



ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

26 JUN 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
ATTN: SERVICE ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES  
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
ATTN: COMMANDER, U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
COMMAND  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Contracted Fundamental Research

- References: (a) National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) 189, National Policy on the Transfer of Scientific, Technical, and Engineering Information, September 21, 1985 (copy attached)  
(b) DoD Directive 5230.24, Distribution Statements on Technical Documents, March 18, 1987  
(c) DoD Instruction 5230.27, Presentation of DoD-Related Scientific and Technical Papers at Meetings, October 6, 1987

The Department of Defense (DoD) fully supports free scientific exchanges and dissemination of research results to the maximum extent possible. Critical to enabling exchanges and dissemination is an understanding on the part of DoD program managers, potential grantees, and contractors of the policies governing restrictions that may be imposed by the DoD on basic and applied research. Understanding will help guide DoD program managers, and contract and grant recipients, in making plans and decisions that will affect performance of research under DoD awards and implementing measures that may be needed to comply with security controls.

I have determined that clarifying guidance is required to ensure that the DoD will not restrict disclosure of the results of contracted fundamental research, as herein defined, unless the research is classified for reasons of national security, or as otherwise required by statute, regulation, or Executive Order.

Reference (a) established the national policy for controlling the flow of scientific, technical, and engineering information produced in federally funded fundamental research at colleges, universities, and laboratories. Reference (a) defines fundamental research as follows:



“‘Fundamental research’ means basic and applied research in science and engineering, the results of which ordinarily are published and shared broadly within the scientific community, as distinguished from proprietary research and from industrial development, design, production, and product utilization, the results of which ordinarily are restricted for proprietary or national security reasons.”

The policy makes clear that the products of fundamental research are to remain unrestricted to the maximum extent possible. When control is necessary for national security reasons, classification is the only appropriate mechanism. The DoD will place no other restrictions on the conduct or reporting of unclassified fundamental research, except as otherwise required by statute, regulation, or Executive Order.

The definition of “contracted fundamental research,” or fundamental research in a DoD contractual context, was established by References (b) and (c). The definition is:

“Contracted Fundamental Research. Includes [research performed under] grants and contracts that are (a) funded by budget Category 6.1 (“Research”), whether performed by universities or industry or (b) funded by budget Category 6.2 (“Exploratory Development”) and performed on-campus at a university. The research shall not be considered fundamental in those rare and exceptional circumstances where the 6.2-funded effort presents a high likelihood of disclosing performance characteristics of military systems or manufacturing technologies that are unique and critical to defense, and where agreement on restrictions have been recorded in the contract or grant.”

The terms “budget category 6.1” (“Research”) and “budget category 6.2” (“Exploratory Development”) have been replaced by Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Budget Activity 1 (Basic Research) and 2 (Applied Research). With this clarification, these references continue to define national and DoD policy on the transfer of the products of contracted fundamental research. This means that DoD awards for the performance of fundamental research should, with rare exceptions, not involve classified items, information, or technology. Nor, with rare exceptions, should an award be managed or executed in such a manner that it becomes subject to controls under U.S. statutes, including export control. The performance of fundamental research, again with rare exceptions, should not be managed in a way that it becomes subject to restrictions on the involvement of foreign researchers or, publication restrictions.

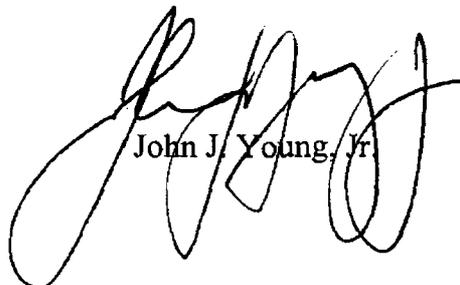
I recognize that there will be compelling reasons for DoD to place controls on some applied research that is performed on campus at a university, but such occasions should be rare and each must be carefully scrutinized. I direct the addressees, without further delegation, to review and concur that the decisions of their subordinates in these exceptional circumstances are required by statute, regulation, or an Executive Order.

The effective implementation of this guidance requires that all DoD personnel involved in the acquisition and monitoring of contracted fundamental research have a clear and common understanding of the relevant statutes, regulations, and policies, including the definitions of key terms. Freedom from restrictions is most likely to be achieved and maintained when contracts and grants for fundamental research require performance of work that is clearly and only fundamental research.

It is critical for the smooth and efficient acquisition of fundamental research that requiring activities or program managers determine, prior to issuance of solicitations and award of contracts or grants, whether the work required is expected to be only fundamental research. This will enable contracting and grants officers to use solicitation provisions and clauses suitable for award instruments involving only fundamental research. Requiring activities or program managers must regularly monitor the performance of contracts and grants for fundamental research so that appropriate action may be taken if the character of the research changes.

Solicitations, including Broad Agency Announcements, should indicate whether performance of research resulting from that solicitation is or is not expected to be fundamental. Restrictions on publication, security review procedures, and other required actions must be explicitly included in contract clauses or grant terms and conditions. Any such inclusions must be fully consistent with the corresponding solicitation.

I direct that this memorandum be broadly distributed within your organizations to personnel in program management, contracting, security, and grants organizations, and other appropriate organizations. I also direct that discussion and clarification of the policies and guidance documents associated with contracted fundamental research be included in general training modules for research program personnel. Each addressee of this memorandum must report back to me in writing, by July 15, on the detailed plans of incorporating this policy into broad training of all relevant personnel. I have delegated ongoing monitoring of compliance with this policy to the DUSD (LABS). My point of contact there is Dr. Robin Staffin, Director of Basic Research, at 703-588-1383.



John J. Young, Jr.

Attachment:  
As stated

cc:  
Director, Defense Contract Audit Agency  
Director, Defense Contract Management Agency