



Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 5210.42

January 8, 2001

ASD(C3I)

SUBJECT: Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program (PRP)

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 5210.42, "Nuclear Weapon Personnel Reliability Program," May 25, 1993 (hereby canceled)
 - (b) DoD 5210.42-R, "Nuclear Weapon Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) Regulation," January 8, 2001
 - (c) Section 1408 of title 8, United States Code
 - (d) [DoD Instruction 3020.37](#), "Continuation of Essential DoD Contractor Services During Crisis," November 6, 1990
 - (e) [DoD 8910.1-M](#), "DoD Procedures for Management of Information Requirements," June 30, 1990

1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

1.1. Reissues reference (a) to update policy and responsibilities for the management of the DoD Nuclear Weapon PRP.

1.2. Ensures the highest possible standards of individual reliability for personnel performing duties associated with nuclear weapons and critical components.

1.3. Requires the selection and retention of only those personnel who are emotionally stable and physically capable, and who have demonstrated reliability and professional competence. Individuals who do not meet or maintain program standards shall not be selected for, or retained in, the PRP or assigned duties associated with nuclear weapons.

1.4. Authorizes the issuance of DoD 5210.42-R, "Nuclear Weapon Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) Regulation," reference (b).

2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Directive applies to:

2.1. The Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, including the Coast Guard when it is operating as a Military Service of the Navy, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components").

2.2. DoD military and civilian personnel and contractor employees assigned to PRP positions or in training leading to assignment to PRP positions.

2.3. All contracts for the performance of nuclear duties through incorporation of its provisions in those contracts.

3. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

3.1. The Department of Defense shall support the national security of the United States by maintaining an effective nuclear deterrent while protecting public health, safety, and the environment. Nuclear weapons require special consideration because of their policy implications and military importance, their destructive power, and the political consequences of an accident or an unauthorized act. The safety, security, control, and effectiveness of nuclear weapons are of paramount importance to the security of the United States.

3.2. Nuclear weapons shall not be subject to loss, theft, sabotage, unauthorized use, unauthorized destruction, unauthorized disablement, jettison, or accidental damage.

3.3. Only those personnel who have demonstrated the highest degree of individual reliability for allegiance, trustworthiness, conduct, behavior, and responsibility shall be allowed to perform duties associated with nuclear weapons, and they shall be evaluated continuously for adherence to PRP standards.

3.4. Personnel selected to perform nuclear weapon duties shall be assigned to designated PRP positions and those positions shall be occupied only by U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals. Section 1408 of title 8, United States Code (reference (c)) is the statutory basis for the designation of individuals as "U.S. nationals." Detailed PRP requirements, to include examples of nuclear weapon duty and designated PRP positions, are contained in DoD 5210.42-R (reference (b)).

3.5. The PRP applies to active duty, Reserve, and National Guard units possessing nuclear weapons or Nuclear Command and Control systems and equipment, and any activity certified by a Service inspection activity as "nuclear capable."

3.6. Adherence to PRP procedures during the transition to war and during wartime may be impractical, particularly in a combat theater. However, the intent of PRP policy shall apply. In such circumstances, the Heads of the DoD Components shall ensure that only the most reliable individuals are selected to perform nuclear weapon duties.

3.7. The denial of eligibility or the revocation of certification for assignment to PRP positions is neither a punitive measure nor the basis for disciplinary action. The failure of an individual to be certified for assignment to PRP duties does not necessarily reflect unfavorably on the individual's suitability for assignment to other duties.

3.8. Only DoD military or civilian personnel shall fill a PRP position unless the Head of a DoD Component determines that contractor personnel are required for performance of the services associated with the PRP position and that the services are "essential," per DoD Instruction 3020.37 (reference (d)). The standards and procedures in reference (b) shall be incorporated into all contracts involving nuclear duties, which shall require contractor personnel in PRP positions to meet the reliability standards of this Directive. Such contracts shall limit performance of nuclear duties by contractor employees only to those specific DoD installations or cleared contractor facilities authorized by the Head of the DoD Component.

3.9. All personnel selected to perform nuclear weapons duties must hold a current security clearance. Denial or revocation of a security clearance for access to classified information shall automatically result in disqualification for nuclear weapons duties. This requirement shall be incorporated into all contracts involving nuclear duties.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence shall:

4.1.1. Develop and promulgate PRP policy, standards, and procedures, and provide management oversight of the PRP.

4.1.2. Review the DoD Component PRP implementation guidance for consistency with policy, evaluate programmatic reviews and management audits of the PRP, and direct research and analysis of the PRP.

4.2. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall:

4.2.1. Advise and consult on PRP policy, standards, and procedures for all DoD military and civilian personnel offices for personnel actions about the PRP.

4.2.2. Advise on Federal civilian personnel management matters about the PRP.

4.2.3. Advise and consult on PRP education and training materials about personnel management of the PRP.

4.3. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall:

4.3.1. Develop and promulgate policies and procedures for medical evaluation of PRP candidates and personnel, medical aspects of PRP administration, and rehabilitation programs.

4.3.2. Conduct periodic and special reviews of the effectiveness of PRP medical policies, standards, and procedures.

4.4. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, shall:

4.4.1. Ensure that the DoD Coordinator for Drug Enforcement Policy and Support shall:

4.4.2. Develop and promulgate policies, standards, and procedures for the detection and deterrence of DoD military and civilian personnel substance abuse.

4.4.3. Coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (ASD(C3I)) on specific policies and reviews of effectiveness of drug abuse policies that have unique application for individuals in the PRP.

4.4.4. Advise on the development of education and training materials on substance abuse.

4.5. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall:

4.5.1. Develop policies, conduct analyses, provide advice, and make recommendations to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) and the Secretary of Defense and issue guidance to the DoD Components on matters pertaining to the Reserve components.

4.5.2. Review and evaluate DoD programs affecting Reserve components that have application for individuals in the PRP.

4.6. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics shall ensure that the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation supplement provides for application of the requirements of this Directive to contracts for performance of duties associated with nuclear weapons.

4.7. The General Counsel of the Department of Defense shall review PRP policy and guidelines for legal sufficiency.

4.8. The Heads of the DoD Components shall:

4.8.1. Implement this Directive in their DoD Components.

4.8.2. Recommend PRP policy and procedure changes and submit requests for waivers to PRP requirements for review and approval to OASD(C3I).

4.8.3. Be the final approval authority for waivers on individuals permanently disqualified or decertified under this Directive.

5. INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

The *Annual Status Report, Nuclear Weapon Personnel Reliability Program* has been assigned Report Control Symbol DD-C31(A)1403 in accordance with DoD 8910.1-M (reference (e)). An annual PRP status report shall be forwarded to the ASD(C3I) by each DoD Component maintaining a PRP. Report instructions and suggested format are contained in DoD 5210.42-R (reference (b)).

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rudy de Leon". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Rudy de Leon
Deputy Secretary of Defense