

From: [Al Bunting](#)
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Subject: UPDATE: 3/22-23
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2013 10:19:48 AM

"Every man thinks meanly of himself for not having been a Soldier, or not having been at sea." Samuel Johnson --hmmmmm

Top:

[Cyber Command Adapts to Understand Cyber Battlespace](#)

03/20/2013 06:08 AM CDT

Since the Defense Department officially made cyberspace a new domain of warfare in 2011, experts in the public and private sectors have been working to make that inherently collaborative, adaptable environment a suitable place for military command and control. In July of that year, the first initiative of the first DOD Strategy for Operating in [...]

- **[DOD must stop waiting to plan budget cuts, analysts say](#)**
The Pentagon needs to start figuring out how to implement sequester cuts instead of waiting for Congress to reverse them, defense analysts say. "The reality is they need to start planning for this staying in effect, and even if they start right now it's a little too late," said Todd Harrison, a defense budget analyst at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. [Reuters](#) (3/21)

[Military Cyber Strike Teams Will Soon Guard Private Networks](#)

By Aliya Sternstein

Decision to prioritize forces to protect critical infrastructure follows assaults on the banking industry.
...[full article](#)

Airman of the Year Nominations

Nominations for the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year (OAY) are due to the Air Force Personnel Center by April 2. The three categories for award are Airman,

Noncommissioned Officer and Senior NCO. Organization and base-level personnel must contact their MAJCOM, field operating agency, direct-reporting unit or MAJCOM equivalent for applicable suspense dates.

All nominees must be enlisted in the Air Force through Sept. 30, 2014. Nominees who extend their enlistment for the 12 OAY program and who are not selected may cancel their extensions through their local military personnel section. For more information on Air Force recognition [programs](#) and other personnel issues, visit the AF [myPers website](#).

▪ **[Analysis: U.S. base in Niger has growing strategic role](#)**

The Air Force last month began flying unarmed Predator drones from a base in Niamey, Niger, a move that reflects the Pentagon's growing drone presence in Africa, Craig Whitlock writes. The White House announced last month that 100 military personnel were being deployed to Niger, but the Defense Department has released little information about operations at the base. Nigerian President Issoufou Mahamadou says his government requested the drones. [The Washington Post](#) (3/21)

· [New system pushes intel to cockpits](#)

[Colonel: AF made a 'fair and just' decision](#)

Col. Tim Bush was giving a routine commander's call March 20, but at the end he had an announcement.

"I closed by discussing our Air Force traditions, our core values and our standards, and that we are the greatest Air Force the world has ever seen because we have standards and we enforce those standards and we hold people accountable," Bush told Air Force Times. "In this case, I didn't meet it, so I need to step down as commander." [[Read More](#)]

[Commissaries change furlough days to Mondays](#)

Commissaries will close on Mondays if furloughs are required for DoD civilian employees because of sequestration, according to an agreement negotiated between commissary officials and an employees' union, the American Federation of Government Employees Council 172, obtained by Military Times.

That's a change from the previous plan to close the stores on Wednesdays during the furlough period, as stated in a Feb. 21 email to all commissary employees from Defense Commissary Agency director Joseph Jeu. DeCA headquarters will also be closed on Mondays. [[Read More](#)]

[Congress restores TA through fiscal '13](#)

Congress has voted to restore the military's tuition assistance program but has left the Coast Guard behind.

The 2013 government funding bill passed Thursday by the House and now on its way to the White House ordered the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to keep paying tuition assistance through the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. [[Read More](#)]

Security clearance questions to be updated

The governmentwide form used to apply for security clearances is being updated to relax foreign travel and foreign contact questions for service members, recognize same-sex marriages, and clarify that marijuana use must be reported even if you have resided in a state where use is legal. [[Read More](#)]

Military wary as Congress again wades into laws on sexual assault.
Congress stumbled badly the last time it rewrote military law amid a furor over sexual assaults.

Army leaders aim to ensure no shortcuts in training amid budget cuts. Fort Bragg's ready-to-go forces will get resources for training, but Army leaders worry about the next-to-go units if the federal budget crisis drags on.

Most powerful weapon for change. **Politico:** Service personnel are allowed to use their veterans benefits for education while on active duty. But that will cost them dearly when those benefits run out after they return to civilian life. Is that what they were promised when they deferred their education to serve our country?

S. Korea misIDs China as origin of cyberattack

SEOUL, South Korea — In an embarrassing twist to a coordinated cyberattack on six major South Korean companies this week, investigators said Friday they wrongly identified a Chinese Internet Protocol address as the source. [[Read More](#)]

· [Quantico shooting victims all staffers at OCS](#)

· [Pentagon: Missile defense system covers Guam](#)

· [DoD must get real about cuts, experts say](#)

· [Sequester: Energy-efficiency upgrades scrapped](#)

· [Keesler preps for changes with C-130J move](#)

▪ **Carter: Asian Defense Leaders Will Feel U.S. Rebalance to Region**

▪ *03/22/2013 05:24 PM CDT*

▪ **Leaders Must Prepare Troops for Society, Battaglia Says**

▪ *03/22/2013 05:46 PM CDT*

▪

[Combat Hammer sharpens aim while saving dollars](#)

03/21/2013 03:44 PM CDT

[Budget Concerns Take Center Stage at Beaufort Town Hall](#)

[Austin Takes Central Command Flag from Mattis](#)

03/22/2013 12:45 PM CDT

[Army Releases February 2013 Suicide Information](#)

03/22/2013 01:09 PM CDT

[Appeals Court Considers Sanctions Against Veterans Department.](#)

Wall Street Journal: A federal appeals court said Thursday it was considering sanctions against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for failing to live up to its word in a case involving veterans' benefits.

[Efforts Continue for Spouse Professional License Portability](#)

03/22/2013 10:18 AM CDT

[N. Korea says US bases in Japan, Guam are within range of attack.](#)

The latest threat of a "precision strike" from the cloistered country was issued the same week that B-52 bombers and a nuclear attack submarine were dispatched to the Korean peninsula from those bases to participate in ongoing joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises.

[Air Force commander grapples with servicemember's suicide.](#) While most people hunkered down for the night as a typhoon pounded the Tokyo area, an American airman plunged to his death from the 11th floor of a nearby hotel. Before dawn, Yokota base commander Col. Mark August received one of those calls that almost always bring a different kind of turmoil.

[Congress reviews reserve forces equipment needs](#)

03/20/2013 02:13 PM CDT

[Military evaluating suicide prevention programs.](#) After another rise in the military suicide rate last year, the services on Thursday outlined to Congress their efforts to reverse the trend and evaluate their prevention programs

Military Health System and TRICARE Reaching Millions through Social Media

The Military Health System and TRICARE are using social media to reach millions of service members, veterans and military families each day. The MHS provides daily updates on military health related news and resources to close to 15,000 Twitter followers and more than 9,000 Facebook fans with a potential reach of nearly 4.6 million Facebook users. The MHS is able to share timely news and information regarding a range of subjects like traumatic brain injuries and mental health, as well as, breaking news updates.

TRICARE uses its social sites to provide benefit updates, health tips and customer service to its nearly 33,000 Facebook fans. Those Facebook fans and some 8,000 TRICARE Twitter followers receive benefits information to help them better understand their health care plan and better access health care services and programs. In addition to being active on Facebook and Twitter, TRICARE also produces educational videos, which are published on [YouTube](#).

Follow TRICARE on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

ACTIVE DUTY NEWS

Soldiers Reminded to Review Records

As the Army draws down, it is important for soldiers to keep their records up-to-date and accurate. It is the soldiers' responsibility to review their records at least once a year. [Human Resources](#) Command (HRC) has noticed routine errors in things like Soldiers' mailing addresses, awards, assignment history, overseas service, deployment history and dwell time back from deployment.

Soldiers can access their OMPF through AKO or [online](#). When using AKO Soldiers can find their Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) under the "Army Links" heading on the lower right-hand side of the AKO main screen. The My Board File Certification Report can be accessed on the HRC [homepage](#) under Popular HRC Resources or through the [direct link](#). All links require a Common Access Card.

Thrift Savings Plan Issues Warning

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is warning that a free iPhone app for the Thrift Savings Plan that is available at the Apple App Store could pose a security risk. The "TSP Funds" app is not being offered through the TSP, and the TSP does not recommend using this to access your TSP account. Doing so could result in a security risk to your account.

For more information on keeping your TSP account safe, see the [Security Center](#) on the TSP website or contact the ThriftLine at 1-TSP-YOU-FRST (1-877-968-3778).

[Florida's National Guard Faces Furloughs, Other Cuts](#)

Patch.com

The Florida **National Guard** is about to face furlough days from sequestration. The Florida Air **National Guard** has a squadron at MacDill Air Force Base, and there is a **National Guard** Armory on North Howard Ave. (See map attached to this article showing ...

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[CA Guard Leader Faces State Lawmakers](#)

NBC Bay Area

State senators put the California Military Department under a microscope, following a series of investigations into the California **National Guard** by NBC Bay Area and KNBC in Los Angeles. This story aired on at 11 p.m. on March 20, 2013. CA Leader Faces ...

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[NBC Bay Area](#)

[National Guard tuition program put on hold](#)

Statesman Journal

A federal tuition program that helped **National Guard** soldiers pay for college was put on hold indefinitely because of automatic spending cuts known as the sequester. The suspension of the tuition assistance program took effect March 5 — leaving 350 ...

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[Airport, National Guard Bureau OK Kingsley Field pact](#)

Herald and News

A new joint-use agreement between Klamath Falls Airport and the **National Guard** Bureau will be \$20,000 less than the previous arrangement, although city officials were able to leverage funds from the NGB's initial offer of zero. The 10-year agreement ...

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[Senior U.S. Senators Join Calls for U.S. Military Action in Syria](#)

WASHINGTON — Pressure intensified Friday on Capitol Hill for President Barack Obama to use U.S. military force to end the Syrian civil war, with several senior Republican and Democratic senators joining the pro-intervention ranks. [... more](#)

[Contractor political donations unscathed by sequester](#)

Members of Congress continue raising campaign cash from the defense industry at fundraisers across Washington, even as military contractors brace for revenue losses from sequestration's deep federal spending cuts. [... more](#)

[Suspension Won't Interrupt USAF Security Clearances](#)

If you have a Top Secret security clearance you don't need to worry it will expire during a suspension of required reinvestigations, a U.S. Air Force spokesman said. [... more](#)

[Sequester ensnares government watchdogs](#)

(Federal Times) As lawmakers clamp down on federal spending, they aren't sparing the government's watchdogs.

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