

Military, Law, and more ...

Defense Sec. Hegseth looks at refocusing resources, service member standards and Red Sea ceasefire

**By C. Todd Lopez
Dept. of Defense (DOD)**

May 9, 2025 - Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth directed a forcewide reduction in general officers May 5, 2025, as part of a larger effort within the Defense Department to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy that hinders mission effectiveness.

"Secretary Hegseth signed a memorandum directing general officer and flag officer reductions throughout the services to cut bureaucratic bloat at the top and to empower our warfighters across the force to do their jobs," said Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and Senior Advisor Sean Parnell during the Weekly Sitrep video, which highlights department activities each week.

Parnell said the policy is expected to enhance operational effectiveness and empower warfighters throughout the ranks. The secretary's recommendation calls for an initial minimum 20% reduction of four-star general po-



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth lays out forcewide reductions. (Photo/Courtesy: DOD)

sitions across the active component and a similar reduction of all general officers within the National Guard. Hegseth also wants to cut 10% of all general and flag officer positions in conjunction with a planned realignment of the unified command plan, which details the organization of combatant commands. That realignment, he said, "is going to be, we think, the most comprehensive review since the

Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. It's a generational change in combat command structures, planning, training, geographic areas of responsibility, mission and operational responsibilities."

Hegseth noted that, similar to other reforms within the department, this change to the general officer ranks has been planned in detail.

"This is not a slash-and-burn exercise meant to punish high-ranking officers," Hegseth said. "This has been a deliberative process, working with the Joint Chiefs of Staff with one goal: maximizing strategic readiness and operational effectiveness by making prudent reductions in the general and flag officer ranks."

In the Red Sea, Iran-backed Houthi forces have been attacking U.S. ships and those of other nations for years, disrupting legal commerce. In mid-March, the U.S. finally took steps to put an end to those attacks. U.S. Central Command, at the direction of President Donald J. Trump, began a series of attacks on key terrorist Houthi targets in Yemen.

"Freedom of navigation is ... a core national interest," Hegseth said. "The minute the Houthis

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**Award-Winning
singer
and songwriter
Trey Calloway
releases new single
on story of a military
widow**

See article on Sports-Ent. 5.

"She Misses Being Mrs.," tells the story of a military widow longing for her fallen husband," shares Trey Calloway. "It's releasing ahead of Memorial Day as a tribute to military families and their loved ones who've made the ultimate sacrifice. I hope the song is relatable and helps all listeners who've experienced deep loss by acknowledging their pain in simple moments when they feel alone in their grief. We want them to know our thoughts and prayers are with them."

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Wrap-Up: U.S. Army’s Aviation Simulators visit Memphis High Schools to showcase defense and other military specialties

MEMPHIS—The U.S. Army’s Aviation Adventure Trailer (AS3) featured at local high schools showcasing aviation defense careers and other military occupational specialties (MOS), from May 12-16.

The Army Aviation Adventure Trailer (AS3) features eight (8) elaborate, life-like flight simulators of a well-known rotary wing aircraft, the UH60 Black Hawk.

Each simulation station delivers real-time feedback that replicates the same training environment

"The AS3 is exciting and presents opportunities for schools we visit to augment classroom curriculum with the science, math, engineering and robotics involved with flight of the Blackhawk," Capt. Travis Fulmore, Memphis Recruiting Company Commander, said.

visit to augment classroom curriculum with the science, math, engineering and robotics involved with flight of the Blackhawk," Capt. Travis Fulmore, Memphis Recruiting Company Commander, said.

Below is the schedule where the AS9 visited in Greater Memphis area:

**Munford High School
Cordova High School
Trezevant High School
Manassas High School
Desoto County Career Technology Center West**

U.S. Sen. Bill Hagerty introduces Adam Telle, Trump’s nominee, for Army Civil Works post

Telle has served as Hagerty’s Chief of Staff for the past four years

WASHINGTON, May 13, 2025— On May 13, 2025, United States Senator Bill Hagerty (R-TN) introduced his Chief of Staff Adam Telle, President Donald Trump’s nominee to be

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

Remarks as prepared for delivery:

Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Reed, thank you for holding this hearing. I am privileged today to intro-

duce my good friend and esteemed colleague, Mr. Adam Telle—who is President Trump’s nominee to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. As you all know, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil

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