

DoD AND OSD COMPONENT HEADS

In DoD issuances, the most common terms you will see that describe types of leadership are “DoD Component heads” and “OSD Component heads.”

WHAT ARE THE DoD COMPONENTS?

- Office of the Secretary of Defense
- Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff
- Combatant Commands
- Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense¹
- Military Departments
- Defense Agencies
- DoD Field Activities
- Other organizational entities, which includes the National Guard Bureau

This is all covered in the standard DoD issuance applicability statement in Figure 1:

Figure 1. Standard Applicability Statement

1.1. APPLICABILITY.

This issuance applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the Department of Defense (referred to collectively in this issuance as the “DoD Components”).

WHO ARE THE DoD COMPONENT HEADS?

In DoD issuances, think of the DoD Component **heads** as the leaders of those organizations (the Secretaries of the Military Departments, Directors of the Defense Agencies, etc.)—**with the exception of OSD**. Why?

Notice that OSD **as a whole** is also considered a DoD Component. By law, the Deputy Secretary of Defense is the “head” of OSD. Therefore, if you assign responsibilities to the DoD Component heads, the responsibilities you give to OSD by default are actually being assigned to **only** the Deputy Secretary and no other OSD officials. Suffice it to say, it is unlikely that the Deputy Secretary will carry out those responsibilities or delegate them to OSD officials.

¹The **Office** of IG DoD is an independent and objective unit of the Department of Defense, even though the IG DoD is statutorily part of OSD and under the general supervision of the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

It is the job of the issuance's office of primary responsibility to assign responsibilities to relevant OSD officials directly. This is where the term "OSD Component head" comes into play.

WHO ARE THE OSD COMPONENT HEADS?

If you need to collectively refer to high-level officials within OSD, call them the "OSD Component heads" in DoD issuances. The OSD Component heads, also known as Principal Staff Assistants, are:

- Under Secretaries of Defense
- Director of Administration and Management
- Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation
- Director of Operational Test and Evaluation
- Director, Net Assessment
- DoD Chief Information Officer
- Inspector General of the Department of Defense
- General Counsel of the Department of Defense
- Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
- Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict
- Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
- Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight

If OSD Component heads have the same responsibilities as DoD Component heads, they can be combined in one paragraph: "OSD and DoD Component Heads." If you need to refer to the Assistant and Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense under these OSD Component heads, you can just say "Assistant Secretaries of Defense" and/or "Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense."

HOW DO YOU COORDINATE WITH THE DOD COMPONENTS?

Military Departments. Select them on the DD Form 106.²

Combatant Commands. Select the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the DD Form 106.

Defense Agencies and DoD Field Activities. Select the OSD Components under whose authority, direction, and control the Agency or Field Activity is organized. The organizational relationships between owning OSD Components and Defense Agencies and DoD Field Activities are outlined in Tables 1 and 2.

² You can find more information on the DD Form 106 itself on the DoD Issuances Forms, Templates, and Resources Page at <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/forms/dd/dd0106.pdf>.

Table 1. Defense Agencies

Defense Agencies	Under the authority, direction, and control of:
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)	USD(R&E)
Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA)	USD(P&R)
Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA)	USD(C)/CFO
Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA)	USD(A&S)
Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA)	USD(I&S)
Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)	USD(C)/CFO
Defense Health Agency (DHA)	USD(P&R), through the ASD(HA)
Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)	DoD CIO
Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)	USD(I&S)
Defense Legal Services Agency (DLSA)	GC DoD
Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)	USD(A&S)
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency	USD(P)
Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)	USD(P)
Defense Security Service (DSS)	USD(I&S)
Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)	USD(A&S)
Missile Defense Agency (MDA)	USD(R&E)
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)	USD(I&S)
National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)	USD(I&S)
National Security Agency/Central Security Service (NSA/CSS)	USD(I&S)
Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA)	DA&M

Table 2. DoD Field Activities

DoD Field Activities	Under the authority, direction, and control of:
Defense Media Activity (DMA)	ATSD(PA)
Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO)	USD(P)
Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC)	USD(R&E)
Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA)	USD(P)
Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)	USD(P&R)
Department of Defense Human Resources Activity (DoDHRA)	USD(P&R)
Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center (TRMC)	USD(R&E)
Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA)	USD(A&S)
Washington Headquarters Services (WHS)	DA&M

NOTE: Be advised that the Defense Microelectronics Activity (DMEA), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(R&E), is **not** a Defense Agency or DoD Field Activity but is noted here for clarification of their line of authority.

KEY:

ACRONYM	MEANING
ASD(HA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
ATSD(PA)	Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
DA&M	Director of Administration and Management
DoD CIO	DoD Chief Information Officer
GC DoD	General Counsel of the Department of Defense
USD(A&S)	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
USD(C)/CFO	Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense
USD(I&S)	Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security
USD(P)	Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
USD(P&R)	Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
USD(R&E)	Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering