



DoD INSTRUCTION 2000.21

DoD SUPPORT TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR (CBRN) INCIDENTS

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Purpose: In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive (DoDD) 5111.1 and the November 30, 2006, Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, this issuance establishes policy and assigns responsibilities for DoD support to the U.S. Government (USG) response to international CBRN incidents.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION	3
1.1. Applicability.	3
1.2. Policy.	3
1.3. Summary of Change 1.	4
SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES.....	5
2.1. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security (ASD(HD&GS)).	5
2.2. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict.	5
2.3. Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence.	6
2.4. Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.	6
2.5. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)).....	6
2.6. ASD(M&RA).	6
2.7. Director, DHA.....	6
2.8. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs (ASD(NCB)).	7
2.9. Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency.....	7
2.10. Director, Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization.	7
2.11. Secretaries of the Military Departments.	7
2.12. CJCS.	8
2.13. CNGB.	8
2.14. GCCs.....	8
2.15. Commander, U.S. Transportation Command.	9
GLOSSARY	10
G.1. Acronyms.	10
G.2. Definitions.....	11
REFERENCES	12

SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY. This issuance:

a. Applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and the Joint 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 DoD (referred to collectively in this issuance as the “DoD Components”).

b. Does not apply to:

(1) CBRN incidents within the United States.

(2) CBRN incidents that occur on overseas DoD installations and facilities for which DoD has primary responsibility for CBRN response under applicable host nation (HN) agreements or other international agreements or arrangements.

(3) Pandemic influenza or non-zoonotic animal-borne diseases for which other international or domestic plans exist.

1.2. POLICY.

a. When authorized by law, DoD will be prepared to conduct international CBRN-response (ICBRN-R) operations to:

(1) Protect U.S. citizens (including Military Service members and their dependents, DoD civilian employees and their dependents, and DoD contractor personnel) and allied and coalition nation personnel and citizens in the event that adversaries use weapons of mass destruction (WMD) overseas.

(2) Deter the use of WMD.

(3) Minimize the hazards and effects of CBRN incidents.

(4) Alleviate the effects of CBRN incidents that have resulted from a natural disaster or an act of man.

b. DoD recognizes that USG ICBRN-R operations may involve the use of military assets, and those assets may be the first and largest component of USG assistance.

c. The Department of State (DOS) is the lead federal agency (LFA) for implementing ICBRN-R operations, consistent with incident-specific guidance approved by the National Security Council Staff, unless otherwise directed by the President of the United States. HN requests for assistance and USG offers of assistance or support will be processed through the LFA.

d. DoD recognizes that where DOS does not have an established diplomatic presence on foreign territory, the President may designate DoD as the LFA to respond to an international CBRN incident.

e. DoD support to USG ICBRN-R operations will integrate the principles, guidance, and considerations provided for in the USG ICBRN-R Protocol.

f. Primary responsibility for ICBRN-R resides with the HN, unless otherwise stipulated under relevant international agreements or arrangements.

g. Requests for DoD support from other federal departments and agencies are submitted to the OSD Executive Secretary through the appropriate DoD channels using the DoD request for assistance process.

1.3. SUMMARY OF CHANGE 1. The changes to this issuance are administrative and update organizational titles and references for accuracy.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND GLOBAL SECURITY (ASD(HD&GS)). Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)), the ASD(HD&GS):

a. Serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) and USD(P) concerning the policy for DoD preparations for, and response to, an international CBRN incident in accordance with the USG ICBRN-R Protocol.

b. Develops, coordinates, and oversees DoD ICBRN-R policy, as appropriate. The ASD(HD&GS) is the office of primary responsibility for the review and coordination of all CJCS plans, instructions, manuals, or portions thereof, related to DoD support to USG ICBRN-R operations.

c. Represents the SecDef outside of DoD and to other USG departments and agencies on all ICBRN-R policy matters.

d. Provides policy oversight for the planning and pre-positioning of DoD CBRN response assets for international events including, but not limited to, athletic events, summits, conferences, and special security events.

e. Serves as the principal coordinator for DoD ICBRN-R exercises with other USG departments and agencies.

f. Coordinates with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (ASD(M&RA)) and the Chief, National Guard Bureau (CNGB) to provide advice to the SecDef and USD(P) on Reserve Component forces for DoD support to USG ICBRN-R operations, in accordance with DoDD 2060.02, DoDD 5105.77, and DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1235.12.

2.2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT. Under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P), the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict:

a. Serves as the principal advisor to the SecDef and the USD(P) on all DoD foreign disaster relief (FDR) efforts, and informs them of all DoD actions taken in response to foreign disasters, regardless of scope, in accordance with DoDD 5100.46.

b. Serves as the DoD lead for humanitarian activities in steady-state and crisis response, including the humanitarian assistance program, FDR, evacuations, and global health engagement in accordance with DoDD 5100.46, DoDD 3025.14, Joint Publication (JP) 3-29, and JP 3-68.

c. Guides and supports the ASD(HD&GS) on humanitarian assistance and FDR activities concurrent with any DoD support to USG ICBRN-R operations.

2.3. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE. The Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence:

- a. Advises, coordinates, and supports all intelligence, counter-intelligence, and security aspects for DoD support to USG ICBRN-R operations.
- b. Oversees the assigned roles and responsibilities of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and the National Reconnaissance Office to ensure that these agencies coordinate or collaborate with the HN intelligence agencies, as appropriate, to collect, analyze, and report all available intelligence applicable to CBRN incidents.

2.4. ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS. The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs:

- a. Coordinates public affairs matters within the DoD and with other federal departments and agencies.
- b. Coordinates overall DoD communication strategy with DOS on DoD's support to USG ICBRN-R operations.
- c. Reviews and approves geographic Combatant Commander (GCC)-proposed public affairs guidance in support of USG ICBRN-R operations in accordance with DoDI 5405.03.

2.5. 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 (USD(P&R)), the ASD(HA):

- a. Serves as the principal advisor to the SecDef, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the USD(P&R) for clinical health care and health-surveillance aspects of CBRN medical defense programs, and deployment matters as they pertain to force health protection and readiness for DoD support to USG ICBRN-R operations.
- b. Oversees the assigned responsibilities of the Director, Defense Health Agency (DHA).

2.6. ASD(M&RA). Under the authority, direction, and control of USD(P&R), the ASD(M&RA) develops policy and coordinates for the use of the Reserve Components for DoD support to USG ICBRN-R operations in accordance with DoDI 1235.12 and the March 20, 2015, Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum.

2.7. DIRECTOR, DHA. Under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R) and through the ASD(HA), the Director, DHA will perform assigned combat support agency responsibilities for DoD support to USG ICBRN-R operations.

2.8. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS (ASD(NCB)). Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L)), the ASD(NCB):

- a. Serves as the principal advisor to the SecDef, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the USD(AT&L) on nuclear weapons, nuclear energy, and chemical, biological, and radiological defense to counter current and emerging WMD threats in accordance with DoDD 3150.08, and Sections 113, 125, 133, 138d, and 163 of Title 10, United States Code.
- b. Provides technical expertise and assistance to the USD(AT&L) and the SecDef on ICBRN-R operations, including DoD-owned or -controlled CBRN materials.

2.9. DIRECTOR, DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY. Under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(AT&L) and through the ASD(NCB), the Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency:

- a. Supports USG ICBRN-R operations in coordination with the appropriate Combatant Commands in accordance with DoDD 3150.08.
- b. Establishes and maintains deployable CBRN-defense technical capabilities for advising and assisting the GCCs or the LFA in conducting USG ICBRN-R operations.
- c. Operates and maintains a 24-hour/365-day CBRN defense technical reachback capability in support of DoD or USG ICBRN-R operations.

2.10. DIRECTOR, JOINT IMPROVISED-THREAT DEFEAT ORGANIZATION. Under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(AT&L), the Director, Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization:

- a. Provides counter-improvised-threat assistance and training for DoD ICBRN-R exercises, as requested by the Combatant Commanders (CCDRs).
- b. Advises and supports ICBRN-R operational deployments of DoD elements in response to improvised-threat incidents, as requested by the CCDRs.
- c. Establishes and maintains deployable capabilities for advising and assisting CCDRs in the event of a foreign improvised-threat incident.

2.11. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. The Secretaries of the Military Departments:

- a. Organize, train, and equip the Military Services to support USG ICBRN-R operations.
- b. When directed by the SecDef, provide forces to the GCCs to assist the LFA as part of USG ICBRN-R operations.

2.12. CJCS. The CJCS:

- a. Serves as the Principal Military Advisor to the SecDef and the President in preparing for and responding to international CBRN incidents.
- b. Reviews all requests for assistance and provides recommendations and courses of action for DoD support to USG ICBRN-R operations.
- c. Ensures integration of military planning to support DOS in preparing for USG ICBRN-R operations.
- d. Develops U.S. military strategy, policy, CJCS publications and instructions, and joint doctrine supporting operational planning for DoD ICBRN-R operations.

2.13. CNGB. When directed by the SecDef, the CNGB coordinates the alert and mobilization of designated National Guard forces to support DoD ICBRN-R operations.

2.14. GCCs. The GCCs:

- a. Retain overall responsibility for force protection of DoD facilities and personnel within their respective areas of responsibility during USG ICBRN-R operations, except for those DoD elements and personnel for whom the chief of mission has security responsibility in accordance with Section 4802(v) of Title 22, United States Code.
- b. Conduct immediate ICBRN-R operations to save human lives as appropriate in accordance with Executive Order 12966. When such authority is exercised, the GCC will inform the National Military Command Center and the chief of mission by the most expeditious means available.
- c. Provide support to USG ICBRN-R operations, as requested by the LFA as approved by or directed by the SecDef. If it is anticipated that the HN will request or accept USG CBRN response assistance, and that the DoD will be requested and authorized to provide assistance, the GCCs will undertake all planning actions to ensure the rapid execution of time-sensitive efforts as part of the USG response efforts.
- d. Identify military resources to support USG ICBRN-R operations as required in accordance with the SecDef's Guidance for Employment of the Force and Global Force Management Implementation Guidance.
- e. Develop and exercise plans to support USG ICBRN-R operations.
 - (1) ICBRN-R plans will include procedures for coordinating with the LFA.
 - (2) ICBRN-R exercises will be integrated into the Combatant Command's existing exercises, where appropriate, and conducted at a minimum once every 2 years.

f. Collaborate with DOS to establish partnerships, increase partner nation capacity through security cooperation programs, and improve interoperability through bi-lateral exercises. GCC planning that considers partner nations' capabilities, regional response potential, and DoD ICBRN-R resource options can enable timely and effective ICBRN-R operations.

2.15. COMMANDER, U.S. TRANSPORTATION COMMAND. The Commander, U.S. Transportation Command, provides transportation resources to support USG ICBRN-R operations, as directed by the SecDef.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

ASD(HA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
ASD(HD&GS)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security
ASD(M&RA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs
ASD(NCB)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs
CBRN	chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear
CCDR	Combatant Commander
CJCS	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
CNGB	Chief of the National Guard Bureau
DHA	Defense Health Agency
DoDD	DoD Directive
DoDI	DoD Instruction
DOS	Department of State
FDR	foreign disaster relief
GCC	Geographic Combatant Commander
HN	host nation
ICBRN-R	international chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incident response
JP	Joint Publication
LFA	lead federal agency
SecDef	Secretary of Defense
USD(AT&L)	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
USD(P)	Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
USD(P&R)	Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
USG	United States Government
WMD	weapons of mass destruction

G.2. DEFINITIONS. Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purposes of this issuance.

CBRN incident. Defined in the DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

HN. Defined in the DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

ICBRN-R. A USG activity that assists a foreign government in responding to the effects from an intentional, naturally occurring, or accidental CBRN incident on foreign territory to save and sustain lives, stabilize the situation, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs. This term and its definition are proposed for inclusion in the next edition of the DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

improvised threats. Those supporting threat tactics, techniques, procedures and devices designed, fielded, or employed in any modality of conflict that adversely affects U.S. Joint Force protection or maneuverability. The emphasis is on non-state actors, but not on those exclusively as determined by the CCDRs.

LFA. Defined in the DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

United States. Defined in Section 101 of Title 6, United States Code.

WMD. Defined in the DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

REFERENCES

- Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Delegations of Authority,” November 30, 2006
- Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Re-designation of the Positions of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and Force Management,” March 20, 2015
- DoD Directive 2060.02, “DoD Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Policy.” January 27, 2017
- DoD Directive 3025.14, “Evacuation of U.S. Citizens and Designated Aliens from Threatened Areas Abroad,” February 26, 2013
- DoD Directive 3150.08, “DoD Response to Nuclear and Radiological Incidents,” January 20, 2010
- DoD Directive 5100.46, “Foreign Disaster Relief,” July 6, 2012
- DoD Directive 5105.77, “National Guard Bureau (NGB),” October 30, 2015
- DoD Directive 5111.1, “Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)),” December 8, 1999
- DoD Instruction 1235.12, “Accessing the Reserve Components (RC),” June 7, 2016, as amended
- DoD Instruction 5405.03, “Development, Submission, and Approval of Proposed Public Affairs Guidance (PPAG),” February 18, 2016
- Executive Order 12966, “Foreign Disaster Assistance,” July 14, 1995
- Joint Publication 3-29, “Foreign Humanitarian Assistance,” January 3, 2014
- Joint Publication 3-68, “Noncombatant Evacuation Operations,” November 18, 2015
- Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, “DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms,” current edition
- Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Global Force Management Implementation Guidance,” current edition¹
- Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Guidance for Employment of the Force,” current edition²
- United States Code, Title 6, Section 101
- United States Code, Title 10
- United States Code, Title 22, Section 4802
- United States Government International Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Response Protocol, June 3, 2014³

¹ This document is classified. Individuals with the appropriate clearance level and need-to-know may request access to this document from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities, through their OSD Component Heads.

² This document is classified with limited distribution. Individuals with the appropriate clearance level and need-to-know may request access to this document from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities, through their OSD Component Heads.

³ This document can be obtained by contacting the Offices of the ASD(HD&GS)/Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction.