UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Changes in Education Requirements for the Acquisition Workforce

This memorandum provides guidance to the DoD Components on the effect of the changes in education requirements for personnel in the contracting career field that were mandated by section 808 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, Public Law 106-398.

Section 808 amended 10 U.S.C. § 1724 to establish a new minimum qualification requirement for all new entrants into the GS-1102 occupational series or similar military occupational specialty (for military personnel), and for contracting officers with authority to award or administer contracts above the simplified acquisition threshold. To qualify for one of these positions, an individual must have completed a baccalaureate degree and at least 24 semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of study from an accredited institution of higher education in any of the following disciplines: accounting, business finance, law, contracts, purchasing, economics, industrial management, marketing, quantitative methods, and organization and management.

It is the Department's view that this requirement applies only to new military and civilian entrants as of October 1, 2000. Civilian personnel in DoD, who occupied GS-1102 positions or contracting officer positions with authority to

award or administer contracts above the simplified acquisition threshold on or before September 30, 2000, are therefore excluded from this new requirement with respect to civilian positions. Military personnel who occupied positions with occupational specialties similar to the GS-1102 series or contracting officer positions with authority to award or administer contracts above the simplified acquisition threshold on or before September 30, 2000, are therefore excluded from this new requirement with respect to military positions.

Components shall use the 10 U.S.C. § 1724(d) waiver provision for new entrants in the 1102 series between October 1, 2000, and the effective date of this policy memorandum.

Nothing in this memorandum is intended to affect the guidance on hiring controls contained in Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff Andrew Card's January 20, 2001, memorandum or Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 01-05, as implemented by Secretary Rumsfeld's memorandum of February 9, 2001.

Charles L. Cragin
Acting