

*We will be closed tomorrow (Friday, July 3) in observance of Independence Day.
Have a safe and happy holiday weekend.*



Congressional Schedule. The House is already in recess, and the Senate is expected to leave later today. Representatives are going home for a committee work period, and Senators will return to their home states for a state work period. Both chambers are scheduled to return to Washington the week of July 20. However, the House also extended its “vote-by-proxy” rule for an additional 45-day period, so some Members may opt to continue to participate in House activities remotely. *(More below.)*

U.S. Economic Outlook

The jobs numbers are in. The end-of-the-month mid-year point economic news report from the Department of Labor was [mixed](#) but also showcased the resiliency of the U.S. economy. The good news, 4.8 million jobs were added in June, which dropped the unemployment rate to 11.1-percent. However, on Thursday morning the Department of Labor reported another 1.4 million people filed for unemployment, making it the 15th week in a row where unemployment claims have exceeded 1 million. The June jobs numbers were measured mid-month, which happened to be at the lowest point for the nation-wide number of Covid-19 cases. Because the new jobs were primarily from the leisure and hospitality sector, the jobs numbers could trend downward as bars and restaurants could be forced to close in areas of the country with a reemergence of the virus. U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia [issued](#) the following statement on the June 2020 Employment Situation Report:

“Today’s jobs report shows that our resilient economy continues to return more people to work, more quickly, than forecast. It is heartening to see employment gains across nearly all demographics. The report reflects that we can return millions more Americans to work in the weeks ahead, provided we bear in mind that economic recovery must go hand-in-hand with safe practices and self-discipline.”

Coronavirus government operations update

National perspective. As of Thursday morning, the number of confirmed cases in the U.S. [is at least 2,706,000 with at least 126,000 deaths](#). Sharp rises in coronavirus cases in states including California, Arizona, Florida, South Carolina, Louisiana, Nevada, and Texas are prompting governors and mayors in some states and cities to review or slow down their reopening plans and consider implementing

requirements to wear masks in public. A [Goldman Sachs study](#) released on Tuesday concluded that a federal mandate to wear masks would slow the spread of the coronavirus enough to save the economy from losing 5-percent of its value and could partially substitute for renewed lockdowns. For the last eight days, the total daily number of new cases has been above the daily total during March or April: 52,789 new cases were reported on Wednesday (the record high in April was 34,203), the first time the daily total has topped 50,000.

Washington metro area. Overall, coronavirus cases in [D.C., Maryland, and Virginia topped 142,548 this morning, with 5,582 deaths](#). D.C., Northern Virginia, and Maryland are all continuing the reopening process: D.C. has moved into phase two, allowing businesses to reopen and activities to resume under [specified conditions](#), while Virginia entered [Phase 3](#) on July 1. Maryland remains in Phase 2 of reopening, although amusement parks and casinos were allowed to reopen this week before the holiday weekend. There will be a 4th of July celebration in Washington, including a live fireworks show on the National Mall, although there won't be the usual parade and the "A Capitol Fourth" concert will be virtual. There will be military flyovers by the Thunderbirds, Blue Angels, and vintage aircraft. Here's a good rundown of what to [expect in the DC area](#).

Pentagon staff looks at starting to return to normal operations. The Pentagon has moved to Phase One which means a maximum of 40-percent of staff allowed on-site. Offices have implemented social distancing, including limiting the number and size of meetings. Visitor access is still limited, and all visitors have their temperature checked at building entrances and will be required to provide personal information for contact tracing. Random temperature checks are being conducted at all entrances for the Pentagon workforce and a staff member counts how many staff enter the building to accurately measure headcounts.

NASA also has plans to resume operations. The space agency is also 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 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. The staff continues to telework, and is then rotating into the office in shifts, as necessary, to handle classified materials. As of June 22, 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 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 remains limited and 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 maintain 6-foot social distance spacing as much as practicable when in the offices or the Capitol. In the House, vote by proxy rules remain in effect, and many Members plan to remain outside D.C. until these expire. On Monday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she was extending remote voting through August

18. Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy objected in a letter to Pelosi. Members and staff are meeting virtually with interested parties and have worked to create opportunities to hear from constituents.

Congressional activities

Legislative action this week. The Paycheck Protection Program for government-backed loans to small businesses affected by the pandemic was set to end on Tuesday, June 30, with around \$130 billion left unspent in the program. On Tuesday night, the [Senate unexpectedly passed a bill](#) introduced by Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) to extend the program to August 8. On Wednesday, House lawmakers decided to pass the bill by unanimous consent; there was some discussion first about attaching oversight provisions, but House leadership determined it was more important to pass the extension before both chambers left for the Independence Day recess. The bill now heads to President Trump's desk for signature.

Also on Wednesday, the House [passed a \\$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill](#) that included spending for broadband access, housing, schools and hospitals, as well as initiatives to combat climate-change. The bill passed 233-188, along party lines. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has already declared the bill dead on arrival in the Senate.

The pending legislative calendar. After today, Congress is on recess until July 20. That leaves 11 days to pass a new relief package before increased unemployment benefits expire (the \$600 extra per week in unemployment insurance was part of the CARES Act), one of the provisions Democrats want to see included in the next pandemic relief bill. Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell said](#) that the Senate will focus on another relief legislation in late July. However, even with the agreement that there needs to be another relief package, there is little agreement on what should be in it. There was hope that the economy would rebound once states began reopening businesses, but given that several states have paused the reopening process or asked businesses to close again, there is likely to be a continued push from Democrats to offer more in the way of financial relief. It's not clear how fast the Senate will be able to put together a package (the House has already passed another stimulus package – the HEROES Act – which is considered a non-starter in the Senate), but McConnell appears determined to stay on schedule. “We’re gonna stay on the schedule that I’ve announced earlier in the year, which means we will not be here in August,” he said.

FY2021 NDAA. Looking at the House version of the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act first: The House Armed Services Committee passed the NDAA Wednesday night (just barely – the session was gavelled down at 11:47 p.m.) on a unanimous vote of 56-0. HASC Chairman Adam Smith [worked to make the bill and the process bipartisan](#), and was praised by Members on both sides of the aisle for doing so. There were a little over 600 amendments submitted to the committee, but the process to consider all of the amendments took only a little over 14 hours, [a record in the last 9 years](#). For a great behind the scenes look at the markup, read this [article](#). For a list of the amendments of interest considered and adopted during the markup, go [here](#). As a reminder, our summary of the HASC mark (prior to this week's amendments) is still available [here](#).

The House Armed Services Committee will hold one hearing next week:

- 7/9 @ 1 pm on “Department of Defense Authorities and Roles Related to Civilian Law Enforcement.” Witnesses will be Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley. The hearing will be webcast live [here](#).

In the Senate, floor deliberation on the NDAA are no longer expected to be completed before the Independence Day recess. A hotline was run earlier today to attempt to set up a path forward. Once the hotline is agreed to by all Senators, a second managers package will be adopted today, and roll call votes on a small set of selected remaining amendments will be set for the week of July 20. These amendments are:

- Schatz amendment to reform Department of Defense transfers of personal property to law enforcement agencies.
- Inhofe amendment to impose additional conditions and limitations on the transfer of Department of Defense property for law enforcement activities.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. (1972), as modified

For a summary of the Senate NDAA endgame, read this [article](#). For our list of the amendments of interest included in the second manager's package, go [here](#). As a reminder, our summary of the SASC mark (prior to this week's amendments) is still available [here](#). For a look at the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate for the Senate NDAA, go [here](#).

While there is still a ways to go before the NDAA is done, on Tuesday President Trump threatened to veto the bill if it includes a provision to rename military bases currently named after Confederate officers. [Senate Republicans seem unconcerned about the threat](#), and there is bipartisan support in both chambers for the provision. "The veto would take place sometime probably in November," SASC Chair Jim Inhofe said. "And we have a long, long time between now and November. So we'll see." (We'll note that the most interesting thing in that quote is the expectation that the NDAA won't go to the President's desk until November.) The HASC version of the NDAA also includes language requiring the Pentagon to change base names within a year, an [amendment](#) included in the full committee markup yesterday.

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!)

FY2021 Regular Appropriations. The Democrat-majority led House Appropriations Committee has set the following schedule for markups:

- 7/6: State and Foreign Operations @ 4 pm, livestreamed [here](#)
- 7/6: Agriculture-Rural Development-FDA @ 6 pm
- 7/6: Military Construction and Veterans Affairs @ 8 pm, livestreamed [here](#)
- 7/7: Homeland Security @ 9 am, livestreamed [here](#)

- 7/7: Interior and Environment @ 11 am, livestreamed [here](#)
- 7/7: Legislative Branch @ 1 pm
- 7/7: Energy and Water @ 3 pm, livestreamed [here](#)
- 7/7: Labor-HHS-Education @ 5 pm
- 7/8: Commerce, Justice, Science @ 9 am, livestreamed [here](#)
- 7/8: Transportation and Housing and Urban Development @ 11 am, livestreamed [here](#)
- 7/8: Financial Services-General Government @ 1pm
- 7/8: Defense @ 3 pm, livestreamed [here](#)

NASA Authorization. The House Science Committee is still not quite ready to take up the [NASA authorization bill](#). Last week at the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing, House Space Subcommittee Chair Kendra Horn said, “We’re about to take it up and mark it up in the full committee. We’re continuing to work towards that end. I think it is important to get that through.” However, given that the remote voting rule has been extended through mid-August, and that we understand House Science Chair Eddie Bernice Johnson continues to work remotely from Texas and would prefer not to do a remote markup, it may be September before we see it happen. As a reminder, the Senate Commerce Committee marked up and reported out [its version of the bill](#) in November 2019.

Personnel changes

Earlier today, the Senate voted on a cloture motion filed on the nomination of Russell Vought, to become Director of the Office of Management and Budget. The motion to invoke cloture passed, [47-44](#).

As explained in [this primer](#) on cloture procedures in the Senate, cloture is basically a vote to go ahead on a vote, a procedural oddity of the Senate that allows the Majority Leader to “push past a recalcitrant minority.” The procedure essentially limits debate on any bill or motion before the Senate, establishing and kicking off a 30-hour window before a final vote must be held, and eliminating the ability of opposing Senators to filibuster—to hold the floor indefinitely—and thus delay a vote. Majority Leader McConnell has used the cloture process a lot more in recent years, especially when confirming somewhat more controversial nominees to posts.

Jeffrey Nadaner has been named by the Trump administration to be deputy assistant secretary of defense for industrial policy. Nadaner worked in the Pentagon and State Department under George W. Bush and is a former senior executive at Lockheed Martin. He was nominated in 2018 to be assistant secretary in the Commerce Department before his name was withdrawn.

National security update

Defense omnibus reprogramming request submitted. On June 23, then-acting Pentagon Comptroller Elaine McCusker submitted a 58-page omnibus reprogramming request to Congress to shift funds appropriated in fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020 to higher-priority programs in FY2020. (McCusker vacated the comptroller post on June 26.) The Pentagon is seeking congressional permission to shift \$2 billion between budget accounts as part of an annual reallocation of funds the U.S. military has in hand, launch five new-start projects and shift funds the Defense Department says are required immediately to achieve U.S. Space Command “critical mission capability.” Congress typically frowns on using reprogramming requests to launch new programs, which lawmakers prefer to fund through annual

authorization and appropriations bills. Still, the Pentagon is seeking to begin a handful of new projects this summer with reprogrammed funds, a gambit that aims to win early authorization from lawmakers to ensure high-priority programs are not delayed in the event the FY2021 defense authorization bill is not enacted by Oct. 1. The Army is using the reprogramming request to seek authorization to begin five new programs. The omnibus reprogramming request is available [here](#).

Small launch awards withdrawn. Two weeks ago, DoD announced it was awarding noncompetitive contracts to six small launch providers through the Defense Production Act. On Wednesday, DoD withdrew those awards by filing a “Notice of Contract Award (NOCA) Withdrawal” for the six contracts, saying: “The Government received several responses to the DPA Title 3 Funded Rideshare Services NOCA. After review of the information, the Government is re-evaluating its strategy on how best to proceed with this action.” [Space News sources](#) stated that there was widespread criticism over the awards because the process and justification for selecting these six companies was unclear. [ARS Technica reported](#) that even though when contracts are awarded without an open competition, DoD by law has to file a “Justification & Approval” document explaining why an award was sole-sourced, and no such documents were filed in this case.

GPS 3 launches. At 4:10 p.m. on Tuesday, SpaceX launched a Falcon 9 rocket with a Space Force GPS 3 satellite from Cape Canaveral. While this mission was the 49th first stage recovered by SpaceX, it was the first recovery for a national security space launch. Lockheed Martin [said](#) the new satellite is responding to commands from program engineers in the launch-and-checkout facility in Denver. Watch video coverage of the launch [here](#).

Space Force structure takes shape. On Tuesday, the Space Force rolled out a [new structure](#) with personnel organized into three levels: squadrons, deltas, and field commands. Squadrons will focus on specific missions and will make up deltas (which replaces wings as used in the Air Force). The three field commands are: Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM), Space Operations Command (SpOC), and Space Systems Command (SSC). STARCOM will be in charge of the training pipeline starting in 2021. SpOC will manage personnel and combat resources: it replaces the existing Space Operations Command. SSC will be in charge of research, development, and acquisition. The Space and Missile Systems Center, the Commercial Satellite Communications Office, and other space system program offices will be part of the command, which will oversee military rockets, satellites, radars, and other space-related assets from creation to retirement.

Events this week. Outgoing Air Force Chief of Staff General David Goldfein spoke at a Brookings Institution event this week, offering his assessment of the state of the Air Force (see our summary of the event [here](#)).

Civil and commercial update

NASA sets in motion the process for additional SLS rockets. On Monday, NASA announced a letter contract with Northrop Grumman valued at \$49.5 million for [solid rocket boosters used by the Space Launch System](#). The contract, which serves as a precursor to a long-term contract, allows the company to begin buying long-lead items needed for boosters that would be used on the fourth through ninth flights of the SLS. “This initial step ensures that NASA can build the boosters needed for future Space Launch System rockets that will be needed for the Artemis missions to explore the moon,” said John

Honeycutt, NASA SLS program manager, in an agency statement. “The letter contract allows us to buy long-lead materials in time for manufacturing boosters for the fourth flight.”

Mars launch slips. NASA’s launch of the Mars 2020 spacecraft has been [delayed again](#), moving from July 22 to no earlier than July 30 so that a potential issue with the launch vehicle can be investigated. During a June 22 wet dress rehearsal of the Atlas 5 rocket, there was “off-nominal” data from a liquid oxygen sensor line. The launch window extends to August 15 and NASA is looking to see if there is a way to extend the window past that date.

Events this week. Mike Gold from NASA HQ offered a primer on the Artemis Accords (see a summary of the event [here](#)) and a group of experts discussed a space enterprise unified theory (see our notes [here](#)). Also, former NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden discussed the future of commercial space flight (summary [here](#)). Plus, Frank DeMauro from Northrop Grumman was interviewed by the Better Satellite World podcast (our summary is [here](#)).

2020 Election update.

In New York, due to an influx of mail-in ballots, long-term Democratic congressmen Eliot Engel and Caroline Mahoney await the final results of their primaries on June 23rd. The closely watched race involving Rep. Engel is of great interest to the traditional Democratic party membership because he is the current Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and found himself in a tight race against progressive Jamall Bowman, who was endorsed by both Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders. Rep. Carolyn Maloney is still in a tight race against New York University professor Suraj Patel.

In Kentucky, election results from last week’s primary are finally in and Amy McGrath won the Democratic primary to face-off against Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in November.

On Tuesday, primaries were held in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Utah. Of interest in the space world, there will be a runoff in Oklahoma to determine the Republican challenger to Democratic Rep. Kendra Horn. Believe it or not, there are still a few state primaries yet to be held: Delaware, New Jersey, Louisiana, and Connecticut all have presidential primaries that were delayed from earlier dates because of the pandemic. Several other states have state or local primaries or runoff elections scheduled (Maine, Alabama, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Georgia, and Massachusetts).

While we expect to see the presidential campaign begin to heat up, it’s still unclear just how much campaigning will happen in person. In the Republican presidential campaign, there was an expected shake up: after disappointing numbers at the Tulsa rally Michael Glassner, who was in charge of organizing those campaign rallies, was [reassigned](#) and the campaign appears to be thinking about how to hold those rallies now in states with an increasing number of coronavirus cases. However, campaign advertising is starting to blanket the airwaves and a variety of groups are getting involved, including a group of [alums from George W. Bush’s administration](#) that have formed a PAC to support Joe Biden. This group does not have the endorsement of President Bush who has decided to not be involved this election cycle. Meanwhile, citing the Covid-19 pandemic, former Vice President Biden will not be holding rallies nor he is expected to conduct a traditional campaign of meeting the electorate in person, and the Democratic National Convention will take place primarily virtually.

Our favorite podcasts

You can't talk about space policy these days without considering the green eyeshade topic of spectrum policy. We love FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel's "[Broadband Conversations](#)" podcast, which talks about some of these complex topics on an easy-to-understand level. The most recent episode features Dr. Nicol Turner Lee, new director of the Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings. Listen on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Google Play](#), or via [the FCC](#).

And now for some cool space news...

You may recall the news from Betelgeuse (the red giant star in the constellation Orion) late last year; astronomers observed an unusual amount of dimming in the star's brightness, leading some to speculate that the star was about to go supernova. The star returned to normal brightness levels by May, though, and now researchers say the dimming was caused by [sunspots](#) (or star spots, rather). These star spots covered 50- to 70-percent of the star's visible surface, meaning the spot was 100 times larger than our Sun, and caused the temperature in the surface of the star to drop which caused a corresponding drop in visible brightness.

Upcoming conferences and other events of interest

Note: The National Space Club [announced](#) that its annual Goddard Memorial Dinner (aka "space prom") will not be held this year because of concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. (The dinner had previously been rescheduled from March to September.)

- 7/9, 10 am, Serving Society with Space Data: Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (register for the event [here](#)).
- 7/10 through 7/24, Aviation Reset: Flight Paths Forward, series of webinars hosted by Aviation Week (a full schedule and more info [here](#))
- 7/15, 1 pm, [Closing the Deal: National Security and Investment Scrutiny](#), hosted by CNAS
- 7/15, 2:30 pm, [Is Seeing Still Believing? Synthetic Media and Illiberal Uses of Technology](#), hosted by CNAS
- 7/15 to 7/17, AAS Glenn Symposium (virtual): Powering Innovation from the Sky to the Stars (more information and registration [here](#))
- 7/22, Potomac Officer's Club [Future Virtual Battlefield](#), [register here](#). (Use promocode VIRTUAL25 for \$25 off.)
- 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*)
- 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](#))
- 9/23 to 9/24, Smallsat & Space Access Summit, Alexandria, VA (more info [here](#))
- 10/15, 35th Women in Aerospace Awards Dinner and Ceremony, Arlington, VA (save the date)
- 10/26 to 10/28, [2020 AMS Washington Forum](#) (live virtual format)

- 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

June 25, *Breaking Defense*: [ABMS In Trouble: Rep. Smith Wants \\$85M Cut](#)

June 26, *Space News*: [Op-ed | Time to Move ICBM and missile defense units to the Space Force](#)

June 26, *Breaking Defense*: [Pentagon Plans 'Plug & Play' Drone-Killing Tech](#)

June 26, *Space News*: [NOAA to buy commercial radio occultation data for operations](#)

June 28, *Reuters*: [It is rocket science: EU to speed up space ambitions, Breton says](#)

June 28, *Space News*: [Space Force more receptive to reusable rockets as it continues to review SpaceX missions](#)

June 28, *Air Force Magazine*: [NORAD Intercepts 4 Russian Reconnaissance Planes Near Alaska](#)

June 29, *Space News*: [Attention shifts to implementation of new commercial remote sensing regulations](#)

June 29, *The Hill*: [Pelosi, Schumer urge McConnell to start coronavirus negotiations amid uptick in cases](#)

June 29, *The National Interest*: [China Wants to Sink Your Navy with Hypersonic Missiles](#)

June 29, *The National Interest*: [Coming Soon: Russian Bombers \(Now Armed with Hypersonic Missiles?\)](#)

June 29, *Space News*: [Analysts: NRO's commercial imagery purchases could reach \\$400 million by 2023](#)

June 29, GAO Report: [5G Deployment: FCC Needs Comprehensive Strategic Planning to Guide Its Efforts](#)

June 30, *Aviation Week*: [HASC Chair Balks At Defense Industrial Relief Request](#)

June 30, *Associated Press*: [White House aware of Russian bounties in 2019](#)

June 30, *Breaking Defense*: [WH's Handling Of Russian Bounty Intel 'Unacceptable': Rep. Smith](#)

June 30, *Defense News*: [Pentagon to get more control over nuclear weapons funding under Senate proposal](#)

June 30, *Space News*: [Smith encouraged by Senate NDAA proposal to increase funding for space launch technology](#)

June 30, *Aviation Week*: [DARPA Outlines Plans For Active Flow Control X-Plane](#)

June 30, *Defense One*: [SPECIAL REPORT: What if Biden Wins?](#)

June 30, *Defense One*: [Biden's China Policy Starts With Building a Stronger America](#)

June 30, *Washington Post*: [Use of military contractors shrouds true costs of war. Washington wants it that way, study says.](#)

June 30, *Space News*: [Amazon Web Services establishes space-focused business unit](#)

June 30, *Washington Business Journal*: [Amazon's AWS hires former Space Force leader to head new space-focused business unit](#)

July 1, *Defense One*: [How Biden Would Wage Great Power Competition](#)

July 1, *Via Satellite*: [Restart Your Engines: Launchers Recalibrate After Pandemic Pause](#)

July 1, *Forbes*: [Russia's New Super Weapons May Be Cause Of Radiation Leak](#)

July 1, *Air Force Magazine*: [Congress Questions Need for New Armed Overwatch Planes for SOCOM](#)

July 1, *Aviation Week*: [Special Fund Could Solve Nuclear Budget Problem, Goldfein Says](#)

July 1, *Space News*: [HASC amendments question space acquisition reforms, challenge DoD plans to procure new systems](#)

July 1, *Breaking Defense*: [HASC Wants To Stop Year-End Spending Sprees](#)

July 1, *Breaking Defense*: [Air Force Boosts High-Speed Contract Pool For ABMS](#)

July 1, *Defense One*: [We Don't Have Enough Cash to Build New Nuclear Weapons, Says Air Force Chief](#)

July 1, *Defense News*: [House bill would force DoD to list deployed numbers around the world](#)

July 1, *Politico*: [GOP sits out latest House Intel hearing, continuing unofficial boycott](#)

July 2, *Defense One*: ['How Much and How Fast': Biden Watchers Anticipate Defense Spending Crunch](#)

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