SUBJECT: National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowships

References: (a) Title 10, United States Code, Section 2191  

A. PURPOSE

This Instruction:

1. Establishes guidelines for the award of NDSEG fellowships, as required by reference (a).

2. Authorizes, consistent with reference (b), the publication of DoD 3218.2-R, "The National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship Program Regulation."

B. APPLICABILITY

This Instruction applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, and the Defense Agencies (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD Components").

C. DEFINITION

Sponsoring Agency. A DoD Component or an activity that is designated to award NDSEG fellowships under subsection E.1, below.

D. POLICY AND PROCEDURES

1. Sponsoring Agencies, in awarding NDSEG fellowships, shall award:

   a. Solely to U.S. citizens and nationals who agree to pursue graduate degrees in science, engineering, or other fields of study that are designated, in accordance with paragraph E.2.b., below, to be of priority interest to the Department of Defense.

   b. Through a nationwide competition in which all appropriate actions have been taken to encourage applications from members of groups (including minorities, women, and disabled persons) that historically have been underrepresented in science and engineering.
c. Without regard to the geographic region in which the applicant lives or the geographic region in which the applicant intends to pursue an advanced degree.

2. The criteria for award of NDSEG fellowships shall be:

a. The applicant's academic ability relative to other persons applying in the applicant's proposed field of study.

b. The priority of the applicant's proposed field of study to the Department of Defense.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Deputy Director, Defense Research and Engineering (Research and Advanced Technology) [DDDR&E(R&AT)], shall:

a. Administer this Instruction and issue DoD guidance, as needed, for NDSEG fellowships.

b. Designate those DoD Components that will award NDSEG fellowships, consistent with relevant statutory authority.

c. Issue DoD 3218.2-R, in accordance with DoD 5025.1-M (reference (b)).

2. The Heads of Sponsoring Agencies, or their designees, in coordination with a representative of the Deputy Director, Defense Research and Engineering (Research and Advanced Technology) [DDDR&E(R&AT)], shall:

a. Oversee the nationwide competition to select NDSEG fellowship recipients.

b. Determine those science, engineering and other fields of priority interest to the Department of Defense in which NDSEG fellowships are to be awarded.

c. Prepare DoD 3218.2-R, a regulation that prescribes, in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 2191 (reference (a)):

(1) Procedures for selecting NDSEG fellows.

(2) The basis for determining the amounts of NDSEG fellowships.

(3) The maximum NDSEG fellowship amount that may be awarded to an individual during an academic year.
F. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Instruction is effective immediately. DoD Components are discouraged from issuing additional or supplementary guidance in the implementation of this Instruction.

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