



Department of Defense INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 3305.06

November 19, 2008

Incorporating Change 1, May 22, 2017

USD(P)

SUBJECT: Special Operations Forces (SOF) Foreign Language Policy

References: See Enclosure 1

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction:

a. Reissues DoD Directive (DoDD) 3305.6 (Reference (a)) as a DoD Instruction (DoDI) in accordance with the guidance in DoDI 5025.01 (Reference (b)) and the authority in Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum (Reference (c)), sections 136 and 167 of title 10, United States Code (Reference (d)), and DoD Directive 5111.1 (Reference (e)).

b. Establishes policy and assigns responsibilities for determining SOF foreign language policy.

2. APPLICABILITY

a. This Instruction 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 the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in the Department of Defense (hereafter collectively referred to as the “DoD Components”).

b. This Instruction also applies to all contracts with civilian organizations and consultants engaged to support SOF and related DoD language training for SOF personnel and to all agreements with U.S. Government agencies through which a DoD Component provides or receives support for SOF language training to the extent incorporated into those agreements.

3. DEFINITIONS. Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purposes of this Instruction.

- a. foreign language. A language other than English.
- b. language professional. Defined in DoD Directive 5160.41E (Reference (f)).
- c. language skilled. Defined in Reference (f).
- d. language dependent positions. Geographic combatant commander-identified and Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (CDRUSSOCOM)-validated manning positions within special operations (SO) organizations that require a language professional incumbent and upon which readiness assessments are periodically conducted.
- e. SO. Defined in the DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms (Reference (g)).
- f. SOF. Defined in Reference (g).

4. POLICY It is DoD policy that:

- a. Select SOF organizations, as determined by CDRUSSOCOM, shall maintain individual language skills at levels appropriate for effective conduct of core missions and activities.
- b. Select SOF organizations, as determined by CDRUSSOCOM, shall train and maintain sufficient language skilled SOF personnel to satisfy SOF requirements.
- c. Foreign language skill shall be an element of readiness for SOF units that have requirements for language skilled SOF or language professionals.
- d. For specifically identified units, foreign language skill is either an explicit or implied component of principal SOF core tasks.
- e. Skill in foreign language may be a consideration criterion for personnel assignment within SOF organizations. Language dependent and language designated positions shall be identified on organizational documents and managed by the appropriate agency or Military Department in coordination with their personnel offices.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES. See Enclosure 2.

6. RELEASABILITY. **Cleared for public release**. This Instruction may be obtained on the DoD Issuances Web Site at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

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

8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Instruction is effective November 19, 2008.



Peter F. Verga
Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary of
Defense for Policy

Enclosures

1. References
2. Responsibilities

ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

- (a) DoD Directive 3305.6, "Special Operations Forces (SOF) Foreign Language Policy," January 4, 1993 (hereby canceled)
- (b) DoD Instruction 5025.01, "DoD Issuances Program," August 1, 2016, as amended
- (c) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Delegations of Authority," November 30, 2006
- (d) Sections 136 and 167 of title 10, United States Code
- (e) DoD Directive 5111.1, "Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P))," December 8, 1999
- (f) DoD Directive 5160.41E, "Defense Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) Program," August 21, 2015, as amended
- (g) Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms," as amended
- (h) DoD Instruction 5160.70, "Management of the Defense Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) Program," December 30, 2016
- (i) CJCS Instruction 3126.01, "Language and Regional Expertise Planning," January 23, 2006

ENCLOSURE 2

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT (ASD(SO/LIC)). The ASD(SO/LIC), under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, shall:

a. Develop and coordinate policy within the Department of Defense for SOF foreign language requirements consistent with Reference (f) and this Instruction. These language requirements will generally be performed by OSD Policy's Senior Language Authority (currently the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Stability Operations Capabilities) as defined in Reference (f).

b. Monitor compliance with this Instruction.

2. HEADS OF THE DoD COMPONENTS WITH SOF LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS. The Heads of the DoD Components with SOF language requirements shall:

a. Identify and forward SOF foreign language requirements and skills necessary to support operational needs to CDRUSSOCOM in accordance with DoDI 5160.70 (Reference (h)) and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3126.01 (Reference (i)).

b. Coordinate with CDRUSSOCOM and the SOF Service Component Commanders to establish and maintain personnel programs and policies supporting the recruiting, assignment, and professional development of language-qualified SOF personnel. Assignments and developments should reflect continued development of expertise in a specific region and language.

3. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall coordinate with CDRUSSOCOM and the SOF Service Component Commanders to establish and maintain personnel programs and policies supporting the language training of SOF personnel.

4. CDRUSSOCOM. The CDRUSSOCOM shall:

a. Study, identify, and validate SOF foreign language requirements and skill levels to support Active Component and Reserve Component (AC/RC) operational requirements, which are reported biennially to CDRUSSOCOM by Geographic Combatant Commanders in coordination with their supporting theater SOF commanders, the Heads

of the DoD Components, and SOF component commanders to meet current and planned operational and security needs. The biennial reports shall include:

(1) Foreign language requirements and skill levels necessary to support AC/RC SOF missions and activities within the theater.

(2) Language and skill requirements for the AC/RC conventional forces assigned to SOF organizations.

b. Study, identify, and forward language requirements and skills identified for conventional forces which are organic to SOF organizations and necessary to support the operational needs of SOF organizations to the appropriate Military Departments for validation and integration into manning documents.

c. Constrain, as necessary, SOF language requirements and integrate into SOF organizational positions that require foreign language skill and specify the level of skill required. Ensure SOF manning documents are coded accordingly.

d. Plan, program for, and train to provide and maintain sufficient language skilled SOF to satisfy constrained SOF language requirements.

e. Propose, initiate, and maintain readiness reporting on the foreign language capability of SOF organizations whose manning documents reflect SOF language requirements.

f. Report SOF foreign language and regional skill requirements in accordance with References (h) and (i).

g. Provide SOF language training requirements to the Military Departments for inclusion in the Service Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center annual training program.

h. Monitor the assignment of language-qualified SOF and promote utilization in assignments that capitalize on and enhance individual language and regional expertise.

i. Plan, conduct, and evaluate or monitor directed or coordinated exercises requiring SOF foreign language use.

j. Integrate language and regional expertise requirements into SOF operational and contingency planning.