From:	Meltwater Newsletters
To:	Keefe, Gary W Maj Gen USAF NG MAANG (USA)
Subject:	NGB Public Affairs Update 24 June 2026
Date:	Wednesday, June 24, 2026 7:00:46 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 has no public or media events on his schedule.

Military-Wide News

NBC News - June 24, 2026

Top Army general who was last US soldier to leave Afghanistan is suddenly leaving his post

The Army's commander of its forces in Europe and Africa — who was famously the last American soldier to leave Afghanistan in 2021 — is unexpectedly stepping down from his post after just 18 months in the job, the Army confirmed late Tuesday. Gen. Christopher Donahue, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and Africa and commander of NATO's Allied Land Command, will relinquish his command on July 2, according to an Army statement provided to The Associated Press.

The Hill - June 23, 2026

Senate NDAA adds protections for 'political speech' by military retirees amid Hegseth-Kelly battle

The Senate's defense authorization bill includes language that would better protect retired service members who speak out against the government in the midst of a battle between Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.) and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth over the lawmaker's criticism of the Trump administration. The provision — included in the Senate Armed Service Committee's version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), passed out of committee earlier this month — would update the Uniform Code of Military Justice "to exempt certain types of speech by a retiree from being subject to punishment," according to the draft bill.

Reuters - June 24, 2026

NATO's Rutte to meet Trump, aiming to ease tensions ahead of July summit

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte is set to meet with President Donald Trump at the White House on Wednesday, seeking to ease tensions over the Iran war and U.S. threats to draw down troops in Europe ahead of a pivotal NATO leaders summit in July in Ankara. Trump, a longtime NATO critic who has called the alliance a "paper tiger," has been angered by its reluctance to support the U.S. in the Middle East conflict or help reopen the Strait of Hormuz after a U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28 disrupted the major oil shipping route.

The Hill - June 23, 2026

Only 24 percent say Iran war was worth the cost: Survey

Less than a quarter of Americans believe President Trump's war with Iran was worth its costs, according to a new poll by Reuters/Ipsos out Tuesday. The five-day poll — which closed Monday and included responses from 1,262 U.S. adults nationwide — found that only 24 percent of Americans think the war with Iran was worth the tens of billions of dollars spent, the service members who were killed or injured, the military installations and equipment damaged or destroyed and the energy crisis caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Half of respondents said the conflict was not worth it, the survey showed.

Fox News Channel - June 23, 2026

Iran war's price tag hits $80B — more than double what Congress was told

The Trump administration is prepping a long-awaited, multibillion-dollar request to resupply munitions drained during the Iran war as Congress wrestles with another eye-popping funding request from the Pentagon. The Pentagon is expected to request roughly $80 billion in supplemental funding to cover the cost of the war in Iran, a source familiar confirmed to Fox News Digital. That figure is double what War Secretary Pete Hegseth and Pentagon Comptroller Jay Hurst testified before lawmakers earlier this year.

The New York Times - June 24, 2026

Alibaba Sues Pentagon Over China Military Label

Alibaba, one of China's most valuable technology companies, sued the U.S. Department of Defense, challenging the Pentagon's decision to designate it as a company affiliated with the Chinese military. Best known internationally for its e-commerce business, Alibaba has also become a major cloud-computing provider and one of China's leading developers of advanced artificial intelligence

systems. In a lawsuit filed on Tuesday in Federal District Court in the Northern District of California, the company said it had no ties to the Chinese military and argued that the Pentagon had acted unlawfully in labeling it as such.

Military.com - June 24, 2026

Former CIA Officer Accused of Hiding $40 Million in Gold Through Fake Secret Program

Federal investigators say former CIA officer David J. Rush accumulated more than $40 million in gold bars, millions of dollars in cash and dozens of luxury watches while allegedly deceiving colleagues, falsifying credentials and exploiting the secrecy of the U.S. intelligence system. NBC News reported that he served as a CIA liaison to a sensitive Pentagon program connected to the Columbia-class nuclear submarine effort. The Columbia-class fleet is expected to replace the aging Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines and forms a critical component of the nation's nuclear deterrent.

Military.com - June 23, 2026

7 Things Americans Should Know About Area 51, the Secretive Air Force Site

The renewed attention comes as the Pentagon has started releasing new files tied to unidentified anomalous phenomena, or UAPs, giving the public fresh material to sift through. The timing has put Area 51, long linked to UFO folklore, back into the national imagination. What some may describe as peculiar is that the confirmed history of Area 51 already explains why people keep staring at it. The base's real story is about Cold War spy planes, experimental aircraft, nuclear-age secrecy, and decades of aviation work the public was never meant to see.

National Guard News

CBS News - June 23, 2026

President Trump says Reflecting Pool must be drained and fixed again

The ***National Guard*** is now patrolling the area around the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which the Trump administration insists on fixing

Army News

Army Times - June 23, 2026

US Army expands unit stability program for junior officers

The U.S. Army is expanding a pilot program that gives some high-performing officers the option to spend more years with a unit, the service announced this month, offering junior leaders stability and predictability not typically associated with military career progression. The Army in 2025 launched the Company Grade Retention and Incentive Program, or CGRIP, with a cohort of 35 first lieutenants in combat arms branches who could opt to stabilize at units including the 1st Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 10th Mountain Division, 7th Infantry Division and 82nd Airborne Division.

CBS News - June 23, 2026

Army sergeant sentenced to life for shooting that wounded 5 at Georgia's Fort Stewart

An Army sergeant has been sentenced to life in a military prison for a 2025 shooting that wounded five people at a base in Georgia. On Tuesday, a military judge at Fort Stewart sentenced Sgt. Quornelius Radford to life with a possibility of parole. The sentencing comes nearly a week after a court-martial in which the soldier was convicted of attempted murder.

Army Times - June 23, 2026

US Army tests fire control software that helps moving vehicles kill drones

The U.S. Army has successfully tested software designed to help vehicle-mounted weapons shoot down drones while both the target and the vehicle are moving, Picatinny Arsenal announced Tuesday. The capability was demonstrated in April at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, using a Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station, or CROWS, equipped with software that has been designed to track and strike small drones while the vehicle is in motion.

Air Force News

Stars and Stripes - June 23, 2026

Air Force to move ahead with B-52 modernization despite Edwards AFB crash

The Air Force said late Monday that it plans to move ahead with the B-52 Stratofortress modernization program despite the fatal crash of the first modified version of the bomber. The June 16 crash at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., killed eight people. "An Air Force Safety Investigation Board has begun work to determine the cause of the crash," the Air Force said in a statement Monday. "The Radar

Modernization Program office will support this critical process to assist investigators as needed.”

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