

Kendall: Sequestration Likely to Continue into 2014

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JUNE 3, 2013)

Nick Simeone

WASHINGTON—Sequestration spending cuts could continue into 2014, and the impact of the deep cuts will fall disproportionately on small business, the Pentagon's top acquisition official told a Navy industry forum today.

"It's a reasonable possibility that we will go into 2014 with sequestration still underway," said Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. "A lot of things we planned on doing we won't be able to do."

Last month, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told Defense Department employees he could not guarantee that the budget situation would ease next year.

Kendall's comments to the 2013 Navy Opportunity Forum in Arlington, Va., come three months into a budget sequester that is taking \$41 billion out of the Pentagon budget this fiscal year, leading to cuts across the military in everything from operations and deployments to training and readiness. Furloughs are set to begin in July for about 85 percent of the Defense Department's 767,000 civilian employees.

In the sequestration environment, Kendall said, the department needs to be more proactive in taking care of the small businesses that contract with the military.

"The cuts we are going to experience potentially will fall on small businesses," more than on large military contractors, he said, adding that cuts in research and development worry him as well. "Potential adversaries are modernizing at a rate which makes me nervous," he told the group, which included representatives of companies that produce advanced technologies funded by Navy programs.

Kendall said the department is about to conclude its strategic choices and management review, which Hagel ordered to provide department leaders with options given the current budget environment as well as the prospect of future spending cuts.

"What would we have to do at the department if we had to take \$50 billion a year out over the long term? That would be pretty devastating," Kendall said, mentioning one such scenario being considered by the review.

Global Force's Needs Shape DoD Biosurveillance

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JUNE 5, 2013)

Cheryl Pellerin

WASHINGTON—A new biosurveillance division at the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center—home to a unique serum repository and database for service members and a global network of military laboratories—is working to fill gaps at the convergence of battlefield biodefense and health surveillance.

Health surveillance involves monitoring human health to identify and prevent infectious and chronic diseases. Biosurveillance, at least for the Defense Department, is the process of gathering, integrating, analyzing, and communicating a range of information that relates to health threats for people, animals, and plants to help inform decisions and provide for increased global health security.

The Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center vision is to be the central epidemiological resource and global health surveillance proponent for the armed forces. Its mission is to provide timely, relevant, and comprehensive health surveillance information to promote, maintain, and enhance the health of military and associated populations.

Last year Dr. Rohit Chitale became director of the fledgling Division of Integrated Biosurveillance, which shares a building with the DoD Serum Repository—the world's largest—with more than 55 million serial serum specimens dating back to the mid-1980s.

The specimens are linked to the Defense Medical Surveillance System, a database that can be used to answer questions at the patient level and in the aggregate about the health of the armed forces and beneficiaries.

Also part of AFHSC is the Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System, called GEIS, whose 33 partners include military laboratories, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations around the world that support service members and population-based surveillance and capacity building in 62 countries.

Leading the new biosurveillance division, Chitale has a doctorate in infectious disease epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a master's of public health in epidemiology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Before joining AFHSC last year, the 42-year-old scientist was senior analyst in the Global Disease Detection Operations Center at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Soon after the severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, epidemic in 2002-2003 sickened more than 8,000 people worldwide and killed 774, Congress funded the GDD program at CDC in 2004. The aim was to strengthen the global capacity to detect, identify, and contain emerging infectious diseases and international bioterrorism threats.

In 2006, Chitale was one of the first analysts to help establish the GDD Operations Center at CDC. This epidemic intelligence and response operations unit uses many sources of information about disease events, including Internet-based media reports scanned for key words in more than 40 languages.

"What I came to AFHSC to do," he told American Forces Press Service during a recent interview, "was to take the next step."

The new division is part of a multiagency effort to implement the nation's first U.S. National Strategy for Biosurveillance, released in 2012 by the White House to make sure federal agencies can quickly detect and respond to global health and security hazards.

It's also part of a push to increase DoD diagnostics funding through the department's biodefense program, Andrew C. Weber, assistant secretary of defense for nuclear, chemical and biological defense programs, told American Forces Press Service in an interview last year.

Some of the work is done by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Joint Science and Technology Office of the Chemical and Biological Defense Program, as well as by the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense.

In October 2009, Weber himself ushered the Chemical and Biological Defense Program into the biosurveillance business by signing a memorandum to the military department secretaries announcing that emerging infectious diseases would become part of the chemical and biological defense mission. Chitale, who says he's spent the past 14 months building his division and learning about the many separate biosurveillance efforts underway across the department and the military services, is looking to better integrate these elements to create a coherent, global picture of biological threats—and recommendations for action—specific to the Defense Department.

"We now have a [memorandum of understanding] between Health Affairs, where AFHSC is, and Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs," Chitale said.

"Historically," he explained, "NCB's mission is global security—combating weapons of mass destruction writ large—and our mission is the medical care and surveillance of the forces and DoD populations. They're different missions, ... [but] recently it has become increasingly clear that they are converging."

The memo, signed last summer, describes how NCB and DoD Health Affairs will collaborate on cooperative activities that contribute to U.S. national security and to global health security.

"NCB and Health Affairs will cooperate on activities that help counter weapons of mass destruction, to include chemical, biological, or radiological events that impact various domains significant to U.S. forces," Chitale said. "In effect, that's the whole spectrum when it comes to health."

His division helped to write a 50-page operational plan in December that lists 61 actions that the two organizations will accomplish together.

"They will be things like facilitating training for more preventive-medicine residents," Chitale said. "We're going to help create and implement better algorithms for syndromic surveillance. We're working to create information management systems so we can all work more smartly—for example, a system that can bring multiple high-quality information streams into one portal and refresh every 10 minutes, and be shared with trusted partners."

The challenge for DoD is that the biosurveillance mission is complex, he noted. "There are three Services that each do what we do here to some extent, but they do it for their own Service," he said. "What added value do we have? One thing, at least, is that we can bring it all together to get a complete picture."

Such an augmented system would use information from the DoD agencies, the rest of the U.S. interagency including the CDC; the World Health Organization; the World Organisation for Animal Health; the AFHSC-GEIS network; the Internet-based Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases, or ProMED; and even more informal sources, such as Twitter. Ultimately, Chitale said, he envisions being able to do for DoD what he and his CDC colleagues did for global public health, but even more, collect a broad range of data and information relating to human, animal, and plant health; work with partners and analyze it according to DoD needs; and provide guidance, recommendations, and reach-back support to the department's leadership and DoD custom-

ers such as the six geographic combatant commands, and especially their surgeons' offices.

Chitale has initially organized his small division into teams that include alert and response operations, coordination, and engagement, and innovation and evaluation.

"We haven't said that we're actually creating an operations center," he said. "But the Alert and Response Operations team, ARO, is a term modeled after WHO's Global Alert and Response Operations [established in 2000], probably the world's first strategic health operations center. Others were since stood up around the world, and under the vision and leadership of Dr. Ray Arthur, we established one at CDC in 2006. In some ways, and based on the needs, I'm trying to model several of our key activities after that."

Already the AFHSC and the new division have relationships broadly across the interagency, including the State Department, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Agriculture Department, and several others.

Key areas in which AFHSC and the new division can provide value for DoD biosurveillance is in disease detection, preventive medicine guidance, and coordination with the interagency, he added. "We're trusted across the DoD and also domestic and international medical and public health communities—a real value add in this new paradigm, this new normal," Chitale said.

"When it comes to something like disease detection," he added, "you need the ability, which we have, to pick up the phone and call someone in Uganda who you trust—a medical person, U.S. government staff working in the host nation, even someone in the Ministry of Health or WHO staff—and ask them what's going on. They can talk to their people in the country, and you get high-quality information back within minutes to hours.

"You get real, hard information," he continued, "and those are your boots on the ground—those are your listening posts across the globe."

Hanscom Program Finds Savings While Providing Critical Imagery

66th Air Base Group Public Affairs (JUNE 10, 2013)

Patty Welsh

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass.—An Air Force program at Hanscom Air Force Base that continually provides critical imagery to warfighters and first responders, is also reducing costs.

Eagle Vision consists of five deployable satellite downlink stations that collect, process, and distribute commercial satellite imagery in nearly real time. The data not only can be used to highlight areas of interest for U.S. or coalition warfighters in the field, but also for disaster response efforts.

"As soon as the tornadoes struck in Moore, Okla., the team went to work," said Capt. Chris Berardi, the program manager. "Despite being in the middle of a tech refresh, where system equipment was being upgraded, the team turned their attention to ensuring [the Federal Emergency Management Agency], the National Guard, and [U.S. Northern Command] got the required imagery they needed."

Although cloud cover hampered some efforts, data were provided within 72 hours of the initial event. Berardi emphasized that the commercial imagery that is provided can be freely shared between organizations.

When a tornado touched down once again in Oklahoma on May 31, the program office immediately put its assets to work again. Usable imagery denoting the path of the tornado, as well as the extent of flooding in the area, was provided to first responders within 48 hours of the event.

In addition to ongoing military applications for the imagery, the team is also currently providing support to those battling wildfires in New Mexico. The U.S. Forest Service requested EV imagery after fires broke out near Tres Lagunas, N.M., also on May 31. Currently the fires have burned approximately 10,000 acres and are only minimally contained. Before and after imagery was provided within days.

According to program officials, the organizations often use the imagery for damage assessment.

"The different types of imagery, such as high-resolution, electro-optical imagery, and synthetic aperture radar, we can provide are helpful as well," Berardi said.

The technological refresh that Berardi refers to is part of the largest upgrade in the Eagle Vision system's history. New satellite constellations are being added, antenna upgrades are being implemented, and new shelters are being provided to house the equipment.

Although the majority of this work is being funded by the National Guard, Berardi said the team is always looking for cost savings. The program office has also performed an analysis on all Eagle Vision satellite providers.



Satellite imagery captured by Hanscom's Eagle Vision program shows the town of Moore, Okla., with the Plaza Towers Elementary School in the center, before the May 22, 2013, tornado that devastated the region. The next image shows the same area following the tornado. This imagery can be used by first responders for disaster relief efforts. The program office is conducting a cost-savings review to find savings within the program while ensuring the imagery is still available when needed.
Courtesy image

"We needed to determine if what we were getting was worth what we were paying out," Berardi said.

The results led to the elimination of one constellation of satellites, for yearly savings of \$610,000.

They also looked at redundant capabilities. The team was able to identify some redundancies within the software architecture and processing capabilities.

"Sequestration is causing everyone to look at what they're spending very carefully," Berardi said. "We need to ensure we're still able to provide the necessary imagery, but do so in a more efficient and effective manner."

Eagle Vision is reviewing all current and planned acquisitions to determine if other cost savings are available.

"We are looking at all options, including cost avoidance analyses, to identify further cost reduction opportunities," Berardi said. "Ultimately, these are savings for the taxpayer."

He stressed that the cost savings initiatives would not negatively impact the program office's ability to respond when needed.

"We know how important the capability to provide this imagery is," Berardi said.

Faster, More Precise Airstrikes Within Reach

DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY NEWS (JUNE 14, 2013)

Air-ground fire coordination—also known as Close Air Support or CAS—is a dangerous and difficult business. Pilots and dismounted ground agents must ensure they hit only the intended target using just voice directions and, if they're lucky, a common paper map. It can often take up to an hour to confer, get in position, and strike—time in which targets can attack first or move out of reach. To help address these challenges, DARPA recently awarded a contract for Phase II of its Persistent Close Air Support (PCAS) program to the Raytheon Company of Waltham, Mass.

PCAS aims to enable ground forces and combat aircrews to jointly select and employ precision-guided weapons from a diverse set of airborne platforms. The program seeks to leverage advances in computing and communications technologies to fundamentally increase CAS effectiveness, as well as improve the speed and survivability of ground forces engaged with enemy forces.

“Our goal is to make Close Air Support more precise, prompt, and easy to coordinate under stressful operational conditions,” said Dan Patt, DARPA program manager. “We could use smaller munitions to hit smaller or moving targets, minimizing the risk of friendly fire or collateral damage.”

While its tools have become more sophisticated, CAS has not fundamentally changed since World War I. To accelerate CAS capabilities well beyond the current technological state of the art, PCAS envisions an all-digital system that incorporates commercial IT products and models such as open interfaces, element modularity, and mobile software applications.

PCAS designs currently include two main components—PCAS-Air and PCAS-Ground. PCAS-Air would consist of an internal guidance system, weapons and engagement management systems, and high-speed data transfer via Ethernet, existing aircraft wiring, or wireless networks. Based on tactical information, PCAS-Air’s automated algorithms would recommend optimal travel routes to the target, which weapon to use on arrival, and how best to deploy it. Aircrews could receive information either through hardwired interfaces or wirelessly via tablet computers.

PCAS-Air would inform ground forces through PCAS-Ground, a suite of technologies enabling improved mobility, situational awareness and communications for fire coordination. A HUD eyepiece wired to a tablet computer like that used in PCAS-Air would display tactical imagery, maps, and other information, enabling ground forces to keep their eyes more on the target and less on a computer screen.

Parts of PCAS-Ground are already in field trials that mark some of the first large-scale use of commercial tablets for air-ground fire coordination. From December 2012 through March 2013, PCAS deployed 500 Android tablets equipped with PCAS-Ground situational awareness software to units stationed in Afghanistan. The tablets provided warfighters with added capabilities including digital gridded reference graphics (GRGs), digital terrain elevation data, and other mission planning and execution tools. In the air, in-flight GPS tracking enabled pilots and ground forces to locate their relative positions in real time. Field reports show that PCAS-Ground has replaced those units’ legacy paper maps, dramatically improving ground forces’ ability to quickly and safely coordinate air engagements.

One of the most potentially groundbreaking elements of PCAS is its Smart Rail, a modular system that would attach to standard external mounting rails on many common fixed- and rotor-wing aircraft. The Smart Rail would initially carry

and perform engagement computations for the PCAS-Air components, but it would also enable quick, inexpensive installation of new piloting aids and new radios to communicate to ground agents. The plug-and-play system could accommodate legacy and future equipment with equal ease, and eventually could also be compatible with unmanned air vehicles (UAVs).

“The Smart Rail is an easy way to get digital air-ground coordination onto current and future aircraft,” Patt said. “Just as the USB revolutionized how we use IT-enabled devices, modular technologies like the Smart Rail could greatly reduce development time and costs for military technology and speed deployment of PCAS and other capabilities across the Services.”

Obama Calls for Further Cuts in Nuclear Arms

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JUNE 19, 2013)

Nick Simeone

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama today announced his intention to seek deeper cuts in the U.S. nuclear arsenal, provided Russia is willing to negotiate similar reductions.

In an address before several thousand people at Berlin’s Brandenburg Gate, Obama said a comprehensive review has determined America can ensure its own safety and that of its allies by reducing the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons in the U.S. arsenal by up to one-third.

“I intend to seek negotiated cuts with Russia to move beyond Cold War nuclear postures,” he said, and repeated the goal he articulated in 2009 of “pursuing the security of a world without nuclear weapons, no matter how distant that dream may be.”

U.S. officials said the proposed cuts would take the number of strategic warheads for both countries below the limit of 1,550 established by the 2010 New START Treaty, provided Russia is willing to agree to those levels as well. Administration officials said the reductions would still leave the United States with a credible nuclear deterrent as well as strategic stability with Russia and China, while reducing the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. national security strategy.

“At the same time, we’ll work with our NATO allies to seek bold reductions in U.S. and Russian tactical weapons in Europe,” the president said, and he added that the United States will host a summit in 2016 “to continue our efforts to secure nuclear materials around the world” while working to build support in the United States for ratification of the long-stalled Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Obama also touched on a theme he raised during a counterterrorism address he delivered last month, stressing again the need to remain vigilant about the terror threat, while moving beyond “a mindset of perpetual war.”

“In America, that means redoubling our efforts to close the prison at Guantanamo,” he said. “It means tightly controlling our use of new technologies like drones. It means balancing the pursuit of security with the protection of privacy,” the latter being a reference to recently disclosed data-mining programs run by the National Security Agency that administration officials say have prevented more than 50 terrorist attacks since 9/11.

Joint Strike Fighter on Track, Costs Coming Down, Kendall Says

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JUNE 19, 2013)

Jim Garamone

WASHINGTON—Indications are that the F-35 joint strike fighter program—the most expensive aviation program in Defense Department history—is on track, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics told a Senate panel here today.

Testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee’s defense subcommittee this morning, Frank Kendall said the F-35 will be the premier strike aircraft for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

“The department’s and my focus has been on the efforts to control costs on the program, and to achieve a more stable design so that we could increase the production rate to more economical quantities,” Kendall told the senators. “Indications at this time are that these efforts are succeeding.”

The program, begun in President George W. Bush’s administration, is about 90 percent through the development program and 40 percent through flight testing. Kendall said he anticipates being able to complete the development effort within the planned cost and schedule. “However, we may need to make some adjustments as events unfold,” he added. “On the whole, however, the F-35 design today is much more stable than it was two or three years ago.”

Production of the aircraft was in real jeopardy in 2011, the undersecretary said, amid uncertainty in how design issues would be solved. “The F-35 is one of the most concurrent programs I have ever seen, meaning that there is a high degree of overlap between the development phase and the production phase of the program,” he said.

Kendall said he believes those questions have been answered, and he told the committee he will review the program later this year to decide whether to increase the production rate significantly in 2015, as is currently planned.

“At this point, I am cautiously optimistic that we will be able to do so,” he said.

Costs per aircraft are coming down, Kendall said. “Since 2010, production costs have been stable and are coming down, ... roughly consistent with our estimates,” he said. “We have been tightening the terms of production contracts.”

The aircraft builder—Lockheed-Martin—is required to share costs associated with design changes due to concurrency, and the Defense Department is negotiating the next two buys. “In these lots, and all future lots, Lockheed will bear all of the risks of overruns,” Kendall said. “At this point we have a solid understanding of the production costs, and believe that they are under control.”

The undersecretary said he believes sustainment costs represent the greatest opportunity to reduce life cycle costs of the F-35 going forward.

“We are now focused on ways to introduce competition, and to take creative steps to lower those costs as well,” he said. “The bottom line is that since 2010, we have been making steady progress to complete development, stabilize the design, and control costs.”

Much remains to be done with the program, and surprises may still happen, Kendall acknowledged, but he added that he is “cautiously optimistic that we will be able to increase production to more economical rates beginning in 2015 as planned.”

Centcom Undertakes Massive Logistical Drawdown in Afghanistan

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JUNE 21, 2013)

Donna Miles

TAMPA, Fla.—Two years ago, as commander of U.S. Forces-Iraq, Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III was marching against a strict Dec. 31, 2011, deadline to complete the largest logistical drawdown since World War II.

It was a mammoth undertaking, involving troop redeployments and equipment retrogrades that had peaked at the height of coalition operations in 2007 and 2008. At that time, the United States had 165,000 service members and 505 bases in Iraq—all packed to the gills with everything

from weapons systems and computers networks to bunking and dining facilities.

Austin had to reduce the force to zero, collaborating with U.S. Central Command to determine whether equipment should return to the United States or be transferred to the Iraqis or sent to Afghanistan to support the war effort there. Centcom, in lockstep with U.S. Transportation Command and its service components, redeployed the 60,000 troops who remained in Iraq at the time and more than 1 million pieces of equipment ahead of their deadline.

Then-Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, commemorating the end of America's military mission in Iraq at a mid-December 2011 ceremony in Baghdad, praised Austin for conducting "one of the most complex logistical undertakings in U.S. military history."

"Your effort to make this day a reality is nothing short of miraculous," Panetta told Austin.

Today, as the Centcom commander, Austin is facing an even more daunting challenge as he carries out a larger, more complex drawdown operation, in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's geography, weather and security situation, and its limited transportation infrastructure present bigger obstacles than planners ever faced in Iraq, Scott Anderson, Centcom's deputy director for logistics and engineering, said during an interview at the command headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base.

Also, there's no other combat operation to transfer the mountain of logistics to. Everything has to be transferred to the Afghans, sold to a partner nation, destroyed so it doesn't fall into the wrong hands, or returned to the United States, Anderson noted.

First and foremost among the challenges is Afghanistan's landlocked location. There's no ready access to a seaport, and no Kuwait next door, providing an initial staging point for retrograde operations as it did during the Iraq drawdown.

"Kuwait was our 'catcher's mitt,'" Anderson said. "If you were to ask me how long it takes to retrograde out of Iraq, I would say as long as it takes to get across the border to Kuwait."

In contrast, there's no similar "catcher's mitt" for Afghanistan, he said. "Leaving Afghanistan, you can't just go next door to Pakistan or up into Uzbekistan and park. Once the

movement begins, you have to keep moving, and the velocity continues until [the shipment] gets home to the U.S."

Outgoing shipments—about 1,000 pieces of rolling stock and more than 2,000 cargo containers per month—are moving primarily by air or through ground routes across Pakistan, Eastern Europe, and Western Asia—known as the Northern Distribution Network, Anderson reported.

When flying equipment out from Afghanistan, "multimodal transport" is the most-favored option. It involves an initial movement to one country, usually by air, then a transfer to another conveyance such as a ship for the rest of the trip.

The shortest and least-expensive ground routes out of Afghanistan pass through Pakistan to its port in Karachi. Centcom and Transcom used the "Pakistan ground lines of communication" for about 70 percent of Afghanistan-bound shipments until the Pakistan government abruptly closed them in November 2011 for seven months over a political dispute, Anderson said.

That forced the United States to make greater use of the Northern Distribution Network, an elaborate network of rail, sealift, and trucking lines established in 2009, to sustain forces in Afghanistan, he said. It continues to provide about 80 percent of all sustainment operations.

With agreements in place to channel an ever-increasing amount of retrograde cargo through Pakistan, Anderson said Centcom is satisfied that it has ample capacity to support the drawdown.

But recognizing lessons learned, he said the United States wants to keep every possible exit route open to ensure no single "point of failure" can disrupt the effort. "If you lose a route, you lose capacity," he said. "So you keep your options open. That's why we look to maintain redundant routes and we want to keep those routes 'warm' by using them."

Yet for now, only about 4 percent of retrograde equipment is flowing through the Northern Distribution Network.

One reason, Anderson explained, is that the vast majority of U.S. forces now are operating in eastern Afghanistan, which is closer to Pakistan than the NDN. "The majority of our cargo simply isn't leaving the northern part of Afghanistan," he said.

To get it across Afghanistan to the NDN involves crossing the towering Hindu Kush mountain range—a logistical challenge that becomes monumental during the winter months.



Army Sgt. Andrew Markley, materiel redistribution yard noncommissioned officer for Forward Operating Base Sharana, helps move containers at his facility. U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan

But there are other complications to making greater use of the Northern Distribution Network, particularly for many of the shipments that initially entered Afghanistan via Pakistan or by air, Anderson explained.

Some of the physical infrastructure simply can't accommodate the heavy equipment being moved. Many of the countries involved have strict rules about what kinds of equipment can and can't transit through their territory—with particular objection to weapons systems and combat vehicles. In some cases, nations will allow these shipments to cross into their borders—but only if the contents are covered.

"For retrograde, we have had to renegotiate agreements with all the Central Asian nations" that make up the Northern Distribution Network, Anderson said. "It may not be as viable a route as we would like, but the bottom line is, we need it."

Anderson said he's optimistic that the retrograde is on schedule to meet President Obama's directive that the current force—about 60,000—reduce to 34,000 by February.

"Between now and February, we are going to have a substantial amount of cargo move," he said. Calling the February

deadline "achievable," he called it an important milestone toward the Dec. 31 deadline.

Meanwhile, Centcom leaders recognize the operational requirements that continue in Afghanistan, including upcoming elections next spring.

"Some of the equipment that we would otherwise be retrograding must remain because there is an operational imperative there," Anderson said. "So in everything we do, we are working to maintain this balance between operations going on in Afghanistan—folks who need their vehicles and equipment—and our ability to retrograde."

Emphasizing that Centcom will continue to sustain forces on the ground throughout drawdown operations, Anderson said signs of the transition underway will become increasingly evident over time.

U.S. bases, which once numbered more than 600, are down to about 100, some closed but most now transferred to the Afghan National Security Forces. Much of the equipment is being shared as well, although strict U.S. laws dictate what

kinds of equipment can be transferred to the Afghans or any other partners, Anderson noted.

There's another consideration to weigh: leaving equipment the Afghans can't maintain over the long haul does them no good. "If we know there will be challenges in maintaining what we give them, then giving them more equipment is not going to help," Anderson said.

Meanwhile, Centcom will strive to maintain the highest quality of life for U.S. forces on the ground throughout the drawdown, he said.

One seemingly small change, however, is sending a big signal of what's ahead. Rather than three hot meals each day, U.S. forces in Afghanistan are now getting Meals, Ready to Eat for their mid-day rations.

The idea, Anderson explained, is to use up what's already available in the theater, particularly when shipping it home costs more than it's worth.

"Every day, [Marine] Gen. [Joseph F.] Dunford [Jr., commander of U.S. and International Security Assistance Force troops in Afghanistan], sits down at lunch like everyone else and eats his MRE," Anderson said. "It sets a tremendous example." In a small way, he said, it sets the tone for the entire drawdown process.

"We are doing the drawdown in a balanced way, and with concern about the taxpayers' money," Anderson said. "We want to do this in the most economical, most efficient way possible, without causing excess or waste."

Navy Receives First F-35C Lightning II

COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR FORCES PUBLIC AFFAIRS
(JUNE 22, 2013)

SAN DIEGO—The U.S. Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 101 received the Navy's first F-35C Lightning II carrier variant aircraft from Lockheed Martin today at the squadron's home at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.



EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (June 22, 2013) Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Tabert, F-35C instructor pilot, prepares to exit the cockpit after landing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The U.S. Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 101 received the Navy's first F-35C Lightning II carrier variant aircraft from Lockheed Martin at the squadron's home at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. VFA 101, based at Eglin Air Force Base, will serve as the F-35C Fleet Replacement Squadron, training both aircrew and maintenance personnel to fly and repair the F-35C.

U.S. Air Force Photo by Maj. Karen Roganov, 33d Fighter Wing Public Affairs



The first fully equipped KC-46 is slated to fly in early 2015. A KC-46 conducts in-flight refueling on a B-2 bomber in this illustration. The first KC-46 is expected to fly in 2015.

U.S. Air Force illustration

The F-35C is a fifth generation fighter, combining advanced stealth with fighter speed and agility, fully fused sensor information, network-enabled operations, and advanced sustainment.

The F-35C will enhance the flexibility, power projection, and strike capabilities of carrier air wings and joint task forces and will complement the capabilities of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, which currently serves as the Navy's premier strike fighter.

By 2025, the Navy's aircraft carrier-based air wings will consist of a mix of F-35C, F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, EA-18G Growlers electronic attack aircraft, E-2D Hawkeye battle management and control aircraft, Unmanned Carrier Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike (UCLASS) air vehicles, MH-60R/S helicopters, and Carrier Onboard Delivery logistics aircraft.

FA 101, based at Eglin Air Force Base, will serve as the F-35C Fleet Replacement Squadron, training both aircrew and maintenance personnel to fly and repair the F-35C.

For more news from Commander, Naval Air Forces, visit <http://www.news.navy.mil/local/airpac/> or the command's official Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/FlyNavy>.

DoD Releases Report on U.S. Nuclear Employment Strategy

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JULY 1, 2013)

The Defense Department published a congressionally mandated, unclassified report on the U.S. Nuclear Employment Strategy today. The report is posted at: http://www.defense.gov/pubs/ReporttoCongressonUSNuclearEmploymentStrategy_Section491.pdf.

First KC-46 Build Begins

88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs (JULY 1, 2013)

Daryl Mayer

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—Boeing's announcement this past week that they have begun assembly of the first KC-46 wing spar is a significant event for the Air Force tanker program. It marks the start of assembly of the first KC-46 Engineering and Manufacturing Development aircraft.

"We are excited and pleased that KC-46 fabrication has begun. The Boeing team continues to make significant progress in the development of the Air Force's next tanker," said Maj. Gen. John Thompson, Program Executive Officer for Tankers at the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center. "The development effort is on track; detailed test planning is making good progress; and initial beddown, training, and sustainment planning is underway."

The Air Force is about a third of the way into the KC-46 tanker development program. The Air Force contracted with Boeing in February 2011 to acquire 179 KC-46 tankers to begin recapitalizing the more than 50-year-old KC-135 fleet. The initial delivery target is for 18 tankers by 2017. Production will then ramp up to deliver all 179 tankers by 2028.

The aircraft being produced at the Boeing factory in Everett, Wash., is a commercial derivative design based on the Boeing 767-200ER passenger aircraft. When the aircraft comes off the Everett production line, it will be a 767-2C Provisioned Freighter that will eventually become a military-configured KC-46 tanker.

DoD Supports Continuing Timely Procurement Law, Official Says

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JULY 16, 2013)

Nick Simeone

WASHINGTON—A senior Defense Department official told Congress today the Pentagon fully supports reauthorization of a law that grants the president the power to ensure timely procurement of essential services and materials during war or national emergencies and to guarantee the nation's industrial base remains a reliable supplier.

Frank Kendall, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, called the Defense Production Act an urgent operational requirement needed as much today as it was 60 years ago.

In recent years, government agencies have used the authority to speed the delivery of equipment needed to restore rail service after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and to provide services in the wake of Hurricane Sandy in October of last year. Most recently, it has enabled the rapid fielding of items such as systems to counter improvised explosive devices; mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles; and intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance platforms, among many others, Kendall told the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.

While not always invoked, DPA authority is part of all DoD contracts and requires periodic reauthorization by Congress. Parts of the act are set to expire, and today's hearing was called to hear testimony from the Defense Department and other agencies on its reauthorization, which is considered routine.

Kendall said the law remains vital to national defense by ensuring the private sector continues to produce goods and services the government may need during emergencies, but that may no longer be in demand on the commercial market. "Industry has no obligation to prioritize national security requirements," he added, "and at times, they're financially motivated to do otherwise."

He noted as well that financial incentives provided to U.S. industry reduce the likelihood of the government having to rely on foreign suppliers. "New, expanded and modernized domestic industrial capabilities reduce the risk of foreign dependencies caused by geopolitical factors or other economic issues, and strengthen the economic and technological competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers," he said.

Kendall also told the committee he is concerned about the level of cyberattacks affecting defense suppliers and that he is considering changes in contracting procedures to mitigate the risk of corporate espionage.

"I'm talking particularly about design information, which might not be classified, but if you acquired that information, it certainly shortens your lead time to build things, and it reduces your costs," he explained. "That's an advantage we don't want to give our potential adversaries."

Soldiers Train Under Fire Aided by Army's New Network

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (JULY 17, 2013)

Amy Walker

FORT POLK, La.—As a U.S. Army platoon in training heads into a quiet mock Afghan village, an improvised explosive device detonates in its path; soldiers on foot dodge swarms of insurgent gunfire. Because the unit is equipped with new Capability Set 13 network technologies, the location of each soldier and details of the fight can be sent to commanders throughout the entire brigade, who can quickly send in needed support and put their next move into action.

"[In the past] information on IEDs [improvised explosive devices] in theater was delayed as it got [disseminated throughout the brigade] in detail," said Staff Sgt. Christopher



A soldier from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), uses his Rifleman Radio, part of the Army's new Capability Set 13 network technologies, to report a simulated insurgent attack during training at the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.

U.S. Army photo

Clark, a squad leader with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), or 3/10, during recent training exercises. "Now, with everyone seeing the same picture at the same time, a battalion or brigade commander and his higher headquarters can make [immediate] assessments."

Real-life scenarios such as the one described above unfold daily at the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center, known as JRTC, at Fort Polk, La., complete with simulated IED explosions and gunfire, replicated Afghan villages, and more than 250 role players standing in for the Afghan army, police, and civilians. In preparation for its possible deployment, 3/10 recently trained at the JRTC with the Army's new Capability Set 13, or CS 13, capabilities. Its sister unit, 4th BCT, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), or 4/10, finished its CS 13 JRTC rotation in April and is deploying this year.

CS 13 is the first of the Army's fully-integrated network fielding efforts, which include a mix of capabilities that are scalable and tailorable in design to support the changing

requirements of current and future missions. CS 13 includes radios, satellite systems, software applications, smartphone-like devices, and other network components that provide connectivity from the stationary command post to the commander on-the-move in a tactical vehicle to the dismounted soldier. Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, known as WIN-T, Increment 2, often referred to as the Army's Internet, is the mobile tactical communications network backbone that binds the capability sets together, increasing the pace of combat operations and extending the operational distances units can cover.

If and when they are called upon to deploy, the BCTs armed with CS 13 capabilities will serve as Security Forces Advisory and Assist Teams, or SFAATs, working with Afghan National Security Forces, known as the ANSF, to improve their capability and help the Afghans secure their country as coalition forces reduce their presence.

Current JRTC rotations reflect these missions, providing realistic environments and ANSF role players that Army BCTs

can interact with to help prepare them for the challenges they could face in theater.

“SFAAT missions involve small teams pushing out to assist their Afghan counterparts, and they might not be going to a U.S. base with tremendous network capability, but now soldiers can take the network with them—and that is incredible,” said Maj. Graham Wood, brigade communications officer for 3/10. “As we begin to reduce our footprint in Afghanistan, WIN-T Increment 2 [as part of CS 13] gives you that capability to have the network up until the point that you leave theater. There is no gap anymore; you can stay because the network stays with you.”

The advantages of CS 13 were apparent during one of 3/10’s JRTC mission threads. A U.S. Army platoon was required to assist the ANSF role players in questioning a suspected Afghan insurgent in a small village. After searching the suspect’s car, they found explosive materials and a map that led to a replicated weapons cache in the woods outside of the village. The platoon’s new CS 13 capabilities enabled the squad leader at the scene to inform the entire brigade of the event so an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team could be called in to safely dismantle the explosives.

To get that critical information from the depths of the woods to the commanders across the brigade, the squad leader simply typed the location and information into his smart-phone-like device. His Rifleman Radio sent that signal to his platoon’s vehicle, which was equipped with CS 13 capabilities. Since his unit’s networked radios retransmit signals, he didn’t have to be within range of the vehicle; his radio could just hop through other radios in the area to get the signal back to the vehicle.

Back on the dirt road, the platoon’s vehicle housed the satellite-based Joint Capabilities Release, or JCR, which plots and transmits friendly and enemy force locations and other battlefield information throughout the force. The JCR system transmitted the squad leader’s report of the IED cache, which reached higher headquarters’ tactical operations centers and WIN-T Increment 2-equipped vehicles across the brigade. In a matter of minutes, everyone involved in the operations, both at the TOCs and on-the-move in the networked vehicles, had the complete operational picture.

If needed, the WIN-T network could pass that information all the way back to the United States.

“Information is populated across the world, not just in the brigade—really it’s global,” Wood said. “Anybody [in the U.S.

force] is going to be able to see and communicate with that soldier once you get that link out of the vehicle.”

Since it provides advanced mobile communications down to the lowest echelons for the first time, CS 13 and its future enhancements will change how the Army conducts operations on the battlefield. No longer will soldiers and their commanders have to return to stationary command posts to report outdated critical events or to get new orders so they can return to the battlefield; now they can get them “on the fly.”

“CS 13 is really going to enable a faster pace of warfare and it is certainly going to change how we fight,” Wood said. “It is a game changer.”

Walker is with Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical.

Carter: DoD Manages Major Strategic Transition as Budget Shrinks

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (JULY 18, 2013)

Cheryl Pellerin

WASHINGTON—Despite budget reductions as large and steep as those following Vietnam or the Cold War, the Defense Department is managing a major strategic transition that has military, geopolitical, and technological elements, Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter said today.

Nearly 1,600 miles from Washington, at the annual Aspen Institute Security Forum in Colorado, Carter spoke with David Sanger, chief Washington correspondent for *The New York Times*, about the department’s present and future.

One of the first shifts the nation must make, the deputy secretary said, must be away from the decade after 9/11, characterized by counterinsurgency wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and by wrestling with the problem of counterterrorism.

“Those were the riveting, defining, daily preoccupations of all of us,” he said. “At the same time, we all know that era is coming to an end and that we need to turn our minds now and our eyes ... to the opportunities and challenges that are going to define our future.”

Carter said one of the biggest U.S. opportunities in the present era has come from shifting the great intellectual and physical weight of its military institution from Iraq and Afghanistan to the Asia-Pacific region.

“You’ll see that happening now,” he said, in terms of troops, ships and aircraft in the region, and investments that are

of particular importance to that theater, including a new bomber, a new variant of the Virginia-class submarine, new tactical aircraft, new electronic warfare capabilities, and others.

In addition to the military dimension of the shift is a political dimension, Carter said, with U.S. alliances in the region.

The deputy secretary named Japan as a rising military power in East Asia. Other alliances include South Korea, the countries of Southeast Asia, longtime U.S. allies Australia and Thailand, and India, which he called a natural U.S. security partner.

In the area of new capabilities and technological investments, Carter said cyber is an important thrust for the United States.

Sanger asked about the Senate testimony in March of Army Gen. Keith B. Alexander, commander of U.S. Cyber Command, who described 40 new cyber teams working under Cybercom—27 of the teams for defensive operations and 13 for offensive operations.

The members of Cybercom's 40 new teams come from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, Carter said, and make up a cyber force of about 4,000, at least for now.

"We're starting this way because I want to start fast," he said. "So we're taking the people we have and then slowly growing the new people that we need. That's the management strategy."

This is not a money problem, he added, but is a management problem.

"It doesn't cost a lot. And fundamentally we're spending everything we can think about spending intelligently for, notwithstanding our budget hassles, because this is an area that we are protecting even as other military capabilities will be cut," the deputy secretary said.

Carter said the Defense Department divides the cyber mission into three pieces.

"The first piece, and by far and away the most important piece for us, is to defend the integrity of our own networks because ... everything we do depends upon the use of information systems, including ones that are connected to the Internet," he explained.

The second piece is to develop, deploy, and do intelligence preparation for our U.S. cyber capabilities to nullify cyber advantage on the part of others, Carter said, adding that offensive cyber operations generate some of what he called the "tricky issues" that involve privacy and unintended consequences.

Authorities for offensive cyber operations "are the kinds of things that are serious enough that they're reserved for the president. ... We have thought these through. We are thinking them through. And it's fair game for a wider conversation," he said.

The deputy secretary added that cyber is a new field of warfare. "And obviously, we want to do things, as we try always to do, in a way that is lawful and ... that our population can support and that is consistent with our values," he added.

The third piece for DoD is to play a supporting role with law enforcement and Homeland Security in defending the nation's networks, Carter said.

"This defense of the nation business ... is very important. Government can help and needs to help but ... many of the civil networks are so poorly protected themselves that it is very difficult for us to claim that we can come to their aid," he added.

They need to protect themselves first, Carter said. "A lot of our critical businesses are more vulnerable than they should be, and ... they should take steps to harden themselves," he told Sanger.

Army Science, Technology Cuts Would Be 'Devastating'

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (JULY 18, 2013)

J.D. Leipold

WASHINGTON—The Army cannot afford to mortgage its future by allowing for reductions in science and technology funding, said the director of the Army Acquisition Corps before an Association of the United States Army breakfast meeting, July 18, in Arlington, Va.

Citing \$37 billion in cuts throughout the Defense Department, and another \$52 billion in cuts potentially facing DoD in fiscal year 2014, Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips told the Army and business leaders in the audience that, in his opinion, it will take a generation to recover from the effects of the budget control act and sequestration.

"In a word, it's 'devastating,' a word I've used in testimony twice before Congress in this year alone," said the general

In the News

who has also served as military deputy for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, known as ASA(ALT), since 2010.

“As we look out in the future and maybe have reductions in procurement and RD&A [research, development and acquisition] accounts—and I believe we will—we can’t leverage S&T [science and technology] because when we come out of this we have to have programs in place in the technologies to push the Army forward,” Phillips said, “because the last thing we ever want to do is have a soldier go into combat and it be an even fight.”

To ensure the advantage always lies with the American G.I., Phillips stressed the importance of the “network,” which continues to evolve to let soldiers know where they are, where their battle buddies are, and where their enemies are.

“Industry has a play in everything we’re going to do in building this network, but it starts with the CIO [Chief Information Officer G-6 Lt. Gen. Susan Lawrence] doing the technical architecture for everything we’ll implement in the network,” he said. “It’s [Lt. Gen.] Keith Walker and [U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command] working the operational architectures and designing the systems we’ll build to field the network, and then we have 12 PEOs [program executive officers], and each of them have a play in this.

“Then we take the technical architecture, the operational architecture and the sustainment piece from Army Materiel Command, and we at ASA(ALT) put that together to build a systems architecture,” Phillips said. “All these systems, maybe 40, 50, 60 of these systems that we’re putting together, that could be inside an MRAP [mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle], an M-ATV, Bradley, Abrams, or maybe a helicopter.”



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, integrate Nett Warrior into their training during the Network Integration Evaluation 13.1, at Dona Ana Range, N.M., in October 2012.

U.S. Army photo

Capabilities Set 13 has been fielded to four brigade combat teams, Phillips said. The latest iteration of capabilities was gleaned through three Network Integration Evaluations, known as NIEs, conducted in an operationally relevant and punishing environment, he said. More than 115 systems from government and industry were evaluated in the first three NIEs by 3,800 soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

“The NIE is so important to the Army’s ability to get this right and to test it and put it in the hands of soldiers, and make sure they use it and give feedback,” he said. “It’s incredibly complex, and incredibly important for us going forward.”

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, integrate Nett Warrior into their training during the Network Integration Evaluation 13.1, at Dona Ana Range, N.M., in October 2012.