

## CHAPTER 2

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

#### 2-1 GENERAL

The Department of Defense (DoD) is charged with the security, safe handling, storage, maintenance, assembly, and transportation of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon components in DoD custody. Inherent in this responsibility is the requirement to protect personnel and property from any health or safety hazards which could ensue from an accident or significant incident involving nuclear weapons. To fulfill these responsibilities, the DoD has issued policy guidance and plans requiring the development of well-trained and equipped nuclear weapon accident response organizations. The DoD response policy recognizes the response roles of nuclear weapon owners or custodians, the statutory responsibilities of various Federal agencies, of State and local governments, and the sovereignty of foreign governments concerning accidents on their territory.

#### 2-2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This chapter describes the responsibilities of various DoD organizations, including the management responsibilities of the Secretary of Defense and the military Services, the command and control responsibilities of On-Scene Commanders (OSCs), and the responsibilities of the Joint Nuclear Accident Coordinating Center (JNACC) and interface requirements as stated in the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP), reference (c).

#### 2-3 RESPONSIBILITIES

DoD Directive 5100.52, reference (a), outlines responsibilities for on-site command and control at the scene of a nuclear accident or significant incident, as follows:

(1) The Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) (USD(P)) shall activate the Crisis Coordination Center (CCC), if required, and provide required support to the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy) (ATSD(AE)) in the acquisition and dissemination of information about the accident.

(2) The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy) (ASTD(AE)) shall:

(a) Establish policy and exercise staff coordination for DoD radiological response and assistance matters in furtherance of the responsibilities assigned by DoD Directive 5148.2, reference (d).

(b) In the event of a nuclear- accident, serve as technical advisor to the Secretary of Defense and OSD Principals regarding weapons composition, characteristics, and safety features; interdepartmental responsibilities and the Federal radiological emergency response system; and technical capabilities of the various Federal response elements.

(3) The Secretaries of the Military Departments and Commanders of Unified Commands shall have primary responsibility for responding to an accident involving radioactive materials, including nuclear weapons, as follows:

(a) When the accident occurs on a DoD installation, including ships at sea, responsibility shall rest with the Secretary of the Department or Theater Commander in Chief concerned in accordance with DoD Directive 5200.8, reference (e).

(b) When the accident occurs beyond the boundaries of DoD installations, responsibility shall rest with the Secretary of the Department or Theater Commander in Chief having custody of the radioactive materials at the time of the occurrence.

(4) The Secretary of the Military Department or Commander of Unified Commands having primary responsibility for DoD response to an accident shall:

(a) Establish, maintain, fund, and exercise a flag rank On-Scene Commander and Service Response Force(s) to manage all actions required to recover from the effects of a radiological accident. Service response forces and On-Scene Commanders will be exercised, as a minimum, every other year.

(b) Provide available administrative, medical, and logistical support (including communications and military transportation) and other available radiological

response resources to the DoE and other Federal response organizations supporting a **non-DoD** radiological accident, in accordance with enclosure 3 to DoD Directive 4000.19, reference (f).

(c) Coordinate all military support requirements to civilian authorities with FEMA for domestic accidents or through the Department of State for accidents occurring outside the United States, its territories, or possessions. If PL 93-288, as amended, reference (g), is involved, coordination shall be handled in accordance with DoD Directive 3025.1, reference (h).

(5) The Secretary of the Army, upon Presidential declaration of a major disaster or emergency under reference (l), shall become the DoD Executive Agent for military support to civilian authorities through FEMA in accordance with reference (h).

(6) The Secretary of the Navy shall provide a representative to the Federal Radiological Coordinating Committees and joint working groups to address naval reactor considerations and develop planning guidance in coordination with the other Military Departments for dealing with accidents involving DoD mobile reactors.

(7) The Secretary of the Air Force, through the Military Airlift Command (MAC), shall plan for and provide Special Assignment Airlift Mission (**SAAM**) support for deployment of DoD and interdepartmental response organizations,

(8) The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (**CJCS**), shall:

(a) In coordination with the Theater Commands and appropriate Defense Agencies, be responsible for implementing the DoD response to radiological accidents.

(b) Make notification of radiological accidents and significant incidents as stated in DoD Directive 5100.52, reference (a).

(c) Through the NMCC, keep the OSD CCC staff informed of the radiological accident response.

(d) Through the overseas theater commander, provide the command and control for response to radiological accidents within the respective theater.

(e) Assemble a Joint Nuclear Accident Response Team (**JNAIRT**) as appropriate to accomplish tasks listed above.

(9) The Director, Defense Nuclear Agency, shall:

(a) Operate a Joint Nuclear Accident Coordinating Center (**JNACC**) in coordination with the DoE.

(b) Develop and maintain a deployable (technical) advisory team that can assist the DoD On-Scene Commander in dealing with technical aspects of a nuclear accident or incident.

(c) Serve as an advisor to the **ATSD(AE)** and Joint Chiefs of Staff (**JCS**) on procedures for response to accidents involving nuclear weapons.

(d) Provide liaison to the JNAIRT and CCC.

(10) The Heads of DoD **Components** shall:

(a) Ensure that accidents and significant incidents involving radioactive materials are reported in accordance with reference (i).

(b) Ensure that all public information concerning accidents involving radioactive materials and DoD personnel, equipment, property, or other resources is released in accordance with DoD Directive 5230.16, which authorizes the OSC to confirm the presence of nuclear weapons, and the FRERP, references (b) and (c).

(c) Ensure that the JNACC is advised of all accidents involving radioactive materials and requests for radiological assistance. Provide the JNACC with information necessary to maintain current records reflecting the location and capability of specialized units and teams that can be used for response to accidents involving radioactive materials.

(d) Provide radiological assistance within existing capabilities to DoE or FEMA, as set forth in reference (c), in the event of an accident involving radioactive materials not in DoD custody without creating additional personnel, facilities, or funding requirements.

(e) Upon request, reimburse other DoD Components for incurred costs for requested radiological assistance that are not included in their normal operating expenses and that are directly chargeable to, and caused by, the assistance provided.