



INTELLIGENCE

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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JAN 17 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Extension of Periodic Reinvestigation Timelines to Address the Background Investigation Backlog

- References: (a) Tri-Services Memorandum. "Personnel Security Investigations Backlog and Operational Impacts to the Military Departments." July 29, 2016  
(b) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum. "Personnel Security Investigations Backlog and Impacts." November 14, 2016  
(c) Director of National Intelligence. "Personnel Security Investigations Backlog and Impacts." December 10, 2016

In July 2016, the Service Secretaries expressed concern to the Secretary of Defense regarding the personnel security investigations (PSI) backlog of over 524,000 cases in a jointly signed memo (Reference A). This backlog negatively impacts the Department of Defense's (DoD) mission readiness, critical programs and operations. The growing investigation timelines are nearly two and a half times longer than the timeliness requirements outlined in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) of 2004. The Service Secretaries offered suggestions to the Secretary to address the growing backlog.

Based on the concerns raised by the Service Secretaries, the Deputy Secretary of Defense (DSD) sent a memorandum to the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) (Reference B) that explained what actions DoD was prepared to take to address the current backlog. The DNI responded (Reference C), endorsing DoD's proposed actions. Effective immediately, DoD Components and Agencies will implement the following actions to address the backlog:

1. Until further notice, Tier 3 periodic reinvestigations (PRs) will continue to be conducted at ten year periodicity. The Department will delay implementation of five year Tier 3 PR requirements until OPM eliminates their backlog or a modernized solution is available that meets or exceeds the Federal Investigative Standards.
2. Until further notice, Tier 5 PRs submitted by DoD to the National Background Investigation Bureau will be initiated six years after the date of the previous investigation versus at the five year mark. This change in Tier 5 PR submissions will keep DoD's Tier 5 PR investigations within the current seven year reciprocity guidelines and will continue reducing the backlog. This change in periodicity will be reevaluated prior to December 31, 2017. PRs should only be submitted at a five year periodicity if:
  - a. It is specifically required by other DoD policy (i.e. for a specific Special Access Program, or for Industry cases if directed by Defense Security Service).



- b. The DoD Consolidated Adjudications Facility (CAF) or DoD component is aware of significant derogatory information that requires review.
3. The DoD CAF may independently request additional information from data sources or government entities in order to determine eligibility for access to classified information or to hold sensitive positions when certain types of derogatory information requires resolution. The DoD CAF is authorized to continue to engage DoD Components and, consistent with Privacy Act requirements applicable to industry applicants, with the Defense Security Service, obtain additional necessary information to resolve issues of adjudicative concern that were not fully developed during the investigative process.
4. The Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence expects that DoD components will frequently track appropriate key performance measures through the Defense Security Enterprise Advisory Group (DSEAG). The purpose of tracking the key performance measures is to ensure that the authorities granted in this memorandum produce outcomes that mitigate the mission readiness impacts associated with the PSI backlog. The DSEAG will also work with the Components to develop and implement measures (i.e. Continuous Evaluation) to mitigate risks associated with these authorities. The DSEAG will brief the Director, Counterintelligence and Security on a quarterly basis on these measures and outcomes.



Garry P. Reid  
Director for Defense Intelligence  
(Intelligence & Security)

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