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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICES
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155



APR 03 2025

Subject: OSD MDR Case 24-M-1022

We have reviewed the enclosed document and have declassified it in full. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Jonathan P. Bennett by email at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.records-and-declassification@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Smith".

John D. Smith
Chief, WHS, Records and
Declassification Division, ESD

- Enclosures:
1. MDR request
 2. Document 1

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Department of Defense INSTRUCTION

NUMBER C-2000.23
July 15, 2008

USD(P)

SUBJECT: Conduct of DoD Contacts with the People's Republic of China (PRC) (U)

References: See Enclosure 1

1. (U) PURPOSE. This Instruction:

a. (U) Establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures for the management of DoD contacts with the PRC and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) pursuant to the authority of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)) as established in the Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum (Reference (a)).

b. (U) Incorporates Reference (a) and cancels the Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum (Reference (b)) and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Memorandum (Reference (c)).

c. (U) Outlines measures for compliance with Public Law 106-65, section 1201 (Reference (d)).

2. (U) APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

a. (U) This Instruction applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense (IG DoD), the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, all other organizational entities in the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the "DoD Components") and cleared employees of Defense Contractors as specified in Executive Order 12829, "National Industrial Security Program" (Reference (e)); DoD Directive 5220.22, "National Industrial Security Program" (Reference (f)); and DoD 5220.22-M, "The National Industrial Security Operating Manual" (Reference (g)).

~~Classified by: David Sealey, DAB/DLKS~~

~~Reasons: 1. (b) and (d)~~

~~Declassify on: OADR 26, 2002~~

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b. ~~(S)~~ DoD contacts with Taiwan, and with the organizations, governments, and officials of the Special Administrative Regions (SARs) of Hong Kong and Macau, are not subject to these guidelines. DoD contacts with the Hong Kong and Macau SARs shall be conducted in accordance with a separate DoD Instruction to be published.

c. (U) This Instruction and any related supplements and instructions shall apply to the IG DoD only to the extent that that it is consistent with the duties and responsibilities prescribed by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Reference (h)), as amended, and related issuances of the Department of Defense.

3. (U) DEFINITIONS

a. (U) DoD-PRC Contacts. Contacts of any kind at any location between DoD military and civilian personnel and the PRC military.

b. ~~(S)~~ PRC Military. Members of the PRC Military Departments, civilian employees of military commands and organizations, and those whose operations or research are related to the PRC Ministry of Defense, Chinese PLA, or PRC defense or security issues, and all PRC government and government-affiliated organizations (e.g., universities, law enforcement agencies, media organizations, research centers, think tanks).

4. (U) POLICY. It is DoD policy that DoD interaction with the PRC military shall be conducted in accordance with the following considerations:

a. ~~(S)~~ Philosophy. DoD-PRC contacts shall support the President's overall policy objectives with respect to the PRC and contribute to the stability and improvement of the overall United States-China relationship.

b. (U) Objectives. The principal objectives of DoD contacts with the PRC are:

(1) ~~(S)~~ Deter conflict and lower the risk of PRC miscalculation by communicating U.S. resolve to maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

(2) ~~(S)~~ Encourage China to play a constructive and peaceful role in the Asia-Pacific region, act as a partner in addressing common security challenges, and emerge as a responsible stakeholder in the global system.

(3) ~~(S)~~ Assure U.S. allies and friends of the U.S. commitment to stability in East Asia and to stable United States-China relations.

(4) ~~(S)~~ Influence the perceptions of PLA officers, particularly junior- and mid-level officers, about the United States and its policies.

(5) ~~(S)~~ Increase U.S. understanding of the PRC's military capabilities and intentions.

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c. (U) Principles. DoD-PRC contacts shall:

(1) (U) Comply with the requirements of Reference (d) and Enclosure 2.

(2) (U) Provide clear benefit to the United States.

(3) ~~(S)~~ Maintain reciprocity to the maximum extent possible. Reciprocal arrangements (i.e. access to facilities, training, or equipment) shall be agreed upon with the PRC prior to committing to an exchange. Reciprocity also applies to the quality of information exchanged during contacts.

(4) ~~(S)~~ Encourage transparency in PRC defense investments, plans, and intentions by conducting increasingly substantive exchanges and by seeking greater access to PRC personnel and facilities.

(5) ~~(S)~~ Consider political-military sensitivities within the context of U.S. defense commitments to allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific Region, and U.S. policy and priorities regarding allies, partners, and friends beyond the Asia-Pacific Region.

(6) ~~(S)~~ Mitigate security risks associated with PRC efforts to use its interaction with the United States to support military modernization goals counter to the interests of the United States and its allies.

5. (U) RESPONSIBILITIES. See Enclosure 3.

6. (U) PROCEDURES. See Enclosure 4.

7. (U) RELEASABILITY. RESTRICTED. This Instruction is approved for restricted release. Copies may be obtained through controlled Internet access from the DoD Issuances Web Site on the SECRET Internet Protocol Network at <http://www.dtic.smil.mil/whs/directives>.

8. (U) EFFECTIVE DATE. This Instruction is effective immediately.


Ryan Henry
Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)

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Enclosures

1. References
2. Limitation on Military-to Military Contacts with Chinese People's Liberation Army
3. Responsibilities
4. Procedures
5. Annual DoD-PRC Mil-Mil Plan Template
6. DoD-PRC Contact Proposal Template
7. DoD-PRC Contacts that Do Not Require Submission of a DoD-PRC Contact Proposal

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ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

- (a) (U) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Delegations of Authority" November 30, 2006
- (b) (U) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Management of United States-China Defense Contacts," April 8, 2003 (hereby canceled)
- (c) (U) Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Memorandum, "Administrative Procedures for the Management of U.S.-China Defense Contacts," April 11, 2003 (hereby canceled)
- (d) (U) Public Law 106-65, Section 1201, "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000," October 5, 1999
- (e) (U) Executive Order 12829, "National Industrial Security Program," January 6, 1993
- (f) (U) DoD Directive 5220.22, "National Industrial Security Program," September 27, 2004
- (g) (U) DoD 5220.22-M, "The National Industrial Security Operating Manual," February 28, 2006
- (h) (U) Public Law 95-452, October 12, 1978
- (i) (U) DoD Directive 5143.01, "Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (USD(I))," November 23, 2005
- (j) (U) DoD Directive 5240.6 "CI Awareness, Briefing and Reporting Programs," August 7, 2004
- (k) (U) DoD Directive 5240.02, "Counterintelligence," December 20, 2007.
- (l) (U) DoD Directive 5105.42, "Defense Security Service (DSS)," May 13, 1999

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ENCLOSURE 2

LIMITATION ON MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CONTACTS
WITH CHINESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY

1. Military-to-military exchange or contact by the Armed Forces with representatives of the PRC shall not be authorized if that exchange or contact would create a national security risk due to an inappropriate exposure as specified in Reference (d) or any of the following:

- a. Force projection operations.
- b. Nuclear operations.
- c. Advanced combined-arms and joint combat operations.
- d. Advanced logistical operations.
- e. Chemical and biological defense and other capabilities related to weapons of mass destruction.
- f. Surveillance and reconnaissance operations.
- g. Joint warfighting experiments and other activities related to a transformation in warfare.
- h. Military space operations.
- i. Other advanced capabilities of the Armed Forces.
- j. Arms sales or military-related technology transfers.
- k. Release of classified or restricted information.
- l. Access to a Department of Defense laboratory.

2. The limitation on PRC contacts does not apply to any search-and-rescue or humanitarian operation or exercise according to Reference (d).

ENCLOSURE 3.

RESPONSIBILITIES (U)

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ASIAN AND PACIFIC SECURITY AFFAIRS (ASD(APSA)). The ASD(APSA), under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, shall:

- a. ~~(FOUO)~~ Develop and oversee implementation of DoD's China policy.
- b. ~~(FOUO)~~ Coordinate with the Joint Staff, Department of State, National Security Council staff, and other agencies, when appropriate.
- c. ~~(FOUO)~~ Approve all DoD proposals relating to or affecting DoD-PRC contacts, or delegate such authority, in writing, to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asian Security Affairs.

2. ~~(FOUO)~~ UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE (USD(I)). The USD(I) shall ensure that organizations and programs under the authority, direction, and control of USD(I) pursuant to DoD Directive 5143.01 (Reference (i)) perform their missions relating to DoD-PRC contacts in accordance with this Instruction.

3. ~~(FOUO)~~ GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (GC, DoD). The GC, DoD, shall evaluate all proposals relating to or affecting DoD-PRC contacts, and provide a determination of legal compliance.

4. HEADS OF THE DoD COMPONENTS. The Heads of the DoD Components shall:

- a. ~~(FOUO)~~ Plan, propose, and execute DoD-PRC contacts involving Component personnel and the cleared employees of Defense Contractors in accordance with this Instruction.
- b. ~~(FOUO)~~ Ensure Component proposals for DoD-PRC contacts are synchronized with the U.S. Pacific Command Theater Campaign Plan.
- c. ~~(FOUO)~~ Evaluate and recommend approval or disapproval to ASD(APSA) on all proposals relating to, or affecting, respective Component contacts with the PRC.
- d. ~~(FOUO)~~ Establish procedures and provide CI support to personnel and organizations involved in DoD-PRC contacts pursuant to DoD Directive 5240.6 (Reference (j)), DoD Directive 5240.02 (Reference (k)), and DoD Directive 5105.42 (Reference (l)).

5. ~~(FOUO)~~ IG DoD. Consistent with the provisions of paragraph 2.c. of the basic to this Instruction, the Office of the IG DoD shall inform ASD(APSA) of proposed contacts with the PRC.

6. ~~(FOUO)~~ CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall make a recommendation on all proposals relating to, or affecting, DoD-PRC contacts involving the Military Departments and Combatant Commands.

7. ~~(FOUO)~~ U.S. DEFENSE ATTACHÉ OFFICE (USDAO) BEIJING. The USDAO Beijing shall coordinate DoD-PRC contacts that occur in China, with the exception of Hong Kong and Macau. USDAO Beijing is the sole DoD official responsible for coordination with the PRC Ministry of National Defense, PLA National Defense University, and the PLA ground, naval, air and missile forces.

ENCLOSURE 4

PROCEDURES (U)

1. ~~(FOUO)~~ The annual DoD plan for DoD-PRC contacts shall be developed, approved, and executed according to the following procedures:
 - a. ~~(FOUO)~~ The Heads of the DoD Components shall submit to ASD(APSA) an annual plan for all Component DoD-PRC contacts for the coming year. The Military Departments and Combatant Commands shall submit their annual plans through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Refer to Enclosure 5 for annual plan worksheet template.
 - b. ~~(FOUO)~~ The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall coordinate, consolidate, and evaluate the annual plans of the Military Departments and Combatant Commands for DoD-PRC contacts, and submit to ASD(APSA) with recommendations for approval or disapproval no later than November 15 each year.
 - c. ~~(FOUO)~~ ASD(APSA) shall review and approve or disapprove all annual plan proposals, in consultation with the GC, DoD.
 - d. ~~(FOUO)~~ ASD(APSA), in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall coordinate the approved annual DoD plan with the PLA and solicit PLA-recommended contacts for the following calendar year.
 - e. ~~(FOUO)~~ ASD(APSA) shall notify the DoD Components of approvals or disapprovals using the annual plan worksheet.

2. ~~(FOUO)~~ Each DoD-PRC contact proposal shall be developed, approved, and executed according to the following procedures:
 - a. ~~(FOUO)~~ The Heads of the DoD Components shall:
 - (1) ~~(FOUO)~~ Ensure that all Component DoD-PRC contacts gain ASD(APSA) approval prior to execution by submitting an individual contact proposal, no later than 45 days in advance of the proposed start date, to ASD(APSA). DoD military components shall submit their proposals to ASD(APSA) through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Refer to Enclosure 6 for the DoD-PRC contact proposal template. DoD-PRC contacts that do not require submission of a DoD-PRC Contact Proposal are listed at Enclosure 7.
 - (2) ~~(FOUO)~~ Ensure submission to the ASD(APSA) of an after-action report for all DoD-PRC contacts, using the DoD-PRC mil-to-mil template to confirm the event occurred as set forth in the proposal and note any exceptions.

b. ~~(FOUO)~~ The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall evaluate each DoD-PRC contact proposal and submit to ASD(APSA) with recommendations for approval or disapproval.

c. ~~(FOUO)~~ ASD(APSA) shall review and approve or disapprove each DoD-PRC contact proposal, in consultation with the GC, DoD, and will notify the appropriate DoD Component Head using the annual plan template.

ENCLOSURE 5

ANNUAL DoD-PRC MIL-MIL CONTACT PLAN TEMPLATE (U)

US-PRC MILITARY-TO-MILITARY EXCHANGES - yyyy

ACTIVITY	TYPE	MONTH	DATES	LOCATION	LEAD	STATUS	ACTION REQUIRED	DETAILS (bases/major facilities/systems/equipment visited/observed)

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records and Declass Div, WHS
Date: 11MAR2025

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ENCLOSURE 6

DoD-PRC CONTACT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE (U)

(DoD Component Letterhead)

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian & Pacific Security
Affairs

(For DoD Military Components only)

THROUGH: Deputy Director Politico-Military Affairs - Asia, Joint Staff/J5

FROM: *Requesting Organization* (Combatant Command, Military Department,
OSD Directorate, or other Defense Agency)

SUBJECT: Request to Attend *What, Where and When*, **OR**
Request Approval to Invite the People's Republic of China (PRC) to *What,
Where and When*

1. Executive Summary of Request. (*The Executive Summary is a brief paragraph that includes items a through e. Supporting details should be attached as a tab or tabs.*)
 - a. (*Requesting Organization*) requests (*participant*) to attend (*event*). **OR**
(*Requesting Organization*) requests to invite (*PRC representative*) to (*event, when and where*)
 - b. Purpose of requesting interaction with PRC and benefit to be gained by the Department of Defense.
 - c. (*Requesting Organization*) assesses that interaction with the PRC will *or* will not enhance PRC defense capabilities.
 - d. Discussions and Presentations (both formal and informal):
 - *What subjects will be discussed?*
 - *Include agenda and presentation(s) as separate tabs*
 - *How will topics of discussion/presentation benefit DoD?*
 - *How will topics of discussion/presentation benefit PRC defense capabilities?*
 - *For Flag Officer/Senior Executive Service travel: include agenda, themes, and talking points as separate tabs.*
 - e. (*Requesting Organization*) assesses PRC attendance will not violate section 1201, FY 2000 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), PL 106-65.
2. Host
3. DoD Personnel
4. PRC Personnel
5. Required/Supporting Information:

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(When filled in, classification is determined by the preparer)

a. (*Organization's Foreign Disclosure Office*) approved the (*paper or presentation*) for foreign disclosure on (*date*) or will approve the (*paper or presentation*) prior to the event.

b. Counterintelligence and Security Measures (*Contact organization's security manager for information.*):

-- Participant(s) received a country-specific counterintelligence briefing in accordance with DoDI 5240.6 on (*date*) or will receive prior to the event. **OR**

-- (*Requesting organization*) has contacted the appropriate servicing counterintelligence organization for coordination of counterintelligence and security activities pursuant to DoD Directive 5240.2, DoD Instruction 5240.6, and DoD Instruction 5240.16.

c. Technical activities require coordination with the responsible OSD-level policy office/agency (see coordination block). *Strongly recommend requesting organization conduct and note this coordination as it will prevent delays in the approval process.*

d. (*Requesting organization*) will submit an after-action report, using the mil-to-mil worksheet to confirm the event occurred as proposed in the DoD-PRC contact proposal and note any exceptions, to ASD(APSA).

e. Reciprocity (*for military exchanges*):

-- *Requesting Organization Hosting an Event*: Requesting organization is reciprocating for a previous visit.

-- *Requesting Organization Attending an Event*: Requesting organization has reciprocated, will reciprocate, or is prepared to reciprocate.

6. [*Requesting Organization: Planner level/O-6 or above (provide name)*] recommends approval of this request.

7. (*Requesting Organization*) point of contact name, phone, and email.

NOTE: The DoD-PRC Contact Proposal is separate from DoD Foreign Clearance Guide requirements regarding country, theater, and special area clearances. Consult the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide at www.fcg.pentagon.mil for details.

COORDINATION: (*refer to paragraph 5.c.*)

Appropriate OSD Functional Offices or Defense Agencies (e.g. OSD/Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Health Affairs, Personnel & Readiness, Defense Threat Reduction Agency) (*include office, POC, date*) _____

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records and Declass Div, WHS
Date: 11MAR2025

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ENCLOSURE 7

DoD-PRC CONTACTS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE SUBMISSION OF A DOD-PRC CONTACT PROPOSAL (U)

1. (U) No-Contact Travel. Visits by DoD personnel to China that involve no contact with the PRC military (as defined in paragraph 3.b. of the basic to this Instruction) do not require submission of a DoD-PRC contact proposal. Examples include Foreign Area Officer travel in China, personal leave, language training, analyst orientation trips, and U.S.-only meetings at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and the U.S. Consulates General in China and Hong Kong.
2. (U) Incidental Contact. Incidental contact between DoD personnel and the PRC Military attending multilateral conferences outside of China are not considered a violation of these guidelines. However, DoD personnel are not permitted to conduct bilateral meetings with the PRC military at these conferences without prior approval as provided for under this Instruction. DoD Components shall ensure that the incidental contact exemption is not used as a means to circumvent the guidance contained in this Instruction.
3. (S) Intelligence and Counterintelligence Activities. Any accredited DoD attaché may have contact with the PRC military at the discretion of the responsible Defense Attaché. Intelligence and counterintelligence contacts in foreign countries that are coordinated under Intelligence Community Directives and Director of Central Intelligence Directives, as well as contacts in support of and in coordination with the appropriate defense attaché office, do not require a DoD-PRC contact proposal. Intelligence and counterintelligence operational contacts within CONUS are coordinated with the Federal Bureau of Investigations and also do not require submission of a DoD-PRC contact proposal. Intelligence and counterintelligence liaison activities with PRC personnel outside the scope of approved counterintelligence or human intelligence operations require submission of a DoD-PRC contact proposal.
4. (U) Foreign Liaison Contacts. All DoD foreign liaison personnel (up to and including the O-6 level) may have routine contact with PRC attachés as required to fulfill foreign liaison duties. Coincidental contact at multilateral social functions is not considered a violation of these guidelines. PRC attachés may be invited to unclassified DoD-sponsored activities that are open to the entire attaché community (e.g., luncheons, receptions, and attaché tours). DoD foreign liaison personnel shall ensure compliance with relevant legal limitations regarding these contacts. All other contacts with PRC attachés require submission of a DoD-PRC contact proposal.
5. (U) Contacts with PRC Attachés. Country or regional desk officers of the DoD Components may meet with appropriate PRC military representatives for coordination of activities in the approved annual plan for DoD-PRC contacts.
6. (U) PRC Embassy-hosted Functions. OSD, the Military Departments, and the Joint Staff may send up to two (2) representatives (up to and including the O-6 level), in addition to foreign liaison personnel, to a multilateral social event hosted by a PRC embassy, consulate, or mission.

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The attendance of DoD flag officers/SES personnel as well as representatives from any other DoD Component requires submission of a DoD-PRC contact proposal 10 days prior to the event. OSD, Joint Staff, Military Departments, and U. S. Pacific Command may send representatives (in terms of numbers and rank) appropriate to the relationship and consistent with recent and upcoming exchanges. All other contacts with PRC attachés require submission of a DoD-PRC contact proposal.

Office of the Secretary of Defense Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 11MAR2025 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. 552
Declassify: X Declassify in Part: Deny in Full:
Reason:
MDR: 24-M-1022

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records and Declass Div, WHS
Date: 11MAR2025

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