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BY BRYAN BENDER      TION-M      ENDER@POLITICO.COM >

Presented by Northrop Grumman

*With Connor O'Brien, Lara Seligman and Sarah Cammarata*

*Editor's Note: Morning Defense is a free version of POLITICO Pro Defense's morning newsletter, which is delivered to our subscribers each morning at 6 a.m. The POLITICO Pro platform combines the news you need with tools you can use to take action on the day's biggest stories. Act on the news with POLITICO Pro < Caution-  
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#### QUICK FIX

- **Down to the wire: It's another nail-biter** in the race for the White House as votes are counted in battleground states.
- **New Coast Guard data** shows sexual assault remains a problem in the ranks.
- **A drone sale is approved for Taiwan**, the latest in a string of arms deals over Chinese objections.

**IT'S THE DAY AFTER AND YOU'RE READING MORNING DEFENSE**, where it was a long election night and it isn't over yet. Until outstanding votes are counted in battleground states, we are at a crossroads as a nation. And the fate of defense

policy and oversight committees is no different. We're always on the lookout for tips, pitches and feedback. Email us at [bbender@politico.com](mailto:bbender@politico.com) < Caution-mailto:bbender@politico.com > , and follow on Twitter @bryandbender < Caution-  
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#### ELECTION SPOTLIGHT

**STILL GOING:** The race between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden can't be called as battleground states continue to count votes and Biden tries to rebuild the "blue wall" of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin that Hillary Clinton lost to Trump in 2016. The Democrats are expected to easily retain control of the House but the Senate is still up for grabs with key races yet to be called.

Trump falsely claimed victory during a press conference at the White House early Wednesday morning. He called for "all voting to stop," hinting without evidence of

massive voter "fraud" and vowing to take the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The latest numbers from POLITICO. < Caution-

<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011cdaff4edcae9121323d3c43bef360644c71089491c9c5ac0e1b78f1c1189b66e8d712155363f49cb7> >

**DEFENSE POLICY DIVIDE:** Like the country at large, much hangs in the balance for the military and wider defense community. The differences between the two candidates couldn't be more stark. Trump has upended decades of national security and foreign policy in four years as president. He's criticized allies for not paying enough to host U.S. troops abroad, pushed for a major realignment of U.S. forces in Europe, and cast doubt on arms control treaties.

Trump has also pushed the defense budget to historically high levels, arguing on the campaign trail that he rebuilt the military.

**Biden has pledged to restore** frayed alliances and overturn some of Trump's policies — including a transgender troop ban and the siphoning money from the defense budget to build a border wall. Biden has said he would extend the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with Russia early in his administration, which Trump is seeking to renegotiate.

Despite making some concessions to the left wing of the Democratic Party, Biden isn't forecasting major cuts in defense spending that progressive lawmakers will seek. He's also pledged to keep some U.S. troops in Afghanistan to counter terrorist threats there.

Here's a snapshot of issues that hinge on the results:

**Esper's fate:** No matter who's declared the winner, expect Defense Secretary Mark Esper to exit the building soon.

His standing with Trump has frayed since this summer when he opposed calling out active-duty troops to quash civil unrest after Trump floated invoking the

Insurrection Act. Several top Trump national security officials could be quickly forced out if Trump wins, including Esper, CIA Director Gina Haspel and FBI Director Chris Wray.

It's not clear who Trump would choose to permanently replace Esper, but Republican Sen. Tom Cotton and national security adviser Robert O'Brien are possibilities. Biden is widely predicted to tap Michele Flournoy, a former Pentagon policy chief during the Obama administration, as his defense secretary.

**Transgender troop ban:** Biden has vowed to overturn the Trump's restrictions on transgender individuals serving in the military on "Day One" of his administration.

Even if Trump wins another term, several lawsuits have been filed on behalf of transgender service members challenging the constitutionality of the restrictions, which formally went into effect in April 2019.

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**Border wall:** Biden plans to halt Trump's effort to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border and force the Pentagon to foot the bill. The former VP has pledged there won't be "another foot of wall constructed" during his presidency.

In a second term Trump would have a free hand to continue to raid Pentagon coffers for the wall, barring a broader consensus on the Hill or a loss in court. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case challenging the constitutionality of the funding scheme, though the justices have voted to allow wall construction to proceed while the case is litigated by lower courts.

A Biden win, meanwhile, could also mean withdrawing thousands of troops who are still deployed to the border assisting Homeland Security personnel.

**New START in limbo:** The winner of the election has until early February to extend the expiring New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty that limits U.S. and Russian deployed nuclear warheads.

Trump, who has already abandoned the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and the Open Skies Treaty, has pushed for a new deal to take the place of New START. Most recently, the U.S. and Russia appeared close to a deal to extend the treaty for a year in return for a temporary freeze of their entire nuclear arsenals, but new public fissures have emerged, placing the treaty in doubt. Biden, who was vice president when the pact was ratified, has pledged to extend for a full five years without preconditions.

**How many ships?** Esper's nascent plan to increase the Navy to more than 500 ships could hinge on whether Trump wins another term.

It's a big increase from Trump's original goal of 355 ships and will require billions more dollars at a time that Trump's own Pentagon officials say they don't anticipate any more increases in defense spending.

Biden, meanwhile, is pitching a broader view of national security and could ditch Esper's fleet plan in favor of something more modest.

**Troops in Europe:** Trump is pursuing a plan to redistribute U.S. troops in Europe, which Biden could quickly undo.

Trump, a critic of the NATO alliance, wants to remove 12,000 U.S. troops from Germany after arguing the country hasn't spent enough on its defense. The plan would bring 6,400 troops home and shift 5,600 to other countries in Europe.

Trump administration officials have said the plan will take years to implement, and Biden, who has slammed Trump for damaging U.S. alliances, would likely scrap the plan.

**Afghanistan withdrawal:** Trump and Biden have both pledged to close the book on "endless wars," but the U.S. presence in Afghanistan could vary widely depending on who wins.

Trump has reduced troop levels in Afghanistan this year, but his administration has sent mixed signals on how quickly all U.S. troops might leave. The commander in chief floated the possibility that all troops could be home before the end of the year. O'Brien has since said the U.S. will reduce its presence to 2,500 by early next year.

Biden would inherit peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban from Trump. Despite his calls to end long-running wars, Biden has said he'd keep 1,500 to 2,000 special operations forces in Afghanistan to deal with al Qaeda and ISIS.

**NDAA fight:** If the election drags out, it could further complicate negotiations for a final version of the National Defense Authorization Act. Trump has threatened to veto a defense bill that would require renaming Army bases that honor Confederate leaders, which was included in both House and Senate versions of the bill.

The House NDAA also attempts to scramble Trump's plans to remove troops from Germany and Afghanistan. Those provisions could be a moot point for lawmakers

if Biden wins, but renaming bases and blocking troop reductions are likely to be some of the major points of contention.

The four leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees won't dive into negotiations until Congress convenes after the election. They're aiming to have a final bill ready for a vote by early December, but that gives lawmakers just a few weeks to hammer out their differences, regardless of the election outcome.

**EXCLUSIVE: "THE CIRCUS" & POLITICO TEAM UP TO PULL BACK THE CURTAIN ON THE MOST UNPRECEDENTED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN HISTORY:** It's been the most unconventional and contentious election season of our lifetime. The approach taken by each candidate couldn't be more different, yet the stakes couldn't be higher as we cross the finish line. Join POLITICO's John Harris, Laura Barrón-López, Gabby Orr and Eugene Daniels in a conversation with John Heilemann, Alex Wagner, Mark McKinnon and Jennifer Palmieri of Showtime's "The Circus" on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. EST for an insiders' look at the Trump and Biden campaigns, behind-the-scenes details and nuggets from the trail, and the latest on where things stand and where they are heading. **DON'T MISS THIS! REGISTER HERE** < Caution-  
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**SENATE TOSS UP:** Control of the Senate is up in the air with a handful of races still too close to call, including several members of the Armed Services Committee. But it appears to be remaining in favor of Republicans.

**Democrats and Republicans traded Senate seats** early in the evening, with GOP Sen. Cory Gardner < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011cbee1be2362066648866e5e1b675975ae8597530750d31be8ebfb094273c3601c949f8c8cee6932f3> > falling to former Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper, while Alabama Democrat Doug Jones < Caution-

<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c47e8ba38d5afa8d09f8d011832cc8f853902739dfaa236bea9f96bc0e0ac24d9a003d5c87cbo96f> > , a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, lost to former Auburn football coach Tommy Tuberville.

**Kelly defeats McSally in Arizona:** Retired naval aviator and astronaut Mark Kelly scored a win over < Caution-

<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c30cd94302336dff8956886a027788c3d3205ebaec417307727e133fe135c31610723227a37fd867b> > Republican Sen. Martha McSally < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c16a1d6ab7514757f9dca91cf41ae94dd11cc92a267144a6eb5d69b8e8fb3ff288aacb20a5bfd1aa2> > to finish out the late Sen. John McCain's term.

**Ernst fends off challenge:** Iowa Republican Joni Ernst < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011ca07b0dc7bfbdb6a4dad78e7ddc983e83872e004263503b29354fe7a957738fc6492187840aa5607a0> > held off Democrat Theresa Greenfield. Ernst has aligned herself with Trump in the Senate, and her victory coincided with the president holding onto the state.

**Tillis declares victory:** Republican Thom Tillis < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c31bbc7575e974b30d95cb964250c5dd73b03f676c5ef358064f611b61ea473d0c4f15317d188cdac> > declared victory < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011ca6c31a750fc7cfb5d644720ea779eb6b3ab9ba271c365dfb49ec63acd4277141cd138093aa072a18> > just after midnight in North Carolina against former state legislator and Army Reserve officer Cal Cunningham, though the race remains close.

**Still waiting:** The Senate race in Georgia between Republican David Perdue < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c5f08c5a90e636833ddf920d824764d49387328a7d9b7c67230d0d49389093fe57f8fd0e4a374be1b> > and former congressional staffer Jon Ossoff remains undecided. Perdue led Ossoff overnight

and the contest will go to a runoff if neither candidate wins a majority. A special election for the state's second Senate seat is headed for a January runoff.

A competitive race in Alaska, where SASC member Dan Sullivan < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c301286482d606ff18786f397d216b8a81f6b5764ddb34128597d54fda51996c9b411b3197cf26c44> > is squaring off against Independent Al Gross, is also still too early to call, as is Michigan's Senate race pitting Republican challenger John James against incumbent Democrat Gary Peters < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c416b05e8e218b8abff19f3ed775e3eaffda5f62374a80daf5bdef4cd64c2ef27580eed646708556> > .

**Read up:** Parties trade flips in too-close-to-call battle for the Senate < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c5d4fc4161c8e07cf457c28669643663077843c8500e41db721ec7e58239e4ac3fce6a01786ae9ba3> > , via POLITICO's Andrew Desiderio and James Arkin.

**HOUSE DEMS HANG ON:** Democrats held onto their majority in the House Tuesday, but it's unclear if they'll gain many seats < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c9b1f2e3d932d2e6df5afd49f7718c0333b6aad2ae55cb74fc59a63600a419303210c1c3b536bb31c> > as several of their most vulnerable members lost reelection bids.

Only a handful of House Armed Services Committee members faced tough reelection fights. Freshman Democrat Kendra Horn < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c3c27144b794d3af2089febd439d25c57dfda5754df4982a3b029b9910bce361f84b7bbdf7005fe93> > of Oklahoma, who pulled off a major upset in 2018, lost her bid for a second term < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c5e7ce71706e23f05bb30aedbf9b21d3d6e4d790983c859d651abc65ab5be8e326f4e6cea0c37fe87> > to GOP state Sen. Stephanie Bice. Rep. Xochitl Torres Small < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011cb11bbf10772e9f1f3f6b3f4f4a833a454f15d6a1cfff1fa0a838e1bf3f80deb47d3e4b3a7b99a070d> > of New Mexico also lost her reelection bid to GOP challenger Yvette Herrell in a rematch of their

2018 midterm race. And upstate New York Democrat Anthony Brindisi < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c92e08108f7bc1d53430ddec24cbae09fc6a4ced0794ab2acd4bcd53a2a944db18e0ac986f1c4ba> > is locked in a tough fight against former Rep. Claudia Tenney.

Two-term Republican Don Bacon < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c108cdd8423ef09fa93fb3ae3219cf8aa6127ca6ca2d09beabb44276be973d0210dfaf420f9153d90> > of Nebraska, meanwhile, pulled off a win < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c1f9d4beb8e2caf09ad676db5a2ed59744f2cbdf521d8c8b6d197e6d4520622e5ac8850e700cf2b0e> > over progressive Democrat Kara Eastman in the Omaha-based congressional district that Biden carried.

House Armed Services Chair Adam Smith < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011cb0e6c1174c08645529d20f1a35bf892df4c8e7e1978af33fd1d1f115e945ef1fd816db5dccf5cb3e> > **cruise d to reelection** in Washington state. Smith bested his GOP opponent in a heavily Democratic district two years after fending off a challenge to his left from a progressive Democrat in the 2018 general election.

**Doctor in the House:** Former White House physician Ronny Jackson easily won the race to succeed retiring Mac Thornberry < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011cd8fb86bdb082be538d90d8251636660ce27c6c4d4f1bc2168e91f1bca45e7edce7c540f49597516f7> > , the Armed Services Committee top Republican and former chair. The Texas panhandle district is one of the most reliably Republican in the country and Jackson was a shoo-in after winning a primary runoff in July against a candidate endorsed by Thornberry.

**Related:** Every incumbent who's been booted out of Congress < Caution-  
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**Also:** Track how veteran candidates fare on Election Night < Caution-  
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#### ON THE HILL

**'SHORT-SIGHTED WITHDRAWAL'** The recent news that the Pentagon is drawing down its staff < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c5e157cba0084eed897841ae38caef56e47ac3e769ecd142e40beaddfa132d7242aa7a189da409f15> > at embassies across Africa and the Middle East is shaping up to be yet another standoff with Congress, which has pushed back hard against the Trump administration's plans to redeploy forces around the world.

"This move, along with four years of turmoil at the State Department—that began with a hiring freeze and has decimated the ranks of the diplomatic corps—undermines our global mission to counter violent extremists in Africa and around the world," Rep. Seth Moulton < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c8b7787ced67ac6af01790e51272b6dfb3d28807823dee2936624cef20b91d3968cd88fdb97001c51> > , a member of the Armed Services Committee, charged on Tuesday. "...I have requested that

the Secretary of Defense and AFRICOM Commander provide the justification and rationale for this move. I look forward to their quick response.”

#### COAST GUARD

**RISE IN SEXUAL ASSAULTS:** The Coast Guard is experiencing an overall rise in reports of sexual assault, according to internal annual reports to Congress posted online this week. The reports for fiscal 2018 < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c629a34545fb62d260730e52b81363fd48e4f090755640351e4dcc02cafb5ead498c22555fbec810> > and 2019 < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c2031300619a74900897651ab606f9b6b039abd4608fb30517c1ab09de384986cd34923790a14db63> > reveal a reporting rate that is on par with the other armed services, according to an analysis < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c802c894ab0a5aeb433c364a19f6204723f69362ceed874415a1adfa788e9459c50e9adf760a0e52f> > . But the data show a steady increase since 2007 < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011ce01c91c069c11f8722e6e7e56134ebf44ed2f393c8d8177fbfe24845a30c925698e479d1908c09a8> > , though it is not clear what's behind the rise.

The actual number of reported incidents of sexual assault decreased from 248 in fiscal 2018 to 225 in fiscal 2019, according to the fiscal 2019 report. Meanwhile, sexual harassment allegations increased from 57 to 89 from fiscal 2018 to fiscal 2019.

The Coast Guard does not contribute to a high-profile annual report on sexual assault across the military services < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c13ce642f2898a9da80fb2ff1e318c82a8ed8287d592b1648cb74abc1e4eeda569fcb40e7e7b5doc3> > because it falls outside the Defense Department's jurisdiction. It also does not take part in the military's biannual sexual assault surveys, although a separate survey is conducted by the Defense Department on the Coast Guard Academy < Caution-

<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011cd2ec50e90352ea3c7657b86c924c9806b57b17df411500f57431d71d01a6da42e469ad27a6934afi> > .

#### INDUSTRY INTEL

**DRONES TO TAIWAN:** The State Department notified Congress < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c6ddfa8a470af72e031f50b891aa71994561bf8c2cfo2ddcc244c86fe03ea3a5266c4d74978078413> > on Tuesday it has approved a potential sale of four MQ-9B drones to Taiwan at an estimated cost of \$600 million, following the Trump administration's loosening of export controls this year, O'Brien also reports < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011ce3ca4a21a8c3afb7d68ab1f7fc2564494412ce5a6681b6de4808b9ce70eacdf0915f39595edc3ca1> > .

The deal, which was first reported by Reuters, is among billions of dollars in sales of military hardware to Taipei approved in recent weeks over objections from China.

**Beijing has already declared it will levy sanctions against U.S. companies,** including Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Raytheon, the defense contractors that produce the hardware. The State Department, however, contends the sale is in keeping with decades of U.S. policy aimed at helping Taiwan deter threats from Beijing.

#### SPEED READ

- Potential for uncounted military votes loom large looms large in swing states: < Caution-  
<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c2056ef9599d3a48cadf78a160573032f89860c8cf9e4257cc03a4cb4coef85dob7b18fo1becfoab9> > Roll Call
- Generals privately brief news anchors, promise no military role in election: < Caution-

<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011c1884d120902764b6a39f9c80a43267e873143cb759b982cb124d392aaf5fca5e5cd89fcb1967a9a8> > Axios

— Coronavirus opens stark divide in aerospace industry: < Caution-

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— Defense aerospace primes are raking in money for classified programs: < Caution-

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— Lawmaker says North Korea building two submarines, one capable of firing ballistic missiles: < Caution-

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— U.S. undertook cyber operation against Iran to secure election: < Caution-

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[3fb88aa6a34f7b71e72249e534e5efd992e143456b99990d51c1f9b3](#) > about how we're enabling the joint force.

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<https://go.politicoemail.com/?qs=7627eb790c11011cf82dc04394ff57b4f94fb22ccd1a99b2c4a006ae263e6ccf74211cedf1674f7b0fe8e53644b282> >

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**From:** [Butler, David M COL USARMY JS OCJCS \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Milley, Mark A GEN USARMY JS OCJCS \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [JS Pentagon OCJCS List Joint Staff Public Affairs JDir Distro](#)  
**Subject:** (Awareness) "Scoop: Generals privately brief news anchors, promise no military role in election" (Axios)  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020 11:27:02 AM

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Sir,

Axios reported that you held an "off-the-record video call with top generals and network anchors" this past weekend to "dispel any notion of a role for the military in adjudicating a disputed election or making any decision around removing a president from the White House."

The outlet called the call "highly unusual" and stated that it follows "public speculation about the role of the military by activists and political leaders." The article mentioned that you were joined by the Commander of the U.S. Cyber Command Paul Nakasone and National Guard chief Daniel Hokanson.

Respectfully,

Dave

\*\*\*

Scoop: Generals privately brief news anchors, promise no military role in election

Axios | Jonathan Swan

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley held an off-the-record video call with top generals and network anchors this weekend to tamp down speculation about potential military involvement in the presidential election, two people familiar with the call tell Axios.

Why it matters: The nation's top military official set up Saturday's highly unusual call to make clear that the military's role is apolitical, one of the sources said — and to dispel any notion of a role for the military in adjudicating a disputed election or making any decision around removing a president from

the White House.

- Milley told the anchors that the U.S. military would have no role whatsoever in a peaceful transfer of power, one source added.
- One official told the anchors not to be alarmed if they see images of uniformed National Guard on Election Day; currently, they are not federalized but serving at the request of governors.
- Through a spokesman, Milley and the other generals declined comment.

The call follows public speculation about the role of the military by activists and political leaders. Joe Biden recently told the Daily Show's Trevor Noah that he was "absolutely convinced" the military would "escort [Trump] from the White House in a dispatch" if he refused to leave office.

- Axios did not participate in the call and is not a party to the off-the-record agreement.

Behind the scenes: Two other four-star generals joined Milley on the call: Commander of the U.S. Cyber Command Paul Nakasone and National Guard chief Daniel Hokanson.

- ABC's George Stephanopoulos, CBS's Norah O'Donnell, NBC's Lester Holt, CNN's Jim Sciutto and Fox's Martha MacCallum participated, per one of the sources.
- Generals talked about military efforts to secure key infrastructure against cyber attacks.
- They confirmed that foreign actors have tried to influence this election, but said none appears positioned to change votes.

Flashback: Milley testified to Congress in August that "I believe deeply in the

principle of an apolitical U.S. military" and that in the case of elections "by law U.S. courts and the U.S. Congress are required to resolve any disputes, not the U.S. military. I foresee no role for the U.S. armed forces in this process."

**From:** [Butler, David M COL USARMY JS OCJCS \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Milley, Mark A GEN USARMY JS OCJCS \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [JS Pentagon OCJCS List Joint Staff Public Affairs JDir Distro](#)  
**Subject:** (Awareness) "Top military leaders reiterate that active-duty troops have no place in the election or its aftermath" (NYT)  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020 4:10:04 PM

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Sir,

For awareness.

BL: Helene reported this afternoon on your discussion with television network anchors over the weekend.

Key Excerpts:

The problem with General Milley's assurances, though, is that Mr. Trump has made no secret that he has considered using active-duty troops against protesters, as he threatened to do during the protests that followed the police killing of George Floyd.

Both General Milley and Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper opposed invoking the Insurrection Act to place active-duty troops on the streets, and Mr. Trump in the end backed down.

The disagreement left the president with a sour taste toward both men, aides said, and there remains worry inside and outside the Pentagon that Mr. Trump might try to invoke the Insurrection Act to put active-duty American troops on the streets against postelection protesters.

Respectfully,

Dave

\*\*\*\*

Top military leaders reiterate that active-duty troops have no place in the election or its aftermath

New York Times | Helene Cooper

The Pentagon's senior leaders are, again, assuring all who will listen that there is no place for the active-duty American military in this year's presidential election.

During a telephone call with television network anchors on Saturday, Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, repeated what he has said multiple times in recent months: If Pentagon leaders have any say in this, the active-duty American military will have no role whatsoever in any transfer of power, should one be necessary, between President Trump and former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Active-duty troops would not escort Mr. Trump out of the White House if he loses and refuses to vacate the premises. (That job would likely fall to the United States Marshals Service). Active-duty armed forces would not deploy to American streets to quell possible protests after the elections. (That job would fall first to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and then to National Guard units, if deemed necessary.)

The problem with General Milley's assurances, though, is that Mr. Trump has made no secret that he has considered using active-duty troops against protesters, as he threatened to do during the protests that followed the police killing of George Floyd.

Both General Milley and Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper opposed invoking the Insurrection Act to place active-duty troops on the streets, and Mr. Trump in the end backed down.

The disagreement left the president with a sour taste toward both men, aides said, and there remains worry inside and outside the Pentagon that Mr. Trump might try to invoke the Insurrection Act to put active-duty American troops on the streets against postelection protesters.

During the call Saturday with anchors from ABC, Fox, CBS, NBC and CNN, which was first reported by Axios, General Milley was joined by Gen. Paul M.

Nakasone, the commander of the U.S. Cyber Command, and Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

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## Early Bird Brief - Defense News

<p>Welcome to the Early Bird Brief, compiled by Diana Correll and Steve Weigand.<br>  
Please email news tips and suggestions to earlybird@militarytimes.com&nbsp;&lt;&gt;&nbsp;&nbsp;&Caution-  
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[@Diana\\_Correll</a>.</p>](https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly90d2l0dGVyLmNvbS9kaWFuYVY9jb3JyZWxslg/57588364498edb7fd6702cebB2c15fb2f)

### 1. Trump wins Florida, locked in other tight races with Biden

President Donald Trump carried Florida, the nation's most prized battleground state, and he and Democrat Joe Biden focused early Wednesday on the three Northern industrial states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — that could prove crucial in determining who wins the White House.

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## Military.com

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## Washington Post

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Reuters

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## Transitioning out of the military and looking for a job?

## Military Times

**We have listings from companies looking for vets.**

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## Overseas Operations

## 'The Quad' kicks off Malabar 2020 exercise in Bay of Bengal

USNI News

The U.S., Indian, Japanese and Australian navies on Tuesday kicked off the Malabar 2020 naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, bringing the four nations together for the annual drill for the first time in over a decade.

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## Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden

## Stars & Stripes

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

**Caution-**

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## US military reports a handful of new coronavirus infections in Japan

## Stars & Stripes

The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases as of 5 p.m. Monday: two close contacts and a returning traveler, according to Facebook posts.

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## MC-130Js, F-15Es deploy to Denmark for Baltic exercise

Air Force Magazine

U.S. airmen and aircraft from two bases in England recently deployed to Aalborg, Denmark for a two-week, multilateral agile combat employment (ACE) exercise hosted by the Combined Special Operations Air Task Group.



Since the start of 2020, 182 veterans have won major party primaries in their efforts to gain a seat in Congress.

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**Fox News**

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**Military Times**

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## Military.com

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## 5

House Armed Services chairman foreshadows change to nuclear posture and modernization delay if Biden wins  
Washington Examiner

America's nuclear modernization effort may be in for a delay or the elimination of the ground-based deterrent if Joe Biden wins the presidency, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith indicated in a recent discussion.  
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American allies brace for chaotic end to US election

Washington Examiner

A chaotic U.S. election season could end with President Trump casting doubt on the legitimacy of the result, like-minded observers around the world fear.

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Trump's former national security adviser says reentering Iran deal would be 'huge mistake'

AI-Monitor

Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, who served as national security adviser from 2017 to 2018, assesses Trump's Middle East record, reflecting on his career in the region's battlegrounds.

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Army

Soldiers, Marines finish first test of ruggedized 'do-it-all' augmented reality goggle

Army Times

The Army has finished the first field test of its do-it-all goggle in the ruggedized military version that soldiers could see by next year.

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Army museums to give out excess artifacts, including weapons and historic uniforms

Army Times

The Army Museum Enterprise is getting rid of duplicate artifacts among its 580,000-item collection over the next five years, leaving opportunities for other museums, veterans organizations, national parks, and state and local governments to ultimately claim the excess inventory.

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7



Yokota airman pronounced dead at urgent care center was military working dog handler

Stars & Stripes

The Air Force has identified an airman who died over the weekend at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo as a military working dog handler with the 374th Security Forces Squadron.

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Feds: West Virginia man supplied far-right Boogaloo Boys with fully automatic weapons converters, including to accused CA cop killer

San Jose Mercury News

For the second time in two weeks, federal authorities have publicly linked a suspected follower of the so-called Boogaloo movement to Steven Carrillo, the U.S. Air Force sergeant accused of assassinating two California law enforcement officers in separate incidents.

Caution-

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USFA cancels fall break, shortens semester amid pandemic

Air Force Magazine

U.S. Air Force Academy cadets will forgo Thanksgiving break and end the fall semester early as the school adjusts its academic calendar in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

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New schoolhouse for trainer jet maintainers opens in Texas

Air Force Magazine

Nineteenth Air Force has transformed Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Hangar 62 into an official hub for teaching the next generation of trainer aircraft maintainers.

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After KC-46, USAF looks ahead to 'bridge tanker'

Air Force Magazine

The Air Force is moving forward with its "bridge tanker" project—the air-refueling aircraft acquisition formerly known as "KC-Y"—in a "full and open competition" to replace the KC-135 Stratotanker fleet. It is a stepping stone to a more futuristic tanker, Air Mobility Command boss Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost said Oct. 27.

Caution-

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## Marine Corps

Will the Marines take on submarine-hunting?

Marine Corps Times

The Marine Corps wants in on the submarine-hunting game, according to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger, including the role of helping the Navy identify, track and even sink submarines.

Caution-

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These are the Marines who died at Belleau Wood

Marine Corps Times

The two Marines waited to join the attack until the third wave was launched, when they marched side-by-side into the German machine-gun fire.

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## Coast Guard

Coast Guard interdicts 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank

Seapower

The Coast Guard assisted Bahamian authorities in interdicting 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas, Oct. 28, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a Nov. 2 release.

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## Space Force

Moon patrols could be a future reality for Space Force

Space News

U.S. military space activities today are confined to Earth orbit. That could change in the coming years as NASA begins to establish a permanent presence at the moon.

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## National Guard

National Guard Election Day update: More than 4,700 troops active in 18 states

Military Times

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## Defense Industry

Defense aerospace primes are raking in money for classified programs

### Defense News

Two months after disclosing the existence of a next-generation fighter jet demonstrator, the U.S. Air Force is staying mum on which company may have built it. But one thing is for sure: Classified aviation programs are on the rise, and opportunities abound for the three major American defense aerospace primes — Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing.

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## International

Israeli politics, sub scandal cloud waters on US weapons buys

### Breaking Defense

The fragile coalition that forms the Israeli cabinet is delaying the decisions on huge arms deals with American companies, mainly Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

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North Korean captured by South Korean military, according to media report

### Stars & Stripes

South Korea's military captured a North Korean who crossed the border Wednesday, according to the Yonhap news agency in the south.

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China has sent more satellites into space this year than US and Russia, report says

### South China Morning Post

China has launched more satellites into orbit this year than the United States and Russia, according to an American report, as Beijing steadily advances in aerospace amid growing rivalry with the US.

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China says US sends out wrong signals to Taiwan on potential drone sale deal

### Reuters

China's foreign ministry said on Wednesday the United States has sent out wrong and grave signals to the so-called Taiwan military forces on the potential drone sale deal.

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#### Lessons from Admiral Elmo

##### Naval History Magazine

The Navy should revisit Admiral Elmo Zumwalt's priorities of strategic deterrence, sea control, and personnel policy reform—and heed his errors.

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#### WMD threat reduction programs suffer from neglect

##### National Defense

A nuclear attack, or any kind of nuclear detonation — whether an intentional military action, a terrorist attack, or an accident — could cause millions or tens of millions of deaths with far greater hospitalizations and economic impacts than the world is experiencing today.

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#### Job Board

Transitioning out of the military and looking for a job?

Military Times

We have listings from companies looking for vets.

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## Overseas Operations

'The Quad' kicks off Malabar 2020 exercise in Bay of Bengal

USNI News

The U.S., Indian, Japanese and Australian navies on Tuesday kicked off the Malabar 2020 naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, bringing the four nations together for the annual drill for the first time in over a decade.

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Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden

Stars & Stripes

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

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US military reports a handful of new coronavirus infections in Japan

Stars & Stripes

The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases as of 5 p.m. Monday: two close contacts and a returning traveler, according to Facebook posts.

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MC-130Js, F-15Es deploy to Denmark for Baltic exercise

Air Force Magazine

U.S. airmen and aircraft from two bases in England recently deployed to Aalborg, Denmark for a two-week, multilateral agile combat employment (ACE) exercise hosted by the Combined Special Operations Air Task Group.

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U.S. Latin American navies begin UNITAS LXI exercise near Ecuador

UPI

Naval forces from the United States and eight Latin American countries will conduct operations in the Pacific Ocean near Ecuador as part of the UNITAS LXI exercise that began this week.

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American allies brace for chaotic end to US election

Washington Examiner

A chaotic U.S. election season could end with President Trump casting doubt on the legitimacy of the result, like-minded observers around the world fear.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZm9uLWRIbGF5LWlmlWJpZGVuLXdpcnM/57588364498edb7fd6702cebEab6f8256>

Trump's former national security adviser says reentering Iran deal would be 'huge mistake'

Al-Monitor

Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, who served as national security adviser from 2017 to 2018, assesses Trump's Middle East record, reflecting on his career in the region's battlegrounds.

Caution-

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Army

Soldiers, Marines finish first test of ruggedized 'do-it-all' augmented reality goggle

Army Times

The Army has finished the first field test of its do-it-all goggle in the ruggedized military version that soldiers could see by next year.

Caution-

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Army museums to give out excess artifacts, including weapons and historic uniforms

Army Times

The Army Museum Enterprise is getting rid of duplicate artifacts among its 580,000-item collection over the next five years, leaving opportunities for other museums, veterans organizations, national parks, and state and local governments to ultimately claim the excess inventory.

Caution-

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Navy

Is this the best reenlistment location ever?

Navy Times

Where was your last reenlistment ceremony held, shipmate?

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF2eXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXI0bmF2eS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2l2LXRoaXMtdGhlLWJlc3Qtcmlvbmhpc3RtZW50LWxvY2F0aW9uLWV2ZXlv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE393b30de>

Blue Angels to make final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet as they transition to Super Hornets

Navy Times

The Navy's Blue Angels will conduct their final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet Wednesday.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF2eXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXI0bmF2eS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2l2LXRoaXMtdGhlLWJlc3Qtcmlvbmhpc3RtZW50LWxvY2F0aW9uLWV2ZXlv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE9da4b94>

Here's the latest on the next US supercarrier

Defense News

The U.S. Navy's next Ford-class supercarrier, the John F. Kennedy, will be delivered to the fleet with its full suite of advanced electronics and with the ability to support the carrier-launched F-35C, a change from a planned two-phase delivery devised in the original contract.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL25hdmFsLzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvaGVyZXMtdGhlLWxhdGVzdC1vZi10aGUtbnV4dC11cy1zdXBicmNhcnpXZl/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE4253ca71>

How SEAL Team 6's mastery of a risky infiltration method sets it apart from other US special operators

Business Insider

Early on October 31, commandos from SEAL Team 6 rescued an American hostage who had been abducted in northern Nigeria.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYnVzaW5lc3NpbmNpZGVyLmNvbS9uZXZlLXRIYW0tNi1wYXJhY2h1dGUtc2tpbGxzLWRpc3RpbmN0LWFtb25nLXNwZWNPYWwtb3BlcmF0aW9ucy11bml0cy0yMDIwLzExLzAzL2l2LXRoaXMtdGhlLWJlc3Qtcmlvbmhpc3RtZW50LWxvY2F0aW9uLWV2ZXlv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE88252b0d>

Two-carrier fire drill trains sailors to avoid problems found in early moments of Bonhomme Richard fire

USNI News

When USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) caught fire at the pier over the summer, sailors from across the waterfront rushed to the scene, some in damage control teams from their own ships and some showing up as individuals who wanted to help.

Caution-

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Navy prepares for integration of MQ-25 tanker drones with E-2 Hawkeye squadrons

The Drive

The MQ-25s will be attached to E-2 squadrons during deployments and Hawkeye crews will cross-train to also fly the Stingrays.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGh1ZHZHJpdmUuY29tL3RoZS13YXltem9uZS8zNzQwOC9uYXZ5LXB5ZX8hcmVzLWZvci1pbmRlZ3JhdGlvbi1vZi1tcS0yNS10YW5rZXItZHVjbWVzLXdpdGgtZS0yLWdhb2tleWUt c3F1YWRYb25z/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE845b1f2f>

Air Force

Air Force tests G-force suits for female pilots

Air Force Times

Women who fly fighter jets or other high-speed aircraft could have a better-fitting and safer G-force suit on the way, thanks to testing that took place last week at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1icy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFPci1mb3JjZS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2Fpci1mb3JjZS10ZXN0cy1nLWZvcmNlLXN1aXRzLWZvci1mZW1hbGUtcGlsb3RzLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE91c97962>

Bushwhacker: Southwest desert training preps rescue airmen, soldiers for austere environments

Air Force Times

The 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in New Mexico this week has launched a training exercise to prepare rescue personnel to respond in deserts or other austere battlefields.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1icy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFPci1mb3JjZS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2J1c2h3aGFja2VyLXNvdXRod2VzdC1kZXNlcnQtdHJhaW5pbmctcHJlcHMtcmlVzY3VlLW Fpcm1lbi1zb2xkaWVycy1mb3ItYXVzdGVyZS1lbnZpcm9ubWVudHMv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE3c4e949f>

We salute the airmen who marched aboard a C-17 while dressed as minions from 'Despicable Me'

Task & Purpose

I know nothing about minions, but I know a hilarious video when I see one, and boy did the airmen of the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron deliver one for us.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly90YXNrYW5kcHVycG9zZS5jb20vbWVudGF0b3J5LWZ1bi9haXItZm9yY2UtbWluaW9ucy1iYWlyYWlu/57588364498edb7fd6702cebEf140dfed>

Yokota airman pronounced dead at urgent care center was military working dog handler

Stars & Stripes

The Air Force has identified an airman who died over the weekend at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo as a military working dog handler with the 374th Security Forces Squadron.

Caution-

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Feds: West Virginia man supplied far-right Boogaloo Boys with fully automatic weapons converters, including to accused CA cop killer

San Jose Mercury News

For the second time in two weeks, federal authorities have publicly linked a suspected follower of the so-called Boogaloo movement to Steven Carrillo, the U.S. Air Force sergeant accused of assassinating two California law enforcement officers in separate incidents.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWVYyY3VyeW5ld3MuY29tLzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvZmVkcY13ZXN0LXZpcmdpbmlhLW1hbi1zdXBwbGlZC1mYXItcm1naHQYm9vZ2Fsb28tYm95cy13aXRoLWZ1bGx5LWF1dG9tYXRpYy13ZWFWb25zLWNvbnZlcnRlcnMtaW5jbHVkaW5nLXRvLWFjY3VzZWQtY2EtY29wLWtpbGxlc8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebEc5600837>

USFAA cancels fall break, shortens semester amid pandemic

Air Force Magazine

U.S. Air Force Academy cadets will forgo Thanksgiving break and end the fall semester early as the school adjusts its academic calendar in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

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New schoolhouse for trainer jet maintainers opens in Texas

Air Force Magazine

Nineteenth Air Force has transformed Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Hangar 62 into an official hub for teaching the next generation of trainer aircraft maintainers.

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After KC-46, USAF looks ahead to 'bridge tanker'

Air Force Magazine

The Air Force is moving forward with its "bridge tanker" project—the air-refueling aircraft acquisition formerly known as "KC-Y"—in a "full and open competition" to replace the KC-135 Stratotanker fleet. It is a stepping stone to a more futuristic tanker, Air Mobility Command boss Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost said Oct. 27.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2VtYWcuY29tL2FmdGVyLWtjLTQ2LXVzYWYtbG9va3MtYWWhYWQtdG8tYnJpZGdlLXRhbmtlciB/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE4dea24b3>

Marine Corps

Will the Marines take on submarine-hunting?

Marine Corps Times

The Marine Corps wants in on the submarine-hunting game, according to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger, including the role of helping the Navy identify, track and even sink submarines.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDIwLzExLzAzL3dpbGwtdGhlLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy10YWwtLW9uLXN1Ym1hcmluZS1odW50aW5nLW/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE9c802dd6>

These are the Marines who died at Belleau Wood

Marine Corps Times

The two Marines waited to join the attack until the third wave was launched, when they marched side-by-side into the German machine-gun fire.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDIwLzExLzA0L3RoZXNlWFY2S10aGUtbWFyaW5lcy13aG8tZGllZC1hdC1iZWxsZWFlLXZvb2Qv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE56321ce1>

Coast Guard

Coast Guard interdicts 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank

Seapower

The Coast Guard assisted Bahamian authorities in interdicting 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas, Oct. 28, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a Nov. 2 release.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9zZWZwb3d1cm1hZ2F6aW5lM9yZy9jb2FzdC1ndWFyZC1pbmRlcmRyY3RzLTlYLNW1YmFuLW1pZ3JhbnRzLWZlLW51ZlYwWtYmFuay8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebEa87e206f>

Space Force

Moon patrols could be a future reality for Space Force

Space News

U.S. military space activities today are confined to Earth orbit. That could change in the coming years as NASA begins to establish a permanent presence at the moon.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9zcGFjZW5ld3MuY29tL21vb24tcGF0cm9scy1jb3VsZC1iZS1hLWZ1dHVyZS1yZWZsaXR5LWZvc10aGUtd51zLW1pbGI0YXJ5LW/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE6e7bfadc>

National Guard

National Guard Election Day update: More than 4,700 troops active in 18 states

Military Times

At least 4,700 National Guard troops in 18 states have been activated as of Tuesday afternoon to support the Nov. 3 general election in several capacities. The missions range from assisting with cyber defense, working the polls, and standing-by in case of post-election civil unrest.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy9lbGVjdGlvbi0yMDIwLzIwMjAvMTEvMDMvbmF0aW9uYWwtZ3VhcmQtZWx1Y3Rpb24tZGF5LXVwZGF0ZS1tb3JlLXRoYW4tNDcwMC10cm9vcHMtYWN0aXZlLWluLW1hLW51ZlYwWtYmFuay8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebEe76681ba>

Veterans

These 2020 state ballot measures could offer new benefits to veterans

Military.com

Most voters heading to the polls Nov. 3 are thinking primarily about the top of their ballot and the fiercely contested presidential election. But in several states, voters will also be asked to consider a proposed constitutional amendment or public question affecting veterans and their families.

Caution-

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Seven kayakers hit the sea for homeless vets in San Diego

San Diego Union-Tribune

To raise money for Veterans Village of San Diego, the volunteers paddled 54 miles to, and around, Catalina island.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2FuZGlZ291bmIvbnRyaWJ1bmUuY29tL3ZldGVyYW5zL3N0b3J5LzlwMjAtMTUyMDIwLXN0YXRILWJhbGxvdC1tZWZkdXJlcy1jb3VsZC1vZmZlci1uZXctYmVuZWZpdHMtdmV0ZXJhbnMuaHRtbA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE474a0b46>

Cyber, Space & Surveillance

Pentagon research office wants innovative tools to spot influence campaigns

C4ISRNET

A new broad agency announcement shows that the Pentagon's top research arm wants to work with industry to develop technology that can track adversarial influence operations across social media platforms.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYzRpc3JuZXQuY29tL2FydGlmaWNpYWwtaW50ZWxsaWdlbmNILzlwMjAtMTUyMDIwLXN0YXRILWJhbGxvdC1tZWZkdXJlcy1jb3VsZC1vZmZlci1uZXctYmVuZWZpdHMtdmV0ZXJhbnMuaHRtbA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE7be6b79f>

AFRL's newest lab aims at building things in space

Breaking Defense

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) today opened the doors on its new lab for testing innovative materials and designs for spacecraft — technologies to underpin assembly and manufacture of satellites and subsystems on-orbit.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9icmVha2luZ2RlZmVuc2UuY29tLzlwMjAtMTUyMDIwLXN0YXRILWJhbGxvdC1tZWZkdXJlcy1jb3VsZC1vZmZlci1uZXctYmVuZWZpdHMtdmV0ZXJhbnMuaHRtbA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE9a09f65f>

Defense Industry

Defense aerospace primes are raking in money for classified programs

Defense News

Two months after disclosing the existence of a next-generation fighter jet demonstrator, the U.S. Air Force is staying mum on which company may have built it. But one thing is for sure: Classified aviation programs are on the rise, and opportunities abound for the three major American defense aerospace primes — Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL2luZHVzdHJ5LzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvZGVmZW5zZW51hXUvc3BhY2UtcHJpbWVzLWVzZS1yYWtpbmctaW4tbW9uZXktZm9yLWNsYXNzaWZpZWQtchJvZ3JhbXMu/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE4866d23c>

## Breaking Defense

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9icmVha2luZ2RlZmVuc2UuY29tLzlwMjAvMTEvaXNyYVVsas1wb2xpdGljcy1zdWltc2NhbmRhbC1jbG91ZC13YXRlcjMtb24tdXMtd2VhcG9ucy1idXlzlW/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE2de902c5>

## Stars & Stripes

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBlcj5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNPZmJlL25vcnRoLWtvcmljYXBDdXJlZC1ieS1zb3V0aC1rb3JlYW4tbWlsaXRhcncktYWNjb3JkaW5nLXRvLW1lZGhhLXJlcG9ydC0xLjY1MDk1MA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebEc6f6dd74>

South China Morning Post

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2NtcC5jb20vbmV3cy9jaGluYS9kaXBsb21hY3kvYXJ0aWNsZS58ZMTA4MzA2L2NoaW5hLWwhcy1zZW50LW1vcmlUc2F0ZWxsaXRlc1zGfjZS15ZWYlXVZlWFuZC1ydXNzaWEtcmlVwb3J0/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE5c5fdca6>

Reuters

**Caution—**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuV1dGVycyJjb2QvYXJOaWNsZS91cy11c2EtdGFpd2FuLWFWybXMvY2hpbmEtc2F5cy11LXMtc2VuZHMtb3V0LXdib25nLXNpZ2Z5hbHMTdG8tdGFpd2FuLW9uLXBvdGVudGhhbC1kcm9uZS1zYWxlLWRlbnRwtaWRVU0tCTjI3SzBUWA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebEf4ea814b>

24

Al Jazeera

In a televised speech, the Iranian leader says the next U.S. president should respect international treaties and laws.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWxqYXplZXJhLmNvbS9uZXdzLzlwMjAvMTEvNC9hcy11cy1jb3VudHMtdm90ZXMtXJhbnMtcm91aGFuaS1zaWduYWxzLXRvdWdoLXRpbWVzLWFOZWZk/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE42be6fa7>

Rival factions in Libya agree on implementation of ceasefire deal

Al Jazeera

The UN says the two sides have agreed on a plan for implementing a ceasefire deal reached last month.

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<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWxqYXplZXJhLmNvbS9uZXdzLzlwMjAvMTEvNC9yaXZhbC1mYWNoaW9ucy1pbi1saWJ5YS1hZ3JlZS1vbi1pbXBsZW1lbnRhdGlvbi1yZi1jZWZzZWZpcmUtZGVhbA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebEc315588f>

Commentary & Analysis

Missionaries from a strange land: Veterans and the society that sends them

War On The Rocks

Do the people who fight America's wars ever think civilians truly understand and appreciate their experiences?

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93YXJvbnRoZXJvY2tzLmNvbS8yMDIwLzExL2Ipc3Npb25hcmllcy1mcm9tLWEtc3RyYW5nZS1sYW5kLXZldGVyYW5zLWZuZC10aGUtc29jaWV0eS10aGF0LXNlbnRzLXRoZW0v/57588364498edb7fd6702cebEa4aade84>

Great power competition comes home to America

Defense One

Our leaders' efforts to heal divisions among our fellow citizens are key to national defense.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW9uZS5jb20vaWRIYXNvMjAvMTEvNC8xMS9ncmVhdC1wb3dldi1jb21wZXRpZGlubi1jb21lcy1ob21lLWFTZXJpY2EvMTY5NzYwLW/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE9f8ab1a4>

Getting the fait accompli problem right in the US strategy

War On The Rocks

The threat of territorial conquest by fait accompli is one of the central problem statements in U.S. defense planning.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93YXJvbnRoZXJvY2tzLmNvbS8yMDIwLzExL2dldHRpbmctdGhlLWZhaXQtYWNjb21wbGktcHJvYmxlbS1yaWdodC1pbi1lLXNtc3RyYXRlZ3kv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE60842318>

Lessons from Admiral Elmo

Naval History Magazine

The Navy should revisit Admiral Elmo Zumwalt's priorities of strategic deterrence, sea control, and personnel policy reform—and heed his errors.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudXNuaS5vcmcvbwFnYXppbmVzL25hdmFsLW hpc3RvcnktbWFnYXppbmUvMjAyMC9kZWNIbWJlci9sZXNzb25zLWFKbWlyYWwtZWxtbz9mYmNsaWQ9SXdB UjFXM1VRd DFNZ2cxTDc3aDQycGUwNGk5TUJCczgzVWIEYVpKclRYb2JOWmRLeWtsbDFyc3dobEF5dw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebE ef451304>

WMD threat reduction programs suffer from neglect

National Defense

A nuclear attack, or any kind of nuclear detonation — whether an intentional military action, a terrorist attack, or an accident — could cause millions or tens of millions of deaths with far greater hospitalizations and economic impacts than the world is experiencing today.

Caution-

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## Job Board

Transitioning out of the military and looking for a job?

Military Times

We have listings from companies looking for vets.

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## Overseas Operations

'The Quad' kicks off Malabar 2020 exercise in Bay of Bengal

USNI News

The U.S., Indian, Japanese and Australian navies on Tuesday kicked off the Malabar 2020 naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, bringing the four nations together for the annual drill for the first time in over a decade.

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Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden

Stars & Stripes

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

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US military reports a handful of new coronavirus infections in Japan

Stars & Stripes

The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases as of 5 p.m. Monday: two close contacts and a returning traveler, according to Facebook posts.

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MC-130Js, F-15Es deploy to Denmark for Baltic exercise

Air Force Magazine

U.S. airmen and aircraft from two bases in England recently deployed to Aalborg, Denmark for a two-week, multilateral agile combat employment (ACE) exercise hosted by the Combined Special Operations Air Task Group.

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US, Latin American navies begin UNITAS LXI exercise near Ecuador

UPI

Naval forces from the United States and eight Latin American countries will conduct operations in the Pacific Ocean near Ecuador as part of the UNITAS LXI exercise that began this week.

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Pentagon

## Military.com

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**Military.com**

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## Connecting Vets

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## Congress & Politics

**Military Times**

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Deployed US military members express concerns over mail-in ballot count

Fox News

While a long-held tradition, mail-in voting for troops this year has come with some added anxiety.

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The military community reacts to the 2020 election

Military Times

As the 2020 election progresses toward its ultimate end, a nervous nation is bracing for what some have warned could be a contentious election as final results of this long-fought race are tabulated.

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Former White House doctor, Navy admiral Ronny Jackson wins house seat in Texas

Military.com

Dr. Ronny Jackson, a retired Navy flag officer who dropped out of the running to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs amid allegations of wrongdoing, has picked up a congressional seat representing Texas in the state's right-leaning 13th District.

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National Security

House Armed Services chairman foreshadows change to nuclear posture and modernization delay if Biden wins

Washington Examiner

America's nuclear modernization effort may be in for a delay or the elimination of the ground-based deterrent if Joe Biden wins the presidency, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith indicated in a recent discussion.

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American allies brace for chaotic end to US election

Washington Examiner

A chaotic U.S. election season could end with President Trump casting doubt on the legitimacy of the result, like-minded observers around the world fear.

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Trump's former national security adviser says reentering Iran deal would be 'huge mistake'

AI-Monitor

Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, who served as national security adviser from 2017 to 2018, assesses Trump's Middle East record, reflecting on his career in the region's battlegrounds.

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Army

Soldiers, Marines finish first test of ruggedized 'do-it-all' augmented reality goggle

Army Times

The Army has finished the first field test of its do-it-all goggle in the ruggedized military version that soldiers could see by next year.

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Army museums to give out excess artifacts, including weapons and historic uniforms

Army Times

The Army Museum Enterprise is getting rid of duplicate artifacts among its 580,000-item collection over the next five years, leaving opportunities for other museums, veterans organizations, national parks, and state and local governments to ultimately claim the excess inventory.

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Navy

Is this the best reenlistment location ever?

Navy Times

Where was your last reenlistment ceremony held, shipmate?

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Blue Angels to make final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet as they transition to Super Hornets

Navy Times

The Navy's Blue Angels will conduct their final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet Wednesday.

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Here's the latest on the next US supercarrier

Defense News

The U.S. Navy's next Ford-class supercarrier, the John F. Kennedy, will be delivered to the fleet with its full suite of advanced electronics and with the ability to support the carrier-launched F-35C, a change from a planned two-phase delivery devised in the original contract.

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How SEAL Team 6's mastery of a risky infiltration method sets it apart from other US special operators

Business Insider

Early on October 31, commandos from SEAL Team 6 rescued an American hostage who had been abducted in northern Nigeria.

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Two-carrier fire drill trains sailors to avoid problems found in early moments of Bonhomme Richard fire

USNI News

When USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) caught fire at the pier over the summer, sailors from across the waterfront rushed to the scene, some in damage control teams from their own ships and some showing up as individuals who wanted to help.

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Navy prepares for integration of MQ-25 tanker drones with E-2 Hawkeye squadrons

The Drive

The MQ-25s will be attached to E-2 squadrons during deployments and Hawkeye crews will cross-train to also fly the Stingrays.

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USFA cancels fall break, shortens semester amid pandemic

Air Force Magazine

U.S. Air Force Academy cadets will forgo Thanksgiving break and end the fall semester early as the school adjusts its academic calendar in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

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New schoolhouse for trainer jet maintainers opens in Texas

Air Force Magazine

Nineteenth Air Force has transformed Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Hangar 62 into an official hub for teaching the next generation of trainer aircraft maintainers.

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After KC-46, USAF looks ahead to 'bridge tanker'

Air Force Magazine

The Air Force is moving forward with its "bridge tanker" project—the air-refueling aircraft acquisition formerly known as "KC-Y"—in a "full and open competition" to replace the KC-135 Stratotanker fleet. It is a stepping stone to a more futuristic tanker, Air Mobility Command boss Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost said Oct. 27.

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Marine Corps

Will the Marines take on submarine-hunting?

Marine Corps Times

The Marine Corps wants in on the submarine-hunting game, according to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger, including the role of helping the Navy identify, track and even sink submarines.

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These are the Marines who died at Belleau Wood

## Marine Corps Times

The two Marines waited to join the attack until the third wave was launched, when they marched side-by-side into the German machine-gun fire.

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## Coast Guard

Coast Guard interdicts 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank

Seapower

The Coast Guard assisted Bahamian authorities in interdicting 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas, Oct. 28, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a Nov. 2 release.

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## Space Force

Moon patrols could be a future reality for Space Force

Space News

U.S. military space activities today are confined to Earth orbit. That could change in the coming years as NASA begins to establish a permanent presence at the moon.

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## National Guard

National Guard Election Day update: More than 4,700 troops active in 18 states

Military Times

At least 4,700 National Guard troops in 18 states have been activated as of Tuesday afternoon to support the Nov. 3 general election in several capacities. The missions range from assisting with cyber defense, working the polls, and standing-by in case of post-election civil unrest.

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## Veterans

These 2020 state ballot measures could offer new benefits to veterans

Military.com

Most voters heading to the polls Nov. 3 are thinking primarily about the top of their ballot and the fiercely contested presidential election. But in several states, voters will also be asked to consider a proposed constitutional amendment or public question affecting veterans and their families.

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Seven kayakers hit the sea for homeless vets in San Diego

San Diego Union-Tribune

To raise money for Veterans Village of San Diego, the volunteers paddled 54 miles to, and around, Catalina island.

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## Cyber, Space & Surveillance

Pentagon research office wants innovative tools to spot influence campaigns

C4ISRNET

A new broad agency announcement shows that the Pentagon's top research arm wants to work with industry to develop technology that can track adversarial influence operations across social media platforms.

Caution-

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AFRL's newest lab aims at building things in space

Breaking Defense

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## Defense Industry

Defense aerospace primes are raking in money for classified programs

Defense News

Two months after disclosing the existence of a next-generation fighter jet demonstrator, the U.S. Air Force is staying mum on which company may have built it. But one thing is for sure: Classified aviation programs are on the rise, and opportunities abound for the three major American defense aerospace primes — Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing.

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## International

Israeli politics, sub scandal cloud waters on US weapons buys

Breaking Defense

The fragile coalition that forms the Israeli cabinet is delaying the decisions on huge arms deals with American companies, mainly Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

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<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWxqYXplZXUJLmNvb5S9uZXdzLzlwMjAvMTEvNC9hcy11cy1jb3VudHMtdm90ZXMTaXJhbnMtcn91aGFuaS1zaWduYWxzLXRvdWdoLXRpbWVzLWFOZWFK/57588364498edb7fd6702cebF42be6fa7>

The UN says the two sides have agreed on a plan for implementing a ceasefire deal reached last month.

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Commentary & Analysis

Missionaries from a strange land: Veterans and the society that sends them

War On The Rocks

Do the people who fight America's wars ever think civilians truly understand and appreciate their experiences?

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Great power competition comes home to America

Defense One

Our leaders' efforts to heal divisions among our fellow citizens are key to national defense.

Caution-

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Getting the fait accompli problem right in the US strategy

War On The Rocks

The threat of territorial conquest by fait accompli is one of the central problem statements in U.S. defense planning.

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Lessons from Admiral Elmo

Naval History Magazine

The Navy should revisit Admiral Elmo Zumwalt's priorities of strategic deterrence, sea control, and personnel policy reform—and heed his errors.

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WMD threat reduction programs suffer from neglect

National Defense

A nuclear attack, or any kind of nuclear detonation — whether an intentional military action, a terrorist attack, or an accident — could cause millions or tens of millions of deaths with far greater hospitalizations and economic impacts than the world is experiencing today.

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## Job Board

Transitioning out of the military and looking for a job?

**Military Times**

We have listings from companies looking for vets.

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## Overseas Operations

**'The Quad' kicks off Malabar 2020 exercise in Bay of Bengal**

USNI News

The U.S., Indian, Japanese and Australian navies on Tuesday kicked off the Malabar 2020 naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, bringing the four nations together for the annual drill for the first time in over a decade.

Caution-

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**Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden**

Stars & Stripes

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBleCY5jb20vbmV3cy9hcm15L2RvemVucy1yZi1uZXctY29yb25hdmlydXMtY2FzZXMtcmVwb3J0ZWQtYXQtYXJteS1iYXNlWlulXdpZXNiYWRlbi0xLjY1MDkwMA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebG693d4fcf>

## U.S. military reports a handful of new coronavirus infections in Japan

## Stars & Stripes

The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases as of 5 p.m. Monday: two close contacts and a returning traveler, according to Facebook posts.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXB1cy5jb20vbWV3cy9wYWNPZmJmL3VzLW1pbG10YXJ5LXJlcG9ydHMtYS1oYW5kZnVsLW9mLW5ldy1jb3JvbmF2eXJ1cy1pbmZlY3Rpb25zLWluLWphcGFuLTEuNjUwODUw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebG722d4217>

## MC-130Js, F-15Es deploy to Denmark for Baltic exercise

## Air Force Magazine

U.S. airmen and aircraft from two bases in England recently deployed to Aalborg, Denmark for a two-week, multilateral agile combat employment (ACE) exercise hosted by the Combined Special Operations Air Task Group.

**Caution-**

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## U.S., Latin American navies begin UNITAS LXI exercise near Ecuador

UP1

Naval forces from the United States and eight Latin American countries will conduct operations in the Pacific Ocean near Ecuador as part of the UNITAS LXI exercise that began this week.

**Caution-**

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## Pentagon

## Audit of Pentagon diversity training canceled after Trump executive order

**Military.com**

The Department of Defense inspector general has canceled a planned audit of the department's diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity training following an executive order from President Donald Trump barring instruction within the federal government that includes topics such as systemic racism and implicit bias.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcncuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMC8xMS8wMy9hdWRpdC1vZi1wZW50YWdvbi1kaXZlcnpdHktbHJhaW5pbmctY2FuY2VsZWQtYWZ0ZXltbHJ1bXAtdXhY-3V0aXZlW9yZGVyLmh0bWwv57588364498edb7fd6702cebG788ea199>

**Military.com**

**Caution-**

The DoD broke its own record for new COVID-19 cases almost every day in October

The Department of Defense is soldiering on, so to speak, despite reporting a new record high number of COVID-19 cases almost every day in October.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9jb25uZWNoaW5ndmV0cy5yYWRpby5jb20vYXJ0aWVsZXMvZG9kLWNvbnpRpbmVlcyl0by10cmFpbi1hcy1jb3ZpZC0xOS1jYXNlcy1zcGlrZQ/57588364498edb7fd6702cebG2c3168a8>

## Track how veteran candidates fare on Election Night

Since the start of 2020, 182 veterans have won major party primaries in their efforts to gain a seat in Congress.

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Marine Corps

Will the Marines take on submarine-hunting?

Marine Corps Times

The Marine Corps wants in on the submarine-hunting game, according to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger, including the role of helping the Navy identify, track and even sink submarines.

Caution-

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These are the Marines who died at Belleau Wood

Marine Corps Times

The two Marines waited to join the attack until the third wave was launched, when they marched side-by-side into the German machine-gun fire.

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Coast Guard

## Seapower

**Caution-**

## Space Force.

## Space News

**Caution-**

## National Guard

## Military Times

**Caution-**

## Veterans

**Military.com**

**Caution-**

**San Diego Union-Tribune**

**Caution-**

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## Cyber, Space &amp; Surveillance

## Pentagon research office wants innovative tools to spot influence campaigns

**C4ISRNET**

**A new broad agency announcement shows that the Pentagon's top research arm wants to work with industry to develop technology that can track adversarial influence operations across social media platforms.**

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## AFRL's newest lab aims at building things in space

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## International

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North Korean captured by South Korean military; according to media report

## Stars & Stripes

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<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cucmV1dGVycy5jb20vYXJ0aWNsZS91cy11c2EtdGFpd2FuLWFFybXMvY2hpbmEtc2F5cy11LXMtc2VuZHMTb3V0LXdib25nLXNpZ25hbHMtdG8tdGFpd2FuLW9uLXBvdGVudGIhbcC1kcm9uZS1zYWxlLWRlYWwtaWRVU0tCTjI3ZSUWA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebGf4ea814b>

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<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWxqYXplZXJhLmNvbS9uZXdzLzlwMjAvMTEvNC9yaXZhbC1mYWNOaW9ucy1pbj1saWJ5YS1hZ3JlZS1vbi1pbXBsZW1lbnRhdGlvbi1vZi1jZWZzZWZpcmUtZGVhbA/S758836449edb7fd6702cebGc315588f>

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Do the people who fight America's wars ever think civilians truly understand and appreciate their experiences?

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**Our leaders' efforts to heal divisions among our fellow citizens are key to national defense.**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW9uZS5jb20vaWRIYXNvMjAyMC8xMS9ncmVhdC1wb3dici1jb21wZXRpdGlubi1jb211cy1ob21lWFtZlXpY2EvMTYSNzYwLWw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebG9f8ab1a4>

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A nuclear attack, or any kind of nuclear detonation — whether an intentional military action, a terrorist attack, or an accident — could cause millions or tens of millions of deaths with far greater hospitalizations and economic impacts than the world is experiencing today.

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## Job Board

Transitioning out of the military and looking for a job?

Military Times

We have listings from companies looking for vets.

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## Overseas Operations

'The Quad' kicks off Malabar 2020 exercise in Bay of Bengal

USNI News

The U.S., Indian, Japanese and Australian navies on Tuesday kicked off the Malabar 2020 naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, bringing the four nations together for the annual drill for the first time in over a decade.

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Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden

Stars & Stripes

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

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## Stars & Stripes

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## Air Force Magazine

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## UPI

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## Pentagon

## Military.com

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#### Army Times

The Army has finished the first field test of its do-it-all goggle in the ruggedized military version that soldiers could see by next year.

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#### Army museums to give out excess artifacts, including weapons and historic uniforms

#### Army Times

The Army Museum Enterprise is getting rid of duplicate artifacts among its 580,000-item collection over the next five years, leaving opportunities for other museums, veterans organizations, national parks, and state and local governments to ultimately claim the excess inventory.

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#### Navy

#### Is this the best reenlistment location ever?

#### Navy Times

Where was your last reenlistment ceremony held, shipmate?

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#### Blue Angels to make final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet as they transition to Super Hornets

#### Navy Times

The Navy's Blue Angels will conduct their final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet Wednesday.

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#### Here's the latest on the next US supercarrier

#### Defense News

The U.S. Navy's next Ford-class supercarrier, the John F. Kennedy, will be delivered to the fleet with its full suite of advanced electronics and with the ability to support the carrier-launched F-35C, a change from a planned two-phase delivery devised in the original contract.

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How SEAL Team 6's mastery of a risky infiltration method sets it apart from other US special operators

Business Insider

Early on October 31, commandos from SEAL Team 6 rescued an American hostage who had been abducted in northern Nigeria.

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Two-carrier fire drill trains sailors to avoid problems found in early moments of Bonhomme Richard fire

USNI News

When USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) caught fire at the pier over the summer, sailors from across the waterfront rushed to the scene, some in damage control teams from their own ships and some showing up as individuals who wanted to help.

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Navy prepares for integration of MQ-25 tanker drones with E-2 Hawkeye squadrons

The Drive

The MQ-25s will be attached to E-2 squadrons during deployments and Hawkeye crews will cross-train to also fly the Stingrays.

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Air Force

Air Force tests G-force suits for female pilots

Air Force Times

Women who fly fighter jets or other high-speed aircraft could have a better-fitting and safer G-force suit on the way, thanks to testing that took place last week at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

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Bushwhacker: Southwest desert training preps rescue airmen, soldiers for austere environments

Air Force Times

The 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in New Mexico this week has launched a training exercise to prepare rescue personnel to respond in deserts or other austere battlefields.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1lc5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFpci1mb3JjZS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2Jl1c2h3aGFja2VyLXNvdXRod2VzdC1kZXNlcnQtdHJhaW5pbmctcHJlcmMtcmlVzY3VILWFpcm1lbi1zb2xkaWVycy1mb3ltYXVzdGVyZ51lbnZpcml9ubWVudHMv57588364498edb7fd6702cebH3c4e949f>

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New schoolhouse for trainer jet maintainers opens in Texas

Air Force Magazine

Nineteenth Air Force has transformed Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Hangar 62 into an official hub for teaching the next generation of trainer aircraft maintainers.

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After KC-46, USAF looks ahead to 'bridge tanker'

Air Force Magazine

The Air Force is moving forward with its "bridge tanker" project—the air-refueling aircraft acquisition formerly known as "KC-Y"—in a "full and open competition" to replace the KC-135 Stratotanker fleet. It is a stepping stone to a more futuristic tanker, Air Mobility Command boss Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost said Oct. 27.

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Marine Corps

Will the Marines take on submarine-hunting?

Marine Corps Times

The Marine Corps wants in on the submarine-hunting game, according to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger, including the role of helping the Navy identify, track and even sink submarines.

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These are the Marines who died at Belleau Wood

Marine Corps Times

The two Marines waited to join the attack until the third wave was launched, when they marched side-by-side into the German machine-gun fire.

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Coast Guard

Coast Guard interdicts 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank

Seapower

The Coast Guard assisted Bahamian authorities in interdicting 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas, Oct. 28, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a Nov. 2 release.

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## Space Force

Moon patrols could be a future reality for Space Force

Space News

U.S. military space activities today are confined to Earth orbit. That could change in the coming years as NASA begins to establish a permanent presence at the moon.

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## National Guard

National Guard Election Day update: More than 4,700 troops active in 18 states

Military Times

At least 4,700 National Guard troops in 18 states have been activated as of Tuesday afternoon to support the Nov. 3 general election in several capacities. The missions range from assisting with cyber defense, working the polls, and standing-by in case of post-election civil unrest.

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## Veterans

These 2020 state ballot measures could offer new benefits to veterans

Military.com

Most voters heading to the polls Nov. 3 are thinking primarily about the top of their ballot and the fiercely contested presidential election. But in several states, voters will also be asked to consider a proposed constitutional amendment or public question affecting veterans and their families.

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Seven kayakers hit the sea for homeless vets in San Diego

San Diego Union-Tribune

To raise money for Veterans Village of San Diego, the volunteers paddled 54 miles to, and around, Catalina island.

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## Cyber, Space & Surveillance

Pentagon research office wants innovative tools to spot influence campaigns

C4ISRNET

A new broad agency announcement shows that the Pentagon's top research arm wants to work with industry to develop technology that can track adversarial influence operations across social media platforms.

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<https://link.defensenews.com/click/Z1991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9icmVha2luZ2RlZmVuc2UuY29tZlwlMjAvMTEvaXNyYWVsaS1wb2xpdGljcy1zdWltc2NhbmRhbc1jbG91ZC13YXRlcMtb24tdXMtd2VhcG9ucy1idXlzlWw/57588364498edb7fd6707cebH2de902c5>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXB8cy5jb20vbWV3cy9wYWNPZmJlL25vcnRoLWtvcnVhbi1jYXB0dXJlZC1ie51zb3V0aC1rb3JlYW4tbWlsaXRhcncktYWNjb3JkaW5nLXRvLW1lZGhlXJlcG9ydC0xLjY1MDk1MA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebHc6f6dd74>

China has sent more satellites into space this year than US and Russia, report says

South China Morning Post

China has launched more satellites into orbit this year than the United States and Russia, according to an American report, as Beijing steadily advances in aerospace amid growing rivalry with the US.

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China says US sends out wrong signals to Taiwan on potential drone sale deal

Reuters

China's foreign ministry said on Wednesday the United States has sent out wrong and grave signals to the so-called Taiwan military forces on the potential drone sale deal.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cucmV1dGVycy5jb20vYXJ0aWNsZS91cy11c2EtdGFpd2FuLWFiYXMvY2hpbmEtc2F5cy11LXMtc2VuZHMtb3V0LXdib2SnLXNpZ25hbHMtdG8tdGFpd2FuLW9uLXBvdGVudG91bC1kcm9uZS1zYWxlLWRJYWwtaWRVU0tCTjI3S2BUWA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebHf4ea814b>

As US counts votes, Iran's Rouhani signals tough times ahead

Al Jazeera

In a televised speech, the Iranian leader says the next U.S. president should respect international treaties and laws.

Caution-

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Rival factions in Libya agree on implementation of ceasefire deal

Al Jazeera

The UN says the two sides have agreed on a plan for implementing a ceasefire deal reached last month.

Caution-

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Commentary & Analysis

Missionaries from a strange land: Veterans and the society that sends them

War On The Rocks

Do the people who fight America's wars ever think civilians truly understand and appreciate their experiences?

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93YXJvbnRoZXJvY2tzLmNvbS8yMDIwLzExL21pc3Npb25hcmllcy1mcm9tLWEtc3RyYW5nZS1sYW5kLXZldGVyYW5zLWFiZC10aGUtc29jaWV0eS10aGF0LXNlbnRzLXR0ZW0v/57588364498edb7fd6702cebHa4aade84>

Great power competition comes home to America

Defense One

Our leaders' efforts to heal divisions among our fellow citizens are key to national defense.

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Getting the fait accompli problem right in the US strategy

War On The Rocks

The threat of territorial conquest by fait accompli is one of the central problem statements in U.S. defense planning.

Caution-

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Lessons from Admiral Elmo

Naval History Magazine

The Navy should revisit Admiral Elmo Zumwalt's priorities of strategic deterrence, sea control, and personnel policy reform—and heed his errors.

Caution-

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WMD threat reduction programs suffer from neglect

National Defense

A nuclear attack, or any kind of nuclear detonation — whether an intentional military action, a terrorist attack, or an accident — could cause millions or tens of millions of deaths with far greater hospitalizations and economic impacts than the world is experiencing today.

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## Job Board

Transitioning out of the military and looking for a job?

Military Times

We have listings from companies looking for vets.

Caution-

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## Overseas Operations

'The Quad' kicks off Malabar 2020 exercise in Bay of Bengal

USNI News

The U.S., Indian, Japanese and Australian navies on Tuesday kicked off the Malabar 2020 naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, bringing the four nations together for the annual drill for the first time in over a decade.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9uZXdzLnVzbnkub3JnLzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvdGhILXF1YWQta2lja3Mtb2ZmLW1hbGFIYXItMjAyMC1leGVyY2lzZ51pb1iYXktb2YtYmVuZ2Fs/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl93c91037>

Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden

Stars & Stripes

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBicy5jb20vbmV3cy9hcm15L2RvemVucy1vZi1uZXdY29yb25hdmlydXMtY2FzZXMtcmVwb3J0ZWQtYXQtYXJte51iYXNlLWluLXdpcXNiYWRlbi0xLjY1MDkwMA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl693d4fcf>

US military reports a handful of new coronavirus infections in Japan

Stars & Stripes

The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases as of 5 p.m. Monday: two close contacts and a returning traveler, according to Facebook posts.

Caution-

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MC-130Js, F-15Es deploy to Denmark for Baltic exercise

Air Force Magazine

U.S. airmen and aircraft from two bases in England recently deployed to Aalborg, Denmark for a two-week, multilateral agile combat employment (ACE) exercise hosted by the Combined Special Operations Air Task Group.

Caution-

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US, Latin American navies begin UNITAS LXI exercise near Ecuador

UPI

Naval forces from the United States and eight Latin American countries will conduct operations in the Pacific Ocean near Ecuador as part of the UNITAS LXI exercise that began this week.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudXBpLmNybS9EZWZlbnNlU5ld3MvMjAyMC8xM58wMy9VUy1MYXRpb1BbWVYaWNhbi1uYXZpZXMtYmVnaW4tVU5JVEFTLUXYS51leGVyY2lZS51uZWYtLUVjdWFKb3lvMjlxMTYwNDQzNjE2O58/57588364498edb7fd6702cebi97cacd9d>

Pentagon

Audit of Pentagon diversity training canceled after Trump executive order

Military.com

The Department of Defense inspector general has canceled a planned audit of the department's diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity training following an executive order from President Donald Trump barring instruction within the federal government that includes topics such as systemic racism and implicit bias.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnkuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMC8xMS8wMy9hdWRpdC1vZi1wZW50YWdvbi1kaXZlcnNpdHktZGJhaW5pbmctY2FuY2VsZWQyZWZ0ZXltdHJ1bXAiZXh1Y3V0aXZlLW9yZGVyLmhhb3Vw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebi788ea199>

In change, fitness gear OK'd for wear at military commissaries, exchanges

Military.com

It just got a lot easier for troops and families to hit the commissary or exchange after the gym or their child's soccer game.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnkuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMC8xMS8wMy9jaGFuZ2U2U2tZml0bmVzcy1nZWYtLW9rZC13ZWYtLW1pbGloYXJSLWNvbW1pc3Nhcmllcy1leGNvYW5nZXMuHRtbA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebi145f9e7c>

The DoD broke its own record for new COVID-19 cases almost every day in October

Connecting Vets

The Department of Defense is soldiering on, so to speak, despite reporting a new record high number of COVID-19 cases almost every day in October.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9jb25uZWNOaW5ndmV0cy5yYWRpby5jb20vYXJ0aW>



<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcncuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMC8xM58wMy9mb3JtZXltid2hpdGUtaG91c2UtZG9jdG9yLW5hdnktYWRTaXJhbC1yb25ueS1qYWNRc29uLXdpbmMtaG91c2Utc2VhdC10ZXhhcy5odG1s/57588364498edb7fd6702cebi97b3896f>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXJteXRpbWVzLmNvb59uZXdzL3lvdXItYXJteS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL3NvbGRpZXJzLW1hcmluZXMtZmluaXNoLWZpcnN0LXRlc3Qtb2YtcnVnZ2VkaXplZC1kby1pdC1hbGwtYXVnbWVudGVkLXJlYWxpdiHktZ29nZ2xlLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl89750301>

Army Times.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXJteXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXIteSByMDIwLzExLzAyL2FybXktbXVzZGVtcy13aWxsLWdpdmUtbnV0LWV4Y2Vzcy1hcncpZmFjdHMTaW5jbHVkaW5nLXdldiXBvbGtYW5kLWwhpc3RvcmljLXVuaWZycm1zLw/57588364498edb7fd6702ceblafdbd500>

**Navy**

**Is this the best reenlistment location ever?**

Navy Times

Where was your last reenlistment ceremony held, shipmate?

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF2eXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXItbmF2eS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2l2LXRoaXMtdGhlLWJlc3Qtcmlvbmhpc3RtZW50LWxvY2F0aW9uLWV2ZXlv/57588364498edb7fd6702ceb1393b30de>

**Blue Angels to make final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet as they transition to Super Hornets**

**Navy Times**

The Navy's Blue Angels will conduct their final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet Wednesday.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF2eXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXltbWls aXRhcnkvMjAyMC8xM58wMy9ibHVlLWFuZ2Vscy10by1tYWtlLWZpbmFsLWZsaWdodC1pci10aGUtbGVnYWNSLWZhLTE4 LWhvcn5ldC1hcy10aGV5LXRyYW5zaXRpb24tdG8tc3VwZXItaG9vbWV0cy8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebf9da4b94>

Here's the latest on the next US supercarrier

## Defense News

The U.S. Navy's next Ford-class supercarrier, the John F. Kennedy, will be delivered to the fleet with its full suite of advanced electronics and with the ability to support the carrier-launched F-35C, a change from a planned two-phase delivery devised in the original contract.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL25hdmFsLzlwMjA253ca71>

## How SEAL Team 6's mastery of a risky infiltration method sets it apart from other US special operators

Business Insider

Early on October 31, commandos from 5EAL Team 6 rescued an American hostage who had been abducted in northern Nigeria.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYnVzaW5lc3NpbmNpZGVyLmNvbS9zZWFlsLXRlYW0tNi1wYXJhY2h1dGUtc2tpbGx2LWRpc3RpbmN0LWFlb25nLXNwZWNPYWwtb3BlcmF0aW9ucy11bmI0cy0yMDIwLTExLzU5588364498edb7fd6702cebl88252b0d>

Two-carrier fire drill trains sailors to avoid problems found in early moments of Bonhomme Richard fire  
USNI News

When USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) caught fire at the pier over the summer, sailors from across the waterfront rushed to the scene, some in damage control teams from their own ships and some showing up as individuals who wanted to help.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9uZXdzLnVzbmkub3JnLzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvdHdvLWNhcnJpZXltZmlyZS1kcmlsbC10cmFpbmMtc2FpbG9ycy10by1hdm9pZC1wcm9ibGVtcy1mb3VuZC1pbi1lYXJseS1tb21lbnRzLW9mLWJvbmhvbW1lLXlpY2hhcmQtZmlyZQ/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl4532b503>

Navy prepares for integration of MQ-25 tanker drones with E-2 Hawkeye squadrons:

The Drive

The MQ-25s will be attached to E-2 squadrons during deployments and Hawkeye crews will cross-train to also fly the Stingrays.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGhZHIpdmUuY29tL3RoZS13YXlitem9uZS8zNzQwOC9uYXZSLXByZXhcmVzLWZvci1pbmRlZ3JhdGlvbi1vZi1tcS0yNS10YW5rZXltZHIvbmVzLXdpdGgtZS0yLWhhhd2tleWUt c3F1YWRYb25z/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl845b1f2f>

Air Force

Air Force tests G-force suits for female pilots

Air Force Times

Women who fly fighter jets or other high-speed aircraft could have a better-fitting and safer G-force suit on the way, thanks to testing that took place last week at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWVpY29uYXZSLXByZXhcmVzLWZvci1pbmRlZ3JhdGlvbi1vZi1tcS0yNS10YW5rZXltZHIvbmVzLXdpdGgtZS0yLWhhhd2tleWUt c3F1YWRYb25z/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl91c97962>

Bushwhacker: Southwest desert training preps rescue airmen, soldiers for austere environments

Air Force Times

The 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in New Mexico this week has launched a training exercise to prepare rescue personnel to respond in deserts or other austere battlefields.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWVpY29uYXZSLXByZXhcmVzLWZvci1pbmRlZ3JhdGlvbi1vZi1tcS0yNS10YW5rZXltZHIvbmVzLXdpdGgtZS0yLWhhhd2tleWUt c3F1YWRYb25z/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl3c4e949f>

We salute the airmen who marched aboard a C-17 while dressed as minions from 'Despicable Me'

Task & Purpose

I know nothing about minions, but I know a hilarious video when I see one, and boy did the airmen of the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron deliver one for us.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly90YXNrcmVycG9zZS5jb20vbWVudGF0b3J5LWZ1bi9haXItZm9yY2UtbWluaW9ucy1iYWWhyYWlu/57588364498edb7fd6702ceblf140dfed>

Yokota airman pronounced dead at urgent care center was military working dog handler

Stars & Stripes

The Air Force has identified an airman who died over the weekend at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo as a military working dog handler with the 374th Security Forces Squadron.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBicy5jb20vbWV3cy9wYWNPZmllL3lva290YS1haXItYW4tcHJvbW91bmNlZC1kZWFKLWF0LXVyZ2VudC1jYXJlLWNlbnRlci13YXMtbWlsaXRhcndkd29ya2luZy1kb2ctaGFuZGxlcioxLjY1MDg0OA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl875abf23>

Feds: West Virginia man supplied far-right Boogaloo Boys with fully automatic weapons converters, including to accused CA cop killer

San Jose Mercury News

For the second time in two weeks, federal authorities have publicly linked a suspected follower of the so-called Boogaloo movement to Steven Carrillo, the U.S. Air Force sergeant accused of assassinating two California law enforcement officers in separate incidents.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWVyc3VyeW5ld3MuY29tLzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvZmVkc3ZlZm91bmNlZC1kZWFKLWF0LXVyZ2VudC1jYXJlLWNlbnRlci13YXMtbWlsaXRhcndkd29ya2luZy1kb2ctaGFuZGxlcioxLjY1MDg0OA/57588364498edb7fd6702ceblc5600837>

USFA cancels fall break, shortens semester amid pandemic

Air Force Magazine

U.S. Air Force Academy cadets will forgo Thanksgiving break and end the fall semester early as the school adjusts its academic calendar in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2VtYWcuY29tL3VzYWZhLWNhbmNlbnRlbnRlci13YXMtbWlsaXRhcndkd29ya2luZy1kb2ctaGFuZGxlcioxLjY1MDg0OA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl9fcfaef4>

New schoolhouse for trainer jet maintainers opens in Texas

Air Force Magazine

Nineteenth Air Force has transformed Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Hangar 62 into an official hub for teaching the next generation of trainer aircraft maintainers.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2VtYWcuY29tL25ldy1zY2hvb2xob3VzZS1mb3ItZm9yY2UtbWluaW9ucy1iYWWhyYWlu/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl7cb3ce3f>

After KC-46, USAF looks ahead to 'bridge tanker'

## Air Force Magazine

The Air Force is moving forward with its "bridge tanker" project—the air-refueling aircraft acquisition formerly known as "KC-Y"—in a "full and open competition" to replace the KC-135 Stratotanker fleet. It is a stepping stone to a more futuristic tanker, Air Mobility Command boss Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost said Oct. 27.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2VtYWcuY29tL2FmdGVyLWtjLTQ2LXVzYWYtbG9va3MtYWwhYWQtdG8tYnJpZGdlLXRhbmtlci8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl4dea24b3>

## Marine Corps

Will the Marines take on submarine-hunting?

Marine Corps Times

The Marine Corps wants in on the submarine-hunting game, according to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger, including the role of helping the Navy identify, track and even sink submarines.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcY5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDIwLzExLzAzL3dpbGwtdGhlLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy10YWtlLW9uLXN1Ym1hcmluZS1odW50aW5nLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl9c802dd6>

These are the Marines who died at Belleau Wood

Marine Corps Times

The two Marines waited to join the attack until the third wave was launched, when they marched side-by-side into the German machine-gun fire.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcY5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDIwLzExLzAzL3RoZXNlLWFyZS10aGUtbWFyaW5lcy13aG8tZGllZC1hdC1iZWxsZWFlLXdyb2Qv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl56321ce1>

## Coast Guard

Coast Guard interdicts 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank

Seapower

The Coast Guard assisted Bahamian authorities in interdicting 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas, Oct. 28, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a Nov. 2 release.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9zcGFjZW5ld3MuY29tL21vb24tcGF0cm9scy1jb3VsZC1lZS1hLWZ1dHVyZS1yZWZsaXR5LWZvcj10aGUtdS1zLW1pbGloYXJ5Lw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebla87e206f>

## Space Force

Moon patrols could be a future reality for Space Force

Space News

U.S. military space activities today are confined to Earth orbit. That could change in the coming years as NASA begins to establish a permanent presence at the moon.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9zcGFjZW5ld3MuY29tL21vb24tcGF0cm9scy1jb3VsZC1lZS1hLWZ1dHVyZS1yZWZsaXR5LWZvcj10aGUtdS1zLW1pbGloYXJ5Lw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl6e7bfadc>

## National Guard

National Guard Election Day update: More than 4,700 troops active in 18 states

Military Times

At least 4,700 National Guard troops in 18 states have been activated as of Tuesday afternoon to support the Nov. 3 general election in several capacities. The missions range from assisting with cyber defense, working the polls, and standing-by in case of post-election civil unrest.

Caution-

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Veterans

These 2020 state ballot measures could offer new benefits to veterans

Military.com

Most voters heading to the polls Nov. 3 are thinking primarily about the top of their ballot and the fiercely contested presidential election. But in several states, voters will also be asked to consider a proposed constitutional amendment or public question affecting veterans and their families.

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Seven kayakers hit the sea for homeless vets in San Diego

San Diego Union-Tribune

To raise money for Veterans Village of San Diego, the volunteers paddled 54 miles to, and around, Catalina island.

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Cyber, Space & Surveillance

Pentagon research office wants innovative tools to spot influence campaigns

C4ISRNET

A new broad agency announcement shows that the Pentagon's top research arm wants to work with industry to develop technology that can track adversarial influence operations across social media platforms.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYzRpc3JuZXQuY29tL2FydGhmaWNpYWwtaW50ZWxsaWdlbmNILzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvbmVudGFnb24tcmVzZWZyY2gtb2ZmaWNILXdhbnRzLWlubm92YXRpdmdUtdG9vbHMtdG8tc3BvdC1pbmZsdWVuY2UtY2FtcGFpZ2Z5Lw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl7be6b79f>

AFRL's newest lab aims at building things in space

Breaking Defense

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) today opened the doors on its new lab for testing innovative materials and designs for spacecraft — technologies to underpin assembly and manufacture of satellites and subsystems on-orbit.

Caution-

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bHMTbmV3ZXN0LWxhYi1haW1zLWF0LWJ1aWxkaW5nLXRoaW5ncy1pbi1zcGFjZS8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl9a09f65f

## Defense Industry

Defense aerospace primes are raking in money for classified programs

### Defense News

Two months after disclosing the existence of a next-generation fighter jet demonstrator, the U.S. Air Force is staying mum on which company may have built it. But one thing is for sure: Classified aviation programs are on the rise, and opportunities abound for the three major American defense aerospace primes — Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing.

### Caution-

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## International

Israeli politics, sub scandal cloud waters on US weapons buys

### Breaking Defense

The fragile coalition that forms the Israeli cabinet is delaying the decisions on huge arms deals with American companies, mainly Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

### Caution-

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North Korean captured by South Korean military, according to media report

### Stars & Stripes

South Korea's military captured a North Korean who crossed the border Wednesday, according to the Yonhap news agency in the south.

### Caution-

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China has sent more satellites into space this year than US and Russia, report says

### South China Morning Post

China has launched more satellites into orbit this year than the United States and Russia, according to an American report, as Beijing steadily advances in aerospace amid growing rivalry with the US.

### Caution-

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China says US sends out wrong signals to Taiwan on potential drone sale deal

Reuters

China's foreign ministry said on Wednesday the United States has sent out wrong and grave signals to the so-called Taiwan military forces on the potential drone sale deal.

Caution-

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As US counts votes, Iran's Rouhani signals tough times ahead

Al Jazeera

In a televised speech, the Iranian leader says the next U.S. president should respect international treaties and laws.

Caution-

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Rival factions in Libya agree on implementation of ceasefire deal

Al Jazeera

The UN says the two sides have agreed on a plan for implementing a ceasefire deal reached last month.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWxqYXplZXJhLmNvbS9uZXdzLzlwMjAvMTEvNC9yaXZhbC1mYWNOaW9ucy1pbi1saWJ5YS1hZ3JlZS1vbi1pbXBsZW1lbnRhZGlubi1vZi1jZWZzZWZpcmUtZGVhbnA/57588364498edb7fd6702ceblc315588f>

Commentary & Analysis

Missionaries from a strange land: Veterans and the society that sends them

War On The Rocks

Do the people who fight America's wars ever think civilians truly understand and appreciate their experiences?

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<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93YXJvbnRoZXJvY2tzLmNvbS8yMDIwLzExL21pc3Npb25hcmllcy1mcm9tLWETc3RyYW5nZS1sYW5kLXZldGVyYW5zLWZuZC10aGUtc29jaWV0eS10aGF0LXNlbnRzLXRoZW0v/57588364498edb7fd6702cebla4aade84>

Great power competition comes home to America

Defense One

Our leaders' efforts to heal divisions among our fellow citizens are key to national defense.

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Getting the fait accompli problem right in the US strategy

War On The Rocks

The threat of territorial conquest by fait accompli is one of the central problem statements in U.S. defense planning.

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Lessons from Admiral Elmo

Naval History Magazine

The Navy should revisit Admiral Elmo Zumwalt's priorities of strategic deterrence, sea control, and personnel policy reform—and heed his errors.

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WMD threat reduction programs suffer from neglect

National Defense

A nuclear attack, or any kind of nuclear detonation — whether an intentional military action, a terrorist attack, or an accident — could cause millions or tens of millions of deaths with far greater hospitalizations and economic impacts than the world is experiencing today.

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Job Board

Transitioning out of the military and looking for a job?

Military Times

We have listings from companies looking for vets.

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Overseas Operations

'The Quad' kicks off Malabar 2020 exercise in Bay of Bengal

USNI News

The U.S., Indian, Japanese and Australian navies on Tuesday kicked off the Malabar 2020 naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, bringing the four nations together for the annual drill for the first time in over a decade.

Caution-

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Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden

Stars & Stripes

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

Caution-

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US military reports a handful of new coronavirus infections in Japan

Stars & Stripes

The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases as of 5 p.m. Monday: two close contacts and a returning traveler, according to Facebook posts.

Caution-

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MC-130Js, F-15Es deploy to Denmark for Baltic exercise

Air Force Magazine

U.S. airmen and aircraft from two bases in England recently deployed to Aalborg, Denmark for a two-week, multilateral agile combat employment (ACE) exercise hosted by the Combined Special Operations Air Task Group.

Caution-

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US, Latin American navies begin UNITAS LXI exercise near Ecuador

Naval forces from the United States and eight Latin American countries will conduct operations in the Pacific Ocean near Ecuador as part of the UNITAS LXI exercise that began this week.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudXBpLmNvbS9EZWZlbnNlLU5ld3MvMjAyMC8xMS8wMy9VUy1MYXRpbi1BbWVyaWNhbi1uYXZpZXMtYmVnaW4tVU5JVEFTLUxYSS1leGVyY2lzZS1uZW50LWVjZWFkb3IvMjIxMTYwNDQzNjE2OS8/57588364498edb7fd6702ceb97cadc9d>

**Audit of Pentagon diversity training canceled after Trump executive order**  
Military.com

The Department of Defense inspector general has canceled a planned audit of the department's diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity training following an executive order from President Donald Trump barring instruction within the federal government that includes topics such as systemic racism and implicit bias.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcncuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMC8xMS8wMjY5dWRpdC1vZi1wZW50YWdwbj1kaXZlcnNpdHktHJhaW5pbmctY2FuY2VsZWQtYWZ0ZXItZG90aXZlW9yZGVyLmh0bWwv57588364498edb7fd6702ceb1788ea199>

In change, fitness gear OK'd for wear at military commissaries, exchanges  
Military.com

It just got a lot easier for troops and families to hit the commissary or exchange after the gym or their child's soccer game.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcncuY29tL2RhaWxSLW5ld3MvMjAyMC8xMS8wMy9jaGFuZ2UtZml0bmVzcy1nZWFiYW9rZC13ZWFiLW1pbGloYXJlLnVnbW1pc3Nhcnllcy1leGNoYW5nZXMuuaHRtbA/57588364498edb7fd6702ceb145f9e7c>

The DoD broke its own record for new COVID-19 cases almost every day in October  
Connecting Vets

The Department of Defense is soldiering on, so to speak, despite reporting a new record high number of COVID-19 cases almost every day in October.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9jb25uZWNOaW5ndmV0cy5yYWRpbY5jb20vYXJ0aWwNsZXMyZG9kLWNvbnRpbmVlcy10by10cmFpb1hcy1jb3ZpZC0xOS1jYXNlcy1zcGlrczQ/57588364498edb7fd6702ceb12c3168a8>

## Track how veteran candidates fare on Election Night

### Military Times

Since the start of 2020, 182 veterans have won major party primaries in their efforts to gain a seat in Congress.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnI0aW1lcY5jb20vbmV3cy9wZW50YWdwb1Ib25ncmVzcy8yMDIwLzExLzAzL3RyYWNRlWWhdy12ZXRIcmFuLWNhbmRpZGF0ZXMtZmFyZS1vbi1lbGVjdGlvb1uYWdodC8/57588364498edb7fd6702ceb13cdf95db>



Marine Corps

Will the Marines take on submarine-hunting?

Marine Corps Times

The Marine Corps wants in on the submarine-hunting game, according to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger, including the role of helping the Navy identify, track and even sink submarines.

Caution-

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These are the Marines who died at Belleau Wood

Marine Corps Times

The two Marines waited to join the attack until the third wave was launched, when they marched side-by-side into the German machine-gun fire.

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Coast Guard

Coast Guard interdicts 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank

Seapower

The Coast Guard assisted Bahamian authorities in interdicting 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas, Oct. 28, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a Nov. 2 release.

Caution-

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Space Force

Moon patrols could be a future reality for Space Force

Space News

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National Guard

National Guard Election Day update: More than 4,700 troops active in 18 states

Military Times

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Veterans

These 2020 state ballot measures could offer new benefits to veterans  
Military.com

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Seven kayakers hit the sea for homeless vets in San Diego

San Diego Union-Tribune

To raise money for Veterans Village of San Diego, the volunteers paddled 54 miles to, and around, Catalina island.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2FuZGlZ291bmIvbnRyaWJ1bmUuY29tL3ZldGVyYW5zL3N0b3J5LzlwMjAtMTEtMDIvc2V2ZW4ta2F5YWtlcnMtaGl0LXR0ZS1zZWVtZm9yLWVhbnVWVsZXNzLXZldHMtaW4tc2FuLWRpZWdv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebJ474a0b46>

Cyber, Space & Surveillance

Pentagon research office wants innovative tools to spot influence campaigns

C4ISRNET

A new broad agency announcement shows that the Pentagon's top research arm wants to work with industry to develop technology that can track adversarial influence operations across social media platforms.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYzRpc3JuZXQuY29tL2FydGlmaWNpYWwtaW50ZWxsaWdlbmNlZlwmMjAvMTEtMDIvcGVudGFnb24tcmlvZmVzZWZyY2gtb2ZmaWNlXdhbnRzLWlubm92YXRpdmlUtdG9vbHMtdG8tc3BvdC1pbmZsdWVvY2UuY2FtcGFpZ25zLW/57588364498edb7fd6702cebJ7be6b79f>

AFRL's newest lab aims at building things in space

Breaking Defense

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) today opened the doors on its new lab for testing innovative materials and designs for spacecraft — technologies to underpin assembly and manufacture of satellites and subsystems on-orbit.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9icmVha2luZ2RlZmVuc2UuY29tLzlwMjAvMTEtMDIvcGVudGFnb24tcmlvZmVzZWZyY2gtb2ZmaWNlXdhbnRzLWlubm92YXRpdmlUtdG9vbHMtdG8tc3BvdC1pbmZsdWVvY2UuY2FtcGFpZ25zLW/57588364498edb7fd6702cebJ9a09f65f>

Defense Industry

Defense aerospace primes are raking in money for classified programs

Defense News

Two months after disclosing the existence of a next-generation fighter jet demonstrator, the U.S. Air Force is staying mum on which company may have built it. But one thing is for sure: Classified aviation programs are on the rise, and opportunities abound for the three major American defense aerospace primes — Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL2luZHVzdHJ5LzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvZGVmZW5zZS1hZjIvc3BhY2UtcHJpZWVzLWFyZS1yYWtpbmctaW4tbW9uZXktZm9yLWNsYXNzaWZpZWQtchJyZ3JhbXMv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebJ4866d23c>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9icmVha2luZ2RlZmVuc2UuY29tLzlwMjAvMTEvaXNyYVVsSa1wb2xpdGlicy1zdWltc2NhbmRhbc1jbG91ZC13YXRlcjcnMtb24tdXMtd2VhcG9ucy1idXlzlW/57588364498edb7fd6702ceb12de902c5>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBicy5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNPZmJlL25vcnR0LWtvcmljYXh0dXJlZC1ieS1zb3V0aC1rb3JlYW4tbWlsaXRhcmtkYWNjb3JkaW5nLXRvLW1lZGhlXJlcG9ydC0xLjY1MDk1MA/57588364498edb7fd6702ceblc6f6dd74>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2NtcC5jb20vbmV3cy9jaGluYS9kaXBsb21hY3kvYXJ0aWNsZS58zMTA4MzA2L2NoaWShLWWhcy1zZW50LW1vcmlUc2F0ZWxsaXRlcylzcGJfZS15ZWYlXVZLWFuZC1ydXNzaWEtcmlVwb3J0/57588364498edb7fd6702ceb15c5fdca6>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cucmVldGVycySjb20vYXJ0aWNsZS91cy11c2EtdGFpd2FuLWFWybXMvY2hpbmEtc2F5cy11LlXMtc2VuZHMtb3V0LXdib2SnLXNpZ2ShbHMTdG8tdGFpd2FuLW9uLXBvdGVudGlbC1kcm9uZS1zYWxlLWRlYWwtaWRVU0tCTlJ3SzBUWA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebdf4ea814b>

83

Al Jazeera

In a televised speech, the Iranian leader says the next U.S. president should respect international treaties and laws.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWxqYXplZXJhLmNvbS9uZXdzLzlwMjAvMTEvNC9hcy11cy1jb3VudHMtdm90ZXMTaXJhbnMtc91aGFuaS1zaWduYWxzLXRvdWdoLXRpbWVzLWFOZWZk/57588364498edb7fd6702cebJ42be6fa7>

Rival factions in Libya agree on implementation of ceasefire deal

Al Jazeera

The UN says the two sides have agreed on a plan for implementing a ceasefire deal reached last month.

Caution-

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Commentary & Analysis

Missionaries from a strange land: Veterans and the society that sends them

War On The Rocks

Do the people who fight America's wars ever think civilians truly understand and appreciate their experiences?

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93YXJvbnRoZXJvY2tzLmNvbS8yMDIwLzExL21pc3Npb25hcmllcy1mcm9tLWEtc3RyYW5nZS1sYW5kLXZldGVyYW5zLWZuZC10aGUtc29jaWV0eS10aGF0LXNlbnRzLXR0ZW0v/57588364498edb7fd6702cebJ4aade84>

Great power competition comes home to America

Defense One

Our leaders' efforts to heal divisions among our fellow citizens are key to national defense.

Caution-

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Getting the fait accompli problem right in the US strategy

War On The Rocks

The threat of territorial conquest by fait accompli is one of the central problem statements in U.S. defense planning.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93YXJvbnRoZXJvY2tzLmNvbS8yMDIwLzExL2dldHRpbmctdGhlLWZhaXQtYW9uZS1vbi11LXMTc3RyYXRIZ3kv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebJ60842318>

Lessons from Admiral Elmo

Naval History Magazine



The U.S., Indian, Japanese and Australian navies on Tuesday kicked off the Malabar 2020 naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, bringing the four nations together for the annual drill for the first time in over a decade.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9uZXdzLnVzbnkub3JnLzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvdGhlLXF1YWQta2lja3Mtb2ZmLW1hbGFIYXItMjAyMC1leGVyY2lzZS1pbj1iYXktb2YtYmVuZ2Fs/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK93c91037>

Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden

Stars & Stripes

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBicy5jb20vbmV3cy9hcm15L2RvemVucy1vZi1uZXctY29yb25hdmlydXMtY2FzZXMtcmVwb3J0ZWQtYXQtYXJteS1iYXNlLWluLXdpZXNiYWRIbi0xLjY1MDkwMA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK693d4fef>

US military reports a handful of new coronavirus infections in Japan

Stars & Stripes

The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases as of 5 p.m. Monday: two close contacts and a returning traveler, according to Facebook posts.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBicy5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNPZmJlL3VzLW1pbG10YXJ5LXJlcG9ydHMtYS1oYW5kZnVsLW9mLW5ldy1jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy1pbmZiY3Rpb25zLWluLWphcGFuLFEuNjUwODUw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK722d4217>

MC-130Js, F-15Es deploy to Denmark for Baltic exercise

Air Force Magazine

U.S. airmen and aircraft from two bases in England recently deployed to Aalborg, Denmark for a two-week, multilateral agile combat employment (ACE) exercise hosted by the Combined Special Operations Air Task Group.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2VtYWcuY29tL21jLFEzMGpzLWYtMTVlcY1kZXBs3ktdG8tZGVubWFyay1mb3ItYmFsdGllLWV4ZXJjaXNlLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebKeb5a7e2e>

US, Latin American navies begin UNITAS LXI exercise near Ecuador

UPI

Naval forces from the United States and eight Latin American countries will conduct operations in the Pacific Ocean near Ecuador as part of the UNITAS LXI exercise that began this week.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudXBpLmNvbS9EZWZlbnNILU5ld3MvMjAyMC8xMS8wMy9VUy1MYXRpbj1BbWVyaWNhbi1uYXZpZXMtYmVnaW4tVU5JVEFTLUxYSS1leGVyY2lzZS1uZWZyLUVjdWFKb3lvMjIxMTYwNDQzNjE2OS8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK97cacd9d>

Pentagon

Military.com

**Caution-**

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Military.com

It just got a lot easier for troops and families to hit the commissary or exchange after the gym or their child's soccer game.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnkuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMC8xMS8wMy9jaGFuZ2U2ZmlobmVzcy1nZWZyLW9rZC13ZWZyLW1pbGl0YXJ5LWNvbW1pc3Nhcmllcy1leGN0YW5nZXMuahRtbA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK145f9e7c>

## Connecting Vets

The Department of Defense is soldiering on, so to speak, despite reporting a new record high number of COVID-19 cases almost every day in October.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9jb25uZWNOaW5ndmV0cy5yYWRpby5jb20vYXJ0aWVsZG9kLWNvbnpbnVlcj10by10cmFpbj1hcj1jb3ZpZC0xO51jYXNlcy1zcGlrczQ/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK2c3168a8>

## Congress & Politics

## Military Times

Since the start of 2020, 182 veterans have won major party primaries in their efforts to gain a seat in Congress.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnI0aW11cy5jb20vbmV3cy9wZW50YWdwb1j25ncmVzcy8yMDIwLzExLzAzL3RyYWNRlWhvdvy12ZXRLcmFuLWNhbmRpZGF0ZXMtZmFyZS11bGVjdGlvb1u1aWdodC8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK3cdf95db>

## Advertisement

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Deployed US military members express concerns over mail-in ballot count

Fox News

While a long-held tradition, mail-in voting for troops this year has come with some added anxiety.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZm94bmV3cy5jb20vcG9saXRpY3MvZGVwbG95ZWQtd51zLW1pbGl0YXU5LW1lbWJlcnMtZXhwcmVzcy1jb25jZXJucy1vdmVyLXZvdGVyLWNvdW50/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK5eed3c3>

The military community reacts to the 2020 election

Military Times

As the 2020 election progresses toward its ultimate end, a nervous nation is bracing for what some have warned could be a contentious election as final results of this long-fought race are tabulated.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vb2ZmLWR1dHkvbWlsaXRhcnktY3VsZHVyZS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL3RoZS1taWxpdGFyeS1jb21tdW5pdHktcmVhY3RzLXRvLXR0ZS0yMDIwLWVsZW50aW9uLW57588364498edb7fd6702cebK0402e325>

Former White House doctor, Navy admiral Ronny Jackson wins house seat in Texas

Military.com

Dr. Ronny Jackson, a retired Navy flag officer who dropped out of the running to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs amid allegations of wrongdoing, has picked up a congressional seat representing Texas in the state's right-leaning 13th District.

Caution-

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National Security

House Armed Services chairman foreshadows change to nuclear posture and modernization delay if Biden wins

Washington Examiner

America's nuclear modernization effort may be in for a delay or the elimination of the ground-based deterrent if Joe Biden wins the presidency, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith indicated in a recent discussion.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2FzaGluZ3RvbmV4YW1pbmVyLmNvbS9wb2xpY3kvZGVmZW5zZS1uYXRpb25hbC1zZW51cm90eS9ob3VzZS1hcm1lZC1zZXJ2aWNlcy1jaGFpcmlhbi1mb3Jlc2hhZG93cy1jaGFuZ2UtdG8tbnVjbGVhcnlwb3N0dXJlWFuZC1tb2Rlcm5pemF0aW9uLWRIbGF5LWlmlWJpZGVuLXdpcnMt/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK707e3192>

American allies brace for chaotic end to US election

Washington Examiner

A chaotic U.S. election season could end with President Trump casting doubt on the legitimacy of the result, like-minded observers around the world fear.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2FzaGluZ3RvbmV4YW1pbmVyLmNvbS9wb2xpY3kvZGVmZW5zZS1uYXRpb25hbC1zZW50eS9hbnVyaWNhbi1hbGxpZXMtYnJhY2UtZm9yLWNoYW90aWMTZW5kLXRvLXVzLWVsZW50aW9u/57588364498edb7fd6702cebKab6f8256>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWwtbW9uaXRvcj5jb20vcHVsc2Uvb3JpZ2luYWxzLzlwMjAvMTEvdHJ1bXAtdXMtcG9saWN5LW1jbWZdGvYlWlwyYW4tbnVjbGVhci1kZWZsLWpjcG9hLXNhZWRpLmh0bWw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK42309114>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXJteXRpbWVzLmNvbS59uZXdzL3lvdXIteS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL3NvbGRpZXJzLW1hcmluZXMtZmluaXNoLWZpcnN0LXRlc3QtY2YtcnVnZ2VkaXplZC1kby1pdC1hbGwtYXVnbWVudGVkLXIyWwpxdHktZ29nZ2xlLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK89750301>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXJteXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXIteXJteS5yMDIwLzExLzAyL2FybXktbXVzZXVtcy13aWxsLWdpdmUtb3V0LVV4Y2Vzcy1hcncRZmFjdHMTaW5jbHVkaW5nLXdldiXBvbGtMtyYW5kLWhpc3RvcmljLXVuaWZvcmlzLW/57588364498edb7fd6702cebKafdbd500>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF2eXRpbWVzLmNvb59uZXdzL3ldXltbmF2eS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2l2LXRoaXMtdGhlLWJlc3Qtcmlvbmtpc3RtZW50LWxvY2F0aW9uLWVWZ2xi/v57588364498edb7fd6702cebK393b30de>

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**The Navy's Blue Angels will conduct their final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet Wednesday.**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF2eXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXItbWls>  
aXRhcncvMjAyMC8xMS5wMy9ibHVILWFuZ2Vscy10by1tYWtlLWZpbmFsLWZsaWdodC1pci10aGUtbGVnYWN5SLWZhLTE4  
LWhycm5ldC1hcy10aGV5LXRyYV5zaXRpb24tdG8tc3VwZXItaG9ybmlV0cy8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebKf9da4b94

## Defense News

The U.S. Navy's next Ford-class supercarrier, the John F. Kennedy, will be delivered to the fleet with its full suite of advanced electronics and with the ability to support the carrier-launched F-35C, a change from a planned two-phase delivery devised in the original contract.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL25hdmFsLzlwMjA.vMTEvMDMvaGVyZXMtdGhlLWxhdGVzdC1vZi10aGUtbnV4dC11cy1zdXB1cmNhcnpZXIv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK4253ca71>

## Business Insider

Early on October 31, commandos from SEAL Team 6 rescued an American hostage who had been abducted in northern Nigeria.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYnVzaW5lc3NpbmNpZGVyLmNvbS9zZWFsLXRlYW0tNi1wYXJhY2h1dGUtc2tpbGxzLWRpc3RpbmN0LWFlb25nLXNwZWNPYWwtb3BlcmF0aW9ucy11bml0cy0yMDIwLTExL257588364498edb7fd6702cebK88252b0d>

## USNI News

When USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) caught fire at the pier over the summer, sailors from across the waterfront rushed to the scene, some in damage control teams from their own ships and some showing up as individuals who wanted to help.

[illegible]

## The Drive

The MQ-25s will be attached to E-2 squadrons during deployments and Hawkeye crews will cross-train to also fly the Stingrays.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGhIZHJpdmUuY29tL3RoZS13YXltem9uZS8zNzQwOC9uYXZSLXB5ZXBhcmVzLWZvci1pbmRlZ3JhdGlvbi1vZi1tcS0yNS10YW5rZXItZHVjbWVzLXdpdGgtZS0yLWhhd2tleWUt c3F1YWRYb25z/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK845b1f2f>

## Air Force

### Air Force tests G-force suits for female pilots

Air Force Times

Women who fly fighter jets or other high-speed aircraft could have a better-fitting and safer G-force suit on the way, thanks to testing that took place last week at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFpci1mb3JjZS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2Fpci1mb3JjZS10ZXN0cy1nLWZvcmlXN1aXRzLWZvcj1mZW1hbGUtcGlsb3RzLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK91c97962>

### Bushwhacker: Southwest desert training preps rescue airmen, soldiers for austere environments

Air Force Times

The 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in New Mexico this week has launched a training exercise to prepare rescue personnel to respond in deserts or other austere battlefields.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFpci1mb3JjZS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2Fpci1mb3JjZS10ZXN0cy1nLWZvcmlXN1aXRzLWZvcj1mZW1hbGUtcGlsb3RzLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK3c4e949f>

### We salute the airmen who marched aboard a C-17 while dressed as minions from 'Despicable Me'

Task & Purpose

I know nothing about minions, but I know a hilarious video when I see one, and boy did the airmen of the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron deliver one for us.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly90YXNrYW5kcHVycG9zZS5jb20vbWV3cy95b3VyLWFpci1mb3JjZS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2Fpci1mb3JjZS10ZXN0cy1nLWZvcmlXN1aXRzLWZvcj1mZW1hbGUtcGlsb3RzLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebKf140dfed>

### Yokota airman pronounced dead at urgent care center was military working dog handler

Stars & Stripes

The Air Force has identified an airman who died over the weekend at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo as a military working dog handler with the 374th Security Forces Squadron.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXN0YXNrYW5kcHVycG9zZS5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFpci1mb3JjZS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2Fpci1mb3JjZS10ZXN0cy1nLWZvcmlXN1aXRzLWZvcj1mZW1hbGUtcGlsb3RzLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK875abf23>

### Feds: West Virginia man supplied far-right Boogaloo Boys with fully automatic weapons converters, including to accused CA cop killer

San Jose Mercury News

For the second time in two weeks, federal authorities have publicly linked a suspected follower of the so-called Boogaloo movement to Steven Carrillo, the U.S. Air Force sergeant accused of assassinating two California law enforcement officers in separate incidents.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWVvYyY3VveW5ld3MuY29tLzIwMjAvMTExMDMvZmVkcy13ZXN0LXZpcmdpbmlhLW1hb1zdXBwbGlZC1mYXItcmllnaHQYm9vZ2Fsb28tYm95cy13aXRoLWZ1bGx5LWF1dG9tYXRpYy13ZWfwb25zLWNvb3RlcnRlc3QtaW5jbHVkaW5nLXRvLWFJY3VzZWQtY2EtY29wLWtpbGxici8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebKc5600837>

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## Marine Corps Times

The two Marines waited to join the attack until the third wave was launched, when they marched side-by-side into the German machine-gun fire.

Caution-

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## Coast Guard

Coast Guard interdicts 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank

Seapower

The Coast Guard assisted Bahamian authorities in interdicting 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas, Oct. 28, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a Nov. 2 release.

Caution-

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## Space Force

Moon patrols could be a future reality for Space Force

Space News

U.S. military space activities today are confined to Earth orbit. That could change in the coming years as NASA begins to establish a permanent presence at the moon.

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## National Guard

National Guard Election Day update: More than 4,700 troops active in 18 states

Military Times

At least 4,700 National Guard troops in 18 states have been activated as of Tuesday afternoon to support the Nov. 3 general election in several capacities. The missions range from assisting with cyber defense, working the polls, and standing-by in case of post-election civil unrest.

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## Veterans

These 2020 state ballot measures could offer new benefits to veterans

Military.com

Most voters heading to the polls Nov. 3 are thinking primarily about the top of their ballot and the fiercely contested presidential election. But in several states, voters will also be asked to consider a proposed constitutional amendment or public question affecting veterans and their families.

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Seven kayakers hit the sea for homeless vets in San Diego

San Diego Union-Tribune

To raise money for Veterans Village of San Diego, the volunteers paddled 54 miles to, and around, Catalina Island.

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Cyber, Space & Surveillance

Pentagon research office wants innovative tools to spot influence campaigns

C4ISRNET

A new broad agency announcement shows that the Pentagon's top research arm wants to work with industry to develop technology that can track adversarial influence operations across social media platforms.

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AFRL's newest lab aims at building things in space

Breaking Defense

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) today opened the doors on its new lab for testing innovative materials and designs for spacecraft — technologies to underpin assembly and manufacture of satellites and subsystems on-orbit.

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Defense Industry

Defense aerospace primes are raking in money for classified programs

Defense News

Two months after disclosing the existence of a next-generation fighter jet demonstrator, the U.S. Air Force is staying mum on which company may have built it. But one thing is for sure: Classified aviation programs are on the rise, and opportunities abound for the three major American defense aerospace primes — Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing.

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International

Israeli politics, sub scandal cloud waters on U5 weapons buys

Breaking Defense

The fragile coalition that forms the Israeli cabinet is delaying the decisions on huge arms deals with American companies, mainly Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9icmVha2luZ2RlZmVuc2UuY29tLzlwMjAvMTEvaXNyYVVsS1wb2xpdGljcy1zdWltc2NhbmRhbc1jbG91ZC13YXRlcmltY24tdXMtd2VhcG9ucy1idXlzlW/57588364498edb7fd6702cebK2de902c5>

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The UN says the two sides have agreed on a plan for implementing a ceasefire deal reached last month.

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## Commentary & Analysis

Missionaries from a strange land: Veterans and the society that sends them

War On The Rocks

Do the people who fight America's wars ever think civilians truly understand and appreciate their experiences?

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Great power competition comes home to America

Defense One

Our leaders' efforts to heal divisions among our fellow citizens are key to national defense.

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Getting the fait accompli problem right in the US strategy

War On The Rocks

The threat of territorial conquest by fait accompli is one of the central problem statements in U.S. defense planning.

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Lessons from Admiral Elmo

Naval History Magazine

The Navy should revisit Admiral Elmo Zumwalt's priorities of strategic deterrence, sea control, and personnel policy reform—and heed his errors.

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WMD threat reduction programs suffer from neglect

National Defense

A nuclear attack, or any kind of nuclear detonation — whether an intentional military action, a terrorist attack, or an accident — could cause millions or tens of millions of deaths with far greater hospitalizations and economic impacts than the world is experiencing today.

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## Job Board

Transitioning out of the military and looking for a job?

Military Times

We have listings from companies looking for vets.

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## Overseas Operations

'The Quad' kicks off Malabar 2020 exercise in Bay of Bengal

USNI News

The U.S., Indian, Japanese and Australian navies on Tuesday kicked off the Malabar 2020 naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, bringing the four nations together for the annual drill for the first time in over a decade.

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Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden  
Stars & Stripes

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

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US military reports a handful of new coronavirus infections in Japan

Stars & Stripes

The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases as of 5 p.m. Monday: two close contacts and a returning traveler, according to Facebook posts.

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MC-130Js, F-15Es deploy to Denmark for Baltic exercise

Air Force Magazine

U.S. airmen and aircraft from two bases in England recently deployed to Aalborg, Denmark for a two-week, multilateral agile combat employment (ACE) exercise hosted by the Combined Special Operations Air Task Group.

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US, Latin American navies begin UNITAS LXI exercise near Ecuador

UPI

Naval forces from the United States and eight Latin American countries will conduct operations in the Pacific Ocean near Ecuador as part of the UNITAS LXI exercise that began this week.

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Pentagon

Audit of Pentagon diversity training canceled after Trump executive order

Military.com

The Department of Defense inspector general has canceled a planned audit of the department's diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity training following an executive order from President Donald Trump barring instruction within the federal government that includes topics such as systemic racism and implicit bias.

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**Military.com**

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## Connecting Vets

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## Military Times

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Fox News.

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## Military Times

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**Army**

**Soldiers, Marines finish first test of ruggedized 'do-it-all' augmented reality goggle**

**Army Times**

The Army has finished the first field test of its do-it-all goggle in the ruggedized military version that soldiers could see by next year.

**Caution-**

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**Army museums to give out excess artifacts, including weapons and historic uniforms**

**Army Times**

The Army Museum Enterprise is getting rid of duplicate artifacts among its 580,000-item collection over the next five years, leaving opportunities for other museums, veterans organizations, national parks, and state and local governments to ultimately claim the excess inventory.

**Caution-**

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**Navy**

**Is this the best reenlistment location ever?**

**Navy Times**

Where was your last reenlistment ceremony held, shipmate?

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**Blue Angels to make final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet as they transition to Super Hornets**

**Navy Times**

The Navy's Blue Angels will conduct their final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet Wednesday.

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**Here's the latest on the next US supercarrier**

**Defense News**

The U.S. Navy's next Ford-class supercarrier, the John F. Kennedy, will be delivered to the fleet with its full suite of advanced electronics and with the ability to support the carrier-launched F-35C, a change from a planned two-phase delivery devised in the original contract.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL25hdmFsLzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvaGVyZXMtdGhlLWxhdGVzdC1vZi10aGUtbnV4dC11cy1zdXBldmNhcjJpZXlv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl4253ca71>

How SEAL Team 6's mastery of a risky infiltration method sets it apart from other US special operators

Business Insider

Early on October 31, commandos from SEAL Team 6 rescued an American hostage who had been abducted in northern Nigeria.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYnVzaW5lc3NpbmNpZGVyLmNvbS9zZWFsLXRlYW0tNi1wYXJhY2h1dGUtc2tpbGxzLWRpc3RpbmN0LWFtb25nLXNwZWNPYWwtb3BlcmF0aW9ucy11bmI0cy0yMDIwLTEx/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl88252b0d>

Two-carrier fire drill trains sailors to avoid problems found in early moments of Bonhomme Richard fire

USNI News

When USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) caught fire at the pier over the summer, sailors from across the waterfront rushed to the scene, some in damage control teams from their own ships and some showing up as individuals who wanted to help.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9uZXdzLnVzbmkub3JnLzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvdHdvLWVhcnJpZXItZmlyZS1kcmlsbc10cmFpbmMtc2FpbG9ycy10by1hdm9pZC1wcm9ibGVtcy1mb3VuZC1pbi1lYXJseS1tb21lbnRzLW9mLWJvbmhvbW1lLXUpY2hhcmQtZmlyZQ/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl4532b503>

Navy prepares for integration of MQ-25 tanker drones with E-2 Hawkeye squadrons

The Drive

The MQ-25s will be attached to E-2 squadrons during deployments and Hawkeye crews will cross-train to also fly the Stingrays.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGhlZHIpdmlUuY29tL3RoZS13YXltem9uZS8zNzQwOC9uYXZ5LXBvZXhcmVzLWZvci1pbmRlZ3JhdGlvbi1vZi1tcS0yN510YW5rZXltZHIvbmVzLXdpdGgtZS0yLWVhd2tleWUtY29tLWVhcnJpZXItZmlyZS1kcmlsbc10cmFpbmMtc2FpbG9ycy10by1hdm9pZC1wcm9ibGVtcy1mb3VuZC1pbi1lYXJseS1tb21lbnRzLW9mLWJvbmhvbW1lLXUpY2hhcmQtZmlyZQ/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl845b1f2f>

Air Force

Air Force tests G-force suits for female pilots

Air Force Times

Women who fly fighter jets or other high-speed aircraft could have a better-fitting and safer G-force suit on the way, thanks to testing that took place last week at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFpci1mb3JjZS8yMDIwLzExLzI2Fpci1mb3JjZS10ZXN0cy1nLWZvcmNlLXN1aXRzLWZvci1mZW1hbGUtcGlsb3RzLW9mLWJvbmhvbW1lLXUpY2hhcmQtZmlyZQ/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl91c97962>

**Bushwhacker: Southwest desert training preps rescue airmen, soldiers for austere environments**

**Air Force Times**

The 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in New Mexico this week has launched a training exercise to prepare rescue personnel to respond in deserts or other austere battlefields.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V0aW1lcY5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFpci1mb3JjZS8yMDIwLzExLzAzL2J1c2h3aGFja2VyLXNvdXRod2VzdC1kZXNlcjQtdHJhaW5pbmctcHJlcmVzY3VILWFpcm1lbi1zb2xkaWVycy1mb3ltYXVzdGVyZS1lbnZpcm9ubWVudHMv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebL3c4e949f>

**We salute the airmen who marched aboard a C-17 while dressed as minions from 'Despicable Me'**

**Task & Purpose**

I know nothing about minions, but I know a hilarious video when I see one, and boy did the airmen of the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron deliver one for us.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly90YXNlYXV5b3R5aXBlcY5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNpZmJlL3lva290YS1haXJtYW4tcHJvbm91bmNlZC1kZWFKLWF0LXVyZ2VudC1jYXUuLWVudHMv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebL140dfed>

**Yokota airman pronounced dead at urgent care center was military working dog handler**

**Stars & Stripes**

The Air Force has identified an airman who died over the weekend at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo as a military working dog handler with the 374th Security Forces Squadron.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXNlYXV5b3R5aXBlcY5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNpZmJlL3lva290YS1haXJtYW4tcHJvbm91bmNlZC1kZWFKLWF0LXVyZ2VudC1jYXUuLWVudHMv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebL875abf23>

**Feds: West Virginia man supplied far-right Boogaloo Boys with fully automatic weapons converters, including to accused CA cop killer**

**San Jose Mercury News**

For the second time in two weeks, federal authorities have publicly linked a suspected follower of the so-called Boogaloo movement to Steven Carrillo, the U.S. Air Force sergeant accused of assassinating two California law enforcement officers in separate incidents.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXNlYXV5b3R5aXBlcY5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNpZmJlL3lva290YS1haXJtYW4tcHJvbm91bmNlZC1kZWFKLWF0LXVyZ2VudC1jYXUuLWVudHMv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebLc5600837>

**USFA cancels fall break, shortens semester amid pandemic**

**Air Force Magazine**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2V2YVWcuY29tL3VzYWZhLWNhbmNlbHMtZmFsbC1icmVhay1zaG9ydGVucy1zZW1lc3Rlc11hbWlkLXBhbmbRlbWljLw/57588364498edb7fd6702ceb19cfcaef4>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2VtYWcuY29tL25ldy1zY2hvb2xob3VzZS1mb3ltb3JhaW5lci1qZXQtbWFpbnRhaW5lcnMtb3BlbnMtaW4tdGV4YXNv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebL7cb3ce3f>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2VtYWcuY29tL2FmdGVyLWtjLTQ2LXVzYWYtbG9va3MtYWWhlYWQtdG8tYnJpZGdlXRhbmtdjci8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl4dea24b3>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcY5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmJlZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDIwLzExLzAzL3dpbGwtdGhILW1hcmJlZS1jb3Jwcy10YWtILW9uLXN1Ym1hcmJlZS1odW50aW5nLw/57588364498edb7fd6702ceb19c802dd6>

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcY5jb2QvbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDIwLzExLzA0L3RoZXNlLWfyZS10aGUtbnVfYW5lcy13aG8tZGlhZC1hdC1iZWxsZWZF1LXdevb2Qv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl56321ce1>

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## Seapower

**Caution-**

## Space Force

## Space News

**Caution-**

National Guard

**Military Times**

**Caution-**

### Veterans:

**Military.com**

**Caution-**

San Diego Union-Tribune

**Caution-**

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## Cyber, Space & Surveillance

## Pentagon research office wants innovative tools to spot influence campaigns

**C4ISRNET**

A new broad agency announcement shows that the Pentagon's top research arm wants to work with industry to develop technology that can track adversarial influence operations across social media platforms.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYzRpc3JuZXQuY29tL2FydGhmaWNpYWwtaW50ZWxsaWdlbmNlZlwMjAvMTExMDMvGVudGFbn24tcnVzZWFiY2gtb2ZmaWNlXdhbnRzLWlubm92YXRpdmdUtdG9vbH MtdG8tc3BvdC1pbmZsdWVuY2UtY2FtcGFpZ25zLW/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl7be6b79f>

## AFRL's newest lab aims at building things in space

## Breaking Defense

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) today opened the doors on its new lab for testing innovative materials and designs for spacecraft — technologies to underpin assembly and manufacture of satellites and subsystems on-orbit.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9icmVha2luZ2RlZmVuc2UuY29tLzlwMjAvMTEvYWZy bHMtbnV3ZXNOLWxhyi1haWw1zLWF0LWJ1aWxkaW5nLXRoaW5ncy1pbi1zcGFjZS8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebL9a09f6 5f>

## Defense Industry

## Defense aerospace primes are raking in money for classified programs

## Defense News

Two months after disclosing the existence of a next-generation fighter jet demonstrator, the U.S. Air Force is staying mum on which company may have built it. But one thing is for sure: Classified aviation programs are on the rise, and opportunities abound for the three major American defense aerospace primes — Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL2luZHVzdHJ5LzlW MjAvMTEvMDMvZGVmZW5zZW5lZXIvc3BhY2UtcHIpbWVwZWFyYS1yYWtpbmctaW4tbW9uZXktZm9yLWNsYXNzaWZpZW QtcHJyZjZhbnRvS757588364498edb7fd67D2cebl4866d23c>

## International

## Israeli politics, sub scandal cloud waters on US weapons buys

### Breaking Defense

The fragile coalition that forms the Israeli cabinet is delaying the decisions on huge arms deals with American companies, mainly Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

**Caution-**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9icmVha2luZ2RlZmVuc2UuY29tLzlwMjAvMTEvaXNyYVVsS1w2b2xpdGljcy1zdWl0c2NhbmRhbC1jbG91ZC13YXRlcMtb24tdXMtd2VhcG9ucy1idXlzlW/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl2de902c5>

North Korean captured by South Korean military, according to media report

## Stars & Stripes

South Korea's military captured a North Korean who crossed the border Wednesday, according to the Yonhap news agency in the south.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBicy5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNPZmJlL25vcnRoLWtvcmVhbi1jYXB0dXJlZC1ieS1zb3V0aC1rb3JlYW4tbWlsaXRhcmtYWNjb3JkaW5nLXRvLW1lZGlhLXJlcG9ydC0xLjY1MDk1MA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebLc6f6dd74>

China has sent more satellites into space this year than US and Russia, report says

South China Morning Post

China has launched more satellites into orbit this year than the United States and Russia, according to an American report, as Beijing steadily advances in aerospace amid growing rivalry with the US.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2NtcC5jb20vbmV3cy9jaGluY59kaXBsb21hY3kvYXJ0aWNsZS58zMTA4MzA2L2NoaW5hLWwhcy1zZW50LW1vcmlUc2F0ZWxsaXRicy1zcGFjZ515ZWYlXVzLWFuZC1ydXNzaWEtcmlVwb3J0/57588364498edb7fd6702cebL5c5fdca6>

China says US sends out wrong signals to Taiwan on potential drone sale deal

Reuters

China's foreign ministry said on Wednesday the United States has sent out wrong and grave signals to the so-called Taiwan military forces on the potential drone sale deal.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cucmV1dGVycy5jb20vYXJ0aWNsZ591cy11c2EtdGFpd2FuLWFyYXN5b2VhbmEtc2F5cy11LXMtc2VuZHMtb3V0LXdyb25nLXNpZ25hbHMtdG8tdGFpd2FuLW9uLXBvdGVudGhhbC1kcm9uZ51zYWxlLWRIYWwtaWRVU0tCTjI3S2BUWA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebLf4ea814b>

As US counts votes, Iran's Rouhani signals tough times ahead

Al Jazeera

In a televised speech, the Iranian leader says the next U.S. president should respect international treaties and laws.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWxqYXplZXJhLmNvb59uZXdzLzlwMjAvMTEvNC9hcy11cy1jb3VudHMtdm90ZXMTaXJhbnMtcm91aGFuaS1zaWduYWxzLXRvdWdoLXRpbWVzLWFoZWFK/57588364498edb7fd6702cebL42be6fa7>

Rival factions in Libya agree on implementation of ceasefire deal

Al Jazeera

The UN says the two sides have agreed on a plan for implementing a ceasefire deal reached last month.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWxqYXplZXJhLmNvb59uZXdzLzlwMjAvMTEvNC9yaXZhbmC1mYWN0aW9ucy1pb3VudHMtdm90ZXMTaXJhbnMtcm91aGFuaS1zaWduYWxzLXRvdWdoLXRpbWVzLWFoZWFK/57588364498edb7fd6702cebLc31S588f>

Commentary & Analysis

Missionaries from a strange land: Veterans and the society that sends them

**Do the people who fight America's wars ever think civilians truly understand and appreciate their experiences?**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93YXJvbnRoZXJvY2tzLmNvbS8yMDIwLzExL21pc3Npb25hcmllcy1mcm9tLWEtc3RyYW5nZS1sYW5kLXZldGVyYW5zLWFWZC10aGUtc29jaWV0eS10aGF0LXNlbnRzLXRoZW0v/57588364498edb7fd6702cebLa4aade84>

**Our leaders' efforts to heal divisions among our fellow citizens are key to national defense.**

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW9uZS5jb20vaWRIYXNvMjAyM C8xMS9ncmVhdC1wb3dldi1jb21wZXRpdGlvb11jb21lcY1ob21lWFtZlXpY2EvMTY5NzYwLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebl 9f8ab1a4>

The threat of territorial conquest by fait accompli is one of the central problem statements in U.S. defense planning.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93YXJvbnRoZXJvY2t2LmNvbS8yMDIwLzExL2dldHRpbmctdGhlLWZhaXQtYWNjb21wbGktcHJvYmxlbS1yaWdodC1pbi11LXMtc3RyYXRI23kv/57588364498edb7fd6702cebL60842318>

The Navy should revisit Admiral Elmo Zumwalt's priorities of strategic deterrence, sea control, and personnel policy reform—and heed his errors.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudXNuaS5vcmcvbwFnYXppbmVzL25hdmFsLW hpc3RvcnktbWFnYXppbmUvMjAyMC9kZWlnbWJlcis5ZXNzb25zLWFKbWlyYWwtZWxtbz9mYmNsaWQ9SXdB UjFXM1VRd DFNZ2cxTdc3aDQy cGUwNGk5TUJCczgzVWIEYVpKclRYb2JlOWmRLeWtsbDFyc3dobEFScdw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebL ef451304>

A nuclear attack, or any kind of nuclear detonation — whether an intentional military action, a terrorist attack, or an accident — could cause millions or tens of millions of deaths with far greater hospitalizations and economic impacts than the world is experiencing today.

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubmF0aW9uYWxkZWZlbnNlbWFnYXppbmUub3JnL2FydGJjbGVzLzlwMjAvMTEvNC93bWQtdGhyZWFOlXJlZHVjdGlvbi1wcm9ncmFtcy1zdWZmZXltZnJvbS1uZWdsZWNO/57588364498edb7fd6702cebL8fb3fc4f>

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## Job Board

Transitioning out of the military and looking for a job?

Military Times

We have listings from companies looking for vets.

Caution-

[https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9qb2Jib2FyZC5taWxpdGFyeXRpbWVzLmNvbS8\\_dXRtX3NvdXJjZT1TYWlsdGhydS21dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9jYW1wYWlnbj1FQkllMjAwNy4yNC4yMCZ1dG1fdGVyYT1FZGI0b3JpYWwIMjAtUjIwTWlsalRhcncIMjAtUjIwRWYybkIMjBCaXJkUjIwQnJpZWYy/57588364498edb7fd6702cebM30ddaf2b](https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9qb2Jib2FyZC5taWxpdGFyeXRpbWVzLmNvbS8_dXRtX3NvdXJjZT1TYWlsdGhydS21dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9jYW1wYWlnbj1FQkllMjAwNy4yNC4yMCZ1dG1fdGVyYT1FZGI0b3JpYWwIMjAtUjIwTWlsalRhcncIMjAtUjIwRWYybkIMjBCaXJkUjIwQnJpZWYy/57588364498edb7fd6702cebM30ddaf2b)

## Overseas Operations

'The Quad' kicks off Malabar 2020 exercise in Bay of Bengal

USNI News

The U.S., Indian, Japanese and Australian navies on Tuesday kicked off the Malabar 2020 naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, bringing the four nations together for the annual drill for the first time in over a decade.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly9uZXdzLnVzbnmkub3JnLzlwMjAvMTEvMDMvdGhILXF1YWQta2lja3Mtb2ZmLW1hbGFiYXItMjAyMC1leGVyY2l2ZS1pb1iYXktb2YtYmVuZ2Fs/57588364498edb7fd6702cebM93c91037>

Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden

Stars & Stripes

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBicy5jb20vbmV3cy9hcm15L2RvemVucy1vZi1uZXctY29yb25hdmlldXMtY2FzZXMtcmVwb3J0ZWQtYXQtYXJte51iYXNlLWluLXdpcXNiYWRIbi0xLjY1MDkwMA/57588364498edb7fd6702cebM693d4fcf>

US military reports a handful of new coronavirus infections in Japan

Stars & Stripes

The U.S. military in Japan reported three new coronavirus cases as of 5 p.m. Monday: two close contacts and a returning traveler, according to Facebook posts.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBlcj5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNPZmljL3VzLW1pbGIDYXJ5LXJlcG9ydHMtYS1oYW5kZnVsLW9mLW5ldy1jb3JvbmF2aXU1cy1pbmZlY3Rpb25zLWluLWphcGFuLFEuNjUwODUw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebM722d4217>

MC-130Js, F-15Es deploy to Denmark for Baltic exercise

Air Force Magazine

U.S. airmen and aircraft from two bases in England recently deployed to Aalborg, Denmark for a two-week, multilateral agile combat employment (ACE) exercise hosted by the Combined Special Operations Air Task Group.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWlyZm9yY2VtYWcuY29tL21jLTEzMGPzLWYtMTVlcj1kZXBs3ktdG8tZGVubWFyay1mb3ltYmFsdGllLWV4ZXJjaXNlLw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebMeb5a7e2e>

US, Latin American navies begin UNITAS LXI exercise near Ecuador

UPI

Naval forces from the United States and eight Latin American countries will conduct operations in the Pacific Ocean near Ecuador as part of the UNITAS LXI exercise that began this week.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudXBpLmNvbS9EZWZlbnNlU5ld3MvMjAyMC8xM58wMy9VUy1MYXRpbi1BbWVyaWNhbi1uYXZpZXMtYmVnaW4tVU5JVEFTLUXYSS1leGVyY2lzZS1uZWYyLUVjdWFKb3lvMjIxMTYwNDQzNjE2OS8/57588364498edb7fd6702cebM97cacd9d>

Pentagon

Audit of Pentagon diversity training canceled after Trump executive order

Military.com

The Department of Defense inspector general has canceled a planned audit of the department's diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity training following an executive order from President Donald Trump barring instruction within the federal government that includes topics such as systemic racism and implicit bias.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/21991904.11853/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnkuY29tL2RhaWx5SLW5ld3MvMjAyMC8xM58wMy9hdWRpdC1vZi1wZW50YWdvbi1kaXZlcnNpdHktZGJhaW5pbmctY2FuY2VsZWQtYWZ0ZXItZGJ1bXAtdXh1Y3V0aXZlLW9yZGVyLmh0bWw/57588364498edb7fd6702cebM788ea199>

In change, fitness gear OK'd for wear at military commissaries, exchanges

Military.com

It just got a lot easier for troops and families to hit the commissary or exchange after the gym or their child's soccer game.

Caution-

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## Connecting Vets

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## Congress & Politics

## Military Times

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**Military Times**

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Former White House doctor, Navy admiral Ronny Jackson wins house seat in Texas

Military.com

Dr. Ronny Jackson, a retired Navy flag officer who dropped out of the running to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs amid allegations of wrongdoing, has picked up a congressional seat representing Texas in the state's right-leaning 13th District.

Caution-

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National Security

House Armed Services chairman foreshadows change to nuclear posture and modernization delay if Biden wins

Washington Examiner

America's nuclear modernization effort may be in for a delay or the elimination of the ground-based deterrent if Joe Biden wins the presidency, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith indicated in a recent discussion.

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American allies brace for chaotic end to US election

Washington Examiner

A chaotic U.S. election season could end with President Trump casting doubt on the legitimacy of the result, like-minded observers around the world fear.

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Trump's former national security adviser says reentering Iran deal would be 'huge mistake'

Al-Monitor

Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, who served as national security adviser from 2017 to 2018, assesses Trump's Middle East record, reflecting on his career in the region's battlegrounds.

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Army

Soldiers, Marines finish first test of ruggedized 'do-it-all' augmented reality goggle

#### Army Times

The Army has finished the first field test of its do-it-all goggle in the ruggedized military version that soldiers could see by next year.

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#### Army museums to give out excess artifacts, including weapons and historic uniforms

Army Times

The Army Museum Enterprise is getting rid of duplicate artifacts among its 580,000-item collection over the next five years, leaving opportunities for other museums, veterans organizations, national parks, and state and local governments to ultimately claim the excess inventory.

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#### Navy

Is this the best reenlistment location ever?

Navy Times

Where was your last reenlistment ceremony held, shipmate?

Caution-

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#### Blue Angels to make final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet as they transition to Super Hornets

Navy Times

The Navy's Blue Angels will conduct their final flight in the legacy F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet Wednesday.

Caution-

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#### Here's the latest on the next US supercarrier

Defense News

The U.S. Navy's next Ford-class supercarrier, the John F. Kennedy, will be delivered to the fleet with its full suite of advanced electronics and with the ability to support the carrier-launched F-35C, a change from a planned two-phase delivery devised in the original contract.

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How SEAL Team 6's mastery of a risky infiltration method sets it apart from other US special operators  
Business Insider

Early on October 31, commandos from SEAL Team 6 rescued an American hostage who had been abducted in northern Nigeria.

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Two-carrier fire drill trains sailors to avoid problems found in early moments of Bonhomme Richard fire  
USNI News

When US5 Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) caught fire at the pier over the summer, sailors from across the waterfront rushed to the scene, some in damage control teams from their own ships and some showing up as individuals who wanted to help.

Caution-

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Navy prepares for integration of MQ-25 tanker drones with E-2 Hawkeye squadrons

The Drive

The MQ-25s will be attached to E-2 squadrons during deployments and Hawkeye crews will cross-train to also fly the Stingrays.

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Air Force

Air Force tests G-force suits for female pilots

Air Force Times

Women who fly fighter jets or other high-speed aircraft could have a better-fitting and safer G-force suit on the way, thanks to testing that took place last week at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

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Bushwhacker: Southwest desert training preps rescue airmen, soldiers for austere environments

Air Force Times

The 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in New Mexico this week has launched a training exercise to prepare rescue personnel to respond in deserts or other austere battlefields.

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## New schoolhouse for trainer jet maintainers opens in Texas

Air Force Magazine

Nineteenth Air Force has transformed Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph's Hangar 62 into an official hub for teaching the next generation of trainer aircraft maintainers.

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## After KC-46, USAF looks ahead to 'bridge tanker'

Air Force Magazine

The Air Force is moving forward with its "bridge tanker" project—the air-refueling aircraft acquisition formerly known as "KC-Y"—in a "full and open competition" to replace the KC-135 Stratotanker fleet. It is a stepping stone to a more futuristic tanker, Air Mobility Command boss Gen. Jacqueline D. Van Ovost said Oct. 27.

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## Marine Corps

### Will the Marines take on submarine-hunting?

Marine Corps Times

The Marine Corps wants in on the submarine-hunting game, according to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger, including the role of helping the Navy identify, track and even sink submarines.

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## These are the Marines who died at Belleau Wood

Marine Corps Times

The two Marines waited to join the attack until the third wave was launched, when they marched side-by-side into the German machine-gun fire.

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## Coast Guard

### Coast Guard interdicts 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank

Seapower

The Coast Guard assisted Bahamian authorities in interdicting 22 Cuban migrants at Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas, Oct. 28, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a Nov. 2 release.

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## Space Force

Moon patrols could be a future reality for Space Force

### Space News

U.S. military space activities today are confined to Earth orbit. That could change in the coming years as NASA begins to establish a permanent presence at the moon.

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## National Guard

National Guard Election Day update: More than 4,700 troops active in 18 states

### Military Times

At least 4,700 National Guard troops in 18 states have been activated as of Tuesday afternoon to support the Nov. 3 general election in several capacities. The missions range from assisting with cyber defense, working the polls, and standing-by in case of post-election civil unrest.

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## Veterans

These 2020 state ballot measures could offer new benefits to veterans

### Military.com

Most voters heading to the polls Nov. 3 are thinking primarily about the top of their ballot and the fiercely contested presidential election. But in several states, voters will also be asked to consider a proposed constitutional amendment or public question affecting veterans and their families.

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Seven kayakers hit the sea for homeless vets in San Diego

### San Diego Union-Tribune

To raise money for Veterans Village of San Diego, the volunteers paddled 54 miles to, and around, Catalina island.

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## Cyber, Space & Surveillance

Pentagon research office wants innovative tools to spot influence campaigns

### C4ISRNET

A new broad agency announcement shows that the Pentagon's top research arm wants to work with industry to develop technology that can track adversarial influence operations across social media platforms.

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AFRL's newest lab aims at building things in space

Breaking Defense

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) today opened the doors on its new lab for testing innovative materials and designs for spacecraft — technologies to underpin assembly and manufacture of satellites and subsystems on-orbit.

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Defense Industry

Defense aerospace primes are raking in money for classified programs

Defense News

Two months after disclosing the existence of a next-generation fighter jet demonstrator, the U.S. Air Force is staying mum on which company may have built it. But one thing is for sure: Classified aviation programs are on the rise, and opportunities abound for the three major American defense aerospace primes — Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing.

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International

Israeli politics, sub scandal cloud waters on US weapons buys

Breaking Defense

The fragile coalition that forms the Israeli cabinet is delaying the decisions on huge arms deals with American companies, mainly Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

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North Korean captured by South Korean military, according to media report

Stars & Stripes

South Korea's military captured a North Korean who crossed the border Wednesday, according to the Yonhap news agency in the south.

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China has sent more satellites into space this year than US and Russia, report says

South China Morning Post

China has launched more satellites into orbit this year than the United States and Russia, according to an American report, as Beijing steadily advances in aerospace amid growing rivalry with the US.

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China says US sends out wrong signals to Taiwan on potential drone sale deal

Reuters

China's foreign ministry said on Wednesday the United States has sent out wrong and grave signals to the so-called Taiwan military forces on the potential drone sale deal.

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As US counts votes, Iran's Rouhani signals tough times ahead

Al Jazeera

In a televised speech, the Iranian leader says the next U.S. president should respect international treaties and laws.

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Rival factions in Libya agree on implementation of ceasefire deal

Al Jazeera

The UN says the two sides have agreed on a plan for implementing a ceasefire deal reached last month.

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Commentary & Analysis

Missionaries from a strange land: Veterans and the society that sends them

War On The Rocks

Do the people who fight America's wars ever think civilians truly understand and appreciate their experiences?

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Great power competition comes home to America

Defense One

Our leaders' efforts to heal divisions among our fellow citizens are key to national defense.

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Getting the fait accompli problem right in the US strategy

War On The Rocks

The threat of territorial conquest by fait accompli is one of the central problem statements in U.S. defense planning.

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Lessons from Admiral Elmo

Naval History Magazine

The Navy should revisit Admiral Elmo Zumwalt's priorities of strategic deterrence, sea control, and personnel policy reform—and heed his errors.

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WMD threat reduction programs suffer from neglect

National Defense

A nuclear attack, or any kind of nuclear detonation — whether an intentional military action, a terrorist attack, or an accident — could cause millions or tens of millions of deaths with far greater hospitalizations and economic impacts than the world is experiencing today.

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**From:** (b)(6) USARMY HQDA OCPA (USA)  
**To:** McCarthy, Ryan D HON USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA); McConville, James C GEN USARMY HQDA CSA (USA)  
**Cc:** Hannah, Amy E BG USARMY HQDA OCPA (USA); Brady, Michael P SES USARMY HQDA OCPA (USA)  
**Subject:** 4 November MRD Morning Report  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 4, 2020 6:56:39 AM  
**Attachments:** [Morning News of Note 4 Nov 2020.pdf](#)  
[4 NOVEMBER MRD Morning Report.pdf](#)

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**16. RIOT GEAR STOLEN FROM NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY IN ONTARIO, POLICE SAY**

(Los Angeles Times (CA), Nov. 3, Alejandra Reyes-Velarde)

Officials are investigating after riot gear was stolen from the National Guard Armory in Ontario on Tuesday.

**17. STATE REGULATOR OKS HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC'S TAKEOVER OF ARMY POWER SERVICE ON OAHU**

(The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (HI), Nov. 3, Andrew Gomes)

Hawaiian Electric has received state approval to take over power distribution at 12 Oahu Army installations under a 50-year contract that won't affect other customer rates.

#### **18. DOZENS OF NEW CORONAVIRUS CASES REPORTED AT ARMY BASE IN WIESBADEN**

(Stars and Stripes, Nov. 3, Jennifer H. Svan and Marcus Kleckner)

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

#### **MODERNIZATION:**

#### **19. THIRD IVAS ASSESSMENT WRAPPING UP THIS WEEK**

(Inside Defense, Nov. 3, Jaspreet Gill)

The Army this week is wrapping up its third user evaluation, or soldier touchpoint, of its next-generation augmented reality heads up display, the service announced today.

#### **20. JOINT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER KEEPS BRANCHING OUT**

(National Defense Magazine, Nov. 3, Yasmin Tadjch)

When the Pentagon's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center was stood up in 2018, it was established to bring together the Defense Department's various AI programs and projects.

#### **21. BAE SYSTEMS WINS CONTRACTS TO DEVELOP US ARMY MANNED-UNMANNED TEAMING TECHNOLOGIES**

(Flight Global, Nov. 3, Garrett Reim)

The US Army has awarded BAE Systems three contracts to develop technology to help helicopter pilots and weapons systems officers control unmanned air vehicles (UAVs) in combat.

#### **22. US ARMY INSTALLS UPGRADED JTAGS CAPABILITIES IN SOUTH KOREA**

(Army Technology, Nov. 3, Staff Writer)

The US Army and Northrop Grumman have installed the enhanced Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) capabilities in South Korea.

#### **23. INFRARED SENSORS HELP THE ARMY GUARD AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS**

(FedTech, Nov. 3, Erin Cunningham)

The Army is adapting its infrared sensor technology, routinely used to locate targets on the battlefield, to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. Modified Microsoft HoloLens technology is helping detect elevated temperatures at Fort Benning, Ga., which has a population of about 120,000.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA OBSERVANCES:**

November 8: STEM Day

November 10: Marine Corps anniversary

November 11: Veterans Day

November 17: Air Defense Artillery and Field Artillery Corps anniversary

November 21: 3rd Infantry Division anniversary

November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

November 26: Thanksgiving Day

November 30: Computer Security Day

#### **NOVEMBER DIGITAL MEDIA STRATEGY:**

In November, the Army Communication Enterprise will highlight Veterans Day, Military Families Month, National Native American Heritage Month and the opening of the National Museum of the U.S. Army. These events help us communicate Army values and Army heritage to a wide audience. Army communicators should talk about our accomplishments throughout the year, many of which were highlighted during the recent AUSA meeting.

Communication Opportunities

- The Army continues to work with state and local authorities to help communities respond to the COVID-19 medical emergency. Army scientists are advancing vaccines through clinical trials.
- Misinformation about COVID-19 spreads rapidly. Make sure your installation or unit is following all current guidelines, and using official websites and resources for the latest information.
- Think. Type. Post. -- We are in a supercharged environment for political discourse online. Your Soldiers need to know that they represent the U.S. Army when they are logged on to a social media platform, and they must abide by the UCMJ at all times, even when off duty.
- The U.S. Army plans to open the National Museum of the United States Army on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2020.
- Highlight National Native American Heritage Month by focusing on outstanding Native American Soldiers in your unit or installation (past or present) and honor the contributions they have made to the Army.
- Focus on military families during Military Family Month and show how they support their Soldier, the Army and the nation.
- For Veterans Day, honor any local Army veterans virtually, and promote their service and dedication with digital media stories you can amplify Army-wide through digital platforms.
- The Army's participation in AUSA Now provided opportunities for us to highlight Army successes in 2020. Some sessions are now accessible online through DVIDS and YouTube (non CAC enabled machines).
- Project Inclusion is a holistic effort for leadership to listen to our Army family and enact initiatives to promote and advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Project Converge ensures the Army, as part of the Joint fight, can rapidly and continuously integrate or "converge" effects across all domains through interoperable systems, intelligence gathering and big-data sharing to achieve overmatch against adversaries in competition and conflict.
- Army heritage is an important part of who we are. Feature Soldiers for Life, active-duty Soldiers, Army civilians and family members on our platforms who embody our heritage to feature across all platforms.

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Deputy Division Chief  
Media Relations Division  
Army Public Affairs  
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Office of Chief of Public Affairs (OCPA)  
Media Assessments Team

**U.S. Army News Roundup**

**4 November 2020 as of 0400**

**Daily Snapshot**

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(Defense One, Nov. 3, Katie Bo Williams)	
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When the Pentagon's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center was stood up in 2018, it was established to bring together the Defense Department's various AI programs and projects.

**21. BAE SYSTEMS WINS CONTRACTS TO DEVELOP US ARMY MANNED-UNMANNED TEAMING TECHNOLOGIES..... 47**

(Flight Global, Nov. 3, Garrett Reim)

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**22. US ARMY INSTALLS UPGRADED JTACS CAPABILITIES IN SOUTH KOREA..... 48**

(Army Technology, Nov. 3, Staff Writer)

The US Army and Northrop Grumman have installed the enhanced Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTACS) capabilities in South Korea.

**23. INFRARED SENSORS HELP THE ARMY GUARD AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS ..... 49**

(FedTech, Nov. 3, Erin Cunningham)

The Army is adapting its infrared sensor technology, routinely used to locate targets on the battlefield, to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. Modified Microsoft HoloLens technology is helping detect elevated temperatures at Fort Benning, Ga., which has a population of about 120,000.

**TOP STORIES:**

**1. How RI National Guard cyber defenders help protect election technology from attackers**

(The Providence Journal (RI), Nov. 3, Mark Reynolds)

U.S. Army Col. R. Michael Tetreault is the Rhode Island National Guard's top-ranking techie, a key player in the state's efforts to protect election technology from cyberattacks.

Over the past three years, Tetreault and his team of cyber defenders have assessed the election system's fortifications, providing assistance and advice to Rhode Island's Board of Elections.

Of course, the ultimate test of that cybersecurity initiative will come Tuesday, as voters across the state cast final ballots, polls close and officials work to certify the tally.

Since 2016, the threat to local election systems across the country has grown clearer, much as terrorism came into greater focus after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Rhode Island's public entities were not immune from cyberattacks routed through foreign countries in 2016, when Russian agents targeted the U.S. election.

Early that year, the Rhode Island State Police said a local hacker, a teenager, had made use of a Russia-based web server to deliver threatening phone messages to Rhode Island schools. A wave of similar hoaxes disrupted schools in New England and around the globe.

Four years later, Tetreault and his team have developed a rapport with state election officials working to secure voting technology.

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"We have no political affiliation," Tetreault says. "no political aspirations, no financial aspirations. It is literally to just be that citizen soldier and improve things for the good of everybody, and that is our only purpose for being there."

The role of the U.S. military in the actual machinery of Rhode Island's election system, even on a strictly advisory basis, is a historic development reflecting an unfortunate reality of the tech era: While combat itself remains an overseas phenomenon, cyber combat now happens in the homeland.

Technology has brought enemies far closer to systems of democracy than, for example, the German U-boats that prowled waters off New England's coastline during World War II.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that election security, whether we're talking about California and Texas, or whether we are talking about Rhode Island, is a national security issue," says one election technology expert, Eddie Perez, of the Silicon Valley-based OSET Institute.

OSET, which stands for Open Source Election Technology, is a nonprofit focused on preserving democracy by, in part, ensuring the security of election technology.

"It is absolutely necessary," Perez says, "to have a high confidence in the outcomes of our domestic elections and their legitimacy – if you're not going to have the potential for real division and a real lack of unity in your country."

Tetreault was a reservist when he entered the National Guard's officer corps about 30 years ago, arriving in the artillery.

In the early 1990s, some military leaders prayed that rapidly advancing information technology would greatly expand the awareness of U.S. troops in battle.

By the time Americans were into their first lengthy redeployments in Iraq in the 2000s, cutting-edge information technology was beginning to answer some of those prayers.

When the Blue Force tracking systems were working as planned, troops knew much more about the environment around them and were at less risk of killing each other as a battle unfolded.

Protecting such information systems has been a classic scenario for the military's cyber defenders.

"That is a system that gets a lot of attention," says Tetreault.

During those early years of Blue Force, Tetreault transitioned from mostly weekends to full-time duty, embracing management of the Rhode Island National Guard's information technology systems.

Tetreault's job also involves training scenarios for cybersecurity. And when his specialized cyber team competes against other teams in simulations, he says they will try to knock out Blue Force tracking.

Three focal points drive Tetreault's efforts to either defend or attack such an asset:

"Confidentiality," he says, is making sure only authorized people see the sensitive data. "Integrity" is making sure the data isn't tampered with. "Availability" is keeping the data accessible to the people who need it.

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"If you hit someone on any of those three points you degrade their ability to do things," he says. "You're always looking in those three dimensions when you're looking at cybersecurity. ... Blue Force Tracker is a great example."

The team that Tetreault commands in Rhode Island is called the DCOE, or Defensive Cyberspace Operations Element.

Part of the team's role, says Tetreault, is to deal with any attackers who might take a run at local Department of Defense networks.

It has about six or seven people. They hold numerous civilian and government certifications. About half of them work for defense contractors during the week.

One warrant officer just returned from a yearlong deployment with the U.S. Cyber Command, where he was involved with protecting critical infrastructure.

On three occasions, the element participated in the National Guard Bureau's Cyber Shield exercise, which immerses cybersecurity personnel in scenarios where they work on skills for helping government officials and local businesses thwart cyberattacks.

In such training scenarios, some of the talented attackers (Tetreault calls them "rock stars") try to stage end-runs around cyber defenses while other cybersecurity personnel try to ward them off. Another exercise, Cyber Guard, has drawn the team to the National Security Agency in Maryland on two occasions and to the FBI Academy in Virginia.

The events that Rhode Island's team has participated in represented almost all of the exercises that the U.S. General Accountability Office was able to catalog when it looked at the issue for a 2016 report, finding that the Department of Defense needed to do more to leverage National Guard cyber capabilities to help civil authorities across the United States.

Tetreault and his counterparts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire actually organized one of the exercises that came up on the GAO's radar. That was Cyber Yankee, which has been held annually in New England for six years.

In the 2019 installment, participants included a collection of power companies, a Massachusetts water authority, Citizens Bank and CVS.

In Rhode Island, starting in 2017, Tetreault and his team embarked on a security assessment delving into election processes, personnel and technology.

Tetreault is careful to emphasize that the Guard provided "assistance and advice" under policies set by the Department of Defense and the president.

Personnel did not, for example, take over keyboards and carry out the particular recommendations that they made.

The Guard's examination was wide-ranging, identifying strengths, such as the paper-based nature of the voting system; and weaknesses, such as the use of modems for transmission of unofficial results on election night.

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Modems provide what's known as an "attack surface" to foes — a potential entry point. In this case, the particular modems had been "reachable from anywhere on the internet," says Tetreault.

"Obviously one of our recommendations was to eliminate the modems completely and not transmit," Tetreault says.

But elections officials wanted to hold on to their ability to speedily collect unofficial election results using the modems.

The Rhode Island Division of Information Technology participated in the assessment. In response to the findings, the election data is encrypted, based on fresh inputs generated for each election, and it's transferred over a private Verizon wireless network, according to the state's chief information security officer, Brian Tardiff.

In a 2019 report on the board's cybersecurity effort, Tardiff acknowledged continued "residual risk" while asserting that the level of risk overall was lowered "drastically" through a dramatic "downsizing" of the attack surface.

Critics, including Perez of the OSET Institute, say such risk is unacceptable. Others, including the board's deputy director of elections, Miguel Nunez, say that layers of "military-grade" encryption and other protocols have reduced "the risk as close to zero as possible."

"Everything we do is risk," says Tetreault. "Risk is your threats times your vulnerabilities times your probabilities. You've got to look at all of those."

The Guard's cyber team also studied the way that official results will move from voting precincts to the Board of Elections via special USB drives, which can be likened to thumb drives.

Another focus was the central voter registration system, which continues to provide online access to voters wanting to update their information.

Last year, the office of Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea tapped into \$3 million in federal allocations for election security and had the system overhauled.

"They took it down and built a new system," says Tetreault, "with the latest software, the latest patches."

The online access to the system is a security concern, but good controls and monitoring are in place, Tetreault says.

More traditional aspects of security, such as locking up equipment, controlling personnel and access, factor into cybersecurity, experts say.

Tetreault says the board has made some "great" security improvements at its new facility, newly relocated from Providence to a headquarters on Plainfield Pike in Cranston.

Much can go wrong with an election in the tech age.

"You put your seat belt on," Tetreault says. "That's no guarantee you're not going to get hit."

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One worst-case scenario that Perez can envision involves an attacker who penetrates physical security defenses to tamper with official results.

In Philadelphia, he warns, someone has stolen some specialized USB-drives from an election office. Those stolen USB sticks, he says, are compatible with the voting tabulation machines used in Rhode Island, which could introduce a vulnerability.

In another scenario, attackers hack into the early, unofficial results, creating an enormous disparity between unofficial results and official results. That could inflict tremendous damage by undermining confidence in the system, Perez says.

Officials emphasize that Rhode Island has a certain strength that other states lack: The basis of its system is old-fashioned paper ballots marked by voters. Hackers based in Russia or Iran can't alter paper records.

"We have backup," says the leader of the Guard's cybersecurity unit. "Low tech," adds Tetreault, "is good tech."

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**2. Soldiers, Marines finish first test of ruggedized 'do-it-all' augmented reality goggle**  
(Army Times, Nov. 3, Todd South)

The Army has finished the first field test of its do-it-all goggle in the ruggedized military version that soldiers could see by next year.

Soldiers and Marines ran the Integrated Visual Augmentation System through a company-sized, 72-hour training mission at Fort Pickett, Va., at the end of October, according to an Army statement.

The exercise included one of the more difficult dismounted operations — a nighttime trench clearing exercise.

But to make that challenging movement a bit more doable, soldiers weren't limited to the IVAS goggle for targeting, night vision, thermal sights and navigation capabilities. They also had micro-drones that they could launch and view through the goggle, conducting their own shortrange reconnaissance of an obstacle before taking on the opposing force.

This is the third "soldier touch point" in the slightly more than two-year project. To date, Army Special Forces, Rangers, soldiers with 25th Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division and 82nd Airborne Division and Marines have tested the device.

In addition to the trench-clearing, soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division used the goggle for navigation, mission planning and "rapid target acquisition."

Marines participated, conducting range live fires, according to the statement.

The goggle uses a heads up display, built around the Microsoft HoloLens, and overlays augmented reality, showing a weapons sights view, compass headings, friendly and enemy positions, as well as delivering night vision and thermal sights in one package.

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Over the past 18 months, developers have refined the design and software with Microsoft, using the company's virtual reality goggle. They've run more than 25 tests with more than 1,000 participants. That started in squads and moved to platoon-sized work late last year, Army Times previously reported.

Additional capabilities are being tested now, including facial recognition software and text translation.

For mission planning and rehearsal, users can upload a 3D terrain map of the target to brief the squad or other element before stepping off, all downloaded after a quick recon from the unit or another asset's drone scanning of the area.

Lt. Nicholas Christopher was one of the soldiers from the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment who put the system to the test in the hinterlands of Fort Pickett's operationally relevant environments.

"I can see where my entire platoon is projected on a map, and for me as a platoon leader, that's amazing, because there's a lot of guesswork that goes out the window," he said. "There's a lot of verbal communication over radios that I don't have to do anymore. It's very solid. I can see how this is going to make a great impact on the way we fight."

The Army has plans to buy 40,000 pairs of the goggles initially, most to outfit special operations forces, infantry, scouts and combat engineers attached to infantry units, in active, Reserve and Guard components.

The goggle took on another role recently in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic when the Army repurposed its software to use as a body temperature screening tool, keeping users six feet or more away from the test subject as they did their analysis.

But it's key is to stay ahead of adversaries. Advanced night vision was once the main domain of the United States and some more modern militaries.

But cheaper night vision devices have proliferated among violent extremist organizations, and competitors such as Russia and China are also advancing their capabilities at the individual soldier level.

Brig. Gen. Davide Hodne, head of the Soldier Lethality Cross Functional Team, which is overseeing IVAS development along with Program Executive Office Soldier, referenced that reality in the Army statement.

"Overmatch has always been defined in terms of two things; our lethality and our protection must exceed the lethality and protection of our adversaries," Hodne said. "In an environment where we share the night, the folks who can move faster, decide faster and think faster are the ones who have the advantage on today and tomorrow's battlefield."

The next step, if approved, should see 1,600 sets of the goggles built for the final phase of testing before the first unit is equipped, which is expected by late 2021, officials said.

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**BROADCAST CLIPS OF NOTE:**

**1. National Guard on call across nation during unusual Election Day**

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(NBC News, Nov. 3, Miguel Almaguer)

<http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1ddc857d-307a-492d-be71-793496f296db>

As election results came in, cities across the nation braced for unrest and governors called on members of the National Guard to be prepared.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- 4 NOV: MG John George, CG of CCDC; BG Ross Coffman, director of the Next-Generation Combat Vehicle CFT; and Mr. Jeffery Langhout, CCDC Director, will provide a modernization update on the Army's NGCV and related technology advances as part of a panel discussion at the virtual Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium. (Media invited)

- 4 NOV: BG Amy Hannah, Chief of Public Affairs; Mr. Anselm Beach, DASA for Equity and Inclusion; Dr. James Helis, director of the Army Resilience Directorate, and others will engage MSO/VSO stakeholders to provide an update on Army priorities, including diversity and suicide, and to discuss the anticipated opening of the National Museum of the U.S. Army on Veterans Day and how they can support it.

- 5 NOV: BG Howard-Charles Geck, ADCG-R of USARC, will speak at a Veteran's Day Service at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake, NC. (Local media)

- 7 NOV: MG John Evans, CG of Cadet Command, will provide opening remarks at the Veterans Day parade in Vine Grove, Kentucky, and will interact with local officials and residents. (Media expected)

- 9 NOV: SMA Michael Grinston and SGT James Akinola, 2020 Soldier of the Year, will be interviewed by Chip Reid (CBS Evening News) on the anticipated opening of the National Museum of the U.S. Army and Veterans Day.

- 9 NOV: GEN Ed Daly, CG of AMC, will conduct interviews with Jen Judson (Defense News), Jared Serbu (Federal News Network), Sydney Freedberg (Breaking Defense) and Karen Jowers (Military Times) on AMC initiatives, including strategic power projection, OIB readiness and modernization, supply availability, installation and equipment readiness, advanced manufacturing and Quality of Life programs.

- 9 NOV: LTG Gary Brito, DCS of G-1, will provide remarks at the virtual Boeing Diversity Summit about his thoughts as an Army senior leader, the Army's plan for diversity in leadership positions and what industry leaders should be focused on.

- 10 NOV: LTG Laura Richardson, CG of ARNORTH, will deliver pre-recorded remarks for the Dallas Veterans Day Parade to be held on Nov. 11.

**PEOPLE:**

**1. Troops Are Voting Absentee in Record Numbers. But How Many of Their Votes Will Count?**

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(Military.com, Nov. 3, Richard Sisk)

Service members have been mailing absentee ballots at a record pace amid growing concerns that many of their votes will not be counted under various state laws, postal delays and potential court challenges.

According to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, more than 252,000 active duty service members voted by absentee ballot in the 2016 elections and the early numbers indicated that the 2016 total will be surpassed.

As of Oct. 22, the U.S. Postal Service reported that about 48,000 absentee military ballots had already been received, compared to 33,000 on the same date in 2016.

With the surge in military absentee voting have come fears that those ballots may not all be counted in a bitterly contested presidential election.

Former Air Force Secretary Deborah James told Military.com that was a real concern of hers.

"I've never been worried about this before, but I'm absolutely worried about it now," she told Military.com in an interview this week.

Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Maryland, the vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and a retired Army colonel who served as a voting officer during one of his overseas assignments, issued a press release in late October in opposition to any arbitrary deadlines that would result in mail-in ballots going uncounted.

"Ballots postmarked on election day coming from service members in Baghdad should count just the same as those coming from voters in Baltimore," Brown said Oct. 30. "To impose arbitrary cut-offs and deadlines for counting these legal ballots undermines our elections and the morale of those serving their country overseas."

Brown told Military.com this week that his biggest concern was "the lawsuits that have been filed and will be filed" contesting mail-in ballots and the timeframes in which they must be postmarked to be counted after the Nov. 3 election. Those timeframes vary widely; a report from the organization Count Every Hero indicates Washington State guidelines allow the counting of military absentee votes received as late as Nov. 23.

In a campaign stop in North Carolina Monday, President Donald Trump said he was disappointed by the Supreme Court rulings last week backing up state laws that allowed for counting votes for three days after the election in Pennsylvania and nine days in North Carolina.

He charged that Democrats will use the extra time to "cheat," adding that "I wish the Supreme Court treated us as well, frankly." He also pledged that he would be sending lawyers into states to challenge results that go against him.

"Because we're divided" as a nation, "we're in trouble" on getting an accurate count, said former Tennessee Republican Rep. Zach Wamp, a member of the National Council on Election Integrity, a bipartisan group of former elected officials and retired military officers formed to monitor the legitimacy of the election.

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In a conference call with reporters, Wamp and former Rep. Tim Roemer, an Indiana Democrat, warned of court challenges that could delay results and impact on the validity of absentee military ballots.

"We have no way of predicting the number of lawyers that are going to descend into the system," Roemer said.

James and Brown both expressed confidence that the military has done its part in ensuring that service members were well informed on procedures for voting absentee and the requirements of the respective states.

They also agreed that court challenges to mail-in ballots received after election day could result in service members not having their votes counted.

"We're going to have more mail-in ballots than ever before" in this election, said James, a member of the non-partisan Count Every Hero advocacy group that has called for every military ballot to be counted before a winner is declared.

However, she said, "it's a virtual certainty" that numerous lawsuits will be filed to challenge the mail-in vote.

"Unfortunately, I see this administration and the Trump campaign as determined" to dispute ballots received after election day, Brown said. He warned that what he viewed as the disenfranchisement of military voters "will have a negative impact on the motivation to serve."

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**2. Deployed US military members express concerns over mail-in ballot count**

While a long-held tradition, mail-in voting for troops this year has come with some added anxiety (Fox News, Nov. 3, Hollie McKay)

Members of the U.S. military community, who have long relied on the mail-in system to exercise their civic duty while deployed abroad, are facing an extra layer of challenges this year.

Absentee voting has come under scrutiny during this presidential election amid the protracted coronavirus pandemic, and for some of those who serve in the armed forces, voting this year has brought mixed experiences.

"It was scary this year, given the current situation, because I had no idea if my ballot was tampered with before I turned it in. And there is no way for me to prevent that or even check it," one Missouri-native U.S. soldier, stationed in Afghanistan who spoke on condition of anonymity due to media restrictions, told Fox News on Monday. "There is a Democrat and Republican team that sorts them out; the idea is that someone on your team won't mess with your ballot. I don't trust it; still, there is no other way for me."

That sentiment runs wide.

Another deployed service member sending his ballot to Ohio lamented late Monday from Afghanistan that his tracking indicated that his envelope was still sitting in a New York mailroom. Simultaneously, another said she rushed around to register for her ballot from Tennessee several weeks ago, yet still expressed concerns it had not reached its destination.

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As a result of difficulties associated with international mailing for military members, which first began for the 1944 presidential election in the dawn days of World War II, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act was passed in 1986 to ensure votes from abroad were counted, establishing deadlines and a grace period – sometimes as far along as a 10 days – post-Election Day.

"Any barriers experienced by a UOCAVA voter vary depending on their location, access to resources, training opportunities, and the availability of voter assistance. Voters have expressed concerns over returning their voted ballot by mail due to local country COVID-19 restrictions," explained David Beirne, Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) director.

While purporting to streamline the process, the legislation has still been subject to hundreds of lawsuits in decades past, and military voters are still beholden to the differing rules of their home states. For some service members, this has caused complications if one did not update their residence from their home state to the state they were stationed prior to deployment.

Beirne underscored that while states administer the elections and that there are differences in some requirements and deadlines, "the process is the same for all military members, their families and U.S. citizens residing overseas due to provisions established in the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act."

"It all comes down not only to the state but the county," one soldier in Afghanistan said. "Some are more accommodating, easy to reach with questions, but I still lose confidence because my vote goes to a human being that is going to look at my ballot and have an opinion. I can check my ballot status online, but I can't review my vote."

Another U.S. Army soldier from Kentucky and currently in Germany lamented that he had not received the ballot as requested, which he attributed in part to the coronavirus mail issues and because he has been moving around so frequently, magnified by quarantine measures for those with or exposed to the novel contagion.

In contrast, Evette Kessler, a military spouse in Grafenwoehr, Germany, and a Nevada residence, said in her experience, 2020 was relatively smooth sailing.

"We received our absentee ballots, filled them out, and sent them off," she said. "From what I see over here, most of the people I know have cast their absentee ballot votes. Everyone wants to be heard in the most important election in our lifetime. The biggest worry so far has been the possibility of our ballots being thrown away by mail carriers."

A soldier based in Al Assad, Iraq – with a Florida voting registration – said that the process, for him, was pretty similar to that of 2016.

"The USO folks were really nice and helpful. Not a huge turnout during the base-wide voting assistance days, but the word certainly got out to the troops," he said.

Yet another told Fox News that their chain-of-command was of little help in navigating the process, and another in Okinawa, Japan said he only received his ballot – from Florida – last Friday despite applying weeks out.

"It was the first time in 15 years that my ballot took more than two months to get," he noted.

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Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat, president and CEO of the U.S. Vote Foundation and Overseas Vote, noted that only half the states allow the entire overseas and military voting process to be conducted online; registration and ballot request, online ballot delivery, and ballot return. Each state can differ in what they allow.

"Unfortunately, the downside is exposure to ballot hacking and identity theft. Ideally, no U.S. citizen should have to face such a trade-off in order to cast a ballot; rather, all voters should benefit from a paper trail, regardless if they vote domestically or from abroad. But voters have been forced to make that trade-off this year," she said, referring to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic that has propelled much of the world into some form of a lockdown.

Some military members say it has become a somewhat arduous task to keep up with the varying cut-off times for requesting ballots, sending ballots, whether online signatures are accepted, and what period of time has been carved out after the polls close for their time-stamped envelope to still count.

Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have some form of an extended lag time for military voters, while the remaining others do not – and the onus lies on the individual to know their own state's rules.

"I never got my ballot. I only got my registration card," claimed one soldier from Tennessee. "I don't think it was malicious, just stupidity. The last time I was abroad was in 2014, and I didn't get my absentee ballot then, either."

While the average absentee transit time, according to the grassroots voter rights campaign Count Every Hero, is six days – those deployed to incredibly far-flung places, or stationed on a ship deep in a vast body of water, may have had to account for a significantly longer time period.

The coronavirus pandemic has only multiplied the mailing woes with service slowdowns – or even complete shuttering – across many pockets of the planet.

Indeed, members of the U.S. military routinely play a pivotal role in determining election outcomes. On the radar, in particular, is the critical swing state of Florida, which is home to a large portion of military families, and in the last presidential cycle had the highest number of military mail ballots included.

Provided that mail ballots are postmarked by November 3, the state of Florida will continue to count them through to November 13.

James Williamson, a retired Tampa-based U.S. Green Beret, said that in elections past, the process was "an early thing to do."

"Every unit has a voting assistance officer and I happened to be that guy that would help other soldiers with their ballots," he said. "The military encourages voting by absentee ballot and does everything they can to facilitate it."

Some military contractors, however, pointed to both 2012 and 2016 and expressed some dismay that it was a little more complicated for them.

"Votes were found at the APO (Army Post Office) four days after the 2012 election," one contractor recalled. "This time, some of the guys said they were sure to vote three weeks out."

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Despite the woes, worries, global health crisis, condemnation, and concern that has cast a shadow of doubt on the postal procedure in recent months, there are indicators that turnout may be higher than ever among military members serving from abroad.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) reported that more than 55,000 troops' ballots were returned between September 1 and October 29. Beirne noted that "the current traffic to FVAP.gov for the 2020 calendar year is approximate twice the level of 2016," but he also stressed that "this does not necessarily correspond to an increased level of interest."

Traditionally, voter turnout among the actively deployed is higher than the national average, which in 2016 stood at just over 55%. But as per FVAP data, more than 930,000 ballots were disseminated last time, and the return rate was more than 68%.

And while the 2020 election undoubtedly sticks out as unprecedented in its polarity, with concerns percolating over pre-planned and unprecedented levels of violence irrespective of the outcome, the U.S. military – in the firing line far away – are among the most impacted by the decision's made by the next leader.

"We see the direct results of the current administration's success in regard to our mission here," the Afghanistan-deployed combat soldier added. "The election is nerve-wracking because you see the possibility that someone will be elected that will derail all that progress."

However, views vary and results remain to be seen.

A Military Times poll of active-duty troops in August showed former Vice President Joe Biden in a firm lead, with President Trump's approval rating well below what it had been at the start of his term.

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**3. Here are the US military's social media posts on Election Day**  
(American Military News, Nov. 3, Ryan Morgan)

As Election Day kicked off on Tuesday, the various branches of the U.S. military shared social media posts encouraging voting and reminding their service members of the do's and don'ts of political activity in uniform.

Early on Tuesday morning, the U.S. Department of Defense tweeted, "We vote yes for more rainbows and clear skies! A @USArmy CH-47 Chinook spins up for an evening training flight just after a storm clears in Germany."

The U.S. Coast Guard tweeted a reminder for its members to check their absentee ballots to make sure they have been received, and a link to where federal employees can check their absentee ballot status. "Happy Election Day! If you've sent in your absentee ballot, check its status to make sure your election office received it. Go to <https://t.co/h6qzMS8Ify> and select your state."

On Monday, the day before the election, the U.S. Marine Corps shared video of training footage. "Every day is a Monday, so stay motivated Marines.#MondayMotivation."

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On Tuesday, the Marines tweeted a reminder of permitted and prohibited political activity. "Permitted and Prohibited. Marines, as you exercise your right to vote, remember these do's and don'ts. For more information, check MARADMIN 662/19 at <https://t.co/hztxogUeop> pic.twitter.com/rxMcnkfxaa."

The Marine Corps' post includes a graphic that lists permissible political activity, such as expressing one's political views "without speaking on behalf of your organization" and following a political entity's social media activities. The graphic also lists prohibited political activity, warning Marines not to participate in partisan political funding, display large political signage at their residence on a military installation or privatized military housing or to suggest that others should like, or support specific political candidates."

The post by the Marines is in line with military guidelines prohibiting certain political activities.

The Army similarly tweeted out a reminder on its "Think, Type, Post" policy regarding social media activity for its members.

The Army tweeted, "#ThinkTypePost. Your actions affect your career and the @DeptofDefense online just as much as they do in person. Here are some department issued guidelines for active-duty service members, active-duty National Guardsmen, and federal employees."


The Army post includes several graphics which state active-duty Army personnel can donate, sign petitions or express their political opinions when they are off-duty but cannot post, share or link to material from a partisan political party, group or candidate even when they are off-duty.

The Army post further advises Army civilians can post partisan political content online and follow political candidates and organizations when they are off-duty but not while they are on-duty or with an account that is used for official Army business. Army civilians are also not allowed to refer to their title or position when engaging in political activity online and cannot suggest others make contributions to political causes, whether on or off duty, or link to a political contribution page, or like, share or retweet a solicitation, including an invitation to a political fundraising event.

The Army also retweeted further guidance, shared by the U.S. Army Europe, regarding political activity. The U.S. Army Europe tweeted, "It's election season! Remember: @USArmy & @DeptofDefense have expectations for the way service members conduct themselves! Read more here: <https://t.co/Wtrlsai4n6>."

The U.S. Navy, Air Force, and the newly formed Space Force have not shared specific election related posts on Tuesday.

The newly formed Space Force, on Monday, tweeted video from a recent intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) test launch it participated in along with the Air Force. The new U.S. military branch said, "Teamwork makes the #space dream work! #SemperSupra #GT233."

The U.S. Navy tweeted photos of joint training alongside the Marines and Coast Guard. "Teamwork  #USNavy #Sailors, @USMC, and @USCG conduct boarding procedures training aboard the Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship #USNSMatthewPerry (T-AKE 9) in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations."

The Navy also tweeted photos from training with the Japanese Self-Defense Force. "Keen Sword. Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel and @USMC work together during #KeenSword2021. Keen

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Sword is a series of joint/bilateral training exercises designed to increase combat readiness and interoperability of Japan Self-Defense Force and U.S. forces.”

The Air Force tweeted about routine operations taking place during the day.

“Three KC-10 Extender tanker aircraft executed @CENTCOM Air Tasking Order sorties while transiting between the USCENTCOM and @US\_EUCOM areas of responsibility during an overnight extended mission. #ReadyAF,” the Air Force tweeted.

U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees military operations in the Middle East also tweeted about ongoing operations in its mission area.

CENTCOM tweeted, “#Soldiers and Bradley fighting vehicles in NE #Syria continue to patrol to ensure the lasting defeat of #Daesh and provide security and stability to the region @CJTFOIR @SOJTFOIR.”

The U.S. Indo Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) tweeted, “1st Battalion, @USARPAC Soldiers with 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment conduct missile reload rehearsals of the Patriot Advanced Capability as part of Air Defense battle drills during #KeenSword. #FreeandOpenIndoPacific

INDOPACOM also tweeted, “A @RoyalAustralianNavy helicopter from Australia’s HMAS Ballarat takes off from the flight deck of @USPacificFleet guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain in the Andaman Sea. #FriendsPartnersAllies #FreeandOpenIndoPacific.”

The U.S. Cyber Command (CYBERCOM) tweeted, “We are ready: @US\_CYBERCOM, @NSAGov, @CISAgov and @FBI have worked tirelessly to defend our nation’s democratic processes from foreign threats. #Election2020 #Protect2020.”

The U.S. National Security Agency tweeted, “We’ve been working 24/7 to keep your #vote free from foreign interference on this #ElectionDay.”

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) tweeted multiple videos of acting DHS secretary Chad Wolf, regarding voting and election security.

“.@DHS\_Wolf lays out what the federal govt has done to secure #ElectionDay: “We began laying the groundwork to secure this year’s election long ago by engaging in an unprecedented level of effort across the U.S. government with our state, local, and private sector partners.”

The DHS tweeted, “‘Rest assured however our partners at the state & local level are working around the clock to make sure each vote is counted properly, but it’s important to recognize this process may require time.’ @DHS\_Wolf explains the importance of patience in waiting for election results.”

“‘Voting is a sacred right afforded to every American and we at DHS are proud to defend that right from any foreign influence that would seek to compromise it,’ says @DHS\_Wolf. This #ElectionDay, DHS is committed to ensuring that only American voters decide American elections.”

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**4. Audit of Pentagon Diversity Training Canceled After Trump Executive Order**  
(Military.com, Nov. 3, Patricia Kime)

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The Department of Defense inspector general has canceled a planned audit of the department's diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity training following an executive order from President Donald Trump barring instruction within the federal government that includes topics such as systemic racism and implicit bias.

The IG had announced Sept. 24 that it would review the DoD and military services' training on prejudice, racism and sexism to determine whether it met the goals set by the department to eliminate bias in the ranks.

But the announcement, which was in the works for weeks, was preempted by Trump's executive order, issued Sept. 22.

Trump's order specifically bans the DoD and military services from teaching "any of the divisive concepts set forth ... in the order," including stereotyping by race and sex, as well as "race or sex scapegoating" -- defined as "assigning fault, blame or bias to a race or sex [and] ... encompassing any claim that consciously or unconsciously, by virtue of his or her race or sex, members of any race are inherently racist or inherently inclined to oppress others."

"[The] Uniformed Services should not teach our heroic men and women in uniform the lie that the country for which they are willing to die is fundamentally racist," Trump wrote in the order. "Such teachings could directly threaten the cohesion and effectiveness of our Uniformed Services."

In response, Defense Secretary Mark Esper issued a memo Oct. 16 asking the OIG to conduct a compliance review concerning the executive order, a decision the DoD OIG has decided cancels out its initial audit.

Theresa Hull, assistant inspector general for audit in the OIG's acquisition, contracting and sustainment office, said that as a result of the executive order and Esper's memo, the office instead will launch a new project to review all training through the lens of the president's order.

"We are terminating this audit because we are going to announce a new project that is focused on the recently issued executive order ... and implemented by the Secretary of Defense memorandum," Hull wrote in the announcement.

The DoD IG office did not respond to a request for further comment.

Following nationwide protests in the wake of the May 25 death of George Floyd and the killings of other Black people at the hands of police, Esper and senior military leaders launched listening tours among troops this year. Many officials made pledges to eliminate bias -- either conscious or unconscious -- in the ranks.

In July, Esper announced he would create a DoD board on diversity and inclusion, as well as a Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in the Armed Forces, to study the issues of social justice and equality in the military.

Also this year, the Air Force and Navy established task forces to focus on changing policies and procedures that negatively affect minority and other underrepresented service members, while the Army, which created a diversity task force in 2008, and the Marine Corps launched new initiatives to increase diversity and inclusion of all troops, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or creed.

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The services also have removed photos from promotion packages in an effort to eliminate bias and barred the Confederate battle flag, along with nearly every flag that is not a sanctioned symbol of a government or state, and is considering renaming military bases that honor Confederate officers.

"These actions identified today will better ensure a diverse workforce at all levels, an inclusive environment, and equal opportunity for all who serve," Esper said in a release this summer.

But Trump has continued to decry the removal of Confederate symbols from public property and threatened to veto any congressional legislation requiring 10 Army posts to change their names.

On Monday, he also established a commission to promote "patriotic education" in America -- instruction on reinforcing the core values of "the American founding:" life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"Despite the virtues and accomplishments of this nation, many students are now taught in school to hate their own country, and to believe that the men and women who built it were not heroes, but rather villains," Trump wrote in his latest order.

The outcome of Tuesday's presidential election will determine whether the executive orders remain in place after Jan. 20, Inauguration Day.

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#### **5. Pentagon study says not enough rape case are going to trial with proper evidence**

(Military Times, Nov. 3, Meghann Myers)

A group of criminal justice experts who reviewed nearly 2,000 military rape cases found that a good number had been sent to court-martial without enough evidence to convict, and that those cases undermine the military justice system's ability to properly prosecute sexual assaults.

They found that of all of the "penetrative sexual assault" cases sent to trial, 30 percent of them — or 73 total cases — did not have enough evidence for a conviction, according to the October report, dooming them from the start.

"Predictably, 71 of those cases resulted in acquittals of the accused on those offenses at trial. In one of the two cases that resulted in a conviction, the conviction was later overturned on appeal because the evidence was factually insufficient," the report said.

The study focused on 1,904 rape cases closed during fiscal year 2017, reviewed by dozens of veteran judge advocates and civilian criminal justice experts, as part of the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces.

A subcommittee formed to review the cases made two major findings: That the vast majority of command decisions to take no action were justified; and that too many cases are referred to court-martial without enough evidence to secure a conviction.

The report also lays out a laundry list of common factors in cases that resulted in charges or a conviction, among them that white victims and officers are more likely to see their alleged attackers charged with a crime, and that cases were more likely to result in a conviction if the victim was a non-military spouse civilian and the alleged perpetrator wasn't drinking.

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In a somewhat contradictory finding, the report states that victims were more likely to see their cases charged if they did hire counsel, but more likely to secure a conviction if they didn't.

Of the cases reviewed, about 5 percent ended in a conviction, which the report's authors largely attributed to the number of cases sent to trial without enough evidence.

The issue of command disposition has been a sticking point for some Democratic lawmakers. In recent years they have argued that the decision to prosecute a sexual assault case is too complex, and potentially a conflict of interest, for commanders, and so they should be handled by professional special victims attorneys outside the chain of command.

"I am tired of the statement I get over and over from the chain of command: 'We got this, Ma'am. We got this,'" Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., told Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville during his 2019 confirmation hearing. "You don't have it. You're failing us. The trajectories of every measurable are going in the wrong direction."

Gillibrand was reacting to a Pentagon report released that day, which showed that while the numbers of sexual assault reports had been going up — which military officials regularly contribute to an increased understanding and comfort with the reporting process. However, prosecutions and convictions were not also increasing.

Gillibrand has introduced legislation in the past that would take sexual assault cases out of the chain of command, but has not gotten much traction.

Of 1,904 total investigations closed between October 2016 through September 2017, 1,336 — 70 percent — never saw charges.

"For the first time in a study of decision making in military sexual assault investigations, reviewers assessed whether military commanders' initial disposition decisions were reasonable — that is, within a permissible zone of discretion — with particular focus on those commanders' decisions either to prefer penetrative sexual offense charges against a Service member or to take no action against the Service member on that offense," according to the report.

The study, which began in 2017, coincided with a push from the Pentagon's highest officer to lean more on UCMJ, rather than lower-level administrative punishments that require much less time and effort.

"Leaders must be willing to choose the harder right over the easier wrong," then-Defense Secretary James Mattis wrote in a 2018 memo. "Administrative actions should not be the default method to address illicit conduct simply because it is less burdensome than the military justice system."

The committee did not find a systemic problem with commanders declining to take action on rape investigations, writing that in about 95 percent of the cases they reviewed, commanding officers were justified in choosing not to press charges.

What the committee did find, which the report emphasizes several times, is that too many cases that do see charges are ending up at trial, without enough evidence to convict.

The report does not specifically list what defines sufficient evidence, but states that the subcommittee relied on the expertise and experience of the members.

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Their point touches on a foundational gray area in prosecuting sexual assaults, both in and out of the military: the dreaded "he said, she said" factor.

Last year, an Army appeals court overturned a West Point cadet's rape conviction, finding that given the circumstances of the alleged assault, it was unlikely that the sexual contact between the two cadets wasn't consensual.

Keeping in mind that many military sexual assaults happen among friends or co-workers, can involve heavy drinking and often are not reported immediately — allowing for evidence to be washed away — it can be a very high bar to consider a case 100-percent winnable from the start.

That murkiness doomed another Army rape case earlier this year, when a military panel acquitted a former special victims prosecutor after his defense pointed out not only inconsistencies in the alleged victim's statements to investigators, but that Army Criminal Investigation Command itself had failed to properly document a smoking-gun phone call on which much of the case depended.

A court-martial found Capt. Scott Hockenberry not guilty on three counts each of rape and battery, stemming from an intimate relationship with another Army judge advocate.

"Capt. Hockenberry faced incredible adversity due to inexcusable failures by Army [Criminal Investigation Command] to properly document evidence in his case," Brian Pristera, his civilian attorney and an Army JAG reservist, told Military Times in June. "The real story here is about how the Army's preeminent law enforcement unit incompetently fumbled a high profile case, causing the Army to waste immense resources and time over the four years it has taken to arrive at this verdict."

The Pentagon report called out the Uniform Code of Military Justice's lack of a requirement for conviction-sealing evidence to send a case to trial, compared to that required for federal criminal cases.

In the civilian justice system, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, the statistics show that 2 percent of rape reports end in a conviction.

"The Committee recognizes that staff judge advocates and convening authorities are doing what the military justice system allows; however, the Committee criticizes the military justice system itself for allowing the referral of charges that are not supported by sufficient admissible evidence to obtain and sustain a conviction," according to the report.

But they may be dooming the proceedings from the start, they added, and risking both the reputation and livelihood of the accused and the alleged victim, as well as that of the entire military justice system.

"Accordingly, the Committee recommends that Congress amend Article 34, UCMJ, to require the staff judge advocate to advise the convening authority in writing that there is sufficient admissible evidence to obtain and sustain a conviction on the charged offenses before a convening authority may refer a charge and specification to trial by general court-martial," the report says.

However, the crunched numbers also show that having enough evidence by no means assures a conviction.

Though 44 percent of the cases the committee deemed flimsy were dismissed after referral for court-martial, the committee members found that 90 percent of those that made it to trial had enough evidence to justify that recommendation.

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However, in FY17, only 43 percent of those courts-martial ended in a conviction.

"The decision to refer to trial by general court-martial an adult penetrative sexual offense charge that lacks sufficient admissible evidence to obtain and sustain a conviction directly contributes to the 61.3% acquittal rate for these offenses," according to the report.

Here are some common factors in cases that result in charges:

- Report made within seven days of incident.
- Victim is an officer.
- Victim is white.
- Victim hired an attorney.
- DNA evidence was tested, which occurred in only 21 percent of the reviewed cases.

And here are some common factors in cases that ended in a conviction:

- The victim had no "motive to fabricate" the assault, a highly subjective conclusion.
- The alleged perpetrator confessed.
- The alleged perpetrator was not drinking at the time of the alleged assault.
- The victim did not hire an attorney.

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**6. Veterans Day 2020: Veterans receiving new methods of treatment for PTSD and other behavioral health concerns**

(The Fayetteville Observer (NC), Nov. 3, Michael Futch)

*This story is part of our special Veterans Day section, which will run in print Sunday, Nov. 8. Look for more stories from this special publication throughout the week.*

The Global War on Terror often fails to end for service members once they redeploy home to the United States.

They often bring shards of war back home with them, both physical injuries and mental issues that can prove difficult to overcome.

For some soldiers, their behavioral health reveals a significant prevalence of traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychiatric symptoms such as anxiety and depression.

Mental health issues have drawn a lot of attention during this war, and in response, new programs and forms of treatment have been developed on the homefront to combat them.

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Dr. Michael West serves as deputy installation director of Psychological Health for Fort Bragg.

In terms of programs, he said, efforts are ongoing to improve access to healthcare.

"There are really two prongs to this," he said. "One prong is to treat the identified issues and, second, improve performance and optimize readiness. It's not just a matter of treating those with issues. If they don't have traditional behavioral health issues, how can we help them perform at a higher level? Those are programs we're working on now at Fort Bragg in the Department of Behavioral Health."

More recently, West said, the focus has shifted to readiness. He believes that behavioral health in the military is shifting more to total force fitness.

"Which is not just helping people recover when they have issues," he said, "but having people strengthen their ability to be resilient. To tolerate stress. To take someone who is weak in a certain area and build them up."

This total force fitness care may require a focus on communication skills, leadership skills or the ability to interact with people at home. It involves working with service members to become more resilient rather than simply strive for recovery.

Take a good soldier, West said, and make them even better so they can perform at a higher level.

Besides this primary focus on readiness, physicians are using evidence-based treatments, West said. Those treatments have been shown by science to be effective in treating trauma, depression or anxiety.

"Science tells us what to do in terms of what we need to do," he said. "The skill on how to apply them is very important and is an art that we mix with the science."

"Overall, soldiers do very, very well," West said. "We're also addressing family members with this. A ready soldier has a ready family. We're not just dealing with the people wearing the green suits. It's the whole family unit. When they're doing well, soldiers are doing well."

West said "a very small percentage" — roughly 20% of the soldiers — develop PTSD symptoms from the war, but much of that will resolve on its own and never require behavioral health intervention. Most symptoms resolve on their own. But other conditions also can spring from trauma, such as anxiety and depression.

Shannon Lynch, spokeswoman for Womack Army Medical Center, said the post has the Fort Bragg Intrepid Spirit Center that's largely for active-duty soldiers. She called it "a one-stop shop for traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and pain management."

The Intrepid Spirit Center utilizes "a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to better determine the cause of persistent post-concussive symptoms," the Womack Army Medical Center states online. "They provide comprehensive treatment for functional deficits associated with concussion/traumatic brain injury. Team members meet regularly to discuss individualized patient goals and progress, making changes as needed to ensure maximum recovery."

The Fayetteville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, too, is integrating what it calls whole health clinical care into its various regimens of traditional behavioral healthcare.

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"Whole health isn't a program or service. It's an approach to care," said Christina Vair, director for Whole Health for Salisbury and network sponsor for the Veterans Integrated Service Network 6. "Whole health is for all veterans and a way for the VA to provide care in a variety of settings.

"It focuses on how we meet each veteran where they are at. What matters to them. We're asking the question — not 'what is the matter with you?' It's 'what matters to you?'"

The Fayetteville VA falls into the Veterans Integrated Service Network 6, a region that includes all the Veterans Affairs medical centers in North Carolina and Virginia.

She said the Fayetteville Veterans Affairs Medical Center is in its third year of offering whole health clinical care.

"We're trying to integrate this model of care into the VA," Vair said. "I think the biggest challenge has been engaging (the more traditional) physicians. Veterans want this kind of care. It's about the mission and purpose in life. It's another piece of this whole health model. We're making sure we're bringing new approaches."

Those whole health approaches include acupuncture, Tai Chi and yoga.

"These are valuable ways ... to work with chronic pain and mental health concerns," she said. "We're cutting down on the use of pain medication and offer the service as an alternative. It's how to have a better outcome and not need these harmful and addictive drugs."

Veterans who participate, Vair said, have a three-fold reduction in opiate medications.

This approach to care is applicable to all generations of veterans, she said, and whole health coaching is offered to anyone with health concerns.

Anthony Guido, a spokesman for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Cape Fear Valley, said the biggest thing this year during the COVID-19 pandemic is the delivery of CVN Telehealth via the Zoom platform.

"All care is delivered online now," he said.

Since the start of the pandemic in mid-March, the Cohen Veterans Network has treated more than 3,000 new clients, almost all remotely via CVN Telehealth, according to the website.

"It's the same high-quality therapy we're always offering in clinics," Guido said. "We've had really good results. Even better results for people doing it at home."

Mark Gronski, a clinical social worker specialist, is the hospital administrator who oversees clinical services for Behavioral Health Care at the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

"We've got programs throughout the service line, with veterans particularly," he said.

In conjunction with the Fayetteville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Gronski said, a number of services are available for the military veteran. These include individual, family and group therapy on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

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"These are ongoing services we provide," he said. "Hopefully, in the next month or so, teenagers of military veterans will be connected, too. We're working and conducting new outpatient group therapy to help them be more productive. This is not just for veterans, but active-duty folks, as well."

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**7. 'We're Better Than This': Jon Stewart, Veterans Advocates Rally for Bipartisan Burn Pit Legislation**

(The War Horse, Nov. 3, Kelly Kennedy)

No matter who wins the presidential election, talk show host Jon Stewart and activist and Army veteran John Feal say they've got a plan to push through legislation to get health care, research and recognition for service members exposed to toxins -- particularly the massive pits used to burn trash in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I'm embarrassed that I didn't know about it sooner," Feal said. "If I had, I would have had my team of 9/11 first responders doing double duty. I'm bringing them back for this."

They both recognize the fight for burn pit veterans has been tough. Military Times first reported the potential for toxic exposure in the pits in 2008. Since then, the same experts have appeared over and over again before the same panels on Capitol Hill to argue for benefits and presumption for burn pit veterans. But in August, the War Horse reported that just over 10,000 claims had been filed for burn pit exposure -- though 200,000 people have signed up for the Department of Veterans Affairs' burn pit registry -- and of those, only just over 2,000 had their claims approved.

"Veterans who got sick are gullible, just like 9/11 responders who got sick," Feal said. "because we just thought, 'Oh. The government's going to do the right thing and take care of us.'"

Still, he said, "Every tragedy gives birth to advocates."

Today's election could make a difference because one candidate has said he plans to support the fight because of the way burn pits may have affected his own family. The advocates say they'll use their platform to fight not just for the burn pit veterans, but the veterans of all generations who have been exposed to toxins, no matter who wins the election. And Feal and Stewart say they already have a plan -- one that has been honed in the previous fight for benefits for the first responders at the World Trade Center and that should be embraced by anyone, from politician to everyday American, who has thanked a veteran for their service but hasn't followed through with action.

The two will be honored Thursday for their work by the Pat Tillman Foundation (along with War Horse author Jackie Munn for her work as a public health nurse practitioner). They spoke to War Horse through an online video conference -- Stewart in a hoodie and rattling his drumsticks as he spoke, and Feal in his office, surrounded by mementos of his work.

**A Government That Pays Lip Service**

During the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the military burned trash -- as much as 250 tons a day -- in open pits as close as one mile to troops' living quarters. Burning trash itself releases a chemical called dioxin, which is the same ingredient in Agent Orange that caused problems for Vietnam War veterans. It's also one of the reasons cities in the United States don't burn trash in open pits and generally don't allow people to do so in their yards. But in addition to paper and wood, the military included Styrofoam containers

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from the dining facilities, medical waste, unexploded ordnance, computers, tires -- anything that needed to be disposed of -- and then set it aflame using jet fuel.

To Feal and Stewart, this sounded similar to another issue they're passionate about: the flaming wreckage left at Ground Zero after terrorists drove planes into the World Trade Center. The two men are well-known for their efforts in getting Congress to pass legislation for the firefighters, police, health care workers and other volunteers who worked in the burning aftermath of the World Trade Center to get health care and research after they were exposed to toxins similar to those found in the burn pits of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ultimately, they guilted Congress into benefits for the 9/11 first responders after a video of Stewart lambasting representatives for their hypocrisy in not following through on their promises went viral.

Soon after, Rosie Torres, co-founder of Burn Pits 360, approached the two about how similar the fate of the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans was in both history and exposure: They went to war after the attacks of 9/11, and the toxins released by the burn pits were similar all the way down to the jet fuel used to light them to the toxins released at Ground Zero.

"You know what drew me was Rosie," Feal said. "Other than the big picture, which was obvious, I see myself. I see a lot of Rosie in me 15 years ago."

He also sees her struggles: He was accused of making up numbers, being a renegade, and of being a loose cannon.

"But science caught up to us and gave us validity," he said.

Torres' pitch appealed to them both because it spoke, once again, to a government that seemed not to care.

"It's the injustice of a government that pays lip service to people's sacrifice and patriotism, yet when those people need help, they're abandoned," Stewart said. "It's that combination of injustice, hypocrisy [and] real need -- urgent need."

#### Paper Patriotism

Both the comedian and the 9/11 first responder say one candidate will make their jobs easier: Joe Biden. On the surface, that's a pretty easy claim to make: Biden has said he believes his son Beau's brain cancer may have been connected to the burn pits.

"He volunteered to join the National Guard at age 32 because he thought he had an obligation to go," Biden said, according to CBS News. "And because of exposure to burn pits -- in my view, I can't prove it yet -- he came back with Stage Four glioblastoma."

If elected, Biden promised a study of post-9/11 veterans exposed to toxins, including burn pits.

Stewart and Feal are advocating for a bill that would provide presumptive benefit status for service members who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan after Sept. 11, 2001. It was sponsored by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y. A second bill would provide health care for all toxic exposures for veterans. It was sponsored by Thom Tillis, R-N.C.

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And while President Donald Trump has signed legislation requiring a plan to shut down the burn pits, his administration opposed expanding benefits for veterans exposed to Agent Orange and did so only after it was mandated by the courts and Congress.

Feal called the burn pits an issue "that's dear to Joe Biden," adding that, depending on the outcome of the election, "Our work is easier, or our work is a lot harder."

Still, "I don't think anybody's under any illusion that this is a breeze either way," Stewart said. "The truth of the matter is we're upside-down in terms of what [Veterans Affairs'] role should be, and that's maybe a tougher pull, but the VA should be advocating, not resisting, soldiers' claims."

No matter the election outcome, they said they would force the issue through media appearances and rallies, such as the one they have planned -- socially distanced and masked -- for Veterans Day in Washington.

An Election Day push seemed fitting as there has been an increase of what Stewart calls "paper patriotism": Even as people get all up in their feels about players kneeling at football games -- claiming that it's disrespectful to troops; complain about the lack of patriotism in schools; and repost social media memes about the bravery of heroes, many of them argue against veterans' "entitlements," such as benefits after an injury. A vote, Stewart says, is a way to support veterans.

"Really, 'thank you' means getting off your ass and getting involved and helping them," Feal said. "We're better than this."

#### 'We Don't Learn from Our Mistakes'

Some veterans reading this piece may feel like they've heard this story before: Vietnam War veterans, 50 years later, are still fighting for benefits after being exposed to Agent Orange. One out of four 1991 Gulf War veterans are sick, but research from the VA has been inconclusive -- and often focused on veterans' psychological issues, while outside research has shown physical injury from a cocktail of acetylcholinesterase inhibitors, including bug spray, anti-nerve agent pills, and sarin gas. Veterans serving in the 1950s had to fight for benefits after being intentionally exposed to atomic bombs.

Those seemingly never-ending battles have led the pair to several conclusions: They must fight for all veterans who have been exposed to toxins; people claiming to be patriots need to put their money and actions where their mouths are; and Congress members need to plan not only for war, but also for taking care of veterans when they come home.

"We don't learn from our mistakes," Feal said. "If it's not burn pits or it's not 9/11, go back to World War II. My grandpa used to tell me how they screwed him over."

Stewart said it goes further back than that: After the Revolutionary War, veterans rebelled after receiving little compensation for their service. After World War I, they gathered in tents on the National Mall to demand a bonus they had been promised, and the same Gen. Douglas MacArthur they had fought under ordered the desperate, Depression-era men cleared from the Capitol grounds.

"Every time, we honor our military, we thank them for their service, and we f--- them over the first chance we get," Stewart said.

#### A Plan Moving Forward

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Because of their work with first responders, they're confident they can help military veterans, too.

"John really marshaled all these forces for the 9/11 community," Stewart said.

Before Feal came in, the advocates worked separately, Stewart said. Each "fiefdom" had its own piece of legislation, but there was no centralized push to ensure legislation didn't overlap and that people weren't working against each other. He was able to gather everyone together for a common cause. Now, the two are working to join the 9/11 first responders with the burn pit veterans for another Hill fight: The 9/11 veterans will guide the burn pit veterans through the congressional buildings, introduce them to people, and show them how to have a meeting.

"The American people need to know the veterans ... are from every congressional district, and they're sick and dying or have died," Feal said. "And the federal government has failed them. We're trying to not only pass legislation, but we want to change the culture of how the United States military treats their veterans."

If the United States can spend money to send service members to war, it should also set aside money to take care of them when they return home, he said.

Feal said his mind was blown when he realized how long the burn pit advocates had been fighting for their benefits. His own activism began with a trip to Washington in 2005.

"I kind of feel like they've been at it as long as me," Feal said of the burn pit veterans. "Jon and I sat down with them in March, and we went around the room and I asked, 'Well, how often does everybody go to D.C.?'"

When he learned most organizations went once every six months for a lobby day, to have a meeting, and take some pictures, Feal was not impressed.

"I was like, 'You guys all need to go rent a treadmill because we go like two, three, four times a month,'" he said.

And when they go, they bring a team of people and have dozens of meetings a day, he explained. In addition, they hit Congress members with a constant onslaught of emails and phone calls and ... faxes.

The advocates call upon veterans, family members and friends to call and to email -- just to keep the drumbeat thumping, Feal said.

"That's how you move the needle," he explained.

But neither of them are walking the halls of Congress right now.

"Unfortunately, the pandemic -- as dangerous as the pandemic is for everybody -- it's even more dangerous for those who have suffered pulmonary injury and bronchiolitis and all these other conditions that have come from burn pits," Stewart said. "But it also throws a wrench into that kind of advocacy."

It Comes Down to Money

Stewart said it frustrated him to watch Feal spend so much time trying to get something that seemed easy.

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"The frustration of watching what he had to go through to get something that is the lowest possible hanging fruit you can imagine in a functioning society," he said. "In a functioning society, if you can't take care of those who have taken care of you, what chance do the rest of us have?"

With the first responders, Stewart said it was difficult to push legislation through because it was seen as a "New York" issue, rather than an American issue. And, because New York is a blue state, Republicans in Congress didn't want to support the bill, he said. (Ultimately, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., and Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, were the only "no" votes.)

The burn pit issue is similarly simple, Stewart said.

"Any time they would say, 'We don't have the science,' I would say to any of them, 'Go back to your district and dig a football-field-sized pit and put all the garbage in your town along with whatever hazardous materials come by and pour jet fuel all over it and light it on fire,' he said. "And then come to me and tell me, 'Jeez. We don't know what's going to happen.' Yes you do."

It comes down to money, Stewart and Feal said.

"The sad truth is the money's already in the system; they're just not allocating it to that end," Stewart said.

He explained that \$400 billion goes to Defense Department contractors -- the same contractors who made decisions about how to dispose of trash in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Yet those defense contractors are not liable for any of the decisions they make that might harm our soldiers."

Stewart said the military-civilian divide also plays a part because such a small part of the population has served: "If you don't have skin in the game, it's very easy to stand at a football game for the National Anthem," he said. "But if that's the extent of your support, then it's really not worth a whole lot."

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**8. Keystone Military Families' Stocking For Soldiers Campaign sees a big drop in donations as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic**  
(WPMT-FOX (PA), Nov. 3, Jessica Pash)

Keystone Military Families was founded right here in Pennsylvania, in the early 2000s by Kyle Lord, a mother whose son was deployed with the Army National Guard following the September 11th terrorist attacks.

Cindy Mellinger with Blue Ridge Communications explains, "They didn't really know a lot that was happening back in 2001, 2002, what was all going to happen with our men and women going overseas."

Mellinger says, "They didn't have a lot of plans for them to get messages of hope, or stockings, or food, or cards from home. People started contacting her."

Lord is a military mother who started the organization to support her soldier. Keystone Military Families quickly grew and 6 years later, partnered with Blue Ridge Communications to support the Stockings For Soldiers program.

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"These things are so important to the soldier – that they know somebody loves them, cares about them, is saying an extra prayer for them, and appreciates the sacrifice they're making and wants them to come home safely," Mellinger explains.

Each year, Keystone Military Families ships between 8,000 and 10,000 holiday stockings filled with food, hygiene products, holiday decorations, cards, and other sweet goodies to our servicemen and women stationed around the world – right in time for Christmas.

Mellinger says, "Lancaster county and our surrounding communities are so compassionate. We are very blessed. Last year, we had over 10,000 pounds of items, and we raised over \$37,000 for shipping and handling."

This year, the campaign had to make some big changes because of COVID-19. They are emphasizing monetary donations to minimize the amount of contact with the items that go into the stockings.

Mellinger explains, "This way, the Keystone Military Families can purchase the items they need in bulk, they can get better pricing because they're a nonprofit and then there's not a lot of handling in between. Things are ordered, they come in, they have their volunteers that are all gloved and masked."

The campaign will still take any items that you would like to donate, they will not turn you away. Unfortunately, as a result of the pandemic, the donations have taken a big hit.

"At this point, I'm hoping that we'll even get \$20,000 - \$25,000 in overall product," Mellinger says.

Stockings for Soldiers will be accepting donations through November 16th.

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**9. In Change, Fitness Gear OK'd for Wear at Military Commissaries, Exchanges**  
(Military.com, Nov. 3, Gina Harkins and Patricia Kime)

It just got a lot easier for troops and families to hit the commissary or exchange after the gym or their child's soccer game.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper sent a memo to top military leaders on Monday immediately authorizing physical fitness attire at commissaries and military exchanges worldwide. The move puts an end to the longstanding dress codes barring shoppers from entering the stores in athletic shorts and spandex-style gym attire.

The rules apply not only to active-duty service members, but millions of military spouses, children and retirees authorized to shop on base.

"Effective immediately, physical fitness attire is authorized for wear by patrons at commissaries and military exchanges (and their annexes) on all [Defense Department] installations, provided the attire is clean, serviceable and in good condition, and appropriately modest," Esper wrote in a brief memo dated Monday, which surfaced on multiple social media sites.

Officials with the Navy Exchange Service and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service confirmed they received the memo on Monday, referring all questions about its content to the Pentagon. The Office of the Secretary of Defense did not immediately respond to questions about why Esper authorized the changes.

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Service secretaries are still authorized to make exceptions to Esper's policy "based on mission requirements and the need to maintain good order and discipline," he wrote.

"Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure we maintain a safe and healthy environment on our installations," Esper added.

Base commanders typically set dress attire rules for commissaries and exchanges. At Marine Corps Base Hawaii, for example, civilians can wear "appropriate athletic wear," which base officials say is non-military issued physical training clothing that's not provocative or altered to be too revealing.

But that wasn't always the case.

In 2014, a 7-year-old and his mom were turned away from the commissary at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, because the boy was wearing workout clothes. A Marine outside the commissary turned them away, Laura Carothers, a Navy wife, told Navy Times.

"I didn't realize [the rules] applied to play clothes," she told the paper. Her son was wearing athletic shorts and a T-shirt when they were denied entry.

The incident stuck with the little boy, who later told his mom when they were headed to the commissary for groceries, "I'm not dressed right, Mommy. I can't go," according to Navy Times.

Esper's new rules would not only apply to kids and spouses entering the stores, but also to troops in PT gear. They're typically not allowed to shop in even their military-issued athletic gear, including at locations where civilians can enter the stores in fitness gear.

Rules governing wear and appearance of uniforms and civilian attire at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for example, explicitly state that service members are not authorized to visit any on- or off-post establishment in PT gear.

When copies of Esper's memo were shared on social media, users joked that senior-enlisted leaders were likely fainting over the change in commissary and exchange dress codes.

"This is going to cause some [command sergeant major] aneurisms [sic]," one person wrote.

Others were surprised to see the issue reach Esper's desk.

"Can't believe it took the [defense secretary] to implement something as small as that," another commenter wrote.

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**READINESS:**

**10. Top generals tamp down election concerns in private briefing with news anchors**  
(The Hill, Nov. 3, Ellen Mitchell)

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Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Mark Milley reportedly held an off-the-record video call with top Pentagon officials and network anchors over the weekend to dispel fears that the military might play a role in the presidential election.

The Defense Department on Tuesday confirmed the existence of the call.

"We can confirm the off the record meeting took place but we're not going to confirm the content because ... well ... it was off the record," a Joint Staff spokesperson told The Hill.

Milley used Saturday's call, first reported by Axios, to stress that the military would have no role in any potential transfer of power, according to a network anchor who participated.

An official also reportedly told anchors that images of uniformed National Guard troops were not cause for alarm as the governors had requested them.

Two sources from two separate networks also confirmed to The Hill that the meeting happened.

Milley, along with Defense Secretary Mark Esper, has repeatedly stressed in public that the U.S. military would remain apolitical as questions swirl around military involvement in the presidential election.

In August, Milley told lawmakers he saw no role for U.S. troops to play in resolving any electoral dispute.

The concerns stem from President Trump's reluctance to confirm that he will accept the results of the election or commit to a peaceful transition of power.

Trump has also cast doubt on the integrity of mail-in ballots despite no evidence of widespread fraud. In a White House press briefing in September, he said "we're going to have to see what happens" when asked to commit to a peaceful transition.

Former Vice President Joe Biden has also said that he was "absolutely convinced" troops would "escort" Trump from the White House if he lost the election but refused to leave.

All this comes with the backdrop of Trump repeatedly using or threatening to use the military in domestic issues.

Over the summer, the commander in chief said he might deploy active-duty troops to quell widespread protests against racial injustice and police violence. Following that, Esper held a Pentagon news conference announcing his opposition to using active-duty troops against protesters.

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**11. U.S. undertook cyber operation against Iran as part of effort to secure the 2020 election**  
(The Washington Post, Nov. 3, Ellen Nakashima)

U.S. Cyber Command and the National Security Agency have taken recent actions to ensure that foreign actors do not interfere in the 2020 election, including an operation in the past two weeks against Iran, U.S. officials said.

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The move against Iranian hackers working for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps came shortly after they launched an operation two weeks ago posing as a far-right group to send threatening emails to American voters and also posted a video aimed at driving down confidence in the voting process, said the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the operation's sensitivity.

Gen. Paul Nakasone, who leads both the NSA and the military's cyber command, did not address any specific operation Tuesday but said in an interview with reporters that he was "very confident in actions" taken against adversaries "over the past several weeks and the past several months to make sure that they're not going to interfere in our elections."

Nakasone said the NSA had been watching the Iranians for a while and was not caught off guard by their gambit. "We had a very, very good bead on what a number of actors were trying to do," he said. "We provided early warning and followed [them very closely]. We weren't surprised by their actions."

Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe held a news conference within 27 hours of the emails being sent and blamed Iran for the operation — the fastest such public attribution in U.S. history.

That news conference and Nakasone's on-the-record interview Tuesday, along with periodic briefings given by senior Department of Homeland Security officials on Election Day, reflect a determination by the government to be as transparent with the public as possible about how it is securing the election and the threats it is seeing, officials said.

The idea, officials said, is that such transparency will both educate voters and give them confidence in the election's integrity — a top priority in a year rife with political dissension and four years after Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

Nakasone stressed that the agencies' work began after the 2018 midterms and will continue for weeks after Election Day, until the votes are certified. "This is just the start," he said in the call with reporters Tuesday. "We'll be ready for the days to come."

Nakasone noted that the level of foreign targeting of the U.S. election was lower than that of two years ago. "I just don't see the levels that we had seen" in 2018, he said. There also are more foreign actors with the capability and intent to influence U.S. elections, "so we have broadened our partnerships and our operations."

Another major difference from the midterms, he said, is the degree of coordination among U.S. agencies and between those agencies and social media companies, private-sector firms, academia, the National Guard and foreign partners. All of that, he said, has made the elections more secure against foreign interference.

Nakasone said the NSA and Cybercom were on the lookout for signs that Russia, in particular, was seeking to reprise a play from 2016, when it hacked and leaked Democratic emails, disrupting the party's convention and undermining its nominee, Hillary Clinton.

"We have obviously looked to impede what they're trying to do," he said.

Nakasone said he does not necessarily view military cyber operations as a deterrent.

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"I look at it more as, are we imposing a degree of cost that's making it more difficult [for foreign adversaries] to do their operations? And I'm seeing that," he said. "I think that's an important piece — that we've got to look at this in the spectrum of broader competition" between great powers.

Nakasone said a close or contested vote could provide an opportunity for mischief, but he declined to say which country would seek to exploit any post-election discord.

"There's a number of adversaries that could take advantage of any type of disputed vote or any type of call in terms of who may be declared a victor in a state," he said.

It doesn't matter who it is, he added. "We're going to take action," he said, "against anyone that threatens our democratic processes."

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**12. In RI, fears of trouble at the polling precincts prove unfounded**

The National Guard waited on standby, but Election Day stayed quiet and peaceful  
(Boston Globe, Nov. 3, Amanda Milkovits)

The volatility of the presidential campaign had local and state authorities preparing for trouble at the polling precincts and, possibly, in the streets. But, even as some boarded up their businesses and prepared for unrest, and the National Guard waited on standby, Election Day in Rhode Island was peaceful and largely went on without any problems.

There were no reports of intimidation at the polls. There were no credible threats of unrest. There were no cyber security issues or public safety issues. People showed up to vote, not to fight, and the total turnout of nearly 490,000 voters crushed the record set in the 2008 presidential election.

"By all accounts, the election was accessible, efficient and peaceful," said Kristy DosReis, spokeswoman for Attorney General Peter Neronha.

The Attorney General's office had coordinated with the Secretary of State's office for people to report voter intimidation, misinformation, and any election misconduct. The Emergency Operations Center at the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency was activated. The state police fusion center and Joint Cyber Task Force monitored for rumbles of problems.

Long after the polls closed, the capital city was quiet, as people waited for results. Both State Police Colonel James Manni and Providence Public Safety Commissioner Steven M. Paré said late Tuesday night that there were no reports of problems.

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**13. 'State of readiness:' Governors across the country place National Guard troops on standby for election aftermath**

(Stars and Stripes, Nov. 3, Rose L. Thayer)

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A nonscalable fence around the White House and boarded-up storefronts are signs of the tension surrounding Election Day and the fear that some Americans will react to voting results with protests, riots and violence that could spur the deployment of National Guard troops.

"We are hopeful, as are most Illinoisans and Americans, that we will not be needed and will not have any missions, but better to be there and ready," said Lt. Col. Brad Leighton, spokesman for the Illinois National Guard.

National Guard officials in Illinois, Florida, Massachusetts, Oregon and New Jersey have confirmed troops are on standby for potential deployment to quell civil unrest.

In Massachusetts, Gov. Charles Baker announced an executive order Monday to allow up to 1,000 troops available to support local law enforcement agencies in the state, though most officials have declined to discuss exact numbers.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis ordered soldiers to be positioned "in several locations across the state, standing by to assist local law enforcement and their communities as needed," said Lt. Col. Caitlin Brown, spokeswoman for the Florida National Guard.

Guard preparations for possible Election Day protests follow a summer of civil unrest across the U.S., marked by large demonstrations in many cities where protesters railed against racial injustice and called for political reform. In some cases, the protests turned violent.

President Donald Trump's repeated comments that large-scale, mail-in voting could lead to widespread fraud and could taint the election also has fueled fear that protests could erupt once results are revealed.

That has led many governors to prepare Guard troops to deploy should protests form — and turn violent — in the wake of Election Day.

In Illinois, some residents became alarmed Monday after seeing military vehicles and troops traveling to Chicago.

"We sometimes forget how scary troops and military trucks can be for those who are unaccustomed to seeing them," the Illinois National Guard posted on Facebook. "It is kind of Military Operational Security 101 not to talk about troop movements ahead of time."

Troops from the Illinois Guard are in "a state of readiness" and troops are activated now so they can respond quickly, if needed, Leighton said.

Troops in Texas have remained on the job since the summer, when many states sent uniformed Guard members into the streets for protests that sometimes turned violent or destructive following the death of George Floyd, who was killed while being detained by Minneapolis police. Those Texas troops are supporting the Department of Public Safety to protect historical landmarks, according to the Texas Military Department.

While officials declined to answer questions about numbers of troops, there could be up to 1,000 Texas Guard members activated for the mission, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

In response to the protests during the summer, the National Guard Bureau created a rapid response force comprising mostly military police soldiers in the Arizona and Alabama National Guards.

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"When people see the National Guard, they know we're here to help," Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, National Guard Bureau chief, said of the force. "Our goal is to protect the people and property in the communities where we live and serve."

Each state contributes about 300 service members to the force and all have been on standby since September, according to Guard officials. Arizona did send some troops to Wisconsin earlier this year, said Maj. Kyle Key, spokesman for the Arizona National Guard.

"Year-round, [military police] receive annual civil disturbance training that focuses on peaceful and nonlethal deescalation techniques, tactics, and procedures," he said. "If requested ... the Arizona National Guard is ready to respond when needed."

While most troops on standby in those states are awaiting missions, about 1,200 troops in at least 10 states are activated and are working at polling locations or as cybersecurity experts on Election Day to support states and counties. These service members in public-facing support roles typically wear civilian clothes.

In New Jersey, where 370 troops are helping process mail-in ballots, officials see the election help as an extension of their ongoing fight against the spread of coronavirus, said Lt. Col. Barbara Brown.

"We live, work and raise families in these communities and will stay during this critical time for as long as we are needed," she said.

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#### **14. National Guard brought in to help with Wisconsin ballot counting issue**

(Fox News, Nov. 3, Vandana Rambaran)

Poll workers in two Wisconsin counties -- with the help of at least 20 National Guards members -- will have to transcribe votes from at least 13,500 misprinted absentee ballots to clean ballots, possibly delaying reporting of results.

The state Supreme Court refused to issue a ruling on the ballots at issue, which cannot be fed into electronic tabulating machines, and instead told Outagamie and Calumet counties to use the statutorily prescribed method of ballot duplication for counting ballots of this nature.

Poll workers will need to work around the clock to meet the deadline for counting non-provisional ballots, which is 4:00 p.m. the day after the election.

"The duplication process will take additional time, so the public should be aware that election results will be delayed," Outagamie County Clerk Lori O'Bright said in a statement. "They will be posted as soon as possible."

She added that it takes approximately four minutes to duplicate each ballot and the ballots cannot be hand-counted because of an "all or nothing approach," meaning some ballots cannot be counted by a machine while others are counted by hand.

Poll workers also had to wait to start duplicating ballots when the polls opened at 7 a.m. on Election Day.

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"Voters don't need to do anything at this point. Per the court's decision and following the letter of the law, voters can be assured that all votes will be counted. If a voter cast a ballot with the misprinted timing mark, they can rest assured their votes will be counted," O'Bright said.

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**15. A Quiet Day At The Polls For Most Americans**  
(Defense One, Nov. 3, Katie Bo Williams)

In downtown districts across the country, retail and restaurant owners had boarded up their storefronts in nervous anticipation of election-related unrest. National Guard officials sought to play down fears that they would be called up to address violence or voter intimidation at the polls, insisting that local and federal law enforcement would handle any disturbances — something for which Justice Department officials were actively planning.

But by the time most polls had closed on the East Coast, the worst of Americans' fears about Election Day violence had not come to pass. Americans voted in the tens of millions with few reports of irregularities. A spokesman for the National Guard Bureau, Army Master Sgt. Michael Houk, said late on Tuesday morning that regional rapid response units created in September to respond quickly to state governor's requests for law enforcement assistance received no requests.

The regional response units — about 600 service members split evenly between Arizona and Alabama — "are equipped with airlift resources and military police units that allow them to be fully deployed within 24 hours of anywhere in the nation," the Guard spokesman said. Guard officials are careful not to explicitly link the units to fears of election violence; the units were formed after widespread unrest engulfed the country over the summer in response to the killing of George Floyd, a Black man, by police in Minneapolis in May.

As the clock ticked toward midnight in Washington, D.C., none had been needed. Although some states had called up their National Guards to assist with cybersecurity and routine poll administration — for which Guardsmen dressed in civilian clothes — there had been no widespread reports of voter intimidation or clashes between armed groups of protesters on Tuesday.

In North Carolina, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department arrested an armed man who returned to a polling place after being banned earlier in the day, after receiving a call "regarding Dunn possibly intimidating other voters," according to a statement.

President Donald Trump stoked fears that right-wing militia groups supporting his candidacy, like the Oath Keepers, would heed his calls to supporters to "watch" polls to prevent what he falsely described as rampant election fraud. The plot to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer by anti-government extremists opposed to the Michigan chief executive's coronavirus restrictions further raised fears in the run-up to Nov. 3.

On Monday night, Trump tweeted that a recent Supreme Court decision allowing Pennsylvania to continue counting mail-in ballots postmarked before the election but received after Nov. 3 "will allow rampant and unchecked cheating" and "induce violence in the streets," adding: "Something must be done!" (Twitter masked the tweet, requiring viewers to click through and read a warning that some of its content "might be misleading about an election or other civic process.")

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On the cyber and information technology front — another key concern for election officials heading into Nov. 3 — the big story was the lack of story.

“Pretty vanilla,” said a senior official with the Cyber Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, on a call with reporters late Tuesday evening. “Just another Tuesday on the Internet.”

A spattering of technical disruptions across the country had no material effect on voting, even if they did pose an inconvenience to some voters, CISA officials said. In Franklin County, Ohio, a glitch in electronic pollbooks — lists of voter information — forced a quick move to paper backups, resulting in a slight delay. Misleading robocalls in Nebraska, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Kansas, and Virginia told voters that if they encountered long lines, they could vote tomorrow, but CISA officials said such calls were an expected occurrence during every election and local officials were quick to counter the misleading information.

But CISA officials were hesitant to sound an all-clear. As votes are counted in an unusual election that saw historic levels of mail-in voting, the coming days and even months will be a “prime landscape for disinfo,” said one official. In short, the threat has shifted away from disrupting the actual electoral process to manipulating perceptions of the process.

Security experts monitoring the election warn that there is still potential for unrest after Election Night and throughout the week, in particular if there is no definitive winner on Tuesday night — as appears increasingly likely. Trump campaign advisor Jason Miller falsely claimed on Sunday that Democrats would try to “steal” electoral votes from Trump if the president appeared to be ahead in the returns on Tuesday, by counting valid mail-in ballots after Nov. 3. Trump has repeatedly declined to say if he will accept the results of the election if he loses to Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

As of this writing, large crowds were gathered in front of the White House — the site of one of the summer’s most violent confrontation between law enforcement and protesters, when U.S. Park Police tear-gassed protesters to clear the way for President Trump to walk to a nearby church for a photo op.

There was at least one scuffle, as of 10 p.m., between Black Lives Matter activists and a person yelling “All Lives Matter.”

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**16. Riot gear stolen from National Guard Armory in Ontario, police say**  
(Los Angeles Times (CA), Nov. 3, Alejandra Reyes-Velarde)

Officials are investigating after riot gear was stolen from the National Guard Armory in Ontario on Tuesday.

The Ontario Police Department was notified of the alleged burglary just after 4 p.m., said Officer Eliseo Guerrero, a spokesman for the agency.

But officials don’t know exactly when the break-in occurred. Guerrero said the suspect or suspects broke through a chain-link fence and into a locked storage container to take shin guards, riot shields, batons, a megaphone and face shields. No ammunition or firearms were taken, he said.

Police will be looking for surveillance video to determine when the burglary occurred and to try to identify suspects.

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Guerrero added that officials didn't have information about whether the break-in was linked to protests happening across the state as the election takes place.

"It's obviously such a weird time for this stuff, but we don't have any further information at this time," he said.

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**17. State regulator OKs Hawaiian Electric's takeover of Army power service on Oahu**  
(The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (HI), Nov. 3, Andrew Gomes)

Hawaiian Electric has received state approval to take over power distribution at 12 Oahu Army installations under a 50-year contract that won't affect other customer rates.

The state Public Utilities Commission approved the deal Friday under which Army electrical distribution systems will be privatized at bases and other facilities, including Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Army Airfield, Tripler Army Medical Center, Fort Shafter and Army housing areas.

Hawaiian Electric will charge the Army for service and infrastructure upgrades.

The Army sought bids for the contract in 2016 as part of an Army-wide initiative to privatize utility systems.

Last year the Army selected Hawaiian Electric as the winning bidder over several competitors, though completing the deal was subject to PUC approval.

The commission, which regulates Hawaiian Electric as the main electricity provider on Oahu, in Maui County and on Hawaii island, deemed the contract "reasonable and in the public interest."

The PUC consideration included a review and no objection from the state Consumer Advocate.

In its approval order, the PUC said Hawaiian Electric must file annual reports covering the Army system and cannot shift any expenses from the Army system onto general ratepayers.

"The company shall not be permitted to recover costs from general ratepayers that are deemed unrecoverable from the Army," the order said.

The U.S. Defense Logistics Agency valued the contract at an estimated \$638.5 million over 50 years.

This estimated value includes Hawaiian Electric paying the Army \$16.3 million for its electrical distribution systems through monthly bill credits, and recouping \$24.4 million in upgrade expenses over the first five years to fix system deficiencies.

Hawaiian Electric also estimates that it will spend and recover \$213 million on system improvements over the life of the contract.

Currently, Hawaiian Electric feeds electricity to Army installations, and the Army distributes the electricity within its facilities and bills to individual users including more than 100,000 soldiers, civilians and family members.

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The Army is relying on private companies to more efficiently operate and maintain utility systems throughout the country.

As of late 2018 the Army reported that 152 of its 356 U.S. electrical, gas, water and wastewater systems had been privatized, saving \$3.4 billion compared with continued Army ownership.

"The Army needs secure, reliable energy to do our mission, and that's what this effort is all about," Col. Tom Barrett, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, said last year. "Privatizing the Army's electrical system on Oahu supports energy resilience, and energy resilience is critical to Army readiness."

Hawaiian Electric and the Army have agreed to work together for one year in a transition period and then complete an expected total transfer of system ownership and operations in late 2021.

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**18. Dozens of new coronavirus cases reported at Army base in Wiesbaden**

(Stars and Stripes, Nov. 3, Jennifer H. Svan and Marcus Kloeckner)

More than two dozen coronavirus cases have been reported in the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden in a little over a week, a German official said Tuesday.

Infections are occurring at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden similarly to the "very worrying" way the virus has developed in the city of Wiesbaden, spokeswoman Ilka Gilbert-Rolke told Stars and Stripes.

The city, which has a population of around 280,000, had 555 new cases of the virus in the past seven days, pushing its infection rate to nearly 191 per 100,000 residents, it said on its website Tuesday. Germany's public health agency, the Robert Koch Institute, has set an infection rate of 50 cases per 100,000 as the threshold at which urgent action needs to be taken to curb the virus.

It was not clear if the infection figures for the U.S. military community in Wiesbaden include a positive case at Wiesbaden High School or a reported case at Wiesbaden Middle School, which has not been confirmed.

The case at Wiesbaden High School involved a student, said Stephen Smith, a spokesman for the Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe. The school learned of the case Tuesday, principal Heather Ramaglia said in a letter sent to parents and staff members.

"As a result of this positive case, we are isolating those classes of students that were impacted," Ramaglia said in the letter, a copy of which was shared with Stars and Stripes.

On-base public health officials have begun tracing anyone who was in close contact with the infected individual, she said. Some students, and possibly members of their families, identified through contact tracing may have to quarantine, she said.

Students would transition to remote learning during the time they are in quarantine, she added. Smith could not confirm a report of a suspected case at Wiesbaden Middle School but said public health officials were conducting contact tracing at both buildings and that the schools were scheduled to be open Wednesday for classes.

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The announcement of the flurry of cases at the base and the confirmed case at the high school came a day after a partial lockdown went into effect around Germany, where the number of new cases rose by record numbers nearly every day last week.

From Monday until the end of November, restaurants around Germany can only provide takeout meals or delivery services, and cinemas, theaters and gyms will close. Schools and child care facilities, however, will remain open under the new German rules.

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden has taken steps to reduce exposure to the virus that closely mirror those in force around Germany. Most on-post restaurants will only provide takeout meals until the end of the month, and the community theater has been closed, among other on-base changes.

Garrison officials will hold a virtual town hall at noon on Thursday, they said on the garrison's Facebook page.

Wiesbaden last week joined the many towns and cities around Germany that have canceled their Christmas markets, but officials said the city was still planning to decorate the pedestrian area with Christmas lights and a nativity scene.

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#### **MODERNIZATION:**

##### **19. Third IVAS assessment wrapping up this week**

(Inside Defense, Nov. 3, Jaspreet Gill)

Third IVAS assessment wrapping up this week.

The Army this week is wrapping up its third user evaluation, or soldier touchpoint, of its next-generation augmented reality heads up display, the service announced today.

Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division and Marines at Ft. Pickett, VA, have been putting the Microsoft-developed Integrated Visual Augmentation System through different field exercises since Oct. 18.

The soldier touchpoint was the first evaluation using a militarized prototype of the system and included live fire exercises, mission planning, rapid target acquisition, trench clearing, land navigation and after action reviews using augmented reality, a Nov. 3 Army press release states.

Douglas Tamilio, director of the Combat Capabilities Development Command's Soldier Center, told Inside Defense in June soldiers would use new silicon-anode conformal wearable battery prototypes during the third soldier touchpoint.

The entire soldier touchpoint, when officially completed, will produce more than 40,000 hours of data, according to the press release.

The Army is on track to deliver the first generation of IVAS in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2021 and develop the second generation in FY-24.

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The system is being funded through other transaction authorities and middle-tier acquisition rapid prototyping authorities "to accelerate the development process by more than four years as compared to the [Defense Department] 5000 process," according to the release.

Pentagon acquisition chief Ellen Lord in October "hailed IVAS as an example of success, having launched the program under an interim policy she implemented to circumvent problems inherent to traditional military acquisitions methodologies aimed at layered governance and risk aversion," the press release states.

Still, lawmakers on both sides are concerned about IVAS.

The Army in its FY-21 budget request included \$906 million in base procurement for the system and \$14 million in research, development, test and evaluation funding. The service initially wanted to buy 40,219 units of IVAS headsets but adjusted the number to around 29,000 units due in part to the third soldier touchpoint being delayed from July to October.

The House Armed Services Committee, in its chairman's mark of the committee's FY-21 defense policy bill, included a \$230 million reduction to the Army's request, while the Senate Armed Services Committee moved to limit funding for the system until Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy delivered a report on its acquisition strategy.

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**20. Joint Artificial Intelligence Center Keeps Branching Out**  
(National Defense Magazine, Nov. 3, Yasmin Tadjdeh)

When the Pentagon's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center was stood up in 2018, it was established to bring together the Defense Department's various AI programs and projects.

Two years later, JAIC is pivoting to new mission sets, expanding its portfolio and more closely working with industry.

The organization is currently working on 30 different projects across six different areas including joint warfighting operations, warfighter health, business process transformation, threat reduction and protection, joint logistics and joint information warfare.

The center is built "around getting a spark going or getting a prototype or making a market in some way, and then handing it off for transition and scaling right to a customer," said Nand Mulchandani, JAIC chief technology officer. "We're now starting to demonstrate great and exciting success across those products."

The joint warfighting mission initiative is the organization's flagship product and is looking at means to transform the way the United States will go to war. Mulchandani said during an exclusive interview with National Defense on his first day back as chief technology officer after serving as the acting head of JAIC.

In late September, Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Michael Groen was confirmed by the Senate to serve as its director.

"Our early products ... were really focused on kind of starter AI projects when it came to things like predictive maintenance and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief," Mulchandani said. "The

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algorithms were not that hard. ... [However,] joint warfighting is the hardest problem at the DoD for us to take on."

The center is starting with technology such as human-machine teaming and decision support, Mulchandani said.

"There are different ways of displaying information, about communicating information, about absorbing information," he said. "We're spending time with our commanders, with training and education, etc., on how to absorb AI-enabled systems. And we want to do that in a very systematic, deliberate way where we start out with human-machine teaming, decision support, etc., and then work our way toward things like autonomy and others."

Joint warfighting will contribute to many Pentagon efforts such as joint all-domain command-and-control and the Air Force's Advanced Battle Management System program, he said.

In May, the center awarded the joint warfighting operations initiative's prime contract to Booz Allen Hamilton. The contract has an \$806 million ceiling.

However, the center would likely not spend all of the funding because the entire budget of the JAIC over a couple of years is around \$800 million, Mulchandani said during a recent briefing with reporters.

Despite the center being gung-ho about the initiative, a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2021 — which began Oct. 1 — could have an outsized effect on joint warfighting programs, he noted.

"What this really impacts ... is new starts, our ability to start a bigger new project that we have been potentially forecasting for starting with new FY '21 money," he said. That will require some programs to be delayed.

However, JAIC "will be receiving some money as part of the CR that will allow us to kick-start some of these new projects and things along the way, and then scale them ... when we get out of the CR mode" after a full-year appropriations bill is passed by Congress, he added.

JAIC had been planning for a continuing resolution for some time, Mulchandani noted.

"Many of our projects and products ... have actually been pre-funded through much of the money that we got in FY '20," he said. "We have contracts and vendors and other things working months and months out into the new fiscal year. ... We're not in a crisis mode at all."

Meanwhile, JAIC's relationship with industry has continued to improve over the past two years, Mulchandani said.

When it was first stood up, much attention was put on what some perceived to be a reluctance from Silicon Valley to work with the Pentagon.

"A lot of people ask us [about] the whole thing with Google and Project Maven and whether that's still" a strained relationship, he said, referring to a 2018 incident where thousands of Google employees signed a letter objecting to the company's work with the Defense Department's Project Maven, a pathfinder AI effort to better analyze drone footage. Google subsequently backed out of the program.

However, JAIC collaborates closely with the tech giant now, he said.

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"We're working with Google on a number of projects directly ... whether it be health or other types ... of products there," he said. "We have contracts with Google that we're working on, but all the other bigger vendors as well."

Mulchandani said JAIC is working with all of the largest technology companies in Silicon Valley.

"Name an AI vendor and we either have work going on with them, or they're involved in some way in some of the newer projects that we're doing," he said.

As the organization continues to work with industry, it is setting up initiatives to better take advantage of rapid acquisition, Mulchandani said.

It currently has partnerships with a number of contracting vehicle organizations such as the General Services Administration, the Defense Innovation Unit and the Defense Information Systems Agency. Additionally, legislation is currently in front of Congress that could grant JAIC direct acquisition authority.

"We obviously are very excited about that. [but] it's not done yet," he said. "When the final vote happens and we do get it, we'll be very pleased and happy, and if we don't get it, well, we'll still be obviously continuing business with the partners that we have."

The center is also working on an acquisition effort called Project Tradewind which is a way for JAIC and the Defense Department writ large to better reach out to small companies, he said.

Contract vehicles will be created that any organization across the department will be able to use to gain access to "teensy weensy, little companies that normally would hate to work with — or wouldn't know how to work with — the DoD," Mulchandani said. "They can use Project Tradewind's acquisition frameworks to be able to interact with us in a very low overhead way."

During remarks at the Defense Department's Artificial Intelligence Symposium and Exposition, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper touted the work JAIC has done since its inception.

"We have come a long way since establishing the JAIC two years ago," he said. "Today, more than 200 talented civil service and military professionals work diligently to accelerate AI solutions and deliver these capabilities to the warfighter. From helping the Joint Force organize, fight and win at machine speed, to enhancing wildfire and flood responses through computer vision technology, the JAIC is utilizing every aspect of AI as a transformative instrument at home and abroad."

The center is lowering technical barriers to AI adoption by building a cloud-based platform to allow Defense Department components to test, validate and field capabilities with greater speed and at greater scale, he said.

"The goal is to make AI tools and data accessible across the force, which will help synchronize projects and reduce redundancy, among many other benefits," he said. JAIC is also working on ways to better train the Defense Department's acquisition workforce to buy AI products, Esper noted.

The organization, in partnership with the Defense Acquisition University and the Naval Postgraduate School, was slated to launch an intensive six-week pilot course in October to train over 80 defense

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acquisition professionals of all ranks and grades. The trainees will learn how to apply AI and data science skills to operations, Esper said.

The Defense Department plans to request additional funding from Congress for the services to grow the effort over time, he said.

Dana Deasy, the Pentagon's chief information officer, noted JAIC's journey is still evolving. Meanwhile, the military is "generating positive momentum from our early days as AI pioneers toward a mature organization of AI practitioners," he said.

The center is now starting to deliver real AI solutions to the warfighter while leading the Defense Department in AI ethics and governance, he noted.

Its budget is also growing. It went from \$89 million in fiscal year 2019 to \$268 million in fiscal year 2020, and the Pentagon plans to spend more than \$1.6 billion over the next few years thanks to strong bipartisan support from Congress and Defense Department leadership, Deasy said.

The organization is already generating early returns on investment in its mission initiatives, from predictive maintenance to business process transformation, Deasy noted.

The center recently delivered an innovative engine health model predictive maintenance capability that is being utilized by Black Hawk helicopter maintainers from the U.S. Army's Special Operations Aviation Regiment, he said.

Additionally, JAIC — via its business process transformation initiative — is delivering language-processing AI applications to the Washington Headquarters Service and the Pentagon's administrative and financial management teams, Deasy said.

"These capabilities are automating the review of thousands of documents and memos for consistency, accuracy and compliance, thus increasing speed and efficiency while reducing manual, laborious processes," he said.

The center is also laying down the foundations for the Joint Common Foundation, an AI development environment that will broaden opportunities for developers across the Pentagon to build and deliver artificial intelligence capabilities in a secure DevSecOps infrastructure, he said. According to the General Services Administration, DevSecOps promotes a cohesive collaboration between development, security and operations teams as they work toward continuous integration and delivery of products.

However, "while we develop and deliver these important near-term projects, we have to be ready for the contingencies of a changing and unpredictable operating environment," Deasy said. "This is why I believe the true long-term success of the JAIC will depend on how the organization adapts and delivers real-world solutions when the strategic landscape and priorities change."

The organization is already proving it can adapt via its Project Salus effort — which is named after the Roman goddess of health and well-being — that has helped with the federal government's COVID-19 response, he said.

"Working alongside a team of private industry partners, the JAIC developed a predictive-logistics AI dashboard platform for the U.S. Northern Command that enabled National Guard teams to assist states and municipalities with mitigating panic buying and managing supply chains," he said.

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"That project went from concept to code in a matter of weeks. More importantly, it demonstrated the JAIC's ability to support the emergent needs of a combatant commander and deliver real AI solutions during a national emergency."

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**21. BAE Systems wins contracts to develop US Army manned-unmanned teaming technologies**  
(Flight Global, Nov. 3, Garrett Reim)

The US Army has awarded BAE Systems three contracts to develop technology to help helicopter pilots and weapons systems officers control unmanned air vehicles (UAVs) in combat.

The contracts are part of the service's Advanced Teaming Demonstration (A-Team) programme, an effort to develop manned-unmanned teaming demonstration technologies for the US Army's Future Vertical Lift (FVL) aircraft, its next generation of scout and troop transport rotorcraft.

The awards total \$9 million and include contracts to develop human machine interface, platform resource capability management and situational awareness management technologies, says BAE Systems on 3 November.

BAE Systems says the human machine interface technology is intended for "content and presentation management on flight displays, and user data management to organise the huge quantity of information presented to the pilot".

The platform resource capability management technology is intended for "managing the sensors, effectors, and communications systems on the individual platforms and optimizing their use across the entire formation", the company says.

The situational awareness management technology is intended for "understanding the positions of each friendly element, tracking targets and sharing target across the entire formation to optimize threat prosecution. This includes things like automated target recognition, data fusion, data classification and identification, and dissemination and reporting", it says.

The US Army plans to rely on its low-flying Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft, working in close coordination with a variety of UAVs, to find and destroy targets in enemy territory. Those UAVs include so-called air launched effects, drones launched from helicopters that fly scouting missions in search of high-priority targets such as surface-to-air missile batteries and command and control centres.

However, to handle the difficult task of flying low and fast, while also controlling swarms of UAVs simultaneously, the service is looking for ways to automate the operations of unmanned aircraft.

Chris Eisenbies, product line director of the BAE System's autonomy, control, and estimation group within the company's FAST Labs, a research and development group, says the aerospace firm aims to demonstrate technology that will give a "complete view of the battlespace and streamline decision making" in the cockpit.

The A-Team technologies could also be used on the US Army's Future Long Range Assault Aircraft, its in-development replacement for the Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk, according to the service's original solicitation. It could also be used on existing helicopters that have already started some manned-

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unmanned teaming operations, such as the Boeing AH-64 Apache, which sometimes flies in coordination with the General Atomics Aeronautical Systems MQ-1C Gray Eagle UAV on scouting missions.

BAE Systems says it will conduct A-Team work at its facilities in Burlington, Massachusetts and San Diego, California.

The award of contracts for the A-Team programme come after the US Army also called for white papers in April for its “Holistic Situational Awareness—Decision Making” development programme that is planned to be launched in fiscal year 2021. That programme has a complimentary focus of helping pilots make better sense of an avalanche of information coming into the cockpit from a growing number of sensors in next-generation helicopters and companion UAVs.

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**22. US Army installs upgraded JTAGS capabilities in South Korea**  
(Army Technology, Nov. 3, Staff Writer)

The US Army and Northrop Grumman have installed the enhanced Joint Tactical Ground Station (JTAGS) capabilities in South Korea.

The deployment will improve battle-space awareness and missile defence.

It marks the completion of the JTAGS modernisation programme phase one. In 1997, it was first fielded in tactical shelters to offer in-theatre missile warning with data collected from satellite sensors.

JTAGS receives and processes information directly downlinked from the Defense Support Program and other infrared satellite sensors from the Overhead Persistent Infrared (OPIR) constellation of satellites.

Leveraging several communications networks, the system provides the theatre with near-real-time warnings, alerting and data about ballistic missiles launches, and other actions of strategic interest.

Northrop Grumman combat systems and mission readiness vice-president and general manager Kenn Todorov said: “This is a tremendous milestone in our decades-long mission of delivering missile warning and defence capabilities to protect our joint warfighters and allies.

“JTAGS is vital to warfighters and of growing importance as we create true Joint All-Domain Command and Control systems, especially as we find new ways to integrate and leverage space-based assets.”

Northrop Grumman and the army have installed the JTAGS Block II in Japan, Qatar, Italy and the Republic of Korea under phase one.

Phase one included updated hardware, software and communication systems and improvements to cybersecurity and the soldier-machine interface.

The company is currently carrying out the JTAGS Pre-planned Product improvement (P3I) modernisation programme phase two.

In May 2018, the US Army in collaboration with Northrop Grumman, installed enhanced JTAGS capabilities in Japan to improve battle-space awareness and early missile warning system.

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### **23. Infrared Sensors Help the Army Guard Against the Coronavirus** (FedTech, Nov. 3, Erin Cunningham)

A piece of military warfighting equipment generally used in the field is being put to work in a different context: to keep U.S. Army bases safe from COVID-19.

The Army is adapting its infrared sensor technology, routinely used to locate targets on the battlefield, to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. Modified Microsoft HoloLens technology is helping detect elevated temperatures at Fort Benning, Ga., which has a population of about 120,000.

The technology, known as the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS), can detect forehead and inner-eye temperature, according to Bridgett Siter, -communications -director for the Army Future Command's Soldier Lethality -Cross-Functional Team.

"A week ago, we were talking about the potential impacts of the pandemic on the IVAS program," said Brig. Gen. David Hodne, director of the Fort Benning-based team. "Today, we're talking about the potential impacts of IVAS on the pandemic."

As more states permit businesses to reopen, making it possible for federal employees to return to work, government entities are using rapid temperature checks and other technologies to help detect COVID-19 infections.

Other Army programs and some Air Force bases are also using temperature checks, and the General Services Administration has put together a contract vehicle for agencies that want to purchase screening equipment.

The Transportation, Homeland Security and Health and Human Services departments recently released interagency guidance on temperature checks as part of the government's Runway to Recovery framework. The document is designed to help airlines and airports mitigate the public health risks of COVID-19.

"While temperature screening has limited reliability in detecting individuals with COVID-19, it may detect some noticeably sick passengers," states the -guidance. "Airlines and airports may need to consider the use of -temperature screening to meet destination requirements or requirements of local health authorities."

The idea to adapt IVAS for medical screening came when Tom Bowman, director of the IVAS Science and Technology Special Project Office within the C5ISR's Night Vision Laboratory at Fort Belvoir, Va., was watching news reports about COVID-19 this spring, and thought the project's digital thermal sensors could be adapted to detect fever.

The technology initially was tested at Fort Benning, where thousands of soldiers have been screened using the system, Siter says. The system is being used to rapidly assess the temperature of hundreds of soldiers each day as they prepare for training.

IVAS will still be used in combat to detect targets, improve soldiers' situational awareness and make training possible during pandemic lockdowns.

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“It’s first and foremost a fighting system,” Siter says. “But it will also be used to rehearse combat operations and to train soldiers.”

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**SOCIAL MEDIA OBSERVANCES:**

November 8: STEM Day  
November 10: Marine Corps anniversary  
November 11: Veterans Day  
November 17: Air Defense Artillery and Field Artillery Corps anniversary  
November 21: 3rd Infantry Division anniversary  
November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women  
November 26: Thanksgiving Day  
November 30: Computer Security Day

**NOVEMBER DIGITAL MEDIA STRATEGY:**

In November, the Army Communication Enterprise will highlight Veterans Day, Military Families Month, National Native American Heritage Month and the opening of the National Museum of the U.S. Army. These events help us communicate Army values and Army heritage to a wide audience. Army communicators should talk about our accomplishments throughout the year, many of which were highlighted during the recent AUSA meeting.

**Communication Opportunities**

- The Army continues to work with state and local authorities to help communities respond to the COVID-19 medical emergency. Army scientists are advancing vaccines through clinical trials.
- Misinformation about COVID-19 spreads rapidly. Make sure your installation or unit is following all current guidelines, and using official websites and resources for the latest information.
- Think. Type. Post. -- We are in a supercharged environment for political discourse online. Your Soldiers need to know that they represent the U.S. Army when they are logged on to a social media platform, and they must abide by the UCMJ at all times, even when off duty.
- The U.S. Army plans to open the National Museum of the United States Army on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2020.
- Highlight National Native American Heritage Month by focusing on outstanding Native American Soldiers in your unit or installation (past or present) and honor the contributions they have made to the Army.
- Focus on military families during Military Family Month and show how they support their Soldier, the Army and the nation.
- For Veterans Day, honor any local Army veterans virtually, and promote their service and dedication with digital media stories you can amplify Army-wide through digital platforms.
- The Army’s participation in AUSA Now provided opportunities for us to highlight Army successes in 2020. Some sessions are now accessible online through DVIDS and YouTube (non CAC enabled machines).
- Project Inclusion is a holistic effort for leadership to listen to our Army family and enact initiatives to promote and advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion.

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- Project Convergence ensures the Army, as part of the Joint fight, can rapidly and continuously integrate or "converge" effects across all domains through interoperable systems, intelligence gathering and big-data sharing to achieve overmatch against adversaries in competition and conflict.
- Army heritage is an important part of who we are. Feature Soldiers for Life, active-duty Soldiers, Army civilians and family members on our platforms who embody our heritage to feature across all platforms.

# MORNING NEWS OF NOTE

As of 0430 Hours, November 4

## Tweets of Note

Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) tweeted: "We live in the greatest country on Earth and today, millions of Americans will exercise their right to vote in a free & fair election. This is special—and it's a reminder that our greatness stems from our freedoms. May God Bless the USA & all those who defend her." On Naval partnerships, Australian Defense Minister Linda Reynolds said: "HMAS Ballarat has joined the @indiannavy, @USNavy, & @jmsdf\_pao\_eng for #ExerciseMalabar. I welcome this opportunity to work closely with our regional partners to enhance interoperability." And Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi wrote: "Deepest condolence to our brethren #Afghanistan over the victims of the terrorist crime at #KabulUniversityAttack. Fighting terrorism & its culture of hate in all its forms is our collective battle. Thoughts & prayers are with the victims." ([CLICK HERE FOR ALL TWEETS OF NOTE](#))

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### TOP NEWS

#### **1. Key States Up for Grabs As Trump-Biden Battle Extends Late Into Night**

*New York Times*, Nov. 4 (0300), Pg. A1 | *Alexander Burns and Jonathan Martin*

The 2020 presidential race remained shrouded in uncertainty deep into the night on Tuesday, as Joseph R. Biden Jr. failed to achieve any early breakthroughs that would have made him a strong favorite in the race and President Trump clung to a lead in a number of Southern states that Democrats had hoped to flip into their column. Vote-counting was moving relatively slowly in some battleground states on Tuesday night because of the scale of the turnout, a backlog of absentee ballots received by mail and scattered problems with processing the vote. And each state handled the counting and releasing of their ballots differently.

#### **2. U.S. ran cyber operation against Iran to secure election, officials say**

*Washington Post*, Nov. 4 (0115), Pg. A4 | *Ellen Nakashima*

U.S. Cyber Command and the National Security Agency have taken recent actions to ensure that foreign actors do not interfere in the 2020 election, including an operation in the past two weeks against Iran, U.S. officials said.

**3. Quad nations begin Malabar drill with an eye on China**

*Times of India Online (India), Nov. 3 (1802) | Rajat Pandit*

Warships from the Quad nations, India, the US, Japan and Australia, on Tuesday kicked off the four-day Phase-I of the Malabar naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, with the focus being on complex anti-submarine warfare and other combat manoeuvres on the high seas.

**LETHALITY**

**4. Joint Artificial Intelligence Center Keeps Branching Out**

*National Defense Magazine Online, Nov. 3 (0815) | Yasmin Tadjdeh*

When the Pentagon's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center was stood up in 2018, it was established to bring together the Defense Department's various AI programs and projects. Two years later, JAIC is pivoting to new mission sets, expanding its portfolio and more closely working with industry. The organization is currently working on 30 different projects across six different areas including joint warfighting operations, warfighter health, business process transformation, threat reduction and protection, joint logistics and joint information warfare.

**5. Two-Carrier Fire Drill Trains Sailors to Avoid Problems Found in Early Moments of Bonhomme Richard Fire**

*U.S. Naval Institute News, Nov. 3 (1652) | Megan Eckstein*

When USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) caught fire at the pier over the summer, sailors from across the waterfront rushed to the scene, some in damage control teams from their own ships and some showing up as individuals who wanted to help.

**ALLIANCES/PARTNERSHIPS**

**6. Safeguarding human rights key to continued international support to Afghanistan – NATO Secretary General**

*Afghan Pajhwok News Online (Afghanistan) (Interview), Nov. 3 (0900) | Javed Hamim Kakar*

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg says preserving human rights gains is essential for continued international support to Afghanistan. In an exclusive interview with Afghan Pajhwok News Jens Stoltenberg said NATO has always been clear that there can only be a peaceful, negotiated solution to the Afghan conflict.

**7. Israel's intelligence chief wants next US president to continue Abraham Accords**

*Al-Monitor, Nov. 3 (2248) | Not Attributed*

Israel's intelligence chief Eli Cohen said five additional countries — Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Morocco and Niger — are “on the agenda” amid a White House effort to convince Middle Eastern leaders to recognize the Jewish state.

## REFORM

### **8. DoD's Space Development Agency shows how fast the FAR can be**

*FederalNewsNetwork.com, Nov. 3 (0735) | Jared Serbu*

When it came time for the brand new DoD modernization organization charged with rapidly innovating in the space domain to award one of its first big contracts, you might expect they'd turn to a new, en-vogue acquisition mechanism like other transaction agreements (OTA) or middle-tier acquisition.

## PERSONNEL

### **9. Bushwhacker: Southwest desert training preps rescue airmen for austere environments**

*Air Force Times Online, Nov. 3 (1943) | Stephen Losey*

The 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in New Mexico this week has launched a training exercise to prepare rescue personnel to respond in deserts or other austere battlefields.

### **10. Pentagon study says not enough rape case are going to trial with proper evidence**

*Military Times Online, Nov. 3 (1108) | Meghann Myers*

A group of criminal justice experts who reviewed nearly 2,000 military rape cases found that a good number had been sent to court-martial without enough evidence to convict, and that those cases undermine the military justice system's ability to properly prosecute sexual assaults.

### **11. Top generals tamp down election concerns in private briefing with news anchors**

*The Hill Online, Nov. 3 (1457) | Ellen Mitchell*

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Mark Milley reportedly held an off-the-record video call with top Pentagon officials and network anchors over the weekend to dispel fears that the military might play a role in the presidential election. The Defense Department on Tuesday confirmed the existence of the call.

### **12. Record early vote leads to tranquil Election Day at polls**

*Associated Press, Nov. 4 (0253) | Christina A Cassidy and Nicholas Riccardi*

Despite fears of clashes at polling places, chaos sparked by the coronavirus pandemic and confusion due to disinformation and swiftly-changing voting rules, millions across the U.S. cast ballots in a historically contentious election with few problems.

## EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE

### **13. No indication foreign governments have successfully interfered with 2020 voting – DHS officials**

*Washington Times Online, Nov. 3 (1055) | Ryan Lovelace*

Department of Homeland Security officials said Tuesday morning that the federal government is confident that the nation's voting systems are secure and unaffected by foreign interference, but they cautioned that America's adversaries may still attempt to create problems.

### **14. House Armed Services chairman foreshadows change to nuclear posture and modernization delay if Biden wins**

*Washington Examiner Online, Nov. 3 (1521) | Abraham Mahshie*

America's nuclear modernization effort may be in for a delay or the elimination of the ground-based deterrent if Joe Biden wins the presidency, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith indicated in a recent discussion. Meanwhile, from an operational standpoint, nuclear ICBM commanders and experts who spoke to the Washington Examiner worry that there is no time to waste if the aging ICBM fleet is to remain operational.

### **15. Navy To Congress: Here's Your F-35C Carrier — How Do We Pay For It**

*BreakingDefense.com, Nov. 3 (1213) | Paul McLeary*

When House and Senate members finally come together after the election to hash out the delayed 2021 budget, they'll face a new challenge from the Navy: find hundreds of millions of dollars to wrap up work on its newest aircraft carrier.

## GREAT POWER COMPETITION

### **16. U.S. Picks Taiwan for First Armed Drones Sale Under Eased Rules**

*Bloomberg News, Nov. 3 (2144) | Iain Marlow and Samson Ellis*

The U.S. will sell Taiwan armed Reaper drones in a \$600 million deal that will likely further anger China and help lock in a shift in American military support for Taipei during the next presidential administration.

### **17. China rallies nation's spirit of resistance**

*Los Angeles Times, Nov. 4 (0300), Pg. A3 | Alice Su*

The Chinese Communist Party's narrative brushes over North Korea's invasion of the South and focuses instead on American intervention and Chinese resistance. This theme has been amplified across state propaganda for the last month, with nightly documentary screenings, a patriotic movie

release, special museum exhibits and a highly publicized speech by President Xi commemorating the 70th anniversary of China's entry into the war.

**18. Putin pledges Russian superiority in the Arctic with new icebreakers**

*Reuters, Nov. 3 (1208) | Not Attributed*

President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday Russia wanted to retain its "superiority" in the Arctic and that it planned to renew its icebreaker fleet to bolster its presence there.

**19. Russia says it will consider Iranian proposal to end Nagorno-Karabakh conflict**

*Reuters, Nov. 3 (1333) | Olzhas Auyezov and Nvard Hovhannisyan*

Russia is considering an Iranian proposal for ending the conflict between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces in the mountain enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh after three ceasefires failed to halt fighting that is now in its sixth week.

## **SECURITY ENVIRONMENT**

**20. Russia FM: 2,000 Mideast militants fight in Nagorno-Karabakh**

*Associated Press, Nov. 3 (1334) | Avet Demourian*

Russia's top diplomat said Tuesday that about 2,000 fighters from the Middle East have joined the fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, the worst outbreak of hostilities in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in more than a quarter-century.

**21. Assault on University Students Targets Afghanistan's Future, Erasing Hopes**

*New York Times, Nov. 4 (0300), Pg. A10 | Thomas Gibbons-Neff and Fatima Faizi*

The Afghan government accused the Taliban of responsibility for the massacre while the Taliban accused the Afghan government of harboring the Islamic State.

**22. Vienna Suspect Had Terror Ties**

*Wall Street Journal, Nov. 4 (0200), Pg. A22 | Bojan Pancevski, Ruth Bender and William Boston*

The gunman suspected of killing four people in an attack in Vienna was convicted on terrorism charges last year after trying to join Islamic State in Syria but was released from prison after serving part of his term, authorities said Tuesday.

**23. UK raises terror threat level to severe after Europe attacks**

*Associated Press, Nov. 3 (1310) | Danica Kirka*

Britain raised its terror threat level to severe on Tuesday, its second-highest level, following recent attacks in Austria and France. The threat level of severe means an attack in the United Kingdom is considered highly likely. The level had previously been at substantial, meaning an attack is thought to be likely.

**24. France says its forces kill 50 Islamic extremists in Mali**

*Associated Press, Nov. 3 (0457) | Not Attributed*

French military forces fighting Islamic extremists in West Africa killed more than 50 jihadists and detained four in an operation last week in Mali, French officials said.

**NOTABLE COMMENTARY**

**25. A bright spot: The wizards at DARPA**

*Washington Post, Nov. 4 (0115), Pg. A13 | David Ignatius*

Has anything hopeful been happening in this toxic year of partisan politics and the coronavirus pandemic? Mercifully yes, and for a reminder of the wonders of the human imagination, consider what the wizards at DARPA have been up to lately.

**TWEETS OF NOTE**

*Twitter, Nov. 3*

**TOP NEWS**

**1. Key States Up for Grabs As Trump-Biden Battle Extends Late Into Night**

***Vote-counting was moving relatively slowly in some battleground states because of the scale of the turnout, a backlog of absentee ballots received by mail and scattered problems with processing the vote***

*New York Times, Nov. 4 (0300), Pg. A1 | Alexander Burns and Jonathan Martin*

The 2020 presidential race remained shrouded in uncertainty deep into the night on Tuesday, as Joseph R. Biden Jr. failed to achieve any early breakthroughs that would have made him a strong favorite in the race and President Trump clung to a lead in a number of Southern states that Democrats had hoped to flip into their column.

Mr. Trump dashed Democrats' hopes of picking up both Florida and Ohio, two swing states that have tilted to the right in recent years, and that Mr. Trump carried four years ago. He also turned back a

challenge from Mr. Biden in Iowa, a smaller state where Mr. Biden made a late effort to pick up its six Electoral College votes.

Mr. Trump did not have a clear upper hand, but the prolonged suspense was, at least at the start, something of a victory for the president, who was at risk of being eliminated from contention if one of the big, historically Republican states of the Southeast had defected to Mr. Biden. That was still a possibility in North Carolina or Georgia, where the vote tally was closely divided.

In Georgia, there appeared to be a large number of uncounted ballots in the Atlanta metro area, and those votes were expected to tilt solidly to Mr. Biden, the Democratic nominee. And in a number of the state's rural counties, Mr. Biden was slightly outperforming the margins posted by Stacey Abrams, a Democrat who lost a race for governor there two years ago by about 55,000 votes.

Vote-counting was moving relatively slowly in some battleground states on Tuesday night because of the scale of the turnout, a backlog of absentee ballots received by mail and scattered problems with processing the vote. And each state handled the counting and releasing of their ballots differently.

Ohio, for example, released the results of all of its mail ballots after the polls closed -- making the state seem to tilt toward Mr. Biden until more Election Day votes were cast. Similarly, Michigan released its day-of votes in the first hours after polls closed, making it seem that Mr. Trump enjoyed a wide advantage in a hotly contested state.

The night unfolded after one of the most extraordinary election cycles in the nation's history, as Americans overcame their fears of the coronavirus, long lines at the polls and the vexing challenges of a transformed voting system to bring the race to a conclusion, with the fate of Mr. Trump's tumultuous White House reign hanging in the balance.

Turnout was expected to easily break the record of 139 million votes set in 2016, and the percentage of eligible Americans who voted might be the highest in more than a century. More than 100 million early votes had already been cast before Election Day dawned, a record.

For all the angst about a potential breakdown in voting procedures in advance of Election Day, there were no prominent reports of technological failures or chaos at the polls, nor was there any evidence of significant civil unrest midway through the evening. There was still the potential for considerable uncertainty in the slower-counting states, and Mr. Trump threatened in the days before the election to wage a bitter legal battle in several of them in an effort to impede the results. But none of the numerous doomsday scenarios on the logistics of voting seemed to come to pass.

Mr. Biden appeared better positioned in the West, where he staked out an early advantage in Arizona, where most of the votes were cast by mail. The race there was expected to tighten, though, based on Election Day voting.

Mr. Biden, the former vice president, was outperforming Hillary Clinton in a number of the country's large metropolitan areas, but Mr. Trump was reprising or enlarging his margins in many rural areas. With far less support going to third-party candidates this year, Mr. Biden was effectively picking up many of those votes in urban areas while Mr. Trump was adding them to his margins in less populated areas.

Addressing supporters in his home state of Delaware after midnight, Mr. Biden projected optimism but asked voters for patience. He pointed to Pennsylvania and Michigan, among other battlegrounds, as slow-counting states he expected to win.

"As I've said all along, it's not my place or Donald Trump's place to declare who's won this election," Mr. Biden said. "That's the decision of the American people. But I'm optimistic about this outcome."

Mr. Biden added: "It ain't over till every vote is counted."

In the battle for the Senate, too, many of the most hotly contested races were not close to reaching a point of resolution. Democrats gained a seat they were widely expected to win in Colorado, as former Gov. John Hickenlooper defeated Senator Cory Gardner, a first-term Republican. But Republicans made up for that setback in Alabama, where Senator Doug Jones, a Democrat elected in a 2017 special election, lost the seat to Tommy Tuberville, the former football coach.

While it was too early to say which party would control the chamber in January, Democrats faced early disappointment in two solidly red states where they had fielded well-funded challengers in a bid to stretch the campaign map. Senator Lindsey Graham, the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee, easily defeated Jaime Harrison, a Democrat who broke state and national fund-raising records with his underdog campaign. Likewise, Representative Roger Marshall of Kansas defended an open seat that Democrats contested aggressively, recruiting a former Republican state legislator, Barbara Bollier, to run as the challenger.

Still, at least half a dozen races with the potential to tip the chamber remained undetermined, including in presidential swing states like Arizona, North Carolina and Michigan.

The absence of a decisive shift toward Mr. Biden in the conservative-leaning states that reported their votes earliest raised the prospect of a drawn-out wait for clarity in the Northern battlegrounds, where both parties expected him to run stronger.

In several of the largest swing states on the map, including Michigan and Pennsylvania, local officials were strictly limited in their ability to process ballots cast before Election Day, making it unlikely that they would be called for either candidate by the end of Tuesday night.

Still, the possibility of a romping victory by Mr. Biden appeared far slimmer than it did going into Election Day, based on a mountain of public polling data that showed him to be a clear front-runner across virtually the entire map.

Mr. Biden, 77, appeared to be underperforming with Latino voters, especially in the critical battleground of Florida, where he led Mr. Trump by only single digits in the group, according to exit polls. Mrs. Clinton won Latinos in the state by a wider margin four years ago; Mr. Trump's improvement appeared to reflect the success of his insistent anti-socialist message in South Florida, where Cuban-Americans and other immigrant communities are wary of far-left policies.

In a band of Southern states, including North Carolina and Georgia, early returns showed Mr. Biden doing well in metropolitan areas but struggling in rural areas.

As states began to be called there were no early surprises. Mr. Biden picked up states throughout the Northeast as well as Virginia and Illinois, and the reliable Democratic prizes of New York and California, according to The Associated Press. Mr. Trump won in parts of the South, as well as conservative-leaning Indiana and West Virginia and states in the Northern Plains.

Mr. Biden carried New Hampshire, a small state Mrs. Clinton won by a tiny margin four years ago. Mr. Trump had tried to seize the mercurial Northeastern state this time, but fell well short of doing so.

The onset of the coronavirus pandemic in the winter recast the election as a referendum on Mr. Trump's leadership in a crisis, restricted the activities of candidates up and down the ballot and upended the voting habits of tens of millions of Americans.

To the end, Mr. Trump insisted that the pandemic was quickly dissipating, despite mountains of evidence that the virus was spreading more rapidly than ever throughout the country. He blamed Democrats and the news media for overhyping the threat from the virus, and never formulated a factual rebuttal to Mr. Biden's charge that his passivity and ineptitude had led to thousands of needless deaths.

Mr. Trump campaigned vigorously across battleground states in the final days, hoping that a robust turnout from late-voting Republicans and rural white people would help him overcome the advantages Mr. Biden had built across a diverse coalition, especially with white suburban women.

Mr. Biden, who held a steady lead in the polls throughout the general election, maintained a more modest pace with smaller gatherings that showcased his emphasis on public safety in a health crisis.

He spent the final days of the race denouncing Mr. Trump's failure to control the pandemic and his public attacks on scientists in his own administration.

Mr. Biden's candidacy had the potential to create a history-making moment for his running mate, Senator Kamala Harris of California, who is of Indian and Jamaican descent; she was seeking to become the first woman on a winning presidential ticket. And Mr. Biden would be only the second Catholic president, along with John F. Kennedy.

According to recent polls, Mr. Biden appeared to have succeeded in making himself a kind of safe harbor for a wide array of voters unhappy with Mr. Trump, including women, white voters with college degrees, people of color, young people and seniors. But Mr. Biden's coalition was more impressive for its breadth than its depth, and despite its size and diversity, most voters supporting him appeared more excited to reject Mr. Trump than to install Mr. Biden in his place.

Mr. Trump, by contrast, was relying on a far narrower base of support: rural and less educated white voters, and especially men, who continued to embrace his message of hard-edge nationalism and cultural grievance even as the economic downturn deprived Mr. Trump of the chance to campaign on several years of comfortable growth.

Even as they have suffered through the pandemic, most working-class white voters saw Mr. Trump as a trustworthy pugilist who would take their side against any adversary -- whether China or Mexico, the national news media or Black Lives Matter protesters, or the Democratic Party.

Even aside from the pandemic, the 2020 campaign unfolded against a backdrop of national tumult unequalled in recent history, including the House's vote to impeach the president less than a year ago, a remarkable wave of racial justice protests in the spring, spasms of civil unrest throughout the summer, the death of a Supreme Court justice in September, and the hospitalization of the president in October.

As a result, Election Day arrived with the nation on edge, confused in some places about new voting systems and court battles over the electoral process, and worried about flare-ups of violence in the aftermath of a disputed result.

Mr. Trump, 74, encouraged those fears, and the underlying social divisions that fostered them: On the eve of the election, he made a baseless claim that a court decision on Pennsylvania's ballot-counting procedures would lead to street violence. No American presidential race in half a century or more has featured the same scale of civil unrest and uncertainty about the legitimacy of the political process, and no modern campaign has been so defined by an incumbent president who seemed to relish both factors the way Mr. Trump has.

"I'm still anxiety ridden," said Kayla Wells, 24, a mortgage banker, as she emerged from a polling station in Cleveland on Tuesday. She said she had woken up with knots in her stomach. Ms. Wells said she had cast her ballot for Mr. Biden.

But as she exited the polls, set up in the lofty atrium of a sports arena because of the pandemic, she said she hardly felt much better. "The world is on edge," Ms. Wells said, adding that no matter who won the election, she would still be a Black woman living in a divided America. "I feel like I've got to get home, drink some tea and watch TLC."

Republicans answered a surge in mail voting partly by bringing numerous lawsuits aimed at restricting access to the polls, asking courts to limit steps taken in various places to make voting easier during the pandemic.

The legal skirmishes continued into Election Day, breaking out in Philadelphia soon after the polls opened. The Trump campaign pressed complaints that city election workers were not giving their observers -- known as poll monitors -- enough access to ballot counting areas.

Much of the uncertainty hanging over the election arose from the inconsistent or patchwork array of state-level policies hurriedly put in place to enable voting amid a public health disaster. In a number of states, like Pennsylvania and Michigan, local Republican officials blocked Democrats' efforts to make it easier to count ballots cast before Election Day, raising the possibility of a drawn-out count in some of the most important battlegrounds.

Democrats feared that in some cases a Supreme Court now dominated by conservative justices could ultimately limit vote-counting in a way that would aid Mr. Trump.

Recent opinion surveys found that Mr. Biden had a strong advantage among people who had already voted. For Mr. Trump, catching up would depend on turning out voters in large numbers on Election Day and winning them by a sizable margin.

The race was the most expensive presidential campaign ever, and Mr. Trump's much-lauded messaging apparatus was quickly eclipsed by a behemoth Biden operation that caught and far surpassed the Trump campaign in fund-raising. In the final month of the campaign, Mr. Biden's spending surged, giving him a more than two-to-one advantage on the airwaves and online, according to Advertising Analytics, an ad tracking firm.

*--Sarah Mervosh contributed reporting from Cleveland, Nick Corasaniti from Philadelphia and Giovanni Russonello from New York*

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## **2. U.S. ran cyber operation against Iran to secure election, officials say**

Washington Post, Nov. 4 (0115), Pg. A4 | Ellen Nakashima

U.S. Cyber Command and the National Security Agency have taken recent actions to ensure that foreign actors do not interfere in the 2020 election, including an operation in the past two weeks against Iran, U.S. officials said.

The move against Iranian hackers working for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps came shortly after they launched an operation two weeks ago posing as a far-right group to send threatening emails to American voters and also posted a video aimed at driving down confidence in the voting process, said the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the operation's sensitivity.

Gen. Paul Nakasone, who leads both the NSA and the military's cyber command, did not address any specific operation Tuesday but said in an interview with reporters that he was "very confident in actions" taken against adversaries "over the past several weeks and the past several months to make sure that they're not going to interfere in our elections."

Nakasone said the NSA had been watching the Iranians for a while and was not caught off guard by their gambit. "We had a very, very good bead on what a number of actors were trying to do," he said. "We provided early warning and followed [them very closely]. We weren't surprised by their actions."

Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe held a news conference within 27 hours of the emails being sent and blamed Iran for the operation - the fastest such public attribution in U.S. history.

That news conference and Nakasone's on-the-record interview Tuesday, along with periodic briefings given by senior Department of Homeland Security officials on Election Day, reflect a determination by the government to be as transparent with the public as possible about how it is securing the election and the threats it is seeing, officials said.

The idea, officials said, is that such transparency will both educate voters and give them confidence in the election's integrity - a top priority in a year rife with political dissension and four years after Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

Nakasone stressed that the agencies' work began after the 2018 midterms and will continue for weeks after Election Day, until the votes are certified. "This is just the start," he said in the call with reporters Tuesday. "We'll be ready for the days to come."

Nakasone noted that the level of foreign targeting of the U.S. election was lower than that of two years ago. "I just don't see the levels that we had seen" in 2018, he said. There also are more foreign actors

with the capability and intent to influence U.S. elections, "so we have broadened our partnerships and our operations."

Another major difference from the midterms, he said, is the degree of coordination among U.S. agencies and between those agencies and social media companies, private-sector firms, academia, the National Guard and foreign partners. All of that, he said, has made the elections more secure against foreign interference.

Nakasone said the NSA and Cybercom were on the lookout for signs that Russia, in particular, was seeking to reprise a play from 2016, when it hacked and leaked Democratic emails, disrupting the party's convention and undermining its nominee, Hillary Clinton.

"We have obviously looked to impede what they're trying to do," he said.

Nakasone said he does not necessarily view military cyber operations as a deterrent.

"I look at it more as, are we imposing a degree of cost that's making it more difficult [for foreign adversaries] to do their operations? And I'm seeing that," he said. "I think that's an important piece - that we've got to look at this in the spectrum of broader competition" between great powers.

Nakasone said a close or contested vote could provide an opportunity for mischief, but he declined to say which country would seek to exploit any post-election discord.

"There's a number of adversaries that could take advantage of any type of disputed vote or any type of call in terms of who may be declared a victor in a state," he said.

It doesn't matter who it is, he added. "We're going to take action," he said, "against anyone that threatens our democratic processes."

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### **3. Quad nations begin Malabar drill with an eye on China**

Times of India Online (India), Nov. 3 (1802) | Rajat Pandit

NEW DELHI – The 'Quad' is back after a gap of 13 years, with an expansionist China firmly in its cross-hairs. Another 'like-minded' country, Germany, has also declared it will deploy a warship to patrol the Indo-Pacific to safeguard the 'international rules-based order' in the critical region from next year onwards.

Warships from the Quad nations, India, the US, Japan and Australia, on Tuesday kicked off the four-day Phase-I of the Malabar naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, with the focus being on complex anti-submarine warfare and other combat manoeuvres on the high seas.

Phase-II of the wargames in the Arabian Sea from November 17 to 20 will be "more power-packed", with the US likely to also deploy a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. India, too, may field its solitary carrier, INS Vikramaditya with its MiG-29K fighters, apart from warships, submarines and P-8I long-range patrol aircraft already taking part in Phase-I.

"The strategic show of intent to China is unambiguous," said a senior Indian official. The high-voltage exercise comes amidst India's ongoing military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh, which has entered its seventh month now.

The new entrant, Australia, last participated in the Malabar in 2007, which had been slammed by China as a move by "an axis of democracies" designed to "counter and contain" it in Indo-Pacific.

Australia promptly backtracked. India also then restricted the Malabar to a bilateral exercise with the US for several years till Japan became a regular participant from 2015 onwards.

Thirteen years later, China now has the world's largest Navy, surpassing even the US in the number of warships if not technology, and has begun to aggressively flex its muscles from the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The "Quad" countries, as many others like Germany and the UK, are obviously troubled with China's strong-arm tactics in the region. India, for instance, on Monday reiterated that Malabar will "showcase the high-levels of synergy and coordination between the friendly navies, which is based on their shared values and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order".

On Tuesday, Australian defence minister Linda Reynolds said the imperative to cooperate closely with regional defence partners on shared challenges was stronger than ever before.

"Participation in sophisticated exercises like Malabar not only highlights the strategic trust among the members, but also strengthens our collective ability to contribute to regional security," she added.

China, in a terse reaction to Malabar, hoped "the actions by the relevant countries will be conducive to regional peace and stability, rather than the opposite".

India, of course, has also inked reciprocal military logistics pacts with the US, Australia and Japan since 2016, which will help the three nations sustain their warships and aircraft in the IOR.

For Phase-I of the Malabar, India has deployed destroyer INS Ranvijay, stealth frigate INS Shivalik, offshore patrol vessel INS Sukanya, fleet support ship INS Shakti and submarine INS Sindhuraj.

The US, Australia and Japan, in turn, have fielded guided-missile destroyer USS John S McCain, long-range frigate HMAS Ballarat and destroyer JS Onami, respectively.

"Malabar-2020 will witness complex and advanced naval exercises including surface, anti-submarine and anti-air warfare operations, cross-deck flying, seamanship evolutions and weapon firing exercises," said an officer.

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## **LETHALITY**

### **4. Joint Artificial Intelligence Center Keeps Branching Out**

National Defense Magazine Online, Nov. 3 (0815) | Yasmin Tadjdeh

When the Pentagon's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center was stood up in 2018, it was established to bring together the Defense Department's various AI programs and projects.

Two years later, JAIC is pivoting to new mission sets, expanding its portfolio and more closely working with industry.

The organization is currently working on 30 different projects across six different areas including joint warfighting operations, warfighter health, business process transformation, threat reduction and protection, joint logistics and joint information warfare.

The center is built "around getting a spark going or getting a prototype or making a market in some way, and then handing it off for transition and scaling right to a customer," said Nand Mulchandani, JAIC chief technology officer. "We're now starting to demonstrate great and exciting success across those products."

The joint warfighting mission initiative is the organization's flagship product and is looking at means to transform the way the United States will go to war, Mulchandani said during an exclusive interview with National Defense on his first day back as chief technology officer after serving as the acting head of JAIC.

In late September, Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Michael Groen was confirmed by the Senate to serve as its director.

"Our early products ... were really focused on kind of starter AI projects when it came to things like predictive maintenance and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief," Mulchandani said. "The algorithms were not that hard. ... [However,] joint warfighting is the hardest problem at the DoD for us to take on."

The center is starting with technology such as human-machine teaming and decision support, Mulchandani said.

"There are different ways of displaying information, about communicating information, about absorbing information," he said. "We're spending time with our commanders, with training and education, etc., on how to absorb AI-enabled systems. And we want to do that in a very systematic, deliberate way where we start out with human-machine teaming, decision support, etc., and then work our way toward things like autonomy and others."

Joint warfighting will contribute to many Pentagon efforts such as joint all-domain command-and-control and the Air Force's Advanced Battle Management System program, he said.

In May, the center awarded the joint warfighting operations initiative's prime contract to Booz Allen Hamilton. The contract has an \$806 million ceiling.

However, the center would likely not spend all of the funding because the entire budget of the JAIC over a couple of years is around \$800 million, Mulchandani said during a recent briefing with reporters.

Despite the center being gung-ho about the initiative, a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2021 — which began Oct. 1 — could have an outsized effect on joint warfighting programs, he noted.

"What this really impacts ... is new starts, our ability to start a bigger new project that we have been potentially forecasting for starting with new FY '21 money," he said. That will require some programs to be delayed.

However, JAIC "will be receiving some money as part of the CR that will allow us to kick-start some of these new projects and things along the way, and then scale them ... when we get out of the CR mode" after a full-year appropriations bill is passed by Congress, he added.

JAIC had been planning for a continuing resolution for some time, Mulchandani noted.

"Many of our projects and products ... have actually been pre-funded through much of the money that we got in FY '20," he said. "We have contracts and vendors and other things working months and months out into the new fiscal year. ... We're not in a crisis mode at all."

Meanwhile, JAIC's relationship with industry has continued to improve over the past two years, Mulchandani said.

When it was first stood up, much attention was put on what some perceived to be a reluctance from Silicon Valley to work with the Pentagon.

"A lot of people ask us [about] the whole thing with Google and Project Maven and whether that's still" a strained relationship, he said, referring to a 2018 incident where thousands of Google employees signed a letter objecting to the company's work with the Defense Department's Project Maven, a pathfinder AI effort to better analyze drone footage. Google subsequently backed out of the program.

However, JAIC collaborates closely with the tech giant now, he said.

"We're working with Google on a number of projects directly ... whether it be health or other types ... of products there," he said. "We have contracts with Google that we're working on, but all the other bigger vendors as well."

Mulchandani said JAIC is working with all of the largest technology companies in Silicon Valley.

"Name an AI vendor and we either have work going on with them, or they're involved in some way in some of the newer projects that we're doing," he said.

As the organization continues to work with industry, it is setting up initiatives to better take advantage of rapid acquisition, Mulchandani said.

It currently has partnerships with a number of contracting vehicle organizations such as the General Services Administration, the Defense Innovation Unit and the Defense Information Systems Agency. Additionally, legislation is currently in front of Congress that could grant JAIC direct acquisition authority.

"We obviously are very excited about that, [but] it's not done yet," he said. "When the final vote happens and we do get it, we'll be very pleased and happy, and if we don't get it, well, we'll still be obviously continuing business with the partners that we have."

The center is also working on an acquisition effort called Project Tradewind which is a way for JAIC and the Defense Department writ large to better reach out to small companies, he said.

Contract vehicles will be created that any organization across the department will be able to use to gain access to "teensy weensy, little companies that normally would hate to work with — or wouldn't know how to work with — the DoD," Mulchandani said. "They can use Project Tradewind's acquisition frameworks to be able to interact with us in a very low overhead way."

During remarks at the Defense Department's Artificial Intelligence Symposium and Exposition, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper touted the work JAIC has done since its inception.

"We have come a long way since establishing the JAIC two years ago," he said. "Today, more than 200 talented civil service and military professionals work diligently to accelerate AI solutions and deliver these capabilities to the warfighter. From helping the Joint Force organize, fight and win at machine speed, to enhancing wildfire and flood responses through computer vision technology, the JAIC is utilizing every aspect of AI as a transformative instrument at home and abroad."

The center is lowering technical barriers to AI adoption by building a cloud-based platform to allow Defense Department components to test, validate and field capabilities with greater speed and at greater scale, he said.

"The goal is to make AI tools and data accessible across the force, which will help synchronize projects and reduce redundancy, among many other benefits," he said.

JAIC is also working on ways to better train the Defense Department's acquisition workforce to buy AI products, Esper noted.

The organization, in partnership with the Defense Acquisition University and the Naval Postgraduate School, was slated to launch an intensive six-week pilot course in October to train over 80 defense acquisition professionals of all ranks and grades. The trainees will learn how to apply AI and data science skills to operations, Esper said.

The Defense Department plans to request additional funding from Congress for the services to grow the effort over time, he said.

Dana Deasy, the Pentagon's chief information officer, noted JAIC's journey is still evolving. Meanwhile, the military is "generating positive momentum from our early days as AI pioneers toward a mature organization of AI practitioners," he said.

The center is now starting to deliver real AI solutions to the warfighter while leading the Defense Department in AI ethics and governance, he noted.

Its budget is also growing. It went from \$89 million in fiscal year 2019 to \$268 million in fiscal year 2020, and the Pentagon plans to spend more than \$1.6 billion over the next few years thanks to strong bipartisan support from Congress and Defense Department leadership, Deasy said.

The organization is already generating early returns on investment in its mission initiatives, from predictive maintenance to business process transformation, Deasy noted.

The center recently delivered an innovative engine health model predictive maintenance capability that is being utilized by Black Hawk helicopter maintainers from the U.S. Army's Special Operations Aviation Regiment, he said.

Additionally, JAIC — via its business process transformation initiative — is delivering language-processing AI applications to the Washington Headquarters Service and the Pentagon's administrative and financial management teams, Deasy said.

"These capabilities are automating the review of thousands of documents and memos for consistency, accuracy and compliance, thus increasing speed and efficiency while reducing manual, laborious processes," he said.

The center is also laying down the foundations for the Joint Common Foundation, an AI development environment that will broaden opportunities for developers across the Pentagon to build and deliver artificial intelligence capabilities in a secure DevSecOps infrastructure, he said. According to the General Services Administration, DevSecOps promotes a cohesive collaboration between development, security and operations teams as they work toward continuous integration and delivery of products.

However, "while we develop and deliver these important near-term projects, we have to be ready for the contingencies of a changing and unpredictable operating environment," Deasy said. "This is why I believe the true long-term success of the JAIC will depend on how the organization adapts and delivers real-world solutions when the strategic landscape and priorities change."

The organization is already proving it can adapt via its Project Salus effort — which is named after the Roman goddess of health and well-being — that has helped with the federal government's COVID-19 response, he said.

"Working alongside a team of private industry partners, the JAIC developed a predictive-logistics AI dashboard platform for the U.S. Northern Command that enabled National Guard teams to assist states and municipalities with mitigating panic buying and managing supply chains," he said.

"That project went from concept to code in a matter of weeks. More importantly, it demonstrated the JAIC's ability to support the emergent needs of a combatant commander and deliver real AI solutions during a national emergency."

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## **5. Two-Carrier Fire Drill Trains Sailors to Avoid Problems Found in Early Moments of Bonhomme Richard Fire**

U.S. Naval Institute News, Nov. 3 (1652) | Megan Eckstein

When USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) caught fire at the pier over the summer, sailors from across the waterfront rushed to the scene, some in damage control teams from their own ships and some showing up as individuals who wanted to help.

Though the five-day firefighting effort became very organized, the first minutes were confusing: it was a Sunday morning, when most of the Bonhomme Richard crew and leadership weren't around, and disparate people who knew how to fight fires but hadn't trained on how to fold in together in an organized way rushed to the scene.

A recent training exercise at the pier at Naval Station Norfolk sought to address that challenge.

Crew members of aircraft carriers USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) and USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) participated in two in-port emergency team (IET) training evolutions on Oct. 24 and 26, to learn how to not only handle an emergency and incorporate help from civilian emergency responders, but also to learn how to integrate help from a nearby ship.

"This has been a big joint effort," Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Summers, the damage control assistant on John C. Stennis, said in a Navy news release.

"The training required coordination between not only us, but the USS Gerald R. Ford and the base fire department. It's basically what we call 'game time,' it's a chance for the [sailors] to show what they worked and trained so hard for."

He added that the drill helped boost the proficiency of fighting a fire on an aircraft carrier but also in "fine-tuning procedures for requesting and integrating assistance from outside the skin of the ship."

In the Bonhomme Richard firefight, Navy spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Nicole Schwegman told USNI News during a September visit to the amphibious ship at the pier, "you just saw people running to the ship from all ships. It was a Sunday, so they're coming in maybe to do some paperwork," but when the fire broke out, nearby sailors were "just dropping what they were doing. I think some guy ran in in his cowboy boots because they were ready to drop and fight."

"I don't think there was a ship on the waterfront that didn't send sailors and fire teams out to help, and I think that just shows – this fire was a tragedy, but it proved that we train our sailors superbly. And the reason we saved this ship was because of their training and what they were able to do," she continued.

At least 13 different ships in San Diego contributed to the Bonhomme Richard firefight, according to the news release on the Stennis and Ford drill. In addition to those sailors, according to Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck, the commanding officer of Expeditionary Strike Group 3 who oversees amphibious ships in San Diego, even more personnel helped send information on how the fire looked from their vantage point on their own ships, on small boats in the water and on helicopters in the air, providing ideas for how to get water onto hot spots or signaling to helos from the water. Sobeck called it an "incredible orchestration of just people coming together," while speaking to USNI News at the pier in September.

With so many potential sources of help and information, "it's key for our teams to learn how to interact with one another in the event of a major casualty," Lt. Cmdr. Tabitha Edwards, Ford's damage control assistant, said in the release.

"Practice makes perfect, and the more we train, the more we will know how to respond in the event of an actual casualty when providing or receiving assistance."

Ford and Stennis are docked together at Pier 11 at Naval Station Norfolk, as Stennis awaits its mid-life refueling that will begin next year and Ford conducts post-delivery tests and trials ahead of next year's in-water full-ship shock trials.

Cmdr. Jennifer Cragg, a spokeswoman for Naval Air Force Atlantic, told USNI News that the Stennis team had started planning a major firefighting drill as early as March, well before the Bonhomme Richard fire. With fires being a serious concern during maintenance periods, especially one as significant as a refueling and complex overhaul, Stennis needed to rehearse firefighting and how to collaborate with local federal firefighters – the carrier was previously homeported in San Diego prior to coming to Virginia for the RCOH, so Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services was a new partner for the ship in planning this emergency drill.

Still, she said, "once the BHR fire highlighted the imperative for effective [rescue and assistance] teams, Stennis reached out to Ford."

Cragg said the planning process took about a month and involved the Stennis and Ford damage control teams, as well as civilian personnel from Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services. They did not discuss the training event with the Bonhomme Richard crew or its chain of command, she said.

Navy leadership has declined to discuss specific lessons learned from the Bonhomme Richard fire but called on ships throughout the fleet to renew their dedication to fire safety and training.

This particular event, while not inspired directly by the amphibious assault ship fire, gets at some of the early challenges of fighting the fire.

Cragg said the goals of the event were to improve “interoperability and experience. We wanted the sailors to feel what it was like to go to another platform and assist in combatting a fire and vice versa. Having participants from multiple organizations allows for improved communications and develop experienced sailors and civilians when called upon. Ford and Stennis are different ship classes with significant differences in layout. So, the training familiarizes both teams with those differences before a real-world event. It was also an important opportunity to familiarize the Stennis crew with Norfolk FED Fire communications capabilities and procedures.”

Stennis fire marshal Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Woods said in the news release that drilling with these two classes of carriers together is just a first step in the training they hope to accomplish.

“We have never practiced a large-scale firefighting drill like this with other ships supplying all the gear and the sailors we need to back in the space to fight,” he said.

“That’s why we are integrating carrier teams, and then from here it’s probably going to evolve where small ships will support carriers, and carriers will support smaller ships.”

“Integrated training allows us the opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shannon Foster, Ford’s fire marshal. “We need to take time to slow down, ask questions, and figure out where we went wrong because in an actual casualty there is no reset button.”

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## **ALLIANCES/PARTNERSHIPS**

### **6. Safeguarding human rights key to continued international support to Afghanistan – NATO Secretary General**

Afghan Pajhwok News Online (Afghanistan) (Interview), Nov. 3 (0900) | Javed Hamim Kakar

KABUL -- NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg says preserving human rights gains is essential for continued international support to Afghanistan.

In an exclusive interview with Afghan Pajhwok News Jens Stoltenberg said NATO has always been clear that there can only be a peaceful, negotiated solution to the Afghan conflict.

During this interview the NATO Secretary General also talked about the Afghan conflict, the peace process, the US-Taliban deal, the capabilities of the Afghan security forces, NATO role in support to the Afghan peace process, the evolution of the NATO-led mission and the gains made in the past 19 years.

Here is the text of the full interview:

*Q: Do you believe that the Afghan peace talks will end 40 years of war, especially with such a high level of violence caused by Taliban attacks?*

A. NATO has always been clear that there can only be a peaceful, negotiated solution to this conflict. That is why the Afghan Peace Negotiations, which started in Doha in September, are an important step in the right direction, which we fully support. These negotiations are fragile, but they are the best chance for peace in a generation - and all Afghans should seize this historic opportunity. Peace processes are always difficult, with hurdles and setbacks along the way. Afghanistan is no exception. So everyone must remain committed and focused towards the successful conclusion of the negotiations. The Taliban must deliver on their commitments and negotiate in good faith. They must reduce the unacceptable levels of violence to pave the way for a ceasefire. And they must break all ties with al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups. Because Afghanistan should never again serve as a platform for terrorist attacks on our countries. The latest horrific terrorist attack against Kabul University is a stark reminder that terrorism affects us all and that it is important that we collectively fight against Daesh.

As part of the peace process, we have adjusted our presence to less than 12,000 troops, most of which are non-US. We continue to help the Afghan security forces become even more effective and sustainable through our Resolute Support training mission and with funding through 2024. And the recent meeting of NATO defence ministers restated our commitment to Afghanistan's security.

*Q. After the Doha deal with the US the Taliban think that they have won the war and have defeated the US and NATO in Afghanistan. What are your views in this respect?*

A. These are decisive months for Afghanistan. Afghans want peace, and we support their efforts to make it possible. We now face a historic opportunity for peace after decades of conflict, and all parties should now focus on the negotiations. It has taken a lot of effort and sacrifice to reach this moment. It has been made possible by the courage and determination of the Afghan security forces and their increasing capability, and achieved with significant support by NATO Allies and partner countries over two decades. The Afghan security forces are now more professional, better equipped, better commanded and more sustainable than ever before. The Taliban must realise that continued violence can only undermine the chances for peace, which goes against the clear will of the Afghan people and the aspirations of the international community.

*Q. How does NATO view the role of countries in the region at this juncture for Afghanistan's future?*

A. We welcome the Afghan government's efforts to forge regional and international consensus on the peace process. A peaceful Afghanistan will benefit the region, bringing stability and economic prosperity. Therefore, all regional neighbours must play a constructive role to further advance our common goal of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. This is in everyone's interest.

*Q. The Afghan security forces continue to face many challenges. What are your views about their performance? And will NATO continue to support them?*

A. The Afghan security forces are a crucial institution for the unity of the Afghan nation. They are defending against Taliban attacks, securing provincial capitals, and putting pressure on Daesh. They also continue to develop their combat capabilities, notably their Special Operations Forces and Air Force. And the cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior and the National Directorate of Security continues to improve. They will continue to play a key role to ensure the successful completion of the negotiations and to safeguard peace for the benefit of all Afghans.

Thousands of troops from NATO Allies and partners remain in Afghanistan to continue to train, advise and assist the Afghan security forces and institutions. We will also continue our financial support through 2024, as recently stated at the meeting of the NATO-run Afghan National Army Trust Fund Board. Afghanistan's long-term stability and security ultimately depends on effective and sustainable Afghan national security forces, and NATO continues to support them.

*Q. President Trump announced that before the end of 2020 all of the US troops will be home. Will this affect the redeployment of NATO troops?*

A: All NATO Allies have agreed that our presence in Afghanistan is conditions-based. As part of the peace efforts, we have adjusted our presence. Resolute Support Mission consists of under 12,000 troops, deployed across the country. Any further adjustment of our force levels will be made based on our assessment of the conditions on the ground.

We went to Afghanistan together, we are adjusting our force posture together, and when the time is right, we will leave together.

*Q. How important to the US and NATO is the preservation of the important gains made these past years in Afghanistan on many domains, including governance, democracy and human rights?*

A. Afghanistan is a different country from what it was twenty years ago. Afghans have come a long way with the help of the international community — including NATO, the European Union, the United Nations, the World Bank, and donor countries. You now have professional, capable and multi-ethnic security forces, higher life expectancy and lower child mortality, more children in school, including girls, and a higher representation of women in all areas of public life. There is a vibrant media scene and better infrastructure, including for mobile communications. Sports and arts have come back to Afghan public life, with remarkable achievements in the international arena. Afghans have fought hard and worked hard to achieve these gains. So for peace to be sustainable in the long-term, it has to benefit all Afghans. The gains made over the last two decades – including in the domain of human rights, not

least for women, girls and minorities – have to be preserved. The international community is watching developments in Afghanistan very closely. It will be challenging to maintain support from international donors for Afghanistan if the progress made on human rights, democracy and the rule of law is not protected.

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## **7. Israel's intelligence chief wants next US president to continue Abraham Accords**

***Eli Cohen told Ynet TV that Saudi Arabia and Qatar are 'on the agenda' for recognizing the Jewish state***

Al-Monitor, Nov. 3 (2248) | Not Attributed

Israel's intelligence chief Eli Cohen said five additional countries — Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Morocco and Niger — are “on the agenda” amid a White House effort to convince Middle Eastern leaders to recognize the Jewish state.

“These are the five countries,” Cohen told Israel's Ynet TV on Monday. So far, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have signed agreements normalizing ties with Israel amid a Trump administration effort dubbed the Abraham Accords. Sudan's leaders have also signaled their willingness to recognize Israel.

The initiative is being touted in the United States as a political win for President Donald Trump ahead of his reelection bid Tuesday. But it could have strategic implications for both Israel and the United States, given Iran's apparent military and political ambitions in the region and the end of the United Nations arms embargo on Tehran.

“If the Trump policy continues, we will be able to reach additional agreements,” Cohen said Monday, according to Reuters. Cohen's comments came a day before the US presidential vote in which Trump faces a tight contest for reelection.

Trump administration officials have employed markedly transactional negotiation tactics during the negotiations.

Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner has said the UAE's agreement to recognize Israel paved the way for the Gulf state to potentially receive the United States' highly advanced F-35 fighter jet, possessed by only a select few of Washington's allies and partners.

News of the offer raised heated controversy in the Israeli government and led to an additional US defense agreement with Israel, ostensibly to assuage concerns over maintaining Israel's regional military superiority. Qatar has reportedly requested to purchase the F-35 as well.

The Trump administration also appeared to have widened the goalposts on prior negotiations with Sudan, tying an agreement-in-principle about removing the Saharan country from the US state sponsors of terror list to a new request that its leaders formally establish ties with Israel.

Cohen said that whoever wins the US presidential election Tuesday should take a firm stance on Iran, as otherwise progress on the potential agreements could stall. "A concessionary policy will get the peace deals stuck," he said, according to Reuters.

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper has suggested that Washington sees opportunity in shared concerns among Middle Eastern governments over Iran's activities in the region.

"The vision would be to have some type of security construct where countries on the [Arabian] Peninsula, Israel and others are working together to deter conflict with Iran," Esper said last month.

So far, officials in Riyadh have publicly signaled that they are not ready to recognize Israel until a two-state solution is reached with the Palestinians, though reports have suggested that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman may be less opposed to the proposal than his government lets on.

Oman's government praised the normalization deals between the UAE, Bahrain and Israel in September.

Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden has said he wants to return to the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, if Iran is in compliance, and with additional stipulations. Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from the agreement in 2018, with support from Israel and US partners in the Gulf.

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## **REFORM**

### **8. DoD's Space Development Agency shows how fast the FAR can be**

FederalNewsNetwork.com, Nov. 3 (0735) | Jared Serbu

When it came time for the brand new DoD modernization organization charged with rapidly innovating in the space domain to award one of its first big contracts, you might expect they'd turn to a new, en-vogue acquisition mechanism like other transaction agreements (OTA) or middle-tier acquisition.

If so, you'd be wrong.

DoD's new Space Development Agency is showing that the boring old processes embedded in the Federal Acquisition Regulation don't have to be synonymous with slowness. Late last month, SDA awarded a somewhat complex systems integration contract to help build the first elements of a brand new architecture of low-Earth orbit satellites. The total time from final request for proposals to contract award: three-and-half months.

"There was nothing magic about our contracting approach. We found that the FAR is actually quite flexible and useful to get things done," Ryan Frigm, SDA's deputy director said in an interview for Federal News Network's On DoD. "The reason we were able to be successful is because we have a very talented, dedicated and motivated team that shares a singular focus, which is being the department's constructive disrupter for space. And the team knows that we need to get space capabilities out to the warfighter at the speed of need."

The award, to Perspecta, is worth an initial \$18 million as part of an indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract that could rise to a value of \$112 million. It's one of four contracts SDA intends to award to build "Tranche 0" of the new National Defense Space Architecture, which is meant to improve the military's ability to track threats like hypersonic missiles and transmit data to and from battlefields.

Other contractors will build the new fleet of 28 satellites, launch them into orbit and build their data connectivity capabilities. Under the contract awarded Oct. 22, called Mission Systems Engineering and Integration (MSE&I), Perspecta will integrate all of that work together with a ground-based satellite tracking capability that will be delivered by the Naval Research Laboratory's Blossom Point Tracking Facility in Maryland.

Frigm said SDA – which has a staff of just 200 employees, including three contracting officers – decided it made more sense to outsource that integration work instead of attempting to have the government serve as the systems integrator.

"MSE&I has a fairly unique scope. There's traditional systems engineering and integration work that needs to be done, there are segments that are being developed under separate contracts that have interfaces that need to be defined and verified, and then all that needs to be pulled together to deliver an overall Tranche 0 mission system," he said. "It's important that that contractor or that person that's pulling all that together has a performer mentality. There has to be a focus on delivery, not just engineering support or program facilitation. So we thought it was important to actually get an industry partner onboard that could actually help us pull all that together with a focus on delivery."

SDA expects the first tranche of the National Defense Space Architecture to start operating in 2022, and the agency plans to use a spiral development model to keep integrating new technologies every two years. And SDA is already planning for the next set of capabilities. On Friday, it released a request for information to start planning for Tranche 1.

"We don't have the luxury of time to wait for Tranche 0 to complete all the way and document lessons learned, so we're going to take the knowledge we have so far, as well as what feedback we receive from the warfighter community and start immediately folding those into Tranche 1," he said. "So there will be some overlap in order for us to continue to keep the momentum going and deliver these capabilities."

SDA plans to build the new architecture in two primary ways. Some of the work will involve integrating and orchestrating many of the space and communications capabilities other Defense components have already started creating with their own R&D budgets. A second element will mean new acquisitions directly from industry.

But those new purchases will lean heavily on commoditized commercial hardware, because the agency is focusing on building a relatively low-cost "proliferated" architecture – dozens of relatively cheap satellites, not a handful of exquisite, multibillion dollar ones.

"We're are driving toward creating a marketplace that supports that, not just single vendors – we very much want to avoid that – and create a market that can provide the capabilities we need in a commoditized way," Frigm said. "In a proliferated architecture, if a single node isn't providing all your mission capability, if it went away for whatever reason, it's a graceful degradation. The other aspect that benefits from proliferation is you have to stand up an ecosystem to support that, so we have the ability to do technology refresh much more rapidly ... we have an opportunity to put up the latest and greatest and spiral up to the desired mission performance. We'll hit our schedule. If we have to sacrifice a little bit of performance, we can make that up on the next tranche, but that's only two years away."

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## **PERSONNEL**

### **9. Bushwhacker: Southwest desert training preps rescue airmen for austere environments**

Air Force Times Online, Nov. 3 (1943) | Stephen Losey

The 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in New Mexico this week has launched a training exercise to prepare rescue personnel to respond in deserts or other austere battlefields.

Bushwhacker 20-07, the latest in a series of Dynamic Wing exercises, launched Monday and will wrap up Friday, the 355th said in a release. Units from Davis-Monthan will work alongside Air Mobility Command and the Army to prepare personnel to rapidly deploy and carry out attack and rescue missions in austere environments, the release said.

It will include airplane and helicopter operations at locations between Davis-Monthan on the west and the Army's Fort Bliss outside El Paso, Texas, on the east.

Residents of parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas can expect to see and hear additional military flight activity as part of the exercise this week, including some at night, the Air Force said.

"Davis-Monthan continues to practice agile operations with innovation and training to build a lethal, agile and resilient force," Lt. Col. Rodney Dwyer, the 355th Wing's plans and programs chief, said in the release. "Incorporating AMC and the U.S. Army this iteration allows further flexibility and opens the aperture to new possibilities. We are getting after the Dynamic Wing by building readiness, resiliency and relationships here" to support Chief of Staff Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown's call for the Air Force to "accelerate change."

The Air Force in recent years has sought to increase its wings' abilities to operate independently, in case of a major conflict in which a wing might be cut off from the rest of the Air Force and has to fend for itself. As part of this effort, Davis-Monthan's 355th Wing has worked on the "Dynamic Wing" concept, in which a wing can pick up its pieces and go overseas in a large group.

This is the third exercise in which the 355th will train on dynamic force employment of this kind, with the first two coming in April 2019 and November 2019.

Last November's Dynamic Wing exercises included Air Force HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and HC-130J Combat King mobility aircraft, the Air Force's only dedicated fixed-wing personnel recovery aircraft, at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. It also included airmen from the 355th Wing, as well as its geographically-separated 66th Rescue Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

Last year, participants were given limited resources, including one generator for 50 personnel at a "spoke" location at Fort Huachuca meant to simulate a forward operating base. The austere environments and spare resources were intended to get participants used to how they might have to operate in war.

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#### **10. Pentagon study says not enough rape case are going to trial with proper evidence**

Military Times Online, Nov. 3 (1108) | Meghann Myers

A group of criminal justice experts who reviewed nearly 2,000 military rape cases found that a good number had been sent to court-martial without enough evidence to convict, and that those cases undermine the military justice system's ability to properly prosecute sexual assaults.

They found that of all of the “penetrative sexual assault” cases sent to trial, 30 percent of them — or 73 total cases — did not have enough evidence for a conviction, according to the October report, dooming them from the start.

“Predictably, 71 of those cases resulted in acquittals of the accused on those offenses at trial. In one of the two cases that resulted in a conviction, the conviction was later overturned on appeal because the evidence was factually insufficient,” the report said.

The study focused on 1,904 rape cases closed during fiscal year 2017, reviewed by dozens of veteran judge advocates and civilian criminal justice experts, as part of the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces.

A subcommittee formed to review the cases made two major findings: That the vast majority of command decisions to take no action were justified; and that too many cases are referred to court-martial without enough evidence to secure a conviction.

The report also lays out a laundry list of common factors in cases that resulted in charges or a conviction, among them that white victims and officers are more likely to see their alleged attackers charged with a crime, and that cases were more likely to result in a conviction if the victim was a non-military spouse civilian and the alleged perpetrator wasn’t drinking.

In a somewhat contradictory finding, the report states that victims were more likely to see their cases charged if they did hire counsel, but more likely to secure a conviction if they didn’t.

Of the cases reviewed, about 5 percent ended in a conviction, which the report’s authors largely attributed to the number of cases sent to trial without enough evidence.

#### *Chain of command*

The issue of command disposition has been a sticking point for some Democratic lawmakers. In recent years they have argued that the decision to prosecute a sexual assault case is too complex, and potentially a conflict of interest, for commanders, and so they should be handled by professional special victims attorneys outside the chain of command.

“I am tired of the statement I get over and over from the chain of command: ‘We got this, Ma’am. We got this,’” Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., told Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville during his 2019 confirmation hearing. “You don’t have it. You’re failing us. The trajectories of every measurable are going in the wrong direction.”

Gillibrand was reacting to a Pentagon report released that day, which showed that while the numbers of sexual assault reports had been going up — which military officials regularly contribute to an increased understanding and comfort with the reporting process. However, prosecutions and convictions were not also increasing.

Gillibrand has introduced legislation in the past that would take sexual assault cases out of the chain of command, but has not gotten much traction.

Of 1,904 total investigations closed between October 2016 through September 2017, 1,336 — 70 percent — never saw charges.

“For the first time in a study of decision making in military sexual assault investigations, reviewers assessed whether military commanders’ initial disposition decisions were reasonable — that is, within a permissible zone of discretion — with particular focus on those commanders’ decisions either to prefer penetrative sexual offense charges against a Service member or to take no action against the Service member on that offense,” according to the report.

The study, which began in 2017, coincided with a push from the Pentagon’s highest officer to lean more on UCMJ, rather than lower-level administrative punishments that require much less time and effort.

“Leaders must be willing to choose the harder right over the easier wrong,” then-Defense Secretary James Mattis wrote in a 2018 memo. “Administrative actions should not be the default method to address illicit conduct simply because it is less burdensome than the military justice system.”

The committee did not find a systemic problem with commanders declining to take action on rape investigations, writing that in about 95 percent of the cases they reviewed, commanding officers were justified in choosing not to press charges.

#### *‘Sufficient evidence’*

What the committee did find, which the report emphasizes several times, is that too many cases that do see charges are ending up at trial, without enough evidence to convict.

The report does not specifically list what defines sufficient evidence, but states that the subcommittee relied on the expertise and experience of the members.

Their point touches on a foundational gray area in prosecuting sexual assaults, both in and out of the military: the dreaded “he said, she said” factor.

Last year, an Army appeals court overturned a West Point cadet's rape conviction, finding that given the circumstances of the alleged assault, it was unlikely that the sexual contact between the two cadets wasn't consensual.

Keeping in mind that many military sexual assaults happen among friends or co-workers, can involve heavy drinking and often are not reported immediately — allowing for evidence to be washed away — it can be a very high bar to consider a case 100-percent winnable from the start.

That murkiness doomed another Army rape case earlier this year, when a military panel acquitted a former special victims prosecutor after his defense pointed out not only inconsistencies in the alleged victim's statements to investigators, but that Army Criminal Investigation Command itself had failed to properly document a smoking-gun phone call on which much of the case depended.

A court-martial found Capt. Scott Hockenberry not guilty on three counts each of rape and battery, stemming from an intimate relationship with another Army judge advocate.

"Capt. Hockenberry faced incredible adversity due to inexcusable failures by Army [Criminal Investigation Command] to properly document evidence in his case," Brian Pristera, his civilian attorney and an Army JAG reservist, told Military Times in June. "The real story here is about how the Army's preeminent law enforcement unit incompetently fumbled a high profile case, causing the Army to waste immense resources and time over the four years it has taken to arrive at this verdict."

The Pentagon report called out the Uniform Code of Military Justice's lack of a requirement for conviction-sealing evidence to send a case to trial, compared to that required for federal criminal cases.

In the civilian justice system, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, the statistics show that 2 percent of rape reports end in a conviction.

"The Committee recognizes that staff judge advocates and convening authorities are doing what the military justice system allows; however, the Committee criticizes the military justice system itself for allowing the referral of charges that are not supported by sufficient admissible evidence to obtain and sustain a conviction," according to the report.

But they may be dooming the proceedings from the start, they added, and risking both the reputation and livelihood of the accused and the alleged victim, as well as that of the entire military justice system.

"Accordingly, the Committee recommends that Congress amend Article 34, UCMJ, to require the staff judge advocate to advise the convening authority in writing that there is sufficient admissible evidence to obtain and sustain a conviction on the charged offenses before a convening authority may refer a charge and specification to trial by general court-martial," the report says.

However, the crunched numbers also show that having enough evidence by no means assures a conviction.

Though 44 percent of the cases the committee deemed flimsy were dismissed after referral for court-martial, the committee members found that 90 percent of those that made it to trial had enough evidence to justify that recommendation.

However, in FY17, only 43 percent of those courts-martial ended in a conviction.

"The decision to refer to trial by general court-martial an adult penetrative sexual offense charge that lacks sufficient admissible evidence to obtain and sustain a conviction directly contributes to the 61.3% acquittal rate for these offenses," according to the report.

Here are some common factors in cases that result in charges:

- Report made within seven days of incident.
- Victim is an officer.
- Victim is white.
- Victim hired an attorney.
- DNA evidence was tested, which occurred in only 21 percent of the reviewed cases.

And here are some common factors in cases that ended in a conviction:

- The victim had no "motive to fabricate" the assault, a highly subjective conclusion.
- The alleged perpetrator confessed.
- The alleged perpetrator was not drinking at the time of the alleged assault.
- The victim did not hire an attorney.

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## **11. Top generals tamp down election concerns in private briefing with news anchors**

The Hill Online, Nov. 3 (1457) | Ellen Mitchell

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Mark Milley reportedly held an off-the-record video call with top Pentagon officials and network anchors over the weekend to dispel fears that the military might play a role in the presidential election.

The Defense Department on Tuesday confirmed the existence of the call.

"We can confirm the off the record meeting took place but we're not going to confirm the content because ... well ... it was off the record," a Joint Staff spokesperson told The Hill.

Milley used Saturday's call, first reported by Axios, to stress that the military would have no role in any potential transfer of power, according to a network anchor who participated.

An official also reportedly told anchors that images of uniformed National Guard troops were not cause for alarm as the governors had requested them.

Two sources from two separate networks also confirmed to The Hill that the meeting happened.

Milley, along with Defense Secretary Mark Esper, has repeatedly stressed in public that the U.S. military would remain apolitical as questions swirl around military involvement in the presidential election.

In August, Milley told lawmakers he saw no role for U.S. troops to play in resolving any electoral dispute.

The concerns stem from President Trump's reluctance to confirm that he will accept the results of the election or commit to a peaceful transition of power.

Trump has also cast doubt on the integrity of mail-in ballots despite no evidence of widespread fraud. In a White House press briefing in September, he said "we're going to have to see what happens" when asked to commit to a peaceful transition.

Former Vice President Joe Biden has also said that he was "absolutely convinced" troops would "escort" Trump from the White House if he lost the election but refused to leave.

All this comes with the backdrop of Trump repeatedly using or threatening to use the military in domestic issues.

Over the summer, the commander in chief said he might deploy active-duty troops to quell widespread protests against racial injustice and police violence. Following that, Esper held a Pentagon news conference announcing his opposition to using active-duty troops against protesters.

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## **12. Record early vote leads to tranquil Election Day at polls**

Associated Press, Nov. 4 (0253) | Christina A Cassidy and Nicholas Riccardi

Despite fears of clashes at polling places, chaos sparked by the coronavirus pandemic and confusion due to disinformation and swiftly-changing voting rules, millions across the U.S. cast ballots in a historically contentious election with few problems.

About 103 million votes were cast before Election Day, an early voting push prompted by the pandemic. That took some of the pressure off polling places on Tuesday, which generally saw short or no lines as coronavirus cases were on the rise. Daily confirmed cases were up 43 percent over the past two weeks in the U.S., according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

Every Election Day comes with problems as millions of people try to cast ballots simultaneously in 50 states. But experts were relieved they were relatively rare at a time when partisan battles over voting reached a fever pitch.

"We were bracing for the worst, and we've been pleasantly surprised," said Kristen Clarke of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights.

Though the casting of ballots was relatively tranquil, legal storm clouds hang over the counting of those votes. Both parties had fought a massive battle in the courts trying to shape the contours of the election, and that seemed likely to continue beyond Tuesday.

President Donald Trump early Wednesday said he would take the election to the Supreme Court, although it was unclear what legal action he might pursue. The GOP has laid the groundwork for an effort to exclude ballots that arrive after polls close there Tuesday, something several other states permit. Trump has railed over several days about the high court's pre-election refusal to rule out those ballots and said he'd go in "with lawyers."

Trump has spent much of the campaign groundlessly trying to sow doubt about the accuracy of the vote count and casting doubt on mail balloting. It led to great voter stress — but fears didn't materialize at the polls.

"A lot of people were fearful to come out and vote today, and for me I didn't want fear to stop me from voting on Election Day," said Sadiyyah Porter-Lowdry, 39, who cast her ballot at a church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In Iowa, hand sanitizer on voters' hands caused ballot counting machines to jam briefly in Des Moines, but the problem was fixed and voting went smoothly. Officials reported a calm day.

"No armed people, no protesters, no pickups with Trump flags like they've seen elsewhere. Our voters have been 'Iowa Nice' through-and-through, and they have been patient," said Joel Miller, the commissioner of elections in Linn County, the state's second largest, which includes Cedar Rapids.

In Pennsylvania, a judge in Democrat Joe Biden's hometown of Scranton extended voting at two precincts inside an elementary school for 45 minutes beyond the normal 8 p.m. close of voting because machines had been down earlier in the day, said Lackawanna County spokesman Joe D'Arienzo. The last Las Vegas-area voters cast their ballots shortly after 9 p.m. Tuesday after a court order kept 30 polling places open later in Nevada's largest county, where some polling places had been slow to open.

There also were a few other issues with voting technology. Electronic pollbooks from voting equipment vendor Knowlnk failed in Ohio's second-largest county and in a small Texas county, forcing voting delays as officials replaced them with paper pollbooks.

Those who did vote on Election Day included some who wanted to vote by mail but waited too long to request a ballot or didn't receive their ballots in time. Election offices had to scramble to rejigger procedures to allow for a huge surge in mail voting as voters sought a way to avoid exposure to the coronavirus at the polls.

Kaal Ferguson, 26, planned to vote by mail but was concerned he hadn't left enough time to send his ballot back. So he voted in person in Atlanta, despite worries he could be exposed to COVID-19 by fellow voters.

"Obviously everybody has their right to vote," he said. "But it's kind of scary knowing that there's not a place just for them to vote if they'd had it, so you could easily be exposed."

Despite warnings of clashes between Trump and Biden supporters, there were no wide-scale instances of voter intimidation. Indeed, in battleground Michigan, demonstrators from the opposing camps initially shouted at each other through bullhorns outside a suburban Detroit polling place, but ended up joining together to sing "God Bless America."

Law enforcement officials breathed an audible sigh of relief.

"I would say it is blissfully uneventful," Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel told reporters. "We've had virtually no disturbances of any kind."

There were reports, as there are every election, of efforts to discourage people from voting that surfaced in robocalls in a few states. The FBI was investigating. But there were no large-scale cyber attacks that upended voting.

Gen. Paul Nakasone, the commander of U.S. Cyber Command and director of the National Security Agency, said in a statement that he was "confident the actions we've taken against adversaries over the past several weeks and months have ensured they're not going to interfere in our elections."

Instead, voters were often pleasantly surprised. Anthony Medina, of Phoenix, who turned 18 four months ago, accompanied his cousin, who turned 18 on Election Day, to the polls Tuesday.

"I wanted to see how it was to vote in person because I've never voted," Medina said. "It was kind of nerve-wracking because I didn't know if they were gonna ask for more stuff than they did. But it went pretty good overall."

Amber McReynolds, a former Denver clerk whose group Vote from Home has helped local election offices step up their mail voting options during the pandemic, said the ability for more than half of all voters to cast ballots before Tuesday was clearly a significant factor in the quieter day.

She noted that the fairly smooth election operations came even as Congress wouldn't give local officials an estimated \$3.6 billion they needed to help transform their systems during the pandemic.

"Given the difficulty elected officials faced with Congress not giving them enough money, with all the disinformation and political fights — yes, I think today was an astounding success on all front," McReynolds said.

*--Cassidy reported from Atlanta and Riccardi from Denver. Associated Press reporters across the country contributed*

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## **EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE**

### **13.No indication foreign governments have successfully interfered with 2020 voting – DHS officials**

***But 'we're not out of the woods yet,' experts caution***

Washington Times Online, Nov. 3 (1055) | Ryan Lovelace

Department of Homeland Security officials said Tuesday morning that the federal government is confident that the nation's voting systems are secure and unaffected by foreign interference, but they cautioned that America's adversaries may still attempt to create problems.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency director Chris Krebs said he is confident that the vote and vote-count are secure and that the results will also be secure.

"We have seen some attempts by foreign actors, Iran and Russia, to attempt to interfere in the 2020 election. We have addressed those threats quickly, comprehensively, and publicly," Mr. Krebs said at a press conference on Tuesday. "We're not out of the woods yet though. Today, in some sense, is halftime. There may be other events or activities or efforts to interfere and undermine confidence in the election."

Mr. Krebs asked Americans to be patient and said voters should treat sensational claims with skepticism and remember that technology sometimes fails and breaks.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf noted that his department, including CISA, and others in the federal government are sharing information with state government officials as necessary to ensure the security of the election.

"Let me be clear, our election infrastructure is resilient and we have no indications that a foreign actor has succeeded in compromising or affecting the actual votes cast in this election," Mr. Wolf said at the press conference. "But we do remain on high alert here at DHS and CISA throughout the day and beyond to make sure that the integrity of our election infrastructure is maintained."

Both Mr. Wolf and Mr. Krebs said they voted in-person in the 2020 election.

"Keep calm, vote on, and then after today, keep calm and let them count," Mr. Krebs said.

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#### **14. House Armed Services chairman foreshadows change to nuclear posture and modernization delay if Biden wins**

Washington Examiner Online, Nov. 3 (1521) | Abraham Mahshie

America's nuclear modernization effort may be in for a delay or the elimination of the ground-based deterrent if Joe Biden wins the presidency, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith indicated in a recent discussion.

Meanwhile, from an operational standpoint, nuclear ICBM commanders and experts who spoke to the Washington Examiner worry that there is no time to waste if the aging ICBM fleet is to remain operational.

"I, frankly, think that our ICBM fleet right now is driven as much by politics as it is by a policy necessity," Smith said in a Center for a New American Security discussion last week.

Smith made the case that Midwestern states that host missile silos do so for economic gain, not out of strategic necessity. He praised China's nuclear deterrence philosophy to maintain a small nuclear arsenal as "a pretty sound approach."

"It's also a heck of a lot cheaper than imagining that you have to build enough nuclear weapons to win a nuclear conflict," he said. "So, I think, and I'm confident that the Biden administration, if it comes, is going to feel this way, that we need to reexamine the nuclear posture review."

China has an estimated 200 nuclear weapons, and while Defense Department analysts predict that number will double by the end of the decade, the total missile count will pale in comparison to America's 4,000 nuclear weapons.

The focus of Smith's comments were on the ground-based leg of the nuclear triad, which relies on some 400 missile silos to house America's intercontinental ballistic missiles. The current version of the ICBM in those silos, the Minuteman III, was commissioned in 1971, and experts say modernization is urgent.

"Everyone just thinks about the missiles," Center for Strategic and International Studies nuclear security expert Rebecca Hersman told the Washington Examiner in a recent interview. "It's a lot more than the missiles in terms of what needs to be redone."

Hersman noted that Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming is the first of three ICBM bases that would be modernized, followed by Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana and Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota.

"The pieces are not falling off of this equipment. It is being masterfully maintained," she said of the half-century-old nuclear missiles.

"We haven't been teetering on the edge of disaster for 40 years," Hersman added. "The big question is, could you eke out another 10, another 20, another 30 years, like some people are suggesting? And that seems risky."

In September, the Air Force awarded Northrop Grumman a \$13.3 billion contract to upgrade the aging Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, or GBSD, system, but Smith and other members of Congress question the short- and long-term costs and the necessity to maintain the land-based leg in its current form, or at all.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated in January that it would cost the Department of Defense \$494 billion to maintain the nuclear forces through 2028.

Maj. Gen. Mike Lutton, commander of the 20th Air Force at F.E. Warren, which oversees the three wings of nuclear ICBMs, told the Washington Examiner in a recent Zoom interview that life-extension measures have nearly reached their limit.

"When you look at it as an operational military commander, I'm focused on our capabilities, and it's pretty well documented where we're at with the Minuteman III and why we need to modernize our force," Lutton said ahead of a briefing at Hill Air Force Base in Utah on the new GBSD.

At Hill, Lutton said he hopes to learn how he and other bases will maintain the current nuclear deterrent while also phasing in a brand new system.

"For certain action activities like fielding a new weapons system, I mean, 2023 is around the corner for us," he said. "What does that mean to our operational tempo here? What does that mean to our personnel tempo here? Those are the things that I'll be looking at, quite honestly."

F.E. Warren's approximately 150 silos are expected to go offline first when modernization begins. To retain the strategic deterrent, Malmstrom and Minot will need to extend the life of their missiles the longest.

"In one way, shape, or another, we've been operating this system for almost five decades," Lutton said, reflecting on the recent anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis, which put Minot's Minuteman I missiles on alert 58 years ago.

"I think, by anybody's estimation, we're about due to modernize after five decades," he added.

Adversary Russia has nearly completed its modernization effort, while the U.S. plan is expected to run through 2029, if it stays on track.

Smith said the timeline is worth a rethink.

"What I want us to have is a nuclear arsenal that is sufficient to deter anyone from thinking that it makes sense to start a nuclear war," he said. "We have a nuclear arsenal that still envisions 'winning a nuclear war,' all right? That's what I find insane."

He added: "It's worth having the debate to envision what should our nuclear deterrence policy look like and what do we need to build to achieve it?"

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## **15. Navy To Congress: Here's Your F-35C Carrier — How Do We Pay For It**

***The Navy awarded a big contract to modify its newest aircraft carrier -- tossing the ball back to Capitol Hill which demanded the work, but neglected to provide funding***

BreakingDefense.com, Nov. 3 (1213) | Paul McLeary

WASHINGTON — When House and Senate members finally come together after the election to hash out the delayed 2021 budget, they'll face a new challenge from the Navy: find hundreds of millions of dollars to wrap up work on its newest aircraft carrier.

On Monday evening, the Navy awarded Newport News Shipbuilding a contract valued at up to \$315 million for modifications to the USS John F. Kennedy so it can operate F-35C fighters. Normally, such deals would be a routine contract modification, buried amid the billions the Pentagon contracts for on any given day.

But as with everything else surrounding these two programs, nothing is routine. The contract went out despite the fact that the Navy hasn't figured out a way to pay for it. That's the job of Congress, which mandated the work take place back in 2020 budget, but didn't provide any money to make it happen.

Asked about where the funding will come from, Navy spokesman Capt. Danny Hernandez said the issue "is currently under review," but the service expects the work to have "no impact to the JFK's baseline delivery date in 2024" — as long as it is found soon.

The \$11 billion Kennedy, like the \$13 billion USS Gerald R. Ford, was not designed to fly the plane, and requires costly modifications to be able to operate the fifth-generation fighter.

The Navy's decision to award the contract throws the issue back to Capitol Hill, where lawmakers are about to enter into conference negotiations over the 2021 defense bill, and as the Navy finalizes its 2022 budget submission.

Navy officials said earlier this year that the work on the Kennedy would cause them to hold off on some early work on the third and fourth Ford-class carriers, the USS Enterprise and USS Doris Miller, to ensure the Kennedy retrofits are done correctly before incorporating them on the other ships which have just started their build cycles.

The issue with building the Ford carriers with F-35 capability has hung over both programs as they have struggled to work through a litany of issues that have caused each to be years behind schedule and billions over budget.

Navy officials and analysts have said the service couldn't wait for the F-35 to be ready before work started on the carriers, so they moved ahead with the idea that modifications could be made once the aircraft was fleshed out and operational.

While both Nimitz and Ford-class aircraft carriers can operate with F-35Cs aboard, significant modifications are required for both classes to fly and sustain the aircraft for extended periods. The ships require the capability to push and fuse all the data the F-35s can generate, along with building additional classified spaces, new jet blast deflectors and other refits. Room also needs to be made for Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, which will replace the Navy's C-2A Greyhound fleet that cannot haul the F-35's heavy engines out to the ship.

In the end, the 36-year old USS Carl Vinson, which started its build under the Nixon administration and launched in 1983, will be the first home for F-35Cs at sea. The ship wrapped a \$34 million refit in Bremerton Wash. earlier this year, and is conducting sea trials before an expected 2021 deployment.

The plan has been for the USS Enterprise and USS Doris Miller to be built for the F-35 from the start. The Enterprise is slated to deploy in 2028 and Doris Miller will be ready to sail in 2032. In January, the Navy awarded Huntington Ingalls a \$24 billion contract for the two ships.

Overall, the Navy's plans to incorporate F-35s into operations took a hit this summer when the USS Bonhomme Richard caught fire while pierside in San Diego, possibly scuttling the deployment of a ship that was next in line to launch F-35Bs from its flight deck.

The Richard would have been the fifth amphibious ship modified to operate the F-35B, after the San Diego-based USS Essex and Makin Island have been updated, along with the USS America (currently in port in Japan) and the Norfolk-based USS Wasp. (Of course, the Wasp is familiar with the F-35B having conducted a number of its operational tests.)

Last month, Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite told me he's interested in exploring the idea of building more of these smaller carriers in upcoming budgets.

Asked about Defense Secretary Mark Esper's suggestion that the fleet of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers could fall from 11 to as low as eight in coming decades, Braithwaite suggested there might be less change afoot than some might think.

"We're looking at a range," he said. "I fully believe that number will be pretty close to where it is today."

The secretary said if the Navy can mimic in some fashion what it did with small carriers in WWII and build more of them "at one-third, one-half the cost" of a carrier while keeping the big-deck nuclear-

powered carriers in the fleet, it may be possible to shed a few supercarriers while keeping the Navy's airpower dominance intact.

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## **GREAT POWER COMPETITION**

### **16. U.S. Picks Taiwan for First Armed Drones Sale Under Eased Rules**

Bloomberg News, Nov. 3 (2144) | Iain Marlow and Samson Ellis

The U.S. will sell Taiwan armed Reaper drones in a \$600 million deal that will likely further anger China and help lock in a shift in American military support for Taipei during the next presidential administration.

The State Department on Tuesday approved the proposed sale of the four weapons-ready MQ-9B drones from General Atomics -- capable of carrying laser and GPS-guided munitions -- along with radar, sensors and ground control stations for flying the aircraft. It was the first time the U.S. has approved the sale of armed drones since the Trump administration eased export restrictions in July.

"This proposed sale will improve the recipient's capability to meet current and future threats by providing timely Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance, target acquisition, and counter-land, counter-sea, and anti-submarine strike capabilities for its security and defense," the State Department said in a statement. "The capability is a deterrent to regional threats and will strengthen the recipient's self-defense," it said.

The move comes shortly after similar approval in recent weeks for two arms sales worth a total of \$4.2 billion for the democratically controlled island, which Beijing considers part of its territory. The deals leading up to Tuesday's election in the U.S. continue a notable shift away from the sale of more traditional, expensive weapons platforms -- such as warplanes and tanks -- toward a so-called "hedgehog" defensive strategy designed to make the costs of a Chinese invasion too high by deploying nimble weapons such as mobile missile systems, mines and drones.

China's military has continued to pile pressure on Taiwan, with People's Liberation Army aircraft breaching the island's air defense identification zone on a near-daily basis. Tensions are also high between the world's two biggest economies, with China featuring prominently in election rhetoric between President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden.

While the U.S. recently sold Taipei F-16 warplanes and Abrams tanks, military analysts have argued that these expensive acquisitions are particularly vulnerable should China launch a barrage of missiles to knock out the island's defenses -- including parked jets and vehicles, runways and military facilities -- ahead of an invasion.

Taiwan has also scrambled around 3,000 jets this year as Chinese military aircraft fly close to the island, and a crash of an aging F-5 fighter has fueled concerns about the age of its fleet.

"The main benefit of these drones will be to improve our surveillance and detection capabilities in the Taiwan Strait," Shu Hsiao-huang, assistant research fellow at the Taipei-based Institute for National Defense and Security Research, said, citing their ability to stay in the air for long periods. "This will help us maintain stronger surveillance on the areas around Taiwan."

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#### **17. China rallies nation's spirit of resistance**

***Its war narratives convey the message that the people need not fear confrontation with United States***

Los Angeles Times, Nov. 4 (0300), Pg. A3 | Alice Su

A soldier lifted his head as he entered the military museum, raising his cellphone to snap a photo of the glowing hammer and sickle on the ceiling. Five portraits of Chinese leaders from Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping hung beneath it, each praising the spirit of resisting "U.S. aggression" during the Korean War.

A sprawling exhibit told the tale of an underdog China heroically "shattering the myth" of U.S. invincibility by fighting on the side of its neighbor North Korea against the world's superpower, which had aligned itself with the South.

The Chinese Communist Party's narrative brushes over North Korea's invasion of the South and focuses instead on American intervention and Chinese resistance. This theme has been amplified across state propaganda for the last month, with nightly documentary screenings, a patriotic movie release, special museum exhibits and a highly publicized speech by President Xi commemorating the 70th anniversary of China's entry into the war.

The message, coming amid an American presidential election in which heightened tensions with China became a key campaign issue, is clear: China fought the U.S. in the past and should not be afraid of fresh animosities -- including over trade, spying accusations and the future of Hong Kong -- that could lead to outright confrontation with Washington.

"Any nation or military, no matter how strong, if they stand on the opposite side of global development trends, bullying the weak, going against the flow and aggressively expanding, they will inevitably have their heads smashed and blood flowing," Xi said in his speech. "The Chinese people neither make trouble nor fear trouble ... their legs will not shake, their waists will not bend, the Chinese nation cannot be frightened or crushed!"

The message is aimed largely at a domestic audience. It has reverberated through a month of tight media control as the Communist Party's leadership held high-level, closed-door meetings in Beijing.

Last week, officials released a communique outlining party goals that sought to strengthen self-reliance through domestic consumption and technological innovation -- regardless of who becomes the U.S. president or how American foreign and trade policies change. Beijing set several development goals for 2035, reaching beyond the next three U.S. administrations.

"Many people feel that no matter which U.S. president wins, whether it's Trump or Biden, it will be hard for them to change the attitude of competition or pressure with China," said Wang Yong, a professor at Peking University's School of International Studies. "They're American and they represent American interests. As for their future intrusion on China's national interests, we must make preparations."

The 1950-53 Korean War, which killed nearly 5 million people -- including hundreds of thousands of Chinese soldiers and more than 36,000 Americans -- grew into a conflict of attrition that ended with an armistice. But China celebrates its participation in pushing U.S.-led troops out of North Korea as a "great victory." The party's commemoration of the war aims to rouse public support for China to "become a stronger country with true power to resist American influence," Wang said.

Inside the museum, a soundtrack of howling wind played amid dioramas of soldiers crawling through the snow, glass cases filled with gifts from thankful North Koreans, and paraphernalia collected from felled American soldiers: banners, badges, binoculars and clothes. One glass case displayed a pickaxe that a Chinese soldier used to "continuously hack three American soldiers to death."

Other displays highlighted the party's mobilization drives -- raising donations, singing songs about defeating the "wolf-hearted U.S. imperialists," and holding grass-roots ideological education sessions. Such political work was the Chinese military's "greatest specialty and greatest advantage," a sign said.

At least three graphs chart the gap between the U.S. and China's armed forces, asserting that despite America's superior hardware and its advanced industrialization, China, at least in its own eyes, managed to win. One sign has Xi quoting Mao: "The enemy has much steel but little spirit; we have little steel but much spirit."

That history is fast-forwarded to present day. An image of Xi shows him in camouflage fatigues while addressing troops in 2018. He is quoted calling for a resurgence of that same ideological fervor: "Our military has historically fought by spirit. In the past, we had little steel but lots of spirit. Now that we have much steel, we should have even more spirit, even tougher bones."

Despite the rhetoric, the party's message is less jingoism than it is a call to strengthen China's defenses, said John Delury, professor of Chinese studies at Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies in Seoul.

"It is still cast as 'for peace,'" he said. "It's not a call to arms, but the implications are pretty clear: 'We were able to stop them way back when we were poor and weak 70 years ago, and now we've got wealth and power.... We can win.'"

For all the propaganda around China's commemoration of the Korean War, American commemorations are "just as guilty of selective storytelling," Delury said. American narratives tend to skip over how the U.S. changed its original mandate from protecting South Korea to invading North Korea, "just like the North invaded the South," he said.

American officials also tend to rationalize the war as a "defense of this great liberal democracy in South Korea," Delury said. The government the U.S. supported in South Korea, however, was a dictatorship that massacred more than 100,000 civilians, according to findings from South Korean truth and reconciliation commissions.

The U.S. knew of and did not stop the mass killings, while also committing its own human rights violations, razing cities and bombing civilians across North Korea. "It had nothing to do with defending democracy," said Bruce Cumings, a professor of history at the University of Chicago.

Chinese and U.S. narratives of the Korean War often ignore one aspect: the 21,000 Chinese prisoners of war, 14,000 of whom chose to go to Taiwan rather than return to China at the end of the conflict.

These POWs and the negotiation over their fate were "at the core of the second half of the war," said David Cheng Chang, a professor of humanities at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology who has written a book about the Chinese prisoners.

Captured by U.S.-led United Nations forces, they were subjected to anti-communist "reorientation" programs in prison camps that involved beatings and other violent coercion to sing songs, shout slogans and make confessions against communism. Many were forcibly tattooed with images of the Republic of China flag as part of the pressure on them to "choose" going to Taiwan over China.

Later, many of the prisoners who chose return to China were attacked as suspected traitors during the Cultural Revolution. Those who went to Taiwan were also surveilled and conscripted into the army.

"Government officials tell history in a certain way," Delury said. "It's rare that in commemorations, you get all the complexity and contradiction of the actual history. You tend to get selective narratives that fit a prism."

That applies to Americans and Chinese alike. But while the Korean War remains a “forgotten war” in the United States, where news coverage of it was censored and memories of it overshadowed by the Vietnam War, it has become a trumpeted part of China's national consciousness, a summons to stand up to the U.S. and make China great.

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#### **18. Putin pledges Russian superiority in the Arctic with new icebreakers**

Reuters, Nov. 3 (1208) | Not Attributed

MOSCOW – President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday Russia wanted to retain its “superiority” in the Arctic and that it planned to renew its icebreaker fleet to bolster its presence there.

Moscow has stepped up its efforts to tap the region's commercial potential, including by increasing freight traffic on the Northern Sea Route, which runs from Murmansk in the Russian Arctic to the Bering Strait near Alaska.

In recent years Russia has also re-opened abandoned Soviet military, air and radar bases in the energy-rich region as it vies for dominance against traditional rivals Canada, the United States, and Norway as well as newcomer China.

Speaking at the unveiling of a new icebreaker in St. Petersburg, Putin pledged Russia would continue modernising its Arctic fleet.

“It is well-known that we have a unique icebreaker fleet that holds a leading position in the development and study of Arctic territories,” Putin said aboard the vessel, named after former Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

“We must reaffirm this superiority constantly, every day. We must build up our positions, strengthen and update our fleet, introduce new advanced technologies in the construction of icebreakers and other vessels of that class.”

The new diesel-electric icebreaker unveiled on Tuesday is the world's largest and most powerful vessel of its kind, according to Russian authorities. It can break ice up to 2 metres thick, has two helicopter pads and can take part in scientific expeditions and transport hazardous materials, among other things.

In September, Russia added what it said was the world's largest and most powerful nuclear icebreaker to its Arctic fleet.

Putin said last year the Arctic fleet would operate at least 13 heavy-duty icebreakers, the majority of which would be powered by nuclear reactors. (Reporting by Gabrielle Tétrault-Farber

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### **19. Russia says it will consider Iranian proposal to end Nagorno-Karabakh conflict**

Reuters, Nov. 3 (1333) | Olzhas Auyezov and Nvard Hovhannisyan

BAKU/YEREVAN -- Russia is considering an Iranian proposal for ending the conflict between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces in the mountain enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh after three ceasefires failed to halt fighting that is now in its sixth week.

Interfax news agency quoted deputy Russian foreign minister Andrei Rudenko as saying Iran's proposal was made by deputy foreign minister Abbas Abaqchi during a visit to Moscow last week, but gave no details.

"We're looking carefully at it," Rudenko told journalists.

At least 1,000 people, and possibly many more, have been killed since fighting broke out on Sept. 27 in Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but populated and controlled by ethnic Armenians.

The worst fighting in more than 25 years has underlined the influence of Turkey, an ally of Azerbaijan, in the South Caucasus, a region that was once part of the Soviet Union and long dominated by Moscow, which has a defence pact with Armenia.

Russian news agencies reported last week that Iran had proposed a leading role in peace negotiations for countries in the region. Russia, it said, would be one of these countries.

Negotiations have for decades been led by Russia, France and the United States in their roles as co-chairs of a panel known as the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a security and rights watchdog.

Within hours of an agreement being reached with the warring sides on Friday not to target civilians, attacks resumed, and concerns remain about the security of oil and gas pipelines in Azerbaijan.

Advances on the battlefield have reduced Azerbaijan's incentive to reach a lasting peace deal and complicated international efforts to broker a ceasefire - in which Turkey wants a bigger role.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow would continue working with Turkey to stop the military confrontation in Nagorno-Karabakh from escalating.

In an interview with Russian daily Kommersant, Lavrov also estimated around 2,000 mercenaries from the Middle East were fighting and called on "external players" to halt their arrival.

## FIGHTING CONTINUES

Fighting continued on Tuesday in multiple locations along the front line.

The ethnic Armenian-controlled Nagorno-Karabakh Emergency and Rescue Service said the enclave's two largest cities, Stepanakert and Shushi, were being shelled and that a civilian was wounded as a result of an attack on a maternity hospital.

Azerbaijan said its positions on the border with Armenia had been fired on with mortar bombs and small arms and that the city of Fizuli, between Nagorno-Karabakh and Iran, had been shelled.

Armenia's defence ministry denied the reported shelling of Fizuli and reported an attack - denied by Azerbaijan - in the direction of Karvajar, a town in the northwestern part of the conflict zone.

Azerbaijan's prosecutor general, Kamran Aliyev, told Reuters in an interview that advancing Azeri troops had found an empty city in Fizuli, a large town in Soviet times.

"Our military were not even able to put a flag on anything there, because there were no buildings," he said in the capital, Baku. In Zangilan, they had found only a school for the children of military servicemen, he added.

Aliyev said he was considering opening a criminal investigation into what he said had been the destruction of many of the 700 historical buildings and monuments in the region.

The ethnic Armenian-controlled Nagorno-Karabakh defence ministry says 1,177 of its troops have been killed since Sept. 27. Azerbaijan does not disclose its military casualties, while Russia has estimated 5,000 deaths on both sides.

*-- Additional reporting by Margarita Antidze in Tbilisi, Maria Kiselyova and Alexander Marrow in Moscow  
Writing by Robin Paxton*

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## SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

### 20. Russia FM: 2,000 Mideast militants fight in Nagorno-Karabakh

Associated Press, Nov. 3 (1334) | Avet Demourian

YEREVAN, Armenia -- Russia's top diplomat said Tuesday that about 2,000 fighters from the Middle East have joined the fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, the worst outbreak of hostilities in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in more than a quarter-century.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement came as the warring parties traded accusations over new attacks in the region.

"We are certainly worried about the internationalization of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the involvement of militants from the Middle East," Lavrov said in an interview with the Russian business daily Kommersant. "We have repeatedly asked foreign players to use their potential to stop the transfer of militants, whose number in the conflict zone is approaching 2,000."

Lavrov added that Russian President Vladimir Putin raised the issue in last week's phone call with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a war there ended in 1994. The latest outburst of hostilities began Sept. 27 and has left hundreds — perhaps thousands — dead, marking the worst escalation of fighting since the war's end.

Azerbaijan has relied on strong support from its ally Turkey, which has trained Azerbaijani military and provided it with strike drones and long-range rocket systems. Armenian officials accuse Turkey of being directly involved in the conflict and sending mercenaries from Syria to fight on Azerbaijan's side.

Turkey has denied deploying combatants to the region, but a Syrian war monitor and Syria-based opposition activists have confirmed that Turkey has sent hundreds of Syrian opposition fighters to fight in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The heavy fighting involving heavy artillery, rockets and drones has raged despite repeated international attempts to end hostilities. A U.S.-brokered truce frayed immediately after it took effect last week, just like two previous cease-fires negotiated by Russia, and the latest pledge by Armenia and Azerbaijan not to target residential areas was broken hours after it was made Friday. The warring sides have repeatedly blamed each other for violations.

Artillery fire hit the region's capital Stepanakert on Tuesday night and Nagorno-Karabakh emergencies ministry also said three rockets hit the strategically key city of Shushi.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has insisted that Azerbaijan has the right to reclaim its territory by force after three decades of fruitless international mediation. He said that Armenia must pledge to withdraw from Nagorno-Karabakh as a condition for a lasting truce.

Azerbaijani troops have reclaimed control of several regions on the fringes of Nagorno-Karabakh and pressed their offensive into the separatist territory from the south, trying to cut a link between the separatist territory and Armenia.

Lavrov said that Russia was continuing to push for hostilities to end, noting that it's working on a set of verification measures needed to achieve a lasting cease-fire, including the possible deployment of international observers under the aegis of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

*--Associated Press writers Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow, and Aida Sultanova in London, contributed to this report*

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**21. Assault on University Students Targets Afghanistan's Future, Erasing Hopes**  
***With the Americans scheduled to leave Afghanistan under a deal with the Taliban, the carnage at Kabul University seemed to erase the nation's hope***

New York Times, Nov. 4 (0300), Pg. A10 | Thomas Gibbons-Neff and Fatima Faizi

KABUL, Afghanistan -- It was an unusually pleasant fall day, and the two Kabul University students joked that they could afford to be a bit late to class to catch some sun.

The students, Ahmad Ali Mohammadi and Sajat Naijati, then headed to their classrooms. Mr. Mohammadi, 25, took the stairs to the second floor of the university's National Legal Training Center. Mr. Naijati, 21, walked to his on the first floor.

In less than an hour on Monday morning, those locations would decide which of them would survive.

Mr. Mohammadi was shot and killed after gunmen burst into his classroom. Mr. Naijati clambered from the window on the floor below, cutting his face and bruising his head and nose, before sprinting to safety.

At least 21 others were killed and dozens wounded as the attackers barricaded themselves in classrooms, took hostages and systematically tried to kill the future of Afghanistan, a country that, after

40 years of war, stalled peace negotiations and political infighting, has been all but incapacitated by surging violence.

"We didn't look back," said Mr. Naijati, 21, who was sitting at home, his head bandaged and a dark purple bruise under his eye. "We ran to save ourselves."

The fate of the two companions, decided by a few yards and a class schedule, is one endlessly replicated by the war in Afghanistan. Just over a week ago, a suicide bomber killed more than 40 people outside an education center just miles away from Kabul University, the country's oldest and largest academic institution with roughly 25,000 students. On Tuesday, Afghanistan declared a national day of mourning.

Mr. Mohammedi was buried -- his body facing toward where the sun sets among the brown mountains that skirt the city -- in a small unassuming cemetery in a poor neighborhood of west Kabul.

Men wept as he was interred, his brother wailing as he was carried to a nearby car to rest.

Mustafa Soroush, a neighborhood friend, quietly looked on.

"He died with all our hopes," Mr. Soroush, 31, said.

Mr. Mohammedi was in his final year of studies in public policy, with an ambition to attend Stanford or Harvard, Mr. Naijati said. His portrait, with jet-black hair and pensive brown eyes, was affixed to his headstone with clear packing tape.

The attacks on schools in the country's capital, already riddled with uncertainty as American forces slowly withdraw under a deal with the Taliban, seemed to catapult many Kabul inhabitants into a mood of despair and exhaustion, as if any hope of peace had been erased by Monday's carnage.

On an early morning call-show on Arman FM, a radio station usually dedicated to local issues like power outages and garbage collection, callers spoke only of the university attack.

"Today is one of those days where you can't find words," said Massoud Sanjar, one of the show's hosts.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack, saying two attackers -- shown in an image put out by ISIS clad in military camouflage and holding Kalashnikovs -- had targeted "graduate judges and investigators belonging to the apostate Afghan government." But a spokesman for the Interior Ministry said on Twitter that "three terrorists" had been killed, ending the hourslong siege.

The Afghan government accused the Taliban of responsibility for the massacre while the Taliban accused the Afghan government of harboring the Islamic State.

None of these statements mitigated the grief over the killings a day earlier.

The National Legal Training Center, built with the support of Italy and the United States, according to a plaque at the entrance, was a ravaged hulk.

Black scarring showed where fire had licked out of the law library's blown-out windows. Bullet holes were everywhere, including the guard hut where the assailants moved to eliminate what resistance had awaited them. Shrapnel-spattered white boards, discarded shoes, notebooks and a pair of broken glasses remained, as if the Afghan government had already declared the legal center a museum exhibit for the journalists and government officials who wandered the university's darkened halls Tuesday evening.

How the attack unfolded was still unclear on Tuesday, and the Afghan government has pledged to investigate intelligence failures that may have contributed. But it was evident that gunmen had started on the first floor of the legal center, shooting a guard and teacher next to the front entrance before making their way upstairs, Mr. Najati said. There the shooters barricaded themselves in a second floor classroom where they were killed hours later by Afghan security forces and a special operations task force that is part of the remaining American-led forces in the country.

Among the dead was Suhaila Yari, 22, one of the 16 students at the university's school of policy and public administration. Three of the victims, including Ms. Yari, were in the university's debate club. All of them had excelled on the university entrance exam, just to gain acceptance there.

In her student profile, posted online by one of her professors, she is wearing a bright flowered head scarf, but it was her black one, covering her dark hair, that helped one of her five brothers identify Ms. Yari when a photograph of her lifeless body, her face resting on a red notebook, was posted on social media.

"I can't express my feelings in words," her brother, Reza Yari, said. "I don't know how I felt."

As he spoke, her burial came to a close in the hills above Kabul, with dusk fast approaching.

"I was with her on Saturday," he said. "We talked about her university and she said she is getting ready for the exam. But now she is gone. She doesn't need to be worried about anything."

*--Mujib Mashal and Najim Rahim contributed reporting*

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## **22. Vienna Suspect Had Terror Ties**

***Alleged gunman who left four dead was convicted of seeking to join Islamic State***

Wall Street Journal, Nov. 4 (0200), Pg. A22 | Bojan Pancevski, Ruth Bender and William Boston

VIENNA -- The gunman suspected of killing four people in an attack in Vienna was convicted on terrorism charges last year after trying to join Islamic State in Syria but was released from prison after serving part of his term, authorities said Tuesday.

The terror group claimed responsibility for the attack carried out by Kujtim Fejzulai, a 20-year-old who authorities say opened fire on passersby and people enjoying a last night out on Monday, before Austria's coronavirus lockdown took effect. The group posted a video of the assailant's pledge to its leader on online channels, according to the SITE Group that monitors extremists.

"He was a dedicated Islamist terrorist who had pledged his allegiance to the Islamic State terror organization," Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz told The Wall Street Journal in an interview.

Fourteen members who police said were part of a network supporting Mr. Fejzulai -- some of whom police say are Islamists with criminal records -- were arrested and will stay in detention under a judge's order while the investigation continues, Mr. Kurz said. The arrests were made following raids on nearly two dozen houses across Austria on Tuesday. Two people were arrested in the Swiss canton Zurich in relation to the Vienna attack, Swiss and Austrian authorities said.

Authorities said Mr. Fejzulai was released from prison in December because he was young and showed good behavior, and had been in a deradicalization program run by a nongovernmental organization.

The attack is likely to rekindle a debate in Europe, which is experiencing a new wave of terrorist attacks, about the comparatively short prison sentences for some terrorism convictions and what to do with radicalized convicts who have served their terms. Despite being known to security services, Mr. Fejzulai still managed to procure illegal weapons and plan his attack undetected, underlining the difficulties European countries face in keeping tabs on thousands of extremists.

Mr. Fejzulai is believed to have acted alone during the attack, Mr. Kurz said, but the people arrested are suspected of sharing his violent ideology and will now be investigated for possible links to the crime.

An Austrian security official said investigators pored over one terabyte of video data from the night of the attack and established that, contrary to some witnesses' claims, no other shooter was present.

Mr. Fejzulai, born in the Austrian town of Modling to ethnic Albanians from North Macedonia, was sentenced to 22 months in prison in April 2019 for trying to travel to Syria to join Islamic State, according

to Austrian officials. After his release in December, he received a subsidized apartment in a housing project in Vienna under a deradicalization program aimed at facilitating reintegration.

According to several neighbors interviewed there on Tuesday, Mr. Fejzulai hosted meetings at the apartment with other men.

"Young men with long beards came in and out of his apartment, and they often would hand out copies of the Quran to residents," said Martin Wimmer, who owns a shop in the building where Mr. Fejzulai lived.

On the eve of the attack, Mr. Wimmer and another neighbor said they saw Mr. Fejzulai help an older woman carry her shopping bags into her home. "He was always polite and quiet, but we all knew he was an Islamist," said the neighbor.

Authorities said Mr. Fejzulai posted a photo of himself before the attack on social media with the assault rifle, pistol and machete he used in the attack.

Nikolaus Rast, a criminal defense lawyer in Vienna who defended Mr. Fejzulai in 2019, said he was shocked to discover that his former client carried out the attack. Mr. Fejzulai came from a normal family that had nothing to do with radical Islamist ideology before he got caught up with the wrong people, Mr. Rast said.

Mr. Fejzulai, who played soccer competitively at the age of 16, became radicalized after frequenting a Vienna mosque, the Austrian security official said.

The mosque was raided by police on Tuesday morning. The improvised basement prayer house is located next to an office of the Austrian asylum authority and investigators are looking into whether it was used to recruit refugees arriving to the country. On Tuesday afternoon, the mosque was closed.

Ebrahim Afsah, a professor of Islamic law at Vienna University, said the failure to stop the spread of Islamism -- a movement seeking to impose a strict interpretation of Islamic law on society, including through violence -- was partly due to efforts by the state to nurture Muslim religious institutions as a bulwark against radicalization.

*--Benoit Faucon contributed to this article*

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### **23. UK raises terror threat level to severe after Europe attacks**

Associated Press, Nov. 3 (1310) | Danica Kirka

LONDON -- Britain raised its terror threat level to severe on Tuesday, its second-highest level, following recent attacks in Austria and France.

The threat level of severe means an attack in the United Kingdom is considered highly likely. The level had previously been at substantial, meaning an attack is thought to be likely.

The decision announced by Home Secretary Priti Patel came after a man who had previously tried to join the Islamic State group stormed through the center of the Austrian capital of Vienna armed with an automatic rifle Monday night, killing four people before police shot and killed him.

"We have already taken significant steps to amend our powers and strengthen the tools for dealing with the developing terrorist threats we face," Patel said in a statement. "That process will continue, and the British public should be in no doubt that we will take the strongest possible action to protect our national security."

Patel said the increased security alert is a "precautionary measure and is not based on any specific threat."

The U.K. government's Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre, which was established in June 2003, sets the terror level. The center assesses intelligence relating to international terrorism, at home and overseas, and sets threat levels and issues warnings of threats and other terror-related information.

Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, U.K. head of Counter Terrorism Policing, said that while there was no intelligence link between the European attacks and the U.K., counterterrorism police "will of course provide any assistance where we can."

He urged the public to be vigilant and said people can expect to see additional police in some places in the coming days.

"Now, more than ever, we need communities to stand together and reject those who seek to sow division and hatred between us," he said. "We need communities and families to bring to our attention anyone they perceive may be vulnerable, a danger or escalating towards terrorism."

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## **24. France says its forces kill 50 Islamic extremists in Mali**

Associated Press, Nov. 3 (0457) | Not Attributed

PARIS -- French military forces fighting Islamic extremists in West Africa killed more than 50 jihadists and detained four in an operation last week in Mali, French officials said.

Defense Minister Florence Parly tweeted Monday night that the French force in the region also confiscated weapons and equipment from the fighters in the operation last Friday, which she said "shows once again that terrorist groups cannot act with impunity."

Drones monitoring the region in northern Mali spotted a convoy of suspected fighters on motorcycles, prompting France to launch the operation, first with airstrikes and then with a ground operation by French commandos, according to an official with the French military headquarters.

Separately, a larger military operation has been under way for several weeks in the area near Mali's border with Burkina Faso and Niger, said the official, who was not authorized to be publicly named according to military policy.

Parly visited Mali's capital, Bamako, on Monday and Tuesday, and met with the head of the transitional government. After Mali's president was ousted in August by a military junta, she urged democratic elections "as quickly as possible" and said the current leadership promised to ensure them.

France, which has suffered repeated deadly Islamic extremist attacks, has thousands of troops in a force called Barkhane in West Africa to help fight extremist groups there.

Islamic extremist rebels were forced from power in northern Mali after a 2013 French-led military operation, but regrouped in the desert and now launch frequent attacks on the Malian army and its allies.

Meanwhile, Mali has faced months of political upheaval. Under international pressure, the junta appointed a civilian-led government to lead the country through an 18-month transition period to new elections.

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## NOTABLE COMMENTARY

### **25. A bright spot: The wizards at DARPA**

Washington Post, Nov. 4 (0115), Pg. A13 | David Ignatius

Has anything hopeful been happening in this toxic year of partisan politics and the coronavirus pandemic? Mercifully yes, and for a reminder of the wonders of the human imagination, consider what the wizards at DARPA have been up to lately.

Looking for an election break, I spoke on Monday with Victoria Coleman, who in September became director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, as it's formally known. Joining her was Peter Highnam, her deputy, who since January 2019 had been serving as its acting director.

That both Coleman and Highnam were born abroad illustrates one of America's greatest assets - we're still a magnet for the world's smartest and most creative people. Long may that continue, whatever our current problems.

DARPA is a reminder that disease and political dysfunction can't stop the innovation machine that is the United States. The agency that helped create the Internet, GPS, Siri and the humble computer mouse is still looking for what Coleman describes as "very risky, big bets, 'if it works it changes everything' kinds of ideas." She and Highnam talked with me about a few of them, which DARPA has pressed forward this year despite the pandemic.

Let's start with a program called SenSARS, which the agency announced Monday as one of its periodic "disruption opportunities." The goal is to find new technologies - quickly - that can detect SARS-CoV-2 and other pathogens in offices, classrooms and buildings. DARPA will start issuing grants before the end of January.

If that real-time sampling seems far-fetched, consider that DARPA has already developed a program called Sigma+ to detect chemical and biological threats in the air. It was field-tested in Indianapolis in August, when five non-toxic chemicals were released and tracked. A DARPA system to detect radiological or nuclear threats is already fully deployed in the bridges and tunnels and other transportation systems of New York City and northern New Jersey.

What about computing, which drives every other technology on the planet? DARPA for many years has funded breakthrough research in quantum computing, whose qubits can be both zero and one and any position in between, unlike traditional computers, whose bits are either zero or one. It's a mind-boggling approach that eventually will transform computation. But the tiny qubits are so fragile that they have to

be kept near absolute-zero temperature, and even then, they last for only microseconds - which means that a universal quantum computer may be decades away.

Enter DARPA. The agency in September announced a program to use room-temperature atomic "vapors" for quantum sensing and imaging. (The acronym-addicted agency calls this one SAVaNT, for Science of Atomic Vapors for New Technologies.) Meanwhile, another DARPA program is combining "noisy" (meaning short-lived) qubits with classical computers to solve some otherwise impossible optimization problems.

Another mind-blowing DARPA computing project seeks to use the magic of biology - the way our brains and bodies encode and remember information - to design computational devices of the future. A DARPA program called Lifelong Learning Machines, started three years ago, is trying to build true "learning machines" on the premise that "even the smartest of the current crop of AI [artificial intelligence] systems can't stack up against adaptive biological intelligence."

Artificial intelligence has been a DARPA project for several decades, but the pace is accelerating. Coleman told me the agency is spending \$2 billion over the next five years to fund more than 60 AI programs, including more than 30 that are exploring "next generation" AI. Among those that caught my eye on DARPA websites are Explainable Artificial Intelligence so computers can tell us how they solved problems; and Media Forensics to help detect fakes; and Machine Common Sense.

Worried that the United States might lose its edge in manufacturing chips and other hardware, DARPA has funded what it calls the Electronics Resurgence Initiative, which seeks to boost what can be written on chips by 50 times, to experiment with photonics in chip design, and to increase speed of graphics processors 1,000 times.

And then there's the DARPA stuff that just sounds cool: A computer algorithm that beat an ace F-16 pilot 5-0 in a series of simulated dogfights in August; a program called PALS (for Persistent Aquatic Living Sensors) that uses sea life - shrimp, grouper, reef formations - to detect the presence of submarines; and an unmanned vehicle that can navigate rivers, swamps and deserts - as well as highways.

We have a world of worries these days. But spend a little time browsing DARPA's website and you'll realize that the United States maintains the genius for science and technology that created our modern world - and that it shows no sign of slowing down.

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## TWEETS OF NOTE

Twitter, Nov. 3

**Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), @RepKinzinger:** "We live in the greatest country on Earth and today, millions of Americans will exercise their right to vote in a free & fair election. This is special—and it's a reminder that our greatness stems from our freedoms. May God Bless the USA & all those who defend her." (11/3, 1701)

**Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL), @RepMichaelWaltz:** "You've fought for our country & thanks to you, our republic still stands. As a veteran, make sure your voice is heard & #VOTE!" (11/3, 1332)

**Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), @SenSchumer:** "My parents are 97 and 92, and they voted. If they can vote, so can you!" (11/3, 1248)

**Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), @MarkWarner:** "And with today being #ElectionDay, disinformation and misinformation will be on the rise. Remember to verify your sources by using this resource from @CISAgov for disinformation tips: <https://cisa.gov/rumorcontrol> #Protect2020." (11/3, 1050)

\*\*\*

**Australian Defense Minister Linda Reynolds, @lindareynoldswa:** "HMAS Ballarat has joined the @indiannavy, @USNavy, & @jmsdf\_pao\_eng for #ExerciseMalabar. I welcome this opportunity to work closely with our regional partners to enhance interoperability." (11/3, 2313)

**Afghan Defense Ministry, @MoDAfghanistan:** "13 Taliban were killed in an airstrike after they attacked #ANDSF positions in Panjwae district of Kandahar Prov. last night. Additionally, large amount of their weapons and ammunitions were destroyed as a result." (11/3, 2304)

**Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan, @HarjitSajjan:** "It's been 76 years since the Liberation of Belgium. Today, we remember the service and sacrifice of all those who served #LestWeForget" (11/3, 1454)

**British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, @BorisJohnson:** "We now have a system of mass testing - starting in the great city of Liverpool - which I believe will help this country defeat this virus." (11/3, 1313)

**Government of Iraq, @IraqiGovt:** "PM Spokesperson: This government has repeatedly made clear its commitment to protecting peaceful protestors. This was exemplified in the way the protests of 25/10/2020 were policed." (11/3, 1237)

**Government of Iraq, @IraqiGovt:** "PM Spokesperson: What happened in Basra a few days ago was caused by a member of the security forces firing live ammunition into the air. This action was contrary to the orders of the Commander-in-Chief and the person responsible is being investigated." (11/3, 1237)

**NATO Spokesperson Oana Lungescu, @NATOPress:** "In an exclusive interview with @pajhwok Secretary General @jensstoltenberg highlights #NATO contributions to lasting peace & security in #Afghanistan and the importance of our collective efforts against terrorism." (11/3, 1102)

**Office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, @IsraeliPM:** "We're in a period of peace. We are making peace. We made peace and normalization agreements with three Arab countries in six weeks. So obviously they have a different view of the situation here in the Middle East than some of the traditional bureaucracies of the EU." (11/3, 0912)

**Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, @AymanHsafadi:** "Deepest condolence to our brethren #Afghanistan over the victims of the terrorist crime at #KabulUniversityAttack. Fighting terrorism & its culture of hate in all its forms is our collective battle. Thoughts & prayers are with the victims." (11/3, 0754)

**Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, @AymanHsafadi:** "Thoughts & prayers with victims of terrorist crime #Vienna. We condemn this crime & terrorism in all its forms. We stand united against this common enemy which has nothing to do with our human values & values of peace, sanctity of life, respect for the Other that Islam embodies." (11/3, 0751)

**Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, @khamenei\_ir:** "The war between our neighbors, Azerbaijan & Armenia, is a bitter event & must end ASAP. Of course, Azerbaijani land seized by Armenia should be freed & the safety of its Armenian residents must be secured. If terrorists approach the Iranian border, they'll be dealt with severely." (11/3, 0626)

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**From:** [Butler, David M COL USARMY JS OCJCS \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Milley, Mark A GEN USARMY JS OCJCS \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [JS Pentagon OCJCS List Joint Staff Public Affairs JDir Distro](#)  
**Subject:** Twitter Reflections from Axios Article  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020 1:19:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Sir,  
For awareness.

BL: Most of the commentary surrounding the Axios article is that the content of the alleged off the record meeting is not anything new. Many cite comments you've been saying repeatedly over the past several months.

Respectfully,  
Dave

Jonathan Swan, Axios (@jonathanvswan)  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley held an off-the-record video call with top generals and network anchors this weekend to tamp down speculation about potential military involvement in the presidential election. [<https://www.axios.com/milley-tv-anchors-call-military-no-election-role-1570714a-3532-4102-8f24-69fbd2d375e2.html>]

The nation's top military official set up the highly unusual call to make clear that the military's role is apolitical and to dispel any notion of a role for the military in adjudicating a disputed election or removing a president from the White House.

Ummm yes. He also said it to congress in testimony earlier this year, as we note in the story. But it's interesting he felt the need to emphasize again in an off the record briefing with network anchors a few days before the election.

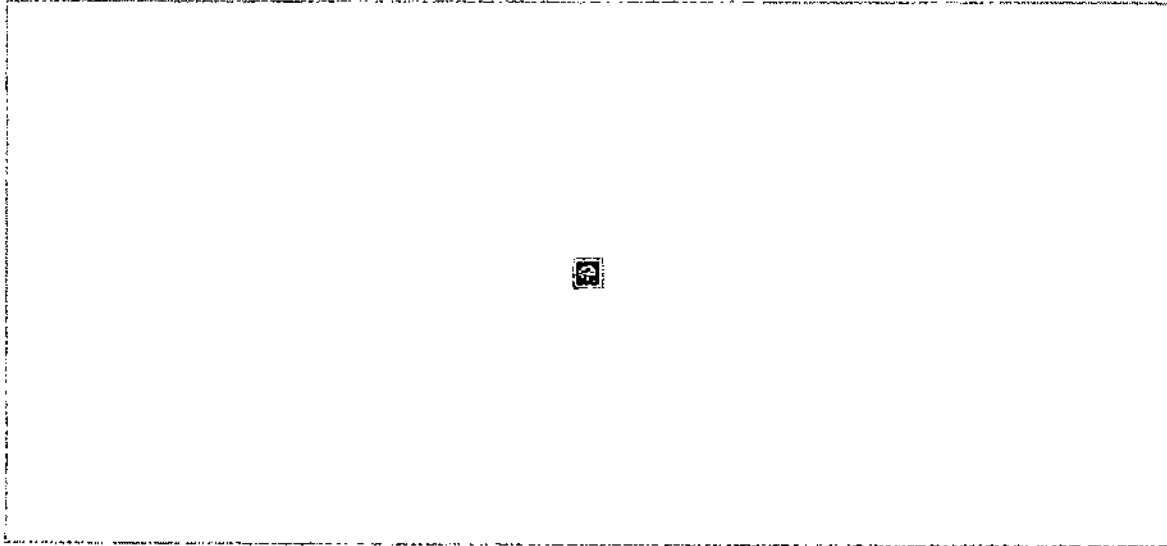
\*\*\*

Alexander Marquardt, CNN (@MarquardtA)  
There's a whole Pentagon press corps they could've gotten this message out

through but clearly Milley and the top brass are worried enough that they got some of the country's biggest anchors on the line.

\*\*\*

Jonathan Martin, New York Times (@jmartNYT)



\*\*\*

Tom Bowman, NPR (@TBowmanNPR)

Ummm he said this on the record to NPR three weeks ago. "There's no role for the U.S. military in determining the outcome of a U.S. election. Zero. There is no role there."

\*\*\*

Gina Harkins, Military.com (@GinaAHarkins)

Why would this need to be said off the record?

\*\*\*

Meghann Myers, Military Times (@Meghann\_MT)

I dunno how unusual this really is. The Pentagon has held plenty of off-the-record chats in recent years to try to influence coverage without putting their

names on anything.

What's weird about this one is that Milley is so concerned about his name ending up in a story that he insisted on going off-the-record to discuss things he's either said publicly already, or that have been publicly announced.

\*\*\*

Lara Seligman, Politico (@laraseligman)

Milley has said this publicly over and over again in recent weeks.

\*\*\*

Dave Brown, Politico (@dave\_brown24)

Axios: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley held an off-the-record video call with top generals and network anchors this weekend to tamp down speculation about potential military involvement in the presidential election

[https://axios.com/milley-tv-anchors-call-military-no-election-role-1570714a-3532-4102-8f24-69fbd2d375e2.html?](https://axios.com/milley-tv-anchors-call-military-no-election-role-1570714a-3532-4102-8f24-69fbd2d375e2.html?utm_campaign=organic&utm_medium=socialshare&utm_source=twitter)

[utm\\_campaign=organic&utm\\_medium=socialshare&utm\\_source=twitter](https://axios.com/milley-tv-anchors-call-military-no-election-role-1570714a-3532-4102-8f24-69fbd2d375e2.html?utm_campaign=organic&utm_medium=socialshare&utm_source=twitter)

@jonathanvswan

Two other four-star generals joined Milley on the call: Commander of the U.S. Cyber Command Paul Nakasone and National Guard chief Daniel Hokanson. ABC's George Stephanopoulos, CBS's Norah O'Donnell, NBC's Lester Holt, CNN's Jim Sciutto and Fox's Martha MacCallum participated

\*\*\*

Natasha Bertrand, Politico (@NatashaBertrand)

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley told news anchors on Saturday in an off the record call that the U.S. military would have no role whatsoever in a peaceful transfer of power, per @jonathanvswan

\*\*\*

Idrees Ali, Reuters (@idreesali114)

Something Milley has reiterated publicly previously.

\*\*\*

Haley Britzky, Task & Purpose (@halbritz)

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Milley "set up Saturday's highly unusual call ... to dispel any notion of a role for the military in adjudicating a disputed election or making any decision around removing a president from the White House." via @jonathanvswan

I feel like these are all things that could/should be said from the podium of the Pentagon briefing room instead of in an off-the-record call but I digress

\*\*\*

Jerry Dunleavy, Washington Examiner (@JerryDunleavy)

General Mark Milley said the exact same thing in August and in October. This is nothing new. <https://cnn.com/2020/08/28/politics/milley-2020-election/index.html> <https://npr.org/2020/10/11/922827554/gen-mark-milley-says-the-military-plays-no-role-in-elections>

Colonel Dave Butler

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**Jonathan Martin**   
@jmartNYT

...



**Meredith McGraw**  @meridithmcgraw · 1h

Good scoop from @jonathanvswan: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs held an off-the-record video call with top generals and TV network anchors this weekend to tamp down speculation about potential military involvement in the presidential election [axios.com/milley-tv-anch...](https://www.axios.com/milley-tv-anchors-2020-11-03)

11:13 AM · Nov 3, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone