From:	Meltwater Newsletters
To:	Keefe, Gary W Maj Gen USAF NG MAANG (USA)
Subject:	NGB Public Affairs Update 30 July 2026
Date:	Thursday, July 30, 2026 7:00:37 AM

NGB Public Affairs Update

TODAY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR

• War Secretary Pete Hegseth has no public or media events on his schedule.
• Deputy Secretary Steve Feinberg has no public or media events on his schedule.
• Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Dan Caine has no public or media events on his schedule.
• Vice Chairman Marine Corps Gen. Christopher Mahoney has no public or media events on his schedule.
• Chief, National Guard Bureau Air Force Gen. Steven S. Nordhaus is traveling.

Military-Wide News

The Hill - July 29, 2026

US military launches strikes on Iran in retaliation for attacks on US base in Jordan

The U.S. military began conducting airstrikes against Iran late Wednesday in retaliation for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) attacking a U.S. base in Jordan the day before. The U.S. forces began firing at 8 p.m., according to the U.S. Central Command (Centcom).#US military#US military

New York Post - July 29, 2026

US has used up two-thirds of its critical Patriot missile interceptors since Iran War started: report

The US has used up two-thirds of its critical Patriot missile interceptors since the Iran War started — and the current tit-for-tat drone and missile strikes across the region are further depleting them. Prior to the war, the US had more than 2,700 missiles for the Patriot and anti-ballistic THAAD systems on hand. As of Monday the supply has plummeted to fewer than 1,000,#Pentagon#Pentagon

The New York Times - July 29, 2026

Families Face Anxiety, Angst as Loved Ones Are Deployed to Fight Iran

More than 80 percent of military families have reported elevated stress from the war with Iran, driven by safety concerns, deployment changes, and the fear of escalation, according to a March poll of an estimated 200 families by Blue Star Families. As the war with Iran persists, mental health counselors say they are attending to more military families who are reporting stress and anxiety about a conflict that has taken the lives of at least 18 service members and wounded more than 400.#Pentagon#Pentagon

Reuters - July 29, 2026

SpaceX gets $1.6 billion US Space Force order for 18 Falcon 9 launches

SpaceX won $1.6 billion in orders from the U.S. Space Force on Wednesday to launch 18 Falcon 9 missions through 2027 carrying Pentagon satellites for detecting and targeting airborne objects. The 18 missions were assigned to SpaceX across two task orders under the U.S. Space Force's flagship launch procurement program, in which SpaceX, United Launch Alliance, Blue Origin and other U.S. launch firms inducted into the program jockey for lucrative mission assignments.#Pentagon#Pentagon

Newsweek - July 29, 2026

The US Is Running Low on Ammo—That's Not Even Trump's Top Iran War Problem

A "surprise" Iranian missile salvo targeting U.S. bases in the Middle East amid a new White House pivot to diplomacy marks the latest test for the United States' dwindling munitions stockpiles. That alone marks a major concern for President Donald Trump's administration as it oscillates between vows of war and peace. It's not just markets in disarray over the Persian Gulf crisis; military replenishment simply cannot keep up.#Pentagon, #Department of Defense, #Parnell, #Secretary of Defense#Pentagon, #Department of Defense, #Parnell, #Secretary of Defense

The Hill - July 29, 2026

Pentagon: New casualty category for renewed Iran fighting tied to end of Operation Epic Fury

The Pentagon said its new category for the number of U.S. deaths and injuries to service members for renewed fighting with Iran is tied to the end of Operation Epic Fury. The department removed the four service members who died and dozens of those injured in the recent fighting against Iran from the Pentagon's Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) — its public database to track war deaths and injuries — and put them in a new rubric titled "Overseas Operations."#Pentagon, #Hegseth#Pentagon, #Hegseth

Task & Purpose - July 29, 2026

Iraq once again becomes a battlefield in the Iran war

Iraq is proving to be a central front in the ongoing war between Iran and the United States once again. On Tuesday U.S. and Saudi fighters carried out airstrikes against Iranian-backed groups that the U.S. military says were responsible for recent drone attacks against U.S. forces and Saudi energy infrastructure.#Defense Department, #Hegseth, #Pentagon#Defense Department, #Hegseth, #Pentagon

Air Force Times - July 29, 2026

Program offering free food to moving military families expands to four more states

Military families relocating to four more areas can receive a $125 grocery stipend to redeem for food, beverages and baby essentials, according to the nonprofit Military Family Advisory Network. New programs have launched at Naval Station Norfolk and the Hampton Roads area in Virginia, as well as at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. Programs launch within the next few weeks at installations in the San Diego, California, area and around Seattle and Tacoma, Washington.#Air Force Base#Air Force Base

Air Force Times - July 29, 2026

US military may require some troops in Mideast to surrender cell phones, sources say

The top U.S. commander for the Middle East has warned troops that cellphone videos shared online can help Iran target American bases, and sources told Reuters some deployed personnel could soon be ordered to surrender their phones. Any crackdown on mobile communications would add a new dimension to the conflict for the thousands of U.S. troops in the region, many of whom still rely on phones to periodically message loved ones and assure them they are well.#Air Base#Air Base

National Guard News

Idaho Statesman - July 29, 2026

‘Catastrophic:’ Idaho declares Big Grass Fire emergency as homes, cattle are lost

Idaho Gov. Brad Little signed a disaster emergency declaration to support firefighting efforts in areas impacted by the Big Grass Fire and recovery efforts for the now-contained Turner Fire in Boundary County, in far-north Idaho. He also authorized the deployment of Idaho National Guard resources to assist with the Big Grass Fire.#National Guard#National Guard

Israel Defense - July 30, 2026

Mobilicom Brings Next-Generation Battlefield Connectivity to U.S. National Guard Exercise

Mobilicom, an Israeli provider of cybersecure, resilient solutions for the defense, commercial drone, and robotics markets, announced that it will demonstrate its next-generation tactical edge technology at Northern Strike 2026, one of the National Guard’s largest joint readiness exercises. The joint demonstration with U.S.-based Reverent Networks will take place in early August.##

WCAV-TV - July 29, 2026

Wintergreen hosts National Guard for wildfire training

Residents of Nelson County may have seen several Black Hawk helicopters flying around the region Wednesday. It was all part of training to help protect Virginia in the event of a wildfire. Sheets also said the Army National Guard comes to Wintergreen several times a year to train. Wednesday's exercise focused on wildfire suppression in the mountains using specially rigged Black Hawk helicopters. It is a partnership that benefited both sides. While Wintergreen gained crews who knew the area, Maintenance Test Pilot Robert Dougherty said the National Guard got to train in one of the region's most challenging environments.##

Big Island Video News - July 29, 2026

Hawai‘i National Guard Fights Kohala Wildland Fire In Operation Ho‘opauahi – Big Island Video News

The Hawai‘i National Guard provided Hawai‘i County with helicopter support under Operation Ho‘opauahi to help fight the Kawaihae Road fire on July 26. A Black Hawk helicopter conducted 22 fire-suppressing missions, totaling over 14,520 gallons of water dropped on the fire. The wildland fire burned hundreds of acres in South Kohala and forced the evacuation of the Kawaihae Village Subdivision overnight. The evacuation order was lifted the next day.

Idaho Capital Sun - July 29, 2026

Woman files $3 million claim against Idaho National Guard for detaining her in D.C.

A woman has filed a $3 million legal claim against the Idaho National Guard for injuries and distress she said she experienced after guardsmen detained her at her home in Washington, D.C., in May. The filing said two Idaho guardsmen were involved in the incident. Idaho is one of more than 20 states that have chosen to send National Guard members to the nation’s capital as part of a Joint Task Force. As of July 28, there were 99 Idaho National Guard members there, according to the D.C. National Guard.

Your Alaska Link - July 29, 2026

Alaska National Guard rescues nine people in three missions statewide

Alaska National Guard rescue crews helped save nine people during three separate missions across the state over a four-day period. Between July 23 and July 26, Alaska Air National Guard and Alaska Army National Guard crews responded to three rescue missions coordinated through the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center.

Army News

Stars and Stripes - July 29, 2026

Army deactivates unit with ties to the Buffalo Soldiers

One of the cavalry units with ties to the renowned Buffalo Soldiers deactivated Wednesday. Members of the 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, honored the squadron's 160-year legacy during Project Convergence-Capstone 6 at Fort Irwin, Calif., on Tuesday, according to an Army statement.#Brigade Combat Team, #Soldier#Brigade Combat Team, #Soldier

Military.com - July 29, 2026

22-Year Army Veteran Becomes First Honoree in New National '50 Heroes, 50 States' Campaign

Retired U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Mary L. Autrey of Indianapolis, Indiana, never imagined she would receive a national honor for volunteering out of the goodness of her heart. She's the first "Hero" in the HeroByApp™ Community Heroes Program, established to celebrate veterans, first responders, teachers and everyday change makers who are considered unsung heroes in communities across the country.#Soldier#Soldier

Military Watch Magazine - July 30, 2026

U.S. Army Investing Record $58.6 Billion to Restock the Patriot Missile Arsenals Iran Depleted

The U.S. Army has awarded Lockheed Martin a contract worth up to $58.6 billion to produce PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) interceptors for the MIM-104 Patriot long range air defence system, which represents by far the largest procurement agreement ever signed for the missile type. The award comes as the Pentagon seeks to rapidly rebuild inventories depleted by extensive combat operations in Iran and continuing military assistance to Ukraine, while also preparing for the possibility of future high-intensity conflicts. The extraordinary pace at which interceptor inventories have been expended, and the PAC-3 MSE's average cost of $3.871 million each, has made sustaining inventories particularly expensive.

CDO Magazine - July 30, 2026

US Army Upgrades AI Recruiting Chatbot to 'Staff Sgt. Star'

The U.S. Army has upgraded its AI-powered recruiting chatbot from Sgt. Star to Staff Sgt. Star, expanding its capabilities to help recruiters quickly access policy guidance and complete recruiting-related tasks. Currently supporting about 12,000 users, Staff Sgt. Star is expected to serve as many as 28,000 authorized users by November.

Army Recognition - July 27, 2026

U.S. Army Begins Final Transformation of 3rd Armored Brigade from Abrams Tanks to Stryker 8x8 Vehicles.

The U.S. Army has begun the final phase of transforming the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, from a heavy armored force equipped with Abrams tanks and Bradley infantry fighting vehicles into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team, a move that will significantly improve its strategic mobility and rapid deployment capability. The conversion, now underway at Fort Carson, Colorado, marks one of the Army's most important force structure changes in recent years as it reshapes combat formations for faster response and sustained operations across the Pacific and sustaining regional presence and responsiveness.##

Air Force News

Stars and Stripes - July 30, 2026

Air Force may cut back on Pacific drills to preserve near-term 'readiness'

Pacific Air Forces is considering reducing its exercise volume to preserve "readiness" as the service continues to conduct operations for the Iran war and in the Middle East. The command is "taking a hard look at our exercises," PACAF Commander Gen. Kevin Schneider said. "We do 45 [exercises] in PACAF, give or take a couple every year, and that's a lot."##

Army Recognition Group - July 30, 2026

U.S. Air Force Eyes a Vertical Takeoff Bomber for Indo-Pacific Operations.

The U.S. Air Force is studying a vertical takeoff and landing strategic strike aircraft capable of flying long-range missions without relying on conventional runways. The concept could strengthen U.S. operational flexibility in the Indo-Pacific, where major air bases may be vulnerable during a high-intensity conflict. The early-stage effort reflects the Air Force's search for new ways to sustain long-range strike operations from dispersed locations if traditional airfields are damaged or inaccessible. While the B-21 Raider remains the backbone of the future bomber fleet, officials are also examining whether advanced vertical takeoff technology could provide an additional option for penetrating contested environments and expanding strategic strike capabilities.##

Stock Titan - July 30, 2026

Red Cat Receives $2.49 Million U.S. Air Force Order for Black Widow Systems

Red Cat announced that its Teal Drones subsidiary received a $2.49 million firm-fixed-price contract from the U.S. Air Force for Black Widow small unmanned aircraft systems, training and related support. The order covers systems, train-the-trainer support, batteries, spares and shipping. The U.S. Air Force Security Forces Center will use the equipment for a technical and operational assessment of Black Widow as a potential successor to its current Teal 2 fleet across active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Black Widow is described as Red Cat's flagship short-range reconnaissance system and the U.S. Army's selected platform for its Short Range Reconnaissance Program. Contract delivery is scheduled by August 24, 2026.##

Simple Flying - July 30, 2026

Why The US Air Force's New Combat Drone Still Can't Fire Without A Human's Approval

Anduril Industries, in partnership with the United States Air Force (USAF), is making rapid progress toward realizing the Loyal Wingman concept, which is expected to play a significant role in future conflicts. This pivotal advancement in capability is intended to provide fighter pilots with attendant drones that will enhance their effectiveness in combat. Very recently, Anduril's YFQ-44A Fury drone made headlines after successfully launching an advanced air-to-air missile, demonstrating its ability to perform a complex combat-related mission.##

KY3 - July 29, 2026

'It saves countless jobs': New fighter jets headed to Whiteman Air Force Base

The Department of the Air Force has selected Whiteman as the only location to receive 24 F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jets. The decision saves the 442nd Fighter Wing from being phased out alongside its aging fleet of A-10 Thunderbolt IIs. The transition to the new F-15E fleet is scheduled to begin in 2031.

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