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By Briana Reilly, CQ

Good morning, and welcome to CQ Defense. It's Friday, May 16.

TOPLINES

- 1. Hold up:** Alabama Republican Sen. [Tommy Tuberville](#)'s 10-month blanket hold on all Defense Department nominees disrupted some officer-level promotions, pay and family lives but posed few national security risks, according to a watchdog report.
- 2. Cyber centric:** A new bipartisan bill seeks to beef up the federal government's cyber workforce.
- 3. Stymied on the floor:** A Senate GOP effort to take floor action on a trio of Pentagon nominees stalled Thursday following a Democratic blockade.
- 4. Risk mitigation:** Senate Democrats asked Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to outline the Pentagon's approach to heading off the operational risks associated with President Donald Trump's plan to accept a luxury jet from the royal family of Qatar.

2. Recruitment, training of federal cyber force centered in new bill

A newly unveiled bipartisan plan aims to boost the government's defenses against cyber threats by building up recruitment and training across the federal workforce.

The draft [legislation](#), from Reps. [Pat Fallon](#), R-Texas, and [Marcy Kaptur](#), D-Ohio, would call on the national cyber director to lead planning on the establishment of a federal body to train cyber workforce and cyber human resources roles.

The push aims to set training standards, enhance role-specific onboarding, provide opportunities for growth via upskilling and "reskilling" efforts, and improve recruitment, a summary of the legislation says.

In a statement, Fallon said the proposal "modernizes our approach to building a robust cyber workforce by streamlining onboarding with hands-on, role-specific training and sets high standards via DHS and DOD collaboration."

Kaptur said the legislation would raise the bar for the Pentagon as well as the Department of Homeland Security.

"Our objective is to develop a framework to foster the highest levels of excellence in cybersecurity for professionals serving on the front lines to safeguard our nation," she added.