



Velocity Update

July 17, 2020

Congressional Schedule. Both the House and Senate return to Washington next week, though with the extension of the “vote-by-proxy” rule in the House, we expect some Members will continue to participate in House activities remotely. (*More below.*)

U.S. Economic Outlook

Weekly numbers and long-term outlook. [1.3 million people filed for unemployment benefits](#) for the first time last week. Almost 17.4 million people are currently claiming unemployment insurance, while another 14.3 million people were claiming Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, the program for self-employed or gig workers. In good news for the economy, the weekly unemployment filings decreased slightly from the previous week, when 1.31 million workers filed for unemployment for the first time. What is really important to analysts: the unemployment filing rate has steadily decreased from the high of 6.9 million filings during the week ending March 28, and the rate has slowed significantly in the past month.

Coronavirus government operations update

National perspective. As of Thursday morning, the number of confirmed cases in the U.S. [is at least 3,581,000 with at least 135,000 deaths](#). States in the south and west continue to see sharp rises in new cases, prompting new closures and mask regulations. This week, a whole slate of large national retailers (including [Walmart](#), Kroger, Kohl’s, Starbucks, and Best Buy, among others) implemented requirements for their customers to wear a mask while shopping as cases continue to rise sharply in many parts of the country. A little scientific perspective – while more people may test positive for Covid-19, some [scientists](#) believe the virus will eventually become less dangerous to humans, even though there is no evidence it is happening yet: “The natural history of coronaviruses is that they do slowly become less virulent over time. This makes good evolutionary sense because it’s against a virus’ interest to kill its host.” And in a bizarre [cloak and dagger](#) development, intelligence officials from U.S., Britain, and Canada publicly named Russian-backed hacking group APT29, known in cyber circles as Cozy Bear, as the source behind a plethora of cyberattacks in several countries in an attempt to steal Covid-19 vaccine research and testing. Thankfully, none of the current work by scientists has been impacted. The White House is also expected to put out school opening guidelines soon. As with anything with this administration, the timing and content is subject to change.

Washington metro area. Overall coronavirus cases in [D.C., Maryland, and Virginia topped 162,919 this morning, with 5,949 deaths](#). D.C., Northern Virginia, and Maryland are all continuing the reopening process: D.C. remains in phase two, with businesses and activities opened under [specified conditions](#). [Washington Mayor Bowser has said](#) that D.C. is not meeting two metrics it needs to begin Phase 3: a 14-day sustained decrease in cases in the community, and a sustained low transmission rate below 1 new infection per case. While Virginia entered [Phase 3](#) on July 1, Governor Northam [warned residents this week](#) that the state could go back to Phase II if case numbers continue to rise as they have been. Throughout the state, school systems have been schizophrenic about re-opening plans for the fall. Maryland remains in Phase 2 of reopening, with [child care facilities now open](#) for all families. While some local metrics are improving, or at least remaining flat, [new cases and hospitalizations](#) in the DC

metropolitan area have started creeping back up even as the death rate has fallen. “Our inability to consistently see declines in new cases and community spread is not what we would like it to be at this point,” said D.C. health director LaQuandra Nesbitt.

Pentagon staff looks at starting to return to normal operations. The Pentagon has moved to Phase Two, which means a maximum of 80-percent of staff allowed on-site (up to 18,000 employees). Offices have implemented social distancing, including limiting the number and size of meetings. There are also ongoing discussions within the different services regarding opportunities for employees to opt for a remote work environment. The granting of these requests will be dependent on work responsibilities (i.e. customer service workers) and whether or not a person works in a classified environment.

NASA also has plans to resume operations. The space agency is still working on a plan for [resuming operations](#). Administrator Bridenstine has stated they will follow the [four-stage framework](#) for returning to on-site operations. There is still no set timeline, but updates will be posted on the [NASA People website](#).

The White House. The Executive Office of the President (e.g. OMB, National Security Council, National Space Council) remains open for business as usual. While many staff continue to telework, and then rotate into the office in shifts to handle classified materials, many staff are starting to physically go back to work on a regular basis. Mandatory temperature checks are no longer required to enter the White House compound, even as adherence to social distancing, use of hand sanitizer stations, regular deep cleaning of all work spaces, and voluntary wearing of facial coverings continues. Every staff member and guest in close proximity to the President and Vice President is still being temperature-checked, asked about health symptom histories, and tested for Covid-19.

Access to Congress remains limited. Access to the congressional office buildings and capitol complex continues to be extremely limited, open only to open to Members, Congressional staff, and credentialed press as the Congress follows CDC recommendations for social distancing. The Office of the Attending Physician (OAP) has issued very specific guidance for committee meetings for Members and attendees, including continued telework for all congressional offices, and recommends that Members and staff wear masks and maintain 6-foot social distance spacing as much as practicable when in the offices or the Capitol. In the House, vote by proxy rules were extended and remain in effect, and many Members plan to remain outside D.C. until these expire (again). Members and staff are meeting virtually with interested parties and have worked to create opportunities to hear from constituents.

Congressional activities

The pending legislative calendar. On Tuesday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that she is willing to [delay August recess for the House](#) in order to pass the next coronavirus relief package. The House will be in session for the last two weeks of July, and then the chamber plans to leave town for the month of August. However, the Senate is scheduled to be in session the first week of August. Therefore, if the House stays in session for another week, it will give the two chambers additional flexibility to work through the list of outstanding legislative priorities.

Included in that list are pending nominations for senior Defense officials. Currently the only official with a hearing scheduled is retired Army general Anthony Tata for undersecretary of defense for policy.

On Friday, [Politico reported](#) that the administration has also discussed installing Tata in a different senior DoD role on an acting basis. Hearings for the undersecretaries of the Air Force and Space Command have not been formally scheduled. It's possible those hearings will be scheduled for the first week of August, but any vote likely wouldn't happen until after the August recess. We'll note that the Senate is only scheduled to be in session for two weeks in September, then is scheduled to take time off until after the election.

A trillion dollar coronavirus relief package sprint to the finish. The next must-do for Congress is passing another coronavirus pandemic relief package, though the starting points for the different sides are pretty far apart, and a lot of different organizations are weighing in on what they want to see in the bill. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce sent a [letter](#) to President Trump, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell asking for the inclusion of provisions to make it harder for customers and workers to sue businesses related to COVID-19 exposure, along with an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program, and money for state and local governments and schools. President Trump has indicated that he [expects to see a payroll tax cut](#) as part of the bill, and [he won't sign the next response bill](#) without it. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told lawmakers today that they should [consider forgiving many loans](#) under the \$670 billion Paycheck Protection Program. Mnuchin also said that the next round of money to support the economy should be targeted to help industries that have been hardest hit by the pandemic, as well as smaller businesses and low- to middle-income families. Former Vice President and Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden called on President Trump and Congress to pass a \$30 billion [emergency package](#) for public schools. Additional topics of debate are other small business assistance, education funding, expanded access to broadband, and unemployment protection. The [current unemployment provisions run out in the next several weeks](#), likely before lawmakers reach a deal on the next relief packages.

The House has already passed a \$3 trillion bill known as the HEROES Act, but the Senate is starting from a blank sheet of paper, and with the idea that their bill will total no more than \$1 trillion. We understand McConnell and Pelosi have not started talks on negotiations, not even behind the scenes. Senate Republicans are expected to release their coronavirus [relief package](#) next week, which will then be rejected by the Democrats who want a larger and "more comprehensive" package. Another complication is [the lack of oversight](#) for existing pandemic relief programs: a [leading candidate to head up a congressional oversight panel](#), who was never formally asked to lead the commission, took himself out of consideration earlier this week. Sen. Rick Scott [sent a letter to the Treasury Department on Thursday](#) demanding that the department provide an accounting of where the more than \$1 trillion in aid to state and local governments went before Congress approves more.

FY2021 NDAA. The House returns next week with a plan for a floor vote on the NDAA. As of the writing of this update, [752 amendments](#) have been filed. The House Rules Committee [met earlier today](#) to begin to set parameters for next week's floor deliberations, and determine which of the amendments will make it to the floor for consideration. The majority of the amendments will be discarded by the Rules Committee, but some will make it through and ultimately be debated on the floor. Here are some of the proposed amendments that may end up being voted upon on the House floor:

- An amendment by Reps. Eliot L. Engel and Maxine Waters to identify and sanction individuals found to have interfered in U.S. elections since 2012, with a focus on Russia.

- Another amendment from Engel and Waters, in response to recent reports suggesting Russian intelligence paid bounties to Taliban-linked militants for the killing of American troops, that would sanction a wide range of Russian officials with possible connections to the bounty program.
- An amendment from Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and several other Democrats that would direct the Defense secretary to report on the number of military installations named after African Americans, and establish a review process for the future naming of bases.
- Another Lee amendment that would direct the Defense secretary to report to Congress within 180 days on the threat to national security posed by domestic terrorist and white supremacist groups, specifically the Proud Boys and the Boogaloo movement.
- An amendment from Rep. Hank Johnson that would prohibit certain "weapons of war" from being transferred from the military to local police departments.
- An amendment from Rep. Ken Buck that would prohibit federal employees from downloading or using TikTok on any "technology device" issued by the United States government.

Some of the [marquee messaging amendments](#) are likely to generate lively debate, including a 10 percent cut to the defense budget, the proposal to cut the Pentagon chief management officer, Confederate symbols and names on military bases, nuclear testing and nonproliferation, and sunseting war power authorizations. A package (or two or three) of amendments cleared by managers of the bill are also expected.

On the Senate side, next week the Senate will take back up the NDAA where they left it off before the Independence Day recess. Just before the break, an agreement was reached on how to limit debate and amendments going forward, so the Senate is not expected to be on the NDAA for very much longer. Under the terms of that agreement, a second manager's package plus six separate amendments will be brought up for individual votes next week. These six amendments are:

- Schatz amendment to reform Department of Defense transfers of personal property to law enforcement agencies. (SA 2252)
- Inhofe amendment to impose additional conditions and limitations on the transfer of Department of Defense property for law enforcement activities. (SA 2411)
- Sanders amendment to reduce the bloated Pentagon budget by 10 percent and invest that money in jobs, education, health care, and housing in communities in the United States in which the poverty rate is not less than 25 percent. (SA 1788)
- Cornyn amendment to restore American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing by increasing federal incentives in order to enable advanced research and development, secure the supply chain, and ensure long-term national security and economic competitiveness. (SA 2244)
- Shaheen amendment to increase funding for the study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relating to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination in drinking water. (SA 1729)
- Tester amendment to expand the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who serviced in the Republic of Vietnam. (SA 1972), as modified

Regarding Senator Sander's [amendment](#) (SA 1788), a [study](#) on the impact on states of DoD spending from 2018 showed Vermont benefited from \$295.5 of defense spending and Massachusetts benefited from \$12.2 billion of spending and supported 57,618 jobs directly or indirectly by the military's

presence in Massachusetts with a total economic output of \$13.2 billion. In a [Washington Post](#) campaign report from earlier this year, then-candidate Vice President Joe Biden noted he would welcome a reassessment of defense spending if he won the presidency.

FY2021 Regular Appropriations. Early next week, the House Rules Committee will also start working on the first so-called “minibus”: a [four-bill package](#) that includes the FY2021 State-Foreign Operations, Agriculture-FDA, Interior-Environment, and Military Construction spending bills. Hundreds of amendments are expected to be filed, including amendments that cover some of the same hot topics being debated in the FY2021 NDAA, like war powers authorizations and border wall funding, an issue which could garner [another veto threat](#) from President Trump if it passes.

For more reading about current congressional actions, here’s a roundup of media coverage:

- Defense Daily: [House Appropriations Releases \\$694.6 Billion FY ‘21 Defense Spending Bill](#)
- Breaking Defense: [Senate Ships vs. House Subs: Conference Clash To Come?](#)
- Space News: [Space Force acquisition management criticized by House appropriators](#)
- Breaking Defense: [HAC-D Cuts ABMS By \\$50M; Raps DoD Budget Mismanagement](#)
- Space News: [House bill restores funding for five NASA science missions](#)
- Defense News: [New nuclear warhead funding would be blocked by House appropriators](#)
- Defense News: [Appropriators to deny DoD budget flexibility in border wall spat](#)
- Air Force Magazine: [House Appropriators Approve 2021 Defense Spending Bill, Veto Threat Looms](#)
- Space News: [House spending bill rejects Office of Space Commerce funding increase](#)
- Breaking Defense: [No Wall Funding? House GOP Threaten Trump Veto Of Defense Funding Bill](#)

For those tracking the funding numbers, [here](#) is where we are on the programs you and we care most about. (Let us know what we are missing from this list and we will add it!)

NASA Authorization. The House Science Committee has not scheduled a time for consideration of the [NASA authorization bill](#). As a reminder, the Senate Commerce Committee marked up and reported out [its version of the bill](#) in November 2019.

Personnel changes

On Monday, the Defense Department announced that [Michael Kratsios](#), who is currently serving as U.S Chief Technology Officer, will become the acting undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, filling the vacancy left by the departure of Dr. Mike Griffin, who left the Department to [start up a new business called Logiq](#). Dr. Mark Lewis was named acting deputy undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, replacing Dr. Lisa Porter, who departed at the same time as Griffin to also join Logiq. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said, “In seeking to fill this position, we wanted someone with experience in identifying and developing new technologies, and working closely with a wide range of industry partners.” [Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Rob Carver said](#), while at the White House, Kratsios has launched initiatives on artificial intelligence, quantum computing, autonomous vehicles, commercial drones, STEM education and advanced manufacturing, and has been “integral” in Trump’s efforts to expand 5G wireless communications technology. Kratsios is [known](#) for having strong connections to Silicon Valley venture capitalist [Peter Thiel](#).

National security update

Defense industry survey. The National Defense Industrial Association is collecting information from defense companies on the health and readiness of the defense industrial base to include in their next report. The survey is looking at the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on industry, as well as assessing industry confidence. If you'd like to take the survey, go to the link [here](#).

Small launch contracts takebacks explained. Last month, DoD announced it was using Defense Production Act authority to award contracts to six small launch providers, then two weeks later announced that they were withdrawing the awards. Some industry sources assumed that the awards were withdrawn because of some kind of protest, especially since the awards were done as sole-source with no competition. However, Will Roper, who heads up Air Force acquisition, [explained this week what actually happened](#): The Pentagon determined that small business loan programs were a more urgent priority, and shifted the \$116 million that would have gone to the small launch contracts to the loan program. In a case of last in, first out, because the small launch contracts were awarded most recently, that was the pot of money DoD pulled back first. Roper did note that small launch remains a priority, and that if DoD were to receive additional funding in the next round of stimulus spending, he hoped that money could go to support the small launch companies.

Meanwhile in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. intelligence officials have indicated [Iran](#) has put portions of its air defense system on "high alert" in recent days. The change in status means the country's surface-to-air missiles are ready to fire at a moment's notice. The change happened following several unexplained explosions at key sites tied to Iran's military and nuclear programs.

Space Force staffs up. 2,410 service members have been selected to [join the Space Force](#), out of the over 8,500 people who applied to join the new service. Those chosen are all from the space systems operations and space systems fields. They will begin transferring over on September 1.

Civil and commercial update

Virgin Galactic shifts. On Wednesday, Virgin Galactic [announced a change in leadership](#) that signals a shift in the company, moving from testing a new capability, to offering an experience. George Whitesides, who has been CEO of the company since 2010, is transitioning to become the company's first Chief Space Officer and chair of Virgin Galactic's space advisory board. Michael Colglazier will be the new CEO. Colglazier comes to the company from Disney, where he was president and managing director of Disney Parks International, the part of Disney that oversees amusement parks in the United States and around the world. Whitesides will focus on future business opportunities, including point-to-point high-speed travel and orbital spaceflight.

Glenn Symposium. The American Astronautical Society (AAS) held their all virtual Glenn Symposium this week (July 15 to 17). [Here](#) is our summary of the sessions of greatest interest to our clients, including talks with NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine, Principal Advisor to the NASA Administrator for Space Transportation Ms. Janet Karika, and a panel discussion on the future of aircraft propulsion.

2020 Election update

Tuesday was primary day in Alabama, Texas, and Maine. The big story here is that all three states have major congressional races that are receiving national attention, and we now know the specific matchups in those races. In Maine, Democrat Sara Gideon, who was expected to win her primary contest, will face incumbent Republican Senator Susan Collins in a race that could well tip the balance of the Senate. In Texas, Democrat M.J. Hegar won a runoff, and will face incumbent Republican Senator John Cornyn for the Texas Senate seat. And in Alabama, former Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville beat former Attorney General Jeff Sessions by a large margin to run against incumbent Democrat Senator Doug Jones.

On Thursday, the GOP announced that the upcoming Republican National Convention will be [scaled back](#) due to the rising number of coronavirus cases in Florida. On the first three days, only regular delegates will be admitted to the convention: a crowd totaling about 2,500 people. For the final day, when President Trump will formally accept the party nomination, delegates will each be allowed to bring one guest, and alternate delegates will be also allowed to attend. That crowd will be capped at about 6,000 or 7,000 people.

Meanwhile in Milwaukee, a senior advisor to the Democratic National Convention, according to [The New York Times](#), urged Members of Congress and staff to not travel to Wisconsin for the convention, and stated that party platform work may be completed virtually.

There was a shake up this week in President Trump's campaign staff: Brad Parscale was demoted from his spot as campaign manager. He'll stay with the campaign as the digital strategy lead and senior advisor. Bill Stepien, who was recently promoted as deputy campaign manager, will take over running the campaign. Stepien served as Chris Christie's campaign manager for Christie's two New Jersey governor campaigns wins.

Independent Congressman Justin [Amash](#) of Michigan confirmed he is not seeking re-election after leaving the Republican Party. As you may recall, there was talk he would put in a bid for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination.

This morning, the [Cook Political Report](#) shifted its ratings for 20 House races, all toward Democrats. Notable are Indiana's 5th, Nebraska's 2nd, Ohio's 1st and Texas' 21st all moving from lean Republican to toss-up, and Pennsylvania's 8th moving from toss-up to lean Democratic.

While the election is still a few months away, agencies and other Beltway organizations are preparing for a transition in January. Even if President Trump wins another term, it's likely there will be changes across the government in leadership, as normally happens. And if that transition is to a new administration, planning and preparation now helps to create a smoother handover. The Defense Department is working on their plan, including pre-election engagement with both campaigns and a requirement for succession plans for all senior non-career positions.

Think tanks are also beginning to offer a look at possible strategy and policies for a Biden administration. The Center for a New American Security released a paper this week as part of their [Next National Defense Strategy](#) series. The paper, "[Sharpening the U.S. Military's Edge: Critical Steps for the](#)

[Next Administration,](#)" is co-authored by Michele Flournoy, who served as undersecretary of defense in the Obama administration, and [Gabrielle Chefitz](#), a senior associate at WestExec Advisors.

We're also starting to get a look at a possible Biden administration, both in terms of policy and people. The Democratic candidate announced a [climate advisory council](#) and rolled out a set of [energy and climate recommendations](#) this week.

Podcasts we love

If you just can't get enough political history even after watching Disney+'s version of Hamilton, consider listening to [Wondery's "Elections: Wicked Game."](#) This series of 58 podcasts goes through each and every U.S. presidential election since President George Washington was selected as our first U.S. president in 1789. The series walks through the creation of the two-party system, and the political, domestic, and geopolitical dynamics at play in each election. Whoever listens from beginning to the end – before this November's election – earns a special place in the hearts of our team at Velocity!

Maybe having a blue check isn't a good thing...

On Wednesday, [Twitter was hacked](#), with politician and celebrity accounts sending spam tweets with a bitcoin scam offer. As part of Twitter's response to the security breach, verified accounts (those with the little blue check mark) were unable to tweet between about 6:20 p.m. and 8:40 p.m. EDT. The hack in and of itself is a big deal; many of these accounts had all the right security protocols in place (for example, multi-factor authentication), and so this failure suggests that the breach was within Twitter itself. But there's another issue at stake here: During that time period, local National Weather Service accounts weren't able to post information, including about a [real-time tornado warning](#) in Illinois where a large tornado was on the ground. While of course no one should rely only on social media for severe weather warnings or information on other life-threatening events, the fact is it is often a critical source of information for many people. Both the inability to send important information, and the fact that accounts were used to send false information is a major problem. Imagine what could happen with a similar event on election day.

And now for some sunny space news...

Because that last piece of news was a little dark, here's some brighter space news to illuminate your day. [The first pictures from the ESA/NASA Solar Orbiter mission](#) are in, and they're already shedding some new light on how the sun works. These images are the closest ever taken of the sun's surface. Normally, the first images from a spacecraft confirm the instruments are working. Scientists don't expect new discoveries from them. But the Extreme Ultraviolet Imager, or EUI, on Solar Orbiter returned data hinting at solar features never observed in such detail, including little "campfires" dotted across the surface of the sun. The theory is that these may be nanoflares, or mini-solar explosions.

Upcoming conferences and other events of interest

- 7/20, 1pm, Space Foundation hosts "Roving the Red Planet: Perseverance, Ingenuity, and the Next Generation of Explorers," featuring NASA officials, including Administrator Bridenstine, (register [here](#))
- 7/21, 3 pm, ANWA Deterrence Center Online Roundtable on FY2021 Legislative Activities Concerning Our Nation's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent with Robert R. Hood, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs (more info [here](#))
- 7/22, 1 pm, [A Deadly Game: East China Sea Crisis 2030](#), hosted by CNAS

- 7/23, 8:30 am, [Vice Chair of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. John Hyten](#), WMD 2020, Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction (*moved from 7/8*)
- 7/23, 9 am, Secure World Foundation holds an event on “Capacity-building for Space Sustainability” (register [here](#))
- 7/22, Potomac Officer’s Club [Future Virtual Battlefield](#), [register here](#). (Use promocode VIRTUAL25 for \$25 off.)
- 7/23, 1 to 3 pm CDT, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce Innovation Summit (more information [here](#))
- 7/23, The Aerospace Corporation’s [weekly Space Policy Show](#) focuses on planetary protection.
- 8/1 to 8/6 Small Satellite Conference hosted by Utah State University. Registration for the now virtual conference will be free and opens on June 1 (register [here](#)).
- 8/4 to 8/6, Aspen Security Forum (virtual), more information [here](#).
- 8/19 to 8/21, NDIA Space Warfighting Industry Forum, Colorado Springs (details and registration [here](#))
- 9/10 to 9/11, Secure World Foundation’s 2nd Summit for Space Sustainability, Washington DC (register [here](#), rescheduled from June)
- 9/13 to 9/15, Cipher Brief Threat Conference, Sea Island GA (more info and registration [here](#))
- 9/14 to 9/16, AFA’s Air, Space, Cyber All Virtual Conference (more info and registration [here](#))
- 9/23 to 9/24, Smallsat & Space Access Summit, Alexandria, VA (more info [here](#))
- 10/26 to 10/28, [2020 AMS Washington Forum](#) (live virtual format)
- 10/15, 35th Women in Aerospace Awards Dinner and Ceremony, Arlington, VA (save the date)
- 10/31 to 11/3, Space Foundation’s Space Symposium, Colorado Springs, CO
- 11/16 to 11/19, Ascend, hosted by AIAA (live virtual format, more info [here](#))

What we’re reading

July 10, *The Washington Post*: [Trump confirms, in an interview, a U.S. cyberattack on Russia](#)

July 10, *Air Force Magazine*: [Air Force Academy Confirms New COVID-19 Cases](#)

July 10: *Associated Press*: [Russia skeptical about nuclear pact extension prospects](#)

July 10, *Breaking Defense*: [Silicon Valley Giants — Not Start-Ups — Dominate DoD Tech \\$\\$](#)

July 10, *Breaking Defense*: [Pentagon AI Gains ‘Overwhelming Support’ From Tech Firms – Even Google](#)

July 11, *The Economist*: [As the economy recovers fiscal policy has to shift](#)

July 12, *Axios*: [Biden's doctrine: Erase Trump, re-embrace the world](#)

July 13, *Ars Technica*: [Sadly, none of the big rockets we hoped to see fly in 2020 actually will](#)

July 13, *The Hill*: [Democrats split on Trump plan to use development funds for nuclear projects](#)

July 13, *Defense One*: [We Need \\$10B to Pay Contractors’ Coronavirus Expenses, Pentagon Tells Congress](#)

July 13, *Defense News*: [Stovepipes in space: How the US can overcome bureaucracy to improve capabilities](#)

July 13, *Breaking Defense*: [The Top 5 REALLY Important NDAA Policies](#)

July 13, *Defense One*: [The Ripple Effects of a Space Skirmish](#)

July 14, *Politico*: [Boris Johnson follows Washington’s lead on Huawei](#)

July 14, *Defense One*: [Peter Thiel’s New Man In The Defense Department](#)

July 14, *Bloomberg*: [Top Defense Firms Get Biggest Share of Accelerated Virus Funds](#)

July 14, *Breaking Defense*: [Air Force’s Roper Sparks Debate On ‘Nationalizing Advanced Aviation’ Industry](#)

July 14, *C4ISRNet*: [Space Force squadron gets new advanced terminal for secure communications](#)
July 14, *Wall Street Journal*: [Dunford Won't Lead Panel Overseeing Coronavirus Relief Funds](#)
July 14, *Air Force Magazine*: [USAF Wants Its Reaper Replacement to Serve More Missions with Fewer People](#)
July 15, *Air Force Magazine*: [Barrett Leading DOD Board on Diversity, Inclusion](#)
July 15, *Space News*: [Northrop Grumman Minotaur 4 launches NRO mission, its first from Virginia spaceport](#)
July 15, *Defense One*: [Coronavirus 'Shattered the Myth' that Defense Civilians Can't Telework, Official Says](#)
July 15, *Defense News*: [Key House Democrats want to lock in New START weapons limits](#)
July 15, *The Hill*: [America needs national cyber director to fortify our security](#)
July 15, *Breaking Defense*: [Airbus Targets NRO Imagery Sales With New US Corporate Entity](#)
July 15, *The Washington Post*: [Biden, billionaires and corporate accounts targeted in Twitter hack](#)
July 15, *Air Force Magazine*: [Raymond: Space Force Looking at Partnering More with the UK](#)
July 16, *GovConWire*: [Hensel Phelps Wins \\$92M to Build Air Force's GBSD Mission Integration Hub](#)
July 16, *The Hill*: [Why America needs a national innovation plan right now](#)
July 16, *Axios*: [U.S., Canada and U.K. accuse Russia of trying to steal coronavirus vaccine research](#)
July 16, *Forbes*: [How COVID-19 Reveals What The Space Force Desperately Needs: Real Resiliency](#)
July 16, *Ars Technica*: [NASA's inspector general report roasts Lockheed Martin for Orion fees](#)
July 16, *Breaking Defense*: [Do Not Change O&M Spending Rules, Say Former Appropriators](#)
July 16, *Space News*: [Millennium Space experiment to measure speed of satellite deorbiting system](#)
July 16, *Defense News*: [Dozens of lawmakers are opposed to Ligado's plan. Can they undo the FCC's decision?](#)
July 16, *Breaking Defense*: [Army Says Long Range Missiles Will Help Air Force, Not Compete](#)
July 16, *Breaking Defense*: [Do Not Change O&M Spending Rules, Say Former Appropriators](#)
July 16, *Air Force Magazine*: [Air Force's First KC-10 Retires](#)
July 17, *Politico*: [Trump skirting Congress to install loyalists in the Pentagon](#)

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