available to the USO on a no-cost basis for such co-sponsored initiatives, programs, or facilities.

E2.1.11. The USO is responsible for soliciting funds for the accomplishment of its mission, accepting the cooperation of other civilian agencies experienced in specialized types of related work to meet particular needs of the members of the Armed Forces, and accepting the cooperation of individual citizens in accomplishing its purposes. The Department of Defense shall not be responsible for funding and shall not be an active participant in USO fund-raising activities.

E2.1.12. The Department of Defense and the USO periodically shall review this MOU and make changes to it as may be mutually agreed upon.

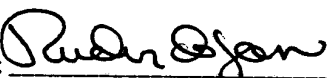
E2.1.13. Nothing in this MOU shall affect relationships between the Department of Defense and any other entities that the Department of Defense may invite to provide supplemental services in specific areas.

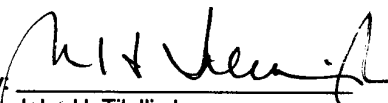
E2.1.14. This MOU supersedes the MOU between the Department of Defense and the USO issued November 9, 1987.

E2.1.15. This MOU becomes effective on the date of the last signature below. This MOU may be terminated by either the USO or the Department of Defense upon notification to the other party in writing.

Department of Defense

United Service Organizations, Inc.

By:   
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Date Nov 1, 2000

By:   
John H. Tilelli, Jr.  
General, U.S. Army (Ret)  
President and CEO, USO  
Date Nov 1 2000