SUBJECT: Civilian Career Management

(b) Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “DoD Directives Review - Phase II,” July 13, 2005
(d) Section 1402 of title 5, United States Code

1. PURPOSE

This Instruction:

1.1. Reissues Reference (a) as a DoD Instruction according to the guidance in Reference (b) and the authority in Reference (c).

1.2. Establishes and implements policy and assigns responsibility for the development and operation of civilian career programs in the Department of Defense consistent with Reference (d).

1.2. Updates organizational and title changes made within the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

2.1. This Instruction 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 other organizational entities within the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the “DoD Components”).

2.2. This Instruction does not apply to those civilian career programs covered under DoD Directive 5000.52 (Reference (e)).

3. POLICY

It is DoD policy to promote career planning and development to:

3.1. Ensure a steady flow of capable, fully qualified, and trained personnel to fill positions at all levels with requisite competence required for success in accomplishing the DoD mission.

3.2. Promote interest in long-term career opportunities and development, consistent with current policy for a flexible and adaptable workforce.

3.3. Retain competent civilian employees and reduce turnover by providing opportunities for advancement commensurate with their abilities.

3.4. Develop personnel with knowledge in joint matters and an enterprise-wide perspective.

3.5. Provide developmental assignments across Components and other Federal and non-Federal agencies for aspiring career leaders to develop requisite competencies.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) shall:

   4.1.1. Provide overall guidance and policy direction for DoD civilian career programs.

   4.1.2. Coordinate development and evaluate the effectiveness of civilian career programs in the Department of Defense.

   4.1.3. Establish DoD-wide civilian career programs in coordination with DoD Components.

   4.1.4. Assign responsibility for developing particular DoD-wide civilian career programs or portions thereof to individual DoD Components.

   4.1.5. Provide staff guidance to DoD Components in connection with their responsibilities for DoD-wide civilian career programs.
4.1.6. Issue such manuals, forms, and other publications as may be required for general policies, requirements, and procedures applicable to the development and operation of DoD-wide civilian career programs.

4.1.7. Provide for automating the central inventory and referral systems and the operation of such systems.

4.2. The Heads of DoD Components shall:

4.2.1. Promote the establishment and development of civilian career programs for those career fields within their respective areas of responsibility when such programs are necessary to further the most efficient use of human resources.

4.2.2. Recommend to the USD(P&R), any career fields within their respective areas of responsibility that require the establishment of a DoD-wide civilian career program.

4.2.3. Assist the USD(P&R) in career program development and implementation by providing top management functional leadership.

4.2.4. Monitor the effectiveness of DoD-wide civilian programs that are operational for career fields within their areas of responsibility.

4.2.5. Delegate all or part of the responsibilities in this section to the lowest practical level that best meets organizational and operational needs.

4.2.6. Coordinate overall civilian career planning within their respective Components, including the development (within the policies and standards established by the USD(P&R)) of programs not covered by DoD-wide programs, and evaluate the implementation of civilian career programs through on-site inspections and other appropriate means.

4.2.7. Designate a key official to assist the USD(P&R) in planning and evaluating DoD-wide civilian career programs, and provide Component-level top management leadership and coordination.

4.2.8. Implement DoD-wide civilian career programs within their respective Component.

4.2.9. Ensure that line management fulfills its basic responsibility of meeting career management needs through the establishment, operation, maintenance, and evaluation of training programs in career management functional areas.

4.2.10. Delegate all or part of the responsibilities in this section to the lowest practical level that best meets organizational and operational needs.
5. **PROCEDURES**

Civilian career programs shall be developed for occupational specialties employed by such functional areas as supply, finance, research and development, and other appropriate groupings. For each occupational specialty or other appropriate grouping, career programs shall include as a minimum the following elements:

5.1. Clear lines of progression to successively more responsible duties.

5.2. Defined core competencies within functional specialties around which all learning and development should occur.

5.3. Use of coaching, mentoring, and other actions to promote interest, development, and profession in career programs.

5.4. A coordinated training and development program for the occupational specialty, using in-service and non-Federal facilities to improve present performance and prepare employees for greater responsibilities. Such a program shall include a specific plan for the use of leading management training courses available in-house and at facilities outside the Department of Defense.

5.5. Provisions for a minimum annual intake of carefully selected career personnel with potential for progression to more responsible technical, professional, and administrative positions. A minimum annual intake in each occupational specialty is essential to ensure a continued flow of persons capable of benefiting from long-term career development programs.

5.6. Planned work assignments designed to developed managerial, supervisory, and technical competence.

5.7. Programs of cross-training between installations and among the DoD Components shall be fostered through rotational assignments and exchanges of personnel for specified periods.

5.8. Procedures for referral of suitable personnel for career development opportunities on an installation or activity, command, DoD Component, and DoD-wide basis.

5.9. Procedures for counseling employees and appraising employee potential.
6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Instruction is effective immediately.

David S. C. Chu
Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness