SUBJECT: Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)

References: (a) Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 8
(b) DoD Directive 5105.19, "Defense Communications Agency (DCA)," December 12, 1988 (hereby canceled)
(e) through (m), see enclosure 1

A. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

Under the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense by reference (a), this Directive reissues reference (b). This revision changes the name of the Defense Communications Agency (DCA) to the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and revises the responsibilities, functions, relationships, and authorities of the DISA. For the purposes of 10 U.S.C. 193, any other law or regulation, or for any other purpose, DISA will perform the functions of the Defense Communications Agency.

B. DEFINITIONS

Terms used in this Directive are defined in enclosure 2.

C. MISSION

The DISA is responsible for planning, developing, and supporting command, control, communications (C3), and information systems that serve the needs of the National Command Authorities (NCA) under all conditions of peace and war. It provides guidance and support on technical and operational C3 and information systems issues affecting the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Unified and Specified Commands, and the Defense Agencies (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components"). It ensures the interoperability of the Worldwide Military Command and Control System (WWMCCS), the Defense Communications System (DCS), theater and tactical command and control systems, North Atlantic Treaty Organization and/or allied C3 systems, and those national and/or international commercial systems that affect the DISA mission. It supports national security emergency preparedness telecommunications functions of the National Communications System (NCS), as prescribed by E.O. 12472 (reference (c)).
D. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The DISA is established as a Combat Support Agency of the Department of Defense, and shall be under the direction, authority, and control of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (ASD(C3I)). It shall consist of a Director and such subordinate organizational elements as are established by the Director within the resources authorized by the Secretary of Defense.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

1. The Director, Defense Information Systems Agency, shall:

   a. Organize, direct, and manage the DISA and all assigned resources consistent with this Directive.

   b. Provide technical and management advice, and perform planning, support systems engineering, and test and/or evaluation support through the design, development, deployment, and evolution of the WWMCCS, as defined in DoD Directive 5100.30 (reference (d)). This includes the National Military Command System (NMCS) under DoD Directive S-5100.44 (reference (e)) and supporting communications, especially connectivity to nuclear forces. In accordance with DoD Directive 5100.79 (reference (f)), provide the necessary guidance, direction, and support to accomplish the definition of technical concepts and performance characteristics for engineering the WWMCCS in consonance with the approved WWMCCS architecture. Recommend revision of the WWMCCS architecture to meet changing policy, doctrine, requirements, systems environments, threats, technology, and resources. Provide planning, engineering, and technical support to the DoD Components, as needed, to ensure the evolution and integration of C3 and information systems within the WWMCCS.

   c. Perform systems engineering for the DCS and ensure that the DCS is planned, improved, operated, maintained, and managed effectively and efficiently. Ensure that end-to-end interoperability and architecture are adequate to meet mission needs. Exercise program management responsibility with management control over the activities of the DoD Components that directly support the establishment and improvement of the DCS.

   d. In consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, formulate the DoD-wide Military Satellite Communications (MILSATCOM) architecture. Analyze user requirements and maintain the user data base. Define system performance criteria for MILSATCOM systems. Establish, in coordination with the DoD Components, overall goals and long-term system plans and transitions for MILSATCOM systems. Perform general systems engineering to promote end-to-end interoperability and performance to meet mission needs. Analyze, on a continuing basis, Military Service programs, plans, budgets, and MILSATCOM systems performance deficiencies, and recommend corrective action, as appropriate. Manage, operate, and support the MILSATCOM systems office to perform functions specified in DoD Directive 5105.44 (reference (g)).

   e. Ensure the end-to-end interoperability of strategic and tactical C3 and information systems used by the NCA and the DoD Components for joint
and combined operations. Develop and maintain joint architectures, technical
and procedural interface standards, specifications, protocols, and
definitions; and test and/or verify the interoperability of hardware and
procedures for strategic and tactical C3 and information systems. Recommend
certification for these systems and their equipment interfaces. With respect
to tactical command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) systems,
DoD Directive 4630.5 (reference (h)) shall be observed.

f. Provide automated information systems, analytical, and other
technical support for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff- and OSD-managed
programs. Manage, design, develop, maintain, test, and evaluate standard
operating systems and applications software for the WWMCCS, as directed.
Assist in implementing configuration control over evolving information
systems.

g. Develop systems architectures and provide systems engineering
support. Ensure the evolution of integrated C3 and information systems
supporting the NCA's and DoD Components' capability to effectively employ
weapon systems and forces. Identify and implement technical improvements and
assist the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Commanders of the
Unified and Specified Commands in identifying C3 systems' deficiencies.

h. Manage nationally sensitive special C3 programs, as directed by
higher authority.

i. Acquire commercial communications services (e.g., long-haul
telecommunications circuits, facilities, networks, and associated equipment)
for the Department of Defense and other Federal Agencies, as directed;
initiate and manage actions relating to regulatory and tariff matters,
including rates for these commercial communications services; and manage and
maintain the Communications Services Industrial Fund.

j. Execute tasks as manager of the NCS as may be assigned by law or
directed by the Secretary of Defense in the Secretary's capacity as Executive
Agent of the NCS.

k. Review Military Department programs and budgets related to the
DISA mission, and recommend actions, through the ASD(C3I), to the Secretary
of Defense.

l. Provide DoD representation and/or participation in selected
national and international C3 activities.

m. Assist OSD and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff activities
by assessing technology; recommend and conduct a program of research,
development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) necessary to ensure that C3 systems
remain capable of performing assigned functions in threatened
environments. Monitor and coordinate, as appropriate, DoD Component C3 RDT&E
programs.

n. Exercise operational direction and management control of the DCS
through the DISA Operations Control Complex and the Military Departments' operations and maintenance commands. Perform circuit engineering and
allocation, and direct restoral for the DCS, in coordination with the NCS's National Coordinating Center.

o. Establish and maintain a major field independent operational test capability, as an operational test agency (OTA) under the director, and conduct operational test and evaluation (OT&E) in accordance with DoD Directive 5000.¹ (reference (i)). Conduct OT&E in a mission and threat environment as operationally realistic as possible.

p. Serve as Executive Agent and authority for the Joint Interoperability of Tactical Command and Control Systems Program and the Tactical C3I Interoperability Improvement Program.

q. Provide administrative support to the White House Communications Agency and to the Office of Emergency Operations.

r. Serve on the Military Communications Electronics Board.

s. Provide liaison with, and communications support for, the United States Secret Service in accordance with DoD Directive 3025.13 (reference (j)).

t. Develop and maintain databases of developmental and existing interoperability standards.

u. Coordinate information system security (communications security and computer security) interoperability requirements with cognizant DoD Components.

v. Review tactical C3 Fielding Plans and define interface specifications, develop and maintain a joint tactical C3 architecture defining joint tactical communications systems (including nonstrategic nuclear forces C3) required to ensure interoperability and information flow among command and control (C2) systems.

w. Develop, test, and maintain technical and procedural interface standards to be used by tactical C3 systems in joint or combined military operations, in accordance with guidance provided by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and verify that such systems have implemented the approved interface standards.

x. Monitor and coordinate strategic and/or tactical C3 programs for which the DISA has responsibility, but which are included in the programs of other DoD Components and Government Agencies, and monitor other programs that may affect tactical C3 interoperability.

y. Provide source documents from which the DoD Components can develop training materials to facilitate implementation of the tactical C3 architecture.

z. Develop and maintain databases of tactical C3 developmental and existing interoperability standards.
aa. Coordinate secure tactical C3 communications interoperability requirements with the National Security Agency (NSA)/Central Security Service (CSS), the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Military Departments, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

bb. In coordination with NSA/CSS and the Military Departments, and in accordance with DoD Directive C-5200.5 (reference (k)), develop a tactical secure communications architecture as an integral part of the overall joint architecture, including orderly and timely introduction of systems to satisfy interoperability requirements.

c. Provide technical support to the ASD(C3) in the implementation of the Defense information management program and the Defense corporate information management initiative, to include administrative and technical support as directed by the ASD(C3).

dd. Support the technical implementation of the Defense information management program and the Defense corporate information management initiative DoD-wide, to include the development and use of process, data, performance and economic models, and related tools; assisting in the development, coordination and execution of the DoD data administration program; providing, as tasked, information services to include operation and design activities and data processing centers; and assisting in the assessment of DoD information services' efficiency and effectiveness.

ee. Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the ASD(C3).

F. RELATIONSHIPS

1. In performing assigned functions, the Director, DISA, shall:

   a. Subject to the direction, authority, and control of the ASD(C3), be responsible to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for operational matters as well as requirements associated with the joint planning process. For these purposes, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is authorized to communicate directly with the Director, DISA, and may task the Director, DISA to the extent authorized by the ASD(C3).

   b. Coordinate actions, as appropriate, with other DoD Components and those Departments and Agencies of Government having related functions.

   c. Maintain liaison with other DoD Components and other Agencies of the Executive Branch for the exchange of information on programs and activities in the field of assigned responsibility.

   d. Use established facilities and services in the Department of Defense or other Government Agencies, whenever practicable, to achieve maximum efficiency and economy.

2. The Secretaries of the Military Departments and the Directors of the Defense Agencies shall:

   a. Provide support to include planning, programming, and budgeting; test and evaluation; operations and maintenance; and integrated logistics
support for programs, projects, and systems for which the DISA is responsible.

d. Advise the Director, DISA, of funding shortfalls that would prevent effective operations and maintenance of existing systems, or prevent or delay scheduled implementation of new subsystems or projects.

c. Coordinate with the Director, DISA, on all programs and activities that include, or are related to, C3 and information systems for which the DISA has a primary or collateral responsibility. Provide to the DISA, for review and approval before execution, technical specifications, statements of work, and proposed contract changes impacting on configuration, cost, performance, or schedules of all systems for which the DISA is responsible. Obtain the DISA's concurrence on draft acquisition plans and request DISA representation on source selection advisory councils and source selection evaluation boards for C3 and information systems, subsystems, and projects.

d. Submit C3 and information systems requirements to the DISA, as appropriate.

e. Submit copies of all requirements involving development, acquisition, or modification of all tactical C3 systems or equipment, copies of all Test and Evaluation Master Plans for such materials, Fielding Plans, and such other reports, as required by DoD Directive 4630.5 (reference (h)), to the Director, Joint Tactical Command, Control, and Communications Agency.

f. Periodically review the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of the DISA.

3. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall:

a. Review DCS planning and programming documents, and assess their responsiveness to operational, developmental, and training requirements.

b. Periodically (not less than every 2 years), submit to the Secretary of Defense a report on DISA's responsiveness and readiness to support operating forces in the event of war or threat to national security, and other recommendations as appropriate.

c. Advise the Secretary of Defense on C3 and information systems requirements and priorities.

d. Develop and issue jointly with the ASD(C3I) guidance to the DISA and the Unified and Specified Commands that will serve as the basis for interrelationships between these organizations.

e. Provide for the participation of DISA in joint training exercises and monitor performance.

G. AUTHORITY

The Director, DISA, is specifically delegated authority to:
1. Communicate directly with heads of the DoD Components and other Executive Departments and Agencies, as necessary, to carry out DISA's responsibilities and functions. Communications to the Commanders in Chief of the Unified and Specified Commands shall be coordinated as appropriate with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

2. Obtain reports, information, advice, and assistance consistent with the policies and criteria of DoD Directives 4630.5 and 7750.5 (references (h) and (j)), as necessary, to carry out DISA-assigned responsibilities and functions.

3. Exercise the administrative authorities in enclosure 3 when delegated by the ASD(C31).

H. ADMINISTRATION

1. The Director and the Deputy Director, DISA, shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense.

2. The Military Departments shall assign military personnel to the DISA in accordance with approved authorizations and procedures for assignment to joint duty. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall review and provide recommendations on the DISA joint manpower program to the ASD(C31), as appropriate, for those functions where DISA is responsive to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

Donald J. Atwood
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures - 3
1. References
2. Definitions
3. Delegations of Authority
REFERENCES, continued

(h) DoD Directive 4630.5, "Compatibility and Interoperability of Tactical Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence Systems," October 9, 1985
(k) DoD Directive C-5200.5, "Communications Security (COMSEC) (U)," April 21, 1990
DEFINITIONS

1. Defense Communications System (DCS)

   a. The DCS is a composite of DoD-owned and -leased telecommunications subsystems and networks comprised of facilities, personnel, and material under the management control and operational direction of the DISA. It provides the long-haul, point-to-point, and switched network telecommunications needed to satisfy the requirements of the Department of Defense and certain other Government Agencies, including those required to interconnect the NCA, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Unified and Specified Commanders with the general purpose networks.

   b. The DCS includes fixed, transportable, and mobile facilities. It consists of:

      (1) Switching and/or relay facilities to include associated software of the general purpose (common user) networks, such as Defense Switched Network (DSN), Automatic Digital Network (AUTODIN), Defense Data Network (DDN), and Secure Voice System.

      (2) Transmission media and/or circuits that provide user and/or subscriber connection into the DCS networks, or which interconnect the switching and/or relay facilities and/or the user and/or subscriber terminals in use by the DCS. This includes the assets of the Defense Satellite Communications System, except those portions that are specifically excluded from the DCS.

   c. Although the DISA specifies the interconnection and interface standards when operated with DCS networks, the DCS does not include:

      (1) Mobile and/or transportable communications facilities and assets organic to Army, Navy, Air Force, and Fleet Marine forces, unless specifically designated as components of the DCS.

      (2) Ship and/or ship, ship and/or shore, air and/or air, air and/or ground, and other tactical telecommunications.

      (3) Post, camp, base, and station user and/or subscriber facilities and terminals.

      (4) On-site telecommunications facilities associated with or integral to weapons systems and to missile launch complexes, including those required for countdown, command, control, weapons destruct, and range safety.

      (5) Consoles and display devices integral to the Unified and Specified Command Centers, their DoD Component Headquarters, and the Military Services' operations centers.

2. Fielding Plan. A fielding plan details the coordination and execution involved in the deployment of a system or equipment, and addresses interoperability opportunities and constraints. The plan includes sufficient information for a common understanding between the program sponsor and the
gaining command for equipment quantities, implementation schedules, skill qualifications and training, and any additional manpower, facilities, or support requirements.

3. **Long-haul Telecommunications.** All general purpose and special purpose long-distance facilities and services (including terminal equipment and local circuitry supporting the long-haul service) used to support the electromagnetic and/or optical dissemination, transmission, or reception of information via voice, data, video, integrated telecommunications, wire, or radio to or from the post, camp, base, or station switch and/or main frame (except for trunk lines to the first-serving commercial central office for local communications services). That includes the FTS2000, DSN, DDN, the AUTODIN, dedicated point-to-point service, and the Primary Interexchange Carrier service associated with business or tie line to the local exchange carrier (e.g., Direct Distance Dialing, Foreign Exchange, WATS, 800 service, etc.) and contractor-provided telecommunications, including the interconnection of various functional Automated Data Processing Systems.


5. **Military Satellite Communications (MILSATCOM) Systems.** The totality of existing and planned DoD satellite communications capability consisting of the space, ground, and control segments. MILSATCOM systems include the interfaces between satellite systems and ground segments, and the interfaces with other communications systems.

6. **National Communications System (NCS)**

   a. The NCS was established by E.O. 12472 (reference (c)). It consists of the telecommunications assets of the entities represented on the NCS Committee of Principals and an administrative structure consisting of the Executive Agent, the NCS Committee of Principals, and the Manager.

   b. The mission of the NCS is to assist the President, the National Security Council, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in:

      (1) The exercise of the telecommunications functions and responsibilities assigned in E.O. 12472 (reference (c)).

      (2) The coordination of the planning for, and provision of, national security emergency preparedness communications for the Federal Government under all circumstances, including crisis or emergency, attack, recovery, and reconstitution.

7. **National Military Command System (NMCS).** The NMCS is the priority DoD Component of the WWMCCS designed to support the NCA in the exercise of its responsibilities. It also supports the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the exercise of his responsibilities.

8. **Operational Test Agency (OTA).** Separate and independent from the material developing and/or procuring Agency and from the using Agency, the
major field OTA shall be responsible for planning and conducting operational
tests, reporting test results, and providing an evaluation of the tested
system's operational effectiveness and suitability directly to the Agency's
Director.

9. **Procedural Interface Standards.** Specifications for accomplishing the
exchange of information across an interface. They define:
   
   a. The form or format in which information is to be exchanged.
   
   b. The prescribed information exchange language, syntax, and vocabulary
to be used in the information exchange.
   
   c. Interface operating procedures that govern the information exchange.

10. **Technical Interface Standards.** Specifications of the functional,
electrical, and physical characteristics necessary to allow the exchange of
information across an interface between different C3 and information systems
or equipment.

11. **Worldwide Military Command and Control System (WWMCCS).** The WWMCCS is
the worldwide command and control system that provides the means for
operational direction and technical administrative support involved in the
function of C2 of U.S. military forces.
DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense, and subject to the direction, authority, and control of the Secretary of Defense, and in accordance with DoD policies, Directives, Instructions, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence (ASD(C3I)), or in the absence of the ASD(C3I), the person acting for the ASD(C3I), is hereby delegated authority as required in the administration and operation of the DISA to:

1. Exercise the powers vested in the Secretary of Defense by 5 U.S.C. 301, 302(b), and 3101 on the employment, direction, and general administration of DISA civilian personnel.

2. Fix rates of pay for wage-rate employees exempted from the Classification Act of 1949 by 5 U.S.C. 5102 on the basis of rates established under the Coordinated Federal Wage System. In fixing such rates, the ASD(C3I), shall follow the wage schedule established by the DoD Wage Fixing Authority.

3. Establish advisory committees and employ temporary or intermittent experts or consultants, as approved by the Secretary of Defense, for the performance of DISA functions consistent with the 10 U.S.C. 173; 5 U.S.C. 3109(b); DoD Directive 5105.4, "DoD Federal Advisory Committee Management Program," September 5, 1989; and the agreement between the Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on employment of experts and consultants, June 21, 1977.

4. Administer oaths of office incident to entrance into the Executive Branch of the Federal Government or any other oath required by law in connection with employment therein, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 2903, and designate in writing, as may be necessary, officers and employees of the DISA to perform this function.

5. Establish a DISA Incentive Awards Board and authorize cash awards to, and incur necessary expenses for, the honorary recognition of civilian employees of the Government whose suggestions, inventions, superior accomplishments, or other personal efforts, including special acts or services, benefit or affect the DISA or its subordinate activities, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 4503, applicable OPM regulations, and DoD Directive 5120.15, "Authority for Approval of Cash Honorary Awards for DoD Personnel," August 13, 1985.

6. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 7532; Executive Orders 10450, 12333, and 12356; and DoD Directive 5200.2, "DoD Personnel Security Program," December 20, 1979; as appropriate:
   a. Designate any position in the DISA as a "sensitive" position.
   b. Authorize, in case of an emergency, the appointment of a person to a sensitive position in the DISA for a limited period of time and for whom a full field investigation or other appropriate investigation, including the National Agency Check, has not been completed.
c. Authorize the suspension, but not terminate the services, of a DISA employee in the interest of national security.

d. Initiate investigations, issue personnel security clearances and, if necessary, in the interest of national security, suspend, revoke, or deny a security clearance for personnel assigned, detailed to, or employed by the DISA. Any action to deny or revoke a security clearance shall be taken in accordance with procedures prescribed in DoD 5200.2-R, "DoD Personnel Security Program," January 1987.

7. Act as agent for the collection and payment of employment taxes imposed by chapter 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended; and, as such agent, make all determinations and certifications required or provided for under Section 3122 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and Section 205(p)(1) and (2) of 42 U.S.C. (Social Security Act), as amended, with respect to DISA employees.

8. Authorize and approve:

a. Temporary duty travel for military personnel assigned or detailed to the DISA in accordance with Volume I, Joint Federal Travel Regulations.

b. Travel for DISA civilian officers and employees in accordance with Volume II, Joint Travel Regulations.

c. Invitational travel to non-DoD employees whose consultative, advisory, or other highly specialized technical services are required in a capacity that is directly related to, or in connection with, DISA activities, in accordance with Volume II, Joint Travel Regulations.

d. Overtime work for DISA civilian employees in accordance with Chapter 55, Subpart V, of 5 U.S.C. and applicable OPM regulations.

9. Approve the expenditure of funds available for travel by military personnel assigned or detailed to the DISA for expenses incident to attendance at meetings of technical, scientific, professional, or other similar organizations in such instances where the approval of the Secretary of Defense, or designee, is required by 37 U.S.C. 412, and 5 U.S.C. 4110 and 4111.


11. Establish and use imprest funds for making small purchases of material and services, other than personal services, for the DISA, when it is determined more advantageous and consistent with the best interests of the Government, in accordance with DoD Directive 7360.10, "Disbursing Policies," January 17, 1989.

12. Authorize the publication of advertisements, notices, or proposals in newspapers, magazines, or other public periodicals as required for the
effective administration and operation of the DISA consistent with 44 U.S.C. 3702.

3. Establish and maintain appropriate property accounts for the DISA, and appoint Boards of Survey, approve reports of survey, relieve personal liability, and drop accountability for DISA property in the authorized property accounts that has been lost, damaged, stolen, destroyed, or otherwise rendered unserviceable, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.


15. Establish and maintain, for the functions assigned, an appropriate publications system for the promulgation of common supply and service regulations, instructions, and reference documents, and changes thereto, pursuant to the policies and procedures prescribed in DoD 5025.1-M, "DoD Directives System Procedures," December 1990.

16. Enter into support and service agreements with the Military Departments, other DoD Components, or other Government Agencies, as required, for the effective performance of DISA functions and responsibilities.

17. Exercise the authority delegated to the Secretary of Defense by the Administrator of General Services on the disposal of surplus personal property.

18. Enter into and administer contracts, directly or through a Military Department, a DoD contract administration services component, or other Federal Agency, as appropriate, for supplies, equipment, and services required to accomplish the mission of the DISA. To the extent that any law or Executive order specifically limits the exercise of such authority to persons at the Secretarial level of a Military Department, such authority shall be exercised by the appropriate Under Secretary or Assistant Secretary of Defense.


20. Lease property under the control of the DISA under terms that will promote the national defense or that will be in the public interest, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2667.

The ASD(C31) may redelegate these authorities, as appropriate, and in writing, except as otherwise provided by law or regulation.

These delegations of authority are effective immediately.