



# Department of Defense

## INSTRUCTION

**NUMBER** 5210.42  
October 16, 2006

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USD(AT&L)

**SUBJECT:** Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program (PRP)

- References:**
- (a) DoD Directive 5210.42, "Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program (PRP)," January 8, 2001 (hereby canceled)
  - (b) DoD Directive 5134.1, "Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L))," December 9, 2005
  - (c) Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "DoD Directives Review - Phase II," July 13, 2005
  - (d) DoD 5210.42-R, "Nuclear Weapon Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) Regulation," current edition
  - (e) through (g), see Enclosure 1

### 1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Instruction:

1.1. Reissues Reference (a) as a DoD Instruction under the authority of Reference (b) and the guidance in Reference (c) and updates policy and responsibilities for the management of the DoD Nuclear Weapons PRP.

1.2. Identifies the standards of individual reliability for personnel performing duties associated with nuclear weapons or nuclear command and control systems and equipment.

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. Continues to authorize Reference (d) and implementing PRP guidance.

## 2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Instruction applies to:

2.1. The Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of 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 referred to collectively as the “DoD Components”).

2.2. DoD military and civilian personnel assigned to PRP positions or in training for assignment to PRP positions.

2.3. The provisions of this Instruction shall be included in and made applicable to all applicable contracts involving nuclear-related duties.

## 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, military importance, 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. Only those persons whose behavior demonstrates integrity, reliability, trustworthiness, allegiance, and loyalty to the United States shall be allowed to perform duties associated with nuclear weapons; and they shall be continuously evaluated for adherence to PRP standards.

3.3. Only U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals shall be selected to perform nuclear weapon duties or be assigned to designated PRP positions. Section 1408 of title 8 United States Code (Reference (e)) 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 Reference (d).

3.4. 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.”

3.5. 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, according to DoD Instruction 3020.37 (Reference (f)). The standards and procedures in Reference (d) shall be

incorporated into all contracts involving nuclear duties, which shall require contractor personnel in PRP positions to meet the reliability standards of this Instruction. Such contracts shall limit such contractor employees to those specific DoD installations or cleared contractor facilities authorized by the Head of the DoD Component.

3.6. 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.

3.7. 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 or decertification for nuclear weapons duties. This requirement shall be incorporated into all contracts involving nuclear duties.

#### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs (ATSD(NCB)), under the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, shall:

4.1.1. Develop 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.

4.1.3. Ensure the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (Reference (g)) provides for application of the requirements of this Instruction to contracts for performance of duties associated with nuclear weapons.

4.2. The Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), shall:

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

4.2.2. Advise on Federal civilian personnel management matters pertaining to the PRP.

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

4.3. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, under the USD(P&R), shall:

4.3.1. Implement 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 Reserve Affairs, under the USD(P&R), shall:

4.4.1. Implement policies, conduct analyses, provide advice, and make recommendations to the USD(P&R) and the Secretary of Defense on matters pertaining to the Reserve Components.

4.4.2. Issue guidance to the DoD Components on matters pertaining to the Reserve Components.

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

4.5. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, shall ensure the DoD Coordinator for Drug Enforcement Policy and Support:

4.5.1. Provides advice on the development of education and training materials on substance abuse.

4.5.2. Develops standards and procedures for the detection and deterrence of DoD military and civilian personnel substance abuse.

4.5.3. Coordinates with the ATSD(NCB) on specific policies and reviews of the effectiveness of drug abuse policies that have unique application for individuals in the PRP.

4.6. The Heads of the DoD Components shall:

4.6.1. Implement this Instruction.

4.6.2. Recommend PRP policy and procedure changes and submit requests for waivers to PRP requirements for review and approval to the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear Matters) under the ATSD(NCB), who may approve such waivers.

4.6.3. Develop policies, standards, and procedures consistent with this Instruction and Reference (d) for ensuring due process for individuals identified for disqualification or decertification under this Instruction.

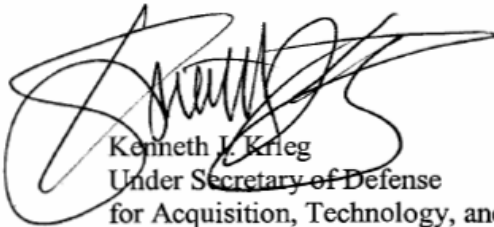
4.6.4. Be the final approval authority for requalification or reinstatement of individuals permanently disqualified or decertified under this Instruction.

4.6.5. Ensure only reliable individuals are selected to perform nuclear weapon duties during transition and/or during war.

4.6.6. Ensure that annual program status reports are submitted to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, Nuclear Matters office as described in Reference (d).

5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Instruction is effective immediately.



Kenneth I. Krieg  
Under Secretary of Defense  
for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics

Enclosures – 1

E1. References, continued

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES, continued

- (e) Section 1408 of title 8, United States Code
- (f) DoD Instruction 3020.37, "Continuation of Essential DoD Contractor Services During Crises," November 6, 1990
- (g) Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement, current edition