

Department of Defense



Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Task Force Operating Principles

September 13, 2019

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) TASK FORCE
OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
<u>I.</u> ESTABLISHMENT, PURPOSE, AND SCOPE.....	1
<u>II.</u> ORGANIZATION.....	2
<u>III.</u> PROCEDURES.....	3
<u>IV.</u> DURATION OF COMMITTEE.....	3

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) TASK FORCE OPERATING PRINCIPLES

I. ESTABLISHMENT, PURPOSE, AND SCOPE

A. ESTABLISHMENT

The Secretary of Defense established the Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Task Force on July 23, 2019, herein referred to as the Task Force. This Operating Principles document delineates the Task Force's membership and specifies the scope of activities and procedures.

B. PURPOSE

The Task Force will provide strategic leadership and direction to ensure a coordinated, aggressive, and holistic approach on DoD-wide efforts to proactively address PFAS. It will provide the Department with the tools needed to address the effects from DOD PFAS releases, as we take care of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, and Marines and their families, and the affected communities surrounding our bases.

C. SCOPE OF ACTIVITY

The Task Force shall:

1. Review PFAS related issues affecting the Department and strategically prioritize them for action, focusing on, but not limited to, the following general focus areas:
 - Health aspects, including education for healthcare providers
 - Cleanup standards and performance
 - Finding/funding an effective substitute firefighting alternative without PFAS
 - Interagency coordination/collaboration with other federal agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on Administration-wide positions (e.g., science-supported standards for exposure and cleanup).
 - Communications to Congress and the public, including communities surrounding our bases, concerning the PFAS issues and DoD's efforts.
2. Make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense for the establishment of, or changes to, policies, programs, and investments, where necessary, to address PFAS challenges.
3. Establish and oversee a PFAS Task Force Workgroup. The Workgroup will:
 - Recommend a prioritized list of PFAS issues to the Task Force for action.
 - Designate offices of primary responsibility and associated action officers to evaluate solutions to address these issues.
 - Evaluate and provide plans of action and associated milestones for these issues.
 - Recommend final courses of action to address DoD's PFAS challenges.

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) TASK FORCE OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Provide progress reports to the Task Force on the status of actions.
 - Identify issues to the Task Force for engagement with other federal agencies, including the EPA.
4. Serve as the approval authority for actions proposed by the Workgroup.
 5. Establish and monitor metrics, including establishing the format, content and schedule for a periodic Task Force report, to provide information on DoD's progress toward addressing PFAS.
 6. Assess, review, and advise on improving all aspects of the coordination, relevance, efficiency, efficacy, timeliness, viability and transparency of DoD-wide PFAS actions.
 7. Coordinate/collaborate with EPA and other federal agencies to ensure a whole of government approach to this National issue.
 8. Communicate the Task Force progress both within the Department and externally.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment will chair this Task Force. The Task Force shall have overall responsibility for the implementation of these operating principles. The Task Force shall consist of principal and associate members. The principal members include the following:

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment (as Chair)
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy and Environment)
Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment)
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations, Environment, and Energy)
Director of the National Guard Bureau, J-8

B. The associate members will attend meetings at the request of the Chair of the Task Force. Associate members include the following:

Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial
Officer of the Department of Defense
Deputy General Counsel (EE&I) of the Department of Defense
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
Defense Logistics Agency Director

Associate members may be added by the Chair of the Task Force, as necessary.

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) TASK FORCE OPERATING PRINCIPLES

C. The Taskforce will coordinate and collaborate with other federal agencies, which include:

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Office of Management and Budget
- National Economic Council
- Council on Environmental Quality
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Department of Energy
- Department of Interior
- Federal Aviation Administration
- United States Coast Guard
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Small Business Administration
- United States Department of Agriculture

D. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environment), will serve as the Executive Secretary for the Task Force.

E. The Task Force shall establish a PFAS Task Force Workgroup. The Workgroup will be led by a GS-15 equivalent from the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environment). The Workgroup members will include one GS15/14 equivalent from each of the following offices:

- Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
- Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy and Environment)
- Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment)
- Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations, Environment, and Energy)
- Office of the Deputy General Counsel (EE&I) of the Department of Defense
- Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
- Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs

Additional Workgroup members may be added by the Chair of the Task Force.

III. PROCEDURES

A. The Chair will convene the Task Force as needed, but at least monthly. The Workgroup will keep The Task Force current on all their respective actions.

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) TASK FORCE OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- B. The Chair will report for the Task Force to the Secretary through the Deputy Secretary as appropriate. The Task Force may amend this document as necessary to accomplish the mission.
- C. Budgetary requirements and administrative support for the Task Force will be coordinated by the Chair through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.
- D. The Task Force Chair will ensure that Task Force activities are internally and externally communicated. The Executive Secretary will maintain historical documentation of accomplishments and recommendations.

IV. DURATION OF TASK FORCE

The Task Force will continue to meet until it and/or its operating principles are amended, superseded, or revoked.

V. PROGRESS REPORTING

The Task Force Chair will provide to the Secretary of Defense:

- A. Monthly written updates.
- B. Interim Findings and Recommendations within 90 days.
- C. Final Findings and Recommendations within 120 days.