

**BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY
OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE POLICY DIRECTIVE 16-7

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Operations Support

SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMS

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This Directive implements Department of Defense Directive 5205.07, *Special Access Program Policy*. It establishes policies and responsibilities for the management, administration, and oversight of Special Access Programs for which the Air Force has Cognizant Authority. The Air Force shall issue guidance to implement DoD Directive 5205.07 and Department of Defense Instruction 5205.11, *Management, Administration, and Oversight of Department of Defense Special Access Programs*. Air Force Policy Directive 16-7 applies to: all military including members of the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard; government civilian personnel; contractors and consultants when contract performance depends on access to Air Force Special Access Programs; non-Department of Defense U.S. Government Agencies whose personnel, by mutual agreement, require access to Air Force Special Access Programs. The terms of any Air Force contract or agreement in which the Air Force foresees Special Access Program access shall require the non-Department of Defense party's compliance with this policy and implementing instructions.

Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility using the Air Force Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route Air Force Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. This publication may not be supplemented at any level per Air Force Policy Directive 90-1, *Policy Formulation*, and Air Force Instruction 33-360, *Publication and Forms Management*. Ensure all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule located at <https://www.my.af.mil/afrims/afrims/afrims/cfm>. The disclosure provisions in this directive

are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive Order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) reporting to an Inspector General of: a violation of any law, rule, regulation; mismanagement; fraud, waste, and abuse; or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive Orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this directive and are controlling.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document has been substantially revised and must be reviewed in its entirety.

1. Overview.

1.1. The oversight, security, strategy, planning and programming, requirements, acquisition, execution, and life cycle management of United States Air Force Special Access Programs are conducted in parallel to the processes used for unclassified programs and activities, but are separate and distinct in order to provide appropriate security. Access to Special Access Programs shall be limited to the minimum number of personnel necessary to meet mission requirements. The Air Force Special Access Program governance structure is comprised of the Special Programs Oversight Committee, Special Programs Review Group, and Special Access Program Oversight Review Board.

1.2. Special Access Programs shall be established and maintained only when absolutely necessary to protect the most sensitive Air Force capabilities, information, technologies, and operations or when required by statute. Establishment shall be consistent with Executive Order 13526, *Classified National Security Information*.

2. Policy.

2.1. The Air Force shall only execute Special Access Programs established by the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense. The Air Force may recommend the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense establish a Special Access Program.

2.2. Air Force Special Access Programs must comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, directives, and instructions. All exceptions must be approved, in writing, by the appropriate waiver authority. The Air Force Special Access Central Office (SAF/AAZ) will assist in identifying the appropriate waiver authority.

2.3. Members of Congress assigned to Defense and Intelligence committees (House Armed Services Committee, Senate Armed Services Committee, House Appropriations Committee-Defense, Senate Appropriations Committee-Defense, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence) shall be authorized access to Special Access Programs within the respective committee's oversight role, except for waived Special Access Programs, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 119. Unless approved by the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense, only the chair, the ranking minority member, and the staff directors of the defense and intelligence committees shall be authorized access to waived SAPs within their committee's respective oversight role (see Department of Defense Directive 5205.07).

2.4. The director, Air Force Special Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition (SAF/AQL) is the Executive Secretary of the Special Programs Oversight Committee. The director must approve Air Force Special Access Program material and visits, under the committee's purview before submission to the Director, Department of Defense Special Access Programs Central Office for final approval. That includes material and visits intended for government and industry presentation, and discussions with Congress. The Air Force Special Access Program Central Office (SAF/AAZ) shall be kept informed, in a timely manner, of all Congressional interactions. SAF/AAZ shall review all reported non-compliance with this policy to determine if there is cause for adverse actions, including revocation of Special Access Program access.

2.5. Per Department of Defense Directive 5205.07, *Special Access Program Policy*, the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense may, on a selective basis, request the Secretary of the Air Force carry out and put into effect non-Air Force Special Access Programs. The designated program office shall, with SAF/AAZ and other key stakeholders, collaboratively draft and appropriately coordinate a Memorandum of Agreement or other agreement, per Air Force Instruction 25201, *Intra-Service, Intra-Agency, And Inter-Agency Support Agreements Procedures*. The Memorandum of Agreement shall identify acquisition, contracting, fiscal, legal, manpower, operational, and security responsibilities of the Air Force and the department or agency responsible for the Special Access Program. The Secretary of the Air Force shall approve such Memorandum of Agreements, and all offices and organizations executing non-Air Force or non-Department of Defense Special Access Programs shall comply with the Memorandum of Agreement. The Air Force Special Access Program Central Office (SAF/AAZ) shall oversee these agreements on behalf of the Secretary of the Air Force.

2.6. Per Department of Defense Directive 5205.07, Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense approve the use of a polygraph examination for determining initial Special Access Program access and must be consistently applied to all candidates.

2.7. The Air Force shall participate in Special Access Programs with entities of foreign governments, approved by the Secretary of Defense or a Secretary of Defense-appointed designee, and in accordance with established Memorandum of Agreements or other agreements. The Memorandum of Agreement or other agreement must define the relationship of the participants and identify the acquisition, contracting, fiscal, legal, manpower, operational, and security responsibilities of the Air Force. All offices with responsibilities identified in the Memorandum of Agreement shall review and comply with the agreement. Memorandum of Agreement terms shall be consistent with National Disclosure Policy-1, Department of Defense Directive 5530.3, *International Agreements*, and Department of Defense Directive 5230.11, *Disclosure of Classified Military Information to Foreign Governments and International Organizations*. Memorandum of Agreements for international involvement with Special Access Programs shall be submitted to the Air Force Special Access Program Central Office (SAF/AAZ) for coordination, then to Secretary of the Air Force for concurrence, then to the Department of Defense Special Access Program Central Office for Deputy Secretary of Defense or Secretary of Defense-appointed designee for final approval. The Air Force Special Access Program Central Office (SAF/AAZ) shall oversee these agreements on behalf of the Secretary of the Air Force.

2.8. All Air Force Program Access Requests for foreign nationals shall be forwarded to the Air Force Special Access Program Central Office for coordination before submission to the Department of Defense Special Access Program Central Office for approval by Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense.

2.9. Treaty and arms control/nonproliferation agreement compliance requirements, obligations, or constraints shall be considered an integral part of the policy, planning, operations, and acquisition process for all Special Access Programs. Implementation of, and compliance with, treaties and arms control/nonproliferation agreements shall be carried out in a manner so as to avoid the compromise of U.S. national security information.

2.10. All Air Force Special Access Program original classification authorities must be delegated in writing and trained in accordance with Air Force Policy Directive 16-14, *Security Enterprise Governance*, prior to making any original classification decisions.

3. Responsibilities.

3.1. As the cognizant authority for all Air Force Special Access Programs, the Secretary of the Air Force is responsible for the oversight, management, security, and execution of Special Access Programs under Air Force cognizance and will develop policies and procedures to ensure appropriate oversight. The Secretary of the Air Force is responsible for the requirements of “Heads of the Department of Defense Components” delineated in Department of Defense Directive 5205.07.

3.2. The Under Secretary of the Air Force and/or the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force are members of the Special Access Program Oversight Committee. They will designate primary and alternate Department of Defense Special Access Program Senior Working Group representatives.

3.3. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force shall provide strategic direction for the acquisition, fielding, operations, and sustainment of Special Access Programs. The Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force shall also serve as the principal Air Force representative to the Joint Requirements Oversight Council for Special Access Program topics.

3.4. The Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force shall:

3.4.1. Serve as the senior security official for the Air Force and be responsible for the efficient and effective implementation of Special Access Program policy, management, administration, and oversight in accordance with Headquarters Air Force Mission Directive 1-6.

3.4.2. Designate an Air Force Special Access Program Chief Information Officer to support Secretary of the Air Force Chief, Information Dominance and Chief Information Officer, (SAF/CIO-AF/A6) in the execution of Chief Information Officer responsibilities for Special Access Programs in accordance with Air Force Policy Directive 17-1, *Information Dominance Governance and Management*.

3.4.3. Serve as the Principal Authorizing Official for all Air Force Special Access Program Information Systems and appoint Authorizing Officials for Air Force Special Access Program Information Systems as required.

3.4.4. Provide industrial security oversight which shall, at a minimum, meet the standards outlined under the National Industrial Security Program and include inspection oversight for those cleared defense contractors executing programs that have been carved-out from Defense Security Service oversight by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense. SAF/AA is also the responsible senior official to coordinate compliance with current Department of Defense policy on TOP SECRET information and Special Access Program National Interest Determinations.

3.4.5. Coordinate with office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition (SAF/AQ) on the nomination of the director of Air Force Special Programs, SAF/AQL, given his/her role as the Special Programs Oversight Committee Executive Secretary, prior to Secretary of the Air Force approval.

3.4.6. Coordinate with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration (AF/A10) in the formulation of guidance for Air Force Special Access Program participation in the negotiation, inspection, verification, and compliance support of treaties and international arms control/nonproliferation agreements.

3.4.7. Serve as the senior Sensitive Activities official for the Air Force. This includes Special Access Programs that leverage Sensitive Activities processes.

3.4.8. In accordance with Air Force Instruction 16-901-S, *Support to Sensitive Activities*, exercise oversight of Air Force personnel assignments for Special Access Programs and other sensitive activities.

3.4.9. Establish an Air Force Special Access Program Central Office (SAF/AAZ). The Air Force Special Access Program Central Office will be responsible for general policy, integration, and security oversight of all Air Force Special Access Programs, including those for which the Secretary of the Air Force has been identified as the cognizant authority or executive agent.

3.4.9.1. The Director, Security, Special Programs Oversight and Information Protection (SAF/AAZ) shall:

3.4.9.1.1. Serve as the primary Department of Defense Special Access Program Senior Working Group representative when designated by the Under Secretary of the Air Force and/or the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

3.4.9.1.2. Serve as the primary Access Approval Authority, with the authority to delegate, for all Air Force Special Access Programs.

3.4.9.1.3. Establish Air Force Prospective Special Access Programs for Deputy Secretary of Defense approval.

3.4.9.1.4. Establish and disestablish Air Force Special Access Program compartments, sub-compartments, and projects.

3.4.9.1.5. Staff the consolidated Air Force Special Access Program annual report through the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and Under Secretary of the Air Force for Secretary of the Air Force approval, with support from SAF/AQL and the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office. Provide the report to the DoD Special Access Program Central Office for Deputy Secretary of Defense review and submission to Congress.

3.4.9.1.6. Serve as the primary point of contact to the Department of Defense and Component Special Access Program Central Offices.

3.4.9.1.7. Nominate Air Force Special Access Programs to be apportioned into Integrated Joint Special Technical Operations.

3.4.9.1.8. Serve as the Special Access Program Oversight Review Board chairperson.

3.5. The Auditor General of the Air Force (SAF/AG) is responsible for administering and maintaining an audit program for Air Force Special Access Programs.

3.6. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition (SAF/AQ) shall:

3.6.1. Provide supervision of the Air Force acquisition system, including product support, and serve as the Senior Procurement Executive and the Service Acquisition Executive for Air Force Special Access Programs in accordance with Headquarters Air Force Mission Directive 1-10, *Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition)*.

3.6.2. Provide the leadership, direction, policy, and resources to enable Special Access Program integrated life cycle management of systems, supplies, and services to accomplish the Air Force mission.

3.6.3. Provide direction, guidance, and supervision over all matters pertaining to the formulation, review, approval, and execution of Special Access Program acquisition plans, policies, and programs.

3.6.4. Ensure all appropriate acquisition documents, to include test documents, are provided to AF/A10, SAF/AA, and SAF/GC for a review of their compliance with international arms control/nonproliferation agreements.

3.6.5. In coordination with the SAF/AA, nominate an individual to be the Director of SAF/AQL, for Secretary of the Air Force approval, who shall serve as the Special Program Oversight Committee Executive Secretary.

3.6.5.1. The Director, Air Force Special Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition (SAF/AQL) shall:

3.6.5.1.1. Serve as the Special Program Oversight Committee Executive Secretary and Special Programs Review Group chairperson.

3.6.5.1.2. Participate in the Department of Defense Special Access Program Senior Working Group, at the discretion of the Director, Air Force Special Access Program Central Office (SAF/AAZ).

3.6.5.1.3. Serve as the Air Force representative to the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Tri-Service Low Observable/Counter- Low Observable Committee.

3.6.5.1.4. Execute Department of Defense Anti-Tamper Executive Agency on behalf of the Secretary of the Air Force.

3.6.5.1.5. Serve as Original Classification Authority for most Air Force Special Access Programs.

3.6.5.1.6. Represent SAF/AQL at Air Force Capability Development Council Working Group special topics sessions.

3.6.5.1.7. Serve as the Technology Executive Officer for Air Force Science & Technology and Research & Development Special Access Programs, as delegated by SAF/AQ or Air Force Research Lab Commander (AFRL/CC).

3.7. The Chief, Information Dominance and Chief Information Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/CIO A6) is responsible for enabling an operationally-resilient, reliable, and secure cyberspace domain to meet Air Force mission needs in accordance with Headquarters Air Force Mission Directive 1-26, *Chief, Information Dominance and Chief Information Officer*. The Air Force Special Access Program Chief Information Officer consults with SAF/CIO A6 to ensure compliance with information technology and cybersecurity statutory requirements.

3.8. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller (SAF/FM) is responsible for financial oversight policy and management of the Air Force Special Access Program financial structure; fiscal accountability; cost and economic analysis; audit liaison; financial reporting of Special Access Program resources; and budgeting and financial execution activities for Air Force Special Access Programs through the Special Programs Review Group and Special Program Oversight Committee. In addition, SAF/FM is responsible for:

3.8.1. Supporting Air Force Special Access Program meetings with Congressional appropriation committees, in coordination with the Special Program Oversight Committee Executive Secretary (SAF/AQL) and after approval by the Department of Defense Special Access Program Central Office.

3.9. The General Counsel of the Air Force (SAF/GC) is responsible for legal reviews of Air Force Special Access Programs to ensure compliance with international law, U.S. statutes, Executive Orders, and Department of Defense and Air Force regulations, and for maintaining a sufficient cadre of attorneys to do so. SAF/GC shall be accessed to all Special Access Programs for which the Air Force participates.

3.10. The Secretary of the Air Force Office of the Inspector General (SAF/IG) is responsible for performing program security, inspection, investigative, intelligence oversight, and counterintelligence functions for all Air Force Special Access Programs and for maintaining a sufficient cadre of special agents, analysts, and program security officers to do so. The SAF/IG shall establish procedures and secure channels for reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption involving Air Force Special Access Programs. In addition, SAF/IG is responsible for establishing a polygraph and credibility assessment program for personnel accessed to Special Access Programs. Through the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, SAF/IG shall appoint a Special Access Program Security Director to execute Special Access Program security responsibilities for all Air Force Special Access Programs consistent with the National Industrial Security Program, and shall ensure inspections are accomplished for cleared defense contractors supporting programs that have been carved-out from Defense Security Service oversight by the Secretary of Defense or Deputy Secretary of Defense.

3.11. The Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs (SAF/IA) is responsible for coordinating on requests to disclose Air Force Special Access Program information or enter into Memorandums of Agreement or other agreements with foreign entities.

3.12. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy (SAF/IE) is responsible for installations strategy and strategic basing processes; built and natural infrastructure; facility, process, and operational energy; and environment, safety, and occupational health. SAF/IE shall assist Air Force Special Access Programs with strategic basing processes and compliance with infrastructure, energy, environmental, safety, and occupational health policies.

3.13. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel, and Services (AF/A1) is responsible for supporting manpower requirements, allocations, and personnel assignments for Air Force Special Access Programs.

3.14. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (AF/A2) is responsible for advocating intelligence requirements, providing substantive intelligence support (i.e., analysis), overseeing acquisition intelligence support (i.e., intelligence mission databases), and providing intelligence oversight for all Air Force Special Access Programs. In addition, AF/A2 shall support AF/TE in the Foreign Materiel Program for Air Force Special Access Programs.

3.15. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (AF/A3) is responsible for operations planning for all Air Force Special Access Programs. AF/A3 is also responsible for operational Special Access Program integration, participation in Integrated Joint Special Technical Operations in accordance with CJCSI 3120.08D, *Integrated Joint Special Technical Operations*, and COAL WARFIGHTER oversight.

3.16. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering, and Force Protection (AF/A4) is responsible for broad life cycle sustainment policy implementation guidance to Air Force Special Access Program logistics, engineering, and force protection activities.

3.17. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans, Programs, and Requirements (AF/A5/8) shall:

3.17.1. Chair the Air Force Capabilities Development Council special sessions for Air Force Special Access Programs.

3.17.2. Manage the validation of Air Force Special Access Program requirements through the Joint Capabilities, Integration, and Development System.

3.17.2.1. AF/A5R serves as the Air Force's principal representative to the Joint Capabilities Board.

3.17.3. Integrate Special Access Program planning and programming into Air Force long-range strategic plans and the Program Objective Memorandum through Air Force corporate process special sessions, as required. Prioritize Special Access Program and non-Special Access Program programmatic adjustments proposed during Air Force budget deliberations and Office of the Secretary of Defense's Program Budget Review process.

3.17.3.1. AF/A8X serves as the lead integrator for Special Access Program and non-Special Access Program planning activities, in coordination with the Special Program Review Group chairperson (SAF/AQL).

3.17.3.2. AF/A8P serves as the lead integrator for Special Access Program and non-Special Access Program Objective Memorandum and Program Budget Review activities, in coordination with the Special Program Review Group chairperson (SAF/AQL).

3.18. The Director, Air Force Studies, Analyses, and Assessments (AF/A9), is responsible for advising Special Access Program investment decisions by the Special Programs Oversight Committee with decision-quality analysis.

3.19. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration (AF/A10) is responsible for guidance and oversight of Air Force Special Access Program activities with nuclear and strategic deterrence equities. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration (AF/A10) is also the Air Force central authority for activities related to treaties and international arms control/nonproliferation agreements, and oversees the formulation of guidance for Air Force Special Access Program participation in the negotiation, inspection, verification, and compliance support of these agreements.

3.20. The Director, Test and Evaluation (AF/TE) is responsible for guidance, direction, and oversight of matters affecting test equities for Air Force Special Access Program activities. In addition, AF/TE serves as the lead for the Foreign Materiel Program for Air Force Special Access Programs.

3.21. Major Command Commanders are responsible for establishing a Special Access Program Management Office and appointing a Director (O-6 or GS-15) as the single focal point within their respective command for coordination, dissemination, and reporting of Special Access Program activities and notifying the Air Force Special Access Program Central Office (SAF/AAZ) of this appointment in writing. Major Commands will determine the appropriate staffing and resources necessary for their respective Special Access Program Management Office and are responsible for appointing Major Command Government Special Access Program Security Officers. Major Commands are responsible for appropriately resourcing Special Access Program Management Offices funding and manpower. Major Command Special Access Program Management Offices provide fundamental program requirements to the Special Program Review Group through the AF/A5/8 and are responsible for appointing Major Command Government Special Access Program Security Officers.

3.21.1. Major Command Special Access Program Management Offices are responsible for supporting the Major Command Inspector General program when requested in accordance with Air Force Instruction 90-201, *The Air Force Inspection System*.

4. Special Access Program Governance.

4.1. While many Air Force Council members serve on the Special Programs Oversight Committee, the Special Programs Oversight Committee is a separate and distinct decision making body that is parallel to the Air Force Corporate process, streamlined and segregated to provide appropriate security. The Special Programs Oversight Committee shall serve as the senior Air Force review committee for oversight, security, strategy, planning and programming, requirements, affordability, acquisition, execution, and life cycle management

of Air Force Special Access Programs, including Special Access Programs funded by the Military Intelligence Program.

4.2. The Special Programs Oversight Committee is chaired by the Secretary of the Air Force unless the Secretary of the Air Force is unavailable and then it is chaired by Under Secretary of the Air Force. Special Programs Oversight Committee members include: Under Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, SAF/AA, SAF/AQ, SAF/CIO A6, SAF/FM, SAF/GC, AF/CVA, AF/A2, AF/A3, AF/A5/8, AF/TE. Principals must make every effort to attend. Special Programs Oversight Committee advisors include: AF/A1, AF/A4, AF/A9, AF/A10, and the Air Force Special Access Central Office (SAF/AAZ). Special Programs Oversight Committee members, through the Special Programs Oversight Committee Executive Secretary and with the Secretary of the Air Force's concurrence, may invite additional advisors, including Major Command principals, as appropriate. The Special Programs Oversight Committee shall:

4.2.1. Conduct a review of the current execution status of selected Air Force Special Access Program programs.

4.2.2. Review and approve the Special Access Program portion of the Air Force 30-year Resource Allocation Plan and any associated Planning Choices.

4.2.3. Review the Air Force Special Access Program Objective Memorandum prior to Secretary of the Air Force approval and submission to the Deputy Secretary of Defense through the Department of Defense Special Access Program Central Office. Once the Secretary of the Air Force has approved Air Force Special Access Program Objective Memorandum, no one may make adjustments without approval of the Secretary of the Air Force obtained via coordination with the Special Programs Oversight Committee Executive Secretary.

4.3. The Special Programs Oversight Committee Executive Secretary shall:

4.3.1. Interface directly with the Secretary of the Air Force for Special Programs Oversight Committee matters.

4.3.2. Serve as a principal Special Access Program advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force and Special Programs Oversight Committee members on matters involving Special Access Programs and liaise with other military Services, defense agencies, and federal departments to ensure cross-fertilization of advanced technologies and concepts to explore the potential for joint cooperation activities.

4.3.3. Ensure the Special Programs Oversight Committee members are apprised of program status, to include program objectives and milestones; long-range strategic planning; programmatic funding, manpower, and resource requirements; audit and inspection results; and security posture.

4.3.4. Serve as the Special Programs Oversight Committee's representative for programmatic matters for Air Force Special Access Programs and perform daily coordination activities within the Air Staff.

4.3.5. Schedule Special Programs Oversight Committee meetings, coordinate agenda items, prepare and distribute meeting minutes, and track action items to ensure timely resolution.

4.3.6. Serve as the primary interface with Congress for all Air Force Special Access Programs under the Special Programs Oversight Committee's purview.

4.3.7. Serve as the primary representative to the Department of Defense Special Access Program Central Office for all resource allocation and programmatic matters, in coordination with the Air Force Special Access Program Central Office (SAF/AAZ).

4.3.8. Perform additional duties as assigned by the Secretary of the Air Force.

4.4. The Special Programs Review Group is an advisory panel under the Special Programs Oversight Committee chaired by SAF/AQL. AF/A8XP will co-chair meetings on planning activities and AF/A8PE will co-chair meetings on Program Objective Memorandum activities. Special Programs Review Group members include: SAF/AAZ, SAF/AQCS, SAF/AQSC, SAF/FMBIB, AF/A2WZ, AF/A3D, AF/A5R-DOS, AF/A8PE, AF/A8XP, and AF/TEZ. Special Programs Review Group advisors include: SAF/AGS, SAF/AQR, SAF/FMC-AFCAA, SAF/GCI, SAF/IGI, AF/A1M, AF/A3C/A6C, AF/A4PR, AF/A8XZ, AF/A9F, AF/A10S, AFOSI PJ, and the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office. Major Command Special Access Program Management Office Directors will be invited, as appropriate. The Special Programs Review Group shall:

4.4.1. Special Programs Review Group meetings focused on planning develop the Air Force Special Access Program Resource Allocation Plan and associated Planning Choices. Special Programs Review Group meetings focused on programming develop the Air Force Special Access Program integrated priority list and Program Objective Memorandum. These products shall be provided to SAF/AQL, through AF/A5/8.

4.4.2. Conduct a review of the current execution status of all Air Force Special Access Program programs.

4.4.3. Review the results of any internal or external Air Force Special Access Program audits.

4.4.4. Eliminate unnecessary duplication of capabilities between Air Force Special Access Program and non-Special Access Programs.

4.5. The Special Access Program Oversight Review Board is chaired by the SAF/AAZ. Special Access Program Oversight Review Board members include: SAF/AQL, SAF/AQCS, SAF/FMBIB, SAF/GCI, SAF/IGI, AF/A2WZ, AF/A3OX, AF/TEZ, AFOSI PJ, SAF/AGS, AF/A5RP. Special Access Program Oversight Review Board advisors include: SAF/AAH, SAF/FMC-AFCAA, and others, as required. The Special Access Program Oversight Review Board shall:

4.5.1. Oversee Air Force Special Access Programs from establishment to disestablishment. The Special Access Program Oversight Review Board shall annually review the security status of each Air Force Special Access Program to make a recommendation on whether or not it continues to meet the requirements of Executive Order 13526, *Classified National Security Information*. The Special Access Program Oversight Review Board is also responsible for conducting two types of reviews: Special Access Program compliance reviews and Special Access Program justification reviews. The results of these reviews shall be provided to the Special Programs Oversight Committee.

- 4.5.1.1. Special Access Program compliance reviews will provide the basis for the annual certification by the Secretary of the Air Force to the Deputy Secretary of Defense and ultimately Congress that each Air Force Special Access Program is in compliance with applicable regulatory and statutory requirements. Compliance will be evaluated to ensure the standards established in Department of Defense Instruction 5205.11 are met. Results of compliance reviews will form the basis for Office of the Secretary of Defense oversight reviews that include a discussion of Special Access Program security posture (e.g., Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics [OUSD(AT&L)]-led Acquisition Oversight Integrated Product Teams, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence [OUSD(I)] and Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy [OUSD(P)]-led Periodic Program Reviews).
- 4.5.1.2. Special Access Program justification reviews will determine whether selected Air Force Special Access Programs continue to warrant Special Access Program protections. At a minimum, the reviews will include a discussion of security incidents and compromises; justifications for continuing enhanced security measures, especially considering technology advancements and foreign threat capabilities; costs of Special Access Program protections; and the implications of disestablishing Special Access Programs.
- 4.6. The Secretary of the Air Force may designate specific Special Access Programs to be managed outside the Special Programs Oversight Committee governance structure. A separate agreement, detailing responsibilities for Special Access Program governance, shall be used to document each exception. These agreements must identify specific portions of this directive and Air Force Instruction 16-701, *Management, Administration and Oversight of Special Access Programs*, that are exempt.
- 4.6.1. Special Access Programs managed by the Air Force Rapids Capabilities Office are governed by the Air Force Rapids Capabilities Office Charter. The Air Force Rapids Capabilities Office Charter provides streamlined oversight processes to rapidly develop capabilities for the warfighter. Tasking and acquisition oversight are provided by the Air Force Rapids Capabilities Office Board of Directors composed of the USD (AT&L), Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition (SAF/AQ). The Charter also defines the roles and responsibilities of key Air Staff principals. Air Force Rapids Capabilities Office Special Access Programs are subject to tailored annual Special Access Programs Oversight Review Boards. In addition, the Air Force Rapids Capabilities Office will inform SAF/AQL and the Air Force Special Access Program Central Office (SAF/AAZ) of its Congressional activities, in a timely manner.

HEATHER WILSON
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

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AFI 16-701, Management, Administration and Oversight of Special Access Programs, 18 February 2014

AFI 16-901-S, Support to Sensitive Activities (U), 18 April 2014

AFI 25-201, Intra-Service, Intra-Agency, And Inter-Agency Support Agreements Procedures, 18 October 2013

AFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management, 1 December 2015

AFI 65-201, Managers' Internal Control Program Procedures, 9 February 2016

AFI 90-201, The Air Force Inspection System, 21 April 2015,

Incorporating Change 1, 11 February 2016

AFMAN 33-363, Management of Records, 1 March 2008

AFRCO Charter, 30 April 2010

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication, 22 September 2009

Terms

Carve-out—A provision approved by the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of Defense that relieves the Defense Security Service of its National Industrial Security Program obligation to perform industrial security oversight functions for a Department of Defense Special Access Program.

Cognizant Authority—The Deputy Secretary of Defense, designated Department of Defense Component Heads, Principle Staff Assistants, or Department of Defense agency heads accountable for management and execution of their respective Department of Defense Special Access Programs.

Oversight—Authority to monitor, review, inspect, investigate, analyze, evaluate, and advise an organization's management, operation, performance, and processes through policy, guidelines, instructions, regulations, or other structures to maintain compliance and effectiveness within the National Security construct. (This authority does not limit in any way the authority of an Inspector General or others in the execution of their lawful duties.)

Oversight Authority—Designated official assigned oversight responsibility for a Special Access Program. Oversight responsibilities include, but are not limited to, endorsing change of category, endorsing apportionment into or de-apportionment from Integrated Joint Special Technical Operations, conducting program reviews, endorsing termination or transition plans, ensuring Special Access Programs do not duplicate or overlap, and coordinating Special Access Program annual reports with the Department of Defense Special Access Program Central Office.

Original Classification Authority—An individual authorized in writing, either by the President, the Vice President, or by agency heads or other officials designated by the President, to originally classify information (i.e., to classify information in the first instance).

Polygraph and Credibility Assessment—The overarching term covering programs, research, training, and procedures that employ technologies to assess an individual's truthfulness with the aid of technical devices that measure physiological data or behavioral activity.

Prospective Special Access Program—A Department of Defense program for which enhanced security measures have been proposed and approved to facilitate security protections prior to establishing the effort as a Special Access Program.

Principal Authorizing Official—The principal official with the authority to formally assume responsibility for operating a Special Access Program Information System at an acceptable level of risk.

Special Access Program—A program established for a specific class of classified information that imposes safeguarding and access requirements that exceed those normally required for information at the same classification level.