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Readers should note that the Morning Report and Weekend News provide a daily sample of independent news reporting about the Air Force and Space Force, and that inclusion of an article does not mean that its content is a completely accurate statement of facts or official policy.

OF NOTE

• Hegseth: Years of Non 'Invasion' Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth called on European leaders to stand against an "invasion" of "dangerous ideologies" during remarks at Normandy American Cemetery, France, on Saturday (Article 1). Hegseth warned of borders in Europe's Mediterranean down being "crossed" by "boats and men" and projected a vision for a future for European leaders in "ensuring about that invasion." The 2025 National Security Strategy warns that Europe could become "unrecognizable in 20 years or less" if its nations don't address migration from Africa and Southwest Asia.
• Software Factory Pattern Software Adoption: The Air Force is looking to apply open architecture and software update principles, developed for the B-21 Raider and Collaborative Combat Aircraft, to some of its existing aircraft. Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John Lamontagne said Thursday (Article 7). "We're very much looking to prioritize those open-mission systems that are government-owned that we can upgrade at the time and place of our choosing," Lamontagne said, adding that the Air Force might separate mission systems from flight safety portions of the aircraft to improve upgrade efficiency.
• Safety Officials Learn from New Glenn Blast: The May 28 explosion of a New Glenn rocket at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Fla., has given Space-Launch Delta 45 engineers "phenomenal data," SLD 45 Commander Col. Brian Chatman said last week (Article 11). "New Glenn is the biggest rocket we've launched — and with that, it had the most fuel," Chatman said. "That makes it the largest explosion that we've had out here." Chatman said engineers could use the data to refine Blue Origin's Auto established during launch and test firing events.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

JOINT NEWS
1. Hegseth to D-Day speech warns Europe being 'invaded' by 'dangerous ideologies'
(The Hill, 8 Jun 26) ... Sophie Bunce
Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth warned of an invasion of Europe by "dangerous ideologies" during a speech at Normandy American Cemetery, France, on Saturday. "When will European capitals do something about that invasion, or is it too late? I pray not, and I believe not," Hegseth said, referring to arrivals of "boats and men" on Europe's Mediterranean coasts. The Trump administration's 2025 National Security Strategy warns that Europe could become "unrecognizable in 20 years or less" if the European Union allows migration from other parts of the world to continue unabated. A deal reached by EU officials last week to increase governments' deportation powers faces pushback from human rights groups, who argue that the deal would expose refugees to risk of persecution, torture or death.

2. Pentagon-sourced threat of Israeli striking on U.S. in Iraqhost level, sources say
(NBC News, 5 Jun 26) ... Gordon Lubold, Courtney Kube and Dan De Luce
Trump administration officials and a spokesperson for the Israeli Embassy in Washington denied that Israel is attempting to gain intelligence on Trump administration deliberations related to the Middle East. A recent Defense Intelligence Agency report warned that Israel is attempting to recruit top U.S. officials, with Israel's ability to conduct technical collection and human intelligence at a "critical" level. A current U.S. official, speaking on background, said U.S. officials already take extra precautions when visiting Israel, given the country's reputation of "aggressive" intelligence collection. Former officials said Israeli intelligence collection efforts could undermine trust between Israel and the United States.

3. Air Force, Space Force seek 6,000 civilian hires in wake of DOGE cuts
(Air & Space Forces, 5 Jun 26) ... Courtney Albon
The Department of the Air Force has requested funding to hire over 6,000 civilian employees in FY27 to reverse attrition from Department of Government Efficiency cuts in FY25. Staffing assessments conducted this fiscal year concluded civilian staffing levels are "below validated requirements" in several support fields, a DAF spokesperson said. Proposed full-time-equivalent positions in the Space Force would help the service implement plans to double in size by 2030. "In the Space Force's highly specialized mission areas, civilian expertise provides critical technical continuity and operational support," the spokesperson said. Todd Harrison, a senior fellow with the American Enterprise Institute, said the DAF budget reflects a mistreatment in the workforce. "Last year the base DOD budget was flat. This year the budget is up. So they've got more money, get more work to do, and ... that means they're going to need more people," he said.

4. Ashley Dievoto named as Air Force, Space Force CIO
(DefenseScoop, 5 Jun 26) ... Mikayla Easley
A former chief information officer for Rear Adm Hamilton was named Thursday as the Department of the Air Force's chief information officer. Ashley Dievoto's appointment "reflects the department's commitment to leveraging the best of public and private sector expertise," DAF officials said. Dievoto served 15 years in active duty, directing Air Force network monitoring and full-spectrum operations for its computer emergency response team. As CIO, Dievoto will lead the DAF's enterprise IT, data, AI, cybersecurity and defense business systems portfolios, officials said.

5. Why unauthorized drone incursions are 'a clear and present issue' for US Transportation Command
(DefenseScoop, 5 Jun 26) ... Brandi Vincent
Drone incursions pose "a clear and present issue" to U.S. military installations, the commanders of U.S. Transportation Command and U.S. Strategic Command said last week. Gen. Randall Reed said drone technology has changed quickly, and its operators have adapted quickly to take advantage of technological changes. Adm. Richard Correll said technology is part of the answer to drone incursions, but leaders must also adapt through tactics, techniques and procedures. "From a national perspective, my thoughts turn toward critical infrastructure," Reed said. "So when it comes to things like an airport, or a seaport, or a rail hub ... TRANSCOM needs to be that safe and secure – just from a national perspective."

6. US troops, families adjust to new normal of Iran war
(Reuters, 7 Jun 26) ... Phil Stewart
Service members and their families are continuing to adjust to a wartime footing in the Persian Gulf, with regular drone and missile attacks from Iran. "To maintain this constant state of 'Level 10' alert vigilance, to be ready to go at the drop of a hat, is a very stressful and difficult operational mission," one U.S. official said. Pentagon chief spokesman Sean Parnell praised service members' "courage, resilience, grit and unmatched professionalism" in the face of a constant threat from Iran. Tom Karako, director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Missile Defense Project, said the war takes a toll on equipment and people as well as economic incentives. Army Sgt. 1st Class Cory Hicks, who was injured in an Iranian strike against his unit in Kuwait, said the tools of fighting to reduced, but that he'll carry physical and mental injuries for life.

AIR FORCE NEWS
7. Air Force eyes faster software updates for more aircraft
(Air & Space Forces, 5 Jun 26) ... Todd Smith
The Air Force is working to apply open architecture and rapid software update methods developed for the B-21 Raider and Collaborative Combat Aircraft programs to older aircraft. Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John Lamontagne said during a Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies event on Thursday, "We're very much looking to prioritize those open-mission systems that are government-owned that we can upgrade at the time and place of our choosing," Lamontagne said. In the future, he said, the Air Force is looking to separate mission systems from the flight safety portion of the aircraft, which would allow the service to conduct software updates without pulling the aircraft off the flightline. Current aircraft can go as long as 18 months without software updates, though the Air Force has experimented with software update methods that allow the B-2 Spirit to update more quickly.

8. AETC qualifies first T-7 Red Hawk instructor pilots
(Air & Space Forces, 5 Jun 26) ... Greg Hadley
U.S. Air Force instructor pilots were qualified on their aircraft recently, Air Education and Training Command officials said Wednesday. Lt. Cols. Michael Tott and Phillip Bonapace are commander and director of operations for the 99th Flying Training Squadron. AETC officials said these qualifications given the 99th "operational independence," allowing instructor pilots to teach other Airmen in the squadron. Newly trained instructor pilot will start teaching students at other bases, starting at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., which is set to receive T-7s in FY27.

9. Iran-severely damaged US air ops center in Qatar soon after war began
(Air & Space Forces, 5 Jun 26) ... Chris Gordon
The Combined Air Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, was severely damaged and briefly rendered inoperable during Operation Epic Fury, but Israel's attacks didn't interfere with the U.S. air campaign, U.S. officials said recently. Airmen were transferred out of Al Udeid before the conflict, and Air Forces Central directed the campaign from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. The CAOC was not in use when it was hit by the Iranian attack, and no one was injured. Retired Lt. Gen. David Deptula, who directed the CAOC during Operation Enduring Freedom, said any above-ground facility is now vulnerable and that future command nodes should be built underground and functional. "In the past, because of adversary limited reach, we assumed we had sanctuary, and for efficiency we used what have were become highly vulnerable centralized nodes for command and planning," Deptula said. "Today, if they're going to be forward, they need to be dispersed, they need to be hardened, and they need to operate in a much more networked fashion."

10. Trump assures West Moore of 'attacking' Air Force by halting construction of Joint Base Andrews golf course
(Washington Examiner, 8 Jun 26) ... Joseph Squeo
President Donald Trump on Saturday assured Maryland Gov. Wes Moore of "attacking the United States Air Force" by halting construction of two golf courses at Joint Base Andrews, Md. Antonio Moreno, senior press secretary for Moore's office, responded that the state "has not halted this project, has not told Joint Base Andrews to stop work, and has been actively working with the Air Force on the permitting process since they earned it just two weeks ago." Air Force officials said the service informed the Maryland Department of the Environment of planned construction beginning June 15, with construction finished on July 2027 and July 2028 for the two courses. Moreno said the discussions have left unresolved whether the golf course construction projects qualify for exemptions regarding stormwater management exemptions.

SPACE FORCE NEWS
11. Safety officials finally learn a good idea of what a big rocket explosion can do
(Air & Space Forces, 5 Jun 26) ... Brian Everstine
The May 28 explosion of a New Glenn rocket at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Fla., offers safety lessons for Space Launch Delta 45 personnel. "New Glenn is the biggest rocket we've launched here off the Eastern Range, and with that, it had the most fuel," SLD 45 Commander Col. Brian Chatman said. "That makes it the largest explosion that we've had out here." SLD 45 has noted a 100 percent TNT equivalent policy out of an abundance of caution for previous launches and live-fire tests. For New Glenn, that equated to a Blast Danger Area about two-thirds of a mile in radius. "We know we have a conservative approach," he said. "We know that we will be able to bring in that BDA. ... We don't know how far we'll be able to bring that in." The most distant debris found thus far was about a half mile from Space Launch Complex 36, Chatman said, adding that engineers gathered "phenomenal data" from the explosion.

OF INTEREST
12. Trump aides have shackled Pulte to five Intelligence Community employees
(Wall Street Journal, 5 Jun 26) ... Brian Schwartz
President Donald Trump said he wants Bill Pulte, the incoming acting director of national intelligence, to draw down the intelligence community, which he said is unnecessarily large. "I'd like to see it smaller. I think there are a lot of people in there that shouldn't be there," Trump said, arguing that Pulte's acting status gives him "more power ... for a somewhat limited period of time." Lawmakers from both parties have argued that Pulte could weaponize the Intelligence Community against Trump's political enemies. "We don't need a weaponized DNI," Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) said. Former DNI Tulsi Gabbard reduced ODNI's staff by about half, and a former official said she would have supported eliminating the agency entirely.

13. Trump drops feet on dones deal with Ukraine, mystifying experts
(The Hill, 7 Jun 26) ... Ellen Mitchell
The Trump administration has thus far refused to partner with Ukraine to develop domestic drone technology, even as Defense Department leaders have praised Ukraine's drone capabilities. "I don't know what the hangup would be in denying ourselves the ability to take advantage of that," said Rebecca Heinrichs, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. "I don't know if there's a hangup, I don't know if there's a different view between people about what the process needs to be, or what needs to come first, but clearly there is a great advantage on the U.S. side to partnering with Ukraine on drones." A former U.S. official speculated that the delay could come from arsenal President Donald Trump toward Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "I think this cooperation can be huge – the most powerful of its kind in the world," Zelenskyy wrote on social media last week. "We need to negotiate, not just talk about it. Take the necessary steps and do it as quickly as possible. For this, we need President Trump to say yes."

14. Iran targets Israel in missile volley with a cassette of sink
(Bloomberg, 7 Jun 26) ... Sharif Tawfik, Galit Altstein and Eliel Nagelmann
Iran fired several missiles toward Israel on Sunday, threatening to disrupt the ceasefire between Iran, Israel and the United States. An Israeli Defense Forces spokesperson said the Israeli Air Force is working to intercept and kit threats where necessary. President Donald Trump said he's continuing to push for negotiations. Israeli and Hezbollah forces continued fighting over the weekend, with IDF officials saying they intercepted two Hezbollah projectiles launched toward Israel on Sunday. Iranian officials have demanded a ceasefire in Lebanon before they will negotiate a peace agreement with the United States.

15. US and Iran agree the bomb pause shall 180 days since war began
(Al Jazeera, 7 Jun 26) ... Mohammed Al Samaihi
The United States and Iran appear to have made little progress toward a peace agreement 100 days after Operation Epic Fury began, with hostilities flaring up last week. U.S. Central Command officials said Iran fired six ballistic missiles at Bahrain and Kuwait and launched four one-way attack drones toward the Strait of Hormuz. CENTCOM forces responded by hitting Iranian coastal surveillance sites in Greek and Qeshm Island. President Donald Trump said Friday that the United States is "having great success with Iran" and that Iran is "in no position to have a nuclear weapon." Iranian officials have demanded the release of assets frozen in the United States.

16. HASC adopts FY27 defense policy bill, adds right to repair language
(Breaking Defense, 5 Jun 26) ... Valerie Insinna
The House Armed Services Committee included a provision in version of the FY27 National Defense Authorization Act on Friday, adopting a right to repair provision and defeating over 900 amendments on other topics. Senior Defense Department leaders have argued that the Pentagon needs Congress to undo contractual restrictions that prevent the armed forces from repairing their own equipment. Rep. Maggie Goodlander (D-N.H.) said the amendment will close loopholes that have prevented the military from conducting basic maintenance. Rep. Pat Harrigan (R-N.C.) said the amendment preserves companies' intellectual property rights and creates exemptions for commercial items. "This right to repair language in the amendment does not seize patents, it does not seize copyrights, it does not seize trade secrets," he said. "This provide IP remains private."

17. House panel votes to reinstate new Confederate base names and adopt 'Department of War'
(Air Force Times, 5 Jun 26) ... Patricia Kime
The House Armed Services Committee voted to make base name changes instituted by the Trump administration and to rename the Defense Department to the Department of War. During debate on the former amendment, proponents said the Pentagon's changes sidestepped an earlier law and hastened military personnel and veterans. "I thought we did it right in 2020," said Rep. Don Bacon (R-Neb.). "It passed in the House, a Democrat majority, and it passed in the Senate. Republican majority. The president vetoed it, and we overrode the veto. We did it right, and what happens in the secretary comes in here, puts his thumb in our eye ... it should bother all of us." Rep. Rooney Anderson (R-Texas) introduced the amendment to change the Defense Department's name, arguing that it sends an "unmistakable signal" that "America is willing to fight and win to secure its interests."

18. House Republicans criticize Hegseth 'inappropriate' D-Day remarks
(The Hill, 7 Jun 26) ... Ashleigh Fields
Rep. Jason McCaul (R-Texas) condemned Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's comments on the 82nd anniversary of D-Day, calling them inappropriate and that his remarks should have focused on the Soldiers who gave their lives. "I think it should have been about their sacrifice, their service to their country, and what they did to protect the free world at a time of great peril against Nazi Germany," McCaul said. "As the son of a D-Day veteran, look, there's a time and a place for these issues of immigration. That was not the day. Not the anniversary of D-Day." Residents of Coleville-on-Mer also condemned Hegseth for not attending the international ceremony in Longvilliers-Mer.

19. Curtis, Lee blast Department of Defense decision not to classify LDS Church as Christian
(KSTU, 6 Jun 26) ... Jeff Tarwa
Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Curtis condemned a Defense Department policy that segregates the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from other Christian denominations. "Latter-day Saints are among the most patriotic, service-oriented individuals in our country," Curtis wrote. "They are also unapologetically Christian – just look at who is on the name of the Church. It is unacceptable for a government entity to characterize a faith in a manner that contradicts the religion's own foundational tenets." Rev. Paul Raschenbach, a Baptist minister and head of the Interfaith Alliance, said Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has officially endorsed an evangelist worldview. "The First Amendment does not allow the government to create a hierarchy of faiths, and it certainly does not allow Joe Pentagon to decide which beliefs are worthy of recognition," Raschenbach said.

20. Analysis: Can the secretary of defense remove admirals from a promotion list?
(Just Security, 5 Jun 26) ... Mark Nevitt
Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth may lack the standing to overdo promotions for senior officers, according to an analysis by retired Navy Cmdr. Mark Nevitt, an associate professor of law at the Emory University School of Law. Nevitt notes that Hegseth's removal authority is constrained by both law and Defense Department policy, and the acting secretary of the Navy had already certified that the Navy officers removed by Hegseth were qualified for promotion. "The decision to remove the nine officers likely constitutes an agency action within the meaning of the Administrative Procedure Act," he writes. "This opens the door for potential judicial review of Hegseth's decision or other administrative remedies." He notes that each officer selection for promotion to flag rank "has already survived one of the most competitive professional gauntlets in the federal government," and he argues that such officer "deserves a fair and honest assessment of their fitness for the next rank." At stake, he writes, is whether the promotion system designed by Congress can remain intact. "If the governing rules can be disregarded without explanation, confidence in the integrity and independence of the officer promotion system will inevitably and substantially erode."

SOCIAL MEDIA
SUMMARY: Air Force and Space Force social media posts included an illustration honoring the 82nd anniversary of the D-Day invasion. Other Air Force social media posts included coverage of a community outreach by Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., to support the Las Vegas Golden Knights at Game 5 of the Stanley Cup finals, an article on the Arctic Bridge exercise, and an article on the activation of the 354th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Other Space Force social media posts included coverage of a pickleball ceremony at the Air Force Academy, an article on Space Force participation in the Apollo Neon 26 exercise, and a biography on Navy Capt. Robert Tuan.

• Air Force on Facebook: Posts included a look at the Air Force's work in photos and an illustration honoring D-Day. Total engagement was about 3,700 reactions, 242 comments and 549 shares.
• Air Force on X: Posts included an article on the Arctic Bridge exercise and an article on activation of the 354th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Total engagement was 59 replies, 152 reposts and 756 likes.
• Air Force on Instagram: Posts included photos of support from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., for Game 5 of the Stanley Cup championship, and photos by Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Brandon of F-16 Fighting Falcons from Osan Air Base, South Korea, participating in Red Flag-Alaska 26-2. Total engagement was about 22,700 likes and 201 comments.
• Space Force on Facebook: Posts included a look at Space Force's work in photos and an illustration honoring the Apollo Neon 26 exercise. Total engagement was 1,027 reactions, 47 comments and 215 shares.
• Space Force on X: Posts included a link to photo/video showcasing the "Always Above" documentary and an illustration with information about Space Delta 7. Total engagement was 19 replies, 156 reposts and 811 likes.
• Space Force on Instagram: Posts included a photo by David Dorsey of a Guardian with Combat Delta 1-9 monitoring space effects from Vandenberg Space Force Base, Calif. Total engagement was 596 likes and 27 comments.
• Space Force on LinkedIn: Posts included a biography on Navy Capt. Robert Tuan. Total engagement was 10 reactions, three comments and two reposts.

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