

House Passes Fiscal 2015 Defense Spending Bill

The House approved HR 4870, its version of the Fiscal 2015 defense spending bill, June 20, providing \$491 billion in discretionary funding and \$79.4 billion for overseas contingency operations, including the war in Afghanistan.

Among the Air Force-related amendments adopted on the House floor is one introduced by Rep. Candice Miller (R-Mich.) that blocked the Air Force from using Fiscal 2015 funds to divest, retire, transfer, or place into storage any A-10 aircraft or to dissolve any A-10 units.

An amendment brought forth by Rep. Jon Runyan (R-N.J.) that prohibits KC-10 retirements in Fiscal 2015 also passed. The House in May passed its version of the Fiscal 2015 defense authorization bill, which also prevents divestiture of the A-10 fleet.

Medal of Honor Awarded to Marine

President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to retired Marine Corps Cpl. William "Kyle" Carpenter, 24, on June 19 for his conspicuous gallantry during a 2010 battle in Afghanistan where he was seriously injured.

"Anybody who has had a chance to get to know this young man knows you're not going to get a better example of what you want in an American or a marine," said Obama during the White House ceremony. "The Medal of Honor is presented for gallantry on the battlefield. But today, we also recognize Kyle Carpenter for his valor since in the hard fight for recovery," said Obama.

Carpenter lunged toward an enemy grenade to shield a fellow marine from the grenade blast during a firefight on Nov. 21, 2010, in Marjah, Afghanistan.

Initially pronounced dead on arrival at a field hospital, he ultimately endured two-and-a-half years of recovery in a military hospital.

"The enemy killed me. I came back, I ran a marathon, completed a Mud Run, and jumped from a plane. I won't ever quit. I am just getting started," said Carpenter in a Marine Corps video.

Senior Leadership Nominations

President Barack Obama nominated Army Gen. John F. Campbell, Army Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Votel, and Adm. William E. "Bill" Gortney to lead NATO forces in Afghanistan, US Special Operations Command, and US Northern Command, respectively, announced Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on June 24.

Campbell, currently Army vice chief of staff, would replace Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., whom Obama has tapped to be Marine Corps Commandant.

Votel, Joint Special Operations Command boss, would receive a fourth star and succeed Adm. William H. McRaven at SOCOM's helm.

Gortney, who now oversees US Fleet Forces Command, would take the place of Army Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr. at NORTHCOM. Gortney would also become head of NORAD.

Officer Movements

President Obama in July nominated Gen. Herbert J. "Hawk" Carlisle to be commander of Air Combat Command at JB

Langley-Eustis, Va. Carlisle has served as commander of Pacific Air Forces at JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, since August 2012.

Obama also on July 15 nominated Lt. Gen. Lori J. Robinson for a fourth star and for assignment as commander of Pacific Air Forces. She has been ACC vice commander since May 2013.

★ screenshot



NATO Ministers Finalize Post-Combat Afghanistan Plans

NATO foreign ministers meeting in Brussels endorsed the Alliance's post-combat mission in Afghanistan on June 25, according to a news release. They came together on the "detailed operational plan" for Operation Resolute Support, the NATO-led mission to train, advise, and assist Afghan security forces that will commence once the current International Security Assistance Force combat mission concludes at the end of the year, said NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

However, the Afghans must take the next step by signing the follow-on security agreements that will allow NATO troops to remain in the country, he said. The Alliance has not decided on the exact figures for the Resolute Support force, but there have been "concrete announcements" from several countries committing to the future mission, said Rasmussen at a press conference later that same day.

A force-generation conference is scheduled for the beginning of July, where the announcement of final troop commitments should occur, he said.

"This will not only be a US mission," said Rasmussen. "Other allies and partners will contribute and some of them in a quite significant manner," he said.

Northrop Grumman Awarded \$9.9 Billion for B-2 Work

The Air Force awarded Northrop Grumman a contract with a total potential value of \$9.9 billion for modernization and sustainment of the B-2 stealth bomber fleet out as far as May 2024.

This Flexible Acquisition Sustainment Team II contract is an indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity arrangement covering B-2 enhancements, support equipment, and tasks such as sustainment engineering and software maintenance, according to the contract write-up in the Pentagon's list of

07.8.2014

A 64th Aggressor Squadron F-16 (left) flies in formation with a 65th Aggressor Squadron F-15 over the Nellis Test and Training Range in Nevada. The fighter aircraft provide realistic threat replication for Red Flag exercises and test and training operations. Part of the 57th Adversary Tactics Group, the aircraft bear the latest paint schemes flying in each squadron.



Photo by Jim Haseltine



Maintaining Stealth: In Southwest Asia, Lt. Col. David Elliot, 27th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander, climbs into an F-22, where a ground crew member sits in the cockpit. A Raptor Aircraft Maintenance Unit of more than 100 airmen from JB Langley-Eustis, Va., were maintaining the stealth fighters in June in support of operations.

major contracts for June 3. Also included are programmed depot maintenance and other interim contractor support.

"We're delighted to be partnering with the Air Force with the B-2. It is such an important [component] of our national security," Northrop Grumman spokesman Brooks McKinney told *Air Force Magazine* on June 4. At the time of the contract award, the Air Force issued a \$6.4 million task order for work on the B-2's Common Very Low Frequency Receiver Increment 1.

Normalizing ICBM Sustainment

The Air Force intends to apply the estimated \$300 million in additional funding it is making available to the ICBM fleet over the next five years to developing better Minuteman III depot maintenance and sustainment practices, said Lt. Gen. Stephen W. "Seve" Wilson, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, on June 24.

The command is undertaking an effort to "normalize" ICBM sustainment, said Wilson, during an Air Force Association-sponsored talk in Arlington, Va. Today, the Air Force doesn't have a "good demarcation" of the components that make up the entire Minuteman weapon system, he said. The challenge is that an ICBM is largely perceived as being a "no-fly system," not sustained by the Air Force like aircraft systems. "It's an always-fly system though. ... I can't fund it as spare parts or ground equipment, so we have to change the mindset on that," said Wilson.

Programmed depot maintenance for ICBMs is more akin to what the Air Force does with an aircraft during a phase inspection, not a comprehensive depot visit, Wilson said. "We can't just fly to fail on every item, which is what we've done in the past."

CRH To Be Black Hawk 2.0

The Air Force announced that Sikorsky Aircraft of Stratford, Conn., would receive \$1.28 billion to develop the service's Combat Rescue Helicopter. The new helicopter replaces the HH-60G Pave Hawk and will be "essentially ... a long-range, highly missionized Black Hawk" for the Air Force, Tim Healy, Sikorsky's CRH program director, told *Air Force Magazine*.

The contract covers procurement of the first four helos, to be designated test assets, said Healy. However, under the contract, Sikorsky is "responsible [for making] sure that [test aircraft are] in an operational configuration, and they'll be then transferred to the Air Force in either a training or operational load," he said.

The aircraft will be built to an Air Force standard and will be mission-ready right off the line, instead of requiring postproduction modification to meet Air Force standards. The CRH will have "significant differences and improvements" over the HH-60, including a much-improved rotor blade, a more powerful engine, a stronger airframe, a different core, [and] a different tip treatment that makes it much more efficient and produces more lift. Healy said the CRH will be "much more efficient in cruise flight," allowing it to travel 50 to 60 more nautical miles than its predecessor on the same amount of fuel.

The first two Sikorsky helicopters under the recently awarded CRH contract will be delivered to the Air Force in 2018, with two more to follow in 2019.

If the Air Force exercises all contract options and buys 112 helicopters, work under this contract would have a total value of some \$7.9 billion, according to Sikorsky. Lockheed Martin is the major subsystems supplier on Sikorsky's industry team. —*Autumn A. Arnett*

Iraq's Bitter Returns

Iraq's leadership and armed forces this summer failed to blunt the speedy terrorist takeover of large parts of the country. Given what the United States paid in blood and treasure to secure Iraq's freedom, this failure is a bitter pill, said Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey June 19.

"Like many of you, I was disappointed at how quickly the situation in Iraq deteriorated as well as the rapid collapse of many Iraqi units," said Dempsey in a message to US service personnel.

"The men and women who served in Iraq did exactly what we asked," Dempsey told Senate lawmakers the previous day during testimony on Capitol Hill.

"Al Qaeda-inspired extremists raising flags over Iraq's embattled cities triggers in me ... bitter disappointment that Iraq's leaders failed to unite for the good of their people," he stated.

President Barack Obama dispatched troops to support the Iraqi forces, and as of July 1, there were 650 military personnel with boots on the ground in Iraq, out of a total

authorized force of 770, according to Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby.

The personnel either are reinforcing security at the US Embassy in Baghdad and nearby support facilities or serving with assessment and advisory teams at the joint operations center in Baghdad, according to a July 1 release.

Many of the US forces arrived in Iraq on June 29 from US Central Command, along with a detachment of helicopters and remotely piloted aircraft that will be used to "bolster airfield and travel route security," said Kirby.

The Pentagon has already confirmed the US is operating some armed RPAs in Iraqi airspace for ISR purposes. "We obviously are watching the situation very closely, ... given the limits of information that we have," Kirby said.

Also on July 1, Secretary of State John F. Kerry released a statement welcoming what he called an "enormous and very significant commitment" by Saudi Arabia "to help its neighbor." Saudi Arabia's \$500 million pledge is part of a growing international humanitarian response to the crisis that Kerry said "is worsening by the day."

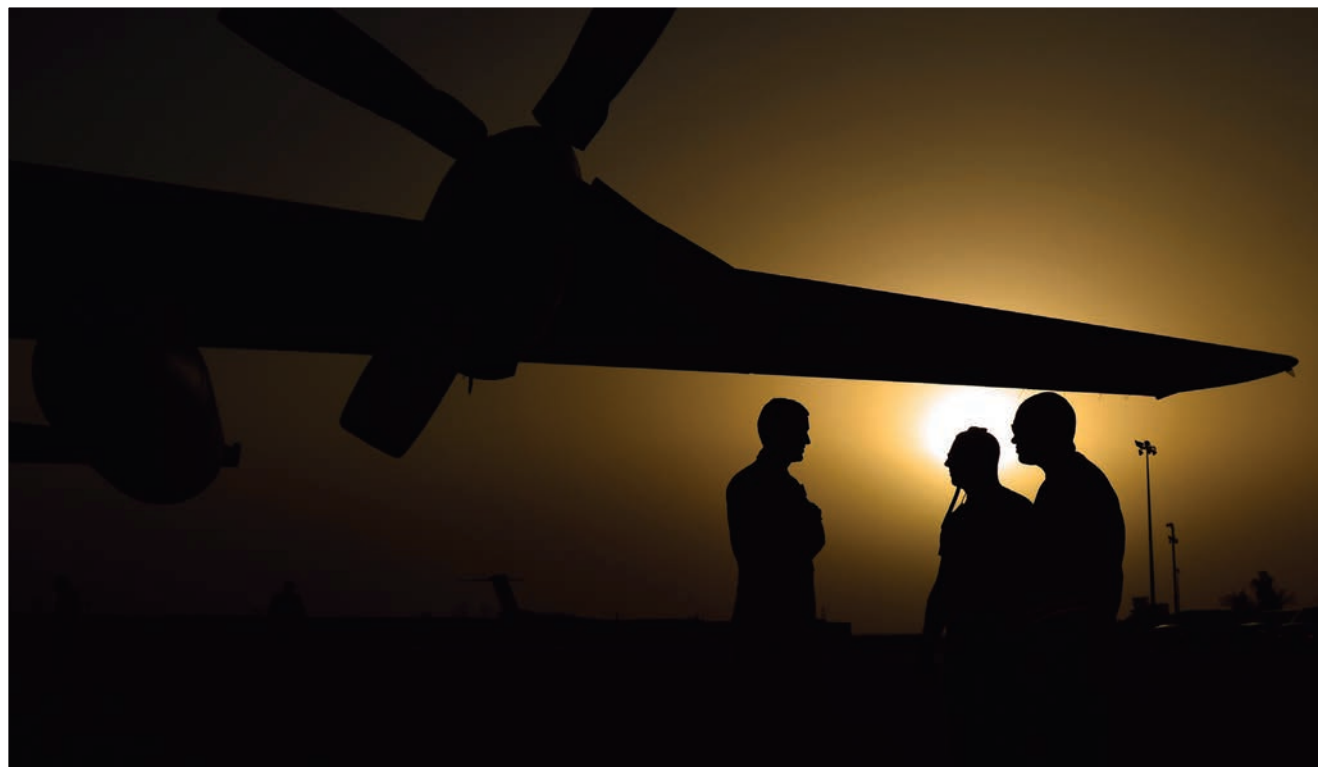
No-Fun Nuclear Holiday

The United States is falling behind potential adversaries, such as Russia and China, in modernizing its nuclear deterrent, and the bills for that modernization are coming due at the worst possible time, said Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, strategic deterrence chief on the Air Staff.

"Almost everybody else is modernizing, certainly at a pace beyond ours," he said during a Capitol Hill speech on June 17 sponsored by the Air Force Association, the Reserve Officers Association, and the National Defense Industrial Association. "Part of the problem is a lot of these things should have been taken care of 25 years ago. We took a procurement holiday when it comes to strategic nuclear modernization" while our rivals have, in many cases, kept a steady pace since the end of the Cold War, he said.

Now, with budget sequestration in force, and money becoming scarcer, the United States is saddled with having to upgrade or replace everything from ICBMs, bombers, and submarines, to warheads, cruise missiles, and command and control infrastructure at once, said Harencak. "It's just a fact," he said.

In Reserve: Airmen assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing discuss upcoming missions on a flight line in Southwest Asia at sunset. The Reservists came from Youngstown ARS, Ohio, and joined up with 153rd Airlift Wing Air National Guardsmen deployed from Cheyenne Arpt., Wyo. The newcomers now man the 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and the 386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron for tactical airlift and medical evacuation missions.



USAF photo by SSgt. Vernon Young Jr.

USAF photo by SMSgt. Eric Peterson



Another Hitch: *SSgt. Michael Newsom Jr. salutes his father, Lt. Col. Michael Newsom (on screen), at the conclusion of his re-enlistment ceremony. Through a video teleconference, the senior Newsom watched his son's ceremony in Southwest Asia from his own location at another Southwest Asia facility. The younger Newsom—a crew chief from Grand Forks AFB, N.D., and deployed with the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing—had served for seven years before re-upping.*

Bender Tapped To Be Chief Information Officer

President Barack Obama nominated Maj. Gen. William J. Bender for promotion to the rank of lieutenant general for assignment as the Air Force's chief of information dominance and chief information officer, announced the Pentagon on June 10. Bender has been deputy chief of the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq in Baghdad since July 2013. If the Senate approves Bender's nomination, he would replace Lt. Gen. Michael J. Basla, who has held these positions on the Air Force Secretariat since June 2012.

Priceless Intangible Rewards

When airmen join the Air Force, they may do it for educational opportunities, financial stability, to find direction in life, or continue a family tradition, wrote CMSAF James Cody in "Roll Call" June 11.

"The reasons vary greatly, and none are wrong," he wrote. Over time, however, those motivations "must evolve," he stated. "We must grow to understand that service is about more than direction, pay, or education. It is about protecting American ideals, embracing the responsibility that comes with freedom, and strengthening our country through an unbreakable bond with the comrades who serve by our side," wrote Cody.

Airmen must never forget that it is a privilege to be an airman and an honor to defend the nation, he said. When taking the oath to support and defend the Constitution, "remember what it stands for; remember the men and

women who have taken the solemn oath before you; and remember that service is a calling with intangible rewards: pride, service, and duty," wrote Cody. "These will always be priceless."

Schriever Unit Tapped To Control New Satellites

The 1st Space Operations Squadron at Schriever AFB, Colo., will assume control of the Air Force's two new Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program (GSSAP) satellites.

The Air Force planned to launch the two space-surveillance satellites into orbit July 23 from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., stated a June 10 press release. Airmen from

By the Numbers

\$58.6 billion

The amount requested by the White House on June 26 to fund the Defense Department's activities in Afghanistan and other overseas contingency operations. The funding request is \$20.9 billion less than the \$79.4 billion placeholder figure that the Pentagon provided to Congress earlier this year. The OCO funding would also cover the costs of the Obama Administration's new Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund, including a new Syria-Regional Stabilization Initiative and the European Reassurance Initiative. The White House requested \$4 billion and \$925 million, respectively, for those two areas.

The War on Terrorism

Operation Enduring Freedom

Casualties

As of July 15, a total of 2,333 Americans had died in Operation Enduring Freedom. The total includes 2,330 troops and three Department of Defense civilians. Of these deaths, 1,829 were killed in action with the enemy, while 504 died in noncombat incidents.

There have been 19,880 troops wounded in action during OEF.

First All-Afghan C-130 Sortie

The Afghan Air Force flew a C-130 training sortie June 16 without aid from US advisors for the first time, announced US Air Forces Central Command.

AAF Col. Aimal Sayedi, Fixed Wing Squadron commander, said he and his crew were “very excited and very nervous about this flight, to do it without any help of others and an all-Afghan crew.” That’s a very big step, he said.

The C-130H flew from Kabul to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on this mission. “The [Afghan] air force is back to life and we can do cargo, [casualty evacuation], and passenger movement from one province to another province,” said AAF 1st Lt. Khial Sinwari, copilot on the flight, after the sortie.

Air Force instructors from the 538th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron have been training Afghan crews to operate the C-130H for the past 11 months. The Afghans conducted the self-sufficient flight eight months sooner than expected, according to AFCENT’s June 18 press

release. The AAF received its first C-130 last October, after the United States scrapped the deal providing refurbished C-27As.

Moody Preferred Site for Afghan A-29 Training

Moody AFB, Ga., is the Air Force’s preferred location to train Afghan air force pilots and maintainers how to operate the AAF’s A-29 Light Air Support aircraft, announced service officials on June 25.

The Air Force selected Moody “because the airfield and airspace are available without disruption during the required time frame, and suitable facilities are immediately available for the new occupants to move into,” said Timothy K. Bridges, the service’s deputy assistant secretary for installations.

Moody is also “the lowest cost option,” he said in the service’s news release. The Air Force also identified Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, and Shaw AFB, S.C., as the alternative sites for this training.

The Pentagon is procuring a fleet of 20 A-29s for the Afghans to give them indigenous air interdiction, close air support, and aerial reconnaissance capabilities. Under current plans, the A-29s may arrive at Moody as early as September for initial cadre training. The first Afghan trainees are expected to begin training in February 2015, stated the release.

The initial proposed commitment for this training entails a limited presence at Moody into 2018.

the squadron were to take control of them following initial orbital checkout and were to then oversee the satellites’ day-to-day operations.

“This marks a great milestone for the 1st SOPS and Air Force Space Command,” said Gen. William L. Shelton, AFSPC commander. “With the alignment of the GSSAP mission to the 1st SOPS, we will achieve new synergies within the space situational awareness mission area,” he said.

The squadron already oversees the Air Force’s Space Based Space Surveillance satellite and Advanced Technology Risk Reduction spacecraft, both operating in lower altitude orbits.

F-35 Software Delay Won’t Hit IOC

There’s about a six-month lag in testing the version 3F software for the F-35 strike fighter, but it’s not affecting the services’ initial operational capability yet, according to program leaders. In a teleconference with reporters on June

12, Pentagon acquisition executive Frank Kendall said IOC for the Marine Corps and the Air Force, with the 2B and 3I software builds, respectively, is on track.

The services are still expected to declare IOC on time—the Marine Corps with the 2B software in July 2015 and the Air Force with 3I software in August 2016. The 3F version that every user will eventually have is behind schedule. Lt. Gen. Christopher C. Bogdan, F-35 program executive officer, said, “If we don’t do anything better over the next two or three years,” then the 3F deployment may be late, but he said there’s still some schedule margin remaining.

Kendall said it’s premature to think about whether the Navy—intending to declare IOC with 3F software in 2018—would slip IOC or declare it with an earlier software build.

“That’s a decision the Navy will make,” said Kendall, but he doubts the service will make any changes “unless forced to.”

DLA Aims for 30 Percent Less

The Defense Logistics Agency is downsizing, aiming to be nearly a third smaller over the next five years, said agency chief Vice Adm. Mark D. Harnitchek on June 12. By 2019, DLA will shrink from a \$40 billion enterprise to one of about \$27 billion, he told defense writers in Washington, D.C. “We’ve banked about \$3 billion already,” he said.

Of the \$13 billion goal, \$5 billion will come from operating efficiencies and the rest from simply buying less stuff, said Harnitchek.

In the last two years alone, DLA has taken “about \$5 billion of inventory” out of the system, he said. With less to store, he’s also been able to get rid of “45 football fields’ [worth] of covered storage,” World War II-vintage warehouses, “that are coming down.”

Index to Advertisers

American Hearing Benefits.....	9
Boeing.....	5
FLIR.....	8
Finmeccanica.....	3
Northrop Grumman.....	Cover II, Cover IV
USAA.....	Cover III

AFA Health Care Benefits.....	83
AFA Member Benefits Guide.....	67
AFA Technology Expositions.....	87
AFA Thunderbird Society.....	85
Air Force Memorial Summer in DC.....	83

Senior Staff Changes

CONFIRMATIONS: To be Lieutenant General: John F. Thompson.
To be AFRC Brigadier General: Donald R. Lindberg.

NOMINATIONS: To be General: Herbert J. Carlisle, Lori J. Robinson. **To be Lieutenant General:** William J. Bender, James K. McLaughlin.

CHANGES: Brig. Gen. (sel.) Mark A. Baird, from Dir., Space Superiority Systems Directorate, SMC, AFSPC, Los Angeles AFB, Calif., to Cmdr., AF Installation Contracting Agency, Office of Asst. SECAF for Acq., Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio ... Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Gibson, from Dir., Jt. Integration, DCS, Ops., P&R, Pentagon, to Vice Cmdr., USAF Expeditionary Ctr., AMC, JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. ... Brig. Gen. Robert J. Skinner, from Dep. Cmdr., Air Forces Cyber, AFSPC, Fort Meade, Md., to C/S, DISA, Arlington, Va. ... Brig. Gen. Kenneth E. Todorov, from Dir., Jt. Integrated Air & Missile Defense Orgn., Jt. Staff, Pentagon, to Dep. Dir., Missile Defense Agency, Office of USD for Acq., Tech., and Log., Fort Belvoir, Va.

COMMAND CHIEF CHANGES: CMSgt. Harold L. Hutchison, from Chief, AF CMSgt. Mgmt. Office, Pentagon, to Command Chief, PACAF, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii ... CMSgt. Steve K. McDonald, from Command Chief, PACAF, JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, to Command Chief, ACC, JB Langley-Eustis, Va. ■

With reduced inventory, aided by better models of what, how much, and when to buy goods, as well as how long to keep them, efficiency and performance have improved, said Harnitchek. The 30 percent overall reduction is on par for any post-drawdown period, he said.

Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Defense Department released a new strategy for countering weapons of mass destruction June 30. The 32-page document, rescinding and replacing the 2006 WMD strategy, “emphasizes early action through pathway defeat, shaping the environment to dissuade actors from pursuing WMD, and cooperating with partners to achieve countering WMD goals,” wrote Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in the foreword.

It also “specifies desired end states, prescribes priority objectives, delineates a strategic approach for achieving those objectives, and outlines the countering WMD activities and tasks necessary for success.” Specifically, the document’s executive summary outlines three end states: “no new WMD possession, no WMD use, and minimization of WMD effects.”

Hold Lifted on Egypt Military Aid, but Not Yet on F-16s

The United States has unlocked some, but not all, of the military aid to Egypt it froze last year due to widespread unrest in that nation, said Secretary of State John F. Kerry.

Delivery of 10 AH-64 attack helicopters will take place soon, said Kerry in remarks with Egypt’s Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry in Cairo on June 22 following Kerry’s meeting with newly elected Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el Sisi. Those assets are expected to boost the Egyptian government’s counterterror operations in the Sinai Peninsula.

In addition, Congress approved the release of approximately \$575 million of the \$650 million in foreign military financing for Egypt that the Obama Administration requested, said senior State Department officials on June 21. Most of those funds are going to the sustainment of systems that the Egyptians already operate, as well as training, they said.

Changes at Veterans Affairs

A Department of Veterans Affairs audit found “a strong basis to commence immediate action” to correct “systemic” problems within the VA medical care system. Among the findings, the scheduling process for care is “overly complicated,” resulting in a “high potential [to create] confusion among scheduling clerks and front-line supervisors,” stated the reports.

The audit took place from May 12 to June 3. The VA’s target of a 14-day waiting period for new appointments is “not attainable,” as the demand for services exceeds the number of provider slots available, the auditors determined.

They also found that staff fabricated forms at the instruction of supervisors, in some cases, or utilized “inappropriate practices” to make waiting times for veterans appear more favorable than they were. The report, released June 9, cited staffing challenges, particularly in clinics where there were either not enough providers to meet the need or not enough administrative support.

Excessive wait times for veterans to receive VA medical care reportedly resulted in scores of veterans’ deaths. Outrage over this led to the resignation of Eric K. Shinseki as VA secretary on May 30.

President Barack Obama, in late June, nominated former Procter & Gamble CEO Robert A. McDonald, a one-time Army Ranger, to replace Sloan D. Gibson, who stepped in as acting secretary after Shinseki left.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel welcomed McDonald’s nomination, saying that McDonald would be “well-equipped” to lead the VA if confirmed. “Taking care of our veterans is as high a priority as this country has, and I look forward to working closely with Bob and Sloan to further strengthen and improve DOD-VA collaboration and the lives of our veterans,” said Hagel in a June 30 statement.

In addition to naming a new secretary, Veterans Affairs medical and health care directors will conduct monthly visits to VA clinics to inspect scheduling practices.

While those transfers are going forward, Pentagon spokesman Cmdr. Bill Speaks told *Air Force Magazine* on June 23 that the handover of Egypt’s new-build F-16 fighters is still on hold.

Greaves Takes Helm of Space Shop

Lt. Gen. Samuel A. Greaves took command of the Space and Missile Systems Center during a ceremony at Fort MacArthur, Calif., on June 19. Greaves succeeded Lt. Gen. Ellen M. Pawlikowski, who had led SMC, the Air Force’s space acquisition shop, since June 2011. Gen. William L. Shelton, Air Force Space Command boss, presided over the ceremony.

Greaves received his third star prior to assuming SMC’s helm. He comes to the center from the Missile Defense Agency, where he served as deputy director since August 2012. It’s not his first stint with SMC; from August 2009 to February 2011, Greaves was the center’s vice commander.

Pawlikowski is on her way to her next assignment: military deputy in the Air Force’s acquisition office.

The Senate approved Greaves’ and Pawlikowski’s nominations for their new roles in May. ■