

Armed Forces News Issue

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Will Aiding or Fighting for Ukraine Impact My Security Clearance?

by Ryan C. Nerney, Esq., for Tully Rinckey PLLC

The conflict in Ukraine has brought forth opportunities for humanitarian and military assistance in all types and forms. While this is an admirable action, if you hold a security clearance and attempt to provide any aid to Ukraine, this is very likely to negatively impact your ability to obtain and maintain a security clearance under both Guidelines B and C of the security clearance adjudicative guidelines. Read at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek-legal/will-aiding-or-fighting-for-ukraine-impact-my-security-clearance/>

DoD Revamps Fitness, Body-Composition Protocols

The Pentagon is ditching the practice of requiring all members to meet physical fitness and body-composition (PF/BC) standards. Instead, the individual services would be charged with establishing such programs in a manner that would both meet mission requirements and require good health and fitness.

“All service members will maintain physical readiness by possessing the necessary body composition and aerobic and anaerobic fitness (which includes, at a minimum, components of cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength, and muscular endurance) to successfully perform ... service-specific requirements, missions, and military specialties,” the directive, issued March 10 by the Defense Department’s personnel and readiness office, stated.

All PF/BC protocols would be based on scientifically justified standards that also focus on eliminating tobacco use and reducing injury. Tests would focus on demands proffered by specific military specialties, with consideration towards factors such as age and gender. Service members would be tested for PF/BC no longer than once every 18 months. Anyone who cannot pass the tests would still be subject to adverse fitness reports, and possible administrative separation.

DoD Leaves Timing, Other Details of ‘Reentry’ to Components

New DoD guidance on “reentry” to regular workplaces encourages components to continue higher levels of telework than before the pandemic but largely leaves the details, including timing, to them.

“Continuation of flexibilities used during the COVID-19 pandemic increases the DoD’s efficiency and effectiveness, as well as allows the department to better attract and retain those with the necessary skills and abilities needed to accomplish current and future missions,” says a memo from deputy secretary Kathleen Hicks. Continue reading at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/dod-leaves-timing-other-details-of-reentry-to-components/>

New Names Proposed for Army Posts Named for Confederates

A special commission given the task of identifying new names for Army posts currently named after Confederate generals has come up with 87 suggestions.

The Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) reported that the panel would provide Congress with a final list by Oct. 1, after continuing to consult with civic, installation and community representatives.

AUSA provided a partial list, to include: Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe; 1st Lt. Vernon Baker; Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez; Mary Walker; Master Sgt. Gary Gordon; and Sgt. 1st Class Randall Shugart. Cashe, Baker, Benevidez and Walker each earned the Medal of Honor. Gordon and Shugart died in Somalia while protecting a downed Black Hawk helicopter from attackers. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Gens. Omar Bradley and Matthew Ridgway, Lt. Gens. James Gavin and Hal Moore, and Maj. Audie Murphy (also a Medal of Honor holder) also are on the list. The names Comfort and Central Texas are also under consideration.

According to AUSA, the commission narrowed down the potential choices from 34,000 submissions that included 3,670 unique names.

The posts slated for new names are: Forts A.P. Hill, Lee and Pickett in Virginia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Rucker, Alabama; Forts Benning and Gordon, Georgia; Fort Hood, Texas; and Fort Polk, Louisiana.

The secretary of defense would implement the plan by Jan. 1, 2024, AUSA reported, after presenting a report to Congress.

Navy Mods LCS To Accommodate Hypersonics

The Navy plans to remove gun mounts from the littoral combat ship Zumwalt in the class in order to add hypersonic weapons to the vessel. The U.S. Naval Institute (USNI) Press reported that the process of taking out the 155mm Advanced Gun Systems would begin in October.

“We are removing the guns the upper and lower gun rooms,” Capt. Matthew Schroeder, DDG 1000 program manager, told USNI’s Sam LaGrone.

The removal will create room for the height of the hypersonic missile, Schroeder said. Availability should be complete by 2025, at which point Zumwalt will carry the same Common Hypersonic Glide Body (C-HGB) that was developed for the Army and Air Force, USNI reported. The change will extend U.S. long-range capability.

In time, two other Zumwalt-class ships – Michael Monsour and Lyndon B. Johnson – will undergo the same changes.

“We have plans to do it on all three platforms during their original docking selected restricted availabilities, which are scheduled over the next several years,” Schroeder told USNI.

Pentagon Moving Ahead with Joint All-Domain Command and Control

The Pentagon is moving forward with Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2), the plan to enable the joint force to quickly sort through the array of information while on the battlefield. It entails facilitating the use of data provided through automation, artificial intelligence (AI), predictive analytics, and machine learning (ML) through a network

environment that is both sophisticated and able to withstand challenges. Read at <https://www.fedweek.com/armed-forces-news/pentagon-moving-ahead-with-joint-all-domain-command-and-control/>