



Congressional Schedule. Both the House and Senate are in recess. Representatives are holding a committee work period, and Senators are in their home states for a state work period. Both chambers are scheduled to return to Washington the week of July 20, 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, while another 1 million claims were made under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program (for self-employed workers). It’s a slight decrease from last week, but there are signs that the overall economy is not headed up. Several major companies have said they plan to furlough or lay off workers, including Levi Strauss & Co., Barnes Group, and BAE Systems. National chains Sur la Table and Brooks Brothers both filed for bankruptcy this week, while Bed Bath & Beyond announced it would be closing 200 stores.

Coronavirus government operations update

National perspective. As of Thursday morning, the number of confirmed cases in the U.S. [is at least 3,150,000 with at least 130,000 deaths](#). States in the South and West continue to see sharp rises in new cases, prompting new closures and mask regulations (for some data visualizations, go [here](#)). A sign of how serious some states are taking the recent jump in case numbers: [Texas has canceled its state fair](#) for the first time since World War II. Some [government agencies are starting to call their workers back](#) to the office under pressure from the Trump Administration, while others are looking at local and state guidelines where offices are located to determine whether or not to allow more office workers back. [Data from around the country](#) makes it clear that the rise in new cases isn’t the result of more testing; while testing increased by 7% over the past week, the number of new cases rose by 24%.

Washington metro area. Overall, coronavirus cases in [D.C., Maryland, and Virginia topped 151,584 this morning, with 5,829 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.

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. Although visitor access is still limited, Velocity Government Relations’ partner, Jo-Anne Sears, did go into the building for meetings. She experienced first-hand all staff and visitors are required to have temperature checks, and the mask policy is strictly enforced. There are also multiple hand sanitizing stations and signage throughout the building on how to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. Of interest, the security office is only issuing 50 new CAC (the badges used to provide access to the building) per day. We

expect this to be a growing challenge during the summer military move cycle. The Air Force noted this week that it saw a [major spike in cases](#), with more than 1,000 new cases reported among uniformed military, civilian, dependents, and contractors from June 29 to July 6. Overall, the Pentagon on July 7 reported 21,493 total cases, with 14,992 cases among people in uniform.

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](#). In a June 9 presentation to the National Academies, NASA Associate Administrator Steve Jurczyk said, “It will be a while before we have people stop telecommuting. I cannot predict how long we will be in that mode.” Thomas Zurbuchen, NASA associate administrator for science, said, “Some things we won’t change because we learned how to do it better.” For example, the agency converted review panels of research proposals from in-person to online meetings and so NASA plans to continue with that format, though some events, like flight reviews, are better conducted in person. Jeff Foust has some more thoughts on NASA’s future work format in [this column](#).

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. 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.

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 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

Legislative action this week. The Paycheck Protection Program [extension was signed](#) by President Trump on Saturday, which means qualifying businesses now have until August 8 to request loans. And on Monday, the Small Business Administration released [data about 660,000 loans](#) issued through the PPP. The list only included loans for more than \$150,000, which makes up about 15% of the complete list. So far, \$521 billion in loans have been given out, with the average loan size being \$107,000. Government officials said that the program has helped to support around 51 million jobs so far.

The next pandemic relief package. While it’s been expected for some time now that the Senate would take up another pandemic relief package at the end of July, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell all but confirmed that plan on Monday, [saying that it was likely a bill](#) would be introduced when the Senate

returns. “If you're looking for what I think the theme of what a next package that I'm likely to roll out here in a few weeks would focus on: liability reform, kids in school, jobs and health care, that's where the focus, it seems to me, ought to be,” McConnell said. But there are significant differences between the House and Senate on the [cost and content](#) of the bill. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has suggested the \$1 trillion number from Senate Republicans is just a starting point. McConnell will likely release the Republican proposal, then begin negotiations with Democrats, in a similar fashion to how negotiations on the *CARES Act* were done back in late March.

One issue that the defense industry would like to see addressed in the next relief package is [supplemental funding to cover pandemic-related costs](#). The *CARES Act* requires DoD to reimburse contractors for sick or paid leave that they've offered employees who can't access the federal facilities where they need to work during the pandemic, but the legislation didn't add funding to cover those costs. The CEOs of eight major defense contractors sent letters this week to acting White House budget chief Russ Vought and Pentagon acquisition chief Ellen Lord asking that money be specifically directed to cover those extra costs so that the Pentagon's long-term priorities aren't affected. Lord has noted recently that without additional funding, modernization and readiness funds would be needed to cover the pandemic relief provision. Read the defense CEO letter [here](#). Some pandemic-related funding was [included in the House version of the defense appropriations bill](#), but far less than what officials have said they need.

The pending legislative calendar. On Thursday, Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) [introduced legislation](#) requiring Congress to be notified if intelligence agencies believe a foreign government not at war with America is deliberately targeting U.S. service members.

There is also a possibility that police reform legislation may be raised again. Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) has been talking with Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), the Congressional Black Caucus chairwoman, about reviving discussion on the legislation. *Bottom line:* The list of big deal legislation is growing longer and there's not a lot of time left in this legislative session given the August recess and lawmakers wanting to get out on the campaign trail. (Long-time Washingtonians know that DC in October of a Presidential election year is *almost* as much of a ghost town as is August every year.) Whether that tight legislative timeline will benefit negotiation or stall action remains to be seen.

FY2021 NDAA. As it stands right now, the Senate has all but passed its version of the NDAA, while the House version has moved out of committee. (Before leaving for the Independence Day recess, the Senate reached an agreement to limit remaining floor deliberations to only a small set of six amendments, to be considered immediately upon the Senate going back into session on July 20.) During the latter half of July, the House floor is expected to be packed with back-to-back FY2021 spending bills, so it is not yet clear when the House will take up its version of the NDAA for floor passage, much less move into conference negotiations with the Senate. Nonetheless, the President continues to threaten to veto the bill over provisions included in both chambers' versions to rename Army bases named after confederate generals. During a call with reporters on Monday, Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) [said](#): “If it came to overriding a veto, we'd probably override the veto.” An amendment by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) that already was attached to the Senate version as part of a manager's package mandates the maximum usage of [commercial remote sensing imagery](#) by the NRO and NGA. The amendment specifically says that DoD, in consultation with NRO and NGA, “shall leverage, to the maximum extent practicable, the

capabilities of United States industry, including through the use of commercial geospatial-intelligence services and acquisition of commercial satellite imagery.”

While there are several battles being set up between competing House and Senate NDAA provisions, there’s also a battle brewing between the Senate NDAA and House defense appropriations over the annual budget for nuclear weapons. The budget and work for nuclear weapons has long been under civilian control; the Senate version of the NDAA includes a provision that would give the Defense Department via the Nuclear Weapons Council the right to review the nuclear budget. A proposal to allow DoD to veto the budget was [stripped out after Senators](#) Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) protested loudly. The [House budget bill would block](#) the use of funds for DoD’s Nuclear Weapons Council to participate in development of the National Nuclear Security Administration budget.

FY2021 Regular Appropriations. The House Appropriations Committee has been working its way through markups of the FY2021 spending bills this week. All twelve spending bills were marked up at subcommittee, and five of those (State & Foreign Operations, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Interior) were also marked up at full committee. House Appropriations Chair Nita Lowey is hoping to send the full suite of bills to the full House by middle of next week: “We are currently scheduled to finish our work next Thursday. Should we be able to move bills at a reasonable pace, I’d like to move consideration of the Defense bill to Tuesday and the Homeland Security bill to Wednesday, which would allow us to leave town on Wednesday night,” she said on Thursday. House leaders plan to hold floor votes on the majority of the FY2021 spending measures by the end of the month.

Democrats added \$250 billion in pandemic-related emergency spending, which takes the bills over the budget cap as agreed to last year. The committee also approved allocations (e.g. top line numbers) for all 12 bills as follows (with links to the bills and reports, plus notes about and links to markups):

- Agriculture-FDA: \$24 billion ([bill](#) & [report](#), [marked up by full committee](#) on 7/9)
- Commerce-Justice-Science: \$71.5 billion ([bill](#) only, [to be marked up at full committee](#) on 7/14)
- Defense: \$626.2 billion ([bill](#) & [report](#), [to be marked up at full committee](#) on 7/14)
- Energy-Water: \$49.6 billion ([bill](#) only, [to be marked up at full committee](#) on 7/13)
- Financial Services: \$24.6 billion ([bill](#) only, [to be marked up at full committee](#) on 7/15)
- Homeland Security: \$50.7 billion ([bill](#) only, [to be marked up at full committee](#) on 7/15)
- Interior-EPA: \$36.8 billion ([bill](#) & [report](#), [marked up by full committee](#) on 7/10)
- Labor-HHS-Education: \$182.9 billion ([bill](#) only, [to be marked up at full committee](#) on 7/13)
- Legislative Branch: \$5.3 billion ([bill](#) & [report](#), [marked up by full committee](#) on 7/10)
- Military Construction-VA: \$102.6 billion ([bill](#) & [report](#), [marked up by full committee](#) on 7/9)
- State-Foreign Operations: \$47.9 billion ([bill](#) & [report](#), [marked up by full committee](#) on 7/9)
- Transportation-HUD: \$75.9 billion ([bill](#) only, [to be marked up at full committee](#) on 7/14)

Some key notes and provisions:

The defense bill allocates \$694.6 billion for Pentagon programs, including \$626.2 billion for the base budget and another \$68.4 billion for the war-related Overseas Contingency Operations account (\$1.3 billion above FY2020, but \$3.7 billion less than the budget request). The committee bill [prevents money](#)

[from the military construction budget](#) from going towards building a wall on the Southern border and prohibits funding for projects that were delayed when President Trump took military construction funds for the wall. While the committee expressed concern about rising costs of launching satellites into orbit, the panel still allocates \$933 million for procuring rockets (out of the \$1.04 billion the administration proposed). The subcommittee also provides \$561 million, the full amount requested, for further research into space launch vehicles. The bill also sets aside \$1 million for the Army to rename installations, facilities and roads named for Confederate leaders.

In the CJS spending bill, NASA would receive \$22.63 billion, which is the same amount the agency received for FY2020, but almost \$3 billion less than the White House requested. As we've seen in the past few years, the committee restored funding for several major Earth science and astrophysics programs cut in the request. NASA's Exploration R&D budget saw the biggest cuts; while the agency asked for \$4.7 billion for exploration programs (including the Human Landing System/lunar landers), the bill only provides a little more than \$1.5 billion. There are likely multiple reasons for the lower-than-requested amount (including congressional misgivings about the 2024 deadline for the Artemis program), but we should also note that NASA funding is only part of the Commerce, Justice, and Science spending bill. Some of the cuts to NASA's budget could have been to offset other committee priorities elsewhere in the bill. For example, the subcommittee gave a large increase to the Justice Department to fund police reform initiatives, an issue that has become a high priority for many in Congress.

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!)

For more reading, here's a roundup of media coverage:

Space News: [House bill offers flat funding for NASA](#)

Air Force Magazine: [House Defense Appropriators Float Fiscal 2021 Plan](#)

Politico Pro: [House Appropriations Defense Panel Approves Pentagon Spending Bill](#)

Breaking Defense: [House Appropriators Add 12 F-35s, Boost Weapons Spending, But...](#)

Roll Call: [House Defense spending report shows bad blood with Pentagon](#)

The Hill: [Defense spending bill would make Pentagon return unspent money taken for border wall](#)

Defense News: [House defense spending bill would give the MQ-9 Reaper drone a second life](#)

Newsweek: [House Bill Would Block Trump's Plan to Resume Testing of Nuclear Weapons](#)

The Verge: [House budget bill denies major increases for NASA to fund ambitious Moon program](#)

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

Thomas Harker has been named the acting Pentagon comptroller after the previous acting comptroller, Elaine McCusker, resigned from the post. Harker will continue to serve as Navy comptroller as well.

President Trump [plans to nominate](#) Army Lt. Gen. Scott Berrier to be the next director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. If confirmed by the Senate, Berrier would be the second Army chief in a row (this position is generally rotated among the service branches). Given the timing and the legislative schedule, it's not clear when the Senate Armed Services Committee will move on the nomination.

Today is Undersecretary of Defense for Research & Engineering Dr. Mike Griffin's last day, and Secretary Mark Esper already has a shortlist of names to replace him, [according to a conversation between an unnamed senior defense official and Politico](#). During his two years at the Pentagon, the former NASA administrator led the charge on increasing capabilities in hypersonic weapons, directed energy and artificial intelligence. But for his next assistant secretary of defense, Esper wants someone younger, who has connections to Silicon Valley, and will focus on 5G wireless technology. "He wants to make sure that we are thinking about the next generation of tech leadership," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "This is an opportunity to put someone in who is younger, who has got the opportunity to be in this field and help shape it for a while."

National security update

Space Command location. On Sunday, the Department of the Air Force announced that [26 states](#) have [submitted bids](#) to be the new permanent location of U.S. Space Command, although they did not detail which 26 states. A preferred location for the command, which is currently housed at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, will be decided in January 2021, then followed by an environmental analysis and a final decision. The most recent military command to stand up, [Army Futures Command](#), is located in Austin, Texas and DoD officials noted Secretary Esper asked the Air Force to conduct similar methodology in finalizing the location of the new U.S. Space Command.

Space Force headquarters gets a staff structure. This week, the Space Force detailed how its [headquarters staff will be organized](#). The Office of the Chief of Space Operations, as it's known, will have a 200-person staff and will be led by a four-star general and a four-star vice chief. Underneath them will be four deputy chiefs of staff who could be general officers or senior government civilians. The four deputies would cover: human capital, operations (force readiness), strategy and resourcing, and technology and innovation. The staffing and management of the OCSO will be overseen by Maj. Gen. B. Chance "Salty" Saltzman, who will serve as acting staff director. We'll note that the plan isn't final; it's currently being reviewed by Air Force officials and congressional defense committees. One of the challenges is that a four-star and four three-star billets will be need to be transferred over from another service, most likely the Air Force.

Virtual events are here to stay. Will Roper, acquisition chief for the Air Force, has said more than a few times now that virtual events are [here to stay](#) even after the pandemic is over. Many DoD organizations are finding that virtual events are allowing them to engage more people and engage a greater diversity of people, both in terms of audience participation and speakers. There are drawbacks: it's hard to network or have those all-important hallway/exhibit hall conversations in a virtual event. Given that more locations are re-instituting restrictions on events, it may be all virtual events for some time to come. (If you haven't created a virtual event strategy yet, and would like some help with your brainstorming or planning, let us know.)

Events this week. Ellen Lord spoke to the EU Defense Forum this week, noting a [silver lining](#) in the coronavirus crisis is that the Pentagon has been able to better understand and focus on fixing issues with the supply chain. (Our notes from the event are [here](#).)

Civil and commercial update

Starliner review completed. The [Independent Review Team organized by NASA and Boeing](#) to investigate the problems with the commercial crew test flight last December has completed its work. While NASA did not release the specific recommendations made by the IRT, the agency noted they can be grouped into five broad categories: testing and simulation, software requirements, process and operational improvements, software updates, and knowledge capture and modifications to Starliner hardware. Boeing has already begun implementing the recommendations. Because one of the major issues was software errors in a mission elapsed timer on the spacecraft, NASA has also added staff to work with Boeing on software. “Perhaps we didn’t have as many people embedded in that process as we should have. It was an area where perhaps we just didn’t have quite the level of NASA insight as we should have in hindsight,” Steve Stich, manager of NASA’s commercial crew program, said. “When one provider has a newer approach than another, it’s often natural for a human being to spend more time on that newer approach, and maybe we didn’t quite take the time we needed with the more traditional approach.”

Nominee to head NOAA finds Senate opposition. The top Democrat on the Senate Commerce Committee [says she now opposes the nomination of Neil Jacobs to lead NOAA](#). In a statement Thursday, Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) said she reached that conclusion after the release this week of a Department of Commerce Inspector General's report on “Sharpiegate,” the alleged political influence over National Weather Service forecasts of a hurricane last year. That report concluded that there were “significant flaws” in the process that led to a NOAA statement on the issue last September, and that Jacobs, the acting administrator of NOAA, “acquiesced in that Department-led process.” Jacobs was nominated last December to be NOAA administrator, and while his nomination was favorably reported by the Commerce Committee, Cantwell said Thursday that in light of the new report, she now opposed the nomination and urged other senators to join her.

Satellite industry keeps growing. According to the Satellite Industry Association’s annual State of the Satellite Industry report, last year was a record-setting one for the satellite industry as 386 commercial satellites were sent to orbit. The [summary of the report](#) also found that the number of satellites in space grew 17 percent to 2,460. But the pandemic has slowed satellite manufacturing this year because of social distancing and increased cleaning requirements, according to the full report, which is only available to Satellite Industry Association members. The pandemic could also spell trouble for satellite services that are used by aviation, energy and maritime industries, all of which have been especially hard hit by the coronavirus.

STEM Competition Eyes the Moon. Students this summer will compete in a [virtual contest to put a person on the moon](#), in place of the Aerospace Industries Association’s annual in-person rocketry challenge, which was canceled because of the coronavirus. The trade group is partnering with Private Division, the publisher of the [Kerbal Space Program](#), to give more than 5,000 students a free copy of the aerospace simulation game. Teams will compete this month using the game to “design, test and fly their

mission to the moon” under a fixed-price contract. At the end of the competition, \$6,000 in prizes will be awarded to the top three teams.

2020 Election update.

On Monday, the [Supreme Court ruled](#) that states may require presidential electors to support the winner of the popular vote and punish or replace those who don’t. In the 2016 election, members of the electoral college from Washington cast votes for someone other than the state’s popular vote winner and were fined, while an elector from Colorado was replaced after saying they intended to cast their vote for someone else other than the state’s vote winner.

While the conventions for both parties are still a little over a month away, there are still several unknowns about each event. While some Democrats are concerned that the virtual “mini-conventions” won’t work, Republicans are looking at a large in-person event in a state that is seeing massive spikes of new Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations. So far, [six GOP senators](#) have said that [they will not attend](#) the Republican National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, next month. However, Sen. Susan Collins, who will not attend the convention, noted she does attend RNC conventions during her re-election years. Given that in-person, indoor events are causing spikes in some locations (the director of the Tulsa City-County Health Department said this week that [Tulsa has seen a record number](#) of new confirmed cases following the Trump campaign rally there), some states are taking measures to prevent large political gatherings. Attorneys in Jacksonville filed a lawsuit on Wednesday against the city to [block the GOP convention](#) from taking place there, while Republican officials are looking at the possibility of holding the [convention at an outdoor stadium](#). The mayor of Houston, another city experiencing a massive spike in new cases and hospitalizations, effectively [canceled the state GOP convention](#) scheduled for next week by instructing the venue operator to cancel the contract for the event; he did so after first asking the party to move the convention to a virtual format instead so that hospitality workers would not risk being exposed to the virus. *Bottom line:* Presidential election years are always a little chaotic, but the virus is adding an extra layer of uncertainty and confusion with the potential to turn a public health crisis into a partisan football and political events into a public health crisis.

Our favorite podcasts

The state of the defense industrial base supply chain has received a lot of attention during the pandemic, so the Aviation Week Check 6 podcast is taking a look at what happens with the aviation industry supply chain now. Listen [here](#).

And now for some cool space news...

If you get up before dawn over the next few days, you may have a chance to see [Comet Neowise](#). Best viewing is from a place without city lights and a clear view of the horizon to the east-northeast. While the comet is visible to the naked eye, you may want binoculars to help you find it at first (you will need binoculars or a telescope to see the comet’s split tail, though). If early mornings aren’t your thing, wait until July 12, [where it will be visible close to the northwest horizon just after sunset](#). It may be visible in the evening for about two weeks – the closest approach to Earth is on July 23 – but the comet will likely grow fainter later in the month. (You really want to look at both those links for the video and image, respectively, of the comet taken from the International Space Station.)

Upcoming conferences and other events of interest

- 7/13-7/17, 1pm, How COVID-19 is Reshaping National Security, hosted by Government Matters, Navy League of the United States and the Association of the United States Army. Each day features a different focus (full schedule and registration link is [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](#))
- 9/14 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](#))
- 10/15, 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 16, *Aviation Week*: [Researchers Face Tougher Hypersonic Barriers As Weapon Tests Loom](#)

July 2, *Breaking Defense*: [2019 Space Economy Solid; Pandemic A Double-Edged Sword](#)

July 2, *Roll Call*: [Senate undoes proposed power shift in nuclear arms budgeting](#)

July 2, *Space News*: [Commercial launch industry off to slow start in 2020](#)

July 3, *Defense News*: [Next-gen ICBM program survives defunding attempt in House panel](#)

July 3, *Foreign Policy*: [White House to Interview Defense Officials in Perceived Loyalty Test](#)

July 3, *Space News*: [British government and Bharti Global buy OneWeb, plan \\$1 billion investment to revive company](#)

July 4, *Space News*: [Rocket Lab Electron launch fails](#)

July 5, *The National Interest*: [Airline-Launched ICBMs? There's a Patent for That](#)

July 5, *AV Web*: [Sully Adds Voice To Lobby Against Potentially GPS-Jamming Cell Network](#)

July 6, *Space News*: [L3Harris developing a constellation of small spy satellites for U.S. Air Force](#)

July 6, *Roll Call*: [Issues linger after House Armed Services' smooth NDAA markup](#)

July 6, *Wall Street Journal*: [Palantir, One of Silicon Valley's Oldest Startups, Files to Go Public](#)

July 6, *C4ISRNet*: [Army on path to use space sensors to help guns on the ground see farther](#)

July 6, *Spaceflight Now*: [Chinese launches loft satellites to study space environment and observe Earth](#)

July 7, *Space News*: [OneWeb's revival worries astronomers](#)
July 7, *Breaking Defense*: [Future Missile War Needs New Kind Of Command: CSIS](#)
July 7, The Atlantic Council (report): [A global strategy for shaping the post-COVID-19 world](#)
July 8, *Space News*: [Three companies selected to develop military GPS handheld devices](#)
July 8, *Defense One*: [Biden Pledged to 'Prohibit' US Tech Companies From Helping China. It Won't Be Easy](#)
July 8, *War on the Rocks*: [Trump's Nuclear Test Would Risk Everything to Gain Nothing](#)
July 8, *The Cook Political Report*: [New July 2020 Electoral College Ratings](#)
July 8, *Defense News*: [DoD must modernize infrastructure to support cutting-edge technology research](#)
July 8, *Motherboard*: [A Strange Pair of Dead Stars Might Just Solve Key Mysteries of the Universe](#)
July 9, *Aviation Week*: [Why GPS Is Lagging The Competition And What To Do About It](#)
July 9, *Aviation Week*: [NASA Eyes Suborbital Human Spaceflight Services](#)
July 9, *The Washington Post*: [Biden releases U.S.-centered economic plan, challenging Trump's 'America First' agenda](#)
July 9, *Breaking Defense*: [Air Force Expands AI-Based Predictive Maintenance](#)
July 9, *Axios*: [Joint Chiefs chairman condemns Confederate symbols](#)
July 9, *Defense News*: [Pentagon reform boss on eliminating entire office: 'This is a guaranteed failure'](#)
July 9, *C4ISRNet*: [Space Force's stopgap polar communications system passes another milestone](#)
July 10, *Politico Pro*: [Pentagon invests \\$84M in industrial base using the Defense Production Act](#)
July 10, *Breaking Defense*: [Iridium Publicly Threatens Lawsuit To Overturn FCC's Ligado Vote](#)

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