



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

AUG 11 2008

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR NETWORKS
AND INFORMATION INTEGRATION
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION
AGENCY
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: Establishment of Department of Defense Senior Steering Group (SSG) on
Arms Transfer and Technology Release

To build the capacity of allies and coalition partners, the Department must make timely decisions that advance our political-military objectives, but it must protect critical technology from diversion to potential adversaries. The Department will establish an SSG on Arms Transfer and Technology Release to provide direction to the various processes within the Department involved in approving the transfer of armaments and the release of classified and sensitive technology to international partners.

Several separate, but related, processes support these decisions. These processes include the National Disclosure Policy Committee, the Low-Observable/Counter-Low Observable Executive Committee, the Committee on National Security Systems, the Defensive Systems Committee, and DoD's export licensing process. Additionally, each of the Military Departments has its own internal review processes for determining the transfer of capabilities and technologies within its purview.

The SSG will perform several key functions. First, the group will be the overarching formal mechanism to ensure clear, policy-level direction is appropriately considered in technology release processes. Failure to do so can prevent the Department from complying with interagency and international commitments, made often at the presidential or cabinet level. Additionally, the SSG should serve a role in ensuring that technology protection and release considerations are included in the very first discussions of export weapons systems and that initial visibility into possible export proposals is shared among all key stakeholders. Second, the SSG will serve in an ombudsman role as

OSD 10212-08



necessary, providing a forum to discuss and shape the competing interests inherent in the desire to tightly protect certain critical technologies against balancing risk to those technologies with the operational interests of coalition partners. Finally, the SSG should recommend improvements to the processes individually, and collectively, using Continual Process Improvement/Lean Six Sigma methodologies, consistent with the Department's initiative.

The SSG will be co-chaired by the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, and it will include appropriate representation from the addressees' organizations. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Security Affairs) and the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Industrial Policy) will co-chair the SSG Working Group.

While the SSG will develop a mutually agreed work plan as its first task, the co-chairs are to provide an interim report on their progress within 60 days of the date of this memorandum.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur England". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.