



# Department of Defense INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 5210.42

July 16, 2012

---

---

USD(AT&L)

SUBJECT: Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program (PRP)

References: See Enclosure 1

1. PURPOSE. In accordance with the authority of DoD Directive (DoDD) 5134.01 (Reference (a)), this Instruction:

a. Reissues DoD Instruction (DoDI) 5210.42 (Reference (b)) and updates established policy and assigned responsibilities for the management of the DoD Nuclear Weapons PRP.

b. Implements the provisions in DoDD 3150.2 (Reference (c)) that personnel involved in nuclear operations shall receive appropriate training and will be continuously evaluated as required under a PRP.

c. Identifies the standards of individual reliability for personnel performing specific duties associated with nuclear weapons, nuclear command and control (NC2) systems and equipment, or specified quantities of special nuclear material (SNM).

d. 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.

2. APPLICABILITY. This Instruction applies to:

a. OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense (DoD IG), the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "DoD Components") having nuclear weapons or NC2 systems and equipment, specified quantities of SNM, and any activity certified by a Military Department inspection activity as "nuclear capable" or those augmenting any such unit or activity.

b. DoD military (e.g., Active Duty and Reserve), National Guard, and civilian personnel assigned to PRP positions or in training for assignment to PRP positions within nuclear capable units or activities.

c. Any individual in a position that would allow the individual, acting alone, the opportunity to divert, or cause the diversion, of Category I or Category II quantities of SNM. See DoDI O-5210.63 (Reference (d)).

d. The requirements of this Instruction shall be incorporated into and made a part of contracts for services and resources related to nuclear operations.

3. DEFINITIONS. See Glossary.

4. POLICY. It is DoD policy that:

a. DoD 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.

b. Only those persons who demonstrate reliability shall be certified to perform specified duties associated with nuclear weapons, NC2 systems, material and equipment, and SNM. Those persons shall be continuously evaluated for adherence to PRP reliability standards in order to maintain PRP status.

c. Only U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals shall be selected for nuclear weapons 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 are in DoD 5210.42-R (Reference (f)).

d. Only DoD military and civilian personnel shall fill a PRP position unless the Head of a DoD Component decides that contractor personnel are required for performance of the services associated with the PRP position and that the contract services are essential in accordance with DoDI 1100.22 (Reference (g)). The standards and procedures in Reference (f) shall be incorporated into all contracts involving nuclear duties which require contractor personnel in PRP positions to meet the reliability standards of this Instruction. Contracts supporting nuclear duties shall limit contract employees to those specified DoD installations or cleared contractor facilities involving nuclear duties as authorized by the Head of the DoD Component.

e. PRP certification is based on informed decisions concerning an individual’s reliability to perform nuclear duties as determined through comprehensive screening and continued evaluation.

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

g. All personnel selected for or performing nuclear duties must maintain a current security clearance at the proper level for required access. See Reference (f) and DoD 5200.2-R (Reference (h)) for detailed requirements. Denial or revocation of a clearance for access to classified information shall automatically result in disqualification or decertification for PRP duties. This requirement shall be contained in all contracts involving nuclear duties.

h. The responsibilities of the DoD IG and DoD IG access to information, as indicated in DoDD 5106.01 (Reference (i)), shall not be limited by anything in this Instruction or agreements negotiated under the authority of this Instruction.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES. See Enclosure 2.

6. RELEASABILITY. UNLIMITED. This Instruction is approved for public release and is available on the Internet from the DoD Issuances Website at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Instruction:

a. Is effective July 16, 2012.

b. Must be reissued, cancelled, or certified current within 5 years of its publication in accordance with DoDI 5025.01 (Reference (j)). If not, it will expire effective July 16, 2022 and be removed from the DoD Issuances Website.



Frank Kendall  
Under Secretary of Defense for  
Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics

Enclosures

1. References
2. Responsibilities

Glossary

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ENCLOSURE 1: REFERENCES.....5

ENCLOSURE 2: RESPONSIBILITIES.....6

    ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND  
    BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS (ASD(NCB)).....6

    DIRECTOR, DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY (DTRA).....6

    UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS  
    (USD(P&R)).....6

    ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS (ASD(HA)).....6

    ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESERVE AFFAIRS (ASD(RA)).....7

    HEADS OF THE DOD COMPONENTS INVOLVED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS,  
    NC2 SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT, OR SNM.....7

GLOSSARY .....8

    PART I: ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS .....8

    PART II: DEFINITIONS.....8

ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

- (a) DoD Directive 5134.01, "Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L))," December 9, 2005
- (b) DoD Instruction 5210.42, "Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program (PRP)," October 16, 2006 (hereby cancelled)
- (c) DoD Directive 3150.2, "DoD Nuclear Weapons System Safety Program," December 23, 1996
- (d) DoD Instruction O-5210.63, "DoD Procedures for Security of Nuclear Reactors and Special Nuclear Materials (SNM)," November 21, 2006
- (e) Section 1408 of title 8, United States Code
- (f) DoD 5210.42-R, "Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) Regulation," June 30, 2006
- (g) DoD Instruction 1100.22, "Policy and Procedures for Determining Workforce Mix," April 12, 2010
- (h) DoD 5200.2-R, "Personnel Security Program," January 1987
- (i) DoD Directive 5106.01, "Inspector General of the Department of Defense (IG DoD)," April 20, 2012
- (j) DoD Instruction 5025.01, "DoD Directives Program," October 28, 2007
- (k) Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement, current edition<sup>1</sup>
- (l) Section 2011 of title 42, United States Code (also known as the "Atomic Energy Act of 1954," as amended)

---

<sup>1</sup> The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (OUSD(AT&L)) is the DoD release authority for this document. All requests for copies will be made through the OUSD(AT&L) to the National Security Staff.

ENCLOSURE 2

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS (ASD(NCB)). The ASD(NCB), under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L)), shall:

- a. Develop PRP policy, standards, and procedures, and provide management oversight of the PRP.
- b. Review DoD Component PRP implementation guidance for consistency and compliance with policy.
- c. Conduct programmatic reviews of and manage audits of the PRP, and direct research and analysis of the PRP.
- d. Ensure the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (Reference (k)) provides for application of the requirements of this Instruction to contracts for performance of duties associated with nuclear weapons.

2. DIRECTOR, DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY (DTRA). The Director, DTRA, under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(AT&L) and through the ASD(NCB), shall evaluate the implementation of the PRP through Nuclear Weapons Technical Inspections and NC2 Staff Assessments.

3. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS (USD(P&R)). The USD(P&R) shall:

- a. Advise and consult on PRP policies, standards, and procedures for all military, civilian, and contractor personnel actions related to the PRP.
- b. Advise and consult on Federal civilian personnel management matters related to the PRP.
- c. Advise and consult on PRP education and training materials.

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS (ASD(HA)). The ASD(HA), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R), shall:

a. Advise and consult on policies and procedures for medical evaluation of PRP candidates and personnel, medical aspects of PRP administration, and rehabilitation programs involving PRP personnel.

b. Advise and consult on periodic and special reviews conducted by the Military Departments on the effectiveness of PRP medical policies, standards, and procedures.

c. Advise and consult on education and training materials for medical personnel, medical policies, and medical procedures relating to the PRP.

5. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESERVE AFFAIRS (ASD(RA)). The ASD(RA), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R), shall:

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

b. Review and evaluate DoD programs that have application(s) for Reserve Component individuals in the PRP.

6. HEADS OF THE DOD COMPONENTS INVOLVED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NC2 SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT, OR SNM. The Heads of the DoD Components involved with nuclear weapons, NC2 systems and equipment, or SNM shall:

a. Implement this Instruction and make it part of their normal assurance and assessment process, including DoD Component nuclear surety assessments.

b. Recommend PRP policy and procedure changes and submit requests for waivers to PRP requirements for review and approval to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters, under the ASD(NCB).

c. Develop policies, standards, and procedures consistent with this Instruction and Reference (g) for ensuring due process for individuals identified for disqualification or decertification, and for requalifying individuals who have been disqualified or decertified.

d. Provide PRP specific training to those individuals qualified and certified in the PRP and those individuals that administer the PRP.

e. Ensure all contracts specify PRP requirements to be met for those contractors supporting nuclear related duties.

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

## GLOSSARY

### PART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASD(HA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
ASD(NCB)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs
ASD(RA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs
DoDD	Department of Defense Directive
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
DoD IG	Inspector General of the Department of Defense
DTRA	Defense Threat Reduction Agency
NC2	nuclear command and control
PRP	Personnel Reliability Program
SNM	special nuclear material
USD(AT&L)	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
USD(P&R)	Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

### PART II. DEFINITIONS

nuclear capable unit. A military unit organized and trained to transport, store, maintain, provide security for, or employ nuclear weapon systems.

reliability. For the purpose of PRP, reliability is defined as a combination of:

mental traits of integrity, trustworthiness; emotional stability; professional competence; and unquestioned loyalty and allegiance to the United States;

physical attributes of being free from impairment that would impede, distract, or diminish the ability to perform that person's PRP-related duties and possess the ability to be depended upon.

SNM. As defined under section 2011 of title 42, United States Code, also known as the "Atomic Energy Act of 1954," as amended (Reference (I)), SNM is plutonium and uranium, enriched with the isotope uranium-233 or in the isotope uranium-235. SNM does not include source material such as natural uranium or thorium.