

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

### **Arizona Guard reins in whistle-blowers**

PHOENIX — Amid an investigation of corrupt conduct in the Arizona National Guard, soldiers and airmen have been issued strict ethics guidelines that include restrictions on whistle-blower disclosure of agency information. [[Read More](#)]

### **Pentagon Cuts Number Of Furlough Days**

(Yahoo.com) - The Pentagon will sharply cut the number of unpaid furlough days civilians will be forced to take over the next several months from 22 to 14, defense officials said Wednesday, reducing the impact of automatic budget cuts on as many as 700,000 workers.

### **Congress isn't considering further BRAC rounds, lawmaker says**

The House Armed Services Committee has decided not to hold BRAC proceedings, says committee member Rep. Carol Shea-Porter, D-N.H. "Congress made it very clear that this wasn't even a time to consider" such a move, she said Monday. [SeacoastOnline](#) (Portsmouth, N.H.) (tiered subscription model) (3/26)

**Army Set to Introduce Smartphones Into Combat** Soldiers assigned to the first U.S. Army brigade scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan with the service's next generation combat radio system called the technology a "game-changer" as the 10th Mountain trained ahead of their upcoming tour. [Read More](#)

The Air Force released Cyber Vision 2025, a vision document that provides a blueprint for where the Air Force should focus its science and technology activities in the cyber realm out to 2025, [announced](#) service officials on Wednesday. It highlights near term (out to Fiscal 2015), mid-term (Fiscal 2020), and far term (Fiscal 2025) approaches. Air Force Chief Scientist [Mark Maybury](#) led the study, supported by experts across the Air Force, US government, and industry. "Cyber Vision 2025 finds that our missions are at risk from malicious insiders, insecure supply chains, and increasingly sophisticated adversaries as well as growing (often cyber) systems interdependencies," reads the document's executive summary. Among its many recommendations, Cyber Vision 2025 calls for: integrating cyber across all core functions; improving cyber accessions and education and developing Air Force cyberspace elite forces; rapid, open, and iterative acquisition; requiring and designing-in security, and securing weapon systems throughout their lifecycle; and developing trusted and self-healing networks. Cyber Vision 2025, dated Dec. 13, 2012, but publicly released on March 27, follows the [Energy Horizons](#) and [Technology Horizons](#) vision documents that the chief scientist's office has released since 2010. (See also [Building a Cyber Vision](#) and [Cyber Bytes and Bits](#).)

Thursday March 28, 2013

Air Force officials "need to make hard decisions" in order to shape the service in the way "they believe it should be in the future," said [Maj. Gen. Robert Kane](#), global reach programs director in the Air Force Secretariat's acquisition office, on Wednesday. During a briefing sponsored by AFA's Mitchell Institute for Airpower Studies in Arlington, Va., Kane outlined a paper and an analytical model he helped create to assess the Air Force's value proposition to determine better pathways for the service's processes, such as budgeting, requirements, and acquisitions. Each of these Air Force processes has its own values and belief systems and "the key" is to bring them all together "and that's hard to do," he said during his March 27 presentation. The model analyzes the projected promise of value that the Air Force is expected to deliver, the trade space, and the core functions and enduring missions of Air Force communities.

**—Merri Shaffer**

President Obama signed into law H.R. 933, [appropriations legislation](#) that will fund the Defense Department and other government agencies through the remainder of the fiscal year. Obama inked the bill on March 26, [announced](#) the White House. His signature came one day before the expiration date of the budget continuing resolution under which DOD has been operating thus far in Fiscal 2013. H.R. 933 includes some \$518.1 billion in baseline defense funding, \$87.2 billion for overseas contingency operations, and \$10.6 billion for military construction. It provides some leeway for the services to reprogram funds across accounts to ease the stresses of budget sequestration.\*

The Air Force has canceled the Red Flag-Alaska 13-2 exercise that was slated to take place in April, [announced](#) Pacific Air Forces officials on Wednesday. They cited "budgetary considerations" associated with sequestration as the reason. Air Force officials have previously warned that curtailing training exercises would be [one of the unavoidable consequences](#) of budget sequestration, which took effect on March 1, bringing with it severe spending cuts for the US military. PACAF considers RF-A to be its premier combat flying training exercise. It normally takes place for several weeks at Eielson AFB, Alaska, utilizing the Joint Pacific Alaskan Range Complex. US units from across the Pacific, along with British and Canadian forces, were scheduled to participate in this exercise iteration. "PACAF plans to honor the commitments made to our allies by extending an offer to them to continue to use the airspace and the range through unit-level training," states the command's March 27 release.

[CMSgt. Calvin Williams](#) is the new command chief of 12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern) at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz." (Davis-Monthan [report](#) by MSgt. Kelly Ogden) (See also Ogden's [interview](#) with Williams.)

The Air Force has successfully completed the upgrade and transfer of its Military Personnel Data System to the Defense Enterprise Computing Center operated by the Defense Information Systems Agency, according to an Air Force Personnel Center release. Originally expected to require 23 days, the process took only 17 days, states the March 27 release. "We're pleased that the MilPDS upgrade took less time than anticipated, and we are well on our way to getting information updated in the system," said Joe Thele, Air Force Personnel Operations Agency director. AFPC Commander [Maj. Gen. A.J. Stewart](#) shut down MilPDS on March 4 so that [the upgrade could commence](#). MilPDS is the primary records database for airmen's personnel data. It was becoming old and more difficult to maintain, and there was concern that, without the overhaul, the service might lose irreplaceable data. (Randolph [report](#) by Debbie Gildea)

Two high school students from Valparaiso, Fla., have conducted research that provides insights that could help local residents dampen the noise that enters their homes from F-35 strike fighters operating

from nearby Eglin Air Force Base, [reported](#) the *Northwest Florida Daily News*. Eglin is home to F-35 training. As part of a school science project, junior Stefan Makarov and senior Jessica Sandlin of Rocky Bayou Christian School obtained a sound clip of an F-35, played it through speakers set up outside of a number of homes, and used a "sound isolation box" to record the decibels penetrating inside the homes, according to the newspaper's March 25 report. "Our hypothesis was the sound was most likely to come through the windows," said Makarov. "But we found out it came through the walls." In fact, they discovered that a hurricane-proof glass door absorbed sound better than vinyl siding, and that having several layers between living space and brick walls blocked out sound best. (See also [USAF Limits Eglin to 59 F-35s](#).)

### [Special Report: Networking and Communications](#)

WASHINGTON — As the U.S. armed services massage their budgets to accommodate the impact of sequestration, not even the Army's well-received network testing exercises will go unscathed. [... more](#)

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▪ [Chinese Navy Makes Presence Felt at Disputed Shoal](#)

▪ [Report: Pentagon Must Do More to Prevent Sex Assaults](#)

▪ [Budget Cuts Cancel Deployments of 4 More Ships](#)

▪ [US Eyes Anti-Piracy Effort Along West Africa Coast](#)

▪ [Australia-Based US Radar to Watch China Launches](#)

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### [U.S., Russia to discuss European missile shield](#)

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and his Russian counterpart, Sergey Shoygu, have agreed to reopen dialogue on a planned European missile defense shield. Previous talks regarding the shield stalled after NATO refused to guarantee Russia that the system would not interfere with Russia's nuclear deterrent. [United Press International](#) (3/26)

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### ▪ [Marine Corps has no plans to change postwar strategy](#)

The Marine Corps is committed to becoming more maritime-based, regardless of the outcome of the Pentagon's review of its postwar national security strategy, says Maj. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, a top officer. The service plans to be a light infantry force, often deploying on Navy ships, McKenzie says. [The Hill/DEFCON Hill blog](#) (3/26)

### ▪ [U.S. is overwhelmed by military health care issues, report finds](#)

The federal government failed to anticipate the severity of health problems that would arise from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and is now struggling to provide treatment to service members with post-traumatic stress disorder and other conditions, according to an 800-page study released Tuesday by the Institute of Medicine. "[T]he response does not match the magnitude of the problems, and many readjustment needs are unmet or unknown," the report says. [USA Today](#) (3/26) , [Time.com/Battleland blog](#) (3/26)

### [Airmen climb to raise money, awareness for vets](#)

In March 2003, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Disney watched a helicopter crash in eastern Afghanistan,

killing his friend and mentor, Master Sgt. Michael Maltz.

“He was on the cover of the Air Force pamphlet for pararescue,” Disney said. “His face and how he appeared in that picture is what made me want to be a PJ [pararescueman].” [[Read More](#)]

### **Webcam of deceit: Some airmen fall for sex scam**

You should really think twice if an attractive woman you’ve never met asks you to perform a sex act in front of a webcam.

Airmen and other service members have fallen victim to “sextortion,” in which cyber criminals posing as “attractive females seeking friendly conversation” have fooled unsuspecting victims into performing sexual acts online, according to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. [[Read More](#)]

### **N. Korea says it has cut last military hotline**

SEOUL, South Korea — Raising tensions with South Korea yet again, North Korea cut its last military hotline with Seoul on Wednesday, saying there was no need to continue military communications between the countries in a situation “where a war may break out at any moment.”

The hotline — a dedicated telephone link between the two militaries — was used mainly to arrange for South Koreans who work at an industrial complex in the North to cross the heavily armed border. When the connection was last severed in 2009, some workers were stranded in the North. [[Read More](#)]

### **Striking Guantanamo prisoners say water denied**

MIAMI —. [[Read More](#)]

### **U.S. swipes at China for hacking allegations**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. has taken its first real swipe at China following accusations that the Beijing government is behind a widespread and systemic hacking campaign targeting U.S. businesses.

Buried in a spending bill signed by President Obama on Tuesday is a provision that effectively bars much of the federal government from buying information technology made by companies linked to the Chinese government. [[Read More](#)]

### **Airport screenings eased for injured troops**

Starting today, injured service members no longer will need to remove their shoes, jackets or hats at airport security checkpoints, but they must call ahead to qualify for the perk. [[Read More](#)]

### **Dating history could block security clearance**

If you hold a security clearance, you should already know that the three biggest killers to keeping that access — and your job — are problems with booze, money or drugs. But these days, security clearance snafus can involve so much more. [[Read More](#)]

### **Report: Smaller raises may not harm readiness**

The Pentagon could save considerable money over time by reducing military pay raises, but the downside is that enlisting and staying in the service could become a lot less attractive, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. [[Read More](#)]

- [Petraeus apologizes for extramarital affair](#)
- [Feds OK Schilling AFB cleanup settlement](#)

· [MilPDS back up after 17-day shutdown](#)

· [Report: DoD must do more to stop sex assaults](#)

· [SpaceX Dragon cargo ship splashes into Pacific](#)

· [Readjustment issues affect 44% of combat vets](#)

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### [\*\*Hagel Vows Support For South Korea After North's Threats\*\*](#)

(Bloomberg.com) - Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel reiterated the Obama administrations unwavering commitment to protect South Korea following escalated North Korean threats to attack the U.S. and its Asian ally. Hagel spoke with South Korean counterpart Kim Kwan Jin early today Seoul time, and highlighted the steadfast U.S. commitment to the defense of South Korea, according to an e-mailed Pentagon statement.

### [\*\*Assad Sends Letter to Emerging Powers Seeking Help to End Syrian War\*\*](#)

(New York Times) - President Bashar al-Assad of Syria beseeched a five-nation group of emerging powers on Wednesday to help halt the Syrian conflict, one day after the Arab League moved to further isolate Mr. Assad by ceremoniously filling his governments vacant seat with the opposition coalition that has sworn to topple him.

### [\*\*Army Strong\*\*](#)

(ForeignPolicy.com) - Actually, Lt. Gen. Barno, the best and the brightest are staying in uniform.

### · [\*\*Sky-High Hysteria\*\*](#)

(New York Post) - todays drones arent the wave of the future let alone the end of civilization. Militarily speaking, theyre like World War I biplanes, which many of them resemble. Theyre merely stepping stones to UAVs that will project American air power at supersonic speeds without a single pilots life at risk.

### · [\*\*Halter Marine In Moss Point Christens Navy Ship In Honor Of Early Oceanographer\*\*](#)

### [\*\*Guam Governor Says North Korea Attack Unlikely\*\*](#)

(Yahoo.com) - Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo says people in the U.S. territory should not be distracted by threats from North Korea to launch a nuclear strike.

### [\*\*Chinese Navy Makes Waves In South China Sea\*\*](#)

(USA Today) - Analysts: Country's bold move spurred by "U.S. inaction."

### · [\*\*Japan's Military Chief Says F-35 Is 'Best Fighter'\*\*](#)

(Reuters.com) - Japan's highest-ranking uniformed officer said on Wednesday that Lockheed Martin's F-35 fighters

were the best choice for the nation's future operational needs as Tokyo wrestles with tensions with China and increasingly belligerent North Korea.

. **[Russia Seeks To Underpin Afghan Security After NATO Pullout](#)**

(Reuters.com) - Russia wants play a role in keeping Afghanistan stable after the withdrawal of most NATO combat troops by maintaining government military hardware on Afghan soil, a senior military official said on Wednesday..

**[US Flies Stealth Bombers Over South Korea](#)**

(Agence France-Presse) - The United States said two nuclear-capable B-2 stealth bombers flew "deterrence" missions over South Korea on Thursday, defying apocalyptic threats of retribution from North Korea against ongoing war games.

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**[Iraq Feels Ripples From War In Syria](#)**

(Washington Post) - Syria's civil war is increasingly threatening to destabilize neighboring Iraq, widening a sectarian divide in a nation still reeling from the messy aftermath of the U.S.-led invasion a decade ago.

**[Officials: Arms Shipments Rise To Syrian Rebels](#)**

(Yahoo.com) - Mideast powers opposed to President Bashar Assad have dramatically stepped up weapons supplies to Syrian rebels in coordination with the U.S. in preparation for a push on the capital of Damascus, officials and Western military experts said Wednesday.

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**[Joint Base Lewis-McCord's Last New C-17 Globemaster III Arrives](#)**

(Tacoma News Tribune) - The airmen parked the newly delivered aircraft facing one of the first two C-17s to arrive at McChord almost 14 years earlier. The 2-hour flight from Boeings plant in Long Beach, Calif., where the cargo jet is built, included a VIP: Lt. Gen. Darren McDew, who as commander of the 18th Air Force leads more than a dozen major Air Force units responsible for air transport, refueling and other support roles.

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**[Striking Guantanamo Prisoners Say Water Denied](#)**

(Yahoo.com) - Prisoners taking part in an expanding hunger strike at Guantanamo Bay leveled new complaints about their military jailers Wednesday as a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross made a fact-finding trip to the U.S. base in Cuba. A spokesman for the detention center denied the allegations.

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**[Lockheed's Troubled F-35 Unscathed In Pentagon's Budget](#)**

(Bloomberg.com) - The Pentagon wants to spend about \$8.4 billion in the next fiscal year to continue developing and purchasing Lockheed Martin Corp.'s F-35, the fighter that is seven years behind schedule and 70 percent over initial cost estimates.

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**[To Serve Those Who Serve](#)**

(Dallas Morning News) - The first civilian to run the military's \$10 billion-a-year retail business has his work cut out for him. The CEO of the Dallas-based Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Tom Shull, is the first retailer to hold the post, which had been a two-year officer assignment for 117 years.

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**[U.N. Close To Curbing Arms Trade With Treaty](#)**

(New York Times) - The effort over many years to forge an international treaty regulating the booming \$70 billion annual trade in conventional weapons headed toward fruition on Wednesday with a final draft sent to the governments of all United Nations member states for approval.

**[Who Really Killed Bin Laden?](#)**

(CNN.com) - another member of SEAL Team 6, which executed the bin Laden raid, tells CNN the story of the Shooter as presented in Esquire is false. ... A U.S. official familiar with the details of the raid said what the SEAL Team 6 operator told me about how bin Laden was killed is in line with what happened, and that account "has it right in my view."

### **Ex-CIA Chief Aided WWII Hero's Arlington Burial**

(Denver Post) - When Dr. Rene Joyeuse's request for burial at Arlington National Cemetery was rejected, the family of the decorated Swiss-born World War II spy launched a campaign to get the decision reversed. Months later, Joyeuse is getting his wish, thanks in part to the involvement of the nation's top covert operators, including CIA Director David Petraeus.

### **Lawyer: Murtha-Linked Pa. Brothers To Plead Guilty**

(Yahoo.com) - Two brothers who owned defense contracting businesses that benefited from earmarks obtained by the late U.S. Rep. John Murtha will plead guilty to charging the military \$650,000 for parts that were never delivered and paying a kickback to another contractor, a defense attorney said.

### **. U.S. Takes On The Role Of Missile Mediator**

(Washington Post) - The United States has quietly taken on the huge task of trying to organize regional ballistic missile defense networks, not only among NATO countries but also among nations in East Asia and the Middle East.

### **. Veterans Must Learn To Connect With American Civilians**

(Washingtonpost.com) - In more than 10 years of war, we in the military have gone to great expense and trouble to listen to the concerns of foreign peoples and cultures. We have learned Dari and Arabic and Pashto. We have sat cross-legged in shura and tribal councils. And yet I worry that we do not pay our fellow Americans the same courtesy.

### **. How Iran Could Get The Bomb Overnight**

(Wall Street Journal) - Building a nuclear weapon takes time. Buying one does not.

### **Will Obama Lean In On Syria?**

(Washington Post) - Here's the coldblooded calculation at work as President Obama shapes his foreign-policy agenda: If he took "full ownership" of the Syria problem through direct military intervention, that's probably all he could accomplish during his second term - and even then, he might fail in reconciling that country's feuding sects.

### **Congress's Institutional Forfeit**

(Washington Post) - The question, Webb says, is whether in "a world filled with cruelty," presidents should be allowed to "pick and choose when and where to use military force" by merely citing the "undefinable rubric of 'humanitarian intervention.'" Imperial presidents and invertebrate legislators of both parties have produced what Webb correctly calls "a breakdown of our constitutional process." Syria may be the next such bipartisan episode.

### **. Asia's Great Rivalry**

(Wall Street Journal (Asia Edition)) - A deal to sell Russian fighters to China is less than it appears.