



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

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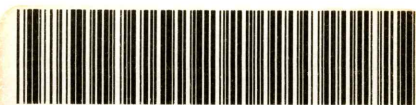
MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Airborne Object Identification and Management
Synchronization Group

The presence of unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) in Special Use Airspace (SUA), designated in accordance with 14 CFR Part 73, represents a potential safety of flight risk to aircrews and raises potential national security concerns. Accordingly, I direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (USD(I&S)) to establish the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronization Group (AOIMSG) to synchronize efforts across the Department and with other Federal departments and agencies to detect, identify and attribute objects of interests in SUA, and to assess, and as appropriate, mitigate any associated threats to safety of flight and national security. To provide oversight and direction to the AOIMSG, I establish the Airborne Object Identification and Management Executive Council (AOIMEXEC). The USD(I&S) will be the lead DoD official responsible for management of this process, will co-chair the AOIMEXEC along with the Director of Operations, Joint Staff, and will invite Principal-level participation from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Resourcing for this requirement will be addressed in the Program Budget Review process.

The Director, AOIMSG (hereafter referred to as "the Director") will synchronize the activities among the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and DoD Components, and with other U.S. Government departments and agencies, to minimize safety of flight and national security concerns associated with UAP or other airborne objects in SUA. The Director, with support from the OSD and DoD Components heads, will address this problem by standardizing UAP incident reporting across the Department; identifying and reducing gaps in operational and intelligence detection capabilities; collecting and analyzing operational, intelligence and counterintelligence data; recommending policy, regulatory or statutory changes, as appropriate; identifying approaches to prevent or mitigate any risks posed by airborne objects of interest; and other activities as deemed necessary by the Director. Additionally, the Director, in coordination with the OSD and DoD Component heads, will identify requirements and recommended changes in doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership, personnel, workforce, facilities, and resources to be brought to the AOIMEXEC for review, consideration and implementation, as appropriate, by the applicable DoD Component head.

Effective immediately, the AOIMEXEC, in coordination with the OSD and DoD component heads will manage the transition of the current UAP Task Force to the AOIMSG. The AOIMEXEC will designate an acting Director of the AOIMSG, and will



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submit implementation guidance for my approval. This guidance will specify organizational membership, roles, responsibilities and authorities for the AOIMSG, AOIMEXEC, and OSD and DoD Components.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. H. H.", with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style.

cc:
Director of National Intelligence