Dedication
Acknowledgements
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Congress/DoD
Pentagon's Sequester Plan Delayed

The Defense Department missed the July 1 deadline for submitting to Congress its plan for carrying out $52 billion in sequester cuts slated to be imposed next year.

Pentagon press secretary George Little told reporters that it’s unlikely the plan would be completed this week, but said DOD would submit it in the “very near future,” reported Politico.

In May, the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee asked Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel how the military planned to deal with sequestration next year given that DOD’s fiscal 2014 budget assumes that the automatic spending cuts will not go into effect.

The letter from Committee Chair Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and ranking member James Inhofe (R-Okla.) asked Hagel to submit “the most workable approach for meeting the $52 billion savings requirement.” Identifying the specific reductions the department would implement would help Congress and DOD prepare for the prospect of another round of sequestration and make clear the damage the automatic cuts could cause.

“A concrete demonstration of the painful choices the department would have to make to cut $52 billion from its budget may be our last, best hope of avoiding sequestration altogether,” the lawmakers stated.

Meanwhile, Hagel met with senior leaders Monday to discuss the Strategic Choices and Management Review, which is designed to provide him with options for dealing with budget decisions in 2015 and beyond, as well as choices regarding FY 2014 spending.

Road Upgrades Still a Critical Need for Growth Communities, Committee Says

The Defense Department needs to address “critical transportation infrastructure shortfalls” outside military installations, either through expanding the eligibility criteria for the Defense Access Roads (DAR) program or identifying other sources of funding, the Senate Appropriations Committee said in its report accompanying the fiscal 2014 spending bill for military construction and veterans affairs.

The committee’s request for the department to loosen the eligibility criteria for the DAR program — which is the only federal mechanism for the military to fund improvements to roads outside of an installation — echoes language in committee reports from previous years.
The lawmakers also ask DOD to consider ways it can work with the Department of Transportation and state governments to find alternatives to deal with the need for new transportation infrastructure providing access to and from installations.

“The department should focus on greater interagency coordination to effectively take advantage of all federal resources to address major traffic needs at military installations affected by large growth in populations both on and off base,” the report states.

The report, S. Rpt. 113-48, is available on Thomas.

**Pentagon Reminds Officials Not to Use Military, Contractors to Offset Furloughs**

Commanders and managers should not rely on military personnel or contractors to compensate for the loss of productivity stemming from civilian furloughs, according to guidance issued last week by the Defense Department.

Next week, the department is scheduled to begin furloughing about 680,000 civilian employees for one day per week through the end of September.

The memo from Frederick Vollrath, DOD’s assistant secretary for readiness and force management, also reminds defense officials they cannot ask civilians affected by the furloughs to work extra hours to make up for work lost during their unpaid days off.

On Monday, the American Federation of Government Employees, DOD’s largest federal employees union, claimed officials at Anniston Army Depot, Ala., have tried to convert some of the facility’s civilian workload to contractors. Union president J. David Cox has asked Vollrath to investigate the “illegal privatization” of the depot’s core workload, reported Federal News Radio.

**To Shield Defense Spending from Sequester, Budget Agreement Needed, Murray Says**

The only way to preserve higher, pre-sequestration spending levels for defense is for the two parties to find a way to replace the automatic spending cuts slated to go into effect in fiscal 2014, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) said last week.

Republicans will need Democrats to agree to change existing law if they want to keep defense spending at $552 billion in FY 2014, the chairwoman of the Senate Budget Committee told her
fellow Democrats. Murray wants a bipartisan deal to replace sequestration completed before lawmakers leave Washington for the August recess.

Her August target will be difficult to achieve, as most political analysts believe any budget agreement will be tied to discussions over raising the nation’s debt limit, reported CQ. That milestone is not expected to be reached until October or later.

Lawmakers will need to reach some sort of agreement on FY 2014 spending before Sept. 30 to avoid a government shutdown. Right now, the Senate and House are far apart on a topline spending figure. The House is using a $967 billion topline as the basis for divvying up funds among appropriations bills, while the Senate has established a $1.058 trillion topline for federal spending that ignores the spending caps under sequestration.

Both would fund defense and military construction at similar levels, but the House plan imposes significant cuts on social programs and other domestic spending to make up for national security allocations that exceed next year’s spending caps.

Air Force Should Consolidate Infrastructure, Senate Appropriators Say

The Air Force should continue its effort to consolidate its infrastructure, according to language in the report from the Senate Appropriations Committee accompanying its fiscal 2014 spending bill for military construction and veterans affairs.

“As the Air Force continues to scrutinize its infrastructure for savings, the committee recommends that the Air Force pay special attention to consolidating infrastructure and commands on its installations, including, but not limited to, communications, civil engineering and administrative facilities,” the report states.

At the same time, the panel notes that a new BRAC is premature until DOD completes a thorough review of all overseas bases. Before considering the possibility of closing or realigning bases in the United States, the department should ensure that all overseas facilities “that are operationally prudent to close are done so,” the committee says.

“The committee urges the secretary of defense to ensure that the European consolidation study and all overseas basing studies are conducted without predetermined outcomes and will represent a thorough evaluation of the needs of the Department of Defense,” according to the committee report. The review of European defense infrastructure is scheduled to be finished by the end of the year.

An amendment to the FY 2014 defense authorization bill includes similar language blocking DOD
from conducting a new BRAC round before it reviews its overseas facilities.

The Appropriations Committee passed the milcon spending bill on June 20, recommending $10.7 billion for military construction and family housing programs, a $66.5 million increase over the enacted level for FY 2013. The administration requested $11.0 billion for military construction and family housing in FY 2014, while the House recommended $10.0 billion.

The report, S. Rpt. 113-48, is available on Thomas.

**Pentagon Uncertain How to Interpret Provision Added to Base Closure Statute**

A new report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reveals an interesting split among attorneys from the office of the secretary of defense (OSD) and the military services over the interpretation of a provision added in January to the statute DOD must follow to close or realign bases when a BRAC round is not in force.

The statute, 10 U.S.C. Sec. 2687, essentially requires the defense secretary to give Congress 60 days to review proposed actions meeting certain thresholds:

- closure of an installation at which at least 300 civilian personnel are authorized; or
- realignment of an installation with at least 300 civilians involving a reduction by more than 1,000 — or by more than 50 percent — in the number of civilians authorized at the installation.

The fiscal 2013 defense authorization bill added language to the statute barring the department from closing or realigning an installation within five years after the date on which a decision is made to reduce the number of authorized civilian personnel below the applicable threshold. The provision was intended to ensure DOD doesn’t sidestep the statute’s reporting requirements by relocating personnel in multiple steps.

The difference of opinion comes down to whether the provision applies retrospectively or prospectively.

OSD and Air Force attorneys believe that starting last January the new language prohibits the military from carrying out a closure or realignment if officials had reduced the number of civilians below the statute’s thresholds during the previous five years, according to GAO. Army, Navy and Marine Corps attorneys, however, believe that if the number of civilians at an installation is reduced below 300 — or more in the case of a realignment — after January 2013, the military cannot close or realign the installation for the next five years.
OSD officials told GAO they were informally discussing the statute with the services, but “have no immediate plans to issue clarifying guidance and stated that generally they play a minimal role in determining how the services manage their organizational needs through basing actions.”

Of course, the question may be purely academic — DOD has never used section 2687 to close or realign a base since it was enacted in 1977, according to the report.

Mission Support/Community Partnerships
Vermont Communities Fight Guard Shift to F-35s

Opponents of an Air Force plan to base up to 24 F-35 Lightning II aircraft at Burlington International Airport held protests last month in the state capital and downtown Burlington to demonstrate how much louder the fifth-generation fighter will be than the F-16 it is slated to replace.

A coalition of residents from South Burlington — host community of the Vermont Air National Guard’s 158th Fighter Wing — and nearby towns set up speakers to play recordings of the F-35 taking off, a noise level the Air Force has said will reach 115 decibels, reported Military Times. The opponents are trying to reverse the Air Force’s selection of Burlington Air Guard Station as its preferred alternative for an Air National Guard operating location for the new aircraft.

The protest followed the release of a revised environmental impact statement concluding that more residents would be affected by noise from the F-35. Opponents feel ignored as the governor and the state’s congressional delegation support basing the F-35 at the airport.

Officials with the 158th Fighter Wing acknowledge the new jet will be louder during takeoffs but say it will be quieter afterward.

“I would say that it is going to be similar to the annoyances and impacts that we have been having with the F-16 in the last 25 years,” said Brig. Gen. Richard Harris, assistant adjutant general for the Vermont Air National Guard, according to VTDigger.

Ft. Hood, Central Texas Poised to Weather Loss of Brigade

Fort Hood is slated to lose more soldiers than all but two other installations under the Army’s plan to shrink its active component end strength by 80,000 soldiers, but the massive central Texas post is expected to remain one of the service’s premier installations.

Even after Fort Hood loses one of its five brigade combat teams (BCTs) and about 2,900 soldiers
by fiscal 2017, it still will have more BCTs than any other installation, reports the Killeen Daily Herald. Because about 3,075 personnel from the brigade being eliminated will be “reinvested” in the installation’s remaining BCTs, Fort Hood’s military population likely will drop by only 600 soldiers over the next two years.

Over the last decade, Fort Hood’s host communities have become accustomed to seeing a large segment of the post’s troop strength deployed overseas — between 20,000 and 30,000 soldiers from 2004 to 2011. That experience should make it easier for the region to adjust to a decline in personnel as the Army reduces its number of BCTs from 45 to 33.

And the Army still is investing in Fort Hood. Projects include construction of a $500 million medical center, a 265,000-square-foot post exchange mall and an unmanned aerial vehicle complex, according to the story.

Last month, the Army announced it would trim its active component end strength from 570,000 to 490,000 by inactivating BCTs at 10 U.S. installations. The impact would partially be mitigated, however, by adding a third maneuver battalion to armor and infantry BCTs.

**Air Force Solidifies Role of Luke AFB as F-35 Training Base**

The Air Force last week doubled the number of F-35A Lightening II aircraft that would be assigned to Luke Air Force Base to 144, ensuring the long-term future of the installation located outside of Phoenix.

Officials announced their initial decision to establish an F-35 pilot training center at Luke — and to base 72 of the fifth-generation fighters there — last August following a three-year process that included an extensive environmental impact analysis.

Aircraft are expected to begin arriving at Luke in spring 2014, although the exact timing will depend on production schedules. Construction on base to prepare for the aircraft is currently under way, with about $10 million of $57 million in projects already completed. The total complement of new aircraft may take a decade to be delivered, reported the Arizona Republic.

Luke’s new role as an F-35A training base comes as the base begins to transfer its 137 F-16s elsewhere. “As we phase out F-16s, we’ll be ramping up F-35s,” said Brig. Gen. Mike Rothstein, 56th Fighter Wing Commander. “It’s not a perfect one-for-one swap but, in the macro sense, it’s pretty close to that.”

**New Alabama Law Allows Communities to Better Support Installations**
Cities and counties in Alabama will be able to provide buildings and other facilities to neighboring military installations, under a new law taking effect Monday.

Gov. Robert Bentley (R) said the law, sponsored by state Sen. Arthur Orr (R), is intended to make the state more attractive for military expansion in a future BRAC round, reported the Gadsden Times.

“Anything we can do to strengthen our position in Alabama, we are going to do,” the governor said.

Last week, the governor participated in the ceremonial signing of two other measures designed to help members of the military and their families. One, HB 338, will allow members of the military and veterans to receive academic and professional licensure credit for relevant skills acquired in the military.

HB 424 extends in-state tuition fees for state academic institutions to active service members, their spouses and dependents.

“Anything we can do to reinforce Alabama’s role as a good host to military installations, families, and veterans, like these two measures the governor signed, is a positive step toward giving our state a competitive edge in the BRAC process,” said Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey, chair of the Alabama Job Creation and Military Stability Commission, reported WWNT Radio.

**Army’s Cramer Named Permanent Installations Deputy**

After serving in an acting capacity as the Army’s deputy assistant secretary for installations, housing and partnerships for the past one-and-a-half years, Paul Cramer has been appointed to the position on a permanent basis.

Cramer, whose appointment is effective today, was named the acting deputy in December 2011 after his predecessor Joe Calcara left the post. Cramer, however, continued to perform the duties of the assistant for construction, housing and base operations support, the position he assumed in September 2010.

As the deputy assistant secretary, he will be responsible for policy and oversight of the Army’s worldwide real estate, military construction, engineering, housing, and base realignment and closure programs.
Cramer previously served in a variety of management positions at Army installations around the world, including deputy garrison commander at Yongsan, Korea; chief of public works, Installation Management Command Korea Region; and director of public works at Fort Polk, La., and Fort Irwin, Calif.

**Army Drawdown Not Expected to Result in Significant Civilian Cutbacks**

The Army’s plan to eliminate brigade combat teams (BCTs) at 10 U.S. posts is not expected to significantly reduce the number of civilian employees at affected installations, Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John Campbell told reporters during a media roundtable at the Pentagon last week.

“There’s a certain number [of civilians] that you need all the time to continue to run that post. So if you eliminated [a] BCT, there will be a very small probably correlation between that,” Campbell explained.

“So we don’t see a big reduction in the civilian piece just based on the BCT announcement,” he said.

When Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno announced the Army’s plan last week for shrinking its active component end strength by 80,000 soldiers, he said officials had not yet determined how many civilian workers would need to be eliminated in conjunction with the drawdown.

During his roundtable, Campbell pointed out that the plan to restructure the Army from 45 BCTs to 33 by fiscal 2017 would trim the service’s end strength by 17,700 soldiers in the United States and 11,700 in Europe. The remainder of the personnel cutbacks fall into a variety of categories, with the largest portion coming from the Army’s temporary end strength increase and wartime allowance, he said.

**Offshore Drilling Would Not Threaten Hampton Roads Bases, Virginia Lawmakers Say**

Virginia Sens. Mark Warner (D) and Tim Kaine (D) and Rep. Scott Rigell (R) say drilling for oil or gas off the state’s coast would not jeopardize the defense presence in Hampton Roads and maintain that energy exploration can be conducted in tandem with military operations on the Outer Continental Shelf.

The issue is coming to a head as Congress is considering legislation to lift a federal moratorium on drilling off Virginia’s coast. On Friday, the House passed the Off Shore Energy and Jobs Act,
which would open waters off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to drilling.

The three lawmakers see offshore drilling as a way to create thousands of jobs and generate tax revenue for the state, reports the Virginian-Pilot. At the same time, the bill that passed the House — along with a companion measure in the Senate — provides the secretary of defense the ability to veto sites that interfere with military activities.

“Concerns regarding the impact on military training in our region are understandable but not irreconcilable,” the three lawmakers wrote in a commentary last week in the Virginian-Pilot.

“Pre-existing agreements between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Defense already provide a process for removing tracts of the lease sale that would conflict with military operations, and our legislation includes a specific provision to address this issue by ensuring that the Pentagon must review any exploration (including wind, solar and fossil fuels) to ensure that there is no conflict,” according to the commentary.

The commentary came in response to an editorial in the paper criticizing the lawmakers’ support for developing energy off the state’s shores. It points out that DOD previously has stated that much of the area that would be opened for exploration would conflict with military testing and training. Offshore drilling could leave the Hampton Roads region in a vulnerable position similar to the one it faced during the last BRAC round when Naval Air Station Oceana was threatened with closure due to encroaching development, the editorial added.

'Don't Assume You're Safe,' Principi Tells Alabama Panel

Anthony Principi, chairman of the most recent BRAC Commission, last week urged state and local officials in Alabama to take action to prepare for the next base closure round, just as communities and states from across the country are.

“You want to take every step now to avoid getting on the BRAC list for closure,” Principi told the Alabama Job Creation and Military Stability Commission while speaking at the state Capitol, reported the Montgomery Advertiser. “You are the boots on the ground and you know your installations better.”

Principi suggested local leaders strive to improve the lives of servicemen and their families and consider ways to partner with their installations that would support their operations and their missions.

He said Alabama — home to Redstone Arsenal, Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Fort Rucker and Anniston Army Depot — is in good shape as the threat of a new BRAC lies on the horizon. But with the
desperate need for DOD to slow spending, and the existence of excess defense infrastructure, Principi said he expects “death by a thousand cuts. Everyone needs to be on guard.”

**Base Redevelopment/Environmental Cleanup**

**Spending to Clean Up Legacy BRAC Sites Reaches $26B**

Total spending on environmental remediation and ongoing operations at installations closed in the first four BRAC rounds will surpass $26 billion by the end of September, according to the report from the Senate Appropriations Committee accompanying the fiscal 2014 spending bill for military construction and veterans affairs.

Appropriations for cleanup at legacy bases from FY 1990 through 2013 total to $26.1 billion, although sequestration reduced this year’s $408.9 million allocation by an estimated $33 million.

The committee recommended spending an additional $451.4 million on cleanup at closed bases in fiscal 2014; that figure, however, includes bases closed following the 2005 round as well. As a result of language in the FY 2013 defense authorization bill, the accounts funding cleanup at bases closed in the first four rounds — 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995 — and the 2005 round will be merged starting next year.

The committee’s recommendation for next year’s BRAC account matches both the administration’s request and the allocation included in the spending bill passed by the House last month.


**LRA, LNR Look to Lure Commercial Development to Southfield**

Slow progress in attracting commercial development at Southfield, the reuse project at the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station, has prompted the base’s LRA to commission a study of the commercial market along Massachusetts’ South Shore.

“I realize that’s the master developer’s responsibility, but because of the importance of attracting commercial development, we felt it was important for Tri-Town to take the lead,” Kevin Donovan, CEO of the South Shore Tri-Town Development Corp., told the [Patriot Ledger](http://www.patriotledger.com) last month.

The 1,400-acre air station, which closed in 1997, has attracted residential developers, but very little commercial development. The base is slated to be redeveloped into a mixed use, transit-oriented...
village including 2,800 homes and apartments, and 2 million square feet of commercial and retail space.

Until the surplus of existing commercial space dissipates, it will be difficult to convince developers to build at Southfield, Bill Ryan, a spokesman for master developer LNR Property Corp., told the paper.

“You can market something to the end of the earth, but if you can’t make it competitive, that’s a problem,” he said.

The developer is working with Tri-Town to bring down development costs and secure an additional water source. One reason for optimism is the opening of a new road later this summer across the project that is expected to lure companies, especially retail businesses, Donovan said.

**Military Families**

'Boots to Suits' Mentoring Program Provides Employment Boost to Denver-Area Veterans

A mentoring program sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver and the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce has helped all of its 87 military veteran participants find jobs since the initiative was launched last year.

“Boots to Suits” links veterans with mentors in the business world, provides internships and offers job leads, reports CBS4 News.

One of the biggest benefits the initiative provides is a professional network, says program director Izzy Abbass.

“Because they haven’t been part of the community, they really don’t have the network connections and the ties in the community to find out who they should be talking to as they seek to enter employment,” Abbass said.

**Pilot Allows Veteran Corpsmen, Medics to Work in San Diego ERs**

A pilot program sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs is allowing former corpsmen and medics to work in San Diego-area emergency rooms.

Under the Intermediate Care Technician program, military veterans work under the supervision of a
doctor or nurse, reported ABC10 News.

“They can do everything from applying splints to suturing lacerations, take blood or start IVs, something that would require taking a nurse or doctor away from the more urgent things they’re needed for,” said Nancy Howerton, VA emergency room nurse manager.

Without the program, the veterans would not be able to work in a hospital. Many of the intermediate care technicians in the program are attending school to become certified.

**Energy**

**SolarStrong Project Shines on Holloman AFB Housing**

More than 600 military homes at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., will be outfitted with solar arrays as part of the latest phase of SolarStrong, SolarCity’s five-year plan to build more than $1 billion in solar projects at up to 120,000 military homes across the nation, the company announced Wednesday.

The project will provide 3.4 megawatts of generation capacity at Lend Lease’s Soaring Heights Communities and is expected to contribute to a reduction in energy consumption by the developer’s entire military housing portfolio by at least 20 percent within five years.

In May, SolarCity and Forest City Military Communities began construction on the first phase of a project to provide solar electricity to 6,500 military family residences at Ohana Military Communities, which serves Navy Region Hawaii and Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The project is scoped for a planned 24 megawatts of generation capacity.

Other SolarStrong projects — which in aggregate are expected to create up to 300 megawatts of generation capacity — are underway at Fort Bliss, Texas; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; and Tierra Vista Communities, a Lend Lease community with locations on Los Angeles AFB and Peterson and Schriever AFBs in Colorado. A 900-home project at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., announced in 2009, provided the initial blueprint for SolarStrong.

**Senate Panel Supports DOD Initiatives to Conserve Energy, Test Microgrids**

The Senate Appropriations Committee said it “commends the [Defense] Department for its aggressive efforts to improve the energy efficiency of its buildings and installations, reduce consumption, mitigate its carbon footprint, invest in renewable energy projects and enhance energy security on its installations,” according to the committee report accompanying its fiscal 2014
spending bill for military construction and veterans affairs.

The panel said it was impressed with DOD’s investments in microgrid energy security and encourages the department to continue to look for ways to promote energy independence at installations through the Smart Power Infrastructure Demonstration for Energy Reliability and Security (SPIDERS) program.

“The pilot projects in the 2014 program are a good start, and the committee looks forward to progress reports on the results of these projects and if successful, expanding the program to ensure our energy security and independence in future year programs,” the report states.

The committee emphasized that it supports the military’s effort to incorporate green-building technologies into new construction and building renovations, and said DOD should “maximize the use of energy-efficient, eco-friendly roofing technologies” for projects such as family housing construction. The report recommended a variety of roofing technologies, including photovoltaic panels, solar thermal roof coatings, solar parking canopies, rooftop direct use solar lighting technology, green roofs and cool roofs.

Beyond the sustainable design policies already incorporated into military construction projects, the committee encourages the department to integrate additional “leading-edge technologies into the construction program and to utilize new and underutilized, low-cost, energy-efficient technologies that provide the best value to taxpayers through minimal life-cycle costs,” according to the report.

The committee report also noted the lawmakers’ concern that DOD’s approach to sustainable construction could favor one green-building certification system over another.

The report, S. Rpt. 113-48, is available on Thomas.