



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Reducing Furlough Days

I am pleased to announce that, due to a combination of Congressional approvals and Departmental budget management efforts, I am directing that furloughs for most DoD civilians be reduced from 11 days (88 hours) to six days (48 hours).

When I announced furloughs on May 14, I promised that we would try to reduce the number of days. In early May we faced a residual shortfall in our operating budget of \$11 billion. Furloughs of 11 days, which would have saved \$2 billion, were one of the limited number of options we identified to close this gap. Since then, Congress has approved most of a large reprogramming request that we submitted in mid-May, giving us flexibility to move funds across accounts. The military services have been aggressive in identifying ways to hold down costs, and we have been successful in shifting savings (including furlough savings) to meet our highest priority needs.

As a result, we are able to accomplish two goals: a reduction in furlough days, and modest improvements in training and readiness. However, even with these improvements, this is a military whose readiness remains seriously degraded as we head toward the budgetary uncertainties of FY 2014.

Assuming that the majority of employees were furloughed one day per week beginning the week of July 8, this reduction in the number of furlough days will mean that most employees will have achieved six days (48 hours) of furloughs by August 17. However, all civilian employees, unless exempted from furloughs or governed by special rules, must complete six days (48 hours) of furloughs. If they have not accomplished this by August 17, they must do so in a timely manner and before the end of this fiscal year.



One specific exception to be implemented immediately is the cancellation of all furloughs for Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) instructional and support staff on 10-month contracts. These personnel were already subject to only five days of furloughs in order to ensure a creditable year of schooling for our students; now the teaching year will not be reduced at all. Newly hired civilian employees whose furlough period began after the week of July 8 must complete an equivalent of two furlough days per full pay period between the starting date for their furloughs and August 17. All other special circumstances will be adjudicated by the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

I want to thank our civilian workforce for their patience and continued dedication to our mission during these extraordinarily tough times and for their continued service and devotion to our Department and our country. Our civilian personnel are essential to ensuring our Department and our military can provide for the nation's defense. I regret the difficulties they and their families had to face during this furlough period. Thank you.

Chuck
Hagel