



Department of Defense

# DIRECTIVE

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ASD (MI&L)

SUBJECT: Railroads for National Defense

Reference: (a) Title 49, United States Code, Section 10101a, "Rail Transportation Policy"

## A. PURPOSE

Under reference (a), this Directive provides policy, assigns responsibilities and prescribes procedures in matters pertaining to Department of Defense (DoD) need for civil sector rail lines.

## B. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

1. This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS), and the Defense Agencies (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD Components").

2. It applies to civil sector rail lines in the United States that are certified by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) or State governments to operate in common carriage.

## C. DEFINITIONS

1. Financial Assistance. Aid to a rail carrier for a rail line that is important to national defense, unprofitable, and subject to abandonment. Typical forms of financial assistance include but are not limited to surcharges on traffic, contracts for service, and lease or purchase of the rail line.

2. Government Agencies. A term used to collectively describe non-defense related Federal and State government offices involved with railway transportation, e.g., the U.S. Department of Transportation (DoT), the Federal Railroad Administration, the ICC, State Departments of Transportation, etc.

3. Railroad Industry. A term used to collectively describe organizations in the private sector involved in railroad transportation, e.g., rail carriers, the Association of American Railroads, the American Railway Engineering Association, railway equipment suppliers, railway labor, etc.

## D. POLICY

To ensure the existence of a civil sector rail transportation system to meet the needs of national defense, it is DoD policy to:

1. Support national rail transportation policy

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2. Solicit railroad industry and government agency consideration and support of DoD requirements for civil sector rail lines.

3. Integrate DoD rail line needs into civil sector policy, plans, standards, programs, and regulations.

4. Consult with civil sector officials on development, planning, construction, retention, rehabilitation, maintenance, and operation of civil sector rail lines as they relate to DoD requirements.

5. Offer financial assistance for a civil sector rail line essential to national defense only when all abandonment options have been considered.

#### E. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

1. The Secretary of the Army is designated as the DoD Executive Agent in defense matters pertaining to civil sector rail lines and, as such, the Secretary or designee, under the policy guidance of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Installations and Logistics), shall:

a. Review, analyze, and identify DoD requirements for civil rail lines that include, but are not limited to:

(1) The Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET) for national defense. The corridors reflect the minimum need for an integrated and interconnected system of main rail lines for the expeditious movement of defense equipment and materiel throughout the United States.

(2) The list of DoD installations and activities requiring civil rail service to accomplish their assigned mission, based on justification furnished by the DoD Components.

(3) The rail line criteria for oversized and/or overweight DoD shipments.

(4) The readiness criteria for the maintenance of rail lines important to national defense.

b. In coordination with the Administrator of the DoT's Federal Railroad Administration:

(1) Designate the mainlines to satisfy STRACNET corridors and the connector lines between STRACNET mainlines and the DoD installations that require rail service.

(2) Conduct periodic reviews to update the designation of civil rail lines important to national defense and determine their readiness condition.

c. Solicit civil sector consideration and support of DoD requirements for civil rail lines and coordinate the DoD transportation interest in railroads so as to integrate DoD civil rail line needs to the extent possible into the policy, plans, standards, programs, and regulations of individual rail carriers, the railroad industry, and government agencies.

d. Analyze railroad abandonments, bankruptcies, and mergers for impact upon national defense.

e. Advise the DoD Component about abandonment options available when a civil sector rail abandonment deprives an installation of service required to accomplish its assigned mission.

f. Conduct engineering evaluations of DoD installation rail transportation capability including, when necessary, augmentation of those capabilities by other modes of transportation.

g. Advise and assist the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) (ASD(C)) and the DoD Component concerned in preparing budgets for funding participation to retain connector lines essential to national defense.

h. Offer financial assistance (see definitions) on behalf of the DoD Component for a civil sector rail line only when all of the following conditions exist:

(1) The line is required to accomplish the mission assigned to a DoD installation.

(2) The civil sector requests financial assistance to prevent abandonment of the line.

(3) ICC abandonment proceedings or other analyses show that the line is not viable economically without assistance.

(4) The DoD executive agent has found no combination of other shipper and civil sector funding adequate to cover requested and negotiated assistance.

(5) The affected DoD Component formally announces both that the line is essential and that funds will be made available to participate in the requested assistance subject to normal Executive and Congressional review in accord with 10 USC 2672, 10 USC 2672a, or the terms of specific authorization or appropriation Acts.

i. Represent the Department of Defense in matters pertaining to civil rail lines to serve the national defense in liaison with appropriate government and nongovernment agencies.

2. Heads of DoD Components shall:

a. Maintain liaison with the DoD Executive Agent, or designee, in matters pertaining to the Component's requirements for civil sector rail lines.

b. Identify and justify their list of DoD installations and activities requiring rail service to accomplish assigned missions.

c. Conduct analysis of alternatives to abandonment of designated connector lines upon request by the DoD Executive Agent to assist in evaluation of DoD options for rail line abandonments.

d. Program and budget for their respective civil rail line requirements.

e. Determine the essentiality of a connector line designated important to national defense, after exploring with the DoD Executive Agent all options related to the line's abandonment and finding no satisfactory alternative to the rail line service for mission accomplishment.

f. Concurrent with the determination of essentiality, commit resources (fiscal or otherwise) to prevent abandonment of the designated connector line.

F. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Directive is effective immediately. Forward two copies of implementing documents to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Installations and Logistics) within 120 days.



William H. Taft, IV  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

**DTIC QUALITY**

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