



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES
CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

SUBJECT: Civilian Visitors Operating Military Equipment

Effective immediately, I am directing a DoD-wide moratorium on permitting civilian visitors to operate any item of military equipment (to include equipment under the control of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard) when such operation could cause, or reasonably be perceived as causing, an increased safety risk. This policy is effective regardless of how closely military personnel supervise the civilian visitors. This moratorium is not designed to restrict civilian visitors from observing their military; it is designed to ensure their visits are conducted as safely as possible.

This moratorium specifically includes any aspect of the actual operation of military vessels, aircraft, vehicles, and crew-served weapons systems. The Secretaries of the Military Departments will issue implementing guidance regarding other items of equipment, including individual small arms, that ensures such equipment, if operated by civilian visitors, is operated safely and under the direct supervision of DoD employees or military personnel. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs will issue implementing guidance regarding compliance with this moratorium in established community relations programs.

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Civilian and contractor employees who must operate military equipment as part of their duties are not considered civilian visitors for the purposes of this memorandum and are not covered by this moratorium.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. R. [unclear]", written in a cursive style.