

**BY ORDER OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

**AIR FORCE POLICY DIRECTIVE 91-1**

**13 DECEMBER 2010**



**Safety**

**NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SYSTEMS  
SURETY**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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OPR: AFSC/SEW  
Supersedes: AFPD 91-1,  
13 February 2007

Certified by: AF/SE  
(Maj Gen Gregory A. Feest)  
Pages: 2

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This Directive implements DoD Directive 3150.2, *DoD Nuclear Weapon System Safety Program*, 23 December 1996, and establishes the Air Force Nuclear Surety Program. The potential destructive power of nuclear weapons is well known, and all radioactive materials pose hazards if not properly controlled. Nuclear systems require special handling and other protective measures to prevent accidents, unauthorized use, or dangerous exposure. This Directive provides policies for managing nuclear weapons and weapon systems, and for protecting personnel, property, and the environment from hazardous exposure to radioactive materials. These policies apply to all Air Force personnel, the Air National Guard and Reserve, nuclear certified equipment, and facilities involved with nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon systems, radioactive materials-related programs, and nuclear systems certified software. Personnel involved with nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon systems, and radioactive materials are responsible for compliance. Do not issue complementing surety instructions without coordination from AF/SE. Refer recommend changes and questions about his policy directive to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af61a/afirms/afirms/>.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

Added emphasis on the Nuclear Enterprise to paragraph 1; added public perception to accidents and unauthorized acts to paragraph 2.

- 1. Nuclear surety is the centerpiece of the Air Force Nuclear Enterprise.** Air Force leaders at all levels will provide emphasis to ensure focus remains on nuclear surety. Priority will be to strengthen nuclear surety compliance in accordance with guidance outlined within Air Force publications and technical order standards.
- 2. The Air Force will ensure nuclear weapons and weapon systems receive special attention and consideration because of their political and military importance, their destructive power, and the potential consequences of an accident, unauthorized act, or public perception of such.**
- 3. The Air Force will ensure that personnel, the environment, and property are protected from undue risk of damage or harm by maintaining risks as low as reasonably possible consistent with mission requirements.** This policy applies to nuclear weapons, nuclear energy power and propulsion systems, and the life cycle of all terrestrial reactors. Also included are radioactive sources intended for missile or space use.
- 4. The Air Force will keep personnel exposures to intrinsic ionizing radiation from nuclear weapons as low as reasonably achievable (also known as ALARA) consistent with mission requirements.**
- 5. The Air Force will establish and conduct programs to maintain surety of nuclear weapons and weapon systems in Air Force custody.** Additionally, the Air Force will ensure the safety and security of terrestrial reactors the Air Force owns or operates; all nuclear energy power and propulsion systems, and radioactive sources intended for missile or space use.
- 6. The following responsibilities are to be derived from this policy:**
  - 6.1. SAF/IE will, in accordance with the HAF Mission Directive 1-18, provide guidance, direction, and oversight of all matters pertaining to the formulation, review, and execution of policies, plans, programs, and budgets relative to environment, safety, and occupational health (ESOH) matters. SAF/IE coordination is required before this document is changed, reissued, or rescinded.
  - 6.2. The Chief of Safety (AF/SE) will oversee nuclear surety of nuclear weapons and weapons systems throughout the Air Force.
- 7. Forms Adopted.** AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*.

Michael B. Donley  
Secretary of the Air Force