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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 27, 1988

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 309

Nuclear Weapons Safety, Security, and Control (U)

Adequate safety, security, and control of United States nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon systems and nuclear weapon facilities are of paramount importance to the security of the United States. This NSDD reaffirms and consolidates my guidance for Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Energy (DOE) responsibilities for nuclear weapon safety, security, and control. (U)

Nuclear weapons are a cornerstone of United States national security and will continue to provide a basis for national defense for the foreseeable future. To maintain credible deterrence, our nuclear weapons must be appropriately deployed and ready, and they must be safe, secure, and controlled. (U)

The basic premise for DOD and DOE dual-agency judgment and responsibility for safety, security, and control derives from each Department's obligation to protect the public health and safety. (U)

DOD and DOE will share the responsibilities to:

Identify and resolve nuclear safety problems connected with nuclear weapons. (U)

Prevent unauthorized use of a nuclear weapon through the use of positive control measures. (U)

Determine the adequacy and effectiveness of physical security measures and coordinate their efforts including exchange of technical and operating data. (U)

Establish an interagency command, control, and communications infrastructure to ensure nuclear weapons safety, security, and control during any national emergency from a nuclear accident to war. (U)

To ensure I am adequately informed of the status of nuclear weapon safety, security, and control matters, the following reporting procedures shall be implemented:

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Declassify on: OADR

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reclassified/Released on 6/19/96
under provisions of E.O. 12958
D. Van Tassel, National Security Council
F88-609

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An Annual Surety Report shall be prepared jointly by DOD and DOE and submitted by June 30th of each year. As a minimum, the report shall address nuclear weapon safety, security, control, emergency response, inspection and evaluation programs, and the impact of budget constraints on required improvement programs. (S)

A DOE Annual Report on Nuclear Weapons Domestic Safeguards and Security shall be submitted by April 30th of each year that shall describe the current state of protection of all DOE domestic nuclear weapons facilities. (S)

I shall be briefed annually on nuclear weapons safeguards and security after these reports are submitted and reviewed. (S)

The staff of the National Security Council should be advised promptly of unusual problems or accomplishments involving nuclear weapon safety or security. (S)

This directive supersedes NSDM-254, dated April 27, 1974, and NSDD-279, dated June 16, 1987, and supplements NSDD-281, United States Nuclear Weapons Command and Control, dated August 21, 1987. (S)

Ronald Reagan

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