



DoW INSTRUCTION 6440.03

DoW LABORATORY AND RESPONSE NETWORK

Originating Component: Office of the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness

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Approved 01/30/2026 by: Anthony J. Tata, Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness

Purpose: In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02, this issuance establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, provides procedures, and introduces a forum that allows DoW laboratories, programs, and activities with analytic or response capabilities to coordinate execution, develop consensus, and make recommendations governing the detection; identification, characterization, and diagnosis; and reporting of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) agents; infectious diseases; and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance to support the DoW's global and homeland defense missions.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY.

This issuance applies to OSW, the Military Departments (including the Coast Guard at all times, including when it is a Service in the Department of Homeland Security by agreement with that Department), 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 DoW Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoW (referred to collectively in this issuance as the “DoW Components”).

1.2. POLICY.

a. A system of DoW laboratories, programs, and activities (hereinafter referred to as the DoW Laboratory and Response Network (DL&RN)) will be maintained to:

- (1) Improve data collection and query or interrogation, analysis and interpretation, fusion, and information sharing.
- (2) Harmonize, validate, and enhance quality assurance and quality control of laboratory protocols, methods, and materials.
- (3) Standardize the data elements used, by test methodology, for reporting results and the associated test result notification schemes.
- (4) Provide a unified DoW position on related issues external to the DoW.

b. The DL&RN will function as an active member network of the Federal interagency Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN) and its Network Coordinating Group (NCG) in accordance with the August 1, 2016 Memorandum of Agreement for an ICLN and the ICLN Charge and Charter.

(1) Individual DL&RN member laboratories may also serve as members of any of the individual laboratory networks comprising the ICLN.

(2) DL&RN member laboratories or activities with analytic or response capabilities regarding CBRN agents, infectious diseases, and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance will provide defense support of civil authorities on a fully reimbursable basis, when resources are available and approved by the Secretary of War, in accordance with DoD Directive 3025.18; as depicted for the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) in DoD Instructions (DoDIs) 3025.24 and 6200.03; future interagency agreements; Sections 5121 through 5206 of Title 42, United States Code; or Section 1535 of Title 31, United States Code (also known as “The Economy Act”).

c. The report standardization and data tagging, sharing, searching, retrieving, protecting, and networking aspects of the DL&RN will be developed in accordance with DoDD 5205.02E, DoDI 8320.02, and DoDI 8320.07. The information technology systems and services that will support the operation of the DL&RN will be developed, tested, and certified in accordance with DoDI 8330.01.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS (ASW(HA)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness, the ASW(HA):

- a. Promotes appropriate collaboration and coordination among DoW Components to support the ICLN.
- b. Provides DoW medical and public health policy guidance and expertise relating to DL&RN member laboratories, programs, and activities, inclusive of guidance and support for all domestic crisis situations or emergencies that require the provision of health- or medical-related defense support of civil authorities and for medical aspects concerning CBRN defense and response.
- c. Ensures input is provided to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretaries of the Military Departments, or Combatant Commanders relating to medical CBRN defense strategies, infectious diseases, and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance, as requested, to conduct needed capabilities-based assessments.
- d. Serves as one of three OSW-level proponents of the DL&RN.

2.2. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR HEALTH READINESS POLICY AND OVERSIGHT (DASW(HRP&O)).

Under the authority direction, and control of the ASW(HA), the DASW(HRP&O):

- a. Serves as the DoW representative to the ICLN's Joint Leadership Council (JLC) in accordance with the August 1, 2016 Memorandum of Agreement for an ICLN and the ICLN Charge and Charter.
- b. Represents the DoW on the ICLN's NCG.
- c. Serves as the co-chair for the DL&RN.

2.3. DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness, through the ASW(HA), the Director, Defense Health Agency:

- a. Serves as the program manager for medical resources required for DoW clinical laboratory participation in, and support of, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-sponsored LRN.

b. Prepares and submits program and budget requirements for the DoW planning, programming, budgeting, and execution process to resource, as appropriate, the necessary medical activities and programs to effect DoW LRN participation and support LRN-associated activities.

c. Provides a representative(s) to the DL&RN, as requested and coordinated with the Executive Secretary of the DL&RN.

2.4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR NUCLEAR DETERRENCE , CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE POLICY AND PROGRAMS (ASW(ND- CBD)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment, the ASW(ND-CBD):

a. Promotes appropriate collaboration and coordination among DoW Components to support the ICLN.

b. Ensures input is provided to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretaries of the Military Departments, or Combatant Commanders relating to medical CBRN defense strategies, infectious diseases, and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance, as requested, to conduct needed capabilities-based assessments.

c. Provides policy guidance and acquisition, technology, and logistics expertise on CBRN matters relating to DL&RN member laboratories, programs, and activities.

d. Serves as one of three OSW-level proponents of the DL&RN.

2.5. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR CBRN DEFENSE (DASW(CBRND)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment, through the ASW(ND-CBD), the DASW(CBRND):

a. Represents the DoW on the ICLN's NCG.

b. Serves as the co-chair for the DL&RN.

2.6. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS (ASW(HD&HA)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of War for Policy, the ASW(HD&HA):

a. Promotes appropriate collaboration and coordination among DoW Components to support the ICLN.

- b. Provides policy guidance and expertise to DL&RN member laboratories, programs, and activities regarding DoW missions relating to homeland defense and defense support of civil authorities.
- c. Serves as one of three OSW-level proponents of the DL&RN.

2.7. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR SPACE POLICY (ASW(SP)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of War for Policy, the ASW(SP):

- a. Provides guidance and expertise to DL&RN member laboratories, programs, and activities regarding DoW and other applicable Federal policies for all-hazards agents of military or national significance, including CBRN.
- b. Promotes appropriate collaboration and coordination among DoW Components to support the ICLN.
- c. Provides guidance and expertise to DL&RN member laboratories, programs, and activities regarding DoW missions relating to countering weapons of mass destruction.
- d. Provides policy guidance and expertise to DL&RN member laboratories, programs, and activities relating to the ASW(SP)'s responsibilities for DoW global and national security.
- e. Coordinates Under Secretary of War for Policy and Assistant Secretary of War for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict input to ICLN policies and standard operating procedures.

2.8. DIRECTORS, DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY; DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY; DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY; AND PENTAGON FORCE PROTECTION AGENCY.

Under the authority, direction, and control of their respective OSW Component heads, the Directors, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; Defense Intelligence Agency; Defense Threat Reduction Agency; and Pentagon Force Protection Agency provide a representative(s) to the DL&RN, as requested and coordinated with the Executive Secretary of the DL&RN.

2.9. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS AND THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.

The Secretaries of the Military Departments and the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, when applicable:

- a. Provide representatives to the DL&RN, as requested and coordinated with the Executive Secretary of the DL&RN.

b. Coordinate establishment, sustainment, and deployment of laboratories, programs, and analytic capabilities.

c. Conduct appropriate capabilities-based assessments of laboratories, programs, or activities within the DoW with analytic or response capabilities related to CBRN agents, infectious diseases, and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance, as needed.

d. Identify all individual laboratories, programs, or activities (including deployable or mobile laboratories) with analytic or response capabilities related to CBRN agents, infectious diseases, and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance within their respective Military Department or Military Service and provide a listing of those laboratories, programs, or activities to the DL&RN.

2.10. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

In addition to the responsibilities in Paragraph 2.9., the Secretary of the Army and Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Chief, National Guard Bureau, the Director, Army National Guard, and the Director, Air National Guard, provide an appropriate National Guard Bureau representative(s) to the DL&RN, as requested and coordinated with the Executive Secretary of the DL&RN.

2.11. CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

a. Provides representatives to the DL&RN, as requested and coordinated with the Executive Secretary of the DL&RN.

b. Ensures operational input is provided regarding integration of DL&RN member laboratories, programs, or activities, as needed.

c. Conducts appropriate joint capabilities-based assessments that incorporate laboratories, programs, or activities within the DoW with analytic or response capabilities related to CBRN agents, infectious diseases, and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance, as needed.

2.12. COMBATANT COMMANDERS.

The Combatant Commanders, as appropriate:

a. Provide representatives to the DL&RN, as requested and coordinated with the Executive Secretary of the DL&RN.

b. Conduct appropriate capabilities-based assessments of laboratories, programs, or activities (including deployable or mobile laboratories) within the DoW with analytic or response

capabilities related to CBRN agents, infectious diseases, and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance, as needed.

c. Ensure laboratories, programs, or activities (including deployable or mobile laboratories) with analytic or response capabilities related to CBRN agents, infectious diseases, and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance are incorporated into operational plans.

SECTION 3: DL&RN MISSION

3.1. PURPOSE.

The DL&RN functions as an active member network of the ICLN and its NCG. Additionally, the DL&RN's activities seek to:

- a. Improve data collection and query or interrogation, analysis and interpretation, fusion, and information sharing.
- b. Harmonize, validate, and enhance quality assurance, proficiency/performance testing/challenge programs, and the quality control of laboratory protocols, methods, and materials.
- c. Standardize data elements used, by test methodology, for reporting results and the associated test result notification schemes.

3.2. GENERAL.

a. Program, Project, or Service Description.

The DoW has a substantial detection, diagnostic, analysis, and reporting capability for CBRN agents, infectious diseases, and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance. For certain agents, the DoW constitutes the only national resource to accomplish these tasks. In addition, the DoW has a substantial detection, diagnostic, analysis, and reporting capability for emerging infectious diseases. The DL&RN's activities enhance efforts regarding the coordination and integration of these capabilities within DoW. The DL&RN also provides a mechanism for improving interagency collaboration and collaboration among DoW Components.

b. Organizational Interfaces.

(1) The DoW is a signatory of the August 1, 2016 Interagency Memorandum of Agreement for an ICLN, and the DL&RN participates as a member network of the ICLN. Participation in the DL&RN does not supersede the relationships, roles, responsibilities, and obligations of DL&RN member laboratories that are members of any of the individual laboratory networks comprising the ICLN.

(2) Participation by appropriate DoW clinical laboratories in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-sponsored LRN is required (as coordinated through the Defense Health Agency's Assistant Director, Health Care Administration or Assistant Director, Support, as appropriate, and the DoW Liaison (Gatekeeper) for the LRN).

(3) The DASW(HRP&O) serves as the DoW representative to the ICLN's JLC. The DASW(HRP&O) and DASW(CBRND) represent the DoW on the ICLN's NCG. All DoW Components may participate in ICLN subgroups and will notify the DL&RN Executive Secretary of this participation.

c. DL&RN Funding.

(1) Administrative Costs.

Costs for organizational and administrative support will be provided, on an equal cost sharing basis, by the Offices of the ASW(HA), ASW(ND-CBD), and ASW(HD&HA).

(2) Network Member Funding.

Funding for DL&RN member laboratories, programs, and activities will continue through each participant's established line of funding. Additional funding for new obligations or taskings placed on the members will be provided as determined appropriate by and coordinated amongst the Offices of the ASW(HA), ASW(ND-CBD), and ASW(HD&HA).

(3) Establishment and Funding of a DL&RN Executive Secretary Position.

The Office of the ASW(HA) is the lead for and will establish a full-time equivalent U.S. Government position to serve as the DL&RN Executive Secretary.

3.3. DL&RN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RESPONSIBILITIES.

The DL&RN Executive Secretary:

- a. Will oversee administration and management of the DL&RN, attend all ICLN-related meetings, and serve as the DoW Liaison (Gatekeeper) for the LRN.
- b. Generates and maintains a comprehensive inventory of the DoW's detection; testing; analysis; identification, characterization, and diagnosis; and result reporting capabilities for CBRN agents; infectious diseases; and other all-hazards agents of military or national significance.
- c. Reviews and identifies priority issues on an ongoing basis to the proponent offices of the Secretary of War, with recommendation of solutions requiring policy review and resourcing.
- d. Provides data, reports, and consultation to DoW officials and, as appropriate, other Federal officials regarding laboratory detection; testing; analysis; identification, characterization, and diagnosis; and result reporting before, during, and after CBRN and all-hazards incidents of national and military significance.
- e. Advocates for the DoW and its Components within the ICLN and its member networks.
- f. Ensures continued participation in the ICLN and its NCG and working groups.
- g. Generates an annual report regarding DL&RN activities as described in Paragraphs 3.3.b. through 3.3.f. on a fiscal year basis. Within 60 calendar days of the end of each fiscal year, submits the annual report to the Offices of the ASW(HA), ASW(ND-CBD), and ASW(HD&HA).

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

ACRONYM	MEANING
ASW(HA)	Assistant Secretary of War for Health Affairs
ASW(HD&HA)	Assistant Secretary of War for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs
ASW(ND-CBD)	Assistant Secretary of War for Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical, and Biological Defense Policy and Programs
ASW(SP)	Assistant Secretary of War for Space Policy
CBRN	chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear
DASW(CBRND)	Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense
DASW(HRP&O)	Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Health Readiness Policy and Oversight
DL&RN	DoW Laboratory and Response Network
DoW	Department of War
DoWI	DoW instruction
ICLN	Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks
JLC	Joint Leadership Council
LRN	Laboratory Response Network
NCG	Network Coordinating Group
OSW	Office of the Secretary of War

G.2. DEFINITIONS.

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

TERM	DEFINITION
ICLN	A coordinated and operational system of Federal department or agency-sponsored laboratory networks that provide timely, high quality, and interpretable results for early detection and effective consequence management of acts of terrorism, and other events requiring an integrated laboratory response.

TERM	DEFINITION
ICLN JLC	A group composed of one senior policy member from each Federal department or agency participating in the ICLN. The JLC provides advice to senior Federal Government officials, with the objective of ensuring that the appropriate strategy and funding are in place for effective laboratory testing for detection and response to health and national security emergencies. The JLC, in accordance with the August 1, 2016 Memorandum of Agreement for an ICLN, is chaired by a Department of Homeland Security representative to the JLC, and is supported by the Executive Secretariat.
ICLN NCG	The NCG is under the direction of the JLC and is a group composed of senior technical and program representatives from the Department of Homeland Security, DoW, Department of Justice, Department of State, and each network represented in the ICLN. The NCG develops and proposes policies and procedures, and helps carry out the operations of the ICLN through a close and formal working relationship among the operational leadership of the individual networks and other involved parties. The NCG, in accordance with the August 1, 2016 Memorandum of Agreement for an ICLN, is chaired by a Department of Homeland Security representative. The NCG is supported by the Executive Secretariat and receives input from technical working groups.
infectious disease	A disease potentially caused by a pathogenic organism (including a bacteria, virus, fungus, or parasite) that is acquired by a person and that reproduces in that person. An infectious disease may occur as the result of an infection by a naturally occurring and well characterized infectious agent, or by an emerging or novel infectious agent.

TERM

DEFINITION

LRN

A diverse national and international laboratory network of local, State, and Federal public health, hospital-based, food testing, veterinary and environmental testing laboratories that provide rapid detection assays, laboratory diagnostics, and has the capacity to respond to biological and chemical terrorism and other public health emergencies.

A reciprocal multi-agency collaboration and partnership involving key stakeholders in the preparation and response to biological and chemical terrorism. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the DoW, and the Association of Public Health Laboratories are its founding partners. The mission of the LRN and its partners is to maintain an integrated national and international network of laboratories that are fully equipped to respond quickly to acts of chemical or biological terrorism, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health threats and emergencies.

REFERENCES

- DoD Directive 3025.18, “Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA),” December 29, 2010, as amended
- DoD Directive 5124.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)),” June 23, 2008, as amended
- DoD Directive 5205.02E, “DoD Operations Security (OPSEC) Program,” June 20, 2012, as amended
- DoD Instruction 3025.24, “DoD Public Health and Medical Services in Support of Civil Authorities,” January 30, 2017
- DoD Instruction 6200.03, “Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Within the DoD,” March 28, 2019
- DoD Instruction 8320.02, “Sharing Data, Information, and Information Technology (IT) Services in the Department of Defense,” August 5, 2013, as amended
- DoD Instruction 8320.07, “Implementing the Sharing of Data, Information, and Information Technology (IT) Services in the Department of Defense,” August 3, 2015, as amended
- DoD Instruction 8330.01, “Interoperability of Information Technology, Including National Security Systems,” September 27, 2022
- Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks Charge and Charter, November 25, 2008¹
- Memorandum of Agreement for an Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN), August 1, 2016²
- United States Code, Title 31, Section 1535 (also known as “The Economy Act”)
- United States Code, Title 42

¹ Found at <https://www.icln.org/documents/icln-documents/icln-charge-and-charter/SignedChargeandCharter010909.pdf>

² Found at https://www.icln.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/ICLN-MOA-2005-Signed-6_6_05.pdf