

From: [Al Bunting](#)
To: [Al Bunting](#)
Subject: UPDATE: 4/`1 -#1
Date: Monday, April 01, 2013 7:55:33 AM

Top:

Implementation Plan Details Force Structure Changes

The Air Force on Thursday released its [plan to implement](#) the force structure changes mandated by Congress in the Fiscal 2013 [defense authorization act](#). The legislation directed the Air Force to reduce its force structure by 122 aircraft and approximately 6,100 military billets across the Active Duty component, 65 aircraft and some 1,400 military billets from the Air National Guard, and 57 aircraft from the Air Force Reserve, according to the service's March 28 [release](#). This includes completing actions approved in previous years, states the release. Included in the 12-page implementation plan is a state-by-state description of the changes for each Air Force base and the associated timeline. "Our Air Force continues efforts to maximize the strength of our Total Force, and we are pleased with the progress that is being made on this front," said Air Force Secretary Michael Donley in the release. "This implementation plan illustrates the Air Force's continued commitment to transparency as it completes the force structure requirements directed and authorized by the [legislation]," he added. (See also [Defense Authorization Conference Report Concluded](#) and [Air Force Announces Intra-theater Airlift Decisions](#).)

New Homeland Defense Strategy Released

The Defense Department last month released the Strategy for Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities, the policy document that aims to position DOD to respond effectively and efficiently to threats to the United States through 2020. The 25-page document identifies the two priority missions for DOD in the homeland: defend US territory from direct attack by state and non-state actors; and provide assistance to domestic civil authorities in the event of natural or manmade disasters, potentially in response to a very significant or catastrophic event, according to the Pentagon's March 22 [release](#). "This strategy emphasizes strengthening our partnerships with federal agencies like the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice, with state and local governments, with the private sector, and with our Canadian and Mexican neighbors," said [Todd Rosenblum](#), acting assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and Americas' security affairs. This will allow not only for "more comprehensive approaches to complex security challenges in the homeland" but also "efficiencies through collaboration and joint action," he added. (Strategy [full document](#); caution, large-sized file.)

Commemorative Painting Celebrates Unit's Centennial

Aviation

[Odierno To Top Leaders: Expect Tougher Evals](#)

(Army Times) - Battalion and brigade commanders will soon receive 360-degree evaluations as part of the Army's continuing push to rid the ranks of toxic leaders. The plan, spearheaded by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, will begin as a pilot program this summer and be fully implemented by the fall.

[Women Soldiers Breaking New Ground In Combat Roles In Army And On Fort Bragg](#)

(Fayetteville (NC) Observer) - The question of whether women can serve in Army roles previously restricted to men is being answered on Fort Bragg, where the male-only world of artillery has opened to female soldiers.

[Commandant Sets Up Diversity Task Force](#)

(Marine Corps Times) - A new white paper issued by Commandant Gen. Jim Amos outlines an aggressive campaign to make the senior officers' ranks more diverse in race and gender.

Fewer Furlough Days Expected for DOD Civilians

Defense Department civilian employees now face up to 14 days of furloughs by the end of the fiscal year due to budget sequestration and [not up to 22 days](#) as originally thought, said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Thursday. "We are going to be able to reduce and delay these furloughs, but not eliminate furloughs," Hagel told reporters during a Pentagon briefing. Still, he said, "this is good news." The change resulted from a revised estimate of the shortfall DOD faces for the remainder of Fiscal 2013 under the sequester. Originally pegged at \$46 billion, DOD's projected spending cuts now stand at \$41 billion, said Hagel. Following Hagel's briefing, a senior Pentagon official told reporters that the furloughs would not start until mid-June—vice late April, as originally thought—with furlough notices set to go out in early May. The furloughs would happen over seven two-week pay periods, with employees likely told not to come to work for two days during each of those pay periods, said the official. DOD officials are still working to determine which employees would be exempt. (Hagel-Dempsey [transcript](#)) (Includes AFPS [report](#) by Nick Simeone)

=

[Breedlove tapped to lead U.S. European Command](#)

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has formally announced Gen. Philip Breedlove is the president's nominee to become the next head of U.S. European Command.

"We need to get that position filled," Hagel told reporters at a news conference. "Not only is he

particularly well qualified, but the job that Adm. [James] Stavridis has done over there has been significant. He needs a little relief." [[Read More](#)]

Air Force cancels Red Flag-Alaska training

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Air Force is canceling its flight training exercise scheduled for April in Alaska.

An announcement from Pacific Air Forces says Red Flag-Alaska is being set aside because of budgetary concerns. [[Read More](#)]

Anniversary of US Pullout from Vietnam

Forty years ago, on March 29, 1973, the last US ground troops withdrew from Vietnam, marking the end of direct US involvement in the Vietnam War. President Nixon addressed the nation that day, saying: "For the first time in 12 years, no American military forces are in Vietnam. All of our American POWs are on their way home." The withdrawal came two months after the United States, South Vietnam, and North Vietnam concluded the Paris peace accords. They failed to bring peace as Saigon would ultimately fall on April 30, 1975, to North Vietnamese communist forces, ending the long conflict. (C-Span [webpage](#) with video of Nixon's address.)

For a selection of *Air Force* Magazine articles over the years on the Vietnam War, see:

[Commissioned in Hanoi](#)
[Leaving No One Behind](#)
[The Lessons of Vietnam](#)
[Linebacker II](#)
[Return to Vietnam](#)
[Stennis Slams McNamara](#)

About the Air Force Association

F-22s Deploy to South Korea for Exercises

The Defense Department has dispatched F-22s to South Korea for joint exercises, [reported](#) the *Wall Street Journal* on March 31. The jets arrived on Sunday at Osan Air Base, according to the newspaper. The deployment comes at a time when the United States has been demonstrating advanced military capabilities in exercises with the South Koreans to dissuade North Korean aggression. Last week two B-2s [flying roundtrip from Missouri](#) struck targets on a South Korean training range with inert bombs as part of these exercises. Prior to that, B-52s flying from Guam, [flew mock bombing sorties](#) over South Korea. North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un and his minions have been engaged in bellicose rhetoric, calling the Korean War armistice null and void and threatening to attack South Korea, US bases in the Asia-Pacific, and the US homeland. North Korea also recently conducted a nuclear test and late last year launched a long-range ballistic missile. The Air Force periodically stations F-22s at Kadena AB, Japan, or on Guam as part of normal rotations of combat forces to the Asia-Pacific region. Back in January, F-22s from JB Langley-Eustis, Va.,

[deployed](#) to Kadena on what service officials said would be a four-month rotation. (See also CNN [report](#).)

Air Force Details C-27J Divestiture Plan

The Air Force expects to complete the divestiture of its C-27J transports by the end of the fiscal year, according to the service's [newly issued plan](#) for implementing the force structure changes that Congress mandated in Fiscal 2013. This entails 21 C-27Js at first, but the number may ultimately grow to more since the [newly enacted](#) defense spending legislation for the remainder of Fiscal 2013 directed the Air Force to procure the C-27s in Fiscal 2013 that it had originally intended to buy. Accordingly, the Air Force said it would "evaluate how to best comply with the intent" of that provision—the C-27J procurement contract has expired—and "develop follow-on disposition plans for any C-27J aircraft procured as a result" of the legislation. The Air Force said it would screen its existing C-27s "to determine if there is reuse interest, and if so, when the interested organizations will accept these aircraft," states the plan. If the airplanes are deemed excess to the Defense Department's needs, the US Forestry Service has the first right of refusal, followed by the Coast Guard. Each of those agencies may accept up to seven C-27s before the Air Force offers them to other federal agencies, states the plan. The Air Force will then transfer any remaining C-27Js to its aircraft boneyard at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., where they will be "preserved for future reuse or sale," states the plan. (See also [Air Force Announces Intratheater Airlift Decisions](#).)

Keeping Three Extra B-1s Combat-Ready

The Air Force will maintain 12 combat-coded B-1 bombers in each of its three operational B-1 squadrons in Texas and South Dakota in order to comply with [a mandate](#) in H.R. 4310, the Fiscal 2013 defense policy act, announced service officials last week. The legislation directed the Air Force to maintain no less than 36 combat-coded B-1s as part of a fleet of some 60 total B-1s. That mandate will require the Air Force to keep three B-1s in service that were slated for retirement, stated service officials in [the plan](#) issued on March 28 that details how the Air Force will implement all of the Fiscal 2013 force structure changes directed by Congress. "We will maintain all 36 aircraft in flyable, combat-coded condition, but will not use the three additional aircraft at the full operational rate due to the repurposing of manpower authorizations previously associated with the three aircraft," states the plan. The three B-1 operational units are the 9th Bomb Squadron at Dyess AFB, Tex., and the 34th BS and 37th BS at Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

Starting on April 1, US military personnel serving in US Central Command's area of

operations will receive commercial airline tickets for their travel from Kuwait to their rest and recuperation leave destinations, announced CENTCOM officials. Previously, the only option was to fly charter air to Atlanta or Dallas from Kuwait, said Army Lt. Col. Dave Homza, chief of the command's R&R task force, in a March 29 release. Now, personnel will use commercial tickets for their approved leave destination, be it stateside or elsewhere in the world, states the release. The charter flights have ended. The Defense Department began a pilot program in January, offering the commercial tickets in place of charter flights for some service members. Homza said the charter flights made economic sense when US forces were at peak levels in Afghanistan and Iraq. Now, the individual commercial tickets are more economical and give airmen, marines, sailors, soldiers, and Defense Department civilians more travel flexibility, he said. (Washington, D.C., [report](#) by David Vergun)

Malmstrom AFB transfers homes to reservation

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — Houses on Malmstrom Air Force Base that could have been demolished are instead being moved to Fort Belknap Reservation, where there is a need for housing. [[Read More](#)]

Lawmakers: VA has conflict on vets' businesses

Two key lawmakers are accusing the Veterans Affairs Department of violating the law by having one person head both the office that verifies veteran-owned businesses can receive government contracts and the office that promotes veterans' entrepreneurship. [[Read More](#)]

Anti-drone protesters arrested at Creech AFB

INDIAN SPRINGS, Nev. — Officials say eight people were arrested on disturbing the peace charges during a demonstration outside an Air Force base home to Predator and Reaper remote-controlled drone aircraft. [[Read More](#)]

=

Bonus Windfall

(Navy Times) - To a fleet wracked with deployment and funding uncertainties, the Navy's top officer has a message: We want to keep you.

Officially Complete, BRAC Continues To Change Local Area

(Capital Business) - This round of base realignment the Pentagon's fifth was the largest, most complex and most expensive, according to the Government Accountability Office. The process is still expected to save the Pentagon billions in the coming years, just not as much as once was projected.

Pentagon's Budget Fears Fall On Deaf Ears

(Washington Times) - Still, Pentagon overspending has become a hot topic for reporters,

analysts say. "The press corps finally realized that the 'back office' is the problem," said Gordon Adams, a White House budget official in the Clinton administration. The "back office" consists of the myriad infrastructures that make up the military's "tail" to support war fighters, or the "tooth."

. [Federal Overtime Cuts Taking Toll On Workers, Services](#)

(Washington Post) - With no official tracking of the pay, impact of trims is debated.

[Hagel Warns Of Big Squeeze At The Pentagon](#)

(New York Times) - Ending his first month as defense secretary, Chuck Hagel invited six young enlisted personnel for lunch in his private Pentagon office. Without military or civilian aides, Mr. Hagel himself took extensive notes as the sergeants and petty officers poured out their concerns about pay, benefits, training and sexual assault issues that would decide whether they make the military a way of life or just a way station in life.

=. [Israel: Shields Raised](#)

(Financial Times) - Iron Dome missile batteries are the pride of the country's defences but doubts remain over their efficacy.

[U.S. Ups Its Show Of Force In Korea](#)

(Wall Street Journal) - The U.S. flew F-22 stealth fighter jets to South Korea Sunday for joint exercises, a further demonstration of advanced military capabilities meant to deter provocations from Pyongyang.

. [N. Korea Bomb Test Was Unusual](#)

(Washington Post) - U.S. officials and independent experts say North Korea appears to have taken unusual steps to conceal details about the nuclear weapon it tested in February, fueling suspicions that its scientists shifted to a bomb design that uses highly enriched uranium as the core.

. [N. Korea Says U.S. Military Bases In Japan Subject To Attack In War](#)

(Kyodo News) - North Korea said Sunday that U.S. military bases in Japan would be subject to attack if a war breaks out on the Korean Peninsula.

[After 12 Grinding Years, Marines Find Reason For Optimism In Country They Leave Behind](#)

(The Guardian (UK)) - British prepare to depart with qualified confidence that progress will continue.

[Exiting The Budget 'Fog'](#)

(Navy Times) - But the service, still short billions of dollars, will not be able to fully restore all of its accounts; it will fall to the CNO and other top leaders to decide things such as which ships will deploy and which will be repaired choices certain to ripple beyond the next

six months.

[Lackland Instructor's Victim Speaks Of Trauma, Fear](#)

(San Antonio Express-News) - Airman Basic Virginia Messick walked into the office of a vacant dormitory one day in April 2011 but couldn't see the person who had called her to the room. The door closed behind her.

[Budget Cut Pain Won't Be Uniform](#)

(Los Angeles Times) - Federal reductions will hurt California, but not as much as other states that rely more on U.S. money.

[. NATO Eyes Missile Shield Progress With Russia After U.S. Move](#)

(Reuters.com) - NATO hopes a U.S. change to global missile defenses will dispel Russian concern and foster cooperation on an issue that has long strained relations, alliance Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow said in an interview.

[China Says 2 Pilots Killed In Su-27 Fighter Crash](#)

(ABC) - China's Defense Ministry says two air force pilots were killed when their Russian-made Su-27 fighter crashed during a training mission.

[. S. Korean Military To Prepare With U.S. For Cyber Warfare Scenarios](#)

(Yonhap News Agency) - In light of the massive attacks on the websites of major broadcasters and banks, South Korea's defense ministry said Monday it will increase cyber warfare forces and develop various deterrence scenarios in cooperation with the United States to better deal with emerging threats.

['Please Help Save This Baby's Life'](#)

(Albuquerque Journal) - Rescuer, war orphan reunite 40 years later.

[. Contractors Taking Diversification Seriously As Defense Spending Shrinks](#)

(Capital Business) - As contractors encounter shrinking federal budgets, they are increasingly seeking to bolster their presences in the international and commercial markets. Companies have long been promising this diversification, but there are now more signs this effort is fully underway.

[Reaching Out To Pyongyang](#)

(Los Angeles Times) - President Obama's recent Middle East trip showed what good things can result from thoughtful, direct presidential involvement. The president addressed young Israelis, reassured allies in the region and brokered an Israeli apology to Turkey for a deadly raid on a flotilla attempting to take supplies to Gaza. The president should employ that same sort of diplomacy toward North Korea.

[Iran's Diplomatic Discipline](#)

(Washington Post) - To successfully negotiate with Tehran, the P5+1 must demonstrate the

same type of steadfastness that guardians of the Islamic Republic have shown. The best means of disarming Iran is to insist on a simple and basic red line: Iran must adhere to all the Security Council resolutions pertaining to its nuclear infractions.

[Lessons From Iraq](#)

(Washington Post) - ... and why that war shouldn't stop us from aiding Syria.

.

[Kim's War Games](#)

(New York Post) - We don't believe Kim means war, at least not yet. But with South Korea threatening to respond, and nerves in the region frayed, America's immediate interest lies in preventing the North from doing something stupid that would see events spiral out of control.