



Defense Orientation Conference Association

Live: Virtual Conference

CONFERENCE READ AHEAD

Friday, August 7th, 2020

8:00AM PDT to Noon PDT via Microsoft TEAMS

Office of Secretary of Defense: Adapting to Change and Overcoming Challenges for National Security

The Department of Defense, throughout history, has adapted to become an institution to create the policy and procedures needed to deter war and to protect the security of our Country. As part of this history, the DOD created the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), to lead and oversee that defense policies and objectives are met. OSD responsibilities are numerous and their management requirements are tedious.

To understand the importance of the OSD, it is important to have a brief history that led to the Department of Defense:

- The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps were established in 1775, in concurrence with the American Revolution. The War Department was established in 1789, and was the precursor to what is now the Department of Defense.
- One year later, in 1790, the Coast Guard (part of Homeland Security in peace time) was established. This was followed by the founding of the Department of the Navy in 1798.
- The decision to unify the different services under one Department led to the creation of the National Military Establishment in 1947. This establishment would replace the War Department, which converted to the Department of the Army. That same year, the U.S. Air Force was established followed by the founding of the Department of the Air Force.
- Finally, the three military branches, Army, Navy, and Air Force, were placed under the direct control of the new Secretary of Defense, confirmed by Senate.
- In 1949, an amendment to the National Security Act further consolidated the national defense structure by withdrawing cabinet-level status from the three Service secretaries. The National Military Establishment was then renamed the Department of Defense.

DOCA will be introduced to leaders from within the OSD. The office includes the offices of top civilian defense decision-makers with regard to personnel, weapons acquisition, research, intelligence and fiscal policy, as well as offices the Secretary establishes to assist in carrying out assigned responsibilities. Be it that the OSD is such a large and diverse organization, this conference will present a few of their key roles responsibilities, and challenges.

OSD is composed of the following:

1. The Deputy Secretary of Defense.
2. The Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.
3. The Under Secretaries of Defense, as follows:
 - a. The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.
 - b. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.
 - c. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.
 - d. The Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).
 - e. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.
 - f. The Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.



History of Office of Secretary of Defense

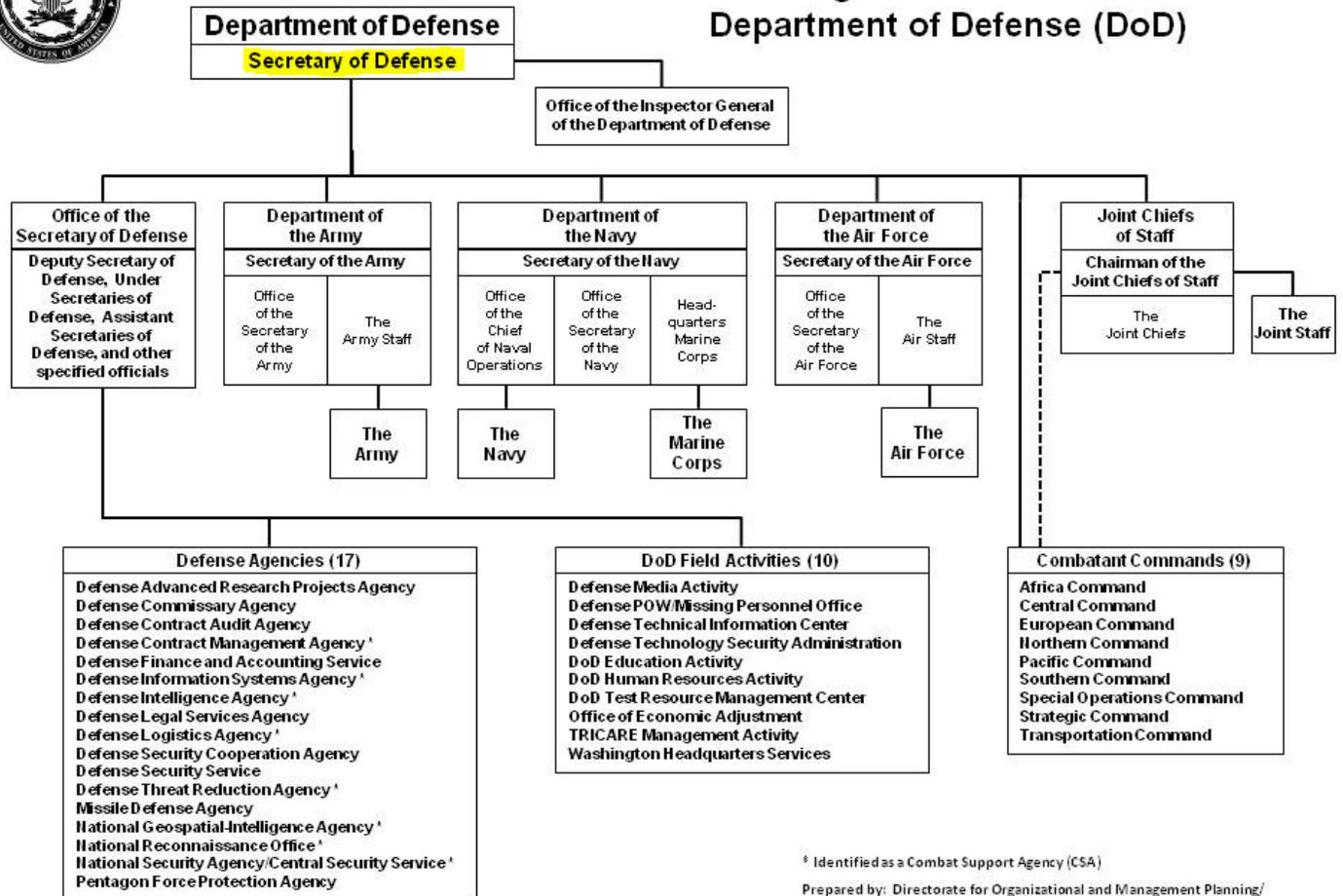
Defense Primer: The Department of Defense

Congressional Research Service (January 24th, 2020)

DOD's purpose today is to provide the President with the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of the country. How is the DOD organized to accomplish this mission?



Organization of the Department of Defense (DoD)



* Identified as a Combat Support Agency (CSA)

Prepared by: Directorate for Organizational and Management Planning/
Office of the Director of Administration and Management/Office of the
Secretary of Defense - March 2012

*Note: Space Force has not yet been added. It will be a part of future organizational charts.



Homeland Defense and Global Security Mission of the OSD

The DOD Role in Homeland Security (Pg. 34)

Adrian A. Erckenbrack and Aaron Scholer, Joint Force Quarterly JFQ / issue thirty-five (October, 2004)

Following the attack on U.S. homeland on September 11th, 2001 roles of the DOD in Homeland Security came to light. This article explains why DOD should be involved as homeland *Defense*, not homeland *security*.

Defense Management: Observations on DOD's Business Reform Efforts and Plan

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) (September 2019)

GAO reviewed DOD's plan and associated documentation and interviewed DOD officials on efforts to reform business operations of the department, including the development and implementation of the plan.

Environmental Practices and Top Challenges Facing the OSD

DOD: At Least 126 Bases Report Water Contaminants Linked to Cancer, Birth Defects

Tara Copp, Your Military - Military Times (April 26th, 2018)

Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFAS), or perfluorooctanoic acid, is being found in on-base and off-base drinking water. This article will bring attention to where these chemical compounds are coming from and what the deputy assistant secretary of defense for environment is doing to make safety changes.

Per - and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) 101

U.S. Department of Defense (December 12th, 2019)

A deep look into what PFAS's are.

DOD Addressing PFAS Contamination, Official Says

David Vergun, DOD news (March 11th, 2020)

DOD chose to lay out their task force goals following the PFAS reports.

DOD PFAS Task Force Progress Report

U.S. Department of Defense PFAS Task Force, Media Defense (March, 2020)

This document demonstrates, the Task Force has and will continue to provide the tools needed to address the effects of DOD's PFAS releases, and to ensure that the Department protects the health of our Service members, their families, the DOD civilian workforce, and communities surrounding affected bases.