
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

This Instruction implements policy, assigns responsibilities, identifies information that must be cleared before public release, and prescribes procedures under DoD Directive 5230.9 to carry out security and policy review of DoD information for public release.

References:  
(e) International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR), Department of State, November 1989

A. PURPOSE

This Instruction implements policy, assigns responsibilities, identifies information that must be cleared before public release, and prescribes procedures under reference (a) to carry out security and policy review of DoD information for public release.

B. APPLICABILITY

This Instruction applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified Combatant Commands, the Defense Agencies, and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components").

C. DEFINITIONS

Terms used in this Instruction are defined in enclosure 2 of reference (a).

D. POLICY

It is DoD policy under reference (a) that a security and policy review shall be done on all official DoD information intended for public release that pertains to military matters, national security issues, or subjects of significant concern to the Department of Defense.
E. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs shall:

   a. Monitor compliance with the procedures established in section F., below, for the security and policy review of official DoD information.

   b. Provide for the prompt security and policy review of official DoD information proposed for public release that is originated by, in, or for the Department of Defense, to include statements intended for open presentation before the Congress and other material submitted to the Congress in accordance with DoD Directive 5400.4 (reference (b)). The review is made to ensure that properly classified information is not disclosed and no conflict exists with established policies or programs of the Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

   c. Coordinate, as necessary, with the staffs of the DoD Components when reviewing official DoD information for public release clearance to ensure accuracy and currency of existing policy and security guidance.

   d. Respond to requests for review of information submitted voluntarily by non-DoD sources or DoD personnel acting in a private capacity to ensure that such material does not contain classified information. This review shall also address technology transfer and public releasability of technical data under DoD Directives 5230.24 and 5230.25, and the ITAR (references (c) through (e)).

2. The General Counsel of the Department of Defense shall conduct legal reviews, as needed, to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations to protect DoD rights and interests.

3. The Heads of the DoD Components shall:

   a. Ensure compliance with this Instruction and issue any guidance necessary for the internal administration of the requirements prescribed in section F., below.

   b. Forward official DoD information specified under subsection F.1., below, which is proposed for public release to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, ATTN: Director for Freedom of Information and Security Review (DFOISR), for review and clearance, as prescribed in subsection F.2., below, with specific recommendation on the releasability of the information being forwarded.

   c. Provide prompt guidance and assistance to the ASD(PA), when requested, on any information proposed for public release.
d. Exercise clearance authority for information not
specified under subsection F.1., below. This authority may be
delegated to the lowest level competent to evaluate the content
and implications of public release of the information.

F. PROCEDURES

1. Clearance Requirements. Official DoD information that is
prepared by or for DoD personnel and is proposed for public re-
lease shall be submitted to the ASD(PA), ATTN: DFOISR, 1400 De-
fense Pentagon, Room 2C757, Washington DC 20301-1400, for review
and clearance, if the information:

a. Originates or is proposed for release in the Washing-
ton D.C. area;

b. Is or has the potential to become an item of national
or international interest;

c. Affects national security policy or foreign rela-
tions;

d. Concerns a subject of potential controversy among the
DoD Components or with other Federal Agencies;

e. Is presented by a DoD employee, who by virtue of
rank, position, or expertise would be considered an official DoD
spokesperson;

f. Contains technical data, including data developed un-
der contract or independently developed and controlled by the
ITAR (reference (e)) that may be militarily critical and subject
to limited distribution, but on which a distribution determina-
tion has not been made; or,

g. Bears on any of the following subjects:

(1) New weapons or weapons systems, or significant
modifications or improvements to existing weapons or weapons sys-
tems, equipment, or techniques.

(2) Military operations, significant exercises, and
operations security.

(3) National Command Authorities; command, control,
communications, computers, and intelligence; information warfare
and computer security.

(4) Military activities or application in space; nu-
clear weapons, including nuclear weapons effects research; chemi-
cal warfare and defensive biological warfare; and arms control
treaty implementation.

(5) Any other contemporary topic that is designated
by the ASD(PA).
2. **Submission for Review.** The following procedures apply to all information required to be submitted to DFOISR for clearance:

   a. A minimum of five copies of material, in its final form, shall be submitted, together with DD Form 1910, "Clearance Request for Public Release of Department of Defense Information," to DFOISR.

   b. Any material submitted for review shall be initialed by the speaker, author, or other authorized individual acting for the principal to indicate approval of the text.

   c. All information submitted for review to DFOISR must first be coordinated within the originating DoD Component to ensure that it reflects the organization's policy position and does not contain classified information requiring withholding.

   d. Only the full and final text of material proposed for release shall be submitted for review. Notes, outlines, briefing charts, etc., may not be submitted as a substitute for a complete text.

   e. Abstracts to be published in advance of a complete paper, manuscript, etc., require clearance. Clearance of an abstract does not fulfill the requirement to submit the full text for clearance before its publication. If an abstract is cleared in advance, that fact, and the DFOISR case number assigned to the abstract, shall be noted on the DD Form 1910 or other transmittal when the full text is submitted.

   f. The requirements of DoD Directive 5400.4 (reference (b)) shall apply to the processing of information proposed for submission to Congress.

   g. Information intended for placement on electronic bulletin boards accessible through the INTERNET, or other publicly accessible computer servers, requires review and clearance for public release if it meets the requirements of subsection F.1., above.

3. **Time Limits**

   a. Submit speeches and briefings a minimum of 3 working days before the event. Additional time may be needed for complex or potentially controversial speeches.

   b. Papers, articles, and other material shall be submitted a minimum of 5 working days before the date needed. The length, complexity, and content shall determine the number of reviewing Agencies and, consequently, the time required for the complete review process.

   c. Technical papers shall require a minimum of 10 work-
ing days. The majority of papers are processed in that time-frame. Occasionally, more time is needed if the material is complex or requires review by several agencies.

4. Effect of Review Actions and Appeals

a. Information reviewed for public release clearance shall result in one of the following actions:

(1) **Cleared for Open Publication.** The information may be released without restriction by the originating Component or its authorized official. DFOISR may require a disclaimer to accompany the information, as follows:

"The views expressed are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense or the U.S. Government."

(2) **Cleared “as amended” for open publication** Amendments, made in red, are binding on the submitter. Red brackets identify information that must be deleted. When possible, alternative wording is provided to substitute for the deleted material. Occasionally, wording will be included that shall be added to the text before public release. A disclaimer, as in subparagraph F.4.a.(1), above, may also be required.

(3) **Not Cleared.** The information submitted for review may not be released.

b. Although DFOISR has no responsibility for correcting errors of fact or making editorial changes, obvious errors may be identified in the text and noted as "recommended." Those corrections are not binding on the author or submitter.

c. All amendments or "not cleared" determinations may be appealed through DFOISR to the ASD(PA). All appeals shall be resolved at the lowest practical level and as quickly as possible.

G. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Instruction is effective immediately.