



# REGIONAL HEALTH COMMAND ATLANTIC

## OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL



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### REGIONAL HEALTH COMMAND– ATLANTIC COMMAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

Good day to all and thank you for taking a look at our latest edition of the Inspector General Newsletter. I am Colonel Gary Hughes, recently assigned as the Command Inspector General for Regional Health Command—Atlantic. I am relocating locally having previously been assigned as the Optometry Program Manager to the MEDCOM/ Office of the Surgeon General here in Falls Church, Virginia. While I am new to this IG position, our dynamic IG team has a great wealth of knowledge and experience to offer, so do not be afraid to put our skills to the test. From inspections and investigations, to assistance inquiries, to teaching and training activities; we are here to assist. What can the IG do for you?

### ALARACT 074/2021: 12– MONTH DEFERMENT, POSTPARTUM SOLDIERS to Meet AR 600-9 Standard for Height, Weight and Body Composition

The titled ALARACT message was published on 23 September 2021. It addresses an exception to policy of the Army Body Composition Program (ABCP) for postpartum Soldiers and applies to all Regular Army, Army National Guard/ Army National Guard of the United States, and United States Army Reserve Soldiers. The exception allows units to better prepare Soldiers to meet Body-Composition standards, in accordance with regulatory guidance. Soldiers who are between 181 to 365 days postpartum and were flagged and entered the ABCP, will be un-flagged and removed from the ABCP. There is no change for Soldiers who are over 365 days after their pregnancy and were entered in to the ABCP. There is also no change for Soldiers who were enrolled in the ABCP at the time they became pregnant.

#### References:

DoDD 1308.1, DoD PHYSICAL FITNESS AND BODY FAT PROGRAM, 30 JUNE 2004.

AR 600–9, THE ARMY BODY COMPOSITION PROGRAM.

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF (DCS), G–1 MEMORANDUM, EXCEPTION TO POLICY CONCERNING PREGNANCY AND THE ARMY BODY COMPOSITION PROGRAM (ABCP), 23 MARCH 2021.

Resource: <https://www.milsuit.mil>



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**SFC TAMARA  
BRACEY  
IG NCO**

Reference :

FRAGO 5 to HQDA  
EXORD 225-21  
COVID-19 STEADY  
STATE OPERA-  
TIONS

and

FRAGO 6 to HQDA  
EXORD 225-21  
COVID-19 STAEDY  
STATE OPERA-  
TIONS

Resource: <http://www//milsuite.mil/book/docs/DOC-1054444>

### COVID-19 Vaccination Updates

The command is committed to adhering to the DA COVID-19 vaccination guidance. FRAGO 5 to HQDA EXORD 225-21 COVID-19 Steady State Operations states that all Soldiers will be vaccinated to include pregnant Soldiers. The projected goal for 100% vaccination is 15 December 2021 for all active duty Soldiers. There are only two categories for exemptions from the vaccination: medical or administrative. The approval authority for exemption requests is the Regional Health Command – Atlantic CG, BG Krueger. The COVID-19 vaccine the Army provides in support of the mandate is the Pfizer-BIONTech vaccine, also marketed under the brand name Comirnaty. If a Soldier chooses to receive the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines, both are authorized and will meet the vaccination requirement, but Soldiers must be able to show proof of the vaccination received.

In addition, an Executive Order dated September 9, 2021 directed all Federal Civilian employees, including DA Civilians, to be fully vaccinated or have a valid medical or administrative exemption NLT 22 November 2021. This guidance was further amplified in the DoD Force Health Protection Guidance – Supplement 23 Revision 1, published 18 October 2021. This mandate applies to all Federal employees regardless of duty location, including telework and remote employees, unless they have a valid exemption. At the time of this newsletter publication, guidance on how to process civilian exemptions is pending. Employees who refuse to either be vaccinated or provide proof of vaccination as prescribed in the order are subject to disciplinary measures; however, guidance on disciplinary measures is still pending.

The Comirnaty vaccine has received full FDA approval. On September 4, 2021, the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense—Health Affairs directed that stocks of the Pfizer-BIONTech vaccine and the Comirnaty vaccine will be used “interchangeably for the purpose of vaccinating Service Members in accordance with [SECDEF guidance]” consistent with FDA guidance. The Moderna COVID-19 and Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 vaccines both have Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA with review for full approval ongoing.



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### References

Executive Order 14004, "Enabling all Qualified Americans to Serve Their Country in Uniform," January 25, 2021.

DODI 1300.28.

DODI 6130.03, Vol. 1, "Medical Standards for Military Service: Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction," March 30, 2021.

Secretary Austin Memorandum to the President, "Military Transgender Policy," March 25, 2021.

AD 2021-22

\*All references found at: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/army-transgender-service-information>

### Resources:

Commanders, leaders, and accession Enterprise Personnel should contact their chain of command

Or

RHC-A Military Equal Opportunity Office  
571-231-5514 or 571-329-6651

## Guidance on the Army's Updated Policy on Transgender Military Service

On 22 June 2021, the Secretary of the Army signed Army Directive (AD) 2021-22 (Army Service by Transgender Persons and Persons with Gender Dysphoria). This directive, which supersedes all previous guidance on transgender service, including AD 2016-30 (Army Policy on Military Service of Transgender Soldiers), supports the Department of Defense (DOD) Instruction 1300.28, "In-Service Transition for Transgender Service Members," 30 April 2021, and reaffirms the Army's commitment to **People First, Strength in Diversity**, and an Army that treats all Soldiers with **dignity and respect while ensuring good order and discipline**. It additionally ensures that **no otherwise qualified Soldier may be involuntarily separated, discharged, or denied reenlistment or continuation of service, or otherwise subjected to adverse action or treatment, based solely on their gender identity**.

This new Army policy:

- Applies to the Regular Army, Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, cadets at the United States Military Academy or other Military Service academies, and contracted Reserve Officers' Training Corps Soldiers;

- Provides a means by which to join the military in one's self-identified gender provided all appropriate standards are met;

- Provides a path for those in service for medical treatment, gender transition, and recognition in one's self-identified gender; and

- Seeks to protect the privacy of all Service members.

While reviewing this policy, Soldiers and leaders should understand the following key terms:

**Biological sex.** A person's biological status as male or female based on chromosomes, gonads, hormones, and genitals.

**Gender dysphoria.** A marked incongruence between one's experienced or expressed gender and assigned gender of at least 6 months' duration, as manifested by conditions specified in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: Fifth Edition, which is associated with clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.

**Gender identity.** An individual's internal or personal sense of gender, which may or may not match the individual's biological sex.

**Gender marker.** A data element in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) that identifies a Soldier's status as male or female.

**Self-identified gender.** The gender with which an individual identifies (changed from preferred gender).

**Transgender** Individuals who identify with a gender that differs from their biological sex.

**Real-Life Experience (RLE).** The phase in the gender transition process during which the individual begins living socially in the gender role consistent with the self-identified gender. It may or may not be preceded by the commencement of cross-sex hormone therapy, depending on the medical treatment associated with individual Service member's or cadet's gender transition. (Normally occurs in an off-duty status and away from the Soldier's place of duty (unless ASA (M&RA) approves an exception to policy.)

**Important:** Your local IG Office can provide assistance and information about the Army's Transgender Policy, but generally cannot investigate allegations of discrimination. Transgender Soldiers who believe they have experienced discrimination based on their gender are encouraged to contact their chain of command or their local Army Equal Opportunity Adviser.