Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT: Authority to Convene General Courts-Martial

References: (a) DoD Directive 5510.3, subject as above, November 18, 1971 (hereby canceled)
(b) Executive Order 10428, January 17, 1953
(c) Uniform Code of Military Justice

A. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive reissues reference (a), and delegates authority to convene general courts-martial.

B. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

1. The provisions of this Directive apply to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Defense Nuclear Agency.
2. Its provisions govern the Commands listed in section C.

C. DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY

1. By virtue of the authority delegated to the Secretary of Defense by the President in reference (b), and pursuant to article 22(a)(7) of reference (c), I empower the respective commanders of the Commands listed below to convene general courts-martial. Further, under article 17(a) of reference (c) and paragraph 13 of reference (d), as amended, I empower said commanders to refer for trial by courts-martial the cases of members of any of the armed forces who are assigned or attached to or are on duty with those Commands.
   a. Iceland Defense Force
   b. United States Forces Azores
   c. United States Readiness Command
   d. Field Command, Defense Nuclear Agency
   e. Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force
2. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5a(2) and appendix 4 of the Manual for Courts-Martial (reference (d)), as amended, this Directive will be cited in orders appointing courts-martial under this authority.

D. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

W. Graham Claytor, Jr.
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The following change to DoD Directive 5510.3, "Authority to Convene General Courts-Martial," June 30, 1980, has been authorized:

**PEN CHANGE**

Par. 1

Paragraph C.1.e. Change to read: United States Central Command

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

The above change is effective immediately.

[Signature]

O.J. WILLIFORD, Director

Correspondence and Directives

[Form Elements]