



INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
400 ARMY NAVY DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-4704

JUN 27 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY
AND ASSIGNED TO THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR
GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Public Release of Information from the Office of the Inspector General of
the Department of Defense (OIG DoD)

- References:
- (a) Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended
 - (b) Inspector General Policy memorandum of February 10, 2003,
"Inspector General Act Implementation and Office of Inspector
General Policy Guidance"
 - (c) DoD Principles of Information, November 9, 2001
 - (d) DoD Directive 5230.9, "Clearance of DoD Information for Public
Release," April 9, 1996, Administrative Reissuance Incorporating
Change 1, July 15, 1999
 - (e) DoD Directive 5122.5, "Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public
Affairs (ASD (PA)), September 27, 2000
 - (f) Memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, "Ensuring
Quality of Information Disseminated to the Public by the Department
of Defense," February 10, 2003

Purpose: Pursuant to Section 6(a)(7) of Reference (a), implemented generally by Reference (b), the Inspector General "is authorized . . . to select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office subject to the provisions of [various federal statutes]." Although Reference (c) assigns "primary responsibility for carrying out [the Department of Defense's policy] commitment" to "make available timely and accurate information so that the public, Congress and the news media may assess and understand the facts about national security and defense strategy," to the "Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs," neither Reference (c) nor any other Department of Defense Public Affairs policy, including those promulgated in References (d)-(f), precludes the Inspector General from designating a Public Affairs Officer (PAO) for the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Given the importance of this position, I hereby designate the Director of the Office of Communications and Congressional Liaison (OCCL) as OIG PAO, to be complemented by a Deputy OIG PAO.

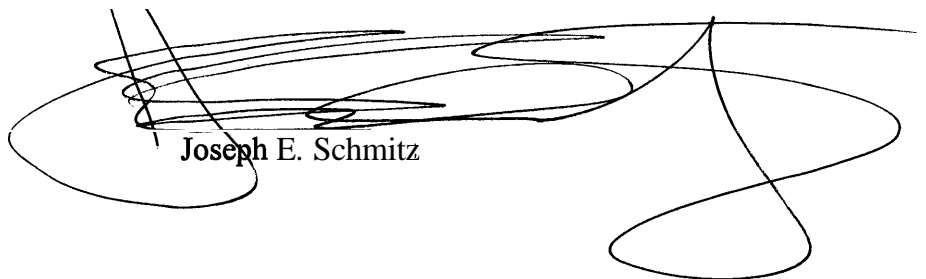
The Director, OCCL, will perform the duties of the OIG PAO in addition to the duties of the position of the Director, OCCL. The OIG PAO may delegate duties as needed within the OIG, including OIG components.

Responsibilities: Consistent with the statutory duties in reference (a), as implemented by reference (b), and consistent with the letter and spirit of (c), (d) and (e), the OIG PAO is

the official responsible for implementing the public affairs strategy of the OIG. Consistent with Reference (f) the OIG PAO is "Designate[d] the Component public affairs activity . . . to receive complaints regarding information that may not comply with the quality standards." To the maximum extent permitted by Reference (a), all public affairs activities will be coordinated closely with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (ASD (PA)) through the attached mutually acceptable protocol which stipulates that the "OIG has the option to post [IG related] information on any OIG website under any heading, as long as the information is not labeled as 'news release' or 'press release.'"

This Policy Memorandum has been coordinated with the Acting ASD (PA).

Effective date: This Policy Memorandum is effective immediately.



Joseph E. Schmitz

Attachment:
As stated



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PROTOCOL

SUBJECT: Office of the Inspector General and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) Protocol for Issuing Press Releases

References: (a) DoD Directive 5122.5, "Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (ASD (PA)), September 27, 2000
(b) Memorandum from the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, "Public Release of Information from the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense," June 27, 2003

Pursuant to Section 3.4 of Reference (a), the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) (ASD (PA)) is assigned the responsibility as the sole "release authority for DoD information [and materials] to news media representatives." As such and pursuant to Reference (b) which calls for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense (OIG DoD) to closely coordinate press releases with ASD (PA) "through mutually acceptable protocols," OIG will coordinate significant press contacts and submit proposed press releases to ASD (PA) for review.

ASD (PA) will review each submission to determine whether an official DoD press release is warranted. ASD (PA) utilizes the following two primary criteria to validate whether proposed press releases are eligible to be issued as official DoD press releases:

1. Newsworthiness;
2. Applicability to the Department of Defense as a whole.

Should the proposed press releases meet ASD (PA) criteria – as determined by ASD (PA) – the proposed press releases will be published as official DoD press releases – also known as Blue Tops.

Should ASD (PA) determine that submitted OIG press releases do not warrant Blue Top status, OIG has the option to post the information on any OIG website under any heading, as long as the information is not labeled as "news release" or "press release."