

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 8, 1991

NATIONAL SECURITY DIRECTIVE 62

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY  
AFFAIRS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Significant Military Operations and Exercises (U)

This directive provides policy and procedures for review and approval of significant military operations and exercises and supersedes NSAM No. 316 dated November 12, 1964. (U)

Policy

The President, through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, must be informed in advance of significant military operations and exercises. (S)

The Department of Defense will take special care in scheduling and conducting military operations in geographic areas that are considered to be politically sensitive and in scheduling of exercises whose character or location make them politically sensitive, and will cooperate closely with the Department of State in carrying out this policy. (S)

Politically Sensitive Areas (PSA)

The Department of State will designate geographical land and maritime areas considered to be sufficiently politically sensitive with regard to U.S. foreign relations so as to require that the President be informed of upcoming military operations and exercises planned in those areas. (S)

In prescribing the breadth of maritime PSAs, the territorial sea baseline claimed by the country involved, and the baseline acceptable to the United States, shall be taken into account. (S)

In designating areas as politically sensitive, the Department of State will provide the reasons why an area is considered politically sensitive. The Departments of State and Defense will jointly review the list of areas considered to be sensitive at least every six months and may add or delete areas from the list. The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (the National Security Advisor) will resolve any disagreement on whether an area should be on the list. (C)

In a case of imminent distress to persons, aircraft or vessels within a PSA, assistance should be provided in accordance with international law and notification made to the National Security Advisor and the Secretary of State. (C)

#### Significant Military Operations

The President shall be informed in advance of any military operations deemed significant because they are to be conducted either in or over an area designated as politically sensitive, or because they are to occur near a politically sensitive area when such operations constitute a change of significant nature in the type, size, frequency, or location of U.S. military presence. Military operations of interest involve the carrying out of a strategic, tactical, service, or training mission. (C)

The Department of Defense will provide the National Security Advisor and the Secretary of State a detailed exposition of each proposed significant military operation at least seven (7) days (except in unusual circumstances) prior to the conduct of the operation. Procedures for notifiable Freedom of Navigation operations will be in accordance with NSD-49. Nothing in this directive relieves the Department of Defense from reporting and coordination requirements for sensitive operations which may be governed by other applicable policy guidance. (C)

#### Significant Military Exercises

The President shall be informed in advance of exercises deemed significant because they fall into any one of the following categories:

- Those involving comparatively large-scale participation of U.S. or foreign forces or commands. (C)
- Those requiring the granting of rights or approval by another nation or representative thereof, except where such approval is sought by NATO authorities. (C)
- Those that have particular political significance or implications, including those exercises that are planned to occur in politically sensitive areas. (C)
- Any exercise that is otherwise of such a nature as to receive prominent attention by the press. (C)

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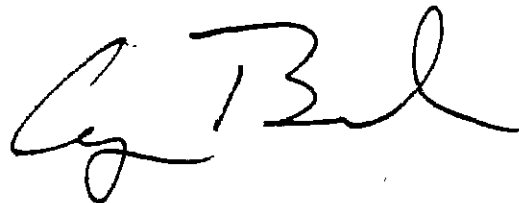
- Other exercises with which the Secretary of Defense believes the President should be familiar. (U)

After coordination with the Department of State, the Department of Defense will provide the National Security Advisor a detailed exposition of each proposed significant military exercise at least seven (7) days (except in unusual circumstances) in advance of the critical cancellation date. (C)

Advance Planning Information

For military operations and exercises in the above categories, available advance planning information should be forwarded on a quarterly basis covering the following twelve months to the Secretary of State and to the National Security Advisor. This information should include the name of the operation, exercise, sponsor, location, date, brief description, purpose and forces. Significant amendments to this information should be provided as they become available. In every case, this information should be provided prior to any commitment to foreign governments. (C)

Nothing in this document affects the chain of command over the armed forces established by the Constitution and laws of the United States. (U)



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