

**US. Department of Energy**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**ORDER**

DOE 5530.2

9-20-91

**SUBJECT: NUCLEAR EMERGENCY SEARCH TEAM**

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1. PURPOSE. To establish Department of Energy (DOE) policy for Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST) operations to malevolent radiological incidents.
  2. SCOPE. The provisions of this Order apply to all Departmental Elements, to contractors performing work for the Department as provided by law and/or contract, and as implemented by the appropriate contracting officer.
  3. POLICY. It is the policy of the Department to establish and maintain capabilities for technical response to potential and actual threats and incidents as may be requested by the Lead Federal Agency (LFA).
  4. REFERENCES.
    - a. DOE 5500.1B, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, of 4-30-91, which establishes the overall policy and requirements for the DOE Emergency Management System and assigns responsibilities to DOE Elements.
    - b. DOE 5500.2B, EMERGENCY CATEGORIES, CLASSES, AND NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, of 4-30-91, which establishes the DOE emergency categories, classes, and notifications and reporting requirements to facilitate the communication and reporting of emergency events.
    - c. DOE 5500.3A, PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS FOR OPERATIONAL EMERGENCIES, of 4-30-91, which establishes requirements for planning and preparedness for Operational Emergencies involving DOE or requiring DOE assistance.
    - d. DOE 5500.4, PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY AND PLANNING REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCIES, of 8-13-81, which establishes requirements for DOE public affairs actions for emergency situations.

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All Departmental Elements

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Office of Defense Programs

- e. DOE 5500.10, EMERGENCY READINESS ASSURANCE PROGRAM, of 4-30-91, which establishes requirements for assuring the continued readiness of the Emergency Management System for response to an emergency.
- f. DOE 5530.1A, ACCIDENT RESPONSE GROUP, of 9-20-91, which establishes DOE policy for DOE response to accidents and significant incidents involving nuclear weapons or nuclear weapon components.
- g. DOE 5530.4, AERIAL MEASURING SYSTEM, of 9-20-91, which establishes DOE policy for the Aerial Measuring System Program.
- h. DOE 5635.4, PROTECTION OF UNCLASSIFIED CONTROLLED NUCLEAR INFORMATION, of 2-3-88, which establishes DOE policy and procedures for the protection of Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information.
- i. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Energy Research and Development Agency [ERDA] (DOE) for Responding to Nuclear Threat Incidents, of 6-11-76, which delineates general areas of responsibility and sets forth a joint policy for response by the FBI and ERDA.
- j. Modification to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the FBI and the DOE for Responding to Nuclear Threat Incidents, of 6-17-82, which includes Sophisticated Improvised Explosive Devices.
- k. Memorandum of Understanding Between the FBI, the DOE, and the Department of Defense (DOD) for Response to Improvised Nuclear Device Incidents, of 2-29-80, which delineates general areas of responsibility and sets forth a joint policy for response by the FBI, DOE, and DOD.
- l. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of State (DOS), the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense (DOD) for responding to Malevolent Nuclear Incidents Outside U.S. Territory and Possessions, of 5-13-82. This MOU will still be used as the basis of reaching initial agreement with DOS and DOD.
- m. Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan, of 11-8-85, which describes the Federal Government response to radiological emergencies in support of Federal, State, tribal, and local government agencies.

- n. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application (DP-20) Operational Emergency Management Team (OEMT) Plan of 6-89, which sets forth the procedures for managing emergencies for which DP-20 is the cognizant program office.

5. DEFINITIONS. See Attachment 2 to DOE 5500.1B.

6. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS.

- a. Notification. The DOE Headquarters Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be the primary point of contact for all initial notifications to DOE regarding requests for activation and deployment of NEST resources. Upon notification, EOC will notify the DP-20 Duty Officer, the DOE Field Office, Nevada, and the Office of Threat Assessment (IN-30). EOC will make further notification in accordance with References 4. a. and 4. b.

- b. Mobilization. In response to a request for NEST assistance, whether for a threat assessment or activation and deployment of NEST resources, DP-20 will activate an Operational Emergency Management Team (OEMT), if required, in accordance to References 4. a. and 4. b. and will coordinate the DP-20 response and provide authorization, direction, and support for the mobilization and deployment of NEST and other supporting elements. NV will be responsible for mobilizing and deploying the required elements of NEST, as directed.

- (1) The Manager, NV will coordinate with the Director, OEMT, regarding the selection of the Team Leader (TL)/Energy Senior Official (ESO). The DOE TL/ESO is the DOE person in charge of all DOE activities at the incident site, and as such, is the single point of contact for all DOE operational Elements.

- (2) Deployment of the full NEST capability will be made only with the authorization and approval of DP-20.

- (3) Deployment of the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) will be made only with the authorization and approval of DP-20.

- c. Operations.

- (1) An advance party may be deployed to coordinate with FBI and/or local authorities to make the initial assessment and obtain a suitable location for DOE on-scene operations. When the main party arrives, predesignated functional teams will have been identified to initiate activities to mitigate the threat and its potential consequences.

- (2) The Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC), when required, will be established to provide the coordination with State, tribal, and local representatives and officials from federal agencies regarding the control and mitigation of radiological hazards (real or potential) as may impact the incident site. The Director, OEMT will approve the selection of the FRMAC Director in coordination of the appropriate Field Office Manager. The FRMAC Director will be responsible for keeping TL/ESO advised of his operations. FRMAC will be the focal point for the cataloging of all information relating to site restoration operations.
- d. Public Affairs. It is important that the flow of information be coordinated and timely. The establishment of a Joint Information Center (JIC) is essential. In accordance with Reference 4.d., the release of information must be factual and useful in order to preserve the credibility of the operating elements and to obtain the maximum cooperation from the press and local citizens groups. DOE-generated media releases at the site must be coordinated, prior to release, with the FBI Special Agent in Charge (SAC) and DOE TL/ESO. All DOE-generated media releases should be reviewed by an authorized official for classified information, Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information (UCNI) (Reference 4.h.) and other unclassified but sensitive information prior to release.
- e. Deactivation. When the incident has been resolved, NEST personnel and their equipment will be released to return to their home bases. Release will be authorized by the DOE TL/ESO in concurrence with FBI SAC and Director, OEMT. This may be done incrementally as the need for specific personnel and equipment has been fulfilled. FRMAC deactivation will be in accordance with the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) (Reference 4.m.).
7. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES.
- a. The Secretary. Many provisions in this Order permit and/or necessitate the exercise of discretion and/or judgment in carrying out the requirements of the Order. In those instances, the determination of whether, in the exercise of such discretion and/or judgment, the requirements of this Order were complied with rests initially with the relevant Department authority and, ultimately, with the Secretary. The Secretary retains the sole and final authority to determine what acts are necessary to comply with this Order. Further, the Secretary retains the authority to suspend any and all requirements under this Order

whenever the Secretary deems it necessary. This authority may be delegated by the Secretary as appropriate.

- b. Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs. DP-1, shall oversee the preparation and maintenance of emergency plans, procedures, and capabilities for responding to operational emergencies relating to malevolent threats or acts involving nuclear weapons, improvised nuclear devices, sophisticated improved explosive devices, and radioactive dispersal devices.
- c. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application. DP-20, shall:
  - (1) Provide programmatic policy and guidance for the DOE NEST Program.
  - (2) Budget for research, development, documentation, equipment, exercises, training and deployment to meet NEST requirements.
  - (3) Maintain liaison with Headquarters organizations of appropriate Federal agencies, such as FBI, DOD, Department of State, and Federal Emergency Management Agency to assure necessary interagency and international agreements are negotiated.
  - (4) Assure that the DOE NEST program is exercised and that Headquarters DOE participates in the planning and execution of multiagency exercises.
  - (5) Establish procedures for and conduct Emergency Deployment Readiness Evaluations (EDRE) of NEST.
  - (6) Establish plans and procedures for compliance of criteria and standards of DOE 5500 series Orders.
  - (7) Upon notification of an incident requiring activation of NEST resources, activate a Headquarters' Operational Emergency Management Team and take the action set forth in References 4.m and 4.n.
  - (8) Coordinate with the Manager, DOE Field Office, Nevada when notified of an incident requiring activation and deployment of NEST and/or FRNAC resources.
  - (9) Review and concur on NEST procedures.

- (10) Designate a staff member with emergency preparedness responsibility to serve on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC).
- d. Director, Office of Intelligence. (IN-1), as the Senior DOE Intelligence Officer, shall:
- (1) Interface with the intelligence community on official threat alerts and advisories.
  - (2) Advise DP-1 regarding the status of threats.
  - (3) Maintain liaison with members of the intelligence and law enforcement communities at the National level on matters of threat assessment.
  - (4) Through the Office of Threat Assessment (IN-30) be responsible for:
    - (a) Funding and operation of the Communicated Threat Credibility Assessment Program.
    - (b) Coordinating with DP-20 research projects under the Special Technologies Program to meet NEST specified requirements.
    - (c) Making the assets developed by the Special Technologies Program, and other appropriate assets within the intelligence community, available for NEST operational requirements.
    - (d) Providing the single point of contact to the Director, OEHT within the Headquarters, FBI, and other National-level intelligence representatives during NEST operational activities.
    - (e) Funding and operating a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week duty officer for liaison between the intelligence community and DOE to support NEST requirements.
  - (5) Ensure that the Director of Foreign Intelligence provides foreign intelligence information under his cognizance to the Director, Office of Threat Assessment in support of the NEST national intelligence requirements.
  - (6) Conduct related nuclear emergency training for intelligence community members.

- e. Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health (EH-1) shall conduct oversight as required to ensure those aspects of environmental protection, radiation safety, worker safety, and those aspects of public health and safety that deal with epidemiology and exposure to hazardous materials are properly addressed.
- f. Director of Emergency Operations (DP-9.3), shall:
- (1) Establish a process for reviewing DOE plans and procedures that are prepared to implement the DOE 5500 series Orders.
  - (2) Ensure that exercises of the NEST capabilities are coordinated within the overall DOE operational emergency exercise program.
  - (3) Serve as the DOE point of contact for inquiries concerning emergency preparedness.
  - (4) Maintain a listing of points of contact and notification procedures within Headquarters, Field Elements, and other Federal agencies.
  - (5) Support training activities, at both Headquarters and field levels, needed to implement this Order.
  - (6) Support OEMT operations required in response to a NEST malevolent radiological incident.
- g. Manager, DOE Field Office, Nevada, (NV), as the Field Element tasked to have primary responsibility for NEST, shall:
- (1) Develop, issue, deploy, operate, maintain, and deactivate NEST.
  - (2) Prepare and submit a five-year budget plan with supporting documentation for maintaining and operating NEST, including research and development activities.
  - (3) Be responsible for the DOE field planning and execution of exercises involving NEST participation.
  - (4) Conduct training and exercises for NEST elements.
  - (5) When requested, assist DP-20 in the coordination of interagency and international agreements and liaison activities.

- (6) Coordinate with the Director, OEMT with regard to the appointment of the DOE TL/ESO for NEST operations.
- (7) Activate, deploy, and deactivate NEST as directed by the Director, OEMT/DP-20.

h. Manager, DOE Field Office, Albuquerque (AL), shall:

- (1) Ensure that Accident Response Group (ARG) resources are available to assist NEST. This includes contacts for military support that is normally arranged through the DOE Joint Nuclear Accident Coordinating Center (JNACC).
- (2) Activate, deploy, and deactivate ARG elements as directed by the Director, OEMT. Deployed ARG elements will be under the direction of the DOE TL/ESO.

i. Heads of Headquarters Program Offices and DOE Field Elements shall:

- (1) Assist, as requested by DP-20, in formulating and maintaining current procedures for the DOE resources within their purview to respond to a malevolent radiological incidents.
- (2) Make available DOE, DOE contractor, and volunteer personnel and equipment to augment NEST at a threat site or at other designated locations to accomplish the DOE mission.
- (3) Authorize the appropriate DOE contractors under their jurisdiction to:
  - (a) Participate in formulating and maintaining current procedures to support the DOE NEST capability.
  - (b) Maintain a continuing capability to provide the necessary personnel and equipment to support the NEST when deployed.

d. Heads of Headquarters Elements and DOE Field Organizations shall designate an individual (s) to responsible for bringing to the attention of the contracting officer each procurement falling within the scope of this Directive. Unless another individual is designated, the responsibility is that of the procurement request originator



- k. Procurement request originators or such other individual(s) as designated by the cognizant head of Headquarters Element or DOE field organization shall bring to the attention of the cognizant contracting officer the following: (1) each procurement requiring the application of this Directive; (2) requirements for flowdown of provisions of this Directive to any subcontract or subaward, and (3) identification of the paragraphs or other portions of this Directive with which the awardee, or, if different, a subawardee, is to comply.
- l. Contracting Officers, based on advice received from the procurement request originator or other designated individual, shall apply applicable provisions of this Directive to awards falling within its scope. For awards, other than management and operating contracts, this shall be by incorporation or reference using explicit language in a contractual action, usually bilateral.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY:



JOHN J. NETTLES, JR.  
Director of Administration  
and Human Resource Management