

REFERENCE

RCC2.950210.008

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# Department of Defense Instruction

**SUBJECT** Coordination of Research and Development on Atomic Energy

- References:**
- (a) Department of Defense Directive No. 5128.7, "Responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development)," 12 November 1953
  - (b) Department of Defense Directive No. 5128.18, "Coordination of Research and Development on Atomic Energy," 6 January 1954

## I. GENERAL

Reference (b) established the Research and Development Coordinating Committee on Atomic Energy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development) in accordance with the general provisions of Reference (a).

## II. REISSUANCE AND CANCELLATION

This instruction reissues the content of Reference (b) with revised membership provisions. Reference (b) is hereby superseded and canceled.

## III. PURPOSE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Research and Development Coordinating Committee on Atomic Energy is provided as a staff mechanism for achieving a sound, coordinated and integrated research and development program for the Department of Defense in the field of atomic energy.

This Committee shall consist of a member and deputy member designated by the Secretary of each of the three military departments and by the Chief of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, and a member and deputy member designated by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (R&D). Where the subject matter is judged to be of sufficient interest to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Applications Engineering), the Assistant Secretary of Defense (R&D) may designate an additional member and deputy member, nominated by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (AE) as his representatives. The Commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps may designate a representative to sit with the Committee, on a coequal status with members of the Committee, on matters which directly concern the Marine Corps. To insure interchange of program information, the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), may designate a representative to sit regularly with the Committee.

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The Assistant Secretary of Defense (R&D) shall designate one of the members as chairman of the Committee and provide a secretary and such supporting staff as is needed.

#### IV. FIELD OF INTEREST

The field of interest of the Committee includes all Department of Defense phases of research and development directed toward the application to military use of atomic energy and radiological by-products, including research, development and test programs conducted jointly with the AEC but excluding those areas specifically assigned to the AEC or to other committees.

#### V. OPERATION

When members of the Committee arrive at unanimous views, each military member will insure that appropriate action is taken within his Department and will be responsible for keeping the Committee informed on final disposition of all such matters. If there is a disagreement in the Committee, this will be referred to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (R&D) for decision. The Committee, in its direct consultative arrangements with the AEC and in the implementation of its formal actions directed toward the AEC, shall have due regard for the statutory functions of the Military Liaison Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission.

Satisfactory coordination of the Department of Defense program in this field will include (1) review of plans and programs for adequacy and proper balance, (2) interchange of research and development information among the departments and with the AEC, (3) specific agreements as to joint activities to achieve integration, (4) approval of major new projects and test programs and of important changes in direction or scope of such projects prior to initiation to insure economy, and (5) advice to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (R&D) on needs for funding of research and development activities and facilities. In areas of common interest to more than one committee, the chairmen of the committees concerned will arrange for joint collaboration.

Incidental to the above coordinating functions, the Committee will consider the impact of military requirements on research and development activities and take appropriate steps to encourage adoption of joint requirements where military needs are similar. Furthermore, the Committee shall evaluate research and development activities for adequacy and timing in view of strategic guidance, technical limitations and advances and potential threats to national security.

The Coordinating Committee will regularly receive advice and guidance from the Technical Advisory Panel on Atomic Energy appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (R&D) and may request advice and guidance from any technical advisory panel through the panel chairman. Members of the Committee

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may also make such requests on behalf of their departments or agencies. The mode of collaboration between the Coordinating Committee and the technical advisory panels will be delineated by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (R&D) and implemented by the chairmen.

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