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## Department of Defense Directive ASD(C)

SUBJECT: Functions of the Department of Defense and its Major Components

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 5100.1, subject as above, December 31, 1958 (hereby canceled)
  - (b) Title 50, United States Code, Section 401, Section 2 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended
  - (c) DoD Directive 5158.1, "Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Relationships with the Office of the Secretary of Defense," January 26, 1980
  - (d) Title 10, United States Code, Section 125, (National Security Act of 1947, as amended)

### A. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

1. This Directive reissues reference (a).
2. Under the authority of reference (b), Congress described the basic policy embodied in the Act as follows:

"In enacting this legislation, it is the intent of Congress to provide a comprehensive program for the future security of the United States; to provide for the establishment of integrated policies and procedures for the departments, agencies, and functions of the Government relating to the national security; to provide a Department of Defense, including the three military departments of the Army, the Navy (including naval aviation and the United States Marine Corps), and the Air Force under the direction, authority, and control of the Secretary of Defense; to provide that each military department shall be separately organized under its own Secretary and shall function under the direction, authority, and control of the Secretary of Defense; to provide for their unified direction under civilian control of the Secretary of Defense but not to merge these departments or services; to provide for the establishment of unified or specified combatant commands, and a clear and direct line of command to such commands; to eliminate unnecessary duplication in the Department of Defense, and particularly in the field of research and engineering by vesting its overall direction and control in the Secretary of Defense; to provide more effective, efficient, and economical administration in the Department of Defense; to provide for the unified strategic direction of the combatant

forces, for their operation under unified command, and for their integration into an efficient team of land, naval, and air forces but not to establish a single Chief of Staff over the armed forces nor an overall armed forces general staff."

3. To provide guidance in accordance with the policy declared by Congress, the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President, hereby promulgates the following statement of the functions of the Department of Defense and its major components.

B. ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

1. All functions in the Department of Defense and its component agencies are performed under the direction, authority, and control of the Secretary of Defense.

2. The Department of Defense includes the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments and the Military Services within those Departments, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified and Specified Commands, and such other agencies as the Secretary of Defense establishes to meet specific requirements.

a. In providing immediate staff assistance and advice to the Secretary of Defense, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, though separately identified and organized, function in full coordination and cooperation in accordance with DoD Directive 5158.1 (reference (c)).

(1) The Office of the Secretary of Defense includes the offices of the Under Secretaries of Defense; Assistant Secretaries of Defense; the General Counsel of the Department of Defense; the Assistants to the Secretary of Defense; and such other staff offices as the Secretary of Defense establishes to assist him in carrying out his duties and responsibilities. The functions of the heads of these offices shall be as assigned by the Secretary of Defense in accordance with existing laws.

(2) The Joint Chiefs of Staff, as a group, are directly responsible to the Secretary of Defense for the functions assigned to them. Each member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, other than the Chairman, is responsible for keeping the Secretary of his Military Department fully informed on matters considered or acted upon by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

b. Each Military Department (the Department of the Navy to include naval aviation and the United States Marine Corps) shall be separately organized under its own Secretary and shall function under the direction, authority, and control of the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary of a Military Department shall be responsible to the Secretary of Defense for the operation of such Department as well as its

efficiency. Orders to the Military Departments shall be issued through the Secretaries of these Departments, or their designees, by the Secretary of Defense or under authority specifically delegated in writing by the Secretary of Defense or provided by law.

c. Commanders of Unified and Specified Commands are responsible to the President and the Secretary of Defense for the accomplishment of the military missions assigned to them. The chain of command runs from the President to the Secretary of Defense and through the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the commanders of Unified and Specified Commands. Orders to such commanders shall be issued by the President or the Secretary of Defense, or by the Joint Chiefs of Staff by the authority and direction of the Secretary of Defense. These commanders shall have full operational command over the forces assigned to them and shall perform such functions as are prescribed by the Unified Command Plan and other directives issued by competent authority.

3. The functions assigned hereafter may be transferred, reassigned, abolished, or consolidated by the Secretary of Defense in accordance with the procedures established and the authorities provided in the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (10 U.S.C. 125) (reference (d)).

#### C. FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

As prescribed by higher authority, the Department of Defense shall maintain and employ armed forces to:

1. Support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.
2. Ensure, by timely and effective military action, the security of the United States, its possessions, and areas vital to its interest.
3. Uphold and advance the national policies and interests of the United States.
4. Safeguard the internal security of the United States.

#### D. FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

The Joint Chiefs of Staff, consisting of the Chairman; the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; the Chief of Naval Operations; the Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force; and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and supported by the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, constitute the immediate military staff of the Secretary of Defense. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are the principal military advisers to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense. In performance of their functions of advising and assisting the Secretary of Defense, and subject to the authority and direction of the President and the Secretary of Defense, it shall be the duty of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to:

1. Serve as advisers and as military staff in the chain of operational command with respect to Unified and Specified Commands, to provide a channel of communications from the President and Secretary of Defense to Unified and Specified Commands, and to coordinate all communications in matters of joint interest addressed to the commanders of the Unified or Specified Commands by other authority.

2. Prepare strategic plans and provide for the strategic direction of the armed forces, including the direction of operations conducted by commanders of Unified and Specified Commands and the discharge of any other function of command for such commands directed by the Secretary of Defense.

3. Prepare joint logistic plans and assign logistic responsibilities to the Military Services and the Defense Logistics Agency in accordance with those plans; ascertain the logistic support available to execute the general war and contingency plans of the commanders of the Unified and Specified Commands; review and recommend to the Secretary of Defense appropriate logistic guidance for the Military Services which, if implemented, shall result in logistic readiness consistent with the approved strategic plans.

4. Prepare integrated plans for military mobilization.

5. Provide adequate, timely, and reliable joint intelligence for use within the Department of Defense.

6. Review major personnel, materiel, and logistic requirements of the armed forces in relation to strategic and logistic plans.

7. Review the plans and programs of commanders of Unified and Specified Commands to determine their adequacy, feasibility, and suitability for the performance of assigned missions.

8. Provide military guidance for use by the Military Departments, the armed forces, and the defense agencies in the preparation of their respective detailed plans.

9. Participate, as directed, in the preparation of combined plans for military action in conjunction with the armed forces of other nations.

10. Recommend to the Secretary of Defense the establishment and force structure of Unified and Specified Commands in strategic areas.

11. Determine the headquarters support, such as facilities, personnel, and communications, required by commanders of Unified and Specified Commands, and recommend the assignment to the Military Departments of the responsibilities for providing such support.

12. Establish doctrines for unified operations and training, and for coordination of the military education of members of the armed forces.

13. Recommend to the Secretary of Defense the assignment of primary responsibility for any function of the armed forces requiring such determination and the transfer, reassignment, abolition, or consolidation of such functions.

14. Prepare and submit to the Secretary of Defense, for information and consideration in connection with the preparation of budgets, statements of military requirements based upon U.S. strategic considerations, current national security policy, and strategic war plans. These statements of requirements shall include tasks, priority of tasks, force requirements, and general strategic guidance for developing military installations and bases and for equipping and maintaining military forces.

15. Advise and assist the Secretary of Defense in research and engineering matters by preparing: statements of broad strategic guidance to be used in the preparation of an integrated DoD program; statements of overall military requirements; statements of the relative military importance of development activities to meet the needs of the Unified and Specified commanders; and recommendations for the assignment of specific new weapons to the armed forces.

16. Prepare and submit to the Secretary of Defense for information and consideration general strategic guidance for the development of industrial mobilization programs.

17. Prepare and submit to the Secretary of Defense military guidance for use in the development of military aid programs and other actions relating to foreign military forces, including recommendations for allied military force, materiel, and facilities requirements related to U.S. strategic objectives, current national security policy, strategic war plans, and the implementation of approved programs; and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense, as necessary, to keep the Military Assistance Program in consonance with agreed strategic concepts.

18. Provide U.S. representation on the Military Staff Committee of the United States Mission to the United Nations, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and representation on other properly authorized military staffs, boards, councils, and missions.

19. Perform such other duties as the President or the Secretary of Defense may prescribe.

#### E. FUNCTIONS OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS AND THE MILITARY SERVICES

1. The chain of command for purposes other than the operational direction of Unified and Specified Commands runs from the President to the Secretary of Defense to the Secretaries of the Military Departments.

2. The Military Departments, under their respective Secretaries and in accordance with sections B. and D., shall:

a. Prepare forces and establish reserves of equipment and supplies for the effective prosecution of war, and plan for the expansion of peacetime components to meet the needs of war.

b. Maintain mobile reserve forces in readiness, properly organized, trained, and equipped for employment in an emergency.

c. Provide adequate, timely, and reliable departmental intelligence for use within the Department of Defense.

d. Organize, train, and equip forces for assignment to Unified or Specified Commands.

e. Recommend appropriate logistic guidance to the Secretary of Defense for their respective Military Departments that, if implemented, will result in logistic readiness consistent with approved strategic guidance; and verify the continuing adequacy of approved logistic guidance and the resources available to their respective Military Departments.

f. Prepare and submit budgets to the Secretary of Defense for their respective Departments; justify budget requests before the Congress as approved by the Secretary of Defense; and administer the funds made available for maintaining, equipping, and training the forces of their respective Departments, including those assigned to Unified and Specified Commands. The budget submissions to the Secretary of Defense by the Military Departments shall be prepared, among other considerations, on the basis of the advice of commanders of forces assigned to Unified and Specified Commands. Such advice, in the case of component commanders of Unified Commands, will be in agreement with the plans and programs of the respective Unified commanders.

g. Conduct research; develop tactics, techniques, and organization; and develop and procure weapons, equipment, and supplies essential to fulfill the functions hereafter assigned.

h. Develop, garrison, supply, equip, and maintain bases and other installations, including lines of communication, and provide administrative and logistic support for all forces and bases.

i. Provide, as directed, such forces, military missions, and detachments for service in foreign countries as may be required to support the national interest of the United States.

j. Assist in training and equipping the military forces of foreign nations.

k. Assist each other in the accomplishment of their respective functions, including the provision of personnel, intelligence, training, facilities, equipment, supplies, and services.

3. The forces developed and trained to perform the primary functions set forth hereafter shall be employed to support and supplement the other Military Services in carrying out their primary functions, where and whenever such participation shall result in increased effectiveness and shall contribute to the accomplishment of the overall military objectives. As for collateral functions, while the assignment of such functions may establish further justification for stated force requirements, such assignment shall not be used as the basis for establishing additional force requirements.

a. Functions of the Department of the Army

(1) The Department of the Army is responsible for the preparation of land forces necessary for the effective prosecution of war except as otherwise assigned and, in accordance with integrated mobilization plans, for the expansion of the peacetime components of the Army to meet the needs of war.

(2) The Army, within the Department of the Army, includes land combat and service forces and such aviation and water transport as may be organic therein.

(3) The primary functions of the Army are to:

(a) Organize, train, and equip Army forces for the conduct of prompt and sustained combat operations on land; specifically, forces to defeat enemy land forces and to seize, occupy, and defend land area.

(b) Organize, train, and equip Army air defense units, including the provision of Army forces as required for the defense of the United States against air attack, in accordance with doctrines established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(c) Organize, equip, and provide Army forces in coordination with the other Services, for joint amphibious and airborne operations, and to provide for the training of such forces, in accordance with doctrines established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

1 Develop, in coordination with the other Services, doctrines, tactics, techniques, and equipment of interest to the Army for amphibious operations not provided for in E.3.b.(3)(b)3 and E.3.b.(3)(d).

2 Develop, in coordination with the other Military Services, the doctrines, procedures, and equipment employed by Army and Marine Forces in airborne operations. The Army shall have primary

interest in the development of those airborne doctrines, procedures, and equipment that are of common interest to the Army and the Marine Corps.

(d) Provide an organization capable of furnishing adequate, timely, and reliable intelligence for the Army.

(e) Provide forces for the occupations of territories abroad, to include the initial establishment of military government pending the transfer of this responsibility to other authority.

(f) Formulate doctrines and procedures for the organizing, equipping, training, and employment of forces operating on land, except that the formulation of doctrines and procedures for the organization, equipping, training, and employment of Marine Corps' units for amphibious operations shall be a function of the Department of the Navy, coordinating as required by E.3.b.(3)(b)3.

(g) Conduct the following activities:

1 Functions relating to the management and operation of the Panama Canal as assigned by the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of Defense.

2 The authorized civil works program, including projects for improvement of navigation, flood control, beach erosion control, and other water resource developments in the United States, its territories, and its possessions.

3 Certain other civil activities prescribed by law.

(4) The collateral functions of the Army are to train forces to interdict enemy sea and air power and communications through operations on or from land.

b. Functions of the Department of the Navy

(1) The Department of the Navy is responsible for the preparation of Navy and Marine Corps forces necessary for the effective prosecution of war except as otherwise assigned and, in accordance with integrated mobilization plans, for the expansion of the peacetime components of the Navy and Marine Corps to meet the needs of war.

(2) Within the Department of the Navy, the Navy includes naval combat and service forces and such aviation as may be organic therein, and the Marine Corps includes not less than three combat divisions and three air wings and such other land combat, aviation, and other services as may be organic therein.

(3) The primary functions of the Navy and the Marine Corps are to:

(a) Organize, train, and equip Navy and Marine Corps forces for the conduct of prompt and sustained combat operations at sea, including operations of sea-based aircraft and land-based naval air components, specifically, forces to seek out and destroy enemy naval forces and to suppress enemy sea commerce, to gain and maintain general naval supremacy, to control vital sea areas, to protect vital sea lines of communication, to establish and maintain local superiority (including air) in an area of naval operations, to seize and defend advanced naval bases, and to conduct such land and air operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign.

(b) Maintain the Marine Corps, whose specific functions are to:

1 Provide Fleet Marine forces of combined arms, together with supporting air components, for service with the Fleet in the seizure or defense of advanced naval bases and for the conduct of such land operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign. These functions do not contemplate the creation of a second land Army.

2 Provide detachments and organizations for service on armed vessels of the Navy, and security detachments for the protection of naval property at naval stations and bases.

3 Develop, in coordination with the other Military Services, the doctrines, tactics, techniques, and equipment employed by landing forces in amphibious operations. The Marine Corps shall have primary interest in the development of those landing force doctrines, tactics, techniques, and equipment that are of common interest to the Army and the Marine Corps.

4 Train and equip, as required, Marine Forces for airborne operations in coordination with the other Military Services and in accordance with doctrines established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

5 Develop, in coordination with the other Military Services, doctrines, procedures, and equipment of interest to the Marine Corps for airborne operations not provided in E.3.a.(3)(c)2.

(c) Organize and equip, in coordination with the other Military Services, and provide naval forces, including naval close air-support forces, for the conduct of joint amphibious operations, and be responsible for the amphibious training of all forces assigned to joint amphibious operations, in accordance with doctrines established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(d) Develop, in coordination with the other Military Services, the doctrines, procedures, and equipment of naval forces for amphibious operations, and the doctrines and procedures for joint amphibious operations.

(e) Furnish adequate, timely, and reliable intelligence for the Navy and Marine Corps.

(f) Organize, train, and equip naval forces for naval reconnaissance, antisubmarine warfare, and the protection of shipping and minelaying, including the air aspects thereof, and controlled mine-field operations.

(g) Provide air support essential for naval operations.

(h) Provide sea-based air defense and the sea-based means for coordinating control for defense against air attack, coordinating with the other Military Services in matters of joint concern.

(i) Provide naval forces, including naval air forces, for the defense of the United States against air attack, in accordance with doctrines established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(j) Furnish aerial photography, as necessary, for Navy and Marine Corps operations.

(4) The collateral functions of the Navy and the Marine Corps are to train forces to:

(a) Interdict enemy land and air power and communications through operations at sea.

(b) Conduct close air and naval support for land operations.

(c) Furnish aerial photography for cartographic purposes.

(d) Participate in the overall air effort, when directed.

(e) Establish military government, as directed, pending transfer of this responsibility to other authority.

c. Functions of the Department of the Air Force

(1) The Department of the Air Force is responsible for the preparation of the air forces necessary for the effective prosecution of war, except as otherwise assigned, and, in accordance with integrated mobilization plans, for the expansion of the peacetime components of the Air Force to meet the needs of war.

(2) The Air Force, within the Department of the Air Force, includes aviation forces, both combat and service, not otherwise assigned.

(3) The primary functions of the Air Force are to:

(a) Organize, train, and equip Air Force forces for the conduct of prompt and sustained combat operations in the air, specifically,

forces to defend the United States against air attack in accordance with doctrines established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to gain and maintain general air supremacy, to defeat enemy air forces, to control vital air areas, and to establish local air superiority, except as otherwise assigned herein.

(b) Develop doctrines and procedures, in coordination with the other Military Services, for the unified defense of the United States against air attack.

(c) Organize, train, and equip Air Force forces for strategic air warfare.

(d) Organize and equip Air Force forces for joint amphibious and airborne operations, in coordination with the other Military Services, and provide for their training in accordance with doctrines established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(e) Furnish close combat and logistical air support to the Army, to include air lift, support, and resupply of airborne operations, aerial photography, tactical reconnaissance, and interdiction of enemy land power and communications.

(f) Provide air transport for the armed forces, except as otherwise assigned.

(g) Develop, in coordination with the other Military Services, doctrines, procedures, and equipment for air defense from land areas, including the continental United States.

(h) Formulate doctrines and procedures for the organizing, equipping, training, and employment of Air Force forces.

(i) Provide an organization capable of furnishing adequate, timely, and reliable intelligence for the Air Force.

(j) Furnish aerial photography for cartographic purposes.

(k) Develop, in coordination with the other Military Services, tactics, techniques, and equipment of interest to the Air Force for amphibious operations not provided in E.3.b.(3)(b)3 and E.3.b.(3)(d).

(l) Develop, in coordination with the other Military Services, doctrines, procedures, and equipment employed by Air Force forces in airborne operations.

(4) The collateral functions of the Air Force are to train forces to:

(a) Interdict enemy sea power through air operations.

(b) Conduct antisubmarine warfare and protect shipping.

(c) Conduct aerial minelaying operations.

#### F. FUNCTIONS OF DoD AGENCIES

1. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). See DoD Directive 5105.41, June 8, 1978.

2. Defense Audit Service (DAS). See DoD Directive 5105.48, October 14, 1976.

3. Defense Audiovisual Agency (DAVA). See DoD Directive 5040.1, June 12, 1979.

4. Defense Communications Agency (DCA). See DoD Directive 5105.19, August 10, 1978.

5. Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA). See DoD Directive 5105.36, June 8, 1978.

6. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). See DoD Directive 5105.21, May 19, 1977.

7. Defense Investigative Service (DIS). See DoD Directive 5105.42, July 19, 1978.

8. Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). See DoD Directive 5105.22, June 8, 1978.

9. Defense Mapping Agency (DMA). See DoD Directive 5105.40, August 10, 1978.

10. Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA). See DoD Directive 5105.31, November 3, 1971.

11. Defense Security Assistance Agency (DSAA). See DoD Directive 5105.38, August 10, 1978.

12. The National Security Agency and the Central Security Service. See DoD Directive S-5100.20, December 23, 1971.

#### G. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.



W. Graham Claytor, Jr.  
Deputy Secretary of Defense