



Department of Defense
DIRECTIVE

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ASD(C)

SUBJECT: United States Nuclear Command and Control System Support Staff

- References:
- (a) National Security Decision Directive, "United States Nuclear Weapons Command and Control," August 21, 1987
 - (b) Title 3, United States Code, Section 19
 - (c) DoD Directive 7750.5, "Management and Control of Information Requirements," August 7, 1986

A. PURPOSE

This Directive:

1. Establishes, pursuant to reference (a) and the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense, the U.S. Nuclear Command and Control System Support Staff under the direction, authority, and control of the Secretary of Defense, who also serves as the Executive Agent for the Nuclear Command and Control System (NCCS) (hereafter referred to as "Executive Agent").
2. Establishes the DoD NCCS Executive Review Committee (ERC) in support of the Secretary of Defense.
3. Assigns the responsibilities, functions, relationships, and authorities of the U.S. NCCS Support Staff (NSS) and its Director, and those of the ERC.

B. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS), the Unified and Specified Commands, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense (IG, DoD), the Defense Agencies, and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD Components"). The term "Military Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. Nuclear Command and Control (NC2). The exercise of authority and direction by the President, as Commander in Chief, through established command lines, over nuclear weapon operations of military forces; as Chief Executive over all Government activities that support those operations; and as Head of State over required multinational actions that support those operations. Authority and direction are exercised through the NCCS.

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2. Nuclear Command and Control System (NCCS). The designated combination of flexible and enduring elements including facilities, equipment, communications, procedures, personnel, and the structure in which these elements are integrated, all of which are essential for planning, directing, and controlling nuclear weapon operations of military forces and the activities that support those operations. The NCCS supports the exercise of authority and direction by the President as Commander in Chief, through established command lines, over nuclear weapon operations of military forces; as Chief Executive over all Government activities that support those operations; and as Head of State over required multinational actions that support those operations.

3. Positive Measures. Those measures taken expressly for the purpose of ensuring the control, safety, or security of nuclear weapons.

4. President. Under this Directive, includes an official who succeeds to the Office of the Presidency under the Constitution and under 3 U.S.C. 19 (reference (b)).

5. Principal NC2 Decision-Makers. Principal NC2 decision-makers are as designated in reference (a).

D. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

1. The Director, NSS, who shall also serve as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence) (ASD(C3I)), reporting directly to the Executive Agent, shall:

a. Organize, direct, and manage the NSS in accordance with its assigned functions and responsibilities.

b. Conduct unified Federal Government planning to coordinate NC2 research, development, acquisition, and integration of an NCCS architecture for effective and responsive command and control of nuclear weapons.

c. Recommend to the Executive Agent the assignment of specific NC2 responsibilities to Federal Government Departments, Agencies, and activities and recommend changes in composition or structure of the NCCS.

d. Ensure effective liaison is established with Federal Government NCCS components.

e. Assess and monitor the NCCS on a continuing basis.

f. Develop and maintain an integrated and evolutionary NCCS architecture designed to meet current and future requirements for consideration by the Executive Agent. The individual systems provided by Federal Government Departments, Agencies, and activities with NC2 responsibilities and, when applicable, allies and/or alliances, shall be used within the system architecture.

g. Propose to the Executive Agent initiatives that should compete for funding through normal budget processes within the Department of Defense and other Federal Government Departments, Agencies, and activities with NC2 responsibilities.

h. Develop for the Executive Agent alternative proposals for funding NCCS initiatives that affect multiple Departments, Agencies, or activities within the Federal Government.

i. Conduct or initiate technical studies or analyses and examine research and development programs for identifying improvements to the NCCS for Executive Agent consideration.

j. Provide oversight of NC2 studies and analyses in order to preclude duplication of effort by Federal Government Departments, Agencies, and activities.

k. Monitor the status of initiatives and integration efforts to ensure the NCCS meets the objectives and fulfills the policies under reference (a).

l. Undertake an initial and then periodic review of NCCS-related policy and guidance and make recommendations for changes.

m. Provide oversight for inspecting, testing, and exercising the NCCS to ensure it meets the intent of reference (a).

n. Recommend to the Executive Agent NCCS priorities to meet system architectural requirements, and through the Executive Agent, monitor their fulfillment by the responsible Federal Government Departments, Agencies, or other activities.

o. Prior to presentation of any recommendation to the Executive Agent, coordinate NC2 action being addressed with organizations having responsibility for either the action or the recommendation's implementation. For those actions with potential for impact on the operations of military forces, that coordination will include the position of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS).

p. Provide to the DoD NCCS ERC, or any other forums the Executive Agent may elect to use, information on pertinent NC2 actions or recommendations submitted to the Executive Agent.

q. Prepare and submit an annual status report to the Executive Agent on mission performance and prepare and submit other reports as directed by the Executive Agent.

r. Perform other duties as periodically assigned by the President or the Executive Agent.

2. The Department of Defense Nuclear Command and Control System Executive Review Committee (DoD NCCS ERC) is established to assist the Secretary of Defense in the execution of NCCS responsibilities assigned to the Department of Defense by reference (a), to advise the Secretary of Defense on DoD-related matters on the NCCS, and to review any DoD position developed for presentation to other forums.

a. The ERC shall be chaired by the Vice Chairman, JCS and shall include the following as members:

- (1) Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition) (USD(A)).
- (2) Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) (USD(P)).
- (3) Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence) (ASD(C3I)).
- (4) Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) (ASD(C)).
- (5) Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy) (ATSD(AE)).
- (6) Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation (DPA&E).
- (7) Director, Operations Directorate (J-3).
- (8) Director, Command, Control, and Communications Systems Directorate (J-6).
- (9) A representative of each Military Service, as designated by the Secretaries of the Military Departments.
- (10) Others, as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense.

b. The ERC shall review any DoD-associated NC2 actions or recommendations presented to the Executive Agent by the Director, NSS, and shall provide recommendations on such actions for consideration by the Secretary of Defense.

c. In the process of developing those recommendations, the committee shall consider the positions of all organizations within the Department of Defense that have an interest in the matter. For those actions with potential for impact on the operations of military forces, the committee recommendations shall include the CJCS position. The DoD office of primary responsibility for any NC2 matter being presented to other forums is responsible for obtaining the DoD position on the matter and supporting an ERC review before presentation.

3. The Executive Agent may choose to use other forums, such as an inter-agency group, to advise and assist him or her in the execution of assigned NCCS responsibilities, other than those exclusively associated with the Department of Defense. Such forums normally shall include as members, depending on

the topic under discussion, representatives from the Departments of State, Defense, Justice, and Energy; the Executive Office of the President; Director, Central Intelligence; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Such forums could review appropriate NCCS actions or recommendations being presented to the Executive Agent by the Director, NSS, and could provide recommendations to the Executive Agent on such actions.

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. The Director shall be responsible for the administrative direction of the NSS. The Deputy Director shall be a general or flag officer nominated by the CJCS through the Director, NSS, who shall make recommendations for approval to the Executive Agent.

2. The NSS shall be authorized such personnel, facilities, funds, and other support as the Secretary of Defense considers necessary. At least 50 percent of the professional NSS shall be military personnel.

3. The Director, NSS, shall select personnel to be assigned to the organization.

F. RELATIONSHIPS

1. In the performance of assigned functions, the Director, NSS, shall:

a. Coordinate with organizational elements of the Department of Defense and other Federal Government NCCS Components and appropriate allies and/or alliances that have collateral or related responsibilities and functions.

b. Make use of established facilities and services in the Department of Defense and other Federal Government Departments and Agencies, wherever practical, to avoid duplication and to achieve maximum efficiency and economy.

2. The Heads of DoD Components shall coordinate with the Director, NSS, on all matters relating to NSS responsibilities and functions.

G. AUTHORITIES

The Director, NSS, or designee, is delegated authority to:

1. Obtain from DoD Components such advice, assistance, reports, and information, consistent with the policies and criteria of DoD Directive 7750.5 (reference (c)) to carry out NSS programs and activities.

2. Communicate directly with appropriate personnel in DoD Components, other Federal Government and non-Government Departments, Agencies, and activities, and allies and/or alliances on NSS programs and activities.

3. Issue NSS memoranda pertaining to NSS responsibilities and functions.

4. Request reports, information, and assistance, including personnel, from the Federal Government Departments and Agencies participating in the NCCS, when necessary.

H. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

William H. Taft, IV

William H. Taft, IV
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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