



ENERGY CONNECTION



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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY COMMANDER Mr. Dave Kless

Welcome to Fiscal Year 2022! It's clear by the cooler evenings and mornings that fall is upon us. That also means football season – hooray. It's hard to believe how fast the summer went, and I hope you all took some time to reconnect with friends and family.

Great job by all on successfully closing out another fiscal year. As we verify and validate FY21 data and begin our new FY22 ledgers and financial tracking, I ask you to continue to be diligent in your internal controls and processes as we are still in an active audit.

Thankfully, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution before the end of FY21 to fund the government through Dec. 3, 2021. Although most of DLA would not have been immediately impacted by a lapse in appropriations, this CR means the government continues operations while Congress and the Administration continue negotiating on an actual budget.

I realize you have questions and concerns about the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination. J1 and the DLA COVID Coordination Team is committed to providing the DLA workforce with the latest guidance and is increasing their efforts to communicate. A J1 Director Weekly Message, updated DLA COVID-19 FAQs on the DLA Coronavirus information site, supervisor talking points, and more are being regularly updated and shared.

I encourage you to carefully review the Safer Federal Workforce FAQs website which outlines how to get vaccinated, proof of vaccination, entitlements, what may authorize an exemption, and possible consequences for non-compliance.

I ask for your continued professionalism and resiliency throughout this period of uncertainty.

COVID Vaccine Mandate FAQs

There are many questions, concerns and issues being worked out on the requirement to get the COVID vaccine by Nov. 22, 2021. Several resources are regularly updated to answer your most pressing questions including the [Safer Federal Workplace website](#), the [DLA Coronavirus website](#) and [OPM's website](#).

Under the "[Limited Exceptions to Vaccination Requirement](#)" FAQs, you can find detailed answers to the following questions:

- *Are there exceptions to the requirement for employees to be vaccinated?*
- *Should agencies establish a date when employees should notify agencies that they are seeking a legally required exception?*
- *If an employee requests an accommodation, and that accommodation is denied, how long should the employee be afforded to be fully vaccinated?*
- *If an employee is not fully vaccinated due to a legally required exception, what protocols should that individual follow?*

Other questions address contraindications, delaying the vaccine, pregnancy, prior COVID-19 infection and more.

Under the "[Enforcement of the Vaccination Requirement](#)" FAQ, you can find the answer to this question:

- *What steps may an agency take if a Federal employee refuses to be vaccinated or provide proof of vaccination?*

[OPM has issued additional guidance](#) to further assist agencies with enforcing the vaccination requirement for Federal employees.

DLA leadership understands this is a unique and challenging situation and are working to share information as it becomes available.

What form is used to request an exception?

If law requires your exception, send requests for your [Reasonable Accommodation](#) using the [RA Form DL1887](#) to NRGVaccineExemptions@dla.mil before enforcement of the required vaccination date. All requests submitted will be tracked but held in abeyance until further guidance is given and will be processed in the order in which received.

I am eligible to retire, what options do I have?

Talk to a Benefits representative (email HRSvcs-NEnergy@dla.mil) to discuss [types of retirement](#) including deferred retirement. Currently, a pending retirement is not an exception to the vaccination requirement.

HQC/NCR COVID-19 Reconstitution Status:
Phase 0 - HPCON B



DLA Energy Europe & Africa International Agreements Liaison Officer **Ms. Lorena Montenegro** is featured for National Hispanic Heritage Month. [Read about her career, family and ethnicity in this news story.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to DLA Energy Middle East employee **Mr. Mark Mizrahi** who was selected to attend FY 2022 [Defense Civilian Emerging Leader Program](#).



DCELP is the leader development program for civilians GS 07-12. The program consists of a series of four one-week sessions, two residential and two virtual. The goal of DCELP is to serve as the foundation for further development as leadership responsibilities increase. ***Well done Mark!***

REMINDERS!

MID-YEAR REVIEWS: It's the midpoint of the DPMAP cycle and time to conduct progress reviews. The mid-year period is the time to reflect on performance, review plans, and brainstorm ways to improve performance. DLA Energy supervisors are expected to complete reviews by October 31.

Take time to review DLA's extensive [DPMAP/Performance Management resource page](#), which includes references, user guides, and a DPMAP FAQ.

HATCH ACT: As many State elections approach, remember not to engage in political activity during the duty day (even when teleworking), or ever on a government device or in a government building. Political activity is defined as supporting or opposing a candidate or party for a current partisan election. For detailed information, review the [Hatch Act page](#) [Hatch Act FAQs](#). **Note: while the Hatch Act is only applicable to civilian employees, servicemembers are similarly restricted by DoDD 1344.10.**

FEDERAL BENEFITS OPEN SEASON: Nov. 8 to Dec. 13 is open season! Elections will be effective the first full pay period in 2022, which begins January 2, 2022. Enroll, cancel or make changes to your Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB), Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA), and Federal Employees Dental & Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) benefits. Learn more in this [DLA Today Announcement](#).

Q&A

What is the role of the IP Integrator? Who will fall under the Integration office?

The primary role of the Integrator is to synchronize and integrate the execution of DLA Energy policy across the INDOPACOM AOR. This involves the integration of guidance and strategy across all five Regional Commands in the area. The Integrator will also be the focal point for strategic communications with Energy customers, working in close coordination with the DLA IP Commander and DLA HQ business units.

As currently constructed, the Integration Office will consist of seven civilians (all currently residing in Hawaii) and four military. Mr. Bruce Blank is currently filling the Integrator role on a temporary basis. Part of his duties include an evaluation of the contemplated organizational structure in the AOR, including making recommendations based off observations to maximize overall effectiveness of the organization given the shifting focus to the region.

How does the C2 and the merger of Hawaii and Guam affect the IP AOR?

The plan is to go from five regional offices down to three by combining the Okinawa and Japan offices and the Guam and Hawaii offices. As a result of these combinations, OUIDs for several positions have been or will be eliminated. As the Commander has affirmed, DLA Energy will do its best to work with the individuals in these positions to ensure they are taken care of.

Mark your calendars!

Oct. 18-21: virtual DLA Energy Acquisition Workforce Symposium for the America's Region

Oct. 25-26: DLA Energy Senior Leader Virtual Offsite

Nov. 2: DLA Energy All Hands and Supervisor's Town Hall

Nov. 8 to Dec. 13: Federal Open Benefits Season

Feb. 17: The 2020 and 2021 DLA Energy Hall of Fame

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The DLA Energy Acquisition Workforce Development and Intern Center will be hosting a virtual Workforce Symposium for the America's Region (North, East and West) Oct. 18-21.

The purpose of this symposium is to address the professional development needs, opportunities, policies, procedures and questions of the Acquisition and Non-Acquisition employees. Contact the [Workforce Symposium Planning Team](#) for more information.