Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT  Participation in International Sports Competitions

References:  (a) Public Law 159, 80th Congress, approved 1 July 1947
(b) Public Law 342, 83d Congress, approved 22 April 1954

I.  PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to prescribe a Department of Defense policy regarding the participation of Armed Forces personnel in international sports competitions. This policy has particular reference to participation in the Pan-American and Olympic Games.

II.  POLICY

The Congress of the United States, by Public Law 159, 80th Congress, authorized the direction of the training and attendance of personnel of the Armed Forces in Olympic Games. By Public Law 342, 83d Congress, the President of the United States is authorized and requested to urge all citizens to do all in their power to support the Pan-American and Olympic Games and to insures that the United States will be fully and adequately represented in these games. The primary training responsibility of the Department of Defense is the training of personnel for the Armed Forces. In view of the significance attached to full and adequate representation in international sports competitions, the Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force, consistent with this primary training responsibility, will provide opportunity for Armed Forces personnel who volunteer to train for and compete in authorized international sports competitions.

III.  PROCEDURES

A. The Department of Defense Committee on International Sports Competitions will serve as the liaison, coordinating and advisory agency for the Secretary of Defense on international sports competitions. This committee will resolve such matters which, within the stated policy or procedures, cannot be resolved by the Service Secretaries. The committee
will make the necessary interpretations of, or, when deemed necessary, recommend to the Secretary of Defense proposed changes in, the stated policy.

B. While the provisions of this directive apply primarily to the Pan-American and Olympic Games, the Secretaries may apply applicable portions as a guide for participation of personnel of their respective Services in international sports competitions considered desirable by the respective Secretaries.

C. Upon being selected for a team representing the United States in international competition, Armed Forces personnel will be equipped, transported, and subsisted by the sponsoring agency (United States Olympic Committee, etc.) in the same manner as are civilian members of the team.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

A. Assignments. Armed Forces personnel who are selected to participate may be placed on duty at such places and for such periods of time as are necessary:

1. To train for and participate in the Pan-American Games, Olympic Games and other authorized international sports competitions.

2. For planning, observing, or coordinating matters pertaining to authorized international sports competitions.

B. Training. Suitable specialized training will be provided separately or jointly by the Services for those members of the Armed Forces qualified to compete in authorized international sports competitions.

V. REPORTS

Armed Services directives and regulations implementing this directive will be coordinated to insure uniformity with respect to methods, procedures and safeguards and forwarded so as to reach the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Personnel) not later than 60 days from the effective date of this directive.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This directive is effective 4 September 1954.

Acting Secretary of Defense