



## INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DIRECTIVE

204

### National Intelligence Priorities Framework

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**A. AUTHORITY:** The National Security Act of 1947, as amended; Executive Order (EO) 12333, as amended; the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, as amended; National Security Presidential Directive (NSPD)-26, *Intelligence Priorities*; and other applicable provisions of law.

**B. PURPOSE**

1. This Directive promulgates policy and establishes responsibilities for setting national intelligence priorities, translating them into action, and evaluating Intelligence Community (IC) responsiveness to them.

2. This Directive replaces Intelligence Community Directive (ICD) 204, *National Intelligence Priorities Framework*, January 2, 2015.

**C. APPLICABILITY:** This Directive applies to the IC as defined by the National Security Act of 1947, as amended; and to such other elements of any department or agency as may be designated by the President, or designated jointly by the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) and the head of the department or agency concerned, as an element of the IC.

**D. POLICY**

1. The National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF) is the system directed by the President through NSPD-26 for prioritizing national intelligence activities, managing risk, and assessing mission performance. The NIPF provides the mechanism for the development and communication of overarching national intelligence priorities and the evaluation of IC responsiveness and progress against those priorities. References to the term “national intelligence priorities” herein, apply to the prioritization of intelligence needs in alignment with the National Security Strategy. The NIPF includes the means to:

a. Establish, disestablish, manage, and communicate national intelligence priorities, reflecting customer priorities for national intelligence support, and ensuring that both enduring and emerging national security issues are effectively prioritized;

b. Translate and implement national intelligence priorities to ensure the IC is focusing its collection, analysis, and operational resources on the most urgent and important national security issues; and

c. Track and evaluate the IC’s collection, analytic, and operational responsiveness to national intelligence priorities.

2. The President and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (National Security Advisor) determine the top-tier national intelligence priorities.

3. Consistent with NSPD-26, Secretaries and cabinet-level heads of departments and agencies of the United States that require national intelligence support provide input to the development of national intelligence priorities. Heads of IC elements, IC Functional Managers, and National Intelligence Managers (NIMs), shall also provide input.

4. Intelligence Topic Experts (ITE) shall be assigned to each NIPF intelligence topic as senior-level U.S. Government subject matter experts. Through the NIPF process, ITEs shall lead IC and interagency development of intelligence priorities within a NIPF topic and make priority recommendations to the DNI. The Deputy Director for Mission Integration (DDMI) is responsible for designating ITEs.

5. National intelligence priorities may be changed only by the DNI:

- a. As directed by the President or the National Security Advisor;
- b. Based on recommendations resulting from routine IC and policymaker reviews; or
- c. On an *ad hoc* basis to address emerging national security issues.

6. National intelligence priorities shall reflect consideration of the value of intelligence activities to U.S. national interests and the risks entailed in the potential exposure of intelligence priorities.

7. IC collection requirements and programs of analysis shall reflect national intelligence priorities by using common NIPF codes.

8. National intelligence priorities, and subsequent evaluations of IC responsiveness to those priorities, shall inform the allocation of resources to IC collection and analytic postures, as well as National Intelligence Program (NIP) planning, programming, budgeting, and evaluation activities.

9. The DNI will report annually to the President, via the National Security Advisor, on the IC's responsiveness to national intelligence priorities.

10. The Library of National Intelligence (LNI) shall serve as the authoritative repository of IC disseminated intelligence collection reporting, analytic production, and other DNI-designated mission performance information for the purposes of tracking and evaluating IC responsiveness to national intelligence priorities. ODNI will work with IC elements to ensure their production is accurately represented in the LNI.

11. The DDMI is the DNI's designee for the development, management, and oversight of the NIPF, as well as the *NIPF Classification Guide*, and is the Accountable Official responsible for the implementation of this Directive. Under the DDMI's purview:

- a. The National Intelligence Collection Board (NICB) deliberates on the optimal application of collection resources and recommends ways to better align IC collection activities with national intelligence priorities.

- b. The National Intelligence Analysis Board (NIAB) develops and recommends the establishment of standards and processes to improve the IC's analytic performance in responding to national intelligence priorities.



12. A releasable version of the national intelligence priorities matrix and, as applicable, associated NIPF products, shall be published to inform Second Party partner nations of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand of U.S. national intelligence priorities.

## **E. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. The DNI will:**

- a. In accordance with EO 12333, Sec.1.3(b)(17), determine requirements and priorities for, and manage and direct the tasking of national intelligence by elements of the IC, including approving requirements for collection and analysis and resolving conflicts in collection requirements and in the tasking of national collection assets of IC elements (except when otherwise directed by the President or when the Secretary of Defense exercises collection tasking authority under plans and arrangements approved by the Secretary of Defense and the DNI);
- b. Approve national intelligence priorities and the policies and processes for establishing and evaluating IC responsiveness to national intelligence priorities;
- c. Adjust national intelligence priorities as necessary;
- d. Provide NIPF implementation guidance and other amplifying guidance to the IC; and
- e. Report annually to the President via the National Security Advisor on the IC's responsiveness to national intelligence priorities established directly by the President.

### **2. The DDMI shall:**

- a. Serve as the Accountable Official for the implementation of this Directive and the DNI's designee for NIPF development, management, and oversight;
- b. Recommend to the DNI the designation of national intelligence priorities, including *ad hoc* updates to address emerging needs and areas for de-emphasis;
- c. As needed, solicit, nominate, and approve senior-level IC or other U.S. Government officials as ITEs;
- d. Request input from Secretaries and cabinet-level heads of departments and agencies, heads of IC elements, NIMs, ITEs, and Functional Managers for the development of national intelligence priorities and the subsequent evaluation of IC responsiveness;
- e. Ensure accurate and authoritative LNI holdings on IC collection reporting, analytic production, and other performance information for tracking and evaluating IC responsiveness to national intelligence priorities;
- f. Issue and update the NIPF classification guide;
- g. Report annually to the DNI on the IC's responsiveness to national intelligence priorities;
- h. Publish a version of the national intelligence priorities matrix and, as applicable, associated NIPF products, releasable to Second Party Partners; and
- i. Maintain NIPF records according to applicable ODNI records retention schedules.

### **3. The NIMs shall:**

a. Through the DDMI, and consistent with ICD 900, *Integrated Mission Management*, advise the DNI on the development of and updates to national intelligence priorities, and recommend:

(1) National intelligence priorities within their mission areas, based on customer needs and information gaps; and

(2) *Ad hoc* updates to priorities in order to address emerging needs and areas for de-emphasis and as appropriate, submit justification for the update to the DDMI.

b. Incorporate the NIPF in the execution of their responsibilities; and

c. Follow classification guidance for NIPF equities as prescribed in the *NIPF Classification Guide*.

4. Functional Managers shall:

a. Recommend to the DNI:

(1) National intelligence priorities based on IC-wide customer needs and known information gaps; and

(2) *Ad hoc* updates to the priorities to address emerging needs and areas for de-emphasis.

b. Ensure that the NIPF guides the performance of their functions, and as appropriate, translate the NIPF into function-specific strategic requirements;

c. Consistent with ICD 113, *Functional Managers*, advise the DNI on IC resource allocations to better enable efficient and effective collection against national intelligence priorities, evaluate their respective function's collection and analytic posture against national intelligence priorities, and report annually by 1 July to the DNI on the state of the function; and

d. Follow classification guidance for NIPF equities as prescribed in the *NIPF Classification Guide*.

5. Heads of IC elements shall:

a. Recommend to the DNI:

(1) National intelligence priorities based on customer needs, or known information gaps; and

(2) *Ad hoc* updates to priorities to address emerging needs and areas for de-emphasis.

b. Ensure that IC element planning, programming, budgeting, and evaluation activities and the allocation of collection and analytic resources are informed by the NIPF;

c. Follow classification guidance for NIPF equities as outlined in the *NIPF Classification Guide*;

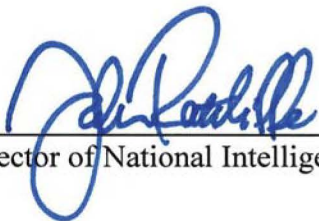
d. As requested by, and in consultation with the DDMI, nominate expertly qualified senior-level officers to serve as ITEs; and

e. Maintain NIPF-related records according to appropriate agency retention schedules.

## 6. ITEs shall:

- a. Adjudicate priorities recommended by IC elements and policymakers; and
- b. Make recommendations to the DNI on the priorities for their respective programs of analysis.

**F. EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Directive becomes effective on the date of signature.

  
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Director of National Intelligence

1/7/21  
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Date