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Spc. Kinnis White, right, checks soldiers' temperatures before they go in to help at the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank Tuesday in Toledo, Ohio. (AIR NATIONAL GUARD/SENIOR AIRMAN KREGG YORK)

DoD, Army act to combat coronavirus

Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Wednesday enacted a 60-day stop movement order for all troops, civilian personnel and their sponsored family members overseas, the latest in a series of actions the military is taking to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The new order builds on travel restrictions already in place that halted overseas travel, permanent change-of-station moves and personal leave.

The stop movement order includes exercises, deployments, redeployments and other global force management activities, although some exceptions may be granted, the Pentagon said.

As many as 90,000 service members who were scheduled to deploy or redeploy over the next 60 days are expected to be impacted.

"I'm very confident that we'll maintain mission readiness," Esper said. "As this grows in scale and scope, this spread of the virus, we're going

to have to be very careful and take prudent measures to ensure we maintain that readiness."

Esper, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Mark Milley and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman Ramon Colon-Lopez answered questions from troops during a virtual town hall on Tuesday.

"[We] will get through this together," Milley said. "We'll defeat this virus once and for all."

Training and mission requirements will continue, Milley added, as he encouraged troops to listen to their commanders and follow their guidance.

The military is ready to respond to COVID-19 efforts for as long as the country needs, Esper said, and people should prepare themselves.

Telework will continue "as long as necessary," possibly weeks or months.

Health protection level raised

In order to maintain operational

readiness and protect the force, the Army on Tuesday raised the Health Protection Condition level to Charlie across all installations.

On Wednesday, Esper issued the same guidance for all DoD installations globally.

Under HPCON level Charlie, installations will limit all access to essential personnel only and limit the number of access points.

Extra measures are also being implemented to protect contingency response forces from exposure to the virus should they need to deploy.

The Army maintains forces ready to deploy within 18 hours to support national security requirements.

Those units are under an HPCON Delta status, the highest level, and soldiers are expected to remain at home for extended periods of time.

Home quarantine may also be directed if necessary.

See **Coronavirus**, Page 3

READY NOW

(U.S. Air National Guard photo/Master Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

WHEN IT'S NEEDED THE MOST



(U.S. National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward Snyder, 169th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs)



(U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Dyer)

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Coronavirus*From Page 1***National Guard response grows**

As of Wednesday, more than 10,700 National Guard troops had been mobilized in all 54 states, territories and Washington, D.C., and thousands more are expected to join them.

The Guard troops are conducting a variety of missions, including delivering food in hard-hit communities, staffing call centers, providing critical personal protective equipment training and sample collection and delivery to first responders and hospital personnel, helping disinfect or clean common public spaces, and restocking grocery store shelves.

They are not, however, being used to enforce a nationwide quarantine, said Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

“There’s no discussion, there’s no plan to use the Guard ... in any kind of lockdown capacity in the United States of America,” Lengyel said Tuesday in response to a question about why rumors of such a lockdown have persisted on social media.

Army medical units deploy

Three Army hospital units—the 531st Hospital from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the 627th Hospital Center from Fort Carson, Colorado, and the 9th Hospital from Fort Hood, Texas—



Louisiana Army National Guard soldiers prepare to administer nasal swabs at a mobile testing site in Westwego, Louisiana, March 21. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. GARRETT DIPUMA)

are deploying to New York and Washington, two of the hardest-hit states.

“Army health care professionals are adequately equipped with first-rate training, equipment and technology in order to deal with emergent health issues,” Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said. “Protecting the health of the force and the American people are our top priorities.”

The units have full hospital capability, including intensive-care unit beds, operating rooms, an emergency department and a pharmacy.

Although they are designed to serve as trauma hospitals, they can function as full-service hospitals.

Army hospital staffs can provide routine and emergency medical support, allowing local civilian facilities to focus on patients believed to have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

PCS deferments possible

PCS moves are on hold through mid-May unless a waiver is granted for mission-essential moves or for humanitarian or hardship reasons.

“You will be on freeze ... for about 60 days and then we will reevaluate,” Milley said, adding that the exact timing remains flexible and service members who are scheduled to retire in the coming weeks are exempt.

New Army guidance allows affected soldiers to ask to stay at their current duty station for up to a year, as the Army adapts how it moves people during the COVID-19 crisis.

“People remain our No. 1 priority, our center of gravity in all we do,” Lt. Gen. Thomas Seamands, Army deputy chief of staff for personnel, said. “We’re working really hard to take care of our soldiers, civilians and families around the globe.”

For more information, [click here](#).



New York National Guard soldiers conduct sanitizing operations at New Rochelle High School in New Rochelle, New York, March 21. (AIR NATIONAL GUARD/MAJ. PATRICK CORDOVA)

Army's 30th Infantry Division to receive Presidential Unit Citation

The Army's famed 30th Infantry Division will receive the Presidential Unit Citation for its heroic stand against an entire German Panzer Corps in Mortain, France, during World War II, the White House announced March 17.

The brutal weeklong battle in August 1944 was critical to the Allied victory in Europe, and after the war, eight units within the division were recognized with the Presidential Unit Citation, President Donald Trump said in a statement.

"Today, I am proud to direct the Army to honor the remainder of the division and attached units with the Presidential Unit Citation for their heroic stand at Mortain," Trump said. "This action rightfully recognizes our veterans who triumphed against incredible odds, as well as those who died during a critical battle that helped ensure the Allied victory in Europe."

The Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to units for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy, according to Army regulations. It is the unit equivalent of a Distinguished Service Cross, which is second only to the Medal of Honor, for an individual recipient.

The 30th Infantry Division was nicknamed the "Old Hickory Division" because its soldiers came from National Guard units from North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia, states closely associated with President Andrew Jackson.

On Aug. 6, 1944, the soldiers from the 30th Infantry Division slept in their foxholes after hastily taking defensive positions around Mortain and awoke to find themselves under attack by a Panzer Corps, according to a statement from the White House.

The Germans were trying to keep American forces from breaking out of the Normandy beachhead and into the open countryside.



World War II Old Hickory veteran Peter Munger is saluted by National Guardsmen at a 30th Infantry Division reunion in 2018. (NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO)

To do that, German forces had to cut through the 30th Infantry Division to get to the sea.

"However, the actions of the 30th Infantry Division would prove to be decisive in blunting this attack," according to the White House.

The Americans, despite facing overwhelming enemy armor, did not stop fighting. Cooks, clerks and drivers were pressed into service as riflemen.

The division's artillery protected its elements with a constant barrage of fire, and at daybreak, U.S. and British close-air support arrived to help.

By the afternoon of Aug. 7, the German attack stalled, and the division counterattacked to relieve its trapped elements through another five days of fierce fighting, according to the White House.

"More than 2,000 Old Hickory soldiers were killed or wounded during the weeklong battle, but their efforts and sacrifice would have a profound impact on the course of history," Trump said.

AUSAExtra

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Support For the Soldier*

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PERK OF THE WEEK

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Coming soon: Four new Medal of Honor graphic novels

By Joseph Craig

Wednesday was National Medal of Honor Day, a solemn day to remember the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines recognized with America's highest award for valor.

Observations this year were quieted due to the coronavirus pandemic, as social distancing and local restrictions discouraged gatherings and visits to military cemeteries.

Fortunately, there are no contraindications for flying the U.S. flag.

Congress established National Medal of Honor Day in 1990. Lawmakers chose March 25 as the day of observance in honor of that date in

Book Program

1863 when Secretary of War Edwin Stanton presented

the first Medals of Honor to six surviving members of "Andrews' Raiders," Union volunteers who commandeered a Confederate train behind enemy lines and drove it northward toward Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Given the destination of that mission, it is fitting that the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center opened its doors this year in Chattanooga.

Unfortunately, as is the case with so many museums and other educational facilities, the center is temporarily closed. However, you can still connect with the center through online educational resources.

Originally conceived as a museum to honor Medal of Honor recipient Alvin York, the Heritage Center features life-sized exhibits to tell the stories of our nation's heroes and focuses on the values they embody.

The new facility will have some company in the years ahead.

The National Medal of Honor Museum is scheduled to open in 2024 in Arlington, Texas, and efforts are underway to build a monument for Medal of Honor recipients in Washington, D.C.

The Congressional Medal of Honor



President Bill Clinton presents the Medal of Honor to Sen. Daniel Inouye, center, during a ceremony at the White House June 21, 2000. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Society is yet another resource for the public, with an authoritative website providing details on the 3,525 Americans who have been recognized from 1863 to the present.

The Association of the U.S. Army Book Program has also tried to honor this legacy with the Medal of Honor graphic novel series.

The first issue, published in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, was *Medal of Honor: Alvin York*.



This digital release was followed by issues devoted to Roy Benavidez, Audie Murphy and Sal Giunta, along with a printed collection of all four titles.

In recognition of National Medal of Honor Day, I am proud to announce that AUSA's Medal of Honor series will be extended in 2020 with four new issues.

First up will be *Medal of Honor: Daniel Inouye*, which will tell the story of the World War II veteran who lost an arm commanding his platoon in the last days of the Italian campaign and went on to become the highest-ranking Asian American politician in history.

Following the Inouye book will be *Medal of Honor: Henry Johnson*, *Medal of Honor: Mary Walker* and *Medal of Honor: Tibor Rubin*, along with another printed collection available in time for the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in October.

Please visit www.ausa.org/moh for information on the new titles as they are released and to get copies of the first four books.

Joseph Craig is AUSA's Book Program Director.

AUSA director joins DoD Military Family Readiness Council

Patty Barron, director of Family Readiness for the Association of the U.S. Army, was sworn in Tuesday as a member of the Defense Department's Military Family Readiness Council.

The swearing-in happened via teleconference because of coronavirus-related precautions.

The 18-member council provides recommendations on family programs, policies and plans, meeting at least twice a year to monitor and evaluate programs.

Barron, once described as “the mother hen in the military spouse world,” oversees educational and professional development programs for Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and their families at AUSA.

Her programs include family-oriented financial education seminars, a partnership with Operation Deploy

Your Dress to provide new and gently used formal wear for military ID card holders, and other family-related events.

She has organized an increasingly popular set of forums held during AUSA's Annual Meeting and Exposition that features, among other things, a town hall where Army senior leaders answer questions from family members. The 2018 forum led to an Army leadership initiative addressing spouse employment, child care, housing and permanent change-of-station moves.

The spouse of an Army veteran and mother-in-law of a currently serving soldier, Barron joined AUSA in 2012 with years of personal and professional experience. Previously, she served as director of outreach, Military Family Projects, at Zero to Three and also worked as director of youth initiatives at the National Military Family Association, where she oversaw the association's Operation Purple camp program.



Patty Barron speaks at an AUSA-hosted military family forum in 2019. (AUSA PHOTO)

The Military Family Readiness Council includes one representative each from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, the senior enlisted advisers of each service, representatives from the Army National Guard and Air National Guard, spouses and parents of service members, and three people drawn from military associations. Members are appointed for renewable two-year terms.

Active-duty troops to get priority access to DoD child care

Children of active-duty troops will get “priority access” to Defense Department child care programs beginning June 1, according to a policy change signed by Defense Secretary Mark Esper.

As a result of the new policy, some families may be bumped from DoD child care centers. Families affected by the change will be notified beginning in June, and they'll have 45 days to find alternative care, according to information from the Pentagon.

“The department's system of child care was established to assist service members as they face the unique challenges associated with the demands of military service,” said Virginia Penrod, acting assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs, in a statement.

According to the memo signed Feb. 21 by Esper, children of direct care staff members as well as children of



Families affected by the change will be notified beginning in June, and they'll have 45 days to find alternative care, according to the Pentagon. (U.S. ARMY/WINIFRED BROWN)

single or dual active-duty members, single or dual National Guard or Reserve members on active-duty or inactive duty training status, and service members with a full-time working spouse have the highest priority.

Lower on the priority list are chil-

dren of DoD civilian employees as well as those who qualify as space becomes available, such as active-duty service members with a non-working spouse and DoD contractors.

To read the full memo and for more details on the priority list, click [here](#).

Scholarships available for chapter members, families

The George Washington chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army is accepting applications for its 2020 scholarship program until April 10, the chapter's 2020 Scholarship Committee announced.

To apply, you must be a chapter member or a member's immediate family member. Applicants must also be attending an accredited college or university or selected for fall entry as an undergraduate or graduate student.

Applications must include an official transcript, a letter of recommendation from a supervisor, teacher or counselor, and a George Washington chapter membership number. A copy of the membership card is preferred, if possible.

For a complete list of scholarship requirements and where to send your applications, click [here](#).

All scholarship awardees will be invited to attend the George Washington chapter luncheon at the Army Navy



Between 2014 and 2019, the George Washington chapter awarded almost \$250,000 in scholarships to chapter members and family members. (AUSA PHOTO)

Country Club in Arlington, Virginia, in late spring or early June.

If there are any questions, contact retired Col. Glenn Yarborough, chapter president, at 703-748-1717 or wgyarc@aol.com.

Between 2014 and 2019, the George Washington chapter awarded almost

\$250,000 in scholarships to many gifted and dedicated chapter members and family members.

The scholarship program was established to provide recognition, inspiration, financial assistance and encouragement to chapter members and their families.

Eagle Chapters

The following chapters attained Eagle status for February by showing positive membership growth. The number of consecutive months of growth since July 1 is shown in parentheses.

Korea (8)
Capital District of New York (7)
Fort Campbell (7)
Arsenal of Democracy (7)
Major Samuel Woodfill (7)
Fort Rucker-Wiregrass (7)
First Militia (7)
Greater Augusta-Fort Gordon (7)
Coastal South Carolina (7)
Texas Capital Area (7)
Rock Island Arsenal (7)
Joshua Chamberlain (6)
Picatinny Arsenal-Middle Forge (6)
West Point Area (6)
Northern New York-Fort Drum (6)
Western New York (6)
Corporal Bill McMillan-Bluegrass (6)
Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson (6)
Redstone-Huntsville (6)
Emerald Coast (6)
Marne (6)

Magnolia (6)
Fort Jackson-Palmetto State (6)
Puerto Rico (6)
Leonidas Polk (6)
Fort Sheridan-Chicago (6)
Des Moines Freedom (6)
SGM Jon R. Cavaiani (6)
Gem State (6)
Tucson-Goyette (6)
Pikes Peak (6)
Delaware (5)
Col Edward Cross (5)
Fort Pitt (5)
George Washington (5)
Francis Scott Key (5)
Newton D. Baker (5)
Tri-State (5)
Fairfax-Lee (5)
A.P. Hill Rappahannock (5)
Chattahoochee Valley-Fort Benning (5)
Braxton Bragg (5)

North Texas (5)
Las Vegas-John C. Fremont (5)
Arizona Territorial (5)
Utah (5)
GEN Creighton W. Abrams (5)
MG Harry Greene, Aberdeen (4)
Florida Gulf Stream (4)
Suncoast (4)
Space Coast (4)
Greater Kansas City (4)
PFC William Kenzo Nakamura (4)
San Diego (4)
Monmouth (3)
Tobyhanna Army Depot (3)
Isthmian (3)
Polar Bear (3)
New Orleans (2)
Houston Metroplex (1)
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