



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

MAR 17 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Mission Focus of the Department of Defense

The Department of Defense (DoD) has a sacred duty to the American people to ensure Service members are best prepared to execute their mission to deter war and, if necessary, defeat and destroy America's enemies. Our readiness is built on the foundation of the warrior ethos, fundamental tenets of warfighting, and a singular focus on the profession of arms.

To ensure the U.S. military remains the most lethal and effective fighting force in the world, DoD must support our warfighters by enabling them to focus on their core mission and eliminating unnecessary distractions. Therefore, the Department will focus all activities on developing the readiness of our forces and ensure that focus is not clouded by unrelated political ideologies and agendas.

**Mission Focus of DoD Training.** Training should be directly linked to warfighting. Those requirements that are not directly linked to warfighting, or are not otherwise required by law, should be eliminated.

- The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) will lead a review assessing the value of all mandatory or recurring training requirements created by a DoD, Military Department, or Military Service issuance, regulation, or policy and provide recommendations for the elimination of unnecessary training requirements to me by May 1, 2025, and annually thereafter. This review will include all methods of training delivery, including online, in-person, and test-out.
- The USD(P&R), in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, will submit legislative proposals necessary to alleviate the burden of any identified statutorily required training not linked to readiness or warfighting.
- The Secretaries of the Military Departments will authorize officers who are Uniform Code of Military Justice convening authorities in the grade of O-5 and above to exclude mandatory or recurring individual training created by a DoD, Military Department, or Military Service issuance, regulation, or policy when such training would interfere with training or activities necessary for preparation for deployment or military operations, including mission rehearsal training and pre-deployment activities.



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**Elimination of “Climate” Distraction.** “Climate change” related considerations are unrelated to the Department’s mission.

- DoD Component heads will remove all references to climate change and related subjects from mission statements.
- The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)), in coordination with the General Counsel of the Department of Defense, will oversee DoD Component compliance with the “climate” related guidance in this memorandum and will review existing issuances or pending draft issuances and revise them as necessary consistent with this memorandum. The USD(A&S)) will provide an update to me by May 1, 2025, detailing actions taken to complete the task.
- No DoD Component will plan, program, or budget for inclusion of climate change initiatives in the Future Years Defense Program. The Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Defense, will oversee compliance with this direction.
- Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to prevent the Department from assessing weather-related impacts on operations, mitigating weather-related risks, conducting environmental assessments, as appropriate, and improving the resilience of military installations.

The strength and lethality of our military is built on the readiness of our Service members to accomplish their mission. We cannot let anything get in the way of their preparedness to execute this sacred trust on behalf of the American people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Kelly', with the initials 'SD29' written below it.