



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

MAY 10 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Management of the Defense Foreign Language Program

This directive-type memorandum assigns responsibilities and establishes a senior governing structure for the Defense Foreign Language Program.

The Global War on Terrorism and recent experiences with Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have underscored our critical need for language capability, both in numbers and proficiency. The issue calls for direct senior level leadership and attention throughout the Department. This memorandum supersedes the October 19, 1994, memorandum issued by the then Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy) and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence) as well as DoD Directive 5160.41, "Defense Language Program (DLP)" to the extent that it is inconsistent with the guidance provided in this memorandum.

I ask the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) to designate a Senior Language Authority (SLA) for the Office of the Secretary of Defense and request the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Combatant Commanders, and the Directors of the: Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, and Defense Threat Reduction Agency, to appoint an SLA at the General/Flag Officer or Senior Executive Service level. I also request that the Chairman forward my direction that the Combatant Commanders appoint a SLA. In designating the SLA for each organization, consideration should be given to an individual who has direct access to senior leadership and understands the totality of the organization's language

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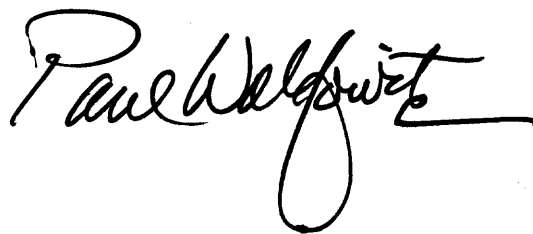


needs. Service as the SLA may be a full or part-time duty; the SLA will be responsible for assessing the organization's language needs, tracking language assets assigned in the organization and identifying emerging policy requirements.

I also ask that the USD(P&R) establish a Defense Foreign Language Steering Committee (FLSC) comprised of the SLA as well as a General/Flag Officer or Senior Executive Service member from the Offices of the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), and the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). The FLSC will meet bi-annually, or as needed, and will be chaired by the OSD SLA. The key role of the FLSC will be to recommend and coordinate language policy, identify present and emerging needs, identify training and financial requirements, and serve as an advisory board to the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) for the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. The USD(P&R) may reconfigure and revise the Requirements and Resources Coordinating Panel (R&RCP) as an action body to support the FLSC as necessary to ensure management and oversight of the Defense Foreign Language Program.

The Department of the Army will continue to be the executive agent for the operation of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in accordance with DoD Directive 5160.41 and DoD Directive 5101.1, "DoD Executive Agent." I ask that the USD(P&R) take appropriate action to increase the visibility and oversight of funding through an OSD level Program Element or other appropriate method.

I ask that the USD(P&R) in consultation with the Director, Administration and Management, the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, General Counsel of the Department of Defense and others affected take the necessary action to revise and update DoD Directive 5160.41 accordingly within the next 180 days.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul Waldowitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.