



# Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 5210.48

January 25, 2007

*Incorporating Change 1, February 4, 2011*

---

---

USD(I)

SUBJECT: Polygraph and Credibility Assessment Program

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 5210.48, "DoD Polygraph Program," December 24, 1984 (hereby canceled)
  - (b) Section 1564a of title 10, United States Code, ~~as amended by Public Law No. 109-163~~
  - (c) DoD 5210.48-R, "Department of Defense Polygraph Program," January 1985
  - (d) DoD Directive 5105.42, "Defense Security Service (DSS)," ~~May 13, 1999~~ *August 3, 2010*
  - (e) Section 402a(e) of title 50, United States Code

## 1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive:

1.1. Reissues Reference (a) to update policy and responsibilities governing the ~~Department of Defense (DoD)~~ Polygraph and Credibility Assessment (PCA) Program. Implements Reference (b) and continues to authorize Reference (c), or the authorized re-issuance of Reference (c), as amended (hereafter referred to as "Reference (c)").

1.2. Introduces the term Credibility Assessment (CA) to represent existing as well as potential techniques and procedures to assess truthfulness.

1.3. Directs that, before a non-polygraph CA technology is authorized for use beyond development and evaluation, specific methodologies and procedures shall be approved in accordance with Reference (c).

1.4. Transfers polygraph program management from the Defense Security Service, as listed in Reference (d), to the Director, ~~DoD Counterintelligence Field Activity (DoD CIFA)~~ *Defense Counterintelligence and Human Intelligence Center (DCHC)*. The transfer includes polygraph education, training, certification, quality assurance, and research.

1.5. Renames the ~~DoD Polygraph Institute~~ the Defense Academy for Credibility Assessment (DACA) *the National Center for Credibility Assessment (NCCA)*.

## 2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Directive applies to:

2.1. ~~The Office of the Secretary of Defense OSD~~, the Military Departments, the *Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff*, the Combatant Commands (COCOMs), the Office of the Inspector General of the ~~Department of DefenseDoD~~, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in the ~~Department of DefenseDoD~~ (hereafter referred to collectively as the “DoD Components”).

2.2. The conduct of PCA examinations involving DoD civilian applicants and employees, military personnel, contractors, consultants, experts, or other personnel assigned or detailed to the ~~Department of DefenseDoD~~ (hereafter referred to as “DoD-affiliated personnel”).

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. Credibility Assessment (CA). The multi-disciplinary field of existing as well as potential techniques and procedures to assess truthfulness that relies on physiological reactions and behavioral measures to test the agreement between an individual’s memories and statements.

3.2. Federal Polygraph Examiner. Military, civilian, or contractor personnel authorized to conduct polygraph examinations on behalf of a Federal agency.

3.3. Polygraph and Credibility Assessment (PCA) Instrumentation. Technical devices, used in conjunction with associated techniques, that measure or display physiological or behavioral activity that is analyzed in the assessment of an individual’s truthfulness.

3.4. Polygraph Examination. A process that encompasses all activities that take place between a polygraph examiner and examinee during a specific series of interactions.

## 4. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

4.1. There shall be a Polygraph and Credibility Assessment Program in the ~~Department of DefenseDoD~~.

4.2. PCA instrumentation, techniques, procedures, training, and examinations shall be employed and administered only as authorized and in the manner prescribed by this Directive, References (b) and (c), and 50 U.S.C. 402a (Reference (e)).

4.3. The DoD Components listed in Enclosure 1 are authorized to conduct PCA examinations in the manner prescribed by this Directive, References (b) and (c), and Reference (e).

4.4. Where U.S. law or applicable DoD issuances require, the DoD Components authorized to conduct PCA examinations shall provide adequate safeguards to protect the rights and privacy of persons who are considered for or subjected to polygraph examinations. For persons covered by Reference (b) who are considered for or subjected to counterintelligence polygraph examinations, the safeguards must include, at minimum, the safeguards outlined in Reference (b).

4.5. DoD Components shall accept only PCA examinations and/or the results of such examinations that are conducted by Federal PCA examiners.

## 5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (USD(I)), or designee, shall:

5.1.1. Oversee the PCA Program.

5.1.2. Coordinate with the DoD Inspector General (IG) regarding all PCA policy and oversight matters.

5.1.3. Issue and maintain all PCA policy issuances.

5.1.4. Establish a Polygraph and Credibility Assessment Program Executive Committee (PCAPEC). (See Enclosure 2.)

5.1.5. Participate in DoD and national-level PCA program fora.

5.1.6. Coordinate with the DoD IG regarding PCA policy and oversight impacting PCA law enforcement matters.

5.2. The Director, ~~DoD-CIEA~~ DCHC, under the authority, direction, and control of the ~~USD(I)~~ Director, DIA, shall:

5.2.1. Manage the DoD PCA Program.

5.2.2. Coordinate, integrate, and synchronize the DoD PCA Program with other counterintelligence missions and functions.

5.2.3. Establish a process to monitor responsible and effective application of PCA examinations within the ~~Department of Defense~~ DoD.

5.2.4. Establish DoD PCA standards for education, training, certification, quality assurance, and research.

5.2.5. Properly research and develop PCA techniques, instrumentation, and technologies before recommending deployment.

5.2.6. Approve requests for DoD PCA support to non-DoD organizations.

5.2.7. Chair the PCAPEC.

5.2.8. Exercise authority, direction, and control over the ~~DACA NCCA~~.

5.3. The DoD Components authorized to conduct PCA examinations shall:

5.3.1. Authorize the use of PCA examinations within their areas of responsibility.

5.3.2. Delegate authority to authorize PCA examinations to the heads of security and investigative agencies, or their specific designees. Designees who receive delegated authority under this paragraph shall be the minimum required to meet operational needs.

5.3.3. Support the COCOMs.

5.4. The Secretary of the Army shall provide facility, administrative, logistical, and practical examination support as ~~DACA NCCA~~ may require. Such support may also be required for other PCA education, training, and research.

5.5. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall:

5.5.1. Validate COCOM PCA requirements in coordination with ~~DoD CIFA DCHC~~.

5.5.2. Incorporate COCOM PCA requirements into the Joint Staff Action Process.

5.6. The COCOMs shall prioritize and submit PCA requirements to the Joint Staff and ~~DoD CIFA DCHC~~.

6. RELEASABILITY. UNLIMITED. This Directive is approved for public release and is available on the Internet from the DoD Issuances Website at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

67. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon England". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gordon England  
*Deputy Secretary of Defense*

Enclosures - 2

- E1. DoD Organizations Authorized to Conduct Polygraph and Credibility Assessment Examinations
- E2. DoD PCAPEC Charter

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

DOD ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT POLYGRAPH AND  
CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT EXAMINATIONS

- E1.1. U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command
- E1.2. U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command
- E1.3. U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service
- E1.4. U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations
- E1.5. National Security Agency/Central Security Service
- E1.6. Defense Intelligence Agency
- ~~E1.7. Defense Security Service~~
- E1.87. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- E1.98. National Reconnaissance Office
- E1.109. Defense Criminal Investigative Service
- ~~E1.11. DoD-CIFA~~

E2. ENCLOSURE 2

DoD PCAPEC CHARTER

E2.1. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

E2.1.1. ~~DoD-CIFA~~ *DCHC* convenes and chairs the PCAPEC. The PCAPEC membership shall include representatives from the organizations listed in Enclosure 1 and a representative from the CI Directorate, USD(I).

E2.1.2. ~~DoD-CIFA~~ *DCHC* chairs the Integrated Management Groups (IMGs) that support the PCAPEC. IMGs are dedicated to specific DoD PCA functions, missions, or other areas as necessary and its members are organizations represented on the PCAPEC. IMGs shall report their progress and efforts periodically as required by the PCAPEC.

E2.2. FUNCTIONS

E2.2.1. The PCAPEC shall advise and assist the USD(I) on PCA matters; resolving operational conflicts and carrying out specific tasks as outlined by the Chair, PCAPEC; and reviewing and evaluating reforms within the DoD PCA Program.

E2.2.2. The PCAPEC membership shall coordinate their respective PCA activities, as requested by the Chair, PCAPEC.