



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

March 25, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL KIRKLAND H. DONALD, U. S. NAVY

SUBJECT: Investigation into the Shipment of Sensitive Missile Components to Taiwan

You are appointed to conduct an investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the accountability for, and shipment of, sensitive missile components provided to the Government of Taiwan on or around August 2006.

Your investigation should be comprehensive and conducted as a matter of Departmental priority. For the purposes of this memo, the term "shipment in question" encompasses all related activity involving this equipment from the original point of disassembly at F.E. Warren AFB in 2005 to the recovery operations on March 24, 2008.

The investigation should accomplish the following tasks:

- Establish an authoritative account of the actions, decisions and events that led to the shipment in question.
- Determine what deficiencies in policies and procedures resulted in the shipment in question.
- Assess whether those personnel involved in the handling of the sensitive equipment in question performed their duties properly as directed.
- Determine whether any applicable policies and procedures have been changed since their inception in a manner that contributed to this incident.
- Identify and determine any other contributing factors that may have resulted in the shipment in question.
- Identify and assess the procedural, personnel and policy deficiencies that failed to detect the shipment in question between August 2006 and March 2008.
- Make appropriate recommendations to improve inadequate policies or procedures and to hold accountable anyone at any level you find who failed to perform his or her duties and responsibilities properly.
- Address such related matters as you deem appropriate.

Please provide me your initial assessment by April 15, 2008. I would like your completed, detailed report, including findings and recommendations, within 60 days from the date of this memorandum. If you need additional time, you may request an extension for a specific period of time. Your report should be in unclassified and classified formats, with an executive summary for each. Consistent with your obligation to perform your statutory duties, you should consider this task your primary responsibility for the duration of its performance.



You may obtain necessary technical and administrative support, including staff, office facilities, administrative equipment, legal support and technical assistance, from any of the DoD components by presenting a copy of this appointing order. I expect all DoD components to cooperate fully in your investigation and to provide you the support you request. You and your investigative staff are authorized access to all DoD information that you determine is relevant to your investigation. You also are authorized travel, including the use of military airlift where available, to such places and facilities as you deem necessary to complete your investigation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Gates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "M".

cc: Secretary of the Navy
Secretary of Air Force
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Under Secretary of Defense for AT&L
Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
DOD Inspector General
DOD General Counsel (Acting)
Director, Defense Logistics Agency
Director, Administration & Management