



DoD DIRECTIVE 5111.17

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INDO-PACIFIC SECURITY AFFAIRS

Originating Component:	Office of the Performance Improvement Officer and Director of Administration and Management
Effective:	May 20, 2024
Releasability:	Cleared for public release. Available on the Directives Division Website at https://www.esd.whs.mil/DD/ .
Reissues and Cancels:	DoD Directive 5111.17, "Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs (ASD(APSA))," October 29, 2008
Approved by:	Sasha Baker, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Purpose: This issuance assigns the responsibilities and functions, relationships, and authorities of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs (ASD(IPSA)), under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)), pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense under Sections 113 and 138 of Title 10, United States Code, and the authorities in DoD Directive (DoDD) 5111.01 and the December 7, 2021, and June 19, 2023, Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandums.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

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”).

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

The ASD(IPSA), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P), is the principal civilian advisor to the Secretary of Defense and the USD(P) on international security and the National Defense Strategy and policy on issues of DoD interest that relate to the nations and international organizations of the Indo-Pacific region, their governments and defense establishments, and for oversight of security cooperation (SC) programs, including foreign military sales, in these regions. Section 5 identifies the regions and countries of focus for the ASD(IPSA). In this capacity and in fulfillment of the National Defense Strategy, the ASD(IPSA):

- a. Conducts and manages day-to-day, multilateral, regional, and bilateral defense relations with all foreign governments in assigned areas of responsibility.
- b. Develops country-specific and regional security and defense strategy and policy, advises senior DoD leaders, issues guidance to translate and incorporate national and departmental policies into these strategies and policies, and oversees their implementation in coordination with the appropriate DoD officials.
- c. For assigned areas of responsibility, develops, coordinates, and oversees implementation of:
 - (1) Defense strategy and policy and management of defense and military relations.
 - (2) Policy, plans, and activities and uses of DoD resources engaged in:
 - (a) Encouraging the development of military capabilities.
 - (b) Addressing strategic competition below the level of armed conflict.
 - (c) Encouraging constitutional democracy and respect for human rights, including civilian control of the military.
 - (d) Institutionalizing an appropriate role for the military in a constitutional democracy.
 - (e) Encouraging the development of standards of military professionalism that promote respect for elected civilian authorities and human rights.
 - (3) DoD regional and country-specific policy and recommendations concerning SC programs and organizations, including foreign military sales, international military education and training, and other missions pertaining to SC, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities, who has policy oversight for individual programs.
- d. Represents the Secretary of Defense and the USD(P) in interagency policy deliberations and international negotiations relating to assigned areas of responsibility.

e. Participates in those Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution activities that relate to assigned areas of responsibility.

f. For all assigned responsibilities, as applicable, reviews, evaluates, and coordinates DoD special access program activities, programs, plans, and systems requirements as needed in accordance with DoDD 5205.07. Provides recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and the USD(P).

g. Uses existing systems, facilities, and services of DoD and other Federal departments and agencies, when possible, to avoid duplication and achieve maximum efficiency and economy.

h. Performs such other duties as the Secretary of Defense and the USD(P) may prescribe.

SECTION 3: RELATIONSHIPS

3.1. ASD(IPSA).

In performing assigned functions and responsibilities, the ASD(IPSA):

- a. Reports directly to the USD(P), who exercises authority, direction, and control over the ASD(IPSA).
- b. Coordinates and exchanges information with other OSD officials; the DoD Component heads; and Federal, State, or local officials having collateral or related responsibilities and functions.

3.2. PRINCIPAL STAFF ASSISTANTS (PSAS) AND DOD COMPONENT HEADS.

The PSAs and DoD Component heads coordinate with the ASD(IPSA) on matters under their purview related to the responsibilities, functions, and authorities assigned in this issuance.

SECTION 4: AUTHORITIES

Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P), and in accordance with DoD policies and issuances, the ASD(IPSA) is delegated the authority to:

a. Approve DoD manuals and directive-type memorandums in areas of assigned responsibilities that implement policy already established by a DoDD, DoD instruction (DoDI), or directive-type memorandum issued by the USD(P), or a policy memorandum issued by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

(1) In these documents, assign responsibilities related to the authorities and responsibilities in this issuance to PSAs and the DoD Component heads. Assignment of responsibilities in these DoD issuances to Military Department officials must be made through the Secretaries of those Departments. DoD issuances assigning responsibilities to the Combatant Commands must be coordinated with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(2) Such documents must be fully coordinated in accordance with DoDI 5025.01.

(3) This authority may not be redelegated.

b. Communicate directly with the PSAs and the DoD Component heads, as necessary, to carry out assigned responsibilities and functions, including transmitting requests for advice and assistance. Communications to Military Department officials must be transmitted through the Secretaries of the Military Departments, or as otherwise provided in law or as directed by the Secretary of Defense in other DoD issuances. Communications to the Combatant Commanders must be in accordance with DoDD 5100.01.

c. Communicate with other government officials, members of the public, and representatives of foreign governments, as appropriate, in carrying out assigned responsibilities and functions. Communications with representatives and members of the Legislative Branch must be conducted through the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, except for communications with the Congressional Defense Appropriations Committees, which must be coordinated with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense.

d. Communicate with departments and agencies of the Executive Branch and Congress on special access programs. For all special access program matters, the ASD(IPSA) must conduct communications with departments and agencies of the Executive Branch and Congress consistent with DoDD 5205.07.

e. Obtain reports and information, in accordance with DoDI 8910.01, as necessary, to carry out assigned responsibilities and functions.

f. Establish arrangements for DoD participation in non-DoD governmental programs for which the ASD(IPSA) has been assigned primary DoD cognizance.

g. Enter into support agreements with other Federal departments and agencies in accordance with DoDI 4000.19, as necessary, to perform assigned responsibilities and functions.

h. Negotiate and conclude international agreements in areas of assigned responsibility, when authorized in accordance with DoDD 5230.11 and DoDIs 2040.02 and 5530.03, and in coordination with the General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

SECTION 5: REGIONAL AND COUNTRY FOCUS OF THE ASD(IPSA)

The alignment of individual countries, entities, and areas under the focus of the ASD(IPSA) and the other Assistant Secretaries of Defense with regional responsibilities is subject to adjustment by the USD(P). Such adjustments will be accomplished by administrative changes in accordance with the November 30, 2006 Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum.

a. China, Taiwan, and Mongolia.

Includes Mongolia, the People's Republic of China (inclusive of the Special Administrative Region of Macao), and Taiwan.

b. East Asia.

(1) Includes Antarctica, Australia, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (including Pagan, Tinian, and Saipan), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

(2) The ASD(IPSA) coordinates closely with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs on issues regarding Antarctica and with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities, who has responsibility for Guam.

c. South and Southeast Asia.

(1) Includes the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Diego Garcia, East Timor, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of India, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

(2) The ASD(IPSA) coordinates closely with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs on issues regarding Diego Garcia.

GLOSSARY

ACRONYM	MEANING
ASD(IPSA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs
DoDD	DoD directive
DoDI	DoD instruction
PSA	Principal Staff Assistant
SC	security cooperation
USD(P)	Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

REFERENCES

- Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Delegation of Authority,” November 30, 2006
- Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy,” December 7, 2021
- Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “Reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy,” June 19, 2023
- DoD Directive 5100.01, “Functions of the Department of Defense and Its Major Components,” December 21, 2010, as amended
- DoD Directive 5111.01, “Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)),” June 23, 2020
- DoD Directive 5205.07, “Special Access Program (SAP) Policy,” July 1, 2010, as amended
- DoD Directive 5230.11, “Disclosure of Classified Military Information to Foreign Governments and International Organizations,” November 7, 2023
- DoD Instruction 2040.02, “International Transfers of Technology, Articles, and Services,” March 27, 2014, as amended
- DoD Instruction 4000.19, “Support Agreements,” December 16, 2020
- DoD Instruction 5025.01, “DoD Issuances Program,” August 1, 2016, as amended
- DoD Instruction 5530.03, “International Agreements,” December 4, 2019
- DoD Instruction 8910.01, “DoD Implementation of the Paperwork Reduction Act,” December 5, 2022
- National Defense Strategy, current edition
- United States Code, Title 10