



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

7/23/19

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND
SUSTAINMENT
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER)/CHIEF
FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND
READINESS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE
AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Task Force

Releases of Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) into the environment is a topic of growing concern, currently affecting more than 400 military installations and their surrounding communities across the country. The Department is committed to taking a strong and proactive stance to address the effects arising out of any releases of these substances from all defense activities including the National Guard and Reserves. We must approach the problem in an aggressive and holistic way, ensuring a coordinated DoD-wide approach to the issue.

As such, effective immediately, I am establishing a PFAS Task Force, chaired by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, which will be composed of his Assistant Secretary-level Military Department counterparts. Organizations such as the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness will support the Task Force and be subject to its direction. The following issues represent key focus areas for the Task Force:

- Health aspects
- Clean up standards and performance
- Finding/funding an effective substitute firefighting foam without PFAS
- Science-supported standards for exposure and clean up
- Interagency coordination
- Public/Congress perceptions of DoD's efforts

The PFAS Task Force will report on its composition and charter within 30 days, and provide an update within 180 days to the Secretary of Defense.

Matt T. Spier



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