

From: [Al Bunting](#)
To: [Al Bunting](#)
Subject: UPDATE: 4/6-8
Date: Monday, April 08, 2013 4:53:46 AM

Top:

The Pentagon's Cap Games Are Not Helping

Sequestration has kicked in, but the fog of uncertainty that surrounded the Pentagon's Fiscal 2013 budget will affect the Fiscal 2014 budget in similar fashion, said [Todd Harrison](#), senior defense budget fellow with the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. This bodes poorly for the Pentagon's planning assumptions, Harrison told reporters on April 5 during a briefing in Washington, D.C. "The political divide is the same fight we've been having the past two years," said Harrison. If the Defense Department's forthcoming Fiscal 2014 budget request exceeds the Budget Control Act's mandated cap of \$475 billion—as Pentagon officials have indicated will happen by as much as \$55 billion—then that means the Pentagon is hoping that Congress is going to lift the cap, or make the cuts to fit within the cap, he said. The Pentagon failed to plan adequately for the possibility of the sequester, said Harrison. As a result, it is now in "denial" about what it is getting out of Fiscal 2014 and Fiscal 2015 and delaying hard choices, he noted. The military has grown more expensive over the last decade despite shrinking in size, noted Harrison. For example, military personnel costs have grown from around 30 percent of the Pentagon's base budget in Fiscal 2001 to 34 percent in Fiscal 2012, he said. Even if the growth returns to normal rates—around 2.6 percent a year—those expenditures will eat up some 46 percent of the budget by Fiscal 2021, assuming the BCA caps hold, said Harrison. (See also Harrison's CSBA brief: [Looking Beyond the Fog Bank.](#))

—*Marc V. Schanz*

Boots, Billeting, and Civilian Hiring Boom Need Rereview

If the trend lines continue, personnel costs and operations and maintenance expenditures will consume some 86 percent of the Defense Department's budget in Fiscal 2021 under the Budget Control Act's caps, said [Todd Harrison](#), senior defense budget fellow with the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. This effectively leaves no room for military construction, research and development, test and evaluation, and procurement, he said during an April 5 briefing to reporters in Washington, D.C. "Reforming these accounts is a must," he said. Even though it won't be popular with Congress, the Pentagon needs to get out in front of these trends soon—such as advocating more intelligently for further base closures and reducing the size of its civilian workforce, he said. The department needs to budget for any future BRAC rounds up front and plan for the costs of closure and environmental abatement, he said. It must also adopt the strategy of identifying "winners and losers" up front to ensure proposed closures have enough political support to get signed into law, he said. DOD's civilian hires have boomed in the last 10 years, especially in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the combatant commands, said Harrison. Pentagon leaders will need to begin the hard process of implementing reductions in force in its civilian ranks rather than relying on attrition, he said. That's because skilled workers tend to leave, as they have other options, while those who need to retire will stay around in order to garner benefits, he said. (See also Harrison's CSBA brief: [Looking Beyond the Fog Bank.](#))

—*Marc V. Schanz*

Officials: General fired over alcohol, sex allegations

WASHINGTON — 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. [[Read More](#)]

[.. Healthier Troops](#)

(Army Times) - A new worldwide survey of active-duty troops shows fewer are engaging in harmful behaviors than in 2008, with incidents of binge drinking, smoking, drug abuse and suicide attempts on the decline.

[Hagel To Defend 2014 Budget Ignoring Cuts](#)

(Bloomberg Government (bgov.com)) - Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel will go to Congress this week to defend a \$526.6 billion defense budget for 2014 that ignores the automatic cuts mandated by law.

[. Federal Retirement Benefits Targeted](#)

(Washington Post) - President Obama is expected to propose \$35 billion in federal retirement program savings in the fiscal 2014 budget plan he will release this week.

Rodriguez Assumes AFRICOM's Reins

Army [Gen.David Rodriguez](#) last week succeeded Army Gen. Carter Ham as commander of US Africa Command during a ceremony at the command's headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. Ham, who [had led the command](#) since March 2011, plans to retire after 39 years in uniform—including two as an enlisted infantryman. "Your inspired leadership has helped African nations realize the value of AFRICOM in fostering stability and hope on the continent," said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel of Ham in [a message](#) read during the April 5 change-of-command ceremony. "You devoted the whole of yourself to the United States Army and to the United States of America, and for that, we are grateful." Presiding over the ceremony, Gen. Martin Dempsey, Joint Chiefs Chairman, noted that Ham [assembled an international coalition](#) to aid the people of Libya just days after assuming command. "From Tanzania to Senegal, Tunisia to Botswana, you've found new ways to deepen partnerships and to build capability," said Dempsey. Rodriguez, who previously served as commanding general of the US Army Forces Command, is the third commander of AFRICOM since it stood up in October 2007. (AFPS [report](#) by Claudette Roulo) (See also [Senate Confirms New CENTCOM, AFRICOM Bosses.](#))

[▪ DOD is close to finalizing cybersecurity rules of engagement](#)

The Pentagon reportedly is finishing up rules that aim to outline a framework for responding to cyberattacks. The rules will give military commanders clearer authority to take action and will clarify what is considered an act of war in the cyberworld, the Pentagon says. [USA Today](#) (4/4)

[April is Sexual Assault Prevention Month.](#)

04/04/2013 01:20 PM CDT

[If it isn't you, it's the person next to you](#)

04/05/2013 08:23 AM CDT

[Air Force Reserve celebrates 65 years of historic service](#)

04/05/2013 09:07 AM CDT

Sorry

A-10s Begin Leaving Barksdale

Air Force Reserve Command's 917th Fighter Group at Barksdale AFB, La., is scheduled to start transferring its 24 A-10C ground-attack jets to other units on Monday as part of the reserve component's force structure changes authorized by Congress in Fiscal 2013, according to a Barksdale [release](#). Initially, one A-10 will enter retirement at the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., and two will transfer to Davis-Monthan's 355th Fighter Wing, states the April 3 release. Over the coming months, one additional A-10C will go to the AMARG; five aircraft will shift to AFRC's 442nd FW at Whiteman AFB, Mo., and the unit's remaining 15 will transfer to the 355th FW, states the release. AFRC is set to inactivate the 917th FG by year's end. (See also [Air Force Reserve Command Outlines Force Structure Changes.](#))

-
-

- **[Effect of sequester is subtle so far, some say](#)**

The U.S. economy does not appear to be taking a grave hit from the sequestration cuts, some experts say, and that may be partly due to a delay in their implementation and the fact that agencies have some leeway in how they're carried out. "The cutbacks are still real, they'll be identifiable," said Stephen Fuller, director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. "But I don't think they'll be as noticeable to John Doe Citizen. They'll be spread out and more likely absorbed within the expanding economy." [CBS News](#) (4/4)

[Navy Set to Re-Evaluate LCS Program's Future](#) [Read More](#)

- [Carrier Readiness Threatened by Budget Woes](#)
- [Questions Remain Over Navy's F-35 Interest](#)
- [Air-Sea Battle Endures Amidst Strategic Review](#)
- [Navy Seeks Candidates for Carrier-Based Drones](#)
- [Essex Undergoes Historic Modernization Upgrade](#)

[Donley to forgo 14 days of pay for solidarity](#)

Air Force Secretary Michael Donley will give 14 days worth of his yearly salary to charity as a sign of solidarity with Air Force civilians, who are expected to be furloughed for two weeks without pay this fiscal year, his spokeswoman said. [[Read More](#)]

[Japan, U.S. reach deal on Okinawa land return](#)

TOKYO — Japan and the U.S. said Friday that they have agreed on plans for returning to Japan land near Kadena Air Base on the southern island of Okinawa that is now used by U.S. troops, in an effort to balance local concerns with support for the countries' military alliance. [[Read More](#)]

Dempsey: N. Korean provocations fit long pattern

STUTT GART, Germany — North Korea's bellicose rhetoric and threats, while worrisome, appear to fit a decades-long pattern of provocation followed by uneasy peace, the top U.S. military officer said Friday. [[Read More](#)]

Clearance form now lets sexual assault victims keep counseling private

New guidance was issued Friday allowing sexual assault victims to avoid having to reveal mental health counseling when applying for government security clearances.

- [Senators to DoD: Where's the tuition assistance?](#)
- [U.S. missile defense shield sent to Guam to counter N. Korea threat](#)
- [New missile sims finally launch at Vandenberg](#)

**

Twenty-Third Air Force Inactivated

Air Force Special Operations Command inactivated 23rd Air Force, its former warfighting headquarters, during a ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Fla., announced command officials. "We realized it would be more efficient to reunite the staff under AFSOC," said [Brig. Gen. Timothy Leahy](#), who led 23rd AF from August 2012 up until its inactivation, during the ceremony, according to Hurlburt's April 4 [release](#). "Our people and our mission are what really matter, and that hasn't changed one bit," he added. [Maj. Gen. George Williams](#), Air Force Reserve's mobilization assistant to the AFSOC commander, who led 23rd AF for part of 2010, took part in the flag furling with Leahy, states the release. Following the inactivation ceremony, the 623rd Air and Space Operations Center assumed 23rd AF's mission and took on a new name: the AFSOC Operations Center. AFSOC activated 23rd AF in January 2008 with the mission of providing highly trained air commandos to support combatant commanders worldwide. (See also [Weather Unit Switch](#).)

US, Japan Release Okinawa Consolidation Plan

The United States and Japan completed the plan to reduce the US military footprint on Okinawa, while maintaining an "effective US force" in the area, announced Pentagon officials. The 29-page [Okinawa Consolidation Plan](#), released on April 5, outlines the incremental return of about 2,500 acres of land now used by US forces to Japan by around the mid-2020s. "Our plan calls for the immediate return—upon the completion of certain necessary procedures—of certain facilities and areas on Okinawa," said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in [a statement](#). "The United States will then return additional locations once replacement facilities are constructed and when a sizeable contingent of US Marine Corps forces relocates outside of Japan, namely to Guam and Hawaii," he added. The United States and Japan are still working to resolve replacement facility issues "to avoid the indefinite use" of MCAS Futenma, states the release. US defense officials said the consolidation plan is consistent with the US military's Asia-Pacific rebalance. (Includes AFPS [report](#) by Cheryl Pellerin and AFPS [report](#) by Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.)

Newest HC-130J Arrives at Davis-Monthan

The Air Force's latest factory-fresh HC-130J rescue aircraft last week arrived at its new home at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., from Lockheed Martin's production plant in Marietta, Ga., announced the company. Aircraft number 5719 touched down at the Arizona base on April 3, according to the company's [release](#). It is the Air Force's ninth new HC-130J overall, and the seventh assigned to Davis-

Monahan, states the release. The service [intends to acquire](#) 37 HC-130Js in total; to date, 15 of them are on order. Air Combat Command and Air Education and Training Command operate these platforms. Aircraft number 5717, the previous HC-130J off the production line, [arrived](#) at Davis-Monahan in early March.

Potential Sale of F-35s or F-15SEs to South Korea

The Pentagon last week announced the potential sale of either 60 Lockheed Martin F-35A strike fighters or 60 Boeing F-15 Silent Eagle fighters to South Korea. The F-35 deal would be a \$10.8 billion foreign military sale, while the F-15SE transaction would be a \$2.4 billion direct commercial sale, according to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency's separate F-35 [release](#) and F-15SE [release](#) on April 3. Both cost estimates account for support, maintenance, parts, and training costs, over the course of 15 years. DSCA said it notified Congress on March 29 of the possible sales. The F-35 and the F-15SE [are in contention](#) to replace South Korea's aging F-4 fighters in a competition that the South Koreans aim to decide later this year, [reported](#) Reuters. The South Koreans are also considering the Eurofighter. The F-15SEs would be equipped with active electronically scanned array radars, according to DSCA. The agency said the potential sale of either US fighter type would "augment Korea's operational aircraft inventory and enhance its air-to-air and air-to-ground self-defense capability." The proposed F-15SE deal would mark the first foreign sale of Boeing's [new F-15 variant](#), which incorporates radar-evading attributes, among its features.

[US General: Taliban Likely To Be Long-Term Threat](#)

(Yahoo.com) - The United States accepts that a diminished but resilient Taliban is likely to remain a military threat in some parts of Afghanistan long after U.S. troops complete their combat mission next year, the top U.S. military officer said Sunday.

[. Mabus: 'Keep Faith' With Sailors](#)

(Navy Times) - When it comes to the state of the service, it's the budget that "overlays everything," Navy Secretary Ray Mabus says. And the ripple effects of belt-tightening have yet to be realized for 2014 and beyond.

[Unmanned Navy Planes Near Big Milestones In May](#)

(Reuters.com) - The Navy plans to carry out the first catapult takeoff of its new X-47B unmanned plane from an aircraft carrier next month and other shipboard tests despite mandatory budget cuts this year, according to the admiral who runs the programs.

[. U.S. Designs A Korea Response Proportional To The Provocation](#)

(New York Times) - As North Korea hints at new military provocations in the coming days, the United States and South Korea have drawn up plans to respond more forcefully than in the recent past, but in a limited way intended to prevent an escalation to broader war.

[Targeted Killing Comes To Define War On Terror](#)

(New York Times) - This policy on targeted killing, according to experts on counterterrorism inside and outside the government, is shaped by several factors: the availability of a weapon that does not risk American casualties; the resistance of the authorities in Pakistan and Yemen to even brief incursions by American troops; and the decreasing urgency of interrogation at a time when the terrorist threat has diminished and the United States has deep intelligence on its enemies. Though no official will publicly acknowledge it, the bottom line is clear: killing is more convenient than capture for both the United States and the foreign countries where the strikes occur.

[. Pentagon To Seek Less For Missile Defense In 2014 Budget](#)

(Bloomberg.com) - The Pentagon will request \$9.16 billion for missile defense programs for the 2014 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, about \$550 million less than this year's \$9.71 billion, according to internal budget figures obtained by Bloomberg News.

. Dad's A Star

(New York Daily News) - A NEW YORK soldier who suffered a traumatic brain injury said he was "humbled" to receive the Silver Star for helping to evacuate wounded troops during his first big mission in Afghanistan.

Women Eager To Join 'Brotherhood' On Navy's Fast-Attack Submarines

(Washington Times) - Concerns arise about need for costly onboard changes.

Take Burden Off Veterans Affairs

(Boston Globe) - While erasing the backlog is important, the long-term goal must be to permanently take the burden off of Veterans Affairs and place it on local health facilities and community care programs. This will not only help veterans and their families transition better to civilian life, but will reduce costs in the process.

Obama's Dangerous Nuclear Dance

(TheDailyBeast.com) - Is North Korea less dangerous than Iran, or more? Is President Ahmadinejad crazier than President Kim Jong-un, or less? Is Pyongyang so far down the line toward developing deliverable nukes that you can't stop them anymore, while Tehran still has a ways to go? Is it that Israel is more important to American security than South Korea and Japan?

. Shrinking Defense

(Washington Post) - Mr. Hagel's high-wire act.

. Hagel's Ambitious Agenda

(Defense News) - The scope of Hagel's goals means it will take at least three years before changes take root, experts say, as was the case with reforms under Goldwater-Nichols. It is undeniably an ambitious undertaking, but one that's vitally necessary. Success requires that Hagel forge strong allies on Capitol Hill, in the Pentagon and among defense industry leaders.

Power 'Bills' Coming For Military Families

(UTSanDiego.com) - After never seeing a power bill, San Diego families in military housing will start getting invoices for their electricity use later this year.

. Yemen Begins Push To Get Citizens Out Of Guantanamo Detention

(McClatchy Newspapers (mcclatchydc.com)) - In the coming weeks, a delegation of senior Yemeni officials including the country's foreign minister and its minister of human rights, as well as intelligence officers is hoping to visit Guantanamo Bay, where dozens of detainees currently are conducting a hunger strike to protest their indefinite imprisonment without trial.

. Arm In Arm With Xi

(Sydney Morning Herald) - China and Australia have embarked on an unprecedented level of military co-operation, despite a top Chinese military officer expressing concerns that Australia is being "used" as a military staging post for the US.

. Experimental Drug Offers More Time For Battlefield Wounded

(Stripes.com) - An Australian scientist and Navy medical researchers are developing an injection that could greatly extend the time severely wounded servicemembers have before reaching a hospital, while protecting their vital organs from the effects of shock and blood loss.

. Serco Issues WARN Notices, Rejecting Most Contractors' Wait-And-See Approach

(Capital Business) - After months of handwringing over whether they would have to issue sequestration-related layoff notices, defense contractors from BAE Systems to Lockheed Martin ultimately decided against it. But one contractor has been quietly issuing the notices to hundreds of employees in Maryland and Virginia.

A Lesson In Futility For The Pentagon

(Room for Debate (NYTimes.com)) - The U.S. military has long trained foreign troops to face threats in their countries and oppose common enemies. But such missions continue to be frustrating. The results, as in Mali and Afghanistan, have frequently been disappointing, even shocking. Is such training hopeless, even counterproductive, or are there effective ways to select and train allies to deal with a shared foe?

The Trouble With Drones

(New York Times) - The Obama administration has floated a plan to shift drone operations from the Central Intelligence Agency to the military. This is supposed to make targeted killings of suspected terrorists more transparent and accountable, but so far it looks as if it would be a marginal improvement.

The Coming Nuclear Breakout

(Wall Street Journal) - As the U.S. deterrent fades, atomic weapons are poised to proliferate.

(