From:	Meltwater Newsletters
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Subject:	NGB Public Affairs Update 25 June 2026
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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 has no public or media events on his schedule.

Military-Wide News

- June 25, 2026

House appropriators approve $1T defense bill, adopt 'War Department' renaming

The House Appropriations Committee adopted its $1 trillion defense spending bill for fiscal 2027, after Republicans batted back every single Democrat-offered amendment and passed a measure to rename the Defense Department as the "Department of War."

The New York Times - June 24, 2026

NATO's Leader Makes His Case to Trump for Preserving the Alliance

President Trump was launching into a litany of complaints about NATO allies on Wednesday afternoon in the Oval Office when the organization's secretary general, Mark Rutte, interrupted to show him some charts. Mr. Rutte, a former prime minister of the Netherlands who has gained a reputation as the European leader most skilled at managing Mr. Trump's moods and critiques, had come prepared with props. Setting up posters in the Oval Office to "show you what this president was able to achieve," his charts showed a surge in current and anticipated European defense spending.

The Hill - June 24, 2026

GOP fiscal hawks largely unmoved by Hegseth's defense dollars pitch

The Trump administration is struggling to convince GOP lawmakers to back President Trump's $1.5 trillion defense budget in addition to tens of billions of dollars to fund the Iran war. Both Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth were on Capitol Hill Wednesday to shore up support for the request, among other issues, with the Pentagon chief giving a classified briefing to dozens of House Republicans before meeting with House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.).

Fox News Channel - June 24, 2026

Trump seeks $672M to stop Iranian nukes as fate of uranium stockpile remains unresolved

The Trump administration is seeking $672 million for the removal of Iranian nuclear materials, inspections and verification efforts, and other counterproliferation activities as part of its broader $80 billion supplemental funding request, Fox News Digital has learned. The funding would support the removal and elimination of Iranian nuclear materials, including uranium hexafluoride (UF6), uranium in various forms and research reactor fuel, including highly enriched uranium, according to details shared by a White House official.

New York Post - June 24, 2026

Anthropic's 'Mythos' sniffed out vulnerabilities in classified US government systems within hours: report

Anthropic's powerful "Mythos" AI model was reportedly able to find vulnerabilities in highly secure US government systems within just a few hours — the latest development to stoke security concerns about the product. During tests conducted by US intelligence agencies, Mythos identified certain vulnerabilities in government systems within hours – though that does not mean the bot would be able to exploit those same sensitivities within that timeframe, the Associated Press reported this week. Those tests were part of an Anthropic initiative known as Project Glasswing, which partnered with other companies and agencies to resolve potential security concerns – following reports Anthropic's Mythos and "Fable" were so advanced that they could spark an AI doomsday.

The New York Times - June 24, 2026

OPINION: 7 Lessons and Consequences of the Iran War

Let's assume, for now, that the Iran war is actually over — that the "memorandum of understanding" will be honored, that Israel will cease its attacks on Lebanon, and that Iran will relinquish military control over the Strait of Hormuz. Perhaps this is an unsafe bet. But if it is over, what kind of war was it?

New York Post - June 25, 2026

Iran's 'jellyfish drone' sighting warns of a whole new type of frightening military threat
This week's report of a downed US pilot's encounter with "jellyfish drones" in the skies over Iran set off a vigorous defense debate — and foreshadows future dangers. A source told CNN that the F-15 pilot described seeing "multiple drones interconnected and moving as one, with smaller drones below the bigger drones like legs" before the jet crashed near the Zagros Mountains. "Real alien sh-t," as the pilot put it. But experts are divided about what exactly the pilot saw, and whether it represents a new type of threat. The description is highly reminiscent of previous sightings of what looked like giant aerial jellyfish over both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fox News Channel - June 25, 2026
Watchdog report alleges red-state university trained executives tied to China's defense sector
A public university in the American heartland spent more than two decades educating executives tied to China's military-industrial complex through a business program that allegedly received taxpayer support, a new watchdog report claims.

National Guard News

The New York Times - June 25, 2026
Senate Democrats Will Train Staff as Election Observers
Senate Democrats plan to announce on Thursday that they will create a program to train congressional staff to serve as election observers, warning that President Trump may attempt to interfere with the results of the midterm elections. Mr. Trump signed a legally questionable executive order aimed restricting some mail-in ballots, one that the Postal Service has cited as it proposed not delivering mail-in ballots in states that decline to hand over voter information to the federal government. The president has also said that he regretted not sending the National Guard to seize voting machines after the 2020 presidential election.

Indiana Capital Chronicle - June 25, 2026
Public camping ban, military police and other laws go into effect July 1
The Indiana National Guard's adjutant general can establish a military police force under House Enrolled Act 1343. Members of the force, when authorized, will be able to make arrests, conduct searches and seizures, carry a firearm and conduct other police powers. It's up to the governor to authorize the force to operate either throughout the state or in a specific area, giving "reasonable notice to local law enforcement agencies."

Army News

Task & Purpose - June 24, 2026
Pentagon partially rolls back voluntary flu vaccine policy
After a trainee died following a flu outbreak at Air Force basic training, the Pentagon issued exceptions to "safeguard at-risk populations." The Pentagon has partially backpedaled on its voluntary flu vaccine policy, which Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced in April, handing at least some control of vaccine policy back to the services. A Pentagon official confirmed to Task & Purpose that all military recruits need to get flu shots for basic training under the exceptions to the policy.

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