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Top:

[. Pentagon Develops 'Rules Of Engagement' For Cyberwar](#)

(USA Today) - The Pentagon is putting the finishing touches on rules that will give military commanders clearer authority if they have to respond to an enemy cyber-attack, military officials and cyber-security experts say

Tanker Contract Likely to Stay Intact

The threat to the Air Force's KC-46A tanker contract from budget sequestration may have passed now that Congress has given the service some funding reprogramming authority, Air Force spokesman Ed Gulick told the *Daily Report* on Thursday. He said service officials "are evaluating the numbers based on the authority we believe we've been given by the bill" signed by President Obama on March 26. That legislation, H.R. 933, [funds the Pentagon](#) for the remainder of the fiscal year. "It looks like, from a sequestration standpoint, the KC-46 will have a positive outcome and won't be unduly impacted by sequestration," said Gulick. However, he added, "we won't know completely until we run the final numbers." Air Force officials [initially expressed concern](#) that the funding cuts caused by the sequester might prevent the Air Force from being able to make its contract payments to KC-46A supplier Boeing on time, thereby leading to a contract renegotiation on terms that would be less favorable to the US taxpayer and likely delay aircraft deliveries. For right now, however, Gulick said "everything is on track" with the KC-46's [upcoming critical design review](#) and the tanker's first flight, which is slated for 2015. (See also [Sequester and the KC-46A](#) and [KC-46A Development Generally Stable, But.](#))

Peters, Conaton, Johns Appointed to Force Structure Commission

Six of the eight members of the congressionally mandated National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force are now in place. On April 3, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Buck McKeon (R-Calif.) and Ranking Member Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) chose retired Gen. [Raymond Johns](#), former Air Mobility Command boss, and Erin Conaton, former Air Force undersecretary, respectively, according to [a joint statement](#). Two days prior, President Obama [announced](#) his intent to appoint: [Whit Peters](#), former Air Force Secretary; Janine Davidson, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for plans; Margaret Harrell, director of the Army Health Program and a senior social scientist at RAND; and retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Dennis McCarthy, former assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. The Senate Armed Services Committee chairman and ranking member will pick the remaining two panelists. The commission, created in the Fiscal 2013 defense policy act, will study the Air Force's structure to determine whether, and how, to modify it. The panel's recommendations are due to the President and Congress next February. (See also [Defense Authorization Conference Report Concluded](#) and [Governors Seek Guard Presence on Force Structure Panel.](#))

Gradual Drawdown of Strategic Nuclear Arsenal Continues

The US strategic nuclear arsenal decreased slightly in size in the six-month period ending on March 1 as the nation's gradual drawdown continues to meet the ceilings imposed by the New START agreement with Russia, according to the newest bilateral data exchange released this week. The United States had 1,654 deployed nuclear warheads, 792 deployed launchers (i.e. heavy bombers, ICBMs, and submarine-launched ballistic missiles), and 1,028 total deployed/non-deployed launchers as of March 1, according to the State Department's April 3 [fact sheet](#) highlighting the biannual data exchange required by the treaty. Those totals are down compared to the 1,722 warheads, 806 deployed launchers, and 1,034 total deployed/non-deployed launchers as of Sept. 1, 2012, in [the previous data exchange](#). As of March 1, Russia had 1480 warheads (down 19 compared to Sept. 1), 492 deployed launchers (plus one), and 900 deployed/non-deployed launchers (plus 16), according to the fact sheet. New START requires each nation to have no more than 1,550 deployed warheads, 700 deployed launchers, and 800 deployed/non-deployed launchers by February 2018.

- **[Pentagon must prepare for more budget cuts, Hagel says](#)**

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Wednesday delivered his first major policy speech as Pentagon chief, warning that the military may need to downsize its civilian workforce, reduce what it spends on weapons and make changes to employee benefits. "The speech ... represented a bit of a turning point for the Pentagon because [Hagel] acknowledged that further cuts in defense spending are likely, if not inevitable," defense analyst Todd Harrison said. [Reuters](#) (4/3)

[Hagel: U.S. Makes Measured Responses to North Korean Threats](#)

04/03/2013 04:05 PM CDT

[Stratcom Provides 'Tailored Deterrence' Against Threats](#)

04/04/2013 10:13 AM CDT

[Command Assists Departure of Battle Tanks From Europe](#)

[Rodriguez Succeeds Ham as Africom Commander](#)

04/05/2013 08:25 AM CDT

[Hagel Details U.S.-Japan Consolidation Plan for Okinawa](#)

04/05/2013 09:23 AM CDT

- [Cuts Force AF Museum to close Some Galleries](#)

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- [US Army's Last Tanks Depart From Germany](#)

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- [DoD Buzz: US Army Buys Russian Helos for Afghans](#)

- [Marine COs Get Breathalyzers to Use on Troops](#)

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- [**Navy to commission USS Arlington this weekend**](#)

Navy officials will commission the USS Arlington on Saturday before it enters service as a landing platform for troops in conflict zones. The vessel is one of three Navy ships named for locations that came under attack on Sept. 11, 2001, and features a tribute room to the victims and first responders in the Pentagon attack. [The Washington Post/The State of NoVa blog](#) (4/4)

- [**U.N. General Assembly approves historic arms treaty**](#)

The U.N. General Assembly has approved the first U.N. treaty that would regulate arms sales. The vote was 154 in favor and 3 against, with 23 countries sitting out the vote. [ABC News/The Associated Press](#) (4/1) , [BBC](#) (4/2)

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- [**Analysis: Sequestration threatens U.S. drone development**](#)

[Wired.com/Danger Room blog](#) (4/2)

[Hagel launches sweeping review of DoD structure](#) [[Read More](#)]

[U.S. missile defense shield sent to Guam to counter N. Korea threat](#)

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said Wednesday it was deploying a missile defense shield to Guam to protect the U.S. and its allies in the region in response to increasingly hostile rhetoric from North Korea. The North renewed its threat to launch a nuclear attack on the United States. [[Read More](#)]

[Tell us about your cross-training experiences](#)

Have you recently cross-trained into one of the Air Force's 73 undermanned jobs, such as cyber defense operations, cyber surety or spectrum operations? [[Read More](#)]

[Senators to DoD: Where's the tuition assistance?](#)

The two senators who led the charge to save tuition assistance from budget cuts want to know what's taking the Defense Department so long to restart the benefits pipeline. [[Read More](#)]

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[Air Force leads Angel Thunder S&R exercise](#)

No Let-up in Recruiting

The Air Force's three components continue to post strong recruiting numbers in this fiscal year, meeting their respective numerical accession goals through February, the fifth month of Fiscal 2013, according to the Pentagon's [latest recruiting statistics](#). The Active Duty component secured 11,874 accessions through February, while the Air National Guard brought in 3,960 new recruits, states the Pentagon's April 2 release. The Air Force Reserve attracted 3,085 accessions. All three components matched their targets. Across the other services and their reserve components, only the Army Reserve did not meet or exceed its fiscal-year-to-date goal through February, falling short of its target by 1,410 accessions, according to the release. (See also [our coverage](#) of January's recruiting numbers.)

Air Guard Reaper Unit Reaches 1,000th Stateside Flying Hour

The New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing in Syracuse reached its 1,000th flight hour with the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft as part of its Reaper schoolhouse functions, according to a unit release. The wing, headquartered at Hancock Field ANG Base, hit the milestone in March and has since accumulated about 200 additional flying hours, states the April 2 release. It [has been flying its MQ-9s](#)—a total of four—from Fort Drum's Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield since October 2011. (Hancock [report](#) by SrA. Duane Morgan) (See also [Writing the Book on Reaper Maintenance](#).)

- [Report: GCV is Worst Choice to Replace Bradley](#)
- [SOCOM May Pick Truck Winner in May](#)
- [Army Plans \\$1.4 Billion Radio Purchase](#)
- [Navy Contract Will Produce Missiles for Germany](#)
- [Army Eyes Samsung Smartphones](#)
- [Army eBook Targets Apple Users](#)
- [Light Air Support Fight Underscores Stakes for AF](#)

- **[U.S. prepares Marine crisis force for North Africa](#)**

A crisis-response force composed of 500 Marines has been authorized by the Pentagon for North Africa. V-22 Osprey aircraft will be able to transport the unit to any crisis in the region within 12 hours, officials say. [CNN](#) (4/2)

[Hagel Vows to Trim Military Benefits and Modernize Strategy](#)

By Charles S. Clark

In first speech, Pentagon chief stresses cooperation with other agencies. ...[full article](#)

· [Concerned About Force Reductions? The Army Is Listening](#)

By Kedar Pavgi

Service hosts sessions to hear from affected communities. ...[full article](#)

· [Defense Secretary to Take Pay Cut in Solidarity With Furloughed Feds](#)

By Kedar Pavgi

Pentagon's top two leaders stand with civilian employees facing unpaid leave. ...[full article](#)

· [A Brief History of Radical Islamists in the U.S. Armed Forces](#)

By Robin Simcox and Emily Dyer

Eric Harroun was charged Thursday for fighting alongside Jabhat al-Nusra, but he's far from the first veteran to turn to terrorism. Nor is he likely to be the last. ...[full article](#)

· [Sequestration Could Lead to Job Losses, Defense Comptroller Says](#)

By Kedar Pavgi

Across-the-board cuts also are expected to curtail long-term military readiness ...[full article](#)

· [Pentagon Seeks High-Tech Nuke Radiation Defenses](#)

By Diane Barnes

DARPA office is looking for pre- and post-exposure treatments to counter radiation's short-term health effects. ...[full article](#)

· [Analysis: Paying the Costs of Iraq, for Decades to Come](#)

By James Fallows

The wars are ending; the obligations, just beginning now. ...[full article](#)

Military Appreciation Day, Casino Pier, Seaside Heights, 800 Ocean Terrace, Saturday, 8 June 2013, 9am - 3pm for bracelet pick-up. Rain date: Saturday, 15 June 2013. Soldiers/Airmen and Family members are cordially invited to attend "Military Appreciation Day" at the New Jersey Shore.

You will be required to show a Uniformed Services Military ID to obtain ride bracelets for you and your dependents only. Friends and extended family members will not receive bracelets.

** Check in through the side entrance of the Breakwater Beach Waterpark on 800 Ocean Terrace off Grant Ave., between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

** Waterpark opens at 1000 hours, rides open at noon.

** Each Military Family will receive a debit card (one) worth \$25.00 to be used to play games at the Casino Pier. (slot machines, ski ball, pin ball games)

** Bracelets are good for use at the Waterpark and all Pier rides (Carousels, safari train, kiddie boats) EXCLUDING the go-carts and the Skyscraper ride.

[Air Force reservists, retirees eligible for TRICARE healthcare programs](#)

04/01/2013 09:14 AM CDT

TRICARE has affordable healthcare programs available for all Air Force Reserve retirees - including "gray-area retirees" and actively-participating Air Force reservists, no matter what orders they are on.

Reservists who retire before age 60 are eligible for TRICARE Retired Reserve coverage while they are in the "gray-area." This is the waiting period between retiring from active service and collecting their Air Force Reserve retirement pay at age 60.

While on active duty orders for more than 30 days, all Citizen Airmen are covered by TRICARE Prime. However, reservists could find themselves with no healthcare insurance when they are in between active duty orders. To ensure coverage for themselves and their families, reservists can enroll in TRICARE Reserve Select.

[more...](#)

[Officials: General Fired Over Alcohol, Sex Charges](#)

(Yahoo.com) - An Army major general with U.S. Africa Command has been relieved of his post in connection with alcohol and sexual misconduct charges, defense officials said Thursday.

[Hagel Channels Eisenhower](#)

(ForeignPolicy.com) - Can the new SecDef actually rein in the military-industrial complex?

[Sequester Leaves Flight Shows Up In The Air](#)

(Washington Post) - The Pentagon ordered the military last month to cancel all of its aerial demonstrations after March to help absorb its share of sequester cuts, which amount to more than \$40 billion for the Defense Department.

[Military Porn Case Shrinks Barracks Privacy](#)

(McClatchy Newspapers (mcclatchydc.com)) - A newly upheld conviction of a former Fort Bragg soldier on charges of possessing computer-animated child porn offers several key lessons for military men and woman well beyond the sprawling North Carolina Army base. One is child pornography is dangerous even if the kids depicted

aren't real. The second is privacy rights diminish in the barracks.

Oceana Chief: Right Man At Right Time For Jet Crash

(Norfolk Virginian-Pilot) - Bob Geis, just three weeks into his job as commander of Oceana Naval Air Station, is flying back from an aviation conference in San Diego. It's midday on April 6, 2012 - Good Friday.

USS Ralph Peralta? Navy Makes Gaffe On Website

(UTSanDiego.com) - Sgt. Rafael Peralta, a San Diego Marine who some in Congress believe is overdue for the Medal of Honor, has become a well-known name in military circles. Except on the Navy's website. Until Thursday, the website listed the future destroyer named for the fallen Marine as the Ralph Peralta.

Flight Restrictions Lifted For F-22s With Auto Oxygen System

(DefenseNews.com) - Most of the Air Force's F-22 fleet has returned to unrestricted flight operations after being limited for nearly a year to flying within 30 minutes of a safe landing area and at lower altitudes because of safety concerns.

Self-Sacrifice Is All The Rage As Federal Furloughs Loom

(New York Times) - By Thursday, the Obama administration's stampede to embrace the politics of self-sacrifice was on. Cabinet secretaries practically tripped over themselves to hand over parts of their paycheck as federal workers brace for furloughs because of the across-the-board budget cuts known as the sequester.

. North's Threats Unsettle S. Korea

(Washington Post) - But after years of largely ignoring threats from North Korea, some residents say they are becoming a bit jittery, with the ascension of an unpredictable young leader in Pyongyang and levels of hostile rhetoric not seen since the early 1990s.

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U.S. Service Secretaries Take Voluntary Pay Cut

(ArmyTimes.com) - The secretaries of the U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy will each give up a portion of his salary to show solidarity with hundreds of thousands of Defense Department civilian workers facing mandatory furloughs this year.

Senators To DoD: Where's The Tuition Assistance?

(ArmyTimes.com) - The two senators who led the charge to save tuition assistance from budget cuts want to know what's taking the Defense Department so long to restart the benefits pipeline.

House To Get First Crack At Hagel On Budget

(DEFCON Hill (TheHill.com)) - Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel will make his first appearance on Capitol Hill as Pentagon chief before the House Armed Services Committee next week, one day after the 2014 budget is released.

National Security's Alpha Women

(Time) - In reality, national security remains very much a boys' club. But that's slightly less true thanks to the recent rise of women to three of the U.S.'s most sensitive and secretive jobs.

Nations With Nuclear Options

(The Guardian (UK)) - However North Korea has done one western leader a small favour. David Cameron has chosen this week to mount the most public defence of the UK's Trident missile system of his premiership.

Playing The Lunatic Card

(Los Angeles Times) - North Korea is sometimes mocked as the mouse that roared, one of the poorest countries in the world threatening two economic and military giants, the United States and South Korea.

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. The Limits Of Military Power

(Taking Note (NYTimes.com)) - Chuck Hagel gave his first major policy address as secretary of defense and devoted a good amount of space to a fundamental issue: the parameters of conventional military power.

North Korea Moves Missile To Coast, But Little Threat Is Seen

(New York Times) - In its latest threat on Thursday, it did not name targets but said its military was authorized to "take powerful, practical military counteractions" against the threats from B-2 bombers from the United States, B-52 bombers from Guam and F-22 jet fighters from American bases in Japan that have recently run missions over the Korean Peninsula during joint military exercises with South Korea.

Elections In Pakistan Pose Threat To U.S. Drone Program

(Washington Times) - The major candidates to become Pakistan's next prime minister oppose American drone strikes on Islamic extremists in their country, which bodes ill for the U.S. policy after Pakistan's historic parliamentary elections in May.

Philippines May Allow U.S. Greater Military Access: Minister

(Reuters) - On Friday the two countries began a fortnight of scheduled joint military exercises known as Balikatan ('shoulder to shoulder') which come amid high tensions on the Korean peninsula and in the South China Sea, where the Philippines is embroiled in a long territorial dispute with China.

Japan, U.S. To Present Plans On Okinawa Base Land Handover

(Japan Times) - Japan and the United States were to reach a final agreement Friday on plans to return some of the land south of the U.S. Kadena Air Base on Okinawa now used by the U.S. military, a Japanese government source said Thursday.

Talks Resume On Curbing Iran's Nuclear Program

(NYTimes.com) - Negotiations resumed here Friday between Iran and the six world powers demanding that it curb its nuclear program, with little sign that the Iranian government was ready to accept restrictions on its supply of dangerous enriched uranium in exchange for a modest easing of international sanctions.

. U.S. Experts Call For Iran Outreach

(Washington Post) - With hopes dimming for a diplomatic end to the Iranian nuclear stalemate in the coming months, some U.S. policy veterans are advising a novel approach to improving ties with the Islamic Republic: showing a little love for ordinary Iranians.

. US To Seek Ways To Continue Helping Hunt For Kony

(Yahoo.com) - There are 100 U.S. special forces helping advise African forces across Central African Republic, South Sudan, Congo and Uganda. But rebels in CAR deposed the president and took the capital, Bangui, more than a week ago, and African and U.S. efforts to hunt Kony there have since been put on pause.

Iran's Incitement To Genocide

(Washington Post) - One is tempted to add: blah, blah, blah. It is easy to dismiss this rhetoric as being designed for domestic consumption. And soon after Iran's June election, Ahmadinejad will be out of a job - history's most persuasive argument in favor of term limits. But the problem is this: Ahmadinejad's language is not exceptional within the Iranian regime.

. Obama's Nuclear Vision -- Or Illusion?

(Boston Globe) - Four years ago today, President Obama gave his first speech abroad. In Prague, he announced a bold vision for a "world without nuclear weapons." Four years on, it is fair to ask: How is that working out? Assessing all the positives, and all the negatives, are we closer to the president's aspiration -- or further from it?

Sequestration's Slow Burn Will Not Mitigate Effects

(Financial Times) - What that will mean is an escalating crunch after September, when it is no longer possible to spread six months of cuts across a full year, and delayed purchases become essential for agencies to keep doing business. Indeed, some may struggle without even higher funding to make up for what they lose this year.

Fix The Sequester Before It's Too Late

(Baltimore Sun) - Up to 46,000 civilian Defense Department employees in Maryland, as well as thousands of employees at our 60 non-defense federal facilities, could be affected by furloughs. These furloughs could result in a pay reduction for federal employees across the state, and the millions of Americans who rely on the services that federal workers provide could be affected, including our men and women serving in uniform and veterans who are transitioning back into the workforce.

. Deportation Policies Result In Banished Veterans

(U-T San Diego) - Headquartered in Rosarito, Mexico, Banished Veterans provides support and advocacy for displaced veterans and their family members. They've been in touch with over 100 deported veterans, and they estimate there are between 8,000 and 40,000 deported American veterans worldwide. ICE reports it does not track how many veterans it deports, so these numbers are impossible to confirm. Legal permanent residents may enlist in the military, but they face deportation if they are convicted of a criminal offense.

Right Signals From Hagel

(Omaha World-Herald) - Chuck Hagel has begun his service as our nation's secretary of defense by sending appropriate signals.

Understanding Kim Jong Un's Tantrums

(Bloomberg.com) - Can the world just take a long, deep breath about North Korea? This isn't a trick question, but a plea for a moment of sobriety amid Kim Jong Un's tantrums.

The North Korea Conundrum

(Los Angeles Times) - The Obama administration is reacting responsibly to a series of provocations from North Korea, shoring up defenses while seeking a diplomatic solution to the crisis. But even if North Korea is deterred from attacking South Korea or U.S. forces for the foreseeable future, the defiance it has demonstrated in the last several weeks renders more elusive than ever achievement of the administration's ultimate goal: a Korean peninsula without nuclear weapons.

Attention, China

(San Francisco Chronicle) - Tensions have never been higher on the Korean Peninsula. But amid the missile threats, B-2 bomber flyovers and military maneuvers, one thing is missing. Where is China's guiding hand in cooling down a flareup that could bring on a regional war?