



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

January 16, 2025
Incorporating Change 1, January 28, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Directive-type Memorandum 25-001 – “Aeronautical Navigation”

References: See Attachment 1.

Purpose. In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02, and the July 16, 2018, Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, this directive-type memorandum (DTM):

- Establishes policy and assigns responsibilities for aeronautical navigation (AN).
- The following memorandums remain in effect except to the extent they are superseded by this DTM with respect to policy for alternative navigation products and services, DoW senior governance processes for aeronautical navigation, and the responsibilities of the DoW Components with respect to aeronautical navigation:
 - Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “DoD Instrument Flight Procedure Policy,” June 7, 1996.
 - Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “DoD Instrument Flight Procedures,” June 21, 1996.
 - Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “DoD Instrument Flight Procedures,” April 2, 1997.
 - Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “DoD Instrument Flight Procedures Policy,” September 11, 2000.
- Is effective January 16, 2025; it will be converted to a new DoW instruction. This DTM will expire effective January 16, 2027.

Applicability. This DTM applies to OSW, 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 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 DTM as the “DoW Components”).

Definitions. See Glossary.

Policy. It is DoW policy to use:

- U.S. Government (USG)-provided information and products to support AN.
- Alternative sources of navigation information and products that have been validated to meet security, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and/or North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) criteria, until such time that USG-provided information and products are suitable and available for use.
- The Aeronautical Navigation Steering Group, as established by charter in May 2024, as the DoW senior governance forum to administer common issues that enhance and facilitate cooperation on and support for AN.

Responsibilities. See Attachment 2.

Releasability. Cleared for public release. Available on the Directives Division Website at <https://www.esd.whs.mil/DD/>.

Summary of Change 1. This change extends the expiration date for the DTM to January 16, 2027 and converts DoW secondary titles in accordance with the October 10, 2025 Secretary of War Memorandum.



Ashish S. Vazirani
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of
Defense for Personnel and Readiness

Attachments:
As stated

ATTACHMENT 1

REFERENCES

Aeronautical Navigation Steering Group Charter, May 14, 2024

Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “DoD Instrument Flight Procedures,” June 21, 1996¹

Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Realignment of Safety and Occupational Health Policy and Oversight Functions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense,” July 16, 2018

DoD Directive 5105.79, “DoD Senior Governance Framework,” November 8, 2021

DoD Directive 5124.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)),” June 23, 2008, as amended

DoD Instruction 3115.15, “Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT),” December 6, 2011, as amended

Federal Aviation Administration Order 8260.3, “United States Standard for Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS),” current edition

International Civil Aviation Organization Doc 8168, “Procedures for Air Navigation Services, Aircraft Operations, Volume I — Flight Procedures,” Sixth Edition, 2018,² as amended

International Civil Aviation Organization Doc 8168 “Procedures for Air Navigation Services, Aircraft Operations, Volume II — Construction of Visual and Instrument Flight Procedures,” Seventh Edition, 2020,³ as amended

North American Treaty Organization Allied Air Traffic Control Publication, “NATO Supplement to ICAO Doc 8168-OPS/611 Volume II for the Preparation of Instrument Approach and Departure Procedures, Edition E, Version 1, June 23, 2017,⁴ as amended

Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “DoD Instrument Flight Procedures,” April 2, 1997⁵

Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “DoD Instrument Flight Procedures Policy,” June 7, 1996⁶

Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “DoD Instrument Flight Procedures Policy,” September 11, 2000⁷

Secretary of War Memorandum, “Department of War Secondary Titles,” October 10, 2025

United States Code, Title 10

¹ Document available at the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Safety and Occupational Health (ODASD(FS&OH)), osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.fsoh@mail.mil or (703) 693-5584.

² Document available at Air Force Flight Standards Agency, Tinker AFB, OK, Comm: 405-734-7586.

³ Document available electronically at: https://www.icao.int/APAC/APAC-FPP/PansOps%20Procedure%20Design%20Initial%20Course/Courseware/8168_v2_cons_en.pdf.

⁴ Document available at Air Force Flight Standards Agency, Tinker AFB, OK, Comm: 405-734-7586.

⁵ Document available at ODASD(FS&OH), osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.fsoh@mail.mil or (703) 693-5584.

⁶ Document available at ODASD(FS&OH), osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.fsoh@mail.mil or (703) 693-5584.

⁷ Document available at ODASD(FS&OH), osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.fsoh@mail.mil or (703) 693-5584.

ATTACHMENT 2

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS (USW(P&R)). In coordination with the Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, (NGA) and the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the USW(P&R) establishes policy and advocates for resources, as required, to support AN.
2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR FOR READINESS. Under the authority, direction, and control of the USW(P&R), the Assistant Secretary of War for Readiness:
 - a. Oversees the implementation of this policy and other issues related to AN.
 - b. Provides a lead civilian employee in the Senior Executive Service to co-chair the AN senior governance forum.
 - c. May designate a technical representative to support the AN senior governance forum.
3. UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR FOR INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY. The Under Secretary of War for Intelligence and Security:
 - a. Provides oversight and resources to the NGA in the execution of its role in supporting the DoW AN mission.
 - b. In accordance with DoDI 3115.15, coordinates the National Geospatial Intelligence Program budget with the Director of National Intelligence to support AN.
 - c. Directs that AN products and services be considered when developing geospatial intelligence policy and executing geospatial intelligence-related missions and activities.
 - d. Provides a lead general officer/flag officer or civilian employee in the Senior Executive Service as a participant in the AN senior governance forum.
 - e. May designate a technical representative to support the AN senior governance forum.
4. DIRECTOR, NGA. Under the authority, direction, and control of Secretary of War and oversight by the Under Secretary of War for Intelligence and Security, the Director, NGA:
 - a. Provides for AN, pursuant to Section 442 of Title 10, United States Code, with the responsibility to acquire, prepare, and distribute aeronautical geospatial information as data, products, and services to meet the AN requirements of the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Military Departments, and the Military Services.
 - b. Promotes collaboration across the DoW, USG, and internationally to ensure access to, and efficient and effective production of, safe-for-navigation aeronautical data, products, and services.

c. Provides a lead general officer/flag officer or civilian employee in the Senior Executive Service as a participant in the AN senior governance forum.

d. May designate a technical representative to support the AN senior governance forum.

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

a. Ensure the Military Departments are equipped with the most suitable products, data, and services to support Service and Combatant Command requirements provided to the Joint Staff for validation in accordance with Sections 7013, 8013 and 9013 of Title 10, United States Code.

b. Train and equip forces on all AN products, as required.

c. In accordance with the September 11, 2000, Secretary of Defense Memorandum, may manage a DoD Host Nation Acceptance Program, in which DoW Components may participate, that identifies, maintains, and periodically validates a list of nations and/or specific airports that meet criteria equivalent to USG safety standards prescribed within FAA Order 8260.3; NATO Allied Air Traffic Control Publication-1; Volumes I and II of ICAO Doc 8168; and other applicable USG standards. The DoW may use AN information developed by those nations without further review.

d. Provide a lead general officer/flag officer or civilian employee in the Senior Executive Service as a participant in the AN senior governance forum.

e. May designate a technical representative to support the AN senior governance forum.

6. CJCS. The CJCS:

a. Administers a process for identifying, validating, prioritizing, and submitting functional and geographic aeronautical geospatial information requirements to support joint military operations submitted by the DoW and civil agencies performing and/or supporting military operations.

b. Provides a general officer/flag officer to co-chair the AN senior governance forum.

c. May designate a technical representative to support the AN senior governance forum.

7. COMBATANT COMMANDERS. The Combatant Commanders:

a. Provide the Military Departments, Military Services and Joint Staff with operational requirements for AN, as required or requested.

b. Through the CJCS, provide the Secretary of War risk assessments for unfulfilled operational requirements, as required.

GLOSSARYPART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	MEANING
AN	aeronautical navigation
CJCS	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
DoW	Department of War
DTM	directive-type memorandum
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGA	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
OSW	Office of the Secretary of War
USW(P&R)	Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness
USG	U.S. Government

PART II. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this issuance.

Term	Definition
aeronautical geospatial information	Information that identifies the geographic location and characteristics of natural or constructed features and boundaries on or about the Earth specific to AN.
AN	Accurately determining one's geographic position, planning and piloting an aerospace vehicle on a route to a geographic destination, and continuously monitoring one's geographic position, course, and distance during the flight progress towards said destination.
governance forum	Defined in DoDD 5105.79.

Term	Definition
validation	<p>The exact definition of “validation” varies depending on specific context within the scope of aeronautical navigation.</p> <p><u>Requirements:</u> A formal process governed by the Joint Staff that assesses joint force aeronautical navigation requirements against specified criteria of specifications and standards.</p> <p><u>Data:</u> The activity whereby a data element is checked as having a value that is fully applicable to the identity given to the data element, or a set of data elements is checked as being acceptable for intended use.</p> <p><u>Procedures:</u> An FAA or Military Services authority review and acceptance of a non-USG instrument approach procedure as safe and accurate. The non-USG instrument approach procedure must meet the standards prescribed within FAA Order 8260.3 and NATO Allied Air Traffic Control Publication-1 or ICAO Doc 8168.</p>