FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Termination of the TALON Reporting System

- Attached at TAB A is a memo for your signature terminating the TALON reporting system. I recommend you sign the memo.
  - The media continues to attack the TALON system and it remains an issue with Congress. Furthermore, TALON reporting has dropped significantly.
- The memo also directs actions that will ensure we do not place the Department at risk, and to reinforce our commitment to protecting the rights of American citizens.
- The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) will issue the news release at TAB B when you have signed the memorandum.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign the memorandum at TAB A

COORDINATION: TAB C
SUBJECT: Termination of the TALON Reporting System

- Attached at TAB A is a memo for your signature terminating the TALON reporting system.

- TALON reporting has declined significantly—averaging nearly 90 a month in 2005 to eight a month by virtue of TALON guidance promulgated in March of 2006, which established stricter reporting criteria.

- The CIFA element that maintains the TALON system will be deactivated on September 17, 2007.

- On an interim basis, we have made arrangements to integrate DoD, state, local, tribal and other federal agency threat information in an FBI system that will provide a more comprehensive threat picture at a negligible cost to DoD.

RECOMMENDATION:

COORDINATION: TAB C
MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Termination of the TALON Reporting System

Effective September 17, 2007, the TALON reporting system is terminated. The analytical value of the system has declined significantly, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Consequently, the reporting of such information on suspicious activity that may bear on the safety and security of DoD facilities and personnel is now better accomplished in force protection / law enforcement channels, rather than under the auspices of counter-intelligence.

Accordingly, the Department will take the following actions:

• The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas’ Security Affairs will explore a long-term solution that will ensure access to appropriate law enforcement related threat information in support of the Department’s missions.

• Beginning September 17, 2007, and until the new system is operational, DoD components will send Serious Incident Reports, Significant Activity Reports and other DoD non-intelligence reporting dealing with potential force protection threats to DoD resources to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Guardian reporting system. Additional guidance will be forthcoming about the interim system.

• Effective September 17, 2007, the Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA), will close the TALON Reporting System and maintain a record copy of the data on Compact Disk under CIFA General Counsel control in accordance with Intelligence Oversight requirements.
TAB

B
BACKGROUND
July 31, 2007

TO: Jim Clapper
FROM: Robert Rangel
CC: 
SUBJECT: TALON program

Thanks

# all 6 TSO's represented on 08/09/07
# See PKL record
# TAG  (low days, perhaps)  N/Z 1148"/07  VP, JS
MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR  
INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT  
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Termination of the TALON Reporting System

Effective September 17, 2007, the TALON reporting system is terminated. We are taking this action for two reasons. Reporting information on suspicious activity that may bear on the safety and security of DoD facilities and personnel is better accomplished in force protection/law enforcement channels, rather than under the auspices of counter-intelligence. Moreover, the analytical value of this system has declined significantly, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Accordingly, the Department will take the following actions:

- The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas’ Security Affairs will explore a long-term solution that will ensure access to appropriate law enforcement related threat information in support of the Department’s missions.

- Beginning September 17, 2007 and until the new system is operational; DoD components will send Serious Incident Reports, Significant Activity Reports and other DoD non-intelligence reporting dealing with potential force protection threats to DoD resources to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Guardian reporting system. Additional guidance will be forthcoming about the interim system.

- Effective September 17, 2007, the Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA), will close the TALON Reporting System and maintain a record copy of the data on Compact Disk under CIFA General Counsel control in accordance with Intelligence Oversight requirements.
FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Termination of the TALON Reporting System

- Attached at TAB A is a memo for your signature terminating the TALON reporting system. I recommend you sign the memo.
  
  o The media continues to attack the TALON system and it remains an issue with Congress. Furthermore, TALON reporting has dropped significantly.

- The memo also directs actions that will ensure we do not place the Department at risk, and to reinforce our commitment to protecting the rights of American citizens.

- The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) will issue the news release at TAB B when you have signed the memorandum.

RECOMMENDATION: Sign the memorandum at TAB A

COORDINATION: TAB C

Prepared by: Mr
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TERMINATES TALON REPORTING SYSTEM


He has directed the Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA) to close the TALON Reporting System and maintain a record copy of the data on compact disk under CIFA General Counsel control in accordance with intelligence oversight requirements.

The decision comes after a recent recommendation by Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr. to terminate TALON.

"We must have mechanisms to document and assess potential threats to DoD resources, but we must lay to rest the distrust and concern about the Department's commitment to protecting the rights of American citizens that have been sustained by the problems found in the TALON reporting system," said Clapper.

To ensure there is a mechanism in place to document and assess potential threats to DoD resources, Secretary Gates also directed the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs to propose a system that will ensure access to appropriate threat information in support of DoD. Until this initiative is complete, DoD components will send information concerning force protection threats to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Guardian reporting system.

-END-

INTERNET AVAILABILITY: This document is available on DefenseLINK, a World Wide Web Server on the Internet, at: http://www.defenselink.mil