

## **New Release – Department of Defense Instruction 5000.72 - DoD Standard for Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) Certification**

On 30 March 2015, the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, [released](#) the long awaited Department of Defense Instruction codifying the DoD Contracting Officer Representative (COR) management, oversight, training and certification program. DoDI 5000.72 DoD Standard for Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) Certification can be found at: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/500072p.pdf>

Until release of this DoDI, the primary sources of DoD level policy regarding appointment, certification, and oversight of CORs were:

- a) DFARS Subpart 201.602-2 and PGI 201.602-2.
- b) USD(AT&L) Memorandum, dated 29 March 2010, Subject: DoD Standard for Certification of Contracting Officer's Representatives (COR) for Service Acquisitions, known as "the Carter Memo".
- c) USD(AT&L) Memorandum, dated 21 March 2011, Subject: Deployment of the Department of Defense (DoD) Contracting Officer Representative Tracking Tool (CORT Tool)

The new DoDI now replaces b) and c) as the primary source of DoD policy. The following provides a high level summary of 1) What has not changed, 2) What's New, and 3) What has been clarified.

### 1) What has **NOT** Changed:

- The training and experience requirements for personnel nominated and ultimately designated as CORs have not changed, with one minor exception. DAU CLM 003 'Overview of Acquisition Ethics' is no longer a substitute for Agency provided annual ethics training. Enclosure 5 of the DoDI explains COR qualifications including training, experience, and refresher training requirements.
- The COR nomination and designation process has not changed.
- The preference that CORs be nominated as early in the acquisition process as possible has also not changed.

### 2) What's **new**:

- Requires the contracting officer (KO) to determine, and the associated procedural guidance, if the COR is to be designated as a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 450) filer.
- DoD Component heads to designate a COR coordinator to provide functional advice to oversee, report, and maintain and establish an appropriate COR management program.
- Mandates that feedback on COR performance be provided to COR supervisors and that the CORs performance of COR related duties be included in their annual performance appraisal (uniformed personnel equivalent) or assessment.
- Relieves COR nominees and CORs who are DAWIA level II or above in the Contracting (1102 job series), Industrial Property Management (1103 job series), and Quality Assurance (1910 job series) from having to take COR specific initial or refresher training (e.g. CLC 106, 222, etc.). Note there is NO relief from taking annual ethics and CTIP training.
- Requires a yearly administrative review of COR files with the KO be accomplished.
- Mandates the KO provide an orientation to the COR nominee to address their designated responsibilities, the importance of performance, personal and potential conflicts of interest, informal commitments, unauthorized commitments, and the ethics expected in relationships with the contracting officer, COR management, and the contractor. I recognize that many DoD components, organizations and KO's already accomplish this as a "best practice".

3) What's been **clarified**: Overwhelmingly, the DoDI provides precise and plain language process and procedural guidance on:

- The COR nomination and designation process
- The types of duties and responsibilities to be delegated to a COR. See Enclosure 6.
- Responsibilities and timing of related tasks required of the COR supervisor and requiring activity.
- The requirement for the KO to designate the procurement action as a Type A, B or C requirement.
- COR documentation considerations.
- Use of the CORT Tool.
- The identification of other training and system access for WAWF, eCMRA, SPOT, and CPARS.

It is my hope that release of the DoDI will help alleviate existing confusion on the DoD COR Program, affirm that CORs are a critical element of the acquisition process, and confirm DoD's commitment to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities which may lead to fraud, waste, and/or abuse. I highly encourage you to read and share the DoDI with your organizations.

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