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October 6, 1956
NUMBER TS-3145.1



ASD(R&D)

Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT Chemical (Toxic) and Biological Warfare Readiness (U)

- REFERENCES (a) DOD Directive TS 3145.1, dated 5 March 1954 (TS)
 (b) DOD Directive 5128.7, dated 12 November 1953 (U)
 (c) DOD Directive 5128.12, dated 9 July 1956 (U)
 (d) DOD Instruction C-5160.5, dated April 8, 1955 (C)
 (e) DOD Directive S-5400.1, dated 28 November 1951 (S)

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING;
DOD DIR 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

I. GENERAL

A. Reference (a) is hereby canceled. Effective this date the military departments and staff agencies of the Department of Defense will be guided by this directive with respect to chemical (toxic) and biological warfare. (U)

II. POLICY

A. The United States must be prepared to use chemical and biological weapons in general war, to the extent that the military effectiveness of the armed forces will be enhanced by their use. (TS)

B. The broad objectives of the Department of Defense in the field of chemical (toxic) and biological warfare are:

1. To develop and maintain an adequate defensive posture and competence in all elements of the Department of Defense, based upon the best estimates of potential enemy capabilities. (C)

2. To develop weapons systems that will augment the total military capability of United States forces, and to integrate such weapons into the total United States arsenal. (TS)

3. To provide authoritative information, within security regulations, on the nature and scope of biological and chemical warfare and on defensive aspects of United States developments in these fields. (U)

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Control No. 0497 Control No. 82-75 CCB-1489-TS (57)

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Responsibility for coordination of research and development in chemical (toxic) and biological warfare is a function of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development) within the provisions of reference (b). Consistent therewith, departmental responsibilities in the attainment of objectives set forth herein are assigned by references (c) and (d). (U)

B. Responsibility for the release of information to the public on chemical (toxic) and biological warfare is a function of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative and Public Affairs), within the provisions of reference (e). (U)

IV. CHEMICAL WARFARE

A. The military departments shall maintain existing offensive and defensive capabilities in chemical warfare and increase these capabilities where feasible, based upon military requirements. (S)

B. The military departments shall maintain a comprehensive research and development effort, including an adequate field test program, in toxic chemical warfare, with principal emphasis in the following areas:

1. Exploitation of the "V" series of percutaneous persistent agents, and exploration of the military usefulness of psychochemicals. (S)

2. Development of munitions that will achieve optimum large area dispersion and dissemination of nerve gases by aircraft and missiles scheduled to be available in 1960 and beyond. (S)

3. Accumulation of field trial data suitable for operational evaluation and the development of improved standards for judging the military worth of toxic CW agent-munition combinations. (U)

V. BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

A. The military departments shall maintain the existing limited capabilities in offensive antipersonnel and anticrop biological warfare until further research and development provide more conclusive data and more effective agent-munition combinations. (S)

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2. The value and vulnerability of antifeed targets in these nations. (TS)

VII. DOCTRINE AND TRAINING

A. As new offensive munitions and items of defensive equipment for chemical and biological warfare become available, the military departments shall continue to develop doctrine, tactics and techniques for their most effective employment. (S)

B. The military departments will insure that training in offensive and defensive biological and chemical warfare keeps pace with the development of doctrine, tactics and techniques. (S)

VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

A. Public information policy on biological and chemical warfare will continue to be in accordance with the provisions of reference (e), as administered by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative and Public Affairs). Releases or programs concerning these subjects shall be coordinated with other interested departments and agencies prior to issuance.

Richard B. Roberts
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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