

Office of Chief of Public Affairs (OCPA)
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U.S. Army News Roundup

7 June 2021 as of 0400

Daily Snapshot

Stars and Stripes reported that LTG John Kolasheski, CG of V Corps, spoke at a D-Day commemoration ceremony at Omaha Beach. *C4ISRNET* reported that Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin signed a Joint All-Domain Command and Control strategy document. *Inside Defense* reported that the DoD is exploring the feasibility of integrating Army, Navy and MDA missile-defense systems to protect Guam.

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(Stars and Stripes, June 4, John Vandiver)

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(C4ISRNET, June 4, Andrew Eversden)

It is time for the Pentagon to deliver on its joint war-fighting concept after Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin signed off on foundational strategy behind Joint All-Domain Command and Control, the three-star leading the effort said Friday.

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(Inside Defense, June 4, Jason Sherman)

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(KXRM-FOX (CO), June 6)

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(WTTG-FOX (DC), June 4, Bob Barnard)

Fort Belvoir is among several U.S. army installations being considered for a name change by the Pentagon's Confederate Renaming Commission.

UPCOMING EVENTS:..... 12

- 9 JUN: CSA GEN James McConville and GEN John M. “Mike” Murray, CG of AFC, will participate in an American Enterprise Institute livestreamed event on the Army Budget.

- 9 JUN: CSA GEN James McConville and SMA Michael Grinston will attend the MDW’s Army Birthday Twilight Tattoo virtual event.

- 9 JUN: VCSA GEN Joseph Martin will deliver testimony at the HASC-R Subcommittee hearing on Military Readiness.

- 9 JUN: LTG Scott Spellmon, Chief of Engineers and CG USACE, and Mr. Jaime Pinkham, acting ASA for CW, will testify on the FY22 USACE budget request before the SAC Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

- 9 JUN: LTG Daniel L. Karbler, CG of SMDC, will testify before the SASC Subcommittee on Strategic Forces as the Army's proponent for air and missile defense.

- 9 JUN: LTG Gary Brito, Deputy chief of Staff, G-1, and MG Eugene LeBoeuf, FORSCOM Chief of Staff, will conduct separate interviews with “20/20” on the People First Task Force and findings of the FORSCOM 15-6 investigation following Vanessa Guillen’s death.

- 9 JUN: Mr. Willie Nelson, director of the Assured Navigation, Position and Timing/Space CFT, will speak at the Military Space USA virtual conference.

- 9 JUN: Ms. Hannah Hunt, Army Software Factory chief product and innovation officer, will speak at a Defense Acquisition University TEDx event on digital transformation.

- 10 JUN: Mr. Christopher Lowman, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of the Army, will conduct a #TheUnderIsListening social media engagement.

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(The Associated Press, June 6, Jessica Gresko)

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2. COMMENTARY: LET'S EDUCATE SERVICE MEMBERS ON PROFESSIONAL ETHOS, NOT JUST EXTREMISM..... 14

(The Hill, June 6, Kelly E. Atkinson and Marybeth P. Ulrich)

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We contend that the U.S. military has neglected its responsibility to develop in its ranks a professional military ethos focused on service members' oath to the Constitution. The oath is not to any individual or organization, but rather to the democratic processes and civil liberties that our Founders enumerated in the Constitution. Improved education and training on the meaning of the oath would strengthen service members' core commitment to the nation and bring into focus behaviors that deviate from the ideals that bind us together as Americans.

3. GEN. CHARLES FLYNN, BROTHER OF FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, TAKES REINS OF US ARMY PACIFIC..... 15

(Stars and Stripes, June 5, Wyatt Olson)

Gen. Charles Flynn took command of U.S. Army Pacific on Friday, vowing to continue transforming the 90,000-soldier force into one that can meet the challenge of a rising China.

4. D-DAY SPIRIT OF REMEMBRANCE LIVES ON, DESPITE THE PANDEMIC..... 17

(The Associated Press, June 5, Sylvie Corbet)

In a small Normandy town where paratroopers landed in the early hours of D-Day, applause broke the silence to honor Charles Shay. He was the only veteran attending a ceremony in Carentan commemorating the 77th anniversary of the assault that helped bring an end to World War II.

5. U.S. SERGEANT MAJOR OF ARMY VISITS FORT DRUM TO DISCUSS LEADERSHIP, QUALITY-OF-LIFE ISSUES..... 19

(WWTI-ABC (NY), June 4, Isabella Colello)

During the first week of June, the U.S. Army Sergeant Major paid a visit to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York.

6. MORE DELAYS FOR SOME MILITARY TENANT RIGHTS..... 20

(Military Times, June 4, Karen Jowers)

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7. LABOR, WOOD AND EQUIPMENT SHORTAGES CREATING HAVOC FOR SOME TROOPS MOVING THIS SUMMER..... 21

(Army Times, June 4, Karen Jowers)

This year's moving season for military personnel and their families is in high gear, and some troops are already feeling the effects of stretched capacity in the moving industry.

8. PENTAGON WON'T CHANGE POLICY TO ALLOW PRIDE FLAG TO BE FLOWN AT MILITARY BASES..... 23

(CNN, June 4, Barbara Starr and Ellie Kaufman)

The Department of Defense will "maintain existing policy for the display of unofficial flags" and "not grant an exception to display the Pride flag" at military bases, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement to CNN.

9. RARE AWARDS SHOW NIGERIEN VALOR IN 2017 AMBUSH OF ARMY GREEN BERETS..... 24

(Army Times, June 4, Kyle Rempfer)

Six Nigeriens, including two killed in the ambush by a force twice their size, were given U.S. medals for combat actions and valor. It is the only case of foreign partners receiving valor awards that Army officials said they found in files dating back to the 1991 Gulf War, though similar instances have occurred previously.

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10. JBLM COMMANDER EXITS FOR POSITION WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AT THE PENTAGON**25**
(The News Tribune (WA), June 4, Abbie Shull)

The commander of I Corps at Joint Base Lewis-McChord relinquished command this week to accept a position as the senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin.

11. A ROGUE CLIMBER RUNNING FROM THE LAW WAS FLEEING HIS OWN TRAUMA **26**
(The New York Times, June 4, Dave Philipps)

Isaac Wright pulled himself up onto the crest of a 400-foot suspension bridge last fall, looked down at the specks of headlights below, and experienced a rush he had not felt since he was paratrooper in an Army Special Forces battalion.

12. 'CAN COVID-19 BE CONTRACTED FROM A CORPSE?' DOCUMENTS REVEAL ARMY OFFICER'S QUESTIONS FOR FAUCI..... **29**
(Military.com, June 4, Patricia Kime)

During the first month of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the nation's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, fielded thousands of emails from people far and wide -- from a top Chinese health official to the National Football League Players Association, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post and BuzzFeed through Freedom of Information Act requests.

13. VENDING MACHINES SELLING ETHNIC HAIR CARE PRODUCTS MAY BE COMING TO OVERSEAS MILITARY BASES **31**
(Stars and Stripes, June 4, Erica Earl)

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(The Associated Press, June 5, Staff Writer)

An 84-year-old Mississippi man wore a cap and gown and walked across a stage to pick up his high school diploma, generations after bureaucratic mistakes prevented him from receiving it.

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(The Associated Press, June 4, Staff Writer)

Jurors heard conflicting details of a triple slaying in western Kentucky as a trial began for a pilot charged in the fatal shootings.

16. RCPD IDENTIFIES BODY FOUND AT TUTTLE CREEK AS FORT RILEY SOLDIER **34**
(WIBW-CBS (KS), June 4, Sarah Motter)

The Riley County Police Department has identified the man whose body was recovered from Tuttle Creek as Okheem Riley, 24, of Manhattan. According to Fort Riley officials, Riley was a First Lieutenant from the 1st Sustainment Brigade and had served at the Fort since 2018.

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17. UNIFICATION MINISTER CALLS FOR 'MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY' ON JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES WITH U.S. **34**

(Yonhap News Agency, June 6, Staff Writer)

Unification Minister Lee In-young called Sunday for "maximum flexibility" in deciding what to do with joint military exercises with the United States set for August, saying such drills should never serve as a chance to cause additional tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

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18. THE ‘GOLDEN HOUR’: HOW THE AFGHAN WAR BROUGHT ADVANCES IN BATTLEFIELD MEDICINE 35
(The San Diego Union-Tribune, June 6, John Wilkens)
Just what endures from the 20-year war is an open question, except in one area: Battlefield medicine. There, gains have already taken root.

19. FORT BRAGG UNITS TO USE REGIONAL AIRPORTS AS REPAIRS ARE MADE AT POPE ARMY AIRFIELD 38
(The Fayetteville Observer (NC), June 6, Rachael Riley)
The military airfield is undergoing an \$81.49 million repair project, a Fort Bragg spokeswoman said.

20. NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYED TO THE NATION’S CAPITAL..... 40
(KFYR-NBC (ND), June 6, Hayley Boland)
About 225 soldiers with the North Dakota Army National Guard were honored with a send off in Grand Forks Saturday.

21. COMMENTARY: THE PROBLEM WITH A ‘WOKE’ MILITARY..... 40
(National Review, June 6, Robert M. Berg)
I used to belong to a war-fighting organization, where we were taught a shared set of Army values. We were taught mission accomplishment before all else, enforced by “mission first and people always.”

22. OHIO NATIONAL GUARD TO COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL FOOD BANK MISSION IN JULY 42
(WFMJ-NBC (OH), June 4, Brandon Brown)
After more than a year of assisting in Ohio food banks and warehouses, emergency support from Ohio National Guard and State Defense Force members will conclude next month on July 2.

23. CYBER COMMAND PLANS BIGGER BUDGET FOR MISSION PLANNING TOOL 43
(C4ISRNET, June 4, Mark Pomerleau)
Joint Cyber Command and Control, or JCC2, will provide situational awareness, battle management, and information about cyber forces’ readiness levels for operations across the globe. The fiscal 2022 research and development budget proposed \$79 million for the tool, one of the largest bumps in budget requests for Cyber Command tools.

24. ARMY BACKS KENT STATE’S VIRTUAL REALITY LAB TO STUDY SMALL SOLDIER GROUP DYNAMICS 45
(ExecutiveGov, June 4, Angeline Leishman)
The Army Research Laboratory has funded the development of an immersive virtual reality hub where Kent State University scientists can examine how small groups operate in extreme environments using VR and other biophysiological instruments.

25. NO NEED TO GROUND BLACK HAWK FLEET AFTER RECENT CRASHES, ARMY SAFETY DIRECTOR SAYS 45
(Army Times, March 15, Kyle Rempfer)
Investigators have not found any material problems or common piloting errors linking a series of fatal UH-60 Black Hawk crashes over the past year-and-a-half, according to the Army’s safety director, Brig. Gen. Andrew Hilmes.

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26. WHERE THE US ARMY’S CUT LIST AND WISH LIST OVERLAP..... 47

(Defense One, June 4, Caitlin M. Kenney)

To make space in its shrinking budget, the U.S. Army has listed 37 programs for trimming in fiscal 2022. As has become standard practice, service officials are also asking lawmakers for money for things excluded from the budget proposal sent to Congress last week. Some programs appear on both lists.

27. DYNETICS UNVEILS ENDURING SHIELD, ITS SOLUTION FOR THE US ARMY TO COUNTER CRUISE MISSILES..... 49

(Defense News, June 4, Jen Judson)

Leidos-owned Dynetics has been tight-lipped about the product it offered to the U.S. Army and demonstrated in a live-fire event for the service’s enduring indirect fires protection capability, designed to defend against a variety of airborne threats.

28. THE ARMY’S LEGENDARY LITTLE BIRD MIGHT BE FLYING AWAY FOR GOOD 50

(Popular Mechanics, June 4, Kyle Mizokami)

The Army could swap the Little Birds, which the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment has used for nearly 40 years, for the winner of a new armed reconnaissance helicopter competition. The catch? Just one of the two competing helicopters can actually carry troops—a key requirement for the Little Bird’s replacement.

TOP STORIES:

1. At Omaha Beach, V Corps honors WWII vets ahead of D-Day anniversary

(Stars and Stripes, June 4, John Vandiver)

U.S. Army V Corps soldiers faced the daunting task of taking Omaha Beach 77 years ago during the D-Day invasion of Normandy, where the unit’s current commander paid homage Friday to the troops who carried out one of World War II’s most daring missions.

“Omaha Beach was the most heavily defended of the landing areas,” Lt. Gen. John Kolasheski said during a ceremony overlooking the WWII battleground. “V Corps troops encountered the worst conditions on D-Day and suffered the highest number of casualties.”

The observance, two days ahead of the June 6 anniversary of D-Day, was held in special honor of one of the soldiers who was part of the first wave to hit Omaha Beach: retired Master Sgt. Charles Shay.

As a 19-year-old medic, Shay saved more than 20 soldiers under “the most grueling of conditions,” Kolasheski said.

Shay, 96, who now resides in Normandy, received the Silver Star for his actions.

Ceremonies in Normandy surrounding the D-Day anniversary are normally major international events, with thousands of people arriving from around the world to mark the occasion. This year, the events were scaled back again because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Kolasheski spoke before a small gathering of people about the sacrifices made during Operation Overlord. V Corps was responsible for 50,000 troops that were part of the Omaha Beach assault force, mostly drawn from the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions.

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In the first 15 hours of combat, V Corps suffered 2,500 casualties, but still managed to fight through the German defenses to secure the beachhead.

“Soldiers laden with equipment were dropped off in water anywhere from waist-high to depths over their head,” Kolasheski said. “Many of these men drowned and those who didn’t were caught in a barrage of machine gun fire with no cover to be had. The first wave suffered almost 50% casualties.”

The landings at Normandy helped turn the tide of the war and paved the way for Allied victory over Nazi Germany a year later.

“When you think through what the people that participated back in June of 44 went through — holy smokes,” Kolasheski said in a phone interview.

For V Corps, honoring the contributions soldiers made during WWII ago takes on added significance this year given the command’s recent return to Europe. The Army expects the headquarters to be fully operational by fall, having been reconstituted nearly eight years after being inactivated.

The corps gives the Army an organization poised to take on command and control responsibilities of the service’s ground forces on the Continent. The move is part of a broader increase of capabilities in Europe, where concerns about a more aggressive Russia in recent years have prompted Pentagon planners to add forces after decades of drawing down.

Details are still getting worked out, but Kolasheski said he anticipates that V Corps will be the operational-level Army headquarters in Europe, with oversight over its brigades and rotational units. The corps also will focus on linking together with other allied land forces, he said.

With its main headquarters at Fort Knox, Ky., the 600-strong V Corps also has a forward base in Poznan, Poland that will eventually have about 200 troops.

V Corps history in Europe goes back all the way to World War I, when it earned the title “Victory Corps.”

Today’s V Corps draws inspiration from the command’s storied lineage, perhaps most notably the role it played on D-Day, Kolasheski said.

“America and her allies have always been stronger together,” he said. “We were with you then. We are with you now.”

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2. With Austin’s signature on JADC2 strategy, top general says it’s ‘delivery time’ (C4ISRNET, June 4, Andrew Eversden)

It is time for the Pentagon to deliver on its joint war-fighting concept after Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin signed off on foundational strategy behind Joint All-Domain Command and Control, the three-star leading the effort said Friday.

With the JADC2 strategy in place, the Pentagon and its military services can focus on building the network of networks it believes it needs to fight highly capable adversaries such as Russia and China, a fight powered by high-bandwidth, resilient communications networks that pass mass amounts of data to

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help commanders make fast decisions. Lt. Gen. Dennis Crall, CIO/J6 of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Pentagon now has a document that ensures the services' efforts are in "compliance [with] the direction that we set inside of JADC2."

"This really starts our work. It's now implementation time," Crall told reporters. "Planning is good. Talk is good. Now it's delivery time, and we've been given a clear signal to begin pushing these outcomes to the people who need them."

Austin signed the strategy May 13, Crall said, and while the plan is classified, the Pentagon will share an unclassified version this summer. The concept of JADC2, in which data passes through secure networks to forces working together from any location, is how Pentagon leadership envisions potential battles against near-peer threats such as China and Russia.

JADC2, led by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, consists of a series of efforts by the military services: the Air Force's Advanced Battle Management System, the Army's Project Convergence and the Navy's Project Overmatch. The strategy gives each of those projects a guiding foundation.

Before "we had no northern star," Crall said. "So specifically, what it does now is allowed me to take that JADC2 strategy at a specific line of effort and place it directly over the top of this experimentation and vet it and say, 'What parts of those are in compliance today and which parts are not?'"

Although the specifics are classified, top officials have provided insights into what the Pentagon needs to do to connect disparate battlefield systems. Brig. Gen. Rob Parker, the head of the JADC2 Joint Cross-Functional Team, said at an event hosted by the Army Network Cross-Functional Team on Wednesday that the strategy has five key lines of effort: data, human enterprise, technology, nuclear command and control, and the mission partner environment.

As the department starts to roll out JADC2, Crall said the services need to solve several issues. First, the DoD needs to settle on the definition of a federated data fabric, which is a data management environment with common standards and tools. Officials across the services and the Pentagon have worked on the issues since January, and the challenge, he said, is finding the balance between being too prescriptive and too open.

The department is also searching for identity and network access management tools that can verify users on the battlefield, while recognizing that it will have to improve cybersecurity by moving to a zero trust environment that inherently distrusts a user and requires repeated verification. It also needs software packages that are easily adaptable instead of software that's "impossible to change," Crall said.

"We need solutions that work on the tactical edge," he said.

For JADC2 to be successful, Crall said the department will need to integrate and scale key technologies, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and predictive analytics, calling them "enabling requirements" for war fighters to have a decision-making advantage over adversaries.

Asked about some unfunded priorities the services sent to Congress after the release of the fiscal 2022 budget request that mentioned various JADC2-enabling programs, Crall said he thinks the JADC2 efforts are "adequately resourced" to move forward for an experimentation phase.

It's difficult to determine how much money the Pentagon plans to spend on JADC2 because the program is not a specific budget line, and programs across each service contribute to their respective war-fighting

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systems. For ABMS, the Air Force requested \$204 million for FY22, a sizable bump from the program's FY21 budget, but down from a projected \$449 million the service previously said it expected to spend on the program in 2022. The Army plans to spend \$106 million on Project Convergence, and several of its modernization programs, including its network team, that ultimately contribute to JADC2 would receive major funding boosts. The Navy's Project Overmatch spending is classified across three research and development budget lines.

"It's not about just doing everything we're doing today exactly as we're doing it, and then adding something new," Crall said. "I think we need to be really smart about the way we move forward and utilize the resources we're given smartly."

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3. DOD explores connecting Aegis, IBCS and C2BMC for improved Guam missile defense

(Inside Defense, June 4, Jason Sherman)

The Defense Department is exploring the feasibility of stitching together the Navy's Aegis weapon system and the Army's Integrated Air and Missile Defense System with the Missile Defense Agency's Command and Control, Battle Management and Communication system to protect Guam from advanced Chinese missile threats.

MDA's fiscal year 2022 budget request seeks \$78 million in advanced component development and prototype to explore this effort under a project called Guam Defense Development, a new-start that aims to respond to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's request for an upgraded missile defense capability for the U.S. territory by 2026.

"This program develops an integrated air and missile defense system on Guam against air-breathing, ballistic, and hypersonic missile threats," states MDA's budget request.

For more than a year, INDOPACOM has ranked a new missile defense capability -- specifically to introduce a 360-degree, persistent, air and missile defense capability on Guam -- as the command's No. 1 unfunded requirement and suggested an Aegis Ashore system could be a solution.

DOD is looking beyond Aegis as part of a pair of studies already being conducted, according to the budget request.

"The Department is assessing alternatives for an IAMD architecture on Guam," states the budget documents. "While the final architecture designs and configuration are not yet finalized, there are common areas to the proposed architecture options which this funding is designed to jump-start."

"The final architecture design will be determined based on the results of CAPE and MDA architecture studies," the budget states, referring to the office of cost assessment and program evaluation.

MDA Director Vice Adm. Jon Hill said work on these studies is ongoing.

"We're in the middle of doing that architecture analysis with the CAPE and with the Joint Staff and others to make sure that we have the options on the table, so that we can make use of the resources that we have to give the best defense possible for Guam," Hill told reporters May 28. "And so we're working through that now."

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MDA's budget request states the FY-22 funding would be used to support "architecture development and siting analysis that are common to all architectural proposals, to include integration efforts between Army and Navy systems."

"We know that we have varying topology there across the island so how would you place those sensors*" Hill said of the need for a siting analysis. "Where would the fire control systems go* Where would the weapons go* So there's work there. . . . But we're keeping that option space open now within the department until we've come through all of those trades."

Specifically, MDA plans a "Joint Track Management Capabilities Bridge Development" effort between the Army's IAMD Battle Command System (IBCS), the Aegis Weapon System and the Command and Control Battle Management and Communications system "to promote greater integration between Army and Navy assets," according to the budget request.

The project also includes an "acceleration of sea-based terminal" capabilities, which appear to mean efforts to make the Standard Missile-6 more effective against advanced threats.

Hill said the FY-22 funding for this project is sufficient to support INDOPACOM's 2026 target for delivering a new capability.

"There is a set of regional systems that we have options to deploy to Guam," Hill said. "So the idea is to look at these differing architectures. And right now, if you see commonality in those areas on things that we can procure to accelerate that timeline to hit that timeline then we'll want to move out and do that in '22."

Aegis Ashore is a land-based variant of the ship-based Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense system, designed to track and shoot down ballistic missiles in the middle of their flight using Standard Missile-3 interceptors.

The U.S. currently operates an Aegis Ashore system in Romania. A second Aegis Ashore site is slated to be operational in Poland in 2022.

Since 2013, Guam has been defended on land by a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery. Built by prime contractor Lockheed Martin, THAAD is a mobile, ground-based system designed to intercept ballistic missiles both inside and outside the atmosphere. It consists of a truck-mounted launcher carrying an eight-interceptor load, a large X-band radar -- the Army Navy/Transportable Radar Surveillance and Control-2 (AN/TPY-2) sensor -- and a fire control system. THAAD consists of a launcher, interceptor, radar and fire-control unit. The truck-mounted launcher can carry up to eight interceptors; each THAAD interceptor has a range of about 200 kilometers.

In addition, Aegis warships equipped with ballistic missile defense capabilities patrol in waters to defend Guam.

IAMD aims to integrate Army and joint sensors and weapons across a modular open systems architecture to provide a single, integrated air picture -- allowing soldiers to both see more threats and destroy them faster and more effectively. In development since 2009, the Army aims to use the IAMD program to move from traditional system-centric weapon systems acquisition toward a component-based acquisition. When complete, the Army expects IAMD to provide a full, network-centric, "plug-and-fight" integration of existing and future air and missile defense forces and systems.

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IAMD aims to integrate capabilities such as the Sentinel radar and Patriot air-defense launchers through a new interface that provides battle management data and allows networked operations.

The common integrated fire control element is IBCS, which provides the functional capabilities to control and manage the IAMD sensors and shooters.

The Army and MDA are working to integrate IAMD with C2BMC, a global system of workstations, servers, and network equipment as well as software that effectively stitch together all elements of the Ballistic Missile Defense System -- allowing operators to plan activities, see an attack against the United States unfold and manage radars.

By integrating disparate sensors that were not organically designed to connect, C2BMC allows a wider view of the battle space. The C2BMC system, improved in spirals with new capabilities roughly every two years, is fielded at U.S. Strategic, Northern, European, Central and Indo-Pacific commands.

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BROADCAST CLIPS OF NOTE:

1. Soldier to compete for pageant title

(KXRM-FOX (CO), June 6)

<http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=5d7bd937-330d-4047-99f8-f7db15d3c0cb>

A Soldier at Fort Carson is competing for the title of Miss Colorado.

2. GEN Charles Flynn Takes Command of U.S. Army Pacific

(KGMB-CBS (HI), June 5)

<http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=ddf7f313-1fd5-42b8-9c5c-77c1c391e074>

GEN Charles A. Flynn assumed command of U.S. Army Pacific from GEN Paul J. LaCamera Friday in a ceremony at Fort Shafter.

3. Journeys of Discovery: Fort Hunter Liggett leads the charge with carbon-neutrality

(KCBX-NPR (CA), June 4)

<https://www.kcbx.org/post/journeys-discovery-fort-hunter-liggett-leads-charge-carbon-neutrality#stream/0>

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett in southern Monterey County is on target to reach their goal of Net-Zero energy resiliency to critical facilities by 2022 via a new micro-grid. Hunter Liggett is slated to become the first U.S. Army installation in America capable of generating and distributing electricity off-grid for a minimum of 14 days across the entire cantonment. Join correspondent Tom Wilmer as he visits with Fort Hunter Liggett Garrison Commander, Colonel Charles Bell; Nicole Bulgarino, executive vice-president for Federal Solutions at Ameresco, the project design-build firm that specializes in clean energy technologies; followed by a conversation with Colonel James Handura, Commander and District Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District.

4. Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County under review for name change

(WTTG-FOX (DC), June 4, Bob Barnard)

<https://www.fox5dc.com/news/fort-belvoir-in-fairfax-county-under-review-for-name-change>

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Fort Belvoir is among several U.S. army installations being considered for a name change by the Pentagon's Confederate Renaming Commission.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **9 JUN: CSA GEN James McConville and GEN John M. “Mike” Murray, CG of AFC, will participate in an American Enterprise Institute livestreamed event on the Army Budget.**
- **9 JUN: CSA GEN James McConville and SMA Michael Grinston will attend the MDW’s Army Birthday Twilight Tattoo virtual event.**
- **9 JUN: VCSA GEN Joseph Martin will deliver testimony at the HASC-R Subcommittee hearing on Military Readiness.**
- **9 JUN: LTG Scott Spellmon, Chief of Engineers and CG USACE, and Mr. Jaime Pinkham, acting ASA for CW, will testify on the FY22 USACE budget request before the SAC Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.**
- **9 JUN: LTG Daniel L. Karbler, CG of SMDC, will testify before the SASC Subcommittee on Strategic Forces as the Army's proponent for air and missile defense.**
- **9 JUN: LTG Gary Brito, Deputy chief of Staff, G-1, and MG Eugene LeBoeuf, FORSCOM Chief of Staff, will conduct separate interviews with “20/20” on the People First Task Force and findings of the FORSCOM 15-6 investigation following Vanessa Guillen’s death.**
- **9 JUN: Mr. Willie Nelson, director of the Assured Navigation, Position and Timing/Space CFT, will speak at the Military Space USA virtual conference.**
- **9 JUN: Ms. Hannah Hunt, Army Software Factory chief product and innovation officer, will speak at a Defense Acquisition University TEDx event on digital transformation.**
- **10 JUN: Mr. Christopher Lowman, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of the Army, will conduct a #TheUnderIsListening social media engagement.**

PEOPLE:

1. High court asked to review men-only draft registration law
(The Associated Press, June 6, Jessica Gresko)

The Supreme Court is being asked to decide whether it's sex discrimination for the government to require only men to register for the draft when they turn 18.

The question of whether it's unconstitutional to require men but not women to register could be viewed as one with little practical impact. The last time there was a draft was during the Vietnam War, and the military has been all-volunteer since. But the registration requirement is one of the few remaining places

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where federal law treats men and women differently, and women's groups are among those arguing that allowing it to stand is harmful.

The justices could say as soon as Monday whether they will hear a case involving the Military Selective Service Act, which requires men to register for the draft.

Ria Tabacco Mar, the director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Women's Rights Project, who is urging the court to take up the issue, says requiring men to register imposes a "serious burden on men that's not being imposed on women."

Men who do not register can lose eligibility for student loans and civil service jobs, and failing to register is also a felony punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and five years in prison. But Tabacco Mar says the male-only requirement does more than that.

"It's also sending a tremendously harmful message that women are less fit than men to serve their country in this particular way and conversely that men are less fit than women to stay home as caregivers in the event of an armed conflict. We think those stereotypes demean both men and women," she said.

Even if the draft is never used again, retaining the men-only requirement sends a "really damaging message," said Tabacco Mar, who represents the National Coalition For Men and two individual men challenging the law

A group of retired senior military officers and the National Organization for Women Foundation are among the others urging the court to take the case.

If the court agrees to hear the case, it wouldn't be deciding whether women have to register, just whether the current system is constitutional. If it isn't, then it would then be up to Congress to decide how to respond, either by passing a law requiring everyone to register or deciding registration is no longer necessary.

The issue of who has to register for the draft has been to the court before. In 1981, the court voted 6-3 to uphold the men-only registration requirement. At the time, the decision was something of an outlier because the court was regularly invalidating gender-based distinctions in cases about other areas of the law. Many of those cases were brought by the founding director of the ACLU's Women's Rights Project, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who became a justice in 1993.

The last time the high court considered the Military Selective Service Act, then-Justice William Rehnquist explained that the purpose of registration "was to prepare for a draft of combat troops." He said that because women could not serve in combat, the law was not unlawful sex discrimination that violated the Constitution.

But military policy has changed. In 2013, the Department of Defense lifted the ban on women serving in combat. Two years later, the department said all military roles would be open to women without exception.

Just last year, a congressional commission concluded that the "time is right" to extend the obligation to register to women. "The current disparate treatment of women unacceptably excludes women from a fundamental civic obligation and reinforces gender stereotypes about the role of women, undermining national security," the commission said in a report.

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The Biden administration is urging the justices not to take the case and to let Congress instead tackle the issue. Administration lawyers wrote in a brief that any "reconsideration of the constitutionality of the male-only registration requirement ... would be premature at this time" because Congress is "actively considering" the issue.

The Selective Service System, the agency that oversees registration, said in a statement that it doesn't comment on pending litigation but that it is "capable of performing whatever mission Congress should mandate."

If the court agrees to take the case, arguments wouldn't happen until the fall at the earliest, after the court's summer break. The court already has high-profile cases awaiting it then. They include a major challenge to abortion rights and an appeal to expand gun rights.

The case about the draft is *National Coalition For Men v. Selective Service System*, 20-928.

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2. Commentary: Let's educate service members on professional ethos, not just extremism (The Hill, June 6, Kelly E. Atkinson and Marybeth P. Ulrich)

In this graduation season for U.S. military academies and commissioning sources, our nation's newest officers are entering the service amid decreasing trust in the military and increasing discussion of extremism within the institution. Following the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, in which some participants were veterans and active duty military members, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin ordered a Department of Defense (DOD) stand down to address the growing concern of extremism among military service members. Despite this department-wide training intended to focus on the meaning of military service and the oath we swear to protect and defend the Constitution, some leaders have equivocated on the problem of extremism in the ranks.

Some senior military officers said current processes mean they have no extremists under their command, while others demurred on engaging with the problem amid claims of remaining apolitical. Failing to grapple effectively with the existence and extent of extremism undermines the sacred duty of our nation's military professionals to the Constitution.

We contend that the U.S. military has neglected its responsibility to develop in its ranks a professional military ethos focused on service members' oath to the Constitution. The oath is not to any individual or organization, but rather to the democratic processes and civil liberties that our Founders enumerated in the Constitution. Improved education and training on the meaning of the oath would strengthen service members' core commitment to the nation and bring into focus behaviors that deviate from the ideals that bind us together as Americans.

Given the requirements of the oath, the professional ethos of military service members must be demanding. Carrying out the obligation requires great familiarity with its constitutional underpinnings. To date, military training on the oath has emphasized legal obligations — the "do's and don'ts" — but not the "why." We must imbue our service members with the professional ethos expected of militaries in the service of democracies. The first obligation is to do no harm to the democratic processes laid out in the Constitution. The professional ethos also includes a commitment to refrain from political activities that associate military members with partisan causes. Third, service members must understand that their professional obligation is a lifelong commitment.

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Veterans and presently-serving service members who participated in the violent events of Jan. 6, and who continue to participate in extremist organizations, violate this professional ethos through their disruption of constitutional processes and disregard for the civil liberties of their fellow citizens. The DOD maintains security clearance prohibitions against membership in organizations dedicated to overthrowing the U.S. government by force or discouraging others from exercising their constitutional rights. The professional ethos underpinning these same guidelines must define expectations prohibiting any service member from joining or supporting extremist organizations that seek to overthrow the U.S. government, disrupt its democratic processes, or undermine the rights of fellow citizens.

We must distinguish between service members' liberties to hold different ideological beliefs and the acceptability of those beliefs in light of the oath and the obligations of the military profession.

Civilian and military leaders alike must increase the emphasis and energy devoted to educating and training service members on the expectations of a professional ethos, in line with the oath. Cadets at the Air Force Academy have spearheaded such an effort with the founding of The Oath Project this spring, through which a dozen cadets created a comprehensive program to reinvigorate education on the oath of office. This program is a model for other military educational institutions and units to emulate.

The Department of Defense must clarify guidance and reaffirm expectations that any and all acts of extremism that threaten the constitutional order are in direct violation of our professional military ethos. We must understand the lifelong obligations that the oath asks of us: to protect and defend the Constitution; uphold democratic processes and the constitutional rights of our fellow citizens to participate in them; and refrain from partisan political activities in alignment with existing civil-military norms. If we fail to delineate, educate and train military members on clear expectations for this professional military ethos, our military institutions risk internal fracturing that may threaten the democracy they are sworn to defend.

Kelly Atkinson is a major in the U.S. Air Force, an assistant professor of political science, and a member of the faculty advisory board for The Oath Project at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Marybeth Ulrich is a retired Air Force colonel, the distinguished visiting professor of political science at the Air Force Academy, and the General Maxwell D. Taylor Chair of the Profession of Arms at the U.S. Army War College. She is the co-founder of The Oath Project along with her students.

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3. Gen. Charles Flynn, brother of former national security adviser, takes reins of US Army Pacific (Stars and Stripes, June 5, Wyatt Olson)

Gen. Charles Flynn took command of U.S. Army Pacific on Friday, vowing to continue transforming the 90,000-soldier force into one that can meet the challenge of a rising China.

“Today, as China trends on an increasingly concerning path, presenting challenge to the free and open Pacific, the Army is charged to change once more,” Flynn said during a livestreamed ceremony at Fort Shafter. Media were not allowed to attend the event.

Flynn — the younger brother of Michael Flynn, who briefly served as national security adviser under former President Donald Trump — took the reins from Gen. Paul LaCamera, who will move on to command U.S. Forces Korea.

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Flynn arrived from Washington, D.C., where he had served since June 2019 as deputy chief of staff for Army operations, plans and training. He has been stationed in Hawaii numerous times, most recently as deputy commanding general at U.S. Army Pacific.

Adm. John Aquilino, the head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, welcomed Flynn back to Hawaii during an address at the ceremony.

“I’m going to ask you to focus on seizing the initiative by thinking, acting and operating differently, to continue to execute the integrated deterrence needed to ensure the free and open Indo-Pacific,” Aquilino said. “U.S. Army Pacific Command is a vital part of our approach to generate a lethal combined joint force distributed west of the international dateline that can be protected, sustained and capable of fully integrating with all of our allies and partners.”

Addressing the audience, the Army’s chief of staff, Gen. James McConville, praised LaCamera for his part in developing and testing the Army’s first Multi-Domain Task Force, which is aimed at coordinating air, cyberspace, land, maritime, space and the electromagnetic spectrum in a battle environment.

Flynn said he expected to build upon that soon by incorporating long-range precision fires and integrated air missile defense.

U.S. Army Pacific is also calibrating its force posture to be more agile through prepositioning supplies in the theater to sustain the force, he said.

“If we operate, compete and fight domain-on-domain, we will cede advantages and put our future at risk,” Flynn said. “However, if we act, operate and fight as an integrated joint force – tightly linked to our allies and partners – there is no adversary on planet that can match this team.”

Flynn is a graduate of the U.S. Naval War College, where he earned a master’s degree in national security and strategic studies, according to his official bio.

Early in his career he was stationed at Schofield Barracks as operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division and later as operations officer of the division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

From 2014 to 2016, he commanded the 25th, after which he served as deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific until 2018.

He has commanded troops at the battalion and brigade levels within the 82nd Airborne Division and was deployed on combat tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan, according to his bio.

Flynn’s brother Michael, a retired Army lieutenant general, pleaded guilty to a felony count of “willfully and knowingly” making false statements to the FBI during its investigation looking into ties between Russia and Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign. Trump pardoned him in November.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Michael Flynn made headlines after seeming to agree with an audience member at the “For God & Country Patriot Roundup” conference in Dallas that a military coup would be desirable in the United States.

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4. D-Day spirit of remembrance lives on, despite the pandemic

(The Associated Press, June 5, Sylvie Corbet)

In a small Normandy town where paratroopers landed in the early hours of D-Day, applause broke the silence to honor Charles Shay. He was the only veteran attending a ceremony in Carentan commemorating the 77th anniversary of the assault that helped bring an end to World War II.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, this year's D-Day commemorations are taking place with travel restrictions that have prevented veterans or families of fallen soldiers from the U.S., Britain and other allied countries from making the trip to France. Only a few officials were allowed exceptions.

Shay, who now lives in Normandy, was a 19-year-old U.S. Army medic when he landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. Today, he recalls the "many good friends" he lost on the battlefield.

Under a bright sun, the 96-year-old Penobscot Native American from Indian Island, Maine, stood steadily while the hymns of the Allied countries were played Friday in front of the monument commemorating the assault in Carentan that allowed the Allies to establish a continuous front joining nearby Utah Beach to Omaha Beach.

Shay regretted that the pandemic "is interrupting everything." He is expected to be the only veteran at Sunday's anniversary day ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer.

"We have no visitors coming to France this year for two years now. And I hope it will be over soon," he told The Associated Press in Carentan.

Shay's lone presence is all the more poignant as the number of survivors of the epochal battle dwindles. Only one veteran now remains from the French commando unit that joined U.S, British, Canadian and other allied troops in storming Normandy's code-named beaches.

While France is planning to open up to vaccinated visitors starting next week, that comes too late for the D-Day anniversary. So for the second year in a row, most public commemoration events have been cancelled. A few solemn ceremonies have been maintained, with dignitaries and a few guests only.

Local residents, however, are coming in greater numbers than last year, as France started lifting its internal virus restrictions last month.

Some French and a few other World War II history enthusiasts from neighboring European countries gathered in Normandy.

Driving restored jeeps, dressed in old uniforms or joyfully eating at the newly reopened terraces of restaurants, they're contributing to revive the commemorations' special atmosphere — and keeping alive the memory of June 6, 1944.

"In France, people who remember these men, they kept them close to their heart," Shay said. "And they remember what they did for them. And I don't think the French people will ever forget."

On Saturday morning, people in dozens of World War II vehicles, from motorcycles to jeeps and trucks, gathered in a field in Colleville-Montgomery to parade down the nearby roads along Sword Beach to the sounds of a pipe band. Residents, some waving French and American flags, came to watch.

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Sitting in an old sidecar, Audrey Ergas, dressed in a vintage uniform including an aviator hat and glasses, said she used to come every year from the southern city of Marseille, except for last year due to virus travel restrictions.

“We absolutely wanted to come ... it’s great pleasure, we needed it!” she said. “We were afraid that we might feel a bit alone, but in the end we were happy to do even small gatherings.”

Pascal Leclerc, a member of the Remember Omaha Beach 44 group, shared the same joy.

“We missed it a lot. That’s just fun, happiness, and also being able to pay tribute to all the veterans. That’s the main goal,” he said.

Henri-Jean Renaud, 86, remembers D-Day like it was yesterday. He was a young boy and was hidden in his family home in Sainte-Mere-Eglise when more than 800 planes bringing U.S. paratroopers flew over the town while German soldiers fired at them with machine guns.

Describing an “incredible noise” followed by silence, he remembers crossing the town’s central square in the morning of June 6. He especially recalls seeing one dead U.S. paratrooper stuck in a big tree that is still standing by the town’s church.

“I came here hundreds of times. The first thing I do is look at that tree,” he said. “That’s always to that young guy that I’m thinking of. He was told: ‘You’re going to jump in the middle of the night in a country you don’t know’ ... He died and his feet never touched (French) soil, and that is very moving to me.”

More than 12,000 soldiers were buried temporarily in Sainte-Mere-Eglise during and after the Battle of Normandy, before being moved to their final resting place.

In the years following the war, local people were allowed to go to the cemeteries. “Often, people had adopted a grave because they had seen a name they liked ... They were a bit like friends,” Renaud said.

“Some, especially at the beginning when there were no coffins yet, had been buried in the ground. They had become the Normandy soil,” he added, in a voice filled by emotion.

On D-Day itself, more than 150,000 Allied troops landed on beaches code-named Omaha, Utah, Juno, Sword and Gold, carried by 7,000 boats. The Battle of Normandy hastened Germany’s defeat, which came less than a year later.

Still, that single day cost the lives of 4,414 Allied troops, 2,501 of them Americans. More than 5,000 were injured. On the German side, several thousand were killed or wounded.

This year, Col. Kevin Sharp came with a delegation of three other U.S. military officers from the 101st Airborne Division, based in Kentucky, to attend Friday’s commemorations in Carentan — the same division that took part in the D-Day operations there. His delegation received special, last-minute permission to come to France despite virus restrictions.

The U.S. military “really values the legacy of the soldiers and the paratroopers who came before us,” he told the AP. “It was important enough to send a small representation here to ensure that our appreciation for their sacrifices is made known.”

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5. U.S. Sergeant Major of Army visits Fort Drum to discuss leadership, quality-of-life issues (WWTI-ABC (NY), June 4, Isabella Colello)

During the first week of June, the U.S. Army Sergeant Major paid a visit to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York.

Meeting with Fort Drum soldiers, civilians and families, Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Grinston discussed leadership and addressed quality-of-life issues on June 2 and June 3, 2021.

According to Fort Drum, Grinston discussed topics ranging from physical and mental fitness, unit discipline and the “People First” initiative.” This initiative was specifically addressed at a professional development session for noncommissioned officers and “acknowledges that the strength of the Army is in its people.”

“People First equals readiness,” stated Grinston. “When you’re not worried about your house, you are a more ready Soldier. If you don’t have to worry about child care, you are a more ready Soldier. But it doesn’t mean you don’t do tough training when it’s really cold outside. You build a better, stronger bond with your people when you challenge them with that tough training and you give them tasks and the right equipment to do them.”

Additionally SMA Grinston lead a discussion of about leadership at the 10th Mountain Division Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

During the discussion, Grinston spoke on an initiative he launched title “This is My Squad,” which was launched to build cohesive teams across Army units. This was specifically formed to address challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We really, as an Army, need to get back together,” expressed Grinston “We need to interact with one another – to look people in the eye, talk to them, say ‘How are you doing?’ and really mean it.”

During his two-day visit, Grinston also led a roundtable discussion with Exceptional Family Member Program staff and spouses to learn of their concerns and to help make improvements.

This was held at the Chapel Drive Child Development Center and included Child and Youth Services staff members.

Grinston said that when the Army Chief of Staff laid out his quality-of-life priorities two years ago, the main focus was housing, health care and child care.

Adding, ‘that’s why I’m here, looking to see how we are doing with child care and what are the problems. And I’m going to do my absolute best to address those priorities.’”

Grinston had previously served in the 10th Mountain Division (LI) as command sergeant major of 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, but this was his first time back as the Army’s top enlisted leader.

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6. More delays for some military tenant rights

(Military Times, June 4, Karen Jowers)

Military tenants will have to wait four more months to get all their remaining tenant rights, despite congressional testimony from military leaders over the past few weeks assuring lawmakers those remaining rights would be place in June.

In an announcement from the Defense Department late Friday, a Defense Department official stated that “with few exceptions, the DoD expects all 18 tenant rights to be fully available at all installations with privatized housing by the end of fiscal 2021” — the end of September.

While 14 of those 18 congressionally-mandated tenant rights were implemented a year ago, four key tenant rights have been under negotiation: a dispute resolution process, a universal lease, process for withholding rent during dispute resolutions, and providing a tenant with seven years of a unit’s maintenance history. A number of privatized housing projects have already incorporated these rights — with the exception of the universal lease, said Paul Cramer, performing the duties of assistant defense secretary for sustainment and chief housing officer, in the announcement.

There are still installations where the other three key tenant right are still unmet, but it is not clear where. The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a question about where those key rights have yet to be implemented.

“Military members and their families who are tenants of [privatized] housing should check with the property manager or the government’s installation housing office to confirm which of the tenant rights have been implemented at their installation,” said Cramer, in the announcement.

Cramer said DoD has issued policy guidance for implementing the 18 tenant rights at all the housing projects. “Through negotiation and lots of work with our privatized housing partners, nearly all of the [privatized] housing companies have agreed to implement all 18 tenant rights at their existing privatized housing projects,” he said.

But while policy guidance has been issued, it doesn’t mean that all the rights have been implemented for military families.

“I’m absolutely shocked,” said Sarah Lynne Kline, of the Military Housing Advocates’ Network, about the delay. “The tenant bill of rights is still failing military families. We’ve been promised again and again for a date of implementation, and that date continues to be pushed.

“Also, there’s no accountability to ensure the housing companies are complying with the tenant bill of rights. And they want the families to go out and ask [about their tenant bill of rights]? They’re not going to publish a list?

“I think we can chalk up the tenant bill of rights as a failure.”

The universal lease framework will standardize the general content of the military privatized housing tenant lease to the maximum extent possible, given the need for tenant leases to comply with state and local requirements, the announcement stated.

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In the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress mandated the 18 tenant rights. It was part of comprehensive reform provisions to address pervasive issues with mold, rodents and other health, safety and environmental hazards in privatized military housing.

Military families called for a dispute resolution process and a process to withhold rent if the landlord doesn't fix the problems. Families testified about frustration over inability to get some of the private companies to fix the problems, and the lack of assistance from their military leadership on some bases.

Defense officials are working to implement additional reforms to improve the safety, quality and maintenance of privatized housing, and to ensure accountability at all levels of DoD and the housing companies — in order to perform the oversight that was originally intended with the privatization program, Cramer said.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has also established a deputy assistant defense secretary for housing position, to support the chief housing officer in oversight of privatized housing.

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7. Labor, wood and equipment shortages creating havoc for some troops moving this summer (Army Times, June 4, Karen Jowers)

This year's moving season for military personnel and their families is in high gear, and some troops are already feeling the effects of stretched capacity in the moving industry.

Service members are encouraged to put in their request for a household goods move as soon as possible. But one service member reported to Military Times that some troops who have had a moving company lined up through the military "are reporting that they have been ghosted and now can't even rent [portable storage units or rental trucks] because it's such a mess." Yet service members' report dates to their next duty station are not changed, he noted.

"Military areas with the tightest reported capacity include Washington state, North and South Dakota, California, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico," said Scott Ross, spokesman for U.S. Transportation Command. In many areas, moving companies are booked through June and into July, he said.

To date, TRANSCOM is seeing an increased volume of shipments — about 5 percent above their three-year average, Ross said. But during the week of May 24, the volume rivaled what is historically the busiest week in the year—the last week of June, he said. Shipment volumes projected over the next four weeks are in line with historical averages, he said, and the military services all project "typical" volumes this season.

But it's a matter of less industry capacity to handle the moves that are happening. "Like many sectors, the moving and storage industry reports significant labor challenges and — as a result — faces tighter-than-normal capacity this moving season, resulting in longer lead times to finalize bookings," Ross said. This is affecting DoD moves as well as the commercial sector, where summer is also the busiest moving season. The peak moving season is from about mid-May to the end of August.

"While we understand labor constraints facing suppliers — to include those operating in the Defense Personal Property Program — a customer should never be 'ghosted' by their moving company," he said. TRANSCOM officials are tracking these instances closely, Ross said.

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“We recognize the fierce competition for moving crews and drivers, but effectively stranding a service member, not returning calls, or otherwise leaving families guessing as to what is going to happen with their shipment is about as disrespectful as it gets,” he said. “There’s no place in the program for companies that operate like this.

“If this happens to a customer, they should contact their local transportation office and chain of command to discuss options immediately,” he said.

The services reported to TRANSCOM there were 49 of these instances last week, Ross said. “It doesn’t mean we necessarily had to jump in and do anything,” he said, and it didn’t mean that families didn’t have their household goods picked up. “It just means there was an issue [the local transportation officials] had to resolve. That’s the place where the issue gets fixed.”

Dan Bradley, director of government and military relations for the International Association of Movers, said that a variety of factors are causing the situation of stretched capacity. He’s seeing instances earlier this year of companies having to “turn back” moves to TRANSCOM they had previously accepted and scheduled for service members because of unforeseen problems with labor or other issues.

It’s not clear whether more PCS moves are happening earlier as a result of the services’ push to get PCS orders out earlier to ease the peak moving season crunch, or whether these are some military moves that were put off from last year’s pandemic PCS delays. TRANSCOM has said there was no backlog of military moves at the end of 2020. As of Dec. 15, commercial movers had moved 321,000 household goods and unaccompanied baggage shipments and 57,000 vehicles, representing 85 percent of the volume in 2019.

Not only is the moving industry facing a shortage of labor, to include packers and drivers, but they’re also facing a shortage of wood and wood products, Bradley said. There’s been a long-standing shortage of truck drivers. “So between labor shortages and wood shortages, some of those things are certainly causing some restricted capacity,” Bradley said. Wood crates are used in some shipments within the continental U.S., but they are required if the shipment is international.

In some areas, there’s also a shortage of equipment, he said, as some companies rent trucks and other items.

Service members who want to move themselves — or have no other choice — may be finding shortages of rental trucks in their areas, too.

“Demand is high for U-Haul moving equipment this summer, as it is every summer in most markets we serve across the U.S. and Canada,” said Jeff Lockridge, spokesman for U-Haul International. He noted that about 45 percent of all residential moves happen between Memorial Day through Labor Day during a typical year. “Customer demand for our products and services—and all forms of affordable mobility solutions —have been particularly strong since the pandemic lockdown was lifted in 2020.”

There are always markets where demand is higher for one-way equipment, and when more equipment is leaving an area than coming in, it can leave imbalances in inventory, although local and corporate teams work daily to address the allocation of U-Haul equipment, Lockridge said.

For those who may not be able to find a rental truck or other equipment in their area on a given day, he recommends considering driving a little farther to pick up that equipment, which could increase the odds

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of being able to get the needed equipment. Moving early in the week, rather than over the weekend, when demand tends to be highest, could also increase the odds of getting equipment, he said.

“We encourage customers to consider some of our other, and perhaps more readily accessible, moving solutions,” he said, such as towing an enclosed trailer, or packing items into a U-Box portable moving and storage containers. U-Haul can then ship them or store them anywhere in the world.

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8. Pentagon won't change policy to allow Pride flag to be flown at military bases

(CNN, June 4, Barbara Starr and Ellie Kaufman)

The Department of Defense will "maintain existing policy for the display of unofficial flags" and "not grant an exception to display the Pride flag" at military bases, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement to CNN.

Kirby said the decision does not "in any way reflect on the respect and admiration we feel for all our LGBTQ+ personnel in and out of uniform."

This puts the Pentagon at odds with the State Department, where Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a blanket authorization for US diplomatic outposts to fly the rainbow flag on the same flagpole as the American flag at embassies and consulates in April.

The policy, which limits which unofficial flags can be displayed at military bases, was put in place last July by Trump-appointed Defense Secretary Mark Esper. The policy was part of an effort to ban the display of the Confederate flag and other potential hate symbols on bases in the midst of last summer's racial tensions.

After the policy was implemented, then-presidential candidate Joe Biden tweeted that "banning the Confederate flag from military installations was long overdue. Banning the LGBTQ Pride flag -- the very symbol of diversity and inclusion -- is undeniably wrong. The Pentagon should ensure it is authorized, or as President, I will."

Kirby said during a press briefing at the Pentagon on Friday that there had been no formal review of the previous policy but "knowing that the month of June was approaching, we wanted to do due diligence and take a look at the old policy and see if we felt it was still applicable."

"As of right now," the secretary of defense's belief is that the "policy should be maintained," he added.

The decision not to change the policy and allow the Pride flag to be displayed "stems ... from a concern about other challenges to the policy that an exception of this kind might engender and encourage," Kirby said.

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art of the concern with changing the policy was that any change could result in any number of cause-related flags and symbols being displayed on military installations, a senior defense official said.

Jennifer Dane, CEO and executive director of the Modern Military Association of America, an advocacy organization supporting LGBTQ+ service members and veterans, was disappointed the department did not change the policy to allow Pride flags to be flown.

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"It's another statement that our service isn't as important as everyone else's," Dane told CNN. "It's a small thing that matters especially during Pride month."

Dane said the Pride flag is a symbol of "diversity and inclusion -- exactly what the Department of Defense should be striving for."

Kirby stressed that the decision "in no way reflects any lack of respect or admiration for the people of the LGBTQ+ community, the personnel in and out of uniform who serve."

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin will participate in Pride Month activities at the Pentagon next week, Kirby said in the statement.

Austin "encourages all commands to likewise find ways to recognize the service and contributions of the LGBTQ+ community in defense of this nation," Kirby said.

The Defense Department held its first LGBTQ+ Pride month event at the Pentagon in 2012. Several defense officials say the services will do so again this year.

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9. Rare awards show Nigerien valor in 2017 ambush of Army Green Berets
(Army Times, June 4, Kyle Rempfer)

Four Nigerien soldiers joined a single Army Green Beret in a "bold flanking maneuver" against jihadi militants, allowing their countrymen and U.S. counterparts enough time to withdraw during the deadly ambush near the Niger-Mali border on Oct. 4, 2017, which took the lives of four Americans and five Nigeriens.

Later, a Nigerien soldier "exposed himself to a hail of friendly fire" to stop a quick reaction force that "mistook the team for the enemy and immediately opened fire with its heavy machine guns," reads a Bronze Star with valor citation that was among award documents recently released to Army Times.

Six Nigeriens, including two killed in the ambush by a force twice their size, were given U.S. medals for combat actions and valor. It is the only case of foreign partners receiving valor awards that Army officials said they found in files dating back to the 1991 Gulf War, though similar instances have occurred previously.

After the ambush ended, a Nigerien who joined in the flanking movement refused evacuation, instead opting to search for his fallen comrades in the sparse African scrub.

The decorations were awarded in October 2019 and requested by Army Times immediately, but they were only released through the Freedom of Information Act process this month.

"Yes, this is a rare event. It is the only case like this in recent history that [Army Human Resources Command] has in its files," said Fonda Bock, a spokesperson for command, which approved the awards.

Several Nigeriens were wounded in the ambush near the village of Tongo Tongo, including a soldier who suffered a gunshot to the neck, but they continued fighting alongside their American counterparts, the citations stated.

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U.S. Ambassador to Niger Eric Whitaker and U.S. Special Operations Command boss Gen. Richard Clarke participated in the award ceremony two years ago.

SOCOM's Africa component originally nominated the Nigerien soldiers for their awards "to formally recognize their courageous efforts" during the ambush, Bock said.

The Army Decorations Board recommended approval of the awards, and the citations were signed by Maj. Gen. Jason Evans, who led Human Resources Command at the time, Bock added.

The awards highlight the actions of Nigerien troops from the country's 1st Security and Intelligence Battalion and 433rd Special Intervention Company during the ambush outside the village of Tongo Tongo.

The decorations included the two Bronze Stars, one Army Commendation Medal with Valor and three Army Achievement Medals.

There were four Nigerien soldiers who survived the ambush and received awards: Cpl. Moustapha Kakalé, Soldier 2nd Class Ibrahim Assoumane, Soldier 2nd Class Abdou Kane and Soldier 2nd Class Kamel Issoufou Oumar.

Adjutant Chef Soumana Bagué and Soldier 2nd Class Abdoul Rachid Yarima were the two Nigeriens who received posthumous awards. Because their names are redacted from the documents, it's unclear who received which citation.

Also killed in the ambush were four Americans: Staff Sgt. Bryan Black, Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Johnson, Staff Sgt. Dustin Wright and Sgt. La David Johnson. Black and Wright were Green Berets.

Jeremiah Johnson and Black were posthumously awarded Bronze Stars with valor. Two Silver Stars were also posthumously awarded to Wright and La David Johnson.

La David Johnson was separated from the larger U.S. team alongside two Nigerien partners when they were unable to reenter their vehicle due to concentrated enemy fire.

"An estimated 20-30 dismounted enemy personnel were bounding on line towards SGT Johnson's position," the Pentagon's investigation into the incident reads.

Johnson and the two Nigerien partners began evading by foot. Both Nigeriens were cut down by enemy fire while bounding away with Johnson, according to a collection of medical forensics, terrain analysis and other evidence cited in the investigation.

Johnson made his final stand under a single thorny tree — the only cover in the area — and returned fire against the jihadis, who had been pursuing him and his teammates with a vehicle-mounted DShK machine gun.

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10. JBLM commander exits for position with Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon
(The News Tribune (WA), June 4, Abbie Shull)

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The commander of I Corps at Joint Base Lewis-McChord relinquished command this week to accept a position as the senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin.

Lt. Gen. Randy George took command of I Corps in February 2020, just two weeks after the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in the United States.

A spokesperson for I Corps said George's appointment still needs to go through a government approval process. As senior military assistant, George will serve as an advisor to Austin at the Pentagon on "defense management and national security policy issues."

During the relinquishment of command ceremony on June 2, commander of U.S. Forces Command Gen. Michael Garrett said George will be remembered as a commander that put people first during one of the most challenging times in the Army's history.

"When Randy took command of I Corps, he told me his plans were simple — to take care of soldiers and their families," Garrett said. "It's clear to me, and I hope it is clear to you, that he has done just that. It is clear that I Corps has thrived, despite a restricted COVID environment."

While George's successor has not been named, the interim commander will be Maj. General Xavier Brunson. Brunson previously served as commander for JBLM's 7th Infantry Division and was appointed deputy commanding general of I Corps in April.

George, a graduate of the United States Military Academy West Point, was commissioned as an officer in 1988. He served as commander for the 173rd Airborne Division during Operation Iraq Freedom and commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during Operation Enduring Freedom.

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11. A Rogue Climber Running From the Law Was Fleeing His Own Trauma

(The New York Times, June 4, Dave Philipps)

Isaac Wright pulled himself up onto the crest of a 400-foot suspension bridge last fall, looked down at the specks of headlights below, and experienced a rush he had not felt since he was paratrooper in an Army Special Forces battalion.

He had left the Army a few months before on a medical retirement after six years in uniform, but as a civilian, he soon felt disillusioned and directionless, struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder and thoughts of suicide.

Climbing, he discovered, helped. Hoping to build a profession as a photographer, he had started scaling buildings to find different views, and realized it also offered a fresh perspective on life. Going up hand over hand forced him to focus on the present instead of the past. The vistas were inspiring. It was better, he said, than any therapy he had ever tried.

So he started crisscrossing the country, chasing that feeling. He trespassed at night, jumping fences, edging across girders, scrambling up skyscrapers, stadiums, bridges and construction cranes, joining a fringe community of like-minded adventurers who call themselves urban explorers. He made stunning photographs and shared them under an alias on social media, where he attracted thousands of followers.

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“Picking up a camera was lifesaving for me,” Mr. Wright, 25, wrote in an Instagram post on Veterans Day that featured him perched on a steel beam high above Midtown Manhattan. “It showed me all the beautiful things in life after my life was falling apart.”

But what Mr. Wright saw as transformative was also extremely dangerous, and a crime. The police in his hometown, Cincinnati, put out a nationwide warrant for his arrest after he climbed a skyscraper there. Though he had no criminal record and owned no guns, the warrant warned that he had special military training and PTSD, and should be considered armed and dangerous.

In December, records show, state troopers in Arizona shut down an interstate highway to catch him. With a police helicopter circling overhead, more than 20 officers swarmed in with dogs and assault rifles.

Mr. Wright, who is Black and has had two members of his extended family killed by police officers, edged out of his car and lay down on the asphalt with his hands outstretched, unaware that his exploits had made him the subject of an interstate manhunt.

Urban explorers who are caught trespassing are typically charged with misdemeanors, if at all. Mr. Wright, however, was charged with burglary — for entering a building illegally to take photographs — and several other felonies that could put him in prison for more than 25 years.

After the arrest, he was held without bond in 23-hour lockdown for more than two months. Prosecutors argued that Mr. Wright’s time in the Army made him too dangerous to release.

“The state has not known what his motivations are, what his experience is,” the Hamilton County prosecutor handling the case told a judge this spring. “But we do know what his training is, and his training makes him at least potentially very dangerous for our community.”

The judge set bail at \$400,000, far more than Mr. Wright could afford.

Prosecutors have since told Mr. Wright, charged with illegally climbing three structures in Cincinnati, that he can avoid prison time by pleading guilty to a felony and agreeing to therapy, probation and no more climbing.

But Mr. Wright seemed dejected at the thought. “You could put me through years of therapy, give me all the meds in the world, and it would not help me the way that my art helps me,” he said.

Stuck behind bars, he began to feel that he was being punished for his time in uniform.

“I gave a lot for this country,” Mr. Wright said. “And I feel at every step, they have used it against me.”

There is growing evidence that intense physical pursuits — rock climbing, mountain biking, skydiving — can be powerful tools for treating depression and traumatic stress. What psychologists call “recreational therapy” can greatly increase mindfulness and feelings of accomplishment and create positive personal bonds.

Psychotherapy and medication “work for a large number of people, but not everybody,” said Kristen Walter, a clinical research psychologist at the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego, who studies the effects of physical activity on veterans with depression and PTSD.

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Dr. Walter studied a veterans' surf group and found that sessions left members engaged and focused, and let them make joyful social connections. "I was seeing all the things I was trying to accomplish in therapy," she said. "Traditional approaches all try to reduce negative symptoms. Recreation actually seems to add the positive."

It gets complicated, though, when the recreation crosses legal lines. The Cincinnati police have taken a hard line against Mr. Wright out of an abundance of caution, said Capt. Doug Wiesman, who oversees officers in the city's downtown.

"The level of sophistication this guy is using and the magnitude of his crimes is pretty scary," Captain Wiesman said, noting that in his quest to reach rooftops, Mr. Wright had damaged doors and security cameras and endangered himself and others. "The pictures are beautiful, I'm not going to deny that, but he leaves a wake of destruction."

Mr. Wright grew up in the suburbs of Cincinnati in a conservative Baptist family. As a child, he said, he often climbed trees to find quiet. He excelled in school, taking gifted and talented classes and playing several sports, according to friends.

When he enlisted in the Army, top test scores gave him his pick of military jobs. He chose to become a chaplain's assistant in a Special Forces battalion — a job that focused on supporting soldiers in need.

"He was a super squared-away guy," said Alexander Carrasco, who served with Mr. Wright at Fort Bragg. "He once talked a soldier who was suicidal off a fifth-story ledge at midnight. And that's who he was, always there for everyone."

Records show that Mr. Wright deployed to the Middle East, won awards and was promoted to sergeant ahead of his peers. But the responsibility for hundreds of soldiers became hard to bear.

A few years into his career he was assigned to an infantry battalion just back from Afghanistan that had no chaplain, and checked in each week with a long list of soldiers struggling to readjust. Sometimes his efforts were not enough. Two soldiers he was working with killed themselves.

"I did as much as I could," he said. "But when you lose people, you rack your brain, asking if you could have done more."

Mr. Wright injured an ankle during a parachute jump in a training exercise, and the Army started the process of discharging him on medical grounds. During his evaluation, records show, Army doctors diagnosed him with PTSD and depression.

In March 2020, he was medically retired with an honorable discharge. He wanted to continue psychotherapy, he said, but could not get an appointment at a veterans' hospital because of the coronavirus pandemic and found little value in group video sessions.

Out of uniform, living on a modest medical pension, he spent more and more time traveling to make illicit climbs in New York, Detroit, Houston, New Orleans, Jacksonville, Chicago and other cities, drowning his darkest thoughts with the heart-pounding excitement of standing on a ledge to see the sun striking the city below.

"You are literally above every ugly and bitter thing that we face," he said. "It made me want to be better as a person."

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For him, transgression was part of the thrill. He traveled with a bag of lock-picking tools, and slipped in and out of his targets undetected, a cat burglar who stole only the view. He rationalized breaking the law by telling himself he was not hurting anyone.

Then came the tallest building in Cincinnati, Great American Tower, crowned with a 170-foot steel tiara. On an evening in November, Mr. Wright slipped past security, took the stairs to the roof and began pulling himself up the tiara, unaware that security guards had spotted a mysterious bearded man on a surveillance camera.

As police officers were on their way up, Mr. Wright was on his way down. He walked away unseen.

The case might have ended there, but a detective named Jeff Ruberg said later that he found a sticker Mr. Wright had slapped on the tiara with his social media handle, @DrifterShoots. That led the police to a multimedia travelogue of dozens of illegal climbs from someone they considered an unstable, potentially dangerous veteran.

After the arrest in December, Cincinnati police alerted other cities where Mr. Wright had climbed. Soon he was facing charges in Louisiana and Michigan.

In April, Mr. Wright's lawyer, Laurence Haas, was able to get his bond reduced to \$10,000, and Mr. Wright was released to await his Ohio trial. Soon he was pulled over by the Kentucky State Police, who had been tipped off by Detective Ruberg that Mr. Wright was potentially dangerous, and had climbed a bridge in their state. The troopers arrested him with Tasers drawn.

"I don't understand why they are treating me like an animal," Mr. Wright said in an emotional interview after he was released on bond a few days later.

He says he has stopped climbing, but now feels like he has no outlet to deal with the stress compounded by the mounting number of criminal cases.

A few days after he returned to Ohio, a dozen police officers, led by Detective Ruberg, pounded on Mr. Wright's door. Philadelphia was charging him because of video footage that showed him climbing a bridge in the city. With guns drawn, police officers took him to jail on a new felony warrant.

Mr. Wright was nearly in tears after he left the jail on bond three days later.

"Not everything that's illegal is immoral," he said in an interview, adding that he hoped to eventually resolve his cases and climb again. "What if it is a victimless crime that is bringing something wonderful into the world and inspiring and helping people?"

It appeared that, for the moment, the authorities were not inclined to look at it that way. "Maybe," Mr. Wright said, "I'll just have to move to another country."

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12. 'Can COVID-19 Be Contracted from a Corpse?' Documents Reveal Army Officer's Questions for Fauci

(Military.com, June 4, Patricia Kime)

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During the first month of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the nation's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, fielded thousands of emails from people far and wide -- from a top Chinese health official to the National Football League Players Association, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post and BuzzFeed through Freedom of Information Act requests.

Among the 3,200 pieces of correspondence was a list of six pointed questions from an unnamed person in the U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office.

"I have been in the government nearly thirty-four years and this is new to me," wrote the service member, identified as the office's antiterrorism and insider threat officer. "You are the voice of reason for millions of concerned citizens. I have a few questions for you."

Among them:

"How do you recommend I reassure our staff on dealing with the stressors of COVID-19?"

"Can COVID-19 be contracted from a corpse?"

"Are masks and gloves truly effective? If so, why are so many medical professionals contracting the virus?"

The remaining questions were about hydroxychloroquine -- the anti-malaria drug that was being touted at the time by President Donald Trump as a coronavirus treatment -- social distancing and "what keeps [Fauci] up at night."

Fauci forwarded the questions to Dr. Andrea Lerner, a medical officer in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, with a request she "fashion" answers for a response.

In response, Lerner -- and Fauci -- laid out their reasons for recommending social distancing; personal protective equipment, including masks; and taking precautions, even with a dead person.

Yes, you can get the coronavirus from a corpse: "Infection control measures should be undertaken when dealing with deceased individuals with known or suspected COVID-19," they wrote.

Yes, masks and gloves work: "I believe infection control strategies which include proper use of personal protective equipment as recommended by the CDC are effective ... healthcare workers on the frontlines can be exposed if they encounter a patient who is not initially suspected of having COVID-19 without PPE."

The jury was out on hydroxychloroquine: "Clinical trials are underway to determine if hydroxychloroquine is effective in preventing COVID-19 in exposed individuals. Until we know the answer to this question, persons who take hydroxychloroquine for another medical condition should consider themselves vulnerable to COVID-19."

(The NIH halted its clinical trial of the medication on people hospitalized for COVID-19 two months later, concluding the drug provided no clinical benefit.)

Besides social distancing, Fauci recommended that everyone continue washing their hands, using hand sanitizer and avoid touching their faces without washing their hands when they'd been out in public.

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The trove of emails provides a glimpse into the busy days of the most famous public health professional during the pandemic, whose advice, recommendations and expertise continue to draw fans and foes.

"Keep being a science truth teller," Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., told Fauci in one of the emails.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said the emails show Fauci had concerns early on about the coronavirus and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, where research is conducted on pathogens, including coronaviruses, and he expressed concerns that Fauci and others had a conflict of interest

"He was so naïve that we shouldn't have Dr. Fauci in a position of advising the U.S., the world or anyone else because he has shown such poor decision-making," Paul told Fox News Thursday.

The U.S. military services have had nearly 200,000 cases of COVID-19 across the active-duty, Reserve and National Guard components. The Army has had 70,890 positive cases and 13 deaths.

Fauci told the antiterrorism and insider threat officer that what keeps him up at night was the disaster that was unfolding as they corresponded.

"I have said in the past that what keeps me up at night is the possibility of a pandemic respiratory infection. We are in that reality now," he wrote.

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13. Vending machines selling ethnic hair care products may be coming to overseas military bases (Stars and Stripes, June 4, Erica Earl)

Following their rollout at five stateside military bases, vending machines that sell wigs, eyelashes and ethnic hair products may be coming to Army and Air Force exchanges overseas.

Beauty product vending machines by Sugar Intoxicated, a company based out of Williamsburg, Va., were installed this year at Lackland Air Force Base and Fort Sam Houston in Texas; Forts Lee and Belvoir in Virginia; and Fort Jackson, S.C.

Sugar Intoxicated and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are eying more locations, including several overseas, based on the machines' success stateside, AAFES spokesperson Chris Ward told Stars and Stripes via email Wednesday.

Air National Guardsman Latoya Duhart founded Sugar Intoxicated in 2019 after realizing military exchanges did not offer everything she needed to care for her hair, especially in a training environment where on-base stores were the only options. "I had also been told countless hair damage horror stories," Duhart told Stars and Stripes via email Friday. "After struggling for 6 weeks with my hair, I made a promise that if I could help it, no other woman who served would go without the beauty products they so desperately needed."

She also stocks machines with lip glosses made by her 10-year-old daughter, Olivia Miller.

Sugar Intoxicated started as a kiosk at Fort Lee, where Duhart sold everything that she felt was missing at the exchange. Because of monthly drill obligations, she had to regularly close the shop. This is how the vending machine idea was created.

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“I needed to find a way to provide my products without being present,” she said.

So far, Sugar Intoxicated machines are only on military installations, Duhart said.

“I will continue to do everything I can to make sure all ladies who serve are provided the products they need to enhance their beauty,” she wrote. “I know firsthand wearing these boots isn't easy, but you don't have to look how you feel.”

Antoinette “Tonie” Jimmerson, a licensed cosmetologist on Yokota Air Base specializing in natural hair care, said the product selection at the base exchange is often disappointing and lacks a broad selection of products for Black women and others with textured hair.

“While we have some quality hair products, the pattern I have noticed is that they provide 3-4 products from a line, which include shampoo, conditioner, and leave-in conditioner, or deep conditioner, leaving out styling products,” she told Stars and Stripes via email May 26.

“It communicates that buyers are not educated in trends, or they simply do not care. When quality products are stocked, they often go missing from the shelves for several months at a time leaving consumers to buy online.”

Ward said exchanges worldwide, including those in the Pacific region, carry more than 6,500 multicultural products to include cosmetics, hair and skin care for all backgrounds, but they are open to feedback.

“If there’s a product a shopper would like to see carried at their local Exchange, they may contact their Exchange manager to inquire about that item being added to the stock assortment,” he said.

The Navy Exchange has no plans to acquire the vending machines for now but are developing a new department called Hair Zone that will feature multicultural hair care products, spokeswoman Kristine Sturkie said in an email to Stars and Stripes on May 28.

“Over the last two years, NEXCOM has made an investment both in multicultural hair care products and assortment as well as their availability,” especially outside the continental United States, based on patrons’ feedback, she said.

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14. 84-year-old man receives high school diploma in Mississippi
(The Associated Press, June 5, Staff Writer)

An 84-year-old Mississippi man wore a cap and gown and walked across a stage to pick up his high school diploma, generations after bureaucratic mistakes prevented him from receiving it.

Jerry Moon joined 94 graduates during commencement May 28 at Port Gibson High School, WLBT-TV reported.

“It’s just unbelievable,” Moon said. “I’m just so thrilled. I don’t know what to do.”

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In early 1958, Moon was in the Army when he passed an exam to earn his high school equivalency certificate. However, Moon said he didn't receive a signed copy immediately because the Army misplaced it.

After Moon was discharged and returned to Mississippi, his certificate arrived by mail in October 1958. He asked the high school principal for a diploma, only to learn the certificate was missing a required signature from his company commander.

An Army National Guard major signed the paperwork this year. Moon called Port Gibson High School principal Kelvin Fuller, who agreed to honor his request for a diploma.

"It's emotional for me because this is my first time ever doing anything of this nature, so I just wanted him and his family to be excited and be happy," Fuller said.

Moon's family attended his graduation, and he carried a photo of his late wife.

"All of his life he's been trying to get this diploma in his hands," said his son, Darryl Moon. "He never gave up on it."

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15. Trial begins for pilot charged in triple slaying in Kentucky

(The Associated Press, June 4, Staff Writer)

Jurors heard conflicting details of a triple slaying in western Kentucky as a trial began for a pilot charged in the fatal shootings.

Commercial airline pilot Christian R. Martin was arrested two years ago at the Louisville airport in the 2015 slayings of Calvin and Pamela Phillips and their neighbor, Edward Dansereau, in Pembroke.

In her opening statement on Thursday, special prosecutor Barbara Whaley said Martin had the motive to kill neighbor Calvin Phillips because he was set to testify in a court-martial that could have ended Martin's Army career, the Courier Journal reported. Dansereau was in the wrong place at the wrong time, she said.

Whaley said a shell casing at the scene was shown to have been fired from a .45-caliber handgun found in a safe in Martin's home across the street and that Martin's dog tags were found in the couple's home.

Defense attorney Tom Griffiths said there's forensic proof that the bullets that killed the victims did not come from his client's gun. He also noted there were no eyewitnesses, no DNA and no fingerprints. He said evidence that indicates his client could have been planted.

Whaley said Martin wanted to get rid of Phillips because he was scheduled to testify at a court-martial in which Martin was charged with mishandling classified information and abusing his wife's son.

The trial is expected to last a month.

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16. RCPD identifies body found at Tuttle Creek as Fort Riley soldier

(WIBW-CBS (KS), June 4, Sarah Motter)

RCPD has identified the body that was found at Tuttle Creek on Wednesday.

The Riley County Police Department has identified the man whose body was recovered from Tuttle Creek as Okheem Riley, 24, of Manhattan. According to Fort Riley officials, Riley was a First Lieutenant from the 1st Sustainment Brigade and had served at the Fort since 2018.

In a statement, Fort Riley said: “1st Infantry Division Soldier, 1st Lt. Okheem Riley from the 1st Sustainment Brigade, was found deceased Wednesday. 1st Lt. Riley has served at Fort Riley since December of 2018. The incident is under joint investigation between the Fort Riley Criminal Investigation Division and the Riley County Police Department.”

1st Sustainment Brigade Commander Col. Brian Olson also released a statement on Riley’s passing: “As we mourn the loss of our own, 1st Lt. Okheem Riley, our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go to his family first, who lost a son and brother. Our hearts go out to those who knew him best in his Army service, his friends and fellow Soldiers in the 1st Sustainment Brigade with whom he worked and lived each and every day, as they navigate this tremendous loss. 1st Lt. Riley was a valuable member of the Durable Brigade family having served with us since December 2018. Our hearts reach out to those that will grieve for him today, tomorrow, and long into the future.”

RCPD said on June 2, just before 2:30 p.m., it received a call regarding a vehicle and clothes near a shoreline by the intersection of Lakeshore Dr. and Shady Ln. It said when crews responded, they located identifying information, but were unable to find Riley.

According to RCPD, its officers, drone team, Riley Co. EMS, Riley Co. Emergency Mgmt, Manhattan Fire Dept, Riley Co. Rural Fire District #1, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and the Ft. Riley Game Warden responded in an attempt to find Riley.

RCPD said emergency response teams found Riley’s body just before midnight. It said it will investigate Riley’s cause of death, but foul play is not suspected.

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17. Unification minister calls for 'maximum flexibility' on joint military exercises with U.S.

(Yonhap News Agency, June 6, Staff Writer)

Unification Minister Lee In-young called Sunday for "maximum flexibility" in deciding what to do with joint military exercises with the United States set for August, saying such drills should never serve as a chance to cause additional tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Lee said on KBS TV's "Sunday Diagnosis Live" that additional consideration should be given to how to deal with the upcoming combined military exercises at a time when the new U.S. policy on Pyongyang has shaped up and a willingness for dialogue is being talked about.

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"While comprehensively taking several circumstances into consideration, we should make a final decision on what to do with the combined exercises scheduled for August," Lee said, referring to such factors as the coronavirus pandemic and a need for such exercises to regain the wartime operation control from the U.S.

"But one obvious thing is that combined exercises should never work in a way that causes or further escalates tensions on the Korean Peninsula," he said. "Our government should carry out a policy coordination process with maximum flexibility, and I also hope North Korea will show flexibility."

North Korea has long denounced joint military drills between the U.S. and the South as a rehearsal for invasion. In recent years, Seoul and Washington have called off or scaled back some of the drills due in part to the pandemic and also as part of efforts to give diplomacy more of a chance.

Lee also called for exercising flexibility on sanctions implementation as a catalyst to bring North Korea back to the negotiating table.

"I think we can be flexible in our use of sanctions as a catalyst to get North Korea back to denuclearization negotiations at an early date," he said, adding that sanctions can be eased first on noncommercial sectors, such as railways and roads, depending on progress in denuclearization.

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18. The ‘Golden Hour’: How the Afghan war brought advances in battlefield medicine

(The San Diego Union-Tribune, June 6, John Wilkens)

When the last U.S. service member leaves Afghanistan, perhaps by early next month, America’s longest war on foreign soil will end — and so too a mission initially dubbed Operation Enduring Freedom.

Just what endures from the 20-year war is an open question, except in one area: Battlefield medicine. There, gains have already taken root.

One-handed tourniquets. Blood transfusions near the front lines. Faster evacuations to trauma centers. All got implemented in Afghanistan, and all saved lives.

This has often been the case during the mayhem of military combat, which forces doctors to improvise, and quickly. The advances they make then spread to civilian health care.

Anesthesia has ties to the Civil War. World War I brought the first widespread use of X-rays. World War II was a proving ground for blood banks and antibiotics. Medical evacuation by helicopter started in the Korean War.

“These changes happen because there is a profound need, and because the injuries are of a scale, unfortunately, where you have enough cases to pioneer a technique and enough evidence to show that it works,” said Scott McGaugh, a San Diego military historian. “There’s hardly a corner of today’s health care environment that doesn’t trace its roots back to the battlefield.”

McGaugh, author of “Battlefield Angels,” a 2011 book about combat medics, said Afghanistan, where catastrophic injuries were caused by roadside bombs and other improvised explosives, necessitated a significant change.

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“In the last century, the whole notion was to get the wounded off the battlefield as quickly as possible,” he said. “This century, there’s a heavy emphasis on taking trauma care to the battlefield.”

The result is that war has never been more survivable. During the Revolutionary War, about 40% of the seriously wounded eventually died. In World War II, about 30% did.

In Afghanistan, what had been a 20% fatality rate in the early years of the war was reduced to 8.6% by the later stages.

“The only winner in war,” an old saying goes, “is medicine.”

A new twist

Tourniquets to stem blood loss are ancient. They date at least to the reign of Alexander the Great and his invasion of Persia in around 334 B.C.

But they haven’t always been recommended. Dr. Matthew Tadlock, a Navy trauma specialist in San Diego, remembers being taught in medical school more than 20 years ago that “tourniquets are bad and shouldn’t be used.”

That’s because studies showed that the devices could cause nerve damage and might lead to amputations, according to Jeffrey Howard, who has studied their use and is an assistant professor of public health at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

At the Afghanistan war’s outset, tourniquets were not widely used. “But once we got in there,” Howard said, “we learned pretty quickly: We need these.”

Many of the injuries were from bomb blasts, which sometimes injured or severed more than one limb. People were bleeding to death.

Old-fashioned tourniquets needed two people to apply them tightly enough. The ones designed for Afghanistan could be applied by one person — applied one-handed by injured service members to themselves.

“That was a significant improvement, designing a self-applied tourniquet,” Howard said. “And they’re lightweight, easier to carry.”

Those devices only work on the extremities, though, and sometimes the IEDs were so powerful they severed limbs at the hip or the shoulder. A new kind of “junctional tourniquet” had to be created, too, Howard said.

A study he did with several collaborators showed that the improved effectiveness and availability of tourniquets prevented an estimated 240 deaths in Afghanistan. (About 2,300 U.S. troops were killed in action in the war, with another 20,000 injured.)

Tadlock, the trauma surgeon, called tourniquets — which had played a key role in World War II, when about 50% of those killed in action bled to death — “a lesson that we had to relearn.” That’s not uncommon in war. Institutional memory fades sometimes after the bullets stop flying.

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But the success in Afghanistan and Iraq has already spread to the civilian world, where a non-profit initiative called “Stop the Bleed” offers training and equipment to help first-responders and the public intervene if they come across someone who is severely wounded.

Administered by the American College of Surgeons, the program has trained 1.5 million people since it started in 2017. The goal: 200 million trained.

Timing is everything

It’s called “The Golden Hour.” Get a severely injured patient into the hands of surgeons within 60 minutes, and the odds of survival go up.

Easier said than done in a place like Afghanistan, where troops often fought in rural areas, down dirt roads. Helicopters usually had to be called in for evacuations.

Early on, the “Golden Hour” became two hours or more because of the logistics. That was about what the lag time was during the Vietnam War, and a lot better than it was during World War II, when the average time from injury to hospitalization was 12 to 15 hours.

In 2009, Defense Secretary Robert Gates ordered troop leaders to improve the response time, and they did so by bringing in more transport helicopters. Less than 20% of the casualties had gotten to the hospital in the Golden Hour during the war’s initial years. After his directive, the number went up to 76%.

Howard, the University of Texas epidemiologist, said that intervention likely saved almost 280 lives in Afghanistan.

He and his collaborators also studied the role of blood transfusions on mortality. It used to be that medics would give the wounded saline or other IV fluids to maintain blood pressure while they were transported to a hospital. Once there, they would get blood products as needed.

The nature of the wounds in Afghanistan quickly made it clear that blood was needed at the point of injury. But blood is tricky to work with, especially whole blood, which requires refrigeration. New techniques involving blood component therapy, and equipment for storing and transporting it were put into place.

Howard’s study showed that quicker blood transfusions probably saved an estimated 431 lives in Afghanistan.

Those results are also spreading into the civilian world, with more emergency crews on ambulances carrying blood products now.

Feeling lucky

The Afghanistan war has gone on so long it has had several “signature” wounds. Amputations. Traumatic brain injuries. Post-traumatic stress disorder.

Amputations are the most visible. There have been about 1,650 of them from injuries suffered in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001.

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Many service members have lost more than one limb; some have lost all four. When one amputee missing her left leg was interviewed by Stars and Stripes four years ago, she said one of the things motivating her recovery was her gratitude.

“I had lost only one limb,” she said. “I felt lucky.”

In the same article, a Marine bomb technician who lost his right hand to an IED said the caregivers at the Walter Reed military hospital had jokingly given him a nickname: “Paper Cut.” He was the least injured person there.

The steady stream of patients at military medical centers has also spurred improvements in prosthetics, which are lighter and more functional now. And, increasingly, more gender-sensitive.

The VA has long treated female dependents for artificial limbs needed because of diabetes and other health conditions but not for battlefield trauma.

“That really became a bigger question in Iraq and Afghanistan, where more women were deployed in all kinds of roles,” said Lory Manning, a retired Navy captain and director of government operations for the Service Women’s Action Network, based in Washington, D.C.

She said more than 100 women are combat amputees, about 3% of those who have lost limbs, and the Veterans Health Administration has become increasingly sensitive to their needs.

The agency has funded eight studies since 2017, looking, for example, at whether a foot-ankle system can be developed that would allow an amputee to wear high heels.

“Many women like to wear high heels at least some of the time,” Manning said.

They’re also more likely to go bare-armed and bare-legged in public, she said, and that has implications for how the prostheses look.

Women amputees interviewed for a Government Accounting Office report issued last November told a familiar story: the military is ahead of the wider world when it comes to what is available in prostheses.

If the past is any prologue, that will probably change.

“Stop for a moment,” said McGaugh, the military historian, “and think about how much health care has been pioneered and validated during the different wars. Who knows what lessons learned in the Middle East will become part of standard care for civilians?”

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19. Fort Bragg units to use regional airports as repairs are made at Pope Army Airfield

(The Fayetteville Observer (NC), June 6, Rachael Riley)

Fort Bragg air traffic that normally is seen and heard at Pope Army Airfield will temporarily move to airports in the region, officials said.

The military airfield is undergoing an \$81.49 million repair project, a Fort Bragg spokeswoman said.

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That means Fayetteville residents and travelers at Fayetteville Regional Airport will see military traffic at the airport, a city news release stated.

“Fayetteville Regional Airport always stands ready to support our military neighbors and are happy to support the ... aviation units based on Fort Bragg and Pope Army Airfield over the next few months,” Airport Director Toney Coleman said in the city’s news release.

When asked what’s being done to fix Pope Army Airfield’s runway, Army officials told the Senate Armed Services Committee last year that \$25 million was approved in fiscal year 2020 for airfield lighting repair, and another \$65 million was planned for repairs to the runway and taxiways in fiscal year 2021.

The Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District is overseeing the project, and RC Construction Co. was awarded the contract.

The project includes demolition and replacement of the runway and replacement of north and south taxiway lighting, Col. Daniel Hibner, commander Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, said in a December video.

Existing pavement about 40 football fields in length is being removed, Hibner said.

The asphalt surface will be replaced with concrete, Col. Scott Pence, Fort Bragg’s garrison commander, said.

“What that’s going to do is increase the lifespan from 8-12 years for up to 50 years, Pence said in a video released by the Corps of Engineers in December. “So you can see the cost advantages and operational advantages can come for a full generation after work on this airfield.”

Airfield operations being temporarily relocated to airfields throughout the region, which has required planning, logistics and coordination to allow operations to continue while the runway is closed, Hibner said.

The relocation will not impact commercial flights.

The airfield is part of the national command strategy and used by the 18th Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division and other units across Fort Bragg to include the Golden Knights parachute team, said Col. David Fielder, chief of staff of engineers for the 18th Airborne Corps.

Hibner said that because the airfield is a critical asset to national defense, the runway closure to air traffic is being limited to four months.

Butler’s Creek runs under the airfield, and crews are ready if they run into different site conditions, Hibner said.

The overall project will take two years, he said.

“This may not be the largest, but it very soon will be the highest visibility project in the Corps of Engineers, with DOD-wide readiness implications,” Hibner said. “That’s one of the reasons why we have to ensure that this project is able to be completed on time.”

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20. North Dakota National Guard deployed to the nation’s capital
(KFYR-NBC (ND), June 6, Hayley Boland)

About 225 soldiers with the North Dakota Army National Guard were honored with a send off in Grand Forks Saturday.

The first battalion, 188th air defence artillery will be deployed to Washington, D.C. for Operation Noble Eagle, which involves helping to form the air defense system protecting the airspace around our nation’s capital.

In his address Saturday, Governor Doug Burgum said this is the 12th mobilization for the unit since 2004, making it the most deployed unit in the North Dakota Army National Guard.

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21. Commentary: The Problem with a ‘Woke’ Military
(National Review, June 6, Robert M. Berg)

I used to belong to a war-fighting organization, where we were taught a shared set of Army values. We were taught mission accomplishment before all else, enforced by “mission first and people always.” Within the Department of Defense (DoD) Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan we are told that “diversity is a strategic imperative — critical to mission readiness and accomplishment.” We are also told, by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, that it must be a priority for the military “to look like America and not only in the ranks, but our leadership should look like America.” On the surface, this sounds okay. But it flips what had long been a soldier’s commitment to the Army and mission: The new priority turns the Army into a social experiment at the cost of mission readiness. The new push within the DoD for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) goes well beyond measures to ensure equal opportunity and instead looks to create preferences that have nothing to do with merit. Our military will suffer if it does not change course.

Believing that the Army should be and has been the best example of a meritocracy in the history of the world has become a forbidden position. The only acceptable position now is full acceptance of all elements of DEI. Examples abound, from the more benign recent recruiting messages depicting cartoon stories — one of an “activist” soldier — all the way to creating a new permanent DEI infrastructure to push policies in line with critical race theory. That I am not allowed to openly hold the position that war-fighting and combat readiness should be the Army’s top priority, while being force-fed a radical DEI agenda, demonstrates the open erosion of mission-first principles within the military.

This is a real and serious change, and politician veterans such as Senator Tom Cotton and Representative Dan Crenshaw are right to be worried about it. The Army used to be a values-based organization focused on mission accomplishment above all else. These values were drilled into every soldier during initial entry training and reinforced at unit level. This was done through two long-standing Army traditions, an inability to spell and the overwhelming need to make everything an acronym. So we settled on LDRSHIP (pronounced “leadership”): loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. These values were all pitched toward the idea of leaving your past behind, as you had become part of an organization with a larger purpose. Diversity is not our strength; our shared values and singularity of purpose toward mission accomplishment is our strength. In fact, to “fight and win our nation’s wars,” we

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need conformity toward the mission-first mindset. We were taught that what came before the Army did not matter. All that matters was how you form a team to accomplish a wide range of demanding mission sets.

The Army does not exist to care for soldiers. Soldiers should not join the Army to be cared for by the Army. It is called “service” for a reason, and military members are still the most respected profession in the country because of the acknowledgment of the sacrifices required for service. Soldiers enter the Army fully understanding the individual sacrifices required for service. While individual welfare is important, it is secondary to mission accomplishment.

By definition, the Army is not inclusive. You can be excluded from service for a wide range of reasons, many (though not all) of which are out of the control of the potential recruit. We have all heard that over 70 percent of our youth are not qualified for military service, because we are exclusively looking for people who can meet the physical and physiological demands of service. If Austin really wanted a military that “look[ed] like America,” he would have to abandon such requirements entirely. Now of course, military exclusivity should be directly related to one’s ability or inability to perform the role one is potentially being recruited for. But to say that DEI policies are always strategic imperatives, without offering any evidence as to why, is simply fantasy.

It is true that recruiting from a broad breadth of society will strengthen the military, by ensuring the whole of the country is vested in defense of the nation. However, the idea that celebrating and promoting “diversity and inclusion” — emphasizing things such as race, religion, gender, or other non-merit-based traits instead of focusing on common culture and combat readiness — enhances the Army lacks evidence. In fact, DEI should not be used in any decisions within military manning or policy after initial recruitment. Attempting to highlight these external “traits” as bearing weight in making decisions for assignments, policy, or training ignores what the real strength of the military is. Unity of purpose and a shared set of core military values of individual merit is what binds us, not lumping people into “diversity” buckets.

Instead of focusing on war-fighting principles and shared values, the Army has decided to engage in a constant bombardment in the name of equity, from rolling out ill-conceived training on everything from unconscious bias to critical race theory and standing up DEI offices at every level. The Special Operations Command Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan 2021 outlines what the rest of the force can expect: “Establish corporate diversity and inclusion infrastructure throughout the enterprise . . . to build a permanent framework for sustained, meaningful efforts.” The idea is to create a new permanent bureaucracy to enforce “equity” regardless of merit. The document even boasts, under best practices, that they have added “unconscious bias [training and] . . . diversity and inclusion modules to its Executive Training with the goal of advancing and messaging diversity and inclusion.”

The Army People Strategy from September 2020 has an entire annex dedicated to “diversity, equity, and inclusion.” This document calls for the creation of permanent organizations with the following as an ultimate goal: “Army resources all DEI agencies and staff to levels that allow continuous monitoring, assessing, and updating of DEI policies, programs, and procedures which seek to prevent biases against any Soldier or Civilian.” In other words, you will comply or else, and diversity is a strategic imperative because we say so. “The Army . . . must also understand how to communicate why DEI is critical to the success of the Army profession and how to appreciate, leverage, and integrate principles of DEI into all aspects of its operations.” (Emphasis added.)

I fully expect to see DEI officers at every level — who will operate outside of the command they are there to “support” — to ensure that quotas are met and that radicalized, race-based training is conducted. The

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strategy states that it is imperative to “ensure DEI principles and policies are integrated into the Army Campaign Plan, Army People Strategy, and Army talent-management processes for all military and civilian personnel.” In other words, goals and targets will be met regardless of the effect on the fighting force, and the new DEI bureaucracy will be there to ensure your compliance. It goes on to say that the Army will “establish and implement procedures for achieving desired Army diversity outcomes through diversity policy and talent management principles and practices.” (Emphasis added.) Let there be no doubt, this is well beyond equal opportunity: This is race- and sex-based preferences.

Military skills are unique, so your past experiences lend you little aid. The military truly is a humbling experience to all. It forces people to either rise to the occasion or fall by the wayside, neither of which has anything to do with race, sex, or other immutable (but superfluous) traits. The only way to succeed is to conform to the military team mindset and judge those around you by how they contribute to the team and mission, while rejecting those who refuse to honor the military values and individual merit. To remain the fighting force this country needs, military leaders should discard this nonsense that the military is systemically oppressive and requires DEI-based correction. They should instead highlight the military as the example where your past does not matter, but only your willingness to work toward a common mission does. Show the military for what it is: an organization in which our unity and our values are our strength.

These DEI efforts are not designed to unite us but instead look to create a permanent structure to ensure that “woke” policies are enforced throughout the Army, with little or no thought given to mission priorities. I have yet to see a single document about DEI that makes a creditable case that DEI efforts are designed foremost with mission accomplishment in mind. These new DEI policies and offices are not designed to unite us. Indeed, they go well beyond a simple distraction from mission priorities. They are being pushed as the priority. Bring back war-fighting and mission-first mindset as our priorities. After all, it is only the defense of the free world at stake.

Robert M. Berg is an active duty combat-arms officer, a commissioned officer of 20-plus years, and was an enlisted infantryman for three years prior to that. He has served all over the world, from lowest level tactical units all the way up to strategic planning at the Pentagon. Robert M. Berg is his pen name.

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22. Ohio National Guard to complete successful food bank mission in July (WFMJ-NBC (OH), June 4, Brandon Brown)

After more than a year of assisting in Ohio food banks and warehouses, emergency support from Ohio National Guard and State Defense Force members will conclude next month on July 2.

"Over the past 15 months, our Ohio National Guard members have stepped up in many different ways, and I am extremely grateful for their service and dedication," said Gov. Mike DeWine. "Their work to help distribute more than 56 million pounds of food at Ohio food banks was crucial to ensuring that those who needed food during the pandemic didn't go hungry."

Leading up to July 2, the Ohio Adjutant General's Department will be working with the Ohio Association of Foodbanks and 14 food banks and regional warehouses across the state to mentor and train new or returning volunteers and staff members in successful processes and procedures that have mitigated COVID-19 risks at each facility.

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"We could never have imagined a mission such as this prior to March 2020, but I'm proud of how our men and women stepped up to the task. They not only significantly increased the productivity of food banks across the state during the pandemic, but also made long-lasting and personal friendships with their food bank partners," said Maj. Gen. John C. Harris Jr., Ohio adjutant general.

Harris said the transition from the mission will allow Guard and State Defense Force members to return to their civilian jobs, school, and their military training.

"We want to extend our deepest gratitude and thanks on behalf of Ohio's food banks and the millions of Ohioans who received critical food assistance as a result of the hard work, support, and dedication of the Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have served this critical hunger relief mission. Quite frankly, we could not have delivered the tremendous response without their leadership and assistance. We will never forget this gift of service," said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Ohio Association of Foodbanks executive director.

Members of the Adjutant General's Department continue to collaborate with other state agencies on COVID-related missions, including administering vaccines and processing Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claims.

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23. Cyber Command plans bigger budget for mission planning tool (C4ISRNET, June 4, Mark Pomerleau)

The budget request for a command and control system to help U.S. Cyber Command plan missions more than doubled under the latest defense spending plan.

Joint Cyber Command and Control, or JCC2, will provide situational awareness, battle management, and information about cyber forces' readiness levels for operations across the globe. The fiscal 2022 research and development budget proposed \$79 million for the tool, one of the largest bumps in budget requests for Cyber Command tools.

Last year, the budget request for the system was \$38.4 million, and the Pentagon at that time projected a proposed FY22 allotment of \$51.4 million.

Cyber Command recently received enhanced authority to purchase capabilities, but it still relies on the military branches to procure systems on behalf of the joint cyber mission force. The Air Force is executive agent for JCC2, and the request appears in the service's budget.

The Air Force said the increase is due to the transfer of several requirements and their funding to the JCC2 program to operationalize prototype battle space management, as well as the transition from the planning phase to the execution phase of software development. One big reason for the change is Project IKE, a tool to help military commanders make better decisions that started under the Pentagon's next-generation research arm, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, has now officially transferred to the JCC2 program office.

JCC2 is one piece of what Cyber Command calls the Joint Cyber Warfighting Architecture, which guides the command's acquisition and equipping priorities.

Other elements of the architecture include:

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- Common firing platforms for a comprehensive suite of cyber tools.
- Sensors that support defense of the network and drive operational decisions.
- The Persistent Cyber Training Environment, which will provide individual and collective training as well as mission rehearsal. The Army, which is running the program, asked for \$52.9 million in research and development funds for FY22 compared to a projected \$48.6 million for FY22 in last year's budget.
- Unified Platform that will integrate and analyze data from offensive and defensive operations with partners. The Air Force, which is running the program, asked for \$101.8 million in research and development funds for FY22 compared to a projected \$106.5 million for FY22 in last year's budget.
- Know all the coolest acronyms

The Army-run Joint Common Access Platform, another key piece to the architecture that will allow DoD's cyber operators to connect to their targets beyond friendly firewalls, has a classified budget item, Col. Kevin Finch, program manager for electronic warfare and cyber within Program Executive Office Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, told C4ISRNET.

ManTech announced in late December it secured \$265 million contract to support the program under a 42-month award.

Finch said the software acquisition approach for the Joint Common Access Platform is a "godsend" because "it allows us to have freedom to continue to iterate and provide additional capability over time to the system." The system gets quarterly updates to add new capabilities.

The Defense Department also transferred various items for developing cyber equipment for Cyber Command from the Air Force budget to the Army Joint Common Access Platform program office. This includes \$32.9 million for robust infrastructure development under a research and development effort called Distributed Cyber Warfare Operations.

For another program that includes several tools related to the development of the Joint Cyber Warfighting Architecture — called Cyber Operations Technology Development — the DoD requested \$242.4 million compared to \$256.9 million projected for FY22 from last year's budget. Four items under this program include joint common services for IT infrastructure, joint access platforms, joint sensors and joint weapons.

The sensors request saw the biggest growth from last year — \$60.4 million versus \$46.2 million in FY21 — while Joint access platforms saw the biggest decline, \$48 million compared to \$72.7 million the year before.

Hunt forward

The Department of Defense this year asked for significantly less funds overall for what Cyber Command refers to as hunt forward operations, when teams deploy to other nations at their invitation to help them defend against malign cyber activity inside their networks.

Last year, the DoD requested \$431.6 million for cooperation with allies and partners to conduct these operations. This year it only asked for \$147.2 million.

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The operations are meant to build partnerships in cyberspace and provide early warnings about malware strains to better prepare should adversaries or criminals use those strains against U.S. networks or assets.

Cyber Command conducted 11 such operations in nine different nations as part of the 2020 elections.

The Pentagon also would spend less on equipment for the effort, according to Air Force budget documents. The service asked for \$9.5 million for hardware and software required to equip “hunt forward kits” for Cyber National Mission Force cyber protection teams. That is down from \$11.6 million the previous year.

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24. Army Backs Kent State’s Virtual Reality Lab to Study Small Soldier Group Dynamics

(ExecutiveGov, June 4, Angeline Leishman)

The Army Research Laboratory has funded the development of an immersive virtual reality hub where Kent State University scientists can examine how small groups operate in extreme environments using VR and other biophysiological instruments.

ARL said Thursday headsets in the VR lab are equipped with 3D eye-tracking and omnidirectional treadmills that are intended to work with electroencephalogram-based biometric technology.

“Understanding the consequences of status-based behavior in a variety of settings, including small team contexts, can help the Army prepare and train for modern military operations,” said Will Kalkhoff, director of the Electrophysiological Neuroscience Laboratory of Kent (ENLoK).

Kenn State researchers teamed up with Arotech's MILO business to apply social science and new technology platforms at the Department of Defense to increase military and law enforcement personnel readiness.

“Our ultimate goal is to advance the scientific understanding of behavior and decision-making under threat and, in so doing, reduce danger to our servicemen and women and improve mission success by facilitating team functioning under threat,” said Robert McCue, general manager of MILO.

The ENLoK team previously identified neurological signals through brain activity analyses as part of an ARL-funded research project.

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25. No need to ground Black Hawk fleet after recent crashes, Army safety director says

(Army Times, March 15, Kyle Rempfer)

Investigators have not found any material problems or common piloting errors linking a series of fatal UH-60 Black Hawk crashes over the past year-and-a-half, according to the Army’s safety director, Brig. Gen. Andrew Hilmes.

The loss of two separate three-person National Guard Black Hawk crews in a matter of weeks sparked concern at the Senate Armed Services Committee that a larger pattern of malfunction could be the culprit.

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When the active duty force is included, data shows that there have been five Black Hawk crashes between December 2019 and February 2021, claiming the lives of 16 service members in total.

But so far, nothing from those investigations hints at a material issue with the airframe, according to the Army Combat Readiness Center, which looks into catastrophic mishaps.

“At this point, even with those investigations just now finishing up, we have not found anything that warrants grounding of the Black Hawk fleet,” Hilmes said. “Each of those mishaps occurred under unique circumstances and we are looking at different causal factors in each.”

Over the past four decades, about 86 percent of Army aviation mishaps have been attributed to human error, which can encompass a wide range of issues, from overreaction during an emergency to complacency on routine flights.

“We’re always analyzing each and every mishap for trends,” Hilmes added. “In those five mishaps that we’re talking about, each involving UH-60s, we haven’t seen specific linkages or commonalities.”

Preliminary results from the most recent crash — an Idaho Guard Black Hawk that went down near Boise — stated that rapidly deteriorating weather was a significant factor in the incident. But the primary cause was the crew’s inability to complete an emergency shift to instrument flight before impact.

“They only had 14 seconds from the time the crew initiated [instrument] procedures to the time the aircraft impacted the ground,” Col. Chris Burt, the Idaho Army National Guard’s state aviation officer, said during a recent press conference.

“The most effective way to survive [such] an emergency is simply to not enter that environment in the first place,” Burt added. “However, this is not always possible.”

The Idaho mishap took place mere weeks after a New York Guard Black Hawk crashed Jan. 20 in a farmer’s field south of Rochester, killing three experienced pilots.

New York Guard spokesman Col. Richard Goldenberg declined to provide any details about the results of that investigation, as the Idaho Guard had done.

Sometimes, mechanical failures are paired with human error, as was the case when a Minnesota Guard Black Hawk crashed near St. Cloud in December 2019.

An investigation determined that the Minnesota mishap, which also killed three crewmembers, was caused by an improperly installed hydro-mechanical unit. The investigation summary stated that the maintenance test pilot failed to respond to the situation, and the pilot at the controls failed to execute an autorotative descent and landing.

“The Black Hawk is a dual-engine aircraft, so it’s got redundancy, and if one of the engines were to go out, then there are procedures in place so you can fly that aircraft rather well on one engine,” Hilmes said. “While there might be a material failure that occurs in flight, there are procedures in place to overcome that failure.”

Emergency procedures have been in the Army’s sights recently.

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“We did see a trend in the latter half of 2019, where we had several mishaps where the crew performance of emergency procedures was inadequate,” Hilmes noted.

Last year, the Army’s Aviation Center of Excellence released revised emergency procedure methodology to reduce pilots’ reaction time during emergencies.

“There’s less memorization required in terms of rattling off a checklist,” Hilmes explained. “Less focus on rote memorization and more attention paid to flying the aircraft. Then troubleshooting once you ensure you can continue to fly.”

Class A aviation mishaps, the Army’s most catastrophic category, fell from 12 in fiscal 2019 to just six in 2020, according to data sets provided to Army Times. And although coronavirus restrictions limited some training last year, the force still hit 90 percent of the flying hours that were cataloged in 2019.

Still, seven soldiers were killed in aviation mishaps during fiscal 2020, compared to just two the year prior. That’s because more of 2020’s Class A mishaps involved variations of the UH-60 Black Hawk.

“It’s a troop-carrying aircraft. Sometimes there’s greater potential that you might have more soldiers on board,” Hilmes said.

Black Hawks make up about two-thirds of the total Army aviation fleet. That means they fly in greater numbers and work more total hours than the AH-64 Apache or CH-47 Chinook fleets.

“From fiscal year ’16 to fiscal year ’20, the Black Hawk flew 1 million more hours than the rest of the fleet combined,” Hilmes added. “So, it’s out there a lot more than the other aircraft.”

Despite the higher number of flight hours, Hilmes noted, the Black Hawk still has a lower mishap rate than the Chinook and Apache. The Guard also has a lower Class A mishap rate than both the Reserve and active duty Army, data sheets provided to Army Times showed.

“The Army National Guard is not seeing an increased number of mishaps. Tragically, these two events were just close together in time,” Hilmes said of the New York and Idaho losses.

Black Hawk crashes haven’t been confined to the Guard, either.

Two soldiers from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment were killed in late August when their aircraft went down near San Clemente Island, California. Then in November, five soldiers were killed during a peacekeeping mission in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula when their Black Hawk went down because of an apparent “technical failure,” officials said at the time.

Both of those investigations are still finishing up, and though Hilmes declined to detail the specifics of those incidents, he maintained that there was nothing found by investigators that warrants the grounding of the Black Hawk fleet.

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MODERNIZATION:

26. Where the US Army’s Cut List and Wish List Overlap

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(Defense One, June 4, Caitlin M. Kenney)

To make space in its shrinking budget, the U.S. Army has listed 37 programs for trimming in fiscal 2022. As has become standard practice, service officials are also asking lawmakers for money for things excluded from the budget proposal sent to Congress last week. Some programs appear on both lists.

Take the Abrams tank, long the centerpiece of the land service's armored force. A document listing the 37 programs says the Abrams effort is to be cut by about \$154 million. But in their unfunded priorities list — informally known as the “wish list” — service officials ask lawmakers to add \$369 million to the Abrams program to help field the third version of the tank to Army National Guard units without delays. A copy of the list was obtained by Defense One this week.

The Army's budget is set to take a hit under the 2022 budget proposal, which would give the service \$173.0 billion, down from \$176.6 billion in 2021. Service leaders have been working to find places to trim for several years, including the “night court” sessions begun by then-Army Secretary Mark Esper.

An Army document distributed to media lists the 37 programs whose funding will be cut or whose schedules will be delayed to save some \$1.5 billion that can be used elsewhere.

“Most of the reductions and investments are tied to programs where the funding is being used to ensure that we maintain the funding for our 31+4 modernization efforts,” Maj. Gen Paul Chamberlain, the director of the Army budget, told reporters on Tuesday.

The “31+4” efforts include 31 “signature systems that are critical to realizing Multi-Domain Operations and are aligned with these priorities,” as then-Army Secretary Mark Esper said in 2019; plus four managed by the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office.

Those programs include the Maneuver Short-Range Air Defense, the Precision Strike Missile, and next-generation rifles.

Surprisingly, one of the largest cuts among the 37 programs will be to one of these 31 modernization priorities. The Army wants to take \$577 million from its Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle program, the replacement for the M113 vehicles that are part of armored brigade combat teams, according to a chart provided by the Army Thursday.

Others that appear on both the cut list and the wish list are Abrams, Distributed Common Ground System-Army, Husky mine detection system, and Javelin anti-tank missile. The Army wants Congress to fund about \$459.2 million for these four priorities while at the same time taking a total of \$274.4 million from them for other initiatives.

The Army wants to take \$1.05 million from the Javelin Advanced Anti-Tank Weapon system while asking Congress to fund \$15 million for its newer lightweight command launch unit for the Javelin Close Combat Missile System.

Some \$70.4 million would be trimmed from the DCGS-A program, a hardware and software system that enables soldiers to pull information from intelligence sources and sensors to better understand the threats they face.

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Another armored program the Army is cutting is the HERCULES recovery vehicle, capable of towing the 70-ton M1A2 Abrams tank. The Army wants to take \$134.7 million from the program, according to the chart.

It's unclear from the Army's chart whether the service is cutting funds from newer or older parts of these programs, such as the Abrams tank, which has been around for decades and is still developing new versions of the system.

When asked why Army officials are cutting funds from these programs in the 2022 budget while also asking Congress to provide additional money, a spokesman said they are not currently commenting on "the leaked documents" — i.e., the unfunded priorities list.

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27. Dynetics unveils Enduring Shield, its solution for the US Army to counter cruise missiles

(Defense News, June 4, Jen Judson)

Leidos-owned Dynetics has been tight-lipped about the product it offered to the U.S. Army and demonstrated in a live-fire event for the service's enduring indirect fires protection capability, designed to defend against a variety of airborne threats.

While it's been well-known that one team consisted of Rafael and Raytheon, offering up the Iron Dome launcher and Tamir interceptor, Dynetics would not previously publicly admit its participation in the competition.

The Army is using Iron Dome as an interim cruise missile defense capability as it works to adopt an enduring solution to counter drones and cruise missiles. Part of that effort involved releasing a solicitation to industry for a prototyping effort and hosting a shoot-off for two teams at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Eventually, the service will add a capability to counter rockets, artillery and mortar threats.

Each team that participated in the shoot-off brought a launcher and interceptor combination. The demonstrations happened over several weeks beginning at the end of April and ending in early May.

Defense News first reported that, according to several sources familiar with the activity, Dynetics was bringing a launcher based off the Army's internally developed, but then canceled, Multi-Mission Launcher along with the Raytheon-produced AIM-9X Sidewinder interceptor.

Dynetics would not tell reporters what interceptor it brought to the live-fire event as part of its offering due to an internal decision based on the interceptor manufacturer's desire not to name it, according to Ronnie Chronister, the company's, senior vice president for weapons technology and manufacturing.

"Our selection of that effector was based on the fact that the Army's sense of urgency was very high in getting capability into the field," he said during a June 3 briefing.

But its launcher — Enduring Shield — takes know-how from the Multi-Mission Launcher's development and improves upon it, Chronister said. "Our offering is not MML," he said, "but it is derived from the heritage and the things that we've learned from MML."

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Chronister said the company redesigned the stack system of the MML to obtain cost efficiencies and has worked to make the launcher more producible and less complex, which is critical to the Army's requirement to build 16 launchers and 80 interceptors in a short period of time.

"Our offering has a 360-degree envelope and an ability to engage multiple targets simultaneously," he said, adding that it was demonstrated to fully integrate with the Army's Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System — a key requirement.

The system is built with a modular, open-system architecture, Chronister said, meaning any interceptor can be used with the launcher.

"We are basically missile agnostic," he said, "so if the customer comes back and wants to integrate another effector into our system, we have designed it such that that integration will be seamless and relatively easy to accomplish."

The MML had trouble with reloading, and the AIM-9X had issues with overheating. But Chronister said that with changes to the launcher, all issues — found over three years ago — are resolved, including thermal problems with the interceptor itself.

The company has relevant experience designing launchers — from its history on the MML program to current efforts to build the launcher for the Army's ground-launched hypersonic missile. Dynetics is also building the first glide bodies for those hypersonic missiles.

The company received the contract roughly 20 months ago to build the launcher for hypersonic missiles. Chronister said the firm is already delivering hardware to the Army.

Dynetics also has experience on the Indirect Fires Protection Capability program, developing a 300-kilowatt laser on a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck, to serve as a possible countermeasure for an enduring solution.

Taking its work hardening cyber and electronic warfare systems, Dynetics is also baking into its IFPC offering the ability to protect it from cyber and EW attacks, according to Chronister.

The Army is expected to choose a winner to proceed in building an initial lot of prototypes in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021. The winner must deliver all prototypes to the Army in time to reach initial operational capability by the fourth quarter of fiscal 2023.

"We feel very confident in our ability to meet this aggressive schedule that the Army has laid out," Chronister said. "We have invested our own internal funds, our research and development funds into this program, so we have skin in the game with this one."

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28. The Army's Legendary Little Bird Might Be Flying Away for Good (Popular Mechanics, June 4, Kyle Mizokami)

The U.S. Army's elite fleet of A/MH-6 "Little Bird" special operations helicopters might give way to civilian choppers in the coming years.

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The Army could swap the Little Birds, which the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment has used for nearly 40 years, for the winner of a new armed reconnaissance helicopter competition. The catch? Just one of the two competing helicopters can actually carry troops—a key requirement for the Little Bird’s replacement.

In 1981, following the failure of the mission to free the U.S. hostages in Tehran, the U.S. Army founded Task Force 160, an elite helicopter unit designed to support special forces ground units. The unit received its first A/MH-6 helicopters in 1983; since then, the “Little Birds” have served in the aviation unit continuously. The small and nimble helicopters fly low to mask their appearance and avoid enemy fire.

The Army flies two versions of Little Birds. The attack version, the AH-6, has a crew of two and is armed with a mixture of M134 7.62-millimeter miniguns, 2.75-inch unguided rockets, Hellfire anti-tank missiles, and M230 30-millimeter autocannons.

The MH-6, meanwhile, is an unarmed assault transport designed to carry up to six Army Rangers, Navy SEALs, or Delta Force troops. The MH-6 can land on streets and rooftops, and deploy a fast roping system to get special operators quickly on the ground.

The U.S. Army is currently accepting the latest version of the Little Birds, the AH/MH-6 Block III, which includes a new six-bladed rotor and better payload, speed, and flight controls.

The Block III helos should last into the early 2030s, but right around then, the plan is to replace them with the winner of the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft (FARA). This armed helicopter will have an emphasis on range and scouting abilities. The Army will pick the winner between two aircraft, the Sikorsky Raider X and Bell 360 Invictus, in 2024.

Both Raider X and the Invictus would probably do well as a replacement for the AH-6. The problem is the MH-6 is a troop carrier, and while Raider X has a passenger compartment for up to six troops, Invictus has no such capability to bring passengers along for the ride.

Aviation Week & Space Technology reports the Raider X will replace the A/MH-6 fleet if it wins the FARA competition, but a lack of passenger space means the Army will have to look elsewhere if Invictus wins. That solution could be a highly modified commercial aircraft. Developing an entirely new military aircraft isn’t really an option, as the A/MH-6 fleet is only 51 aircraft strong.

The other possibility is for the Army to simply ask aircraft manufacturer Boeing to develop a fourth-generation A/MH-6. Boeing advertises new-build Little Birds on its website, and the Block III aircraft use brand-new airframes. Still, the Army wants to move away from the 1960s-era airframe, which it believes is maxed out from a design perspective.

The Little Bird is also slow (126 knots) by modern standards, while Lockheed Martin claims Raider X is capable of speeds of 220 knots.

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SOCIAL MEDIA OBSERVANCES:

- 8 JUN: 1st Infantry Division Anniversary
- 12 JUN: Women Veterans Day

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- 14 JUN: Army Birthday and U.S. Flag Day
- 14 JUN: National Museum of the U.S. Army reopening
- 14 JUN: Infantry Corps Anniversary
- 15 JUN: Army transitions to Army 365
- 16 JUN: Adjutant General Corps Anniversary
- 16 JUN: Corps of Engineers Anniversary
- 16 JUN: Finance Corps Anniversary
- 16 JUN: Quartermaster Corps Anniversary
- 17 JUN: Battle of Bunker Hill Begins
- 20 JUN: Father's Day
- 20 JUN: National American Eagle Day
- 21 JUN: Signal Corps Anniversary
- 27 JUN: PTSD Awareness Day
- 28 JUN: Chemical Corps Anniversary

JUNE DIGITAL MEDIA STRATEGY:

During June, Army communicators can prioritize messages about people, readiness and modernization in support of national security strategic guidance. With the execution of exercises like Defender Europe and African Lion, the Army is building and broadening our relationships with allies and partners. We have opportunities to tell key audiences about our Army heritage through the Army Birthday in June and Independence Day in July. We will also communicate with internal audiences about the latest PCS news and safety information as we move into National Safety Month. The Army is committed to mitigating the effects of climate change, which can seriously affect our readiness. Finally, we continue to assist states with distributing COVID-19 vaccinations in communities.