



DoD DIRECTIVE 3235.02E

DoD COMBAT FEEDING RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING PROGRAM

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Approved by:	Kathleen H. Hicks, Deputy Secretary of Defense

Purpose: This issuance:

- Establishes policy and assigns responsibilities governing combat feeding research and engineering (R&E) in the DoD.
- Establishes the DoD Combat Feeding Research and Engineering Board (CFREB) to conduct R&E activities related to combat feeding.
- Establishes the DoD Nutrition Committee to carry out activities related to nutrition.
- Designates the Secretary of the Army as the DoD Executive Agent (DoD EA) for the DoD Combat Feeding Research and Engineering Program (CFREP) in accordance with DoD Directive 5101.01.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

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 DoD (referred to collectively in this issuance as the “DoD Components”).

1.2. POLICY.

It is DoD policy that:

a. The Secretary of the Army is designated as the DoD EA for the DoD CFREP pursuant to DoD Directive 5101.01. The DoD EA for the DoD CFREP will oversee the DoD CFREP to meet the requirements, objectives, and standards of the DoD Food Service Program, as identified by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and the unique food service requirements of the DoD Components.

b. The DoD Components will not conduct individual programs in R&E for combat feeding (e.g., rations, field food service equipment, field feeding systems).

c. In order to promote economy of research efforts, priority will be given to combat feeding R&E requirements shared by two or more DoD Components. A single DoD Component’s R&E requirements may be prioritized above requirements of two or more DoD Components if doing so is appropriately justified in the judgment of the CFREB and agreed to by the Director, Defense Research and Engineering for Research and Technology (DDRE(R&T)). A DoD Component may appeal CFREB R&E requirement prioritization recommendations directly to the DDRE(R&T).

d. Established Federal Government sanitary standards and good manufacturing practices must be considered and strictly enforced in developing operational rations and field food service equipment to prevent food-borne illnesses under all operational conditions.

e. Nutrition standards for combat feeding and operational rations must incorporate the current dietary allowances, as established by the Institute of Medicine and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, coupled with relevant evidence of nutritional safety and efficacy from DoD and academic laboratories or other professional organizations. These standards should guide DoD personnel responsible for menu development and evaluation and nutrition education and research.

f. DoD nutrition education programs will support the objectives of the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services and the objectives of the Nutrition and Menu Standards for Human Performance Optimization, which is a single document that is designated as AR 40– 25/

OPNAVINST 10110.1/MCO 10110.49/ AFI 44–141. Commanders, Service members and their families, and food service personnel will have access to comprehensive nutrition education programs.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING (USD(R&E)).

The USD(R&E) oversees activities of the DoD EA for the DoD CFREP, pursuant to DoD Directive 5101.01, and ensures responsiveness to the DoD Components' food service requirements and alignment with the objectives in DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1338.10.

2.2. DDRE(R&T).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(R&E), the DDRE(R&T):

- a. Oversees and monitors the DoD CFREP to ensure that it responds to DoD Components' needs and the objectives and standards of DoDI 1338.10.
- b. Chairs the DoD CFREB or delegates the role in writing to a member of the senior executive service or equivalent who reports directly to the DDRE(R&T). Further delegation is not permitted.
- c. Establishes procedures to ensure that new technology developed under the DoD CFREP is effectively transitioned and integrated into operational rations and field food service equipment systems and subsystems and transferred to the DoD Components.
- d. Serves as the DoD CFREP final approving authority.
- e. May grant exceptions to this issuance.

2.3. DIRECTOR, DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY.

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the Director, Defense Logistics Agency:

- a. Appoints a voting member to the DoD CFREB.
- b. Assigns joint technical staff officers, as needed, for coordinating R&E support needs in the areas of operational rations, field food service equipment, field feeding systems, and nutrition.

2.4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS (ASD(HA)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the ASD(HA) chairs the DoD Nutrition Committee and recommends nutrition-related R&E requirements to the DDRE(R&T).

2.5. PRESIDENT OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY (USU).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the ASD(HA), the President, USU ensures that the USU health sciences and continuing education curriculum and programs include education relating to basic and applied nutritional science, food safety, and food defense.

2.6. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

The Secretary of the Army, as the DoD EA for the DoD CFREP:

a. Gives full consideration to the combat feeding R&E needs of the DoD Components, and applies appropriate efforts toward meeting those needs by:

(1) Maintaining an appropriate DoD technology base for operational rations, nutrition, and field food service equipment and systems research based on the DDRE(R&T)-approved Joint Service Annual R&E Program Plan.

(2) Performing operations and maintenance programming and budgeting actions to manage and maintain the CFREP based on DoD Components' priorities approved by the DDRE(R&T).

(3) Programming and budgeting for combat feeding R&E and R&E support based on the DoD Components' priorities approved by the DDRE(R&T).

(4) Executing the DoD CFREP, consistent with DoD guidance and availability of congressional appropriations.

b. Appoints a representative as Executive Secretary to the DoD CFREB to coordinate the planning, programming, and execution of the DoD CFREP with the DoD Components and to provide management and administrative support to the DoD CFREB. The Executive Secretary:

(1) Coordinates DoD nutrition-related issues with the Chairman of the DoD Nutrition Committee in accordance with DoDI 6130.05 and DoDI 1338.10.

(2) Maintains the Joint Service Annual R&E Program Plan.

(3) Plans and executes an annual DoD CFREP meeting for the CFREB and other combat feeding stakeholders to review program execution.

c. Provides recommended R&E needs to support nutrition, food safety, sanitation, and security standards.

d. Appoints a voting member to the DoD CFREB in accordance with this issuance, and to the DoD Nutrition Committee.

e. Assigns joint technical staff officer(s), as needed, for coordinating R&E support needs in the areas of operational rations, field food service equipment, field feeding systems, and nutrition.

f. Provides an appropriate system for identification, verification, and headquarters-level approval of the Army's combat feeding R&E requirements before submitting such requirements to the DoD CFREB Executive Secretary.

g. Forwards combat feeding R&E needs to the DoD CFREB Executive Secretary for DDRE(R&T) approval and incorporation into the DoD CFREP.

2.7. SECRETARIES OF THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE.

The Secretaries of the Navy and the Air Force:

a. Appoint voting members, to include members of the Navy, Marine Corps (to be appointed by the Secretary of the Navy), Air Force, and Space Force (to be appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force), to the DoD CFREB, in accordance with this issuance, and to the DoD Nutrition Committee in accordance with DoDI 6130.05.

b. Assign joint technical staff officer(s), as needed, for coordinating R&E support needs in the areas of operational rations, field food service equipment, field feeding systems, and nutrition.

c. Provide an appropriate system for identification, verification, and headquarters-level approval of their respective combat feeding R&E requirements before submitting such requirements to the DoD CFREB Executive Secretary.

d. Forward combat feeding R&E needs to the DoD CFREB Executive Secretary for DDRE(R&T) approval and incorporation into the CFREP.

SECTION 3: DOD CFREB

3.1. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT.

The DoD CFREB will:

- a. Consist of representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Defense Logistics Agency, and the Joint Staff who have a professional role and expertise in combat feeding (rations, field food service equipment, or field feeding systems), each of whom will have one vote.
- b. Be chaired by the DDRE(R&T) or his or her designee, who will vote in case of ties.
- c. Invite observers from other DoD boards or committees or other Federal agencies with interests in DoD combat feeding R&E.

3.2. FUNCTIONS.

The DoD CFREB will:

- a. Jointly integrate and assign priority to all combat feeding R&E needs and requirements from the DoD Components for combat feeding into a proposed DoD CFREP for DDRE(R&T) priority and approval on an annual basis.
- b. Approve a Joint Service Annual R&E Program Plan and integrated Joint Service programs including test and evaluation, research, and development efforts funded by budget activities (BAs) 1–5, as well as program management and engineering support funded by operation and maintenance, Army, appropriations to address combat feeding R&E requirements from the DoD Components.
- c. Solicit proposals to identify combat feeding R&E requirements and then define research topics based on gap analysis.

3.3. DOD CFREP REQUIREMENTS.

- a. The DoD CFREP will include the following elements to develop or improve general and specialized DoD combat feeding programs in response to changing modes of warfare and industry capabilities:
 - (1) Applied nutrition and nutritional biochemistry.
 - (2) Food engineering.
 - (3) Nutrient analysis, preservation, and stabilization.
 - (4) Food protection and microbiology.

- (5) Food defense.
- (6) Food service equipment engineering.
- (7) Food packaging and polymer science.
- (8) Food product development, testing, and technical evaluation.
- (9) Ration systems and menu design.
- (10) Combat feeding logistics.

b. The DoD CFREP will take maximum advantage of the scientific and technical capabilities of industry, academia, international programs, and other Federal Government agencies in order to apply innovative methods, develop processes or capabilities based on these sources, and establish or update current methods with present and advanced innovations.

c. The DoD CFREP will be a total life-cycle program that encompasses:

(1) Combat feeding research to provide new or enhanced feeding capabilities for military operations. Such research includes:

- (a) Basic and applied food science and nutrition.
- (b) Supporting nutrition education programs.
- (c) Field food service equipment and field food service systems research (BA 1 and BA 2).
- (d) Advanced technology development (BA 3).

(2) Combat feeding engineering to include advanced combat feeding component development and prototypes (BA 4) accommodating technology transition from the laboratory to operational use, and systems development and demonstration (BA 5) where end item performance is near or at planned operational system levels.

(3) Combat feeding engineering support to fielded combat ration systems, field feeding systems, and field feeding equipment.

SECTION 4: DOD NUTRITION COMMITTEE

4.1. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT.

The DoD Nutrition Committee will:

- a. Consist of representatives of the Service Surgeons General, the USU, and others from within the DoD who have a professional interest and expertise in clinical and performance nutrition, health promotion, combat feeding, and military food service programs.
- b. Be chaired by the ASD(HA) and the Director, Defense Health Agency, or their designee(s).

4.2. FUNCTIONS.

The DoD Nutrition Committee will:

- a. Develop and coordinate proposed nutrition policy and action plans to support a healthy and fit force and healthy communities and enhance operational rations and combat feeding.
- b. Identify and recommend nutrition research priorities for feeding for military operations to the DoD CFREB.
- c. Support nutrition education programs.
- d. Recommend food service system and nutrition standards.
- e. Apply scientific consensus from nutrition-related research to DoD policies that affect nutrition standards, food service, combat feeding, human performance optimization, and total force fitness.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

ACRONYM	MEANING
AFI	Air Force instruction
AR	Army regulation
ASD(HA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
BA	budget activities
CFREB	DoD Combat Feeding Research and Engineering Board
CFREP	DoD Combat Feeding Research and Engineering Program
DDRE(R&T)	Director, Defense Research and Engineering for Research and Technology
DoD EA	DoD Executive Agent
DoDI	DoD instruction
MCO	Marine Corps order
OPNAVINST	Chief of Naval Operations instruction
R&E	research and engineering
USD(R&E)	Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering
USU	Uniformed Services University

G.2. DEFINITION.

These terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this issuance.

TERM	DEFINITION
combat feeding	The process of feeding warfighters when they are deployed to conduct, support, or train for combat operations, including the food, equipment, and systems necessary to support that process.
combat feeding R&E	Research, development, testing, and engineering funded by BAs 6.1 through 6.3 (science and technology) and 6.4 through 6.5 (engineering and manufacturing development) that mature technology solutions for existing and evolving field feeding challenges and capability gaps.

TERM	DEFINITION
combat ration system	Operational ration system composed of multiple components that are integrated to achieve a particular capability for combat feeding.
dietary reference intake	Nutrient values designed to reflect the latest understanding about nutrient requirements, which are based on optimizing health in individuals and groups.
DoD technology base	A set of tangible, intangible, and human resources, and also advanced technical competences held by a DoD organization.
field feeding system	System (hardware or software) designed and developed in support of field feeding operations including but not limited to preparation, logistics, distribution, storage, or waste disposal.
food defense	The effort to protect food from acts of intentional adulteration.
nutrition	<p>The processes by which living organisms obtain food and use it for growth, metabolism, and repair. Its stages include ingestion, digestion, absorption, transport, assimilation, and excretion.</p> <p>The science that deals with food and nourishment, including dietary guidelines, food composition, and the roles that various nutrients have in maintaining health.</p>
operational rations	Foods supplied to sustain warfighters during combat operations, operational deployments, or field training.
R&E	The application of science and technology to support the acquisition process from materiel solution analysis, to technology maturation, to engineering and manufacturing development, and ultimately to production and deployment.

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