

From: [A Barilo](#)  
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## 2013 National Preparedness Report Released

Presidential Policy Directive 8: *National Preparedness* requires an annual National Preparedness Report (NPR) that summarizes national progress in building, sustaining and delivering the 31 [core capabilities](#) outlined in the [National Preparedness Goal](#), released in September 2011.

The newly released 2013 NPR reviews the past year and shares the progress that [whole community](#) partners – including all government, private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, communities and individuals – have made in strengthening national preparedness and to identify where preparedness gaps remain. The findings in the 2013 NPR will provide insight for whole community partners in determining program priorities, resource allocation and a platform to communicate with stakeholders about shared concerns. To read more visit:

[2013 National Preparedness Report](#)  
[2013 National Preparedness Report Facts Sheet](#)

### Analysts to Congress: Close bases to save money

Congress should cut military infrastructure and close bases if it is to carry out sequestration cuts in the best possible way, say analysts at four different think tanks. Even with such a move, they warn, the demands of the sequester are unworkable. "The wheels will come off. There is no way around it," said Robert Work with Center for a New American Security, one of four think tanks that came to Capitol Hill this week to run budget simulations on Pentagon spending. [The Hill/DEFCON Hill blog](#) (5/29)

### Odierno: Cutbacks could reduce Army's capabilities

Budget concerns and cost-saving measures should not force the Army to a position where it is unprepared to carry out wartime operations, warns Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno. The Army is on track to reduce active-duty force size to 490,000 by 2017 and may face further reductions under sequestration. [Stars and Stripes](#) (5/29)

### Making a sex tape a crime for troops, court rules

Making a sex tape is a crime under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the military's highest court has ruled. [Read More](#)

### U.S. Combat Commanders Should Handle War Zone Investigations, Panel Says

(New York Times) – Concerned about possible flaws in criminal proceedings against American troops accused of killing or abusing civilians in a war zone, a Defense Department panel has proposed that investigations and prosecutions of crimes be carried out by a senior commander in the theater of combat and not the branch of the armed services in which the accused serves.

### Pentagon Launches Chat Room For Sex-Assault Victims

(USA Today.com) – The military has launched an online chat room for troops who are victims of sexual abuse, the Pentagon announced on Thursday.

### F15 Guidance Takes Sequester Into Account

(DefenseNews.com) – Many years of prep for mandated sequestration spending cuts, the Pentagon is now incorporating different levels of budget reductions in its future planning.

### Rape Victim: Retaliation Prevalent in Military

(Yahoo.com) – As a year later, she was kicked out with an other-than-honorable discharge one step before honorable discharge which means she lost her benefits. Now, 14 years later, she has decided to speak out again, emboldened by the mounting pressure on the Pentagon to resolve its growing sexual assault epidemic. She went public with her story Thursday in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press. [Chuck Hagel Takes Questions From The Banks in Hawaii](#)

### Cyber Threats Pose 'Stealthy, Insidious' Danger, U.S. Defense Chief

(Orlando World-Header) – It was a muted but multicolored sea of camouflage as several hundred military personnel from across the service branches gathered Thursday in a hangar at Hickam Field to listen to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

(USA Today.com) – Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Friday that cyber threats posed a "quiet, stealthy, insidious" danger to the United States and other nations, and called for "rules of the road" to guide behavior and avoid conflict on global computer networks.

### Hoop Tapped as Assistant Vice Chief of Staff

President Obama nominated [Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoop](#) to be the Air Force's assistant vice chief of staff. [announced](#) the Pentagon on Thursday. He would replace [Lt. Gen. Frank Gorenc](#), who has been in this role since April 2012. As assistant vice chief, Hoop would also be the Air Staff's director. Hoop has been serving since November 2011 at JB Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, as commander of NORAD's Alaskan Region as well as 11th Air Force boss and head of US Pacific Command's Alaskan Command. Also on May 30, the Pentagon announced that the President tapped [Lt. Gen. Brooks Bash](#) to be Air Mobility Command's vice commander. Bash has been the Joint Staff's director of logistics since September 2011. He would replace [Lt. Gen. Robert Altardice](#), who's held the post since September 2011. Altardice is set to retire from the Air Force in September after more than 32 years in uniform.

### Looking at Nuclear Motivations

While US policy is pushing towards nuclear disarmament, the rest of the world is taking a different tack, said [Barry Watts](#), senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, on Thursday. While the United States and Soviet Union held the overwhelming majority of nuclear weapons during the Cold War, the concentration is not as dense today, as countries from Pakistan to North Korea to Iran are either declared nuclear powers or seeking to expand into the realm, he said during a presentation sponsored by AFA's Mitchell Institute for Airpower Studies in Arlington, Va. Watts cited North Korea and Iran. In particular, as countries that learned lessons from the US invasion of Iraq—and see nuclear weapons as a protective measure against "conventional regime change," as he put it. Use of nuclear weapons in the event of a conventional war is not necessarily clearly defined by some countries, noted Watts. For example, Russian military doctrine has a very different view about limited nuclear use in a theater context and Pakistan appears to entertain similar thoughts. The danger is that the limited use of nuclear weapons could be seen as a "new normal" by some nations, he said during his May 30 talk. (See also Watts' April CSBA study [Nuclear: Conventional, Freeride and the Nuclear Taboo](#))

—Marc V. Schanz

## DOD Adds Peer Support Chat Sessions for Sexual Assault Victims

05/30/2013 02:22 PM CDT

## 'The Next Storm: Rough Hurricane Season Looms'

### Marines Celebrate One Year Anniversary of F-35B

**3 USNA Football Players Face Sexual Assault Probe** Three Naval Academy football players are under investigation for sexually assaulting a female midshipman, Academy officials confirmed Thursday. The Naval Academy would not name the players under investigation or say when the investigation started. [Read More](#)

### Commander Says the Army is Back in the Pacific

### Syrian Regime Says It Has Russian Missiles

### Navy Ships Form First Line of Missile Defense

### Del Tech: Navy Developing Minesweeper Drone

### Army Plans to Power Plants with Plants

## Cyber May Be Biggest Threat, Hagel Tells Troops

05/31/2013 07:48 AM CDT

### Analysts to Congress: Close bases to save money

Congress should cut military infrastructure and close bases if it is to carry out sequestration cuts in the best possible way, say analysts at four different think tanks. Even with such a move, they warn, the demands of the sequester are unworkable. "The wheels will come off. There is no way around it," said Robert Work with Center for a New American Security, one of four think tanks that came to Capitol Hill this week to run budget simulations on Pentagon spending. [The Hill/DEFCON Hill blog](#) (5/29)

### Hagel, in Hawaii, Praises 'Value Added' Force Integration

05/30/2013 05:52 PM CDT

### Hagel Names National Chair for Guard, Reserve Employer Support

05/30/2013 03:40 PM CDT

### No-Shop Mondays

The Defense Commissary Agency announced that most military commissaries will close on Mondays when the Pentagon's furloughs of civilian defense employees begin in July as a result of budget sequestration. The furloughs are [scheduled to start](#) on July 8 and run through September 30, meaning the commissaries will be closed on up to 11 Mondays through the end of the fiscal year, according to the agency's May 24 release. "We know that any disruption in commissary operations will impact our patrons," said Joseph Jiu, the agency's director. "We understand the tremendous burden this places on our employees, who, when furloughed, will lose 20 percent of their pay," he added. Jiu said Mondays should be the least painful days for customers, employees, and industry partners. Stores within commissaries that are normally closed on Mondays will close the following day as well, states the release. The furloughs will impact all of the agency's more than 14,000 US civilian employees, states the release. The agency has 247 commissaries in 13 countries and two US territories. (For Lee [report](#) by Kevin L. Robinson)

### Lawmakers Want Independent Look at Veterans' Claims Processing

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) and House Majority Whip Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) introduced H.R. 2189, legislation that would establish an independent task force or commission to analyze the Veterans Affairs Department's disability benefits claims processing system. "We hope to establish a revised evidence-based process that will help VA break its claims backlog once and for all in 2015, just as department leaders have promised," said Miller in a May 23 [release](#) from the two lawmakers. The claims process, on average, takes about nine months, but some claims take years. The task force would examine the reasons for the backlog and offer solutions to end the backlog by 2015, states the release. "The entire country is counting on VA to end the backlog by 2015, and Congress is committed to holding the department accountable until they achieve that goal," said McCarthy. "Our veterans deserve the care they earned while protecting and defending our country, and continued failure by the VA cannot and will not be tolerated," he said.

### McGuire Rededicates C-118 Liftmaster

Air Force officials at JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., rededicated a C-118 Liftmaster on static display in front of the McGuire Passenger Terminal, according to a base release. Earlier this year, [restoration of the aircraft concluded](#) after some three-and-a-half-years of work. "The reason we are out here today is to recognize the total effort that went into getting this aircraft back into pristine condition," said Col. Richard Williamson, commander of the 365th Air Mobility Wing, during the May 14 ceremony. Restoring the aircraft included replacing the tires, removing and cleaning the windows, repairing the sheet metal, and applying a fresh coat of paint. McGuire's May 23 release. SMSG. Chris Hölthaler, flight superintendent for Air Force Reserve Command's 514th Maintenance Operations Squadron, and Corinne Avold, former historical property custodian for the 365th AMW, led the restoration project, which began in October 2009, according to the release. Members of the 365th AMW, AFRC's 514th AMW, and 67th Air Base Wing all participated in restoring the C-118. (McGuire [report](#) by AIC Ryan Throneberry)

### Child maltreatment up slightly in 2012

Three Air Force children died from maltreatment in fiscal 2012, one more than the year before but far below the peak year of 2006 when nine such deaths were reported, according to the Office of the Surgeon General. [Read More](#)

### Air Force boosts cyber mission capabilities

The Pentagon has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on building cyber capabilities, an effort that has gained urgency as China, Russia, North Korea and other nations have been using cyberspace to attack adversaries or steal secrets. [Read More](#)

### Secret Service: Suspicious letter to White House intercepted

The Secret Service said Thursday that a suspicious letter similar to the ones sent to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has been intercepted by a White House mail screening facility. [Read More](#)

### Donley tells AF Academy grads to help stem sexual assaults

Air Force Secretary Michael Donley urged graduating Air Force Academy cadets Wednesday to take on the "sourc" of sexual assaults, echoing the message President Obama delivered to the Naval Academy last week. [Read More](#)

### Lawmaker wants Memorial Day date changed

U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa wants to move the date of Memorial Day to encourage more Americans to focus on honoring military service members. [Read More](#)

### G.I.'s family returns WWII antiques to Italy

Antique books by Isaac Newton and other historic figures, lifted from an Italian church by a G.I. [Read More](#)

### Hill AFB wins bigger F-22 repair assignment

The Air Force is throwing more lighter-jet maintenance at Hill Air Force Base. [Read More](#)

### Kadena Lowers its Silver Flag

The 54th RED HORSE Squadron, Det. 1, concluded Silver Flag training operations at Kadena AB, Japan, when it graduated the sixth and final Silver Flag class of 2013, according to a base release (Kadena [report](#)) by Lt. Col. Matthew Rochon

### Westover Tests New Tail Enclosure

Airmen from Air Force Reserve Command's 49th Maintenance Squadron at Westover AFB, Mass., tested the base's new C-5 mobile tail enclosure, according to a base release. The MTE, "the largest structure of its kind in the Air Force," is designed to shield a C-5's tail section—and the maintainers working on it—from the elements when the aircraft is in the base's smaller sized isochronal inspection hangar, which cannot completely accommodate the massive airplane. The Air Force [began construction](#) of the \$5 million enclosure last year. (Westover [report](#)) by S/A. Kelly Galaway) (See also [video clip](#) of the MTE test.)

### British Airmen Brought Up to Date on Rivet Joint

Sixty Royal Air Force airmen participated in RC-135 Rivet Joint upgrade training at Offutt AFB, Neb., according to a base release. The training took place in mid-April and included classroom instruction, working with a simulator, and flying in the latest version of the RC-135, states a May 22 Offutt release. The United States is [providing](#) three Rivet Joint electronic eavesdropping airplanes to the RAF under a foreign military sale. The Brits are scheduled to receive the first airframe later this year and have all three aircraft in place by 2018. [by Ryan Hansen](#) (See also [Friendly Forces](#).)

## Defense experts: Troops likely necessary for Syria

While the U.S. and its allies consider a no-fly zone or arming rebels, some defense experts are warning that ground troops may be necessary to secure Syria's stockpile of chemical weapons. "The issue isn't really just about a no-fly zone. To get the weapons you need a strong no-fly zone, but you also need a team to actually go in and get the weapons. You need to eliminate the weapons," said retired Air Force Gen. Charles Wald. [Stars and Stripes](#) (5/29)

## Donley calls on Air Force Academy graduates to display leadership

Air Force Secretary Michael Donley called on the Air Force Academy's 1,024 newly commissioned second lieutenants to not shy away from challenges. "This is your Air Force, and changing behavior depends on changing at every level the command climate and social culture in which we operate and live, both on and off duty," Donley said. [The Gazette \(Colorado Springs, Colo.\)](#) (5/30)

## Shinseki vows to meet goal of ending veteran homelessness

The most difficult work against veteran homelessness is ahead, Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki told the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans on Wednesday. "All the easy cases will have been housed. In the end, we will have the toughest, most difficult cases to solve: some prior failures, some behavioral problems, even some serious mental health issues," Shinseki said. [Air Force Times \(free registration\)](#) (5/29)

**The military's role in defining America**

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's weekend speech at West Point included the important theme of those serving in the military "as the defender of American ideals," writes Nicolaus Mills. Hagel was right to emphasize the responsibility and opportunity service personnel have to "think imaginatively of the world around" them, Mills writes. [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#). (5/30)

**Work Continues on DOD Strategy, Management Review**

05/30/2013 12:18 PM CDT

**State Dept. Advisor Says New Ideas Can Defeat Global Poverty**

**Despite Hackers, DOD Retains Faith in Weapon Systems**

05/30/2013 01:29 PM CDT

**Special Ops Commanders Seek Intel, Data-sharing Assets**

05/30/2013 08:04 AM CDT

**Air Force boosts cyber mission capabilities**

The Pentagon has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on building cyber capabilities, an effort that has gained urgency as China, Russia, North Korea and other nations have been using cyberspace to attack adversaries or steal secrets. [Read More](#)

**Shinseki on stopping homelessness: "The climb will get steeper"**

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki warned Wednesday that tackling the problem of homelessness among veterans, like so many other problems vets face, is likely to get more difficult before it is solved. [Read More](#)

**Making a sex tape a crime for troops, court rules**

Making a sex tape is a crime under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the military's highest court has ruled. [Read More](#)

**Pressure increases on U.S. leaders to stem Chinese cyber threat**

New revelations that China used cyberattacks to access data from nearly 40 U.S. [Read More](#)

- [Tell us: What AF rules need changing?](#)
- [Study highlights health struggles of military kids](#)

<p><b>U.S. Defense Chief Seeks To Calm Asia Allies</b> (Wall Street Journal) - U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, in his first visit to Asia as Pentagon chief, said he would seek to reassure anxious allies that budget cuts on home won't derail plans to expand the U.S. military presence in the region. <a href="#">China Looking Forward To Cyber Talks With US</a> (Yahoo.com) - China says it's looking forward to "even-tempered talks" on cybersecurity issues when a Chinese delegation meets with U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel over the weekend.</p> <p><b>Hagel Set For Vietnam Embassy As West Asia Eyes Rising China</b> (Hillcountry.com) - When Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel served in Southeast Asia as a U.S. Army sergeant, Nguyen Tan Dung fought to expel him and other American troops from Vietnam. More than four decades later, Dung, 61, is his country's prime minister. He will be among the Asian leaders seeking Hagel's reassurance that the U.S. will maintain a strong regional military presence to counter a more assertive China.</p> <p><b>Hagel Vows More DoD Help To Ease VA Backlog</b> (POLITICO Pro) - Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is offering up a number of additional resources to the Department of Veterans Affairs to tackle the claims backlog.</p> <p><b>U.N. Expert Calls For Halt in Military Robot Development</b> (New York Times) - A United Nations expert called Thursday for a global moratorium on the testing, production and use of armed robots that can select and kill targets without human command.</p> <p><b>Uniform Change Set For Sailors At Sea</b> (Washington Post) - The Navy is phasing in flame-resistant clothing for every sailor who goes to sea.</p> <p><b>Reagan Air Wing Official Removed</b> (UTSanDiego.com) - The top enlisted person in the air wing of the San Diego aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan has been removed because of allegations of a consensual affair.</p> <p><b>Assad Warns Israel, Claiming A Stockpile Of Russian Weapons</b> (New York Times) - President Bashar al-Assad of Syria displayed a new level of defiance on Thursday, warning Israel that he could permit attacks on the Golan Heights and suggesting that he had secured plenty of weapons from Russia possibly including an advanced missile system as his opponents faltered politically and Hezbollah fighters infused force into his military campaign to crush the Syrian insurgency.</p> <p><b>Commander Says The Army Is Back In The Pacific</b> (Yahoo.com) - The U.S. Army is back in the Pacific region after more than a decade of deploying soldiers to Afghanistan and Iraq, the outgoing top Army commander in the region says.</p> <p><b>China Says It Has No Need To Steal U.S. Military Technology</b> (Washington Post) - China does not need to steal U.S. weapons technology to modernize its military because it is capable of developing the systems on its own, China's Defense Ministry said Thursday, denying a report that it had hacked and designed for more than two dozen major U.S. weapons systems.</p> <p><b>Military Moves Toward New Self-Defense Doctrine</b> (Wall Street Journal) - Japan's military, long constrained by the nation's postwar pacifist constitution, is moving toward the freedom to strike targets ahead of an attack it anticipates.</p> <p><b>India, Japan Drive Closer With An Eye On China</b> (Washington Post) - During a three-day visit to Japan this week, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh signaled several major infrastructure and defense-technology deals, and agreed to speed up dialogue on nuclear cooperation and conduct more joint naval exercises. His host, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, called Singh a "neomilitary leader."</p> <p><b>Japan, U.S., S. Korea Eye Firmer Coordination Of N. Korea Policy</b> (Kyodo News) - Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera is set to meet with his U.S. and South Korean counterparts on Saturday to coordinate their countries' policies on North Korea, at a time when Pyongyang appears to be shifting from a posture of provocations and belligerent rhetoric toward more conciliatory gestures.</p> <p><b>Hard Road Out Of Afghanistan</b></p> <p><b>Congressional Watchdog Advises Slowing Spending On Ships</b> (Hillcountry.com) - Congress should consider slowing funding for the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship because the Pentagon is buying vessels faster than it can test their design and performance, according to a Government Accountability Office report.</p> <p><b>Taliban Peace Talks Talk About Drone Strike</b> (Washington Post) - Pakistan's Taliban said Thursday that it will not participate in peace talks with the country's new government and will exact "revenge in the strongest way" after one of its top leaders was killed in a suspected U.S. drone strike.</p> <p><b>Obama's Dorothy Doctrine</b> (Washington Post) - Obama says enough is enough. He doesn't want us on "a perpetual wartime footing." Well, the Cold War lasted 45 years. The war on terror, 12 so far. By Obama's calculus, we should have declared the Cold War over in 1958 and left Western Europe, our Pacific allies, the entire free world to fend for itself, and consigned Eastern Europe to endless darkness.</p> <p><b>Killer Drones, Out Of The Shadows</b> (The Economist) - When it comes to lethal drone strikes against foreign targets, American government and Congress should be aware that "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," says John Bellinger, for eight years a government lawyer charged with explaining George W. Bush's global war on terror to allies.</p> <p><b>Ministers To Meet To Review NATO's Cyber Defense</b> (Reuters.com) - NATO defence ministers hold their first review of cyber defence next week in a sign the issue is making its way to the top of the alliance's agenda as fears grow that Western infrastructure and military secrets are vulnerable to hackers.</p> <p><b>Help For Homeless Vets</b> (Washington Post) - Despite a continued decline in the numbers of homeless veterans and new funding to house those still on the streets, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan said Wednesday the numbers are not yet decreasing fast enough to meet the Obama administration's goal of eliminating the problem by the end of 2015.</p> <p><b>Our Endangered Nuclear Weapons</b> (Wall Street Journal) - No more makes means no more experts, and their talents have kept us safe.</p> <p><b>The Drone War Is Far From Over</b> (New York Times) - WHEN people in Washington talk about shrinking the drone program, as President Obama promised to do last week, they are mostly concerned with placating Pakistan, where members of the newly elected government have vowed to end violations of the country's sovereignty. But the drone war is alive and well in the remote corners of Pakistan where the strikes have caused the greatest and most lasting damage.</p> <p><b>Civilisation Has No Place For Drones</b> (Baltimore Sun) - There is no avoiding an international race; they should be banned like chemical weapons.</p> <p><b>Why Cyberwarfare Is The Great Equalizer</b> (USA Today.com) - WWII General George S. Patton once declared that "fixed fortifications are monuments to man's stupidity." In this guest essay, Brian Condon, chief security officer at forensics firm Solora Networks notes how that observation is particularly apt for cyberwarfare.</p> <p><b>Why Obama Will Never Close</b> (Time) - President Obama wants to shut down the controversial prison but not the policies it has come to represent.</p> <p><b>Mr. Assad, Unburied</b> (Washington Post) - THE OBAMA administration has gotten some grim signals this week in response to its effort to "change the calculation" of Syrian ruler Bashar al-Assad. In an interview broadcast Thursday, Mr. Assad said there had been "a shift in the balance of power" in the country's civil war "in favor of the armed forces" and that he had "absolute confidence in our victory." He brushed off suggestions that he step down in favor of a transitional government and said he wouldn't hesitate to nominate himself for a new term when his presidential mandate ends in 2014.</p> <p><b>Al Bunting, Colonel USAF (R)</b></p>
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