



THE NAMING COMMISSION

pao@thenamingcommission.gov

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Naming Commission announces final recommendations, cost estimates

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The commission tasked to provide Congress recommendations for naming, renaming or removing Department of Defense assets that commemorate the Confederacy announced today its recommendations for assets not addressed in the two previously released parts of its three-part [final report](#), and the cost estimates to carry them out.

[Part I](#) of the Naming Commission’s final report addressed the renaming of nine U.S. Army bases while [Part II](#) addressed assets at the U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy. Recommendations in the forthcoming third and final part of the Commission’s report, which is due to Congress by Oct. 1, cover all other categories, including: memorialization and naming processes; inactive, decommissioned, or obsolete assets; gifts, awards, and scholarships; heraldic items; civil works; and assets that may be identified in the future.

Part III of the report also will include recommendations specifically for the Army, Navy and Air Force. The recommendations for the Army focus on a handful of its vessels and the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, along with [previously announced recommendations](#) for heraldic items. It will also include more detailed information on the Commission’s decision, published in Part I, to not make a renaming recommendation for Fort Belvoir, Virginia, while encouraging the Department of Defense to conduct its own review of the base for potential renaming. Renaming recommendations for the Navy in Part III will include the USS Chancellorsville (CG-62) and USNS Maury (T-AGS-66). For the Air Force, the primary recommendation will be to rename the Fort Fisher Recreation Area in North Carolina.

An appendix in the report will list all identified assets not previously reported, including those belonging to “4th Estate” agencies – those Department of Defense organizations that are not the military services or intelligence community agencies – and the estimated costs to address them.

The final cost estimate for all commission recommendations is \$62,450,030. This includes \$21,041,301 for all Part I recommendations, \$451,000 for all Part II recommendations, and \$40,957,729 for all Part III recommendations.

In Part III of the final report, the Commission will specifically recommend that:

- The Secretary of Defense authorize directors of all defense entities and organizations rename defense assets under their control that commemorate the Confederacy or individuals who voluntarily served with the Confederacy. This includes all assets identified on the defense inventory list to include buildings, streets, and digital assets.
- The Secretary of Defense establish defense enterprise-wide process(es) for the physical and digital assets listed in the naming plan with the goal of gaining financial efficiencies in the removal, renaming, or modifying the designated defense assets.
- The Secretary of Defense authorize all secretaries of military departments and directors of defense entities or organizations to remove smaller defense assets under their control that commemorate the Confederacy or individuals who voluntarily served with the Confederacy from defense-owned or -controlled locations. This includes assets identified on the defense inventory list to include portraits, plaques, awards, and paraphernalia.
- The Secretary of Defense task the Defense Department to revise all memorialization and naming processes to comply with language from Section 1749 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, which states that “the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department may not give a name to an asset that refers to, or includes a term referring to, the Confederate States of America.” This includes anyone who served within the Confederacy, or Confederate battlefield victories.
- The Secretary of Defense task the Department of Defense to revise all memorialization and naming processes to ensure that if assets with Confederacy associations are reactivated or recommissioned that they are appropriately renamed or modified to remove the Confederate name or symbology.
- The Department of Defense allow installation commanders to work with local historical societies, museums, and veteran associations to donate Department of Defense assets that will be removed as part of the renaming process to those interested entities.
- The Secretary of Defense ensure that all gifting processes are revised to ensure that assets gifted to the Department of Defense comply with FY20 NDAA language. Specifically, that gifts that do not comply with FY20 NDAA language or are from organizations commemorating the Confederate States of America are not received by the Defense Department.

- The Secretary of Defense ensure that all award processes are revised to comply with FY20 NDAA language. Specifically, that awards that do not comply with FY20 NDAA language or are from organizations commemorating the Confederate States of America are not received by or given to Defense Department employees.
- The Secretary of Defense ensure that all scholarship processes comply with FY20 NDAA language. Specifically, that scholarships for military (to include ROTC/JROTC) and Defense Department civilian personnel that do not comply with FY20 NDAA language or are from organizations commemorating the Confederate States of America are not sponsored by, received by or given to Defense Department employees.
- The Secretary of Defense authorize the Secretary of the Army to rename all Department of Army assets that commemorate the Confederacy or individuals who voluntarily served with the Confederacy. This includes all assets identified on the defense inventory list to include buildings, streets, ships and their associated digital footprints.
- The Secretary of Defense direct the Secretary of the Army to revoke the 1949 exception to policy that facilitated the adoption of battle streamers not associated with U.S. Army service. As such, all battle streamers that commemorate the Confederacy should be removed.
- The Secretary of Defense authorize the Secretary of the Navy to rename all Department of Navy assets that commemorate the Confederacy or individuals who voluntarily served with the Confederacy. This includes all assets identified on the defense inventory list to include buildings, streets, ships and their associated digital footprints.
- The Secretary of Defense authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to rename all Department of the Air Force assets that commemorate the Confederacy or individuals who voluntarily served with the Confederacy. This includes all assets identified on the Department of Defense asset inventory list to include installations (particularly the Fort Fisher Recreational area), buildings, streets, ships and their associated digital footprints.

For the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, the commission will recommend the following after having reviewed options from a Department of the Army study:

- The statue atop of the monument should be removed. All bronze elements on the monument should be deconstructed, and removed, preferably leaving the granite base and foundation in place to minimize risk of inadvertent disturbance of graves.

- The work should be planned and coordinated with the Commission of Fine Arts and the Historical Review Commission to determine the best way to proceed with removal of the monument.
- The Department of Army should consider the most cost-effective method of removal and disposal of the monument's elements in their planning.

Part III of the report also details the actual cost of the Naming Commission's work. Over the course of the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years, Congress provided the Naming Commission \$2,328,502 in funding. By October 1, the eight volunteer commissioners and their dedicated staff of six – assisted by a modestly sized Army support team – will have completed the Commission's unprecedented mission in less than two years, spending little more than one-quarter of the available funds (\$612,502) and returning approximately \$1,716,000 in taxpayer dollars.

Part III of the report will be available online at www.thenamingcommission.gov/report following its submission to Congress; Parts I and II are available there now.

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