



Department of Defense INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 3115.15

December 6, 2011

Incorporating Change 2, Effective October 1, 2020

USD(I&S)

SUBJECT: Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT)

References: See Enclosure 1

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction:

a. Establishes policies, assigns responsibilities, and provides guidance for GEOINT operations within the DoD in accordance with the authority in DoD Directive (DoDD) 5143.01 (Reference (a)) and DoDD 5105.60 (Reference (b)).

b. Incorporates and cancels DoD Instruction (DoDI) 5210.52 (Reference (c)).

c. Conforms to and is consistent with law and Executive order, including the authorities and responsibilities of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) in section 403 of title 50, United States Code (Reference (d)) and Executive Order 12333 (Reference (e)).

2. APPLICABILITY. This Instruction 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 the Inspector General of the DoD, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in the Department of Defense (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "DoD Components").

3. DEFINITIONS. See Glossary.

4. POLICY. It is DoD policy that:

a. GEOINT operations and activities shall be treated as high priority efforts and conducted in a unified and synchronized manner, due to the vital role GEOINT plays in the successful conduct of military operations and activities, in executing the mission of the DoD, and in supporting national security.

b. Guidance to the National System for GEOINT (NSG) and operation of a unified community for GEOINT activities and capabilities, in accordance with Reference (b), shall be provided by the Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), acting concurrently as the DoD GEOINT Manager and as the GEOINT Functional Manager pursuant to Reference (e).

c. GEOINT conducted under the authority of the Secretary of Defense shall comply with the NSG strategic guidance, policies, and procedures issued by the Director, NGA, acting concurrently as the DoD GEOINT Manager and as the GEOINT Functional Manager.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES. See Enclosure 2.

6. RELEASABILITY. **Cleared for public release.** This instruction is available on the Directives Division Website at <https://www.esd.whs.mil/DD/>.

7. SUMMARY OF CHANGE 1. This administrative change updates the title of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence to the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security in accordance with Public Law 116-92 (Reference (f)).

8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Instruction is effective December 6, 2011.



Michael G. Vickers
Under Secretary of Defense
for Intelligence

Enclosures

1. References
2. Responsibilities

Glossary

ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

- (a) DoD Directive 5143.01, "Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (USD(I&S))," October 24, 2014, as amended
- (b) DoD Directive 5105.60, "National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)," July 29, 2009
- (c) DoD Instruction 5210.52, "Security Classification of Airborne Sensor Imagery and Imaging Systems," May 18, 1989 (hereby cancelled)
- (d) Section 403 of title 50, United States Code
- (e) Executive Order 12333, "United States Intelligence Activities," December 4, 1981, as amended
- (f) Public Law 116-92, "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020," December 20, 2019
- (g) DoD Directive 5205.12, "Military Intelligence Program (MIP)," November 14, 2008, as amended
- (h) Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3901.01C, "Requirements for Geospatial Information and Services," April 10, 2010¹
- (i) Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Message, DTG 031640ZAPR06, "Joint Intelligence Operations Center Execute Order (U)"²
- (j) DoD Instruction 5030.59, "National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Limited Distribution Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT)," March 10, 2015, as amended
- (k) Executive Order 13556, "Controlled Unclassified Information," November 4, 2010
- (l) DoD Directive 5230.11, "Disclosure of Classified Military Information to Foreign Governments and International Organizations," June 16, 1992
- (m) DoD Instruction 5000.56, "Programming Geospatial-Intelligence (GEOINT), Geospatial Information and Services (GI&S), and Geodesy Requirements for Developing Systems," July 9, 2010, as amended
- (n) DoD Instruction 3305.10, "DoD Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Training," July 3, 2013, as amended
- (o) DoD 5240.1-R, "Procedures Governing the Activities of DoD Intelligence Components that Affect United States Persons," December 1982, as amended
- (p) DoD Directive 5105.21, "Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)," March 18, 2008
- (q) Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3340.02, "Horizontal Integration of Warfighter Intelligence," December 23, 2005
- (r) DoD Directive 5105.65, "Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)," October 26, 2012

¹ This Instruction is approved for limited release. Authorized users may obtain copies of this Instruction through controlled Internet access only (.mil and .gov users) from http://www.dtic.mil/cjcs_directives.

² On a need-to-know basis, a copy can be requested from the J-2/Joint Staff at 703-614-7816. This is a classified document and is not releasable to the public.

ENCLOSURE 2

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. USD(I&S). The USD(I&S), in accordance with Reference (a), shall:
 - a. Exercise oversight of DoD GEOINT policy, plans, and programs.
 - b. Promote alignment of Intelligence Community (IC) and DoD policies for GEOINT classification, foreign disclosure, release, and dissemination.
 - c. Oversee the GEOINT-related activities of DoD Components within the Military Intelligence Program (MIP) in accordance with DoDD 5205.12 (Reference (g)) and ensure alignment of DoD GEOINT-related activities with the National Intelligence Program (NIP) efforts in accordance with Reference (e).
 - d. Oversee the NGA MIP pursuant to Reference (g) and coordinate the National Geospatial Intelligence Program (NGP) budget with the DNI.

2. DIRECTOR, NGA. The Director, NGA, under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(I&S), in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, and in accordance with Reference (b), shall:
 - a. Prioritize and implement activities necessary for timely, relevant, and accurate GEOINT; to protect intelligence sources and methods; to support operations according to tasking priorities and timeliness standards assigned by the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Commanders of the Combatant Commands; and to support the requirements defined in Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3901.01C (Reference (h)).
 - b. Collect, process, analyze, produce, and disseminate GEOINT according to the objectives, requirements, and priorities established by the Secretary of Defense, the DNI, the Joint Staff, and Reference (e) for purposes including foreign intelligence and counterintelligence.
 - c. Respond, as required, to GEOINT-related requirements to support DoD Components, to include planning, operations, requests for technical information, and other support, as required.
 - d. Provide direct support to the Combatant Commands' Joint Intelligence Operations Centers (JIOCs), Service Intelligence Centers, and Defense Agencies in accordance with the Secretary of Defense guidance in Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) Message conveying the JIOC Execute Order (Reference (i)).
 - e. Oversee GEOINT tasking-related activities of the NSG to respond most effectively to military and other GEOINT requirements to:

(1) Provide advisory tasking through the Defense Collection Manager for assets under the operational control of a military commander to fulfill GEOINT requirements.

(2) Coordinate guidance with the Director, DIA, for dissemination so that the resulting GEOINT is provided to the designated office or activity as soon as possible.

(3) Apprise the JIOCs of all GEOINT-related activity relevant to each organization's respective responsibilities.

(4) Provide technical advice and support to the Defense Collection Manager in determining when higher priority national GEOINT requirements cannot be met by other than theater-assigned assets.

f. Establish procedures to comply with national overhead GEOINT reconnaissance collection policies.

g. Lead the evaluation of all available GEOINT sources, including foreign, to identify the current and future technical, analytic, and mission value.

h. Establish the guidance and governance framework for the GEOINT mission in accordance with the DoD, including Joint Staff policies and guidance, to:

(1) Provide technical guidance for the tasking, collection, production, exploitation, dissemination, foreign disclosure and release, retention, and archiving of GEOINT.

(2) Establish analytic and production programs to coordinate and collaborate within the NSG, ensuring maximum information sharing and the most effective and efficient GEOINT products and services.

i. Coordinate the management of GEOINT activities through the established GEOINT governance framework, while retaining overall responsibility and accountability.

j. Control unclassified NGA GEOINT information in compliance with DoDI 5030.59 (Reference (j)), Executive Order 13556 (Reference (k)), and implementing DoD policies. Provide guidance for handling controlled unclassified GEOINT under the control and possession of the DoD.

k. Execute foreign disclosure and release responsibilities for national, DoD, and commercial GEOINT as delegated.

l. Publish consolidated instructions for active theater airborne and operational satellite missions to include:

(1) Coordinating with the appropriate Combatant Command Foreign Disclosure Officer (FDO) to determine baseline operating conditions and requirements for the specific mission.

(2) Basing the classification level of airborne GEOINT on the parameters of the security

classification guide for the employed sensor, as well as the exigencies of the specific mission.

(3) In compliance with DoDD 5230.11 (Reference (l)), determining the foreign disclosure and release parameters for GEOINT collected by DoD theater assets under advisory tasking.

(4) Receiving the Combatant Command FDO's determination of the foreign disclosure and release parameters for GEOINT that is collected by DoD theater assets for theater airborne missions for inclusion in mission consolidated instructions.

m. Standardize GEOINT equipment, applications, processes, and facilities to maximize interoperability, and eliminate unwarranted duplication of GEOINT efforts, where practical, in coordination with the DoD Components.

n. As the Component Manager for the NGA MIP, pursuant to Reference (g), and as the Program Manager for the NGP as directed by the DNI, shall:

(1) Manage assigned GEOINT resources, personnel, and programs.

(2) Prepare resource investment plans, program budget guidance, and consolidated NGA MIP and NGP program and budget submissions to the USD(I&S) and DNI, in accordance with Reference (g).

(3) Coordinate, assess, and deconflict GEOINT resource requirements between the NGA MIP and the NGP. Report issues and conflicts to the USD(I&S) and the DNI for resolution.

(4) Provide DNI and USD(I&S) with current and proposed plans, programs, and costs of the GEOINT activities under Director, NGA, control.

(5) Review the Military Departments' and Combatant Commands' GEOINT investment programs, and provide guidance to them as appropriate, as a part of the process of requirements, planning, programming, and budgeting in accordance with MIP guidance issued by USD(I&S) pursuant to Reference (g). Review, as appropriate, the Military Departments' and Combatant Commands' GEOINT investment programs, as a part of the process of acquisition in accordance with DoDI 5000.56 (Reference (m)).

(6) Provide DoD Components with planned and current GEOINT program details for the NSG.

(7) Inform the USD(I&S) and the DNI of the state of GEOINT investment, including budget shortfalls and unfulfilled requirements.

o. Conduct GEOINT research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) to meet the needs of the DoD to:

(1) Provide advice, assistance, and guidance to DoD Components regarding GEOINT

investments in technologies, programs, and product support in accordance with DoD policy and in coordination with the Military Departments and the IC.

(2) Provide technical advice, assistance, and guidance to the Military Departments and the Combatant Commands for tactical GEOINT investment programs to ensure interoperability between existing and future Military Department and Combatant Command GEOINT systems, connectivity between national and tactical systems, and modernization of systems.

(3) Advise other DoD Components and, as appropriate, IC components concerning GEOINT investment activities, techniques, procedures, and procurements resulting from GEOINT and GEOINT-related RDT&E programs.

p. In addition to the responsibilities for DoD GEOINT training assigned by DoDI 3305.10 (Reference (n)), develop and conduct GEOINT training to meet the needs of the NSG to:

(1) Provide guidance to the DoD Components for military and civilian GEOINT career development and training programs and conduct, or otherwise provide for, necessary specialized and advanced GEOINT training.

(2) Maintain and operate the National Geospatial-Intelligence College as the GEOINT training center for NGA and other organizations within the NSG. Oversee GEOINT centers, which provide GEOINT training to military, government, and civilian producers and consumers of GEOINT through coordination councils and forums.

q. Oversee the validation and prioritization of the NSG Geospatial Data Production Plan for the DoD, in accordance with Reference (h), as the co-chair of the Foundation Data Requirements Subcommittee (FRSCOM), which is delegated to the Foundation Based Operations NSG Executive.

r. Confirm the integration of GEOINT standards and architectures in DoD GEOINT and GEOINT-related systems.

s. Develop and coordinate the international acquisition and engagement strategy, including use of facilities and information sharing, and negotiate the international agreements needed for GEOINT exchange and cooperation with foreign partners. Nothing in this paragraph shall limit the authority of a DoD Component to conduct foreign liaison relationships as authorized by law, regulation, or Executive order.

t. Provide NSG members with visibility into the plans, programs, and costs of the GEOINT activities of the National Geospatial Intelligence Program within the NIP and the NGA MIP.

u. Issue guidance to Defense Intelligence Components on proper use memorandums for domestic collection of tactical imagery consistent with DoD 5240.1-R (Reference (o)).

3. DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE (NRO). The Director, NRO, under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(I&S) and in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

a. Research, develop, acquire, deploy, operate, and maintain overhead GEOINT collection systems and related infrastructure to meet DoD and IC requirements in response to validated requirements from the DNI and the Director, NGA.

b. Provide systems architectural-related recommendations to the DNI, in coordination with the Director, NGA, for sound acquisition decisions in relation to current and future space-borne GEOINT systems architecture.

c. Coordinate with the Director, NGA, to develop and provide interoperable GEOINT data to support intelligence needs.

4. DIRECTOR, DIA. The Director, DIA, under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(I&S) and in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

a. Coordinate with the Director, NGA, to develop and provide integrated GEOINT and DoD human intelligence, counterintelligence, and measurement and signature intelligence activities, as needed.

b. As the Defense Collection Manager, pursuant to DoD Directive 5105.21 (Reference (p)):

(1) Through the Commander, United States Strategic Command, coordinate approval from the Secretary of Defense to assign collection requirements to theater imaging assets, when appropriate. Communicate with the Director, NGA, for technical advice and direction to effect the tasking.

(2) In accordance with Reference (h), as the co-chair of the FRSCOM, oversee the validation and prioritization of the NSG Geospatial Data Production Plan for the DoD.

(3) Coordinate with the Combatant Commands to synchronize DoD intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources with other collection activities, and monitor execution of GEOINT collection operations.

(4) Identify and evaluate competing intelligence requirements across the Combatant Commands. Communicate with NGA support teams, the NGA, the Combatant Commands, Service staffs, DIA, National Security Agency (NSA)/Central Security Service (CSS), Defense Security Service, NRO, and National Intelligence Coordination Center to coordinate intelligence operations and resolve competition for resources.

(5) Monitor planning and execution of GEOINT support to National Intelligence support plans.

5. DIRECTOR, NSA/CHIEF, CSS (DIRNSA/CHCSS). The DIRNSA/CHCSS, under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(I&S) and in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall coordinate with the Director, NGA, to contribute signals intelligence to NGA's multi-intelligence activities, as needed.

6. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY, AND LOGISTICS (USD(AT&L)). The USD(AT&L) shall:

a. Establish policies and guidance for the acquisition of GEOINT systems in consultation with the DNI. Consult with the USD(I&S), the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Director, NGA, and others with regard to the establishment of policies for the acquisition of GEOINT systems.

b. Develop and maintain a DoD science and technology investment strategy to support the development, acquisition, and integration of technological advances in tactical systems and platforms providing or using GEOINT and managed by the Military Departments.

7. HEADS OF THE DoD COMPONENTS. The Heads of the DoD Components shall:

a. Assign responsibilities and establish procedures, as appropriate, within their Component to implement this Instruction.

b. Coordinate with the USD(I&S) and the Director, NGA, as the GEOINT Functional Manager, when proposing or overseeing new GEOINT-related activities or programs.

c. Identify classified information and provide security classification guides approved by authorized original classification authorities for all DoD airborne and DoD spaceborne GEOINT data, sensors, and systems developed within their organizations.

d. Manage and submit requirements, programming, and execution for GEOINT in accordance with the priorities of the Combatant Commands, Military Services, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other NSG members in support of military operations in accordance with Reference (h).

8. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. The Secretaries of the Military Departments, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

a. Plan and program for GEOINT resources in accordance with MIP fiscal policy and guidance established by the USD(I&S) and with NGP program and budget guidance from the Director, NGA.

- b. Provide to the Director, NGA, current and proposed plans, programs, and budgets of GEOINT activities.
- c. Ensure, via consultation with the Director, NGA, that systems that use or produce GEOINT are in compliance with GEOINT standards and interoperability established by NGA.
- d. Provide trained military personnel to NGA and the Combatant Commands to perform GEOINT missions in accordance with approved requirements and procedures.
- e. Operate and maintain GEOINT facilities and resources, in consultation with the Director, NGA, to conduct and support GEOINT operations as authorized and directed by the Secretary of Defense or the USD(I&S), including military reserve programs to meet emergency or wartime requirements for GEOINT.
- f. Support the Director, NGA, in unifying GEOINT operations by coordinating with and collaborating on analysis and production.
- g. Coordinate with the Director, NGA, in conducting RDT&E to meet GEOINT needs:
 - (1) Provide information on Military Department GEOINT RDT&E activities to the GEOINT Functional Manager and Functional Manager for GEOINT.
 - (2) Accomplish Military Department-specific GEOINT RDT&E tasks in accordance with DoD guidance and direction.
- h. Coordinate, plan, program, budget, maintain, and conduct GEOINT training in accordance with Reference (n).
- i. Provide the NSG with broad access to collected theater GEOINT data along with the authority to store and distribute that data, in compliance with CJCS Instruction 3340.02 (Reference (q)).
- j. Coordinate with the Director, NGA, when foreign military sales cases involve articles and services that require GEOINT data in compliance with DoDD 5105.65 (Reference (r)).
- k. Coordinate with and forward to the Director, NGA, any requirements for acquisition or exchange of commercial or foreign government-owned imagery-related remote sensing data and services.
- l. Develop GEOINT policies and doctrine consistent with NSG policies and doctrine.
- m. Identify classified information and provide security classification guides approved by authorized original classification authorities for all DoD airborne and space-borne GEOINT data, sensors, and systems developed within their organizations.
- n. Assign Departmental responsibilities and establish procedures, as appropriate, to

implement this Instruction.

o. Coordinate the Military Department international GEOINT-related plans and programs with the Director, NGA.

9. CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

a. Monitor, report findings, and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense regarding the responsiveness of the NGA to military requirements.

b. Respond to Combatant Commander requests for military GEOINT systems, units, or other assets and coordinate the allocation of resources accordingly.

c. Validate joint, Military Department, and Combatant Command GEOINT system, sensor, platform, data, and product requirements.

d. Develop and maintain joint doctrine for core, supporting, and related GEOINT capabilities in joint operations.

e. Formally incorporate the Director, NGA, in all requests for forces and global force management processes or forums in which GEOINT personnel, systems, support or infrastructure are requested or may be required.

f. Coordinate GEOINT- or NGA-related activities with the Director, NGA.

10. COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS. The Commanders of the Combatant Commands, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure and through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as appropriate, shall:

a. As operators of theater-based GEOINT intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets, fully support taskings, as appropriate, to the greatest extent possible.

b. Integrate, plan, and execute GEOINT operations to support intelligence planning, approved military plans, and other operations, such as operational plans and National Intelligence support plans, in coordination with the Director, NGA.

c. Identify classified information and provide security classification guides approved by authorized original classification authorities for all DoD airborne and DoD spaceborne GEOINT data, sensors, and systems developed within their command.

d. Support the Director, NGA, in unifying GEOINT operations by coordinating and collaborating analysis and production activities and engaging in joint production initiatives.

e. Submit to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff requirements for military GEOINT platforms, units or other assets, simultaneously informing the Director, NGA.

f. In compliance with References (m), determine the GEOINT foreign disclosure and release parameters for DoD airborne and DoD spaceborne missions, and cooperate with the Director, NGA, to publish consolidated instructions for active theater missions.

g. Exercise operational control of military platforms, units, or other assets that have a GEOINT capability in accordance with established procedures or supplemental instructions issued by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, taking into consideration the GEOINT advisory tasking by the Director, NGA.

h. Forward all GEOINT data resulting from the tasking of GEOINT resources under the Combatant Commander's operational control to the Director, NGA, where possible, recognizing current limitations within Service communications and available theater bandwidth.

i. Provide the NSG with broad access to collected theater GEOINT data, along with the authority to store and distribute that data, in compliance with Reference (q).

j. Provide the NSG with access to asset collection planning and plan execution for GEOINT and GEOINT-related assets in accordance with Reference (b).

k. Apprise the Secretary of Defense, USD(I&S), and the Director, NGA, of the status of the Combatant Command GEOINT resources.

GLOSSARY

PART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CJCS	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
DIA	Defense Intelligence Agency
DIRNSA/CHCSS	Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service
DNI	Director of National Intelligence
DoDD	DoD directive
DoDI	DoD instruction
FDO	foreign disclosure officer
FRSCOM	Foundation Data Requirements Subcommittee
GEOINT	geospatial intelligence
JIOC	Joint Intelligence Operations Center
MIP	Military Intelligence Program
NGA	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
NGP	National Geospatial Intelligence Program
NIP	National Intelligence Program
NRO	National Reconnaissance Office
NSG	National System for Geospatial Intelligence
RDT&E	research, development, test, and evaluation
USD(AT&L)	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisitions, Technology, and Logistics
USD(I&S)	Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security

PART II. DEFINITIONS

Terms used in this Instruction are defined in Reference (b).

Functional Manager

GEOINT

NGP

NSG