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Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

July 16, 1993
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SUBJECT: Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Office (DPMO)

- References:
- (a) Title 10, United States Code
 - (b) Public Law 102-190, "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993," December 5, 1991
 - (c) Executive Order 12812, "Declassification and Release of Materials Pertaining to Prisoners of War and Missing in Action," July 22, 1992
 - (d) DoD Directive 8910.1, "Management and Control of Information Requirements," June 11, 1993

A. PURPOSE

1. Under the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense by Sections 113 and 191 of reference (a), this Directive establishes the DPMO within the Department of Defense, with the mission, organization, responsibilities, functions, relationships, and authorities prescribed herein.

B. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD); the Military Departments; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff; the Unified and Specified Combatant Commands; the Inspector General of the Department of Defense; the Defense Agencies; and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components").

C. MISSION

The DPMO provides centralized management of prisoner of war/missing in action (POW/MIA) affairs within the Department of Defense.

D. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The DPMO is hereby established as a DoD Field Activity under the authority, direction, and control of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Regional Security Affairs (ASD(RSA)). The DPMO shall consist of a Director and such subordinate elements as the Director establishes, within the resources authorized by the Secretary of Defense.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

1. The Director, Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Office shall:
 - a. Organize, direct, and manage the DPMO and all assigned resources.

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b. Advise and assist the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)) and the ASD(RSA) within assigned mission, responsibilities, and functions.

c. Support the USD(P) and the ASD(RSA) in the execution of their responsibilities to develop, coordinate, and oversee the implementation of POW/MIA policy.

d. Serve as the DoD focal point for POW/MIA matters.

e. Provide DoD participation in the conduct of negotiations with officials of foreign governments in efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of missing American service members.

f. Assemble and analyze information on U.S. military and civilian personnel who are, or were, prisoners of war or missing in action.

g. Maintain data bases on U.S. military and civilian personnel who are, or were, prisoners of war or missing in action.

h. Declassify DoD documents for disclosure and release in accordance with Section 1082 of Pub. L. 102-190 (1991) (reference (b)), and E.O. 12812 (reference (c)).

i. Maintain open channels of communication on POW/MIA matters between the Department of Defense and the Congress, POW/MIA families, and veteran organizations, through periodic consultations and other appropriate measures.

j. Provide appropriate representation to established POW/MIA-related interagency fora.

k. Provide a statement of intelligence collection requirements to the Defense Intelligence Agency, for which the DPMO identifies a need.

l. Perform such other functions as the ASD(RSA) may prescribe.

2. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Regional Security Affairs shall:

a. Exercise authority, direction, and control over the DPMO.

b. Recommend policies and resources for the administration of the DPMO to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

F. RELATIONSHIPS

1. In the performance of assigned responsibilities and functions, the Director, DPMO, shall:

a. Report directly to the ASD(RSA).

b. Coordinate and exchange information with other OSD officials, heads of the DoD Components, and other Federal officials having collateral or related functions.

c. Use existing facilities and services of the Department of Defense and other Federal Agencies, when practicable, to avoid duplication and to achieve maximum efficiency and economy.

2. Other OSD officials and heads of the DoD Components shall coordinate with the Director, DPMO on all matters related to the responsibilities and functions of the DPMO.

G. AUTHORITIES

The Director, DPMO, is hereby delegated authority to:

1. Obtain reports, information, advice, and assistance, consistent with the policies and criteria of DoD Directive 7750.5 (reference (d)), as deemed necessary.

2. Communicate directly with the heads of the DoD Components. Communications to the Commanders of Unified and Specified Combatant Commands shall be transmitted through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

3. Communicate with other Government officials, representatives of the legislative branch, members of the public, and representatives of foreign governments, as appropriate, in carrying out assigned functions.

H. ADMINISTRATION

1. The DPMO shall be authorized such personnel, facilities, funds, and other resources as the Secretary of Defense deems necessary.

2. The Military Departments shall assign military personnel to the DPMO in accordance with approved authorizations and established procedures for assignment to joint duty.

3. Administrative support required for the DPMO shall be provided by the Director, Washington Headquarters Services.

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

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William J. Perry
William J. Perry
Deputy Secretary of Defense