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OF THE AIR FORCE**

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Operations

**NUCLEAR WEAPONS ACCIDENT
AND INCIDENT RESPONSE**

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This Air Force Instruction provides guidance and procedures for Nuclear Weapons Accident and Incident Responses. This instruction implements Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 3150.08, *DoD Response to Nuclear and Radiobiological Incidents*, Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 3150.10, *DoD Response to U.S. Nuclear Weapon Incidents*, Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 10-25, *Emergency Management* and is consistent with AFPD 13-5, *Air Force Nuclear Enterprise*. This Instruction applies to Active Duty, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard (ANG) units worldwide. See **Attachment 1** for definitions of acronyms, abbreviations, and terms used in this instruction. Consult cited policy directives, instructions, manuals and their supplements for specific policies, procedures and requirements. Send recommended changes and major command (MAJCOM) supplements to this publication to AFCESA/CEXR, 139 Barnes Drive, Tyndall AFB, FL 32403-5319 or email to AFCESA.CEXR@Tyndall.AF.Mil. Use AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication* for recommended changes. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/afrims/afrims/afrims/rims.cfm>

Chapter 1

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1. Headquarters Air Force Staff.

1.1.1. Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Plans and Requirements (AF/A3/5).

1.1.1.1. Maintain nuclear accident response checklist for Air Force Crisis Action Team (AFCAT) and Service Watch Cell.

1.1.1.2. Lead Air Force support to National Military Command Center (NMCC) upon activation of Response Task Force (RTF) or notification of nuclear accident or incident.

1.1.1.3. Provide to the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF) and the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force (CSAF) information for crisis and exercise scenarios according to Headquarters Operating Instruction (HOI) 10-2, *Headquarters Air Force Crisis Action Team Organizations, Manning and Operations*.

1.1.2. Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, Installations and Mission Support (AF/A4/7).

1.1.2.1. Lead directorate for crisis and consequence management policy for the Air Force. Responsible for developing Air Force consequence management and security plans in support of interagency and Department of Defense (DOD) guidance.

1.1.2.2. Provide primary and alternate Points of Contact (POCs) to the Joint Nuclear Accident and Incident Response Team.

1.1.2.3. Ensure qualified personnel available for inclusion on AFCAT in accordance with HOI 10-2.

1.1.2.4. Verify Air Force units provide nuclear weapons accident and incident response capabilities to Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) through the Interagency Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Database of Responsibilities, Authorities, and Capabilities (INDRAC) web site in accordance with DODD 3150.08, *DoD Response to Nuclear and Radiological Incidents*, and DODI 3150.10, *DoD Response to U.S. Nuclear Weapon Incidents*.

1.1.2.5. Ensure Air Force requirements and training objectives are met in Joint Mission Essential Task Lists for nuclear and radiological accident and response forces.

1.1.2.6. Lead in identifying Nuclear Weapons Related Materiel in accordance with Air Force Instruction (AFI) 20-110, *Nuclear Weapons-Related Materiel Management*.

1.1.2.7. Ensure nuclear weapons accident and incident response is included in Installation Emergency Management Plan (IEMP) 10-2; according to AFPD 10-2, *Readiness*; and AFI 10-2501, *Air Force Emergency Management (EM) Program Planning and Operations* for possible Initial Response Force (IRF) activation.

1.1.2.8. Ensure available RTFs are capable of responding to and providing command and control of all DOD response actions to a United States (U.S.) nuclear weapons incident or accident while weapons are in United States Air Force (USAF) custody, or supporting response actions when directed by the Secretary of Defense (SecDef).

1.1.2.9. Develop and implement tracking procedures to report all RTFs status quarterly to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and Combatant Commander (CCDR) as per DODI 3150.10.

1.1.2.10. Ensure RTF commander appointments/designations are certified by the CSAF and forwarded to MAJCOM/CC and DTRA.

1.1.2.11. Lead for Air Force participation in Nuclear Weapons Accident and Incident Response Subcommittee (NWAIRS).

1.1.3. Assistant Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration (AF/A10).

1.1.3.1. Provide technical and subject matter experts supporting AF/A4/7 participation at NWAIRS.

1.1.3.2. Ensure qualified personnel are available for inclusion on AFCAT in accordance with HOI 10-2.

1.1.4. Air Force Chief of Safety (AF/SE) Provides guidance for operations involving Intrinsic Radiation and Radioactive Material as outlined in AFI 91-108, *Air Force Nuclear Weapons Intrinsic Radiation and 91(B) Radioactive Material Safety Program*.

1.2. Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC).

1.2.1. Organize, train and equip a single RTF for all domestic nuclear weapons incident and accident responses involving nuclear weapons in USAF custody.

1.2.1.1. AFGSC Command Center will maintain an on call roster of RTF personnel.

1.2.1.2. AFGSC Command Center will be the POC for deployment orders from the Air Force Service Watch Cell.

1.2.2. Fund and track training for RTF members and Commanders in accordance with AFI 10-2501 and DOD 3150.08-M, *Nuclear Weapon Accident Response Procedures*.

1.2.3. Build and develop force module package (FMP) or unit type code (UTC) for RTF deployment.

1.2.4. Report the status of RTF personnel and equipment to AF/A4/7 quarterly.

1.2.5. Nominate trained RTF commander candidates in writing, through AF/A4/7, for CSAF certification.

1.2.6. Plan and fund a minimum of one RTF nuclear weapons accident or incident exercise each fiscal year.

1.2.7. Participation in Office of the Secretary of Defense sponsored Nuclear Weapons Accident and Incident Exercise will meet Field Training Exercise requirements.

1.3. United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE).

1.3.1. Organize, train and equip a single RTF for nuclear weapons incident or accident response for nuclear weapons in USAF custody in United States European Command (USEUCOM) Area of Responsibility.

1.3.1.1. USAFE Command Center will maintain an on call roster of RTF personnel.

1.3.1.2. USAFE Command Center will be the POC for deployment orders from the Air Force Service Watch Cell.

1.3.2. Fund and track training for RTF members, RTF Commanders and Air Force Material Command (AFMC) supporting elements in accordance with AFI 10-2501 and DOD 3150.08-M.

1.3.3. Build and develop FMP or UTC for RTF deployment.

1.3.4. Report the status of RTF personnel and equipment to AF/A4/7 quarterly.

1.3.5. Nominate trained RTF commander candidates in writing, through AF/A4/7, for CSAF certification.

1.3.6. Plan and fund RTF deployment in support of annual USEUCOM nuclear weapon accident or incident exercise.

1.4. Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC).

1.4.1. Develop FPM or UTC that directly support and integrate with AFGSC and USAFE RTF requirements. **NOTE:** AFMC will not have an inherent RTF capability, but nuclear weapons and consequence management subject matter experts assigned to AFMC will be integrated under AFGSC and USAFE RTFs through FMP or UTC.

1.4.2. Nominate trained RTF commander candidates in writing, through AF/A4/7, for CSAF certification.

1.4.3. Ensure potential RTF members meet training requirements according to AFGSC Plan 10-1, *Radiological Accident/Incident Response and Recovery Plan* and USEUCOM CONPLAN 4367-06.

1.4.4. Organize, train and equip the Air Force Radiation Assessment Team (AFRAT) responsible for providing radiological monitoring and analysis capability.

1.4.5. Report status of AFRAT supporting personnel and equipment to AFGSC, USAFE quarterly.

1.5. All Major Commands.

1.5.1. Develop Nuclear Weapons accident/incident or radiological event response as part of IEMP 10-2 at every installation.

1.5.2. All installations will exercise their nuclear weapons accident/incident or radiological event response plan according to AFI 10-2501.

1.5.3. Ensure INDRAC website is updated to identify nuclear accident/incident or radiological event response capabilities in accordance with DODD 3150.08.

Chapter 2

INITIAL RESPONSE FORCE (IRF)

2.1. Scope.

2.1.1. An IRF is a tailored force dispatched from the closest military installation by the SecDef or by the CJCS, through the Deputy Director of Operations, National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center immediately upon notification of a U.S. nuclear weapon incident or nuclear or radiological incident.

2.1.2. The purpose of the IRF is to take immediate lifesaving actions and establish safety and security controls at the accident scene. The IRF will assume military command of the site, provide security forces, establish a National Defense Area (NDA) if appropriate, and establish a working relationship with the incident commander or the Department of State (DOS) for OCONUS locations.

2.2. Responsibilities.

2.2.1. Installations will provide trained personnel for all IRF positions to support emergency management actions according to AFI 10-2501.

2.2.2. The IRF commander is the DOD Incident Commander (IC) upon arrival at the accident site and will have single incident command authority over DOD assets in any security zone that is under exclusive DOD jurisdiction. The DOD IC will implement the following, as outlined in DOD 3150.08-M.

2.2.2.1. Establish command and control at the accident scene.

2.2.2.1.1. IRF will coordinate deployment with DOS Chief of Mission for OCONUS locations.

2.2.2.1.2. Tailor deployment requirements to reflect the capabilities of the host nation for OCONUS locations.

2.2.2.2. Establish contact with higher echelons of command.

2.2.2.3. Extinguish fires and coordinate local firefighting efforts when needed.

2.2.2.4. Rescue, stabilize and evacuate any casualties, working with local, state and host nation emergency agencies when needed or required.

2.2.2.5. Establish a NDA, if required, in accordance with DODD 5200.08, Security of DOD Installations and Resources for CONUS locations.

2.2.2.6. Establish contact with Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

2.2.2.7. Secure the airspace over the accident or incident site through the Federal Aviation Administration for CONUS locations.

2.2.2.8. Establish custody and control of the nuclear weapons, Special Nuclear Material and other weapons components in conjunction with local, state, federal or host nation authorities.

2.2.2.9. Assess status of the weapon and report information to higher headquarters according to AFI 10-206, *Operational Reporting*.

2.2.2.10. Provide logistical support for follow-on Federal support.

2.2.2.11. Provide a transition brief to the incoming RTF/IC, Senior Department of Energy (DOE) Official, or designated Incident Commander.

Chapter 3

RESPONSE TASK FORCE (RTF)

3.1. Scope.

3.1.1. An RTF is a DOD response force appropriately staffed, trained and equipped to coordinate all actions necessary to control and recover from a nuclear weapon accident or incident. The specific purpose of the RTF is to recover weapons and provide radiological accident assistance.

3.1.2. The Air Force maintains two RTFs. The USAFE RTF supports the USEUCOM Area of Responsibility and AFGSC supports all domestic nuclear weapons incident and accident responses.

3.1.3. Upon assumption of command, the RTF will incorporate the IRF and maintain communication and liaison with federal, local, state or host nation authorities established by the IRF.

3.1.4. The RTF is designed as a robust Command and Control element able to coordinate all interagency actions necessary to control and recover from a nuclear weapons accident or incident and provide radiological accident assistance as per DOD 3150.08-M.

3.1.5. The RTF may be activated by the NMCC or SecDef to support a nuclear weapons accident or incident of a weapon in DOE custody.

3.1.6. The RTF may be activated by the NMCC or SecDef to support a nuclear weapons incident under DOJ lead.

3.1.7. The RTF/IC may address public affairs issues and initiate planning activities for Site Remediation.

3.2. Responsibilities.

3.2.1. RTF commander will relieve the IRF commander as lead for the DOD effort.

3.2.2. Recovery of weapons and radiological materiel.

3.2.3. Prioritize and direct all requests for DOD emergency support assets and logistic requirements to the CCDR for appropriate action.

3.2.4. Establish Joint Information Center, Accident Site Health Group, Joint Legal Claims Office, and Joint Security Control Center.

3.2.5. Continue IRF activities and report to higher echelons per applicable DOD response plans.

3.2.6. Assist with efforts of the Accident and/or Safety Investigation Board.

3.2.7. Planning and directing all assigned DOD assets at the site.

3.2.8. Coordinate actions with the DOJ/FBI through Joint Operations Center if criminal or terrorist acts are suspected.

3.2.9. Establish contact with the Federal Coordinating Officer upon arrival on scene. Ensure all coordination between Federal agencies are routed through the Federal Coordinating Officer.

3.3. Response Task Force Activation.

3.3.1. Pre-Deployment Actions.

3.3.1.1. Upon notification from the NMCC, the Air Force Service Watch Cell will notify AFGSC Command Center or USAFE Command Center to place the RTF on immediate deployment warning orders. AFMC Command Center will also be notified to place RTF supporting elements on immediate deployment warning orders.

3.3.1.2. After NMCC conducts a conference call according to DOD 3150.08-M, SECAF or CSAF will appoint the RTF commander and inform the owning MAJCOM/CC through the Air Force Service Watch Cell.

3.3.2. Deployment Notification and Actions.

3.3.2.1. RTF will deploy upon authorization of NMCC or assigned CCDR according to DOD 3150.08-M.

3.3.2.2. AFCAT and the activated MAJCOM Crisis Action Team will coordinate with United States Transportation Command and the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center to identify needed airlift.

HERBERT J. CARLISLE, Lt Gen, USAF
Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Plans and
Requirements

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFPD 10-2, *Readiness*, 30 October 2006

AFPD 10-25, *Emergency Management*, 26 September 2007

AFPD 13-5, *Air Force Nuclear Enterprise*, 6 July 2011

AFI 10-206, *Operational Reporting*, 6 September 2011

AFI 10-2501, *Air Force Emergency Management (EM) Program Planning and Operations*, 24 January 2007

AFI 20-110, *Nuclear Weapons-Related Materiel Management*, 18 February 2011

AFI 91-108, *Air Force Nuclear Weapons Intrinsic Radiation and 91(B) Radioactive Material Safety Program*, 21 September 2010

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008

DOD 3150.08-M, *Nuclear Weapon Accident Response Procedures*, 22 February 2005

DODD 3150.08, *DoD Response to Nuclear and Radiobiological Incidents*, 20 January 2010

DODI 3150.10, *DoD Response to U.S. Nuclear Weapon Incidents*, 2 July 2010

HOI 10-2, *Headquarters Air Force Crisis Action Team Organizations, Manning and Operations*, 17 August 2011

AFGSC Plan 10-1, *CONUS Radiological Accident/Incident Response and Recovery Plan*, 9 February 2010

USEUCOM CONPLAN 4367-06

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFCAT—Air Force Crisis Action Team

AFGSC—Air Force Global Strike Command

AFI—Air Force Instruction

AFMC—Air Force Materiel Command

AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive

AFRAT—Air Force Radiation Assessment Team

CCDR—Combatant Commander

CJCS—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

CONUS—Continental United States

CSAF—Chief of Staff, United States Air Force
DOD—Department of Defense
DODD—Department of Defense Directive
DODI—Department of Defense Instruction
DOE—Department of Energy
DOJ—Department of Justice
DOS—Department of State
DTRA—Defense Threat Reduction Agency
FBI—Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCO—Federal Coordinating Officer
FMP—Force Module Package
HOI—Headquarters Operating Instruction
IC—Incident Commander
IEMP—Installation Emergency Management Plan
INDRAC—Interagency Combating WMD Database of Responsibilities, Authorities, and Capabilities
IRF—Initial Response Force
MAJCOM—Major Command
NDA—National Defense Area
NMCC—National Military Command Center
NWAIRS—Nuclear Weapons Accident and Incident Response Subcommittee
OCONUS—Outside the Continental United States
POC—Point of Contact
RDS—Records Disposition Schedule
RTF—Response Task Force
SECAF—Secretary of the Air Force
SecDef—Secretary of Defense
U.S.—United States
USAFE—United States Forces in Europe
USEUCOM—United States European Command
UTC—Unit Type Code
WMD—Weapons of Mass Destruction