



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-61 PUBLIC AFFAIRS OPERATIONS

APPENDIX A: DODD 5122.05, ENCLOSURE 2: PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION

Last Reviewed: 19 June 2014

DODD 5122.05, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (ASD(PA))
5 September 2008, Enclosure 2

ENCLOSURE 2 PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION

It is the policy of the Department of Defense to make available timely and accurate information so that the public, Congress, and the news media may assess and understand the facts about national security and defense strategy. Requests for information from organizations and private citizens shall be answered in a timely manner. In carrying out the policy, the following principles of information will apply:

- a. Information will be made fully and readily available, consistent with the statutory requirements, unless its release is precluded by current and valid security classification. The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act will be supported in both letter and spirit.
- b. A free flow of general and military information will be made available, without censorship or propaganda, to the men and women of the Armed Forces and their dependents.
- c. Information will not be classified or otherwise withheld to protect the Government from criticism or embarrassment.
- d. Information will be withheld only when disclosure would adversely affect national security, threaten the safety or privacy of the men and women of the Armed Forces, or if otherwise authorized by statute or regulation.
- e. The Department of Defense's obligation to provide the public with information on its major programs may require detailed public affairs planning and coordination within the Department of Defense and with the other Government agencies. The sole purpose of such activity is to expedite the flow of information to the public; propaganda has no place in DoD public affairs programs.