

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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[For the Department of Defense statement of organization, see the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 32, Chapter I, Subchapter R]

*The Department of Defense is responsible for providing the military forces needed to deter war and protect the security of our country.*

*The major elements of these forces are the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, consisting of about 1.5 million men and women on active duty. They are backed, in case of emergency, by the 1 million members of the reserve components. In addition, there are about 900,000 civilian employees in the Defense Department.*

*Under the President, who is also Commander in Chief, the Secretary of Defense exercises authority, direction, and control over the Department, which includes the separately organized military departments of Army, Navy, and Air Force, the Joint Chiefs of Staff providing military advice, the unified combatant commands, and various defense agencies established for specific purposes.*

The National Security Act Amendments of 1949 redesignated the National Military Establishment as the Department of Defense and established it as an executive department (10 U.S.C. 111), with the Secretary of Defense as its head. Since that time, many legislative and administrative changes have occurred, evolving the Department into the structure under which it currently operates.

**Structure**

The Department of Defense is composed of the Office of the Secretary of Defense; the military departments and the military services within those departments; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff; the unified combatant commands; the Defense agencies; DOD field activities; and such other offices, agencies, activities, and commands as may be established or designated by law, or by the President or the Secretary of Defense.

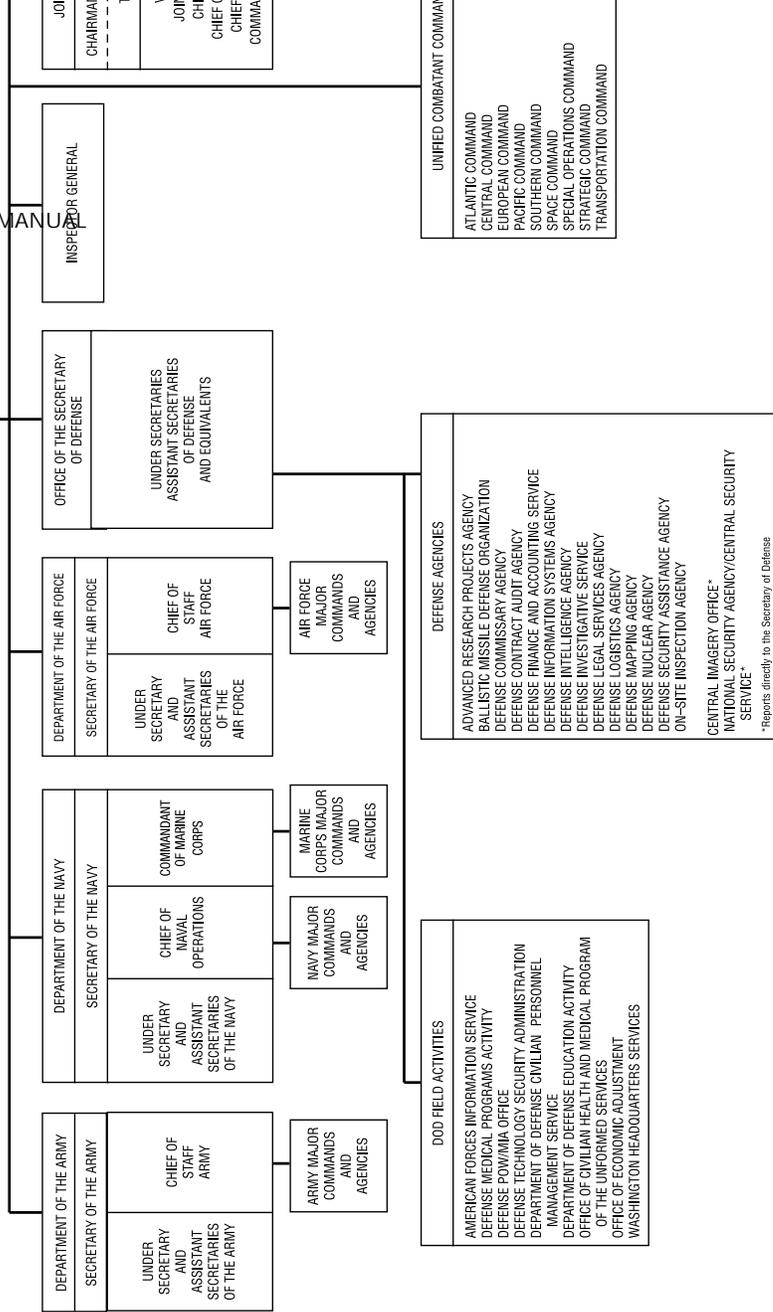
In providing immediate staff assistance and advice to the Secretary of Defense, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Joint Staff, though separately identified and organized, function in full coordination and cooperation.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense includes the offices of the Deputy Secretary of Defense; the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology; the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer; the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; the Director of Defense Research and Engineering; Assistant Secretaries of Defense; the General Counsel; the Inspector General; the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation; and such other staff offices as the Secretary of Defense establishes to assist him in carrying out his duties and responsibilities. The heads of these offices are staff advisers to the Secretary and perform such functions as he assigns to them.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff consist of the Chairman; the Vice Chairman; the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; the Chief of Naval Operations; the Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force; and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Supported, subject to the authority of the Chairman, by the Joint Staff, they constitute the immediate military staff of the Secretary of Defense. The Chairman is the principal military adviser to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense. The other members of the Joint

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



\*Reports directly to the Secretary of Defense

Chiefs of Staff are the senior military officers of their respective services and are military advisers to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense. The Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs acts as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.

Each military department (the Department of the Navy includes naval aviation and the United States Marine Corps) is separately organized under its own Secretary and functions under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary of each military department is responsible to the Secretary of Defense for the operation and efficiency of his department. Orders to the military departments are issued through the Secretaries of these departments, or their

designees, by the Secretary of Defense or under authority specifically delegated in writing by the Secretary of Defense or provided by law.

The commanders of unified combatant commands are responsible to the President and the Secretary of Defense for accomplishing the military missions assigned to them and exercising command authority over forces assigned to them. The operational chain of command runs from the President to the Secretary of Defense to the commanders of the unified combatant commands. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff functions within the chain of command by transmitting the orders of the President or the Secretary of Defense to the commanders of the unified combatant commands.

## Office of the Secretary of Defense

**Secretary of Defense** The Secretary of Defense is the principal defense policy adviser to the President and is responsible for the formulation of general defense policy and policy related to DOD, and for the execution of approved policy. Under the direction of the President, the Secretary exercises authority, direction, and control over the Department of Defense.

**Deputy Secretary of Defense** The Deputy Secretary of Defense is delegated full power and authority to act for the Secretary of Defense and to exercise the powers of the Secretary on any and all matters for which the Secretary is authorized to act pursuant to law.

**Acquisition and Technology** The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense for all matters relating to the acquisition system, research and development, test and evaluation, production, logistics, military construction, procurement, and economic affairs. The Under Secretary serves as the Defense acquisition executive with responsibility for supervising the performance of the entire

Department acquisition system and chairing the Defense Acquisition Board.

**Policy** The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy is the principal staff assistant to the Secretary of Defense for policy matters relating to overall international security policy and political-military affairs. Functional areas include NATO affairs; net assessments; foreign military sales; arms limitation agreements; international trade and technology; regional security affairs; special operations and low-intensity conflict; integration of departmental plans and policies with overall national security objectives; drug control policy, requirements, priorities, systems, resources, and programs; and issuance of policy guidance affecting departmental programs.

**Personnel and Readiness** The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is the principal staff assistant and adviser to the Secretary of Defense for policy matter relating to the structure and readiness of the Total Force. Functional areas include: readiness; civilian and military personnel policies, programs, and systems; civilian and military equal opportunity programs;