

**From:** [Al Bunting](#)  
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**Top:**

**[New White House Plan Would Cut \\$100 Billion From Defense](#)**

(DefenseNews.com) - The White House is preparing to submit a fiscal 2014 federal budget that would partially offset across-the-board sequestration cuts by reducing the Pentagon budget by \$100 billion, but not until later this decade, according to a senior defense official and budget documents..

**[U.S. To Shift Drone Command](#)**

(Wall Street Journal) - The White House is working to shift control of the Central Intelligence Agency's lethal drone program to the military, U.S. officials say, a move that redefines the widely contested campaign that targets suspected terrorists.

**Marrying Ideas for the Total Force:** The Quadrennial Defense Review will take a "holistic approach" to addressing the ongoing debate over the proper Total Force mix, said [Maj. Gen. Steven Kwast](#), the Air Force's QDR director, on Wednesday. This will include marrying the recommendations of the Air Force's [Total Force Task Force](#) and the independent National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force that [Congress established](#), said Kwast during a talk sponsored by AFA's Mitchell Institute for Airpower Studies in Arlington, Va., on March 20. The balance between the Active Duty component and the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve is "very, very complex," and it's important that the Air Force avoids a "stovepipe" fix and instead considers solutions that "can solve multiple problems," he said. "The people part of this... is the most important part," said Kwast. The Total Force issue was in the spotlight last year when [Congress rejected](#) the Air Force's original Fiscal 2013 proposal to cut 5,100 Air Guard positions, 3,900 Active Duty billets, and 900 Air Force Reservists, along with corresponding aircraft reductions. Instead, [lawmakers accepted](#) force structure changes reduced in scope and mandated the commission for a deeper look at the best Total Force makeup.

—*Amy McCullough*

**Bring a Knife:** The Air Force is well aware that the Quadrennial Defense Review could devolve into a budgetary knife fight among the services, [Maj. Gen. Steven Kwast](#), the Air Force's QDR director, told the *Daily Report* on Wednesday. Kwast said he heard former Air Force Secretary Whit Peters' comments last month at AFA's Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Fla., that the "QDR is supposed to be a strategic and policy planning event. It is, in fact, a huge budget fight." Kwast, in response, said, "You hope it won't come down to that. . . . We want to address this collegially, and with an open mind." However, if the worst comes to pass, and the budget pressures are too extreme to permit a calm reassessment of national strategy as constrained by a tight budget, "I have a knife in my back pocket," said Kwast. "But I hope I won't have to use it. We're not so naïve to think that's not a possibility. But what's the point of this exercise unless you're willing to take an innovative approach?" A budget brawl "won't get us where we need to go," he added. He spoke to the *Daily Report* after his March 20 address to AFA's Mitchell Institute for Airpower Studies in Arlington, Va.

—*John A. Tirpak*

**[Congress reviews reserve forces equipment needs](#)**

***03/20/2013 02:25 PM CDT***

## [Commander: Northcom Increases Crisis Response Capabilities](#)

*03/20/2013 02:02 PM CDT*

### [5 Myths About Government Shutdown](#)

(Chicago Tribune) - President Barack Obama and Congress have until March 27 to reach a budget agreement to avert a government shutdown. If they don't meet the deadline, federal agencies will halt many public services and send "non-expected" workers home without pay. Let's look at some of the misconceptions about what happens when the U.S. government officially closes shop.

- [Cyberwar Manual Lays Down Rules for Online Attacks](#)
- **Dempsey Honors Survivors of Those Killed on Duty**

## [DISA's Enterprise Email Reaches 1 Million Users](#)

## [Pentagon Official Provides Budget Update](#)

*03/20/2013 01:36 PM CDT*

- [Obama Releases Statement on Iraq War](#)
- [Hagel Orders New Look at Defense Strategy](#)
- [On Target: Recruiting Efforts Hit Goals](#)

**You Are What You Eat:** The Air Force has launched a pilot campaign called "Better Foods, Better Bodies" to motivate airmen and their families to eat healthier. "We want airmen and their families to live long, healthy lives and we know a lot of that depends on what they put into their bodies," said Mary Balch of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, who is directing the campaign, in a [March 19 release](#). The Air Force surgeon general's office and AFMOA's health promotion office are leading this effort, which is under way at three pilot locations before its potential rollout across the entire Air Force: JB Andrews, Md.; JBSA-Lackland, Tex.; and JB Langley-Eustis, Va. From online tools and resources, like recipes, to posters and coupons, the campaign seeks to educate airmen and their families in making smarter food choices, such as eating more fruits and vegetables, states the release.

### [Colonel relieved of command for failing PT](#)

The Air Force has relieved a full colonel with an impeccable resume for failing his physical fitness test.

Effective immediately, Col. Tim Bush is no longer in command of the 319th Air Base Wing at Grand

Forks Air Force Base, N.D., said Maj. Mike Andrews, spokesman for Air Mobility Command, in a statement Wednesday afternoon. The wing's vice commander, Col. Christopher Mann, will serve as interim commander until a replacement is found. [[Read More](#)]

**Propeller Issue Led to Predator Crash:** A propeller malfunction on an MQ-1 Predator remotely piloted aircraft, coupled with operator error, led to the platform's crash last October in Afghanistan, announced Air Combat Command officials. The Predator was about 10 hours into a surveillance mission out of Jalalabad Air Base on Oct. 26, 2012, when it developed a problem with its variable pitch propeller, according to ACC's March 19 [release](#) that cites the newly released findings of the command's abbreviated accident investigation board report (AIB [report](#); caution, large-sized file.)

**Air Force Subsumes Responsive Space Office:** The Pentagon's Operationally Responsive Space office now falls under the oversight of the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB, Calif., announced center officials. "We are excited to integrate the ORS office into our team as we continue to deliver capability to our warfighters at the speed of need," said [Lt. Gen. Ellen Pawlikowski](#), SMC commander, during an assumption-of-command ceremony earlier this month for the ORS office's new director, Col. John Anttonen, according to SMC's March 19 [release](#). "This realignment will benefit all of our mission areas by bringing ORS principles and capabilities to bear across the portfolio while providing the ORS office with closer access to the incredible depth and expertise of the [SMC] directorates," said Pawlikowski. The joint office, located at Kirtland AFB, N.M., formerly resided organizationally under the Office of the Secretary of Defense, but the Fiscal 2013 defense authorization act stipulated that the office shift under SMC, the Air Force's space acquisition arm. The ORS office is charged with rapidly developing responsive space capabilities, such as small-sized communications or imagery satellites, that support combatant commanders. (See also [Coming Down the Pike.](#))

**First Sergeant Academy Updates Curriculum:** The Air Force First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell AFB, Ala., has transformed its course curriculum from a traditional education experience to one combining facilitated distance learning—akin to online instruction—and in-residence classroom time, according to a base release. The academy's course, which was formerly three weeks of in-residence instruction at Maxwell, now comprises four weeks of distance learning followed by two weeks at the academy, states Maxwell's March 20 release. The online instruction includes subject areas such as administration, human resource management, maintenance of discipline, and readiness. (Maxwell [report](#) by A1C William J. Blankenship)

### **Pilot error one cause of 2012 Predator crash**

Pilot error and a propeller malfunction caused an armed MQ-1B Predator to crash into the Afghanistan countryside last fall, according to an accident report released today.

During a surveillance mission out of Jalalabad Air Base on Oct. 26, the piloting crew received a high temperature caution message about 10 hours into the mission, indicating a problem with the aircraft's propeller that controls pitch. [[Read More](#)]

### **General assignments, nominations announced**

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced March 20 that the President has made the following nominations:

Air Force Lt. Gen. John E. Hyten has been nominated for assignment as commander, Fourteenth Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), Air Force Space Command, and commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Hyten is currently

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serving as vice commander, Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. [[Read More](#)]

### **Study: MRI could diagnose Gulf War Illness**

Veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War suffering from chronic pain and fatigue have brain damage to their white matter, the connective nerve fibers that transmit electrical impulses among the brain's gray matter, a Georgetown University Medical Center study finds.

Using advanced scans called diffusion tensor imaging, researchers discovered that the brains of 31 veterans who served in the Gulf War had significant changes to the axon bundles — the white matter — in the parts of the brain that process pain and fatigue. [[Read More](#)]

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[S.C. passes bills to appoint adjutant general](#)

· [DARPA closer to brain-controlled prosthesis](#)

· [VA official: Be patient on claims backlog](#)

· [Outreach to combat suicide continues](#)

### **4-star: Gitmo buildings in need of major repair**

WASHINGTON — As much as \$170 million is needed to improve facilities for the troops stationed at the Guantanamo Bay detention center that President Obama has marked for extinction, the top U.S. commander in South and Central America said Wednesday. [[Read More](#)]

### **Government work boosts younger vets' employment**

One in four Iraq and Afghanistan-era veterans have government jobs, primarily with the federal government, says a new Labor Department report that finds an improved employment picture for the post-9/11 generation. [[Read More](#)]

### **Obama vows unwavering support for Israel**

JERUSALEM — Renewing U.S. support for the difficult “work of generations,” President Obama assured Israel on Wednesday that his administration would pursue an elusive Mideast peace that would allow residents of the Jewish state to live in peace and free from the threat of terror. [[Read More](#)]

### **Troops offer strong voice on personal firearms**

It's no great surprise that folks in the military have strong opinions about weapons. [[Read More](#)]

### **National Guard hit hard by sequester cuts**

Fox 59

Men and women who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and many other places around the world say they are getting a raw deal from the politicians in Washington, D.C. Nearly 700 people in Indiana are losing a benefit promised to them by the Pentagon. More than ...

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[Fox 59](#)

### **Gen. Jacoby remembers MAFFS airmen, praises National Guard contributions ...**

DVIDS

MAFFS 7, a C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft assigned to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air **National Guard**, departs Charlotte, N.C., June 30, 2012, for Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., to support firefighting throughout the Rocky ...

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### [Federal Tuition Cut for Army \*\*National Guard\*\*](#)

Valley News Live

The **National Guard** pays your way through college with assistance from both the state and federal funds. "I'm getting a four year degree at UND," says Nicklay. But Drew's not the only one in the **National Guard** looking forward to federal assistance.

[See all stories on this topic »](#)

### [Furloughs Hit Florida \*\*National Guard\*\* and Anti-Drug Programs as Sequester ...](#)

FlaglerLive.com

Nearly 1,000 members of the Florida **National Guard** will be advised Thursday they face one-day-per-pay-period furloughs from the end of April through the end of September due to the national fiscal sequestration. Another 400 soldiers from Florida won't ...

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[FlaglerLive.com](#)

### [. \*\*Hagel Pressed To Add East Coast Missile Defense Site\*\*](#)

(Bloomberg.com) - Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel should include funds in the Pentagon's next budget request to start work on a U.S. East Coast site for 20 anti-missile interceptors as a defense against Iran, House Republicans said.

### [Warning On Focus Of Spy Agencies](#)

(Washington Post) - A panel of White House advisers warned President Obama in a secret report that U.S. spy agencies were paying inadequate attention to China, the Middle East and other national security flash points because they had become too focused on military operations and drone strikes, U.S. officials said.

### [Senate Votes To Restore Tuition Assistance](#)

(ArmyTimes.com) - The Senate voted Wednesday to restore tuition assistance for all services, reversing a budget-cutting move ordered by the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

### [. \*\*House Panels Press Agencies Over Their Sequestration Plans\*\*](#)

(Washington Post) - Lawmakers examined agency cost-saving plans and members of both parties accused each other of having things backward in the sequester blame game during hearings Tuesday of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

### [U.S. Presses China On Breaches](#)

(Washington Post) - In their first meetings with China's new leaders, U.S. officials this week pushed for an acknowledgment of the unusual nature of cyberattacks originating from China aimed at stealing U.S. corporate secrets to benefit the Asian giant's state-owned enterprises.

### [Senate Passes Government Funding Measure](#)

(Washington Post) - A short-term funding measure to keep the government operating beyond the end of this month cleared the Senate on Wednesday and is awaiting final passage in the House on Thursday to avert a shutdown.

. [South Korea: Chinese Address Source Of Attack](#)

(USAToday.com) - A cyberattack that caused computer networks at South Korean banks and television networks to crash Wednesday afternoon originated with a Chinese Internet address, South Korea's telecom regulator said Thursday.

. [N. Korea's WMD Program Making Faster Progress Under New Leader: U.S. Commander](#)

(Yonhap News Agency) - North Korea's nuclear and missile programs have moved forward faster than expected, especially since the transition of leadership a year ago, a top U.S. military commander told lawmakers Wednesday.

[China: Leader Says He Wants To Ease Tensions Between Two Koreas](#)

(New York Times) - China's newly appointed president, Xi Jinping, spoke to his South Korean counterpart, Park Geun-hye, by telephone on Wednesday, and told her that his government wanted to help ease tensions between the two Koreas.

[U.S., Japan Update Plans To Defend Islands](#)

(Wall Street Journal (wsj.com)) - The U.S. and Japan are updating plans to defend East China Sea islands claimed by both Tokyo and Beijing, according to a defense official.

. [Asia's F-35 Buyers Forced To Wait As China Seeks Edge](#)

(Reuters.com) - The Pentagon's F-35 warplane is giving U.S. allies in Asia a headache as they look to replace ageing jets with a cutting edge aircraft now likely to be at least seven years late in offering a strategic deterrent to China.

[Chemicals Would Be 'Game Changer' In Syria, Obama Says](#)

(New York Times) - Showing solidarity with Israel's growing concern about chemical weapons in neighboring Syria, President Obama stated bluntly on Wednesday that if an investigation he had ordered found proof that the Syrian military had used such weapons it would be a game changer in American involvement in the civil war there.

. [Report: Jobs Picture For Veterans Improved In 2012](#)

(Yahoo.com) - The jobs picture for the nation's veterans improved significantly last year, particularly for those who have served since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Labor Department said Wednesday.

. [Brain Scans Link Nerve Anomalies To Gulf War Illness](#)

(USA Today) - Researchers say they have found physical proof that Gulf War illness is caused by damage to the brain -- and that proof may ultimately help civilians who suffer from chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia.

[U.S., Israel Inch Closer On Iran, But Some Fear It's Too Late](#)

(USA Today) - President Obama told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli public Wednesday that the United States will not let Iran obtain a nuclear weapon, and the two leaders appeared to move closer on the issue than in the past.

. [Weapons Experts Raise Doubts About Israel's Antimissile System](#)

(New York Times) - After President Obama arrived in Israel, his first stop on Wednesday was to inspect an installation of Iron Dome, the antimissile system hailed as a resounding success in the Gaza conflict in November. The photo op, celebrating a technological wonder built with the help of American dollars, came with considerable symbolism as Mr. Obama sought to showcase support for Israel after years of tensions over Jewish settlements and how to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions.

. [Pentagon Chief Hails French Action In Mali](#)

(Agence France-Presse) - US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Wednesday hailed France's military intervention in Mali in a phone call with his French counterpart, Jean-Yves Le Drian, thanking Paris for its "active leadership," officials said.

. [U.S. Military Denies Mortar Ban Will Jeopardize Service Members](#)

(ForeignPolicy.com) - The Pentagon pushed back hard on an Associated Press report today about a supposed "worldwide" ban on 60 mm mortar rounds in the aftermath of a deadly accident at an army depot in Nevada.

### **Nevada Military Town Shaken**

(Los Angeles Times) - As investigators continued Wednesday to examine a training accident that killed seven Marines and wounded eight other servicemen, this remote military town struggled with its grief and strived to help the victims.

### **A Helo Fleet Overhaul After Seven Marines Killed In Crash**

(UTSanDiego.com) - After a mid-air helicopter collision at night killed seven Marines flying with a Camp Pendleton squadron a year ago, the Marine Corps secured funding to overhaul its new fleet of upgraded Cobra and Huey helicopters to replace malfunctioning and missing lighting, U-T San Diego has learned.

### **Trial Venue Set For U.S. Army Officer Accused Of Fort Hood Massacre**

(Reuters.com) - U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan, charged with killing 13 people during a 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, will face a court martial trial at the base, a military judge ruled on Wednesday, rejecting his request to change the venue.

### **USS Freedom Becomes First LCS To Reach 7th Fleet's Pacific Turf**

(Stripes.com) - The USS Freedom has arrived in the 7th Fleets area of responsibility, marking a major milestone for the Navys beleaguered littoral combat ship program.

### **General: Guantanamo Needs \$170M For Repairs**

(Miami Herald) - As much as \$170 million is needed to improve facilities for the troops stationed at the Guantanamo Bay detention center that President Barack Obama has marked for extinction, the top commander of U.S. Southern Command said Wednesday.

### **. The Sequester Is An Overhaul Opportunity**

(Wall Street Journal) - The federal government's personnel system is a perfect first target. Despite its persistent failure to perform, the system is impervious to reform. Hiring still takes too long, promotions come fast and easy with time on the job, and all but a handful of employees are rated fully satisfactory or better in the annual appraisal charade. Too few poor performers are ever fired, and too many managers play favorites throughout it all.

### **. A Victory For Missile Defense**

(New York Post) - Kim Jong Un has done the near impossible. The newly minted supreme leader of North Korea has forced the Obama administration to admit that the United States needs more missile defense.

### **. Lessons From The War In Iraq Are There For The Heeding**

(Washington Post) - Do nations learn from mistakes? Today the United States is in deep debt, in part from the Iraq war, the continued fighting in Afghanistan and the general fight against terrorism. Then there's the cost from the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

### **Blunders To Remember**

(Washington Post) - Ten years ago this week, I was covering the U.S. military as it began its assault on Iraq. As I read back now over my clips, I see a few useful warnings about the difficulties ahead. But I owe readers an apology for being wrong on the overriding question of whether the war made sense.

### **. On Syria, Iraq's Shadow Is Long**

(Washington Post) - This week's 10th anniversary of the Iraq war passed quietly, and that's not a bad thing.

### **Saving Jordan's King Abdullah Must Be A U.S. Priority**

(Wall Street Journal) - When President Obama meets Jordan's King Abdullah on Friday, the agenda is likely to focus on the spillover from Syria's civil war (including 400,000 refugees on Jordanian soil) and efforts to jump-start the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Given recent developments in the kingdom, however, Mr. Obama would do well to make Jordanian domestic politics the centerpiece of the discussion.

### **. Silicon, Iron, And Shadow**

(ForeignPolicy.com) - The wars of the 21st century will be dominated by three overlapping types of conflict: Wars

of Silicon, Wars of Iron, and Wars in the Shadows. The United States must design a new readiness and investment strategy in order to effectively deal with all three. Yet today it continues to pour scarce resources chiefly into its sphere of long-held dominance -- Wars of Iron. This is a potentially disastrous mistake, but one that can be corrected if we act now.

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