



# Department of Defense INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 2310.3

June 6, 1997

---

---

ASD(ISA)

SUBJECT: Personnel Recovery Response Cell (PRRC) Procedures

References: (a) [DoD Directive 2310.2](#), "Personnel Recovery," June 30, 1997

## 1. PURPOSE

This Instruction implements policy, assigns responsibilities and prescribes procedures under reference (a) for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) PRRC.

## 2. APPLICABILITY

This Instruction applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) (hereafter, the offices of the Assistant Secretaries of Defense for Force Management Policy; International Security Affairs; Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence; Public Affairs; Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict; and the General Counsel of the Department of Defense shall be referred to as "the OSD Components"), and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

## 3. POLICY

It is DoD policy under reference (a) that:

3.1. Preserving the life and well-being of U.S. military, DoD emergency-essential civilian employees and DoD-essential contractor service employees placed in danger of isolation, beleaguerment, detention, or capture while participating in a U.S. sponsored activity or mission is one of the highest priorities of the Department of Defense. Accordingly, PR is a critical element in the DoD ability to fulfill its moral obligation to protect its personnel, prevent exploitation of U.S. personnel by

adversaries, and reduce the potential of captured personnel being used as leverage against the United States.

3.2. The Department of Defense has primary responsibility for recovering U.S. personnel identified in subsection 3.1., above, who are deployed outside the United States and its territories.

#### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy shall direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (ASD(ISA)) to activate the PRRC in the OSD Executive Support Center (ESC), as necessary.

4.1.1. The OSD ESC has primary responsibility for notifying the Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)), the ASD(ISA), and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Affairs (DASD(POW/MPA)) of PR incidents.

4.1.2. In the event of an actual or simulated PR incident, the OSD ESC shall provide assistance, adequate space, and necessary equipment within the ESC to support the PRRC for the duration of incident.

4.2. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy to provide a representative to the PRRC.

4.3. The Head of each OSD Component shall:

4.3.1. Provide a representative to the PRRC upon its activation (representative must have a current Sensitive Compartmented Information clearance).

4.3.2. Submit appropriate personal data (i.e., home and office telephone numbers, beeper number, etc.) pertaining to the PRRC representative that will ensure his or her timely notification in the event of a PR incident to the ESC and ASD(ISA). In the event this point of contact changes, submit replacement information immediately.

4.4. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, shall:

4.4.1. Direct DASD(POW/MPA) to activate and provide leadership to the

## PRRC.

4.4.2. Direct the appropriate regional bureau within ISA to provide a representative to the PRRC upon its activation, as appropriate.

4.4.3. Exercise the PRRC periodically to ensure procedures are current and coordination channels are functional.

4.5. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, shall direct the appropriate director within ISP to provide a representative to the PRRC upon its activation, as appropriate.

4.6. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, under the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, shall provide a representative to the PRRC upon its activation, as appropriate.

4.7. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs shall appoint a representative to the PRRC who shall serve with the PRRC representing the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, who is the sole agent for the release of official DoD information pertaining to PR incidents for dissemination through any form of public information media.

4.8. The General Counsel of the Department of Defense shall appoint a representative to the PRRC who shall advise the PRRC on legal aspects of all matters covered by this Instruction.

4.9. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall provide liaison, as required, to the PRRC to ensure connectivity between the Joint Staff crisis team and OSD.

## 5. PROCEDURES

5.1. Upon notification by the ESC of a possible PR incident, DASD(POW/MPA), or designated representative, shall report to the ESC, assess the situation and advise the USD(P) of the necessity for convening a PRRC.

5.2. Upon notification that the USD(P) has decided to activate a PRRC, the DASD(POW/MPA) shall convene the PRRC. The function of the PRRC is to facilitate informed decisionmaking by OSD principals. The PRRC will accomplish this by addressing issues impacting on the PR incident, and by expeditiously developing coordinated policy options for the Secretary of Defense and/or the National

Command Authorities. In the event the USD(P) decides a PRRC is inappropriate, DPMO shall function as an operational coordination center in support of the OSD for evolving PR policy issues until the incident is resolved.

5.3. On notification by the ESC, or other source, that a PR incident is likely or has already occurred, the DASD(POW/MPA) shall request the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) representative to the National Military Joint Intelligence Center (NMJIC) to advise the Deputy Director for Operations (DDO), CIA, and to invite the DDO to designate a liaison representative to the PRRC.

5.4. When notified of a PR incident, the DASD(POW/MPA) shall assume responsibility for implementing this Instruction, and shall immediately assess the situation and, if appropriate, recommend that the USD(P) approve convening a PRRC. The PRRC shall:

5.4.1. Provide a PR incident report within three hours of the cell convening to the Secretary of Defense through the USD(P). This initial report shall provide, as time permits, a status report on the situation, legal status of those involved, public affairs guidance, summary of the interagency's response to the incident, and shall recommend policy options for managing the incident. The PRRC shall provide update and spot reports covering significant developments throughout the duration of the incident.

5.4.2. Serve as the Department of Defense point of contact for PR interagency coordination. When the Department of Defense experiences or is anticipating a PR incident, the PRRC shall establish communications with:

5.4.2.1. The National Security Council (White House Situation Room).

5.4.2.2. The Department of State Operation's Center and/or Executive Secretariat who will be requested to inform the appropriate geographic or functional bureau(s) within State to advise the PRRC if State convenes a task force.

5.4.2.3. The CIA representative to the NMJIC, and;

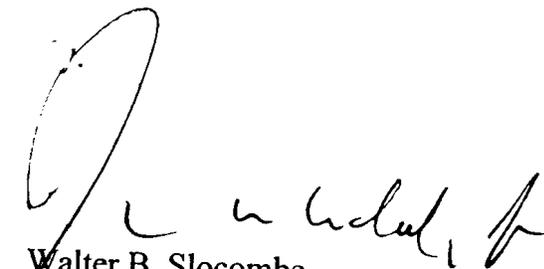
5.4.2.4. Other Federal Agencies as required.

5.4.3. Deactivate the PRRC after recovery has been accomplished, or determined to be impossible. In the event recovery is determined to be impossible, the DASD(POW/MPA) shall continue to track the individual until the fullest possible accounting is accomplished; and

5.4.4. Write a PR lessons learned report for OSD distribution, and a PR after action report for DoD historical files.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Instruction is effective immediately.



Walter B. Slocombe  
Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Enclosures - 1

1. Definitions

## E1. ENCLOSURE 1

### DEFINITIONS

E1.1.1. Personnel Recovery (PR). The sum of military, civil, and political efforts to obtain the release or recovery of personnel from uncertain or hostile environments and denied areas whether they are captured, missing, or isolated. That includes U.S., allied, coalition, friendly military, or paramilitary, and others as designated by the National Command Authorities (NCAs). PR is the umbrella term for operations that are focused on the task of recovering captured, missing, or isolated personnel from danger. PR includes, but is not limited to, theater search and rescue (SAR); Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR); Survival, Escape, Resistance, and Evasion (SERE); Evasion and Recovery (E&R); and the coordination of negotiated as well as forcible recovery options. PR may occur through military action, action by non-governmental organizations, other U.S. Government-approved action, and/or diplomatic initiatives, or through any of those options.

E1.1.2. PR Response Cell (PRRG). The function of the PRRC is to help informed decision making by OSD principals if personnel (be they U.S., allied, coalition, friendly military, or paramilitary, and others as designated by the NCAs) become captured, missing, or isolated in uncertain or hostile environments and denied areas. The PRRC shall accomplish this by addressing issues impacting on the PR incident, and by expeditiously developing coordinated policy options for the Secretary of Defense and/or the NCAs.

E1.1.3. Recovery. The return of captured, missing, or isolated U.S. Government personnel or others to friendly control, with or without assistance, as the result of planning and operations, or action taken on the part of the evaders or prisoners.

E1.1.4. Recovery Force. An organization consisting of personnel and equipment having the mission of locating evaders, captives, and/or detainees; contacting, authenticating, and recovering them; and returning them to friendly control.

E1.1.5. Recovery Mechanism. That entity, group of entities, or infrastructure in enemy-held or hostile areas that is designed to receive, support, move, and/or exfiltrate military or other designated personnel to friendly control.

E1.1.6. Unconventional Assisted Recovery Operations (UAR). Recovery operations conducted by diverted unconventional warfare forces or dedicated insertion

teams; and recovery mechanisms operated by guerrilla groups or other clandestine organizations, to seek out, contact, authenticate, support, and return personnel, to include evaders, detainees, and POWs to friendly control.