



DoD INSTRUCTION 1015.18

ASSESSING AND MANAGING CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH PROVIDING CRITICAL SERVICES AT REMOTE AND ISOLATED MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

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Purpose: In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02, and pursuant to Section 565 of Public Law 117-81, also known as the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, this issuance establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and provides procedures to assess and manage challenges associated with providing critical support services at remote and isolated military installations.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY.

This issuance applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (referred to collectively in this issuance as the “DoD Components”).

1.2. POLICY.

a. Pursuant to Section 565 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, the DoD assesses and manages the risk associated with not providing critical support services for Service members and their dependents at remote and isolated military installations.

b. To the maximum extent possible, critical services must be provided to Service members and their dependents worldwide. For the purposes of this issuance, remote and isolated military installations must be designated using the DoD criteria established in Paragraph 3.1.

c. The process of designating remote and isolated military installations in this issuance is separate and apart from the process of designating remote and isolated installations in Enclosure 7 of DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1015.10. The purpose of the policy in Enclosure 7 of DoDI 1015.10 is to provide appropriated fund support to Category C morale, welfare, and recreation programs that are not capable of self-sufficiency due to being located at a designated remote and isolated installation. Since the purposes of this issuance and DoDI 1015.10 are different, there is a need for two separate remote and isolated issuances.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS (ASD(M&RA)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the ASD(M&RA):

- a. Develops policy and monitors compliance with policy relating to the periodic assessment and management of challenges associated with providing critical support services for Service members and their dependents at military installations designated as remote and isolated by the criteria contained in Paragraph 3.1.
- b. Convenes meetings of DoD representatives, as needed, to review the established policy and practices in this issuance in accordance with Paragraph 3.4.
- c. Oversees the implementation of this issuance.

2.2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS (ASD(HA)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the ASD(HA):

- a. Assists the ASD(M&RA) with developing policy and monitoring compliance with policy relating to the periodic assessment and management of challenges associated with providing availability of healthcare located on and off remote and isolated military installations.
- b. Participates in meetings convened by ASD(M&RA) as described in Paragraph 2.1.b.

2.3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENT (ASD(EI&E)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the ASD(EI&E):

- a. Assists the ASD(M&RA) with developing policy and monitoring compliance with policy relating to the periodic assessment and management of challenges associated with providing availability of safe and affordable housing located on and off remote and isolated military installations.
- b. Participates in meetings convened by the ASD(M&RA) as described in Paragraph 2.1.b.

2.4. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.

The Secretaries of the Military Departments:

a. Comply with and implement the provisions of this issuance, if applicable.

b. Direct commanders of remote and isolated installations designated using the DoD criteria established in this issuance to assess and manage the challenges associated with providing critical support services and the risks associated with not providing critical support services for Service members and their dependents. These critical support services assessed will include activities related, but not limited to:

(1) Activities and facilities described in DoDI 1015.10 for the morale, welfare, and recreation of Service members and their dependents.

(2) Availability of safe and affordable housing, located on and off the installations.

(3) Availability of educational services for dependents of Service members, located on and off the installations.

(4) Availability of health care to include behavioral health for Service members and their dependents.

(5) Employment opportunities for military spouses.

c. Conduct a remote and isolated installation review and address the risks associated with having insufficient critical support services for Service members and their dependents regarding the critical services listed Paragraph 2.4.b. and any additional critical services identified every 3 years.

d. Identify and designate remote and isolated installations in accordance with Paragraph 3.1. of this issuance and review listings every 3 years.

e. Participate in meetings convened by the ASD(M&RA) as described in Paragraph 2.1.b.

f. Isolated installations designated using the DoD criteria established in Paragraph 3.1. that require sensitive support, or the concealment of true identity or organizational affiliation with assertions of false information must be provided in accordance with standards established by DoD Directive S-5205.61.

SECTION 3: PROCEDURES

3.1. DESIGNATION OF REMOTE AND ISOLATED MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

a. The Secretaries of the Military Departments, in coordination with the ASD(M&RA), will use these criterion, in combination, to designate remote and isolated military installations:

(1) The military installation is more than 1-hour commuting time (one way, during normal travel conditions) or more than 30 miles from a micropolitan area or a metropolitan area that has critical services available.

(2) One or more critical support services are not available on the installation, such as, but not limited to, those listed in Paragraph 2.4.b.

b. The Secretaries of the Military Departments will complete the designation process and create a listing of remote and isolated installations within 6 months of the publication of this issuance. A copy of the listing will be provided to the ASD(M&RA).

3.2. THREE-YEAR REVIEW AND RISK ASSESSMENT OF CRITICAL SERVICES.

Every 3 years, the Secretaries of the Military Departments will:

a. Conduct a remote and isolated installation review that includes assessments of the areas listed in Paragraph 2.4.b. If any additional critical services are identified, the Military Department will bring this content to the meetings mentioned in Paragraphs 3.4.b. and 3.4.c.

b. Address the risks associated with having insufficient critical support services for Service members and their dependents in the areas listed in Paragraph 2.4.b., and any additional critical services identified.

c. Report any significant emergent or evolving risks associated with having insufficient critical support services for Service members and their dependents in the areas listed in Paragraph 2.4.b. that are identified outside of the 3-year reporting cycle.

3.3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCESS.

The ASD(M&RA), in coordination with the ASD(EI&E), the ASD(HA), the Secretaries of the Military Departments and other DoD stakeholders, will establish a standard DoD-wide process to perform reviews in accordance with Paragraph 3.2. The process will be reviewed and updated, if required, no less than every 2 years.

a. The process will include, but not be limited to, establishment of roles and responsibilities and identification of:

(1) Metrics to measure success and progress.

(2) Benchmarks and examples of best practices.

(3) Factors that cause or create a need for critical services and what to do to mitigate those factors or ensure there is access to critical services.

(4) Usable and available data.

b. Consideration will be made to processes and practices that already exist or are in development.

3.4. OVERSIGHT.

a. Based on the 3-year reviews conducted under Paragraph 3.2. and the meeting held under Paragraph 3.3., the Military Departments will provide a summary of assessments and reviews of risk and an updated list of remote and isolated military installations to the ASD(M&RA) every 3 years.

b. After receiving the documents referenced in Paragraph 3.4.a., the ASD(M&RA) will convene an initial meeting with representatives from the ASD(EI&E), the ASD(HA), the Military Departments, and other DoD stakeholders to review the documents and the process established in Paragraph 3.3., and to discuss improvements to this issuance.

c. After holding the initial meeting discussed in Paragraph 3.4.b., the ASD(M&RA) will convene additional meetings, as needed, with representatives from the ASD(EI&E), the ASD(HA), the Military Departments, and other DoD stakeholders to review the summary of assessments and reviews of risk, the updated list of remote and isolated military installations, and the established policy and practices in accordance with this issuance.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

ACRONYM	MEANING
ASD(EI&E)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment
ASD(HA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
ASD(M&RA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs
DoDI	DoD instruction

G.2. DEFINITIONS.

Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this issuance.

TERM	DEFINITION
metropolitan area	An urban area containing more than 50,000 people, together with adjacent communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration.
micropolitan area	An urban area with a population of at least 10,000 but fewer than 50,000 people.
military installation	Defined in DoDI 4165.14.

REFERENCES

- DoD Directive 5124.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)),” June 23, 2008
- DoD Directive S-5205.61, “(U) DoD Cover and Cover Support Activities,” July 15, 2014, as amended
- DoD Instruction 1015.10, “Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Programs,” July 6, 2009, as amended
- DoD Instruction 4165.14, “Real Property Inventory and Reporting,” September 8, 2023
- Public Law 117-81, Section 565, “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022,” December 27, 2021