SUBJECT: Participation in Armed Forces, National, and International Sports Activities

(b) Title 10, United States Code, Section 717
(c) DoD Directive 5111.1, "Under Secretary of Defense for Policy," September 27, 1985
(e) Title 37, United States Code, Section 419
(f) Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR), Volume I

1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

1.1. This Directive reissues reference (a); prescribes DoD policy concerning the participation of Armed Forces personnel in Armed Forces, national, and international sports competitions; establishes a Senior Military Sports Advisor (SMSA), an Armed Forces Sports Committee (AFSC), the Committee's secretariat, and the Committee's working group; and assigns management oversight responsibility for the organization and administration of Armed Forces, national, and international sports activities.

1.2. The objective of this program is to ensure that the U.S. Armed Forces are appropriately represented in national and international sports competitions.

1.3. The purpose of this reissuance is to consolidate and define responsibilities for policy formulation and oversight of the management of the participation of Armed Forces personnel in Armed Forces, national, and international sports competitions.
2. **APPLICABILITY**

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments and Military Services (including their Reserve components while on active duty), the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS), the Inspector General of the Department of Defense (IG, DoD), and the Defense Agencies (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD Components"). The term "Military Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps. The term "Reserve components," as used herein, refers to the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Naval Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, and the Marine Corps Reserve. Coast Guard participation is covered under reference (b).

3. **DEFINITION**

**International Amateur Athletic Competition.** Any amateur athletic competition between any athlete or athletes representing the United States, either individually or as part of a team, and any athlete or athletes representing any foreign country. (See 10 U.S.C. 717 (reference (b))).

4. **POLICY**

4.1. In accordance with reference (b), members of the Armed Forces shall be permitted to train for, attend, and participate in the Pan American Games, Olympic Games, and other international competitions in amateur sports (to include qualifying and preparatory events). Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense may be expended for these purposes. Participation in the Pan American Games, Olympic Games, and activities of Counsel International Sport Militaire (CISM) and Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) has been approved by the Secretary of State. Participation in other international competitions is contingent upon a determination by the Secretary of State that the interests of the United States will be served by participation in each such event.

4.2. In support of the objective in paragraph 1.2. and consistent with their military missions, the Secretaries of the Military Departments shall provide opportunity for qualified Armed Forces personnel to prepare for and compete in authorized national and international sports competitions on a voluntary basis. (See enclosure 1.)
4.3. When selected to represent the United States in non-military national and international competitions, Armed Forces personnel, to the maximum extent feasible, shall be equipped, transported, and subsisted by the sponsoring agency (i.e., United States Olympic Committee or responsible national governing body) in the same manner as the civilian members of the team.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel) (ASD(FM&P)) shall provide overall policy guidance for the activities covered in this Directive.

5.1.1. The SMSA is responsible to the ASD(FM&P) for oversight of the management and operation of the activities covered in this Directive. The SMSA shall also serve as the Armed Forces Representative to the U.S. Olympic Committee Executive Board.

5.1.2. The AFSC is responsible to the SMSA for all matters pertaining to the organization and administration of Armed Forces participation in national and international sports competitions.

5.1.3. The AFSC Secretariat receives direction from the AFSC in the discharge of AFSC responsibilities, primarily as staff administrator and coordinator. (See enclosure 2.) The Secretariat also serves as the executive office for the AFSC and as the CISM North American Liaison Office.

5.1.4. The Secretary of the Army shall provide administrative support to the AFSC Secretariat, including budgeting, funding, personnel and security administration, facilities, supplies, and other administrative provisions and services, excluding program supervision.

5.1.5. The AFSC Working Group shall perform such duties as directed by the AFSC.
5.2. The Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) (USD(P)) shall be responsible for:

5.2.1. Obtaining from the Department of State determinations that participation by Armed Forces athletes in international sports competitions not listed in paragraph 4.1., above, will be in the best interests of the United States. See Enclosure 2, 10 U.S.C. 717 (reference (b)), and DoD Directive 5111.1 (reference (c)).

5.2.2. Reviewing each case in which the Department of State (DoS) has ruled that Armed Forces athletes may participate, and determining whether U.S. military personnel will be allowed to compete. See enclosure 2.

5.2.3. Obtaining from the DoS travel clearance for Armed Forces athletes, when required, for participation in international athletic competitions not listed in paragraph 4.1., above. See DoD Directive 5000.7 (reference (d)).

5.3. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall be responsible for expeditiously initiating, through the AFSC and the USD(P), requests for DoS determinations on participation in international sports competitions not listed in paragraph 4.1., above, and for necessary travel clearance.

6. MEMBERSHIP

6.1. From the issuance of this Directive until the completion of the 1988 Summer Olympics, the SMSA shall be the Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower of the U.S. Marine Corps. Thereafter, the position shall be assigned for a 4-year term (terminating at the completion of each Summer Olympiad) to a Service Personnel Chief (or his or her designated flag/general officer representative) on a rotation basis among the Services in the following order: Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Navy.

6.2. The AFSC shall be comprised of the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Directors of each of the Services, or their designated representatives. The Chairmanship of the AFSC shall rotate annually among the Military Services on October 1 in the order established in paragraph 6.1., above, except that the Service occupying the Chair during the year in which the Pan American Games are scheduled shall provide the Chairman for the subsequent year to insure continuity of effort through the Olympic Games.

6.3. Each Service shall designate a representative to the AFSC Working Group. The Chairman of the Working Group shall be from the same Service as the Chairman of the AFSC and shall serve the same term of office as the AFSC Chairman.
7. **FUNCTIONS**

Subject to the policy guidance and oversight of the SMSA in coordination with ASD(FM&P), the AFSC, as the Executive Agent for the Department of Defense, shall:

7.1. Act for the Department of Defense on matters pertaining to sports involving more than one Service.

7.2. Approve the annual Armed Forces sports championships program, and establish and monitor all Service efforts in support of national and international sports activities. The planning and conducting of Armed Forces championships is the responsibility of the host Service for each sport.

7.3. Process through the USD(P) requests for required DoS determinations that participation in international sports competitions will be in the best interests of the United States.

7.4. Coordinate with the USD(P) requests for required clearances for overseas travel.

7.5. Provide DoD representation on related Governmental committees, such as the President's Council on Physical Fitness.

7.6. Coordinate and maintain liaison with national sports governing bodies in matters of mutual interest to the Military Departments and nominate Armed Forces representatives as follows:

7.6.1. To serve as members of the House of Delegates, U.S. Olympic Committee (subject to Service approval).

7.6.2. To serve as members on U.S. Olympic Committees, national governing bodies, and national and international sports organizations in cases where Armed Forces membership does not include representation from all Services, or when a single representative is desirable. The AFSC shall approve the Armed Forces representative from among those recommended by the Services. This provision does not preclude individual Service membership in sports organizations in support of the Services' respective programs.
7.6.3. To serve as the U.S. Armed Forces Chief of Delegations to CISM and as North American Liaison representative. The length of these appointments will be at the pleasure of the AFSC.

7.6.4. To serve, if elected, as a member of the CISM Executive Committee and/or as CISM President when appropriate.

7.7. Receive and process requests from foreign CISM Chiefs of Delegation for U.S. military coaching assistance. Secure necessary funding, if not available from non-DoD sources, from DoD contingency funds.

7.8. Coordinate with the DoS, as required by 10 U.S.C. 717 (reference (b)), and other Governmental Agencies and national sports organizations on sports tours and clinics in foreign countries that involve participation of U.S. military personnel.

7.9. Serve as a contact point for the Department of Defense and all of its Components on matters pertaining to sports programs.

7.10. Refer matters developed by the AFSC requiring coordination within OSD through the SMSA to the ASD(FM&P) for such coordination.

7.11. Submit through the SMSA to the ASD(FM&P) comments on legislative matters affecting sports activities that are of interest to the Department of Defense.

7.12. Determine fund support for Armed Forces sports programs by:

7.12.1. Specifying the maximum funding that can be provided by each Service to support participation in international sports activities as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 717 (reference (b)). The AFSC may allocate a part of such authorization for the conduct of joint specialized training and participation in international competitions.

7.12.2. Developing non-appropriated fund requirements for supplementary support to be considered by the Services.

7.13. Help in publicizing Armed Forces participation in programs, including the Olympic Games, by providing informational material to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) (OASD(PA)) and the respective Services.

7.14. Advise the USD(P), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the Special Assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Counterinsurgency and Special Activities on the relationship between sports programs and the interests of those offices.
8. **OPERATION**

8.1. The AFSC shall meet at the call of the chairman or upon the request of a member of the AFSC or the SMSA. The Chairman shall consolidate the agenda to be considered (including input from the SMSA).

8.2. The AFSC Secretariat shall provide agenda, summary minutes of meetings, reports, and other administrative support as may be required.

8.3. The AFSC members may furnish items for the agenda and shall be responsible for expressing the recommendations of their Services and obtaining Service coordination as required.

8.4. The minutes shall be sent to the SMSA for review to ensure compliance with DoD policy before final approval by the ASD(FM&P).

9. **EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION**

This Directive is effective immediately. Forward two copies of implementing documents to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel) within 60 days.

William H. Taft, IV
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures - 2
E1. Training of Personnel for Sports Competition
E2. Procedures for Armed Forces Participation in International Sports Competitions
E1. ENCLOSURE 1

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL FOR SPORTS COMPETITION

E1.1. PURPOSE

This enclosure outlines the procedure to be followed in assigning and training personnel for participation in national, international, and CISM sports competitions.

E1.2. GENERAL

E1.2.1. Assignments. Armed Forces personnel, who are selected by a Military Service or nominated by the AFSC and made available by the respective Services, may be placed on duty at such places and for such periods of time as are necessary to:

E1.2.1.1. Train for, and participate in, CISM competition, the Pan American Games, Olympic Games, and other authorized national and international sports competitions (to include qualifying and reparatory events) as long as such participation is in concert with the Service mission and consistent with the individual's assigned duties.

E1.2.1.2. Plan, observe, or coordinate matters pertaining to authorized national, international, and CISM sports competitions.

E1.2.2. Training. Suitable specialized training shall be provided jointly by the Services, when appropriate, for those members of the Armed Forces qualified to compete in authorized national and international sports competitions, unless separate training is authorized by the AFSC.

E1.2.3. Expenditures. Authorized funds may be expended for the payment of costs of travel, per diem, supplies, equipment and services for Armed Forces athletes, and the training associated with animals of the Armed Forces, to support the attendance of Armed Forces athletes at, and participation in, competitions listed in paragraph 4.1. Allowances shall be governed by 37 U.S.C. 419 (reference (e)) and JFTR, Vol I (reference (f)).
E2. ENCLOSURE 2

PROCEDURES FOR ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS

E2.1. PURPOSE

This enclosure outlines the procedures to be followed for approval of Armed Forces participation in international sports competitions.

E2.2. GENERAL

E2.2.1. Assignments

E2.2.1.1. The respective Military Service shall initiate and forward to the AFSC Secretariat requests for DoS determinations that participation in international sports competitions not listed in paragraph 4.1. of this Directive will be in the best interests of the United States. The respective Military Service shall simultaneously initiate and forward to the AFSC Secretariat requests for any required travel clearances, passports, and visa applications.

E2.2.1.2. The AFSC Secretariat shall be responsible for the processing and administration of all requests for Department of State determinations concerning participation in international sports competitions and travel clearances, including passports and visas, needed for Armed Forces personnel to participate in international sports competitions. This process shall include projecting, on a quarterly basis, those international events that may involve military participation. This projection should be prepared 90 days in advance of the first day of each quarter and provided to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (OUSD(P)) for coordination with the Department of State.

E2.2.2. Procedures

E2.2.2.1. The individual Service shall initiate all requests for DoS determinations concerning participation in international sports competitions and travel clearances for its athletes participating as members of Armed Forces and national teams, or individually, by invitation, in international competition.
E2.2.2.1.1. Requests must include the athletes' names, unit, country where the competition will be held, date of competition, name of event, and sponsoring sports agency from the United States and host country.

E2.2.2.1.2. These requests shall be provided to the AFSC Secretariat for processing.

E2.2.2.2. The AFSC Secretariat shall then:

E2.2.2.2.1. Send the request for participation approval and, when appropriate, a request for assistance in obtaining travel clearance, to OUSD(P).

E2.2.2.2.2. Send a message requesting travel clearance to the U.S. Defense Attache Office of the country to be visited.

E2.2.2.3. Upon request of the AFSC Secretariat, the OUSD(P) shall obtain from the DoS (through the appropriate desk officer) a determination that participation in an international sports competition not listed in paragraph 4.1. of this Directive will be in the best interests of the United States. The OUSD(P) will assist, when necessary, in obtaining any required travel clearances.

E2.2.2.4. The USD(P) shall review all requests to compete in international sports events where the DoS has determined that participation will be in the best interests of the United States and determine if personnel of the U.S. Military Services will be allowed to compete. The USD(P) will promptly inform the AFSC of the decision in each case. The AFSC will inform the appropriate Military Services and, as appropriate, the Senior Military Sports Advisor.