

Team -

The current funding situation is a great concern to all of us. Guidance has been rapidly changing and as your Commander, it is my responsibility to ensure you receive accurate information.

We have just received DoD guidance concerning the potential government shutdown; additional information from DA and AMC is expected soon. In order to attempt to dispel rumors and myths, I would like to lay out what I know as of right now, and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

The Department remains hopeful that a government shutdown will be averted. The President has made it clear that he does not want a government shutdown, and the administration is working to find a solution with which all sides can agree. However, prudent management requires that we plan for an orderly shutdown should Congress be unable to pass a funding bill before our current funding expires on April 8.

Guidance from the Deputy Secretary of Defense is available at the link www.defense.gov. Critical information follows:

- . Operations and activities that are essential to safety, protection of human life, and protection of our national security, are 'excepted' from shutting down. The DoD will continue to conduct activities in support of our national security, including operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Japan; Libya-related support operations; and other operations and activities essential to the security of our nation.

- . Civilians will be briefed by their supervisors by Friday, April 8, as to whether their work and responsibilities fall into excepted or non-excepted status, as defined by applicable laws and regulations. If their work and responsibilities are non-excepted, or if they are not needed to carry out excepted work and responsibilities, employees will be furloughed in a non-pay status. Furloughed employees may not telework or volunteer to work.

- . If there is a government shutdown beginning on Saturday, April 9, all DoD personnel should still report to work on their next scheduled duty day, beginning at their normal duty hours to receive additional instructions.

- . In the absence of appropriations, non-excepted activities that have not already been fully funded will need to be shut down in an orderly fashion.

Additional points:

- . Non-excepted employees are not permitted to work overtime after lapse in appropriation

- . Military personnel will report to duty as usual in the event of furlough

- . There will be an impact on pay and the benefits and entitlements of all military and civilian personnel. Pay of military members and excepted civilians will be delayed; pay for non-excepted employees will require Congressional

authority. Additional information on benefits and entitlements is available at www.opm.gov.

Designation of positions as excepted/non-excepted was difficult, and in no way reflects your value to the Command; designations were based on specific mission related criteria.

Our national leadership is doing everything possible to avert a shutdown. Nevertheless, we must prepare for furlough. As part of the Army family, we have been through many challenges, and we will get through this one - failure is not an option.

This is a confusing process and there is a lot of conflicting information out there - we will continue to sort out official instructions and continue to provide information as it becomes available.

Appreciate your service to the Nation, the US Army, AMC and ASC.

Thank you.

Atw
vr
CG

MG Fontaine