



Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

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ATSD(NCB)

SUBJECT: Joint DoD-DOE Nuclear Weapon Life-Cycle Activities

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 3150.1, "Joint Nuclear Weapons Development Studies and Engineering Projects," December 27, 1983 (hereby canceled)
 - (b) "An Agreement Between the AEC and the DoD for the Development, Production, and Standardization of Atomic Weapons," March 21, 1953, as supplemented through 1984¹
 - (c) "Nuclear Weapons Council Procedural Guideline for the Phase 6.X Process," April 19, 2000²
 - (d) [DoD Instruction 5030.55](#), "Joint AEC-DoD Nuclear Weapons Development Procedures," January 25, 2001
 - (e) through (j), see enclosure 1

1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive:

1.1. Reissues, updates and expands the scope of reference (a) to prescribe policies, responsibilities, and procedures for all joint Department of Defense (DoD)/Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapon life-cycle activities, consistent with the spirit of reference (b) and with refurbishment guidelines issued by the Nuclear Weapons Council (reference (c)).

¹ Copies available from the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters, Room 3C125, The Pentagon.

² Copies available from the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters, Room 3C125, The Pentagon.

- 1.2. Continues to authorize publication of reference (d).

2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Directive:

2.1. Applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all organizational entities within the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD Components").

2.2. Covers all joint DoD-DOE activities relating to the development, production, sustainment, and retirement of nuclear weapons. For the purpose of this Directive, the use of the term "sustainment" is strictly as defined in enclosure 2.

2.3. Covers routine nuclear weapon stockpile activities that are jointly conducted by DoD-DOE during the stockpile life of a nuclear weapon, but assigns responsibility for developing procedures for these activities to the Military Departments.

2.4. Provides guidance for tailoring DoD acquisition policy and procedures to the conduct of joint DoD-DOE nuclear weapon life-cycle activities.

3. DEFINITIONS

Terms used in this Directive are defined in enclosure 2.

4. POLICY

4.1. DoD activities associated with nuclear weapon life-cycle activities conducted jointly with the DOE shall be conducted in accordance with DoD acquisition policies, principles, and procedures (reference (e)), as tailored by this Directive and implementing issuance(s) for joint DoD-DOE nuclear weapons activities.

4.2. An environmental effects assessment shall be conducted for each nuclear weapons development and sustainment project in accordance with DoD Instruction 4715.9 (reference (f)).

4.3. Environmental security policies shall be taken into consideration for activities relating to the retirement of nuclear warheads in accordance with DoD Directive 4715.1 (reference (g)).

4.4. Policy, responsibilities, and procedures for joint DoD-DOE nuclear weapon life-cycle activities shall be tailored, combining standard DoD acquisition practices with traditional nuclear weapon development phases. DoD procedures for nuclear weapon life-cycle activities shall:

4.4.1. Consider total weapon system cost and performance (including cost to the DOE) in establishing military requirements and design objectives;

4.4.2. Consider traditional nuclear weapon development phases (as stated in the Joint AEC-DoD Memorandum of Agreement (reference (b))) and refurbishment phases (as stated in Nuclear Weapon Council Procedural Guidelines (reference (c)));

4.4.3. Require full coordination of all nuclear weapons development, production, sustainment, and retirement projects with the DoD Components and the DOE.

4.4.4. Provide for the use of a DoD Milestone Review Authority (MDA) for authorizing execution of DoD activities; and

4.4.5. Provide for the use of a Milestone Review Body (MRB) to provide management oversight and assist the MDA in reviewing joint DoD-DOE nuclear weapons programs.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall:

5.1.1. Be responsible for meeting validated DoD nuclear weapon requirements through the execution of applicable development, production, sustainment, and retirement activities, consistent with 10 U.S.C. 179 (reference (h)), Nuclear Weapons Council Memorandum of Agreement (reference (i)), and DoD Directive 5134.1 (reference (j)).

5.1.2. Issue a DoD Instruction that supplements this Directive by implementing nuclear weapons development, production, sustainment, and retirement policy, assigning responsibilities, and prescribing procedures in accordance with DoD acquisition policies tailored for joint DoD-DOE nuclear weapon life-cycle activities.

5.1.3. Serve as or designate the MDA for all activities covered by this Directive and, as Chair, act through the Nuclear Weapons Council or its designee as the MRB for all activities covered by this Directive.

5.2. The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs shall:

5.2.1. Issue guidelines setting the threshold criteria for nuclear weapon program categories, MDAs, and MRBs for nuclear weapons programs.

5.2.2. Prior to release of ATSD(NCB) guidelines, they shall be staffed through the DoD Office of the Inspector General for review and comment.


5.3. The Heads of DoD Components shall ensure compliance with this Directive.

5.4. The Military Departments shall, as needed, develop procedures, associated with nuclear weapons under their cognizance, for routine nuclear weapon stockpile activities that are jointly conducted by DoD-DOE.

5.5. Program Managers (PMs) and MDAs shall ensure compliance with DoD Directive 5000.1 (reference (e)).

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.



Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures - 2

- E1. References, continued
- E2. Definitions

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES, continued

- (e) [DoD Directive 5000.1](#), "The Defense Acquisition System," October 23, 2000
- (f) [DoD Instruction 4715.9](#), "Environmental Planning and Analysis," May 3, 1996
- (g) [DoD Directive 4715.1](#), "Environmental Security," February 24, 1996
- (h) Section 179 of title 10, United States Code, "Nuclear Weapons Council"
- (i) Memorandum of Agreement Between the Department of Defense and Department of Energy, "Joint Nuclear Weapons Council," May 23, 1997³
- (j) [DoD Directive 5134.1](#), "Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L))," April 21, 2000

³ Copies available from the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters, Room 3C125, The Pentagon.

E2. ENCLOSURE 2

DEFINITIONS

E2.1.1. Cognizant Military Department. The Military Department designated by the MDA to lead a nuclear weapon development or sustainment project for the Department of Defense.

E2.1.2. Milestone Decision Authority (MDA). The individual authorized to approve entry of a nuclear weapon program into a subsequent phase. The MDA is chosen in accordance with guidance issued by the ATSD(NCB). Until such guidance is issued, the MDA for all activities covered by this Directive is the USD(AT&L) or designee.

E2.1.3. Milestone Review Body (MRB). The body that provides management oversight and assists the MDA in reviewing a nuclear weapon program and that provides advice to the MDA as to the program's progress towards meeting its established milestones. The MRB is chosen in accordance with guidance issued by the ATSD(NCB). Until such guidance is issued, the MRB for all activities covered by this Directive is the NWC or its designee.

E2.1.4. Military Characteristics (MCs). Those characteristics of a specific nuclear weapon upon which depend its ability to perform desired military functions. The MCs describe required weapon yields and fuzing options; weapon operational, physical, functional, environmental, vulnerability, safety, and reliability parameters; describe maintenance, monitoring, storage, and handling considerations; and set forth the priority of design compliance in the event of conflicting design requirements.

E2.1.5. Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC). An advisory/approval body established by 10 U.S.C. 179 (reference (h)) to provide high-level oversight, coordination, and guidance to nuclear weapon stockpile activities. It is chaired by the USD(AT&L) (unless the matter under consideration is within the primary responsibility or concern of the DOE), with the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a senior representative from the DOE as members.

E2.1.6. Refurbishment. A generic term defined as all nuclear weapon alterations and modifications to include life extension, modernization, and revised military requirements. Refurbished weapons are assigned a new alteration or modification number for stockpile management purposes.

E2.1.7. Routine Stockpile Activities. Scheduled or planned activities associated with the normal maintenance of stockpiled weapons and unscheduled activities that support routine maintenance programs. An example of unscheduled routine stockpile activities is exploratory testing associated with a significant finding investigation. Routine stockpile activities may involve cooperation and coordination of the Military Departments with the DOE in maintaining stockpiled nuclear weapons.

E2.1.8. Stockpile-to-Target-Sequence (STS). A document that defines the logistical and employment concepts and related physical environments, including vulnerability criteria, involved in the delivery of a nuclear weapon from the stockpile to the target. It may also define the logistical flow involved in moving nuclear weapons to and from the stockpile for quality assurance testing, modification and retrofit, and the recycling of limited-life components. The STS supplements the MCs and provides technical detail primarily to the DOE design agency and secondarily to the DoD design agency.

E2.1.9. Sustainment. Any non-routine change to a weapon, its MCs or STS made after the completion of production. Studies of sustainment concepts or activities to implement such concepts are collectively defined to be Sustainment Projects/Programs.