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Keep Watch: [Brutal heat from Phoenix to Boston triggers alerts for 100 million](#) Turkey, U.N. Officials Say Deal Reached With Russia, Ukraine on Grain Exports



Aerospace & Defense

[Russia Steps Up Kamikaze Drone Strikes As It Targets Ukraine's American Artillery \(Forbes\)](#)

U.S.-supplied HIMARS guided rocket launchers are inflicting severe punishment on Russian forces in Ukraine, most recently punching holes in Antonivsky bridge in Kherson. The agile, truck mounted systems can shoot and scoot before they can be targeted, but now Russia wants to seek and destroy them with kamikaze drones. “[Russian Defence Minister] Shoigu recently stated that the Russian goal is to take out Ukraine’s long-range missile and artillery weapons,” Samuel Bendett, an expert on Russian drones and adviser to both the CNA and CNAS, told me. “This is a hint that Russia either needs, or will soon field, loitering munitions.” In the first few months of the war, Russian loitering munitions only carried out a handful of strikes — now they are appearing on a daily basis. Loitering munitions, otherwise known as kamikaze drones, offer something that Russia desperately needs: the ability to find and hit mobile targets like HIMARS from long range. Unlike a missile, the operator can fly a loitering munition around looking for targets and does not need to know their location in advance.

[Austria Becomes the National Guard’s Newest Security Partner in Europe](#)

[Czech Republic Plans to Buy F-35 as New Fighter, Would Be 16th Customer \(Air Force Magazine\)](#)

The Czech Republic plans to buy 24 F-35As, which would make it the 16th nation to either buy F-35s or announce the intent to do so and the 10th member or soon-to-be member of NATO to select the jet. In a July 20 Prague press conference, Czech prime minister Petr Fiala said the nation has “decided to enter into negotiations with our U.S. partners for the acquisition of the fifth-generation, supersonic F-35 multirole aircraft.” He also announced that the country will seek to buy Swedish infantry fighting vehicles. These moves will strengthen the Czech Republic’s armed forces “for decades to come,” he said. The country is interested in the F-35A conventional takeoff version. The aircraft will replace 14 leased Swedish JAS-39C/D Gripen fighters, which will serve until 2027. The Czech Republic was also considering the Eurofighter Typhoon and the Gripen JAS-39E, which has been upgraded with new capabilities. Notably, the Swedish offer would have allowed the Czech Republic to retain at no cost the Gripen C/Ds it has been using.

[The Countries Capable of Launching Space Rockets](#)



[US Air Force Chief of Staff Says Officials Considering Training Ukrainian Pilots \(Military.com\)](#)

Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., chief of staff of the Air Force, said that U.S. officials are considering training Ukrainian pilots as that country continues to fend off Russia's invasion. Brown's comments at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado on Wednesday come as

House lawmakers recently approved \$100 million as part of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act to train Ukrainian pilots to fly U.S. fighter jets as the campaign against Russia rolls into a fifth month. "I do believe that we have an aspect and a responsibility, like we do with all our allies and partners, to be prepared to train them in various capabilities and capacities," Brown said. "Part of this is understanding where Ukraine wants to go, and how we meet them where they are." Brown told Reuters during his flight to Aspen that allies and the U.S. are discussing Ukraine's "long-term plan on how do you build their air force and the air force that they're going to need for the future?"

Budget & Appropriations

[Senate Armed Services releases full \\$847 billion defense bill \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) today released the text of its annual defense policy bill, boosting the department's procurement and research funds by billions over its budget request. The SASC version of the fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act would authorize a \$45 billion increase in defense spending over the budget request, to a total of \$847 billion, at a time when high inflation is eating into the Pentagon's coffers, the US is contending with an increasingly aggressive China and the Pentagon is shipping weapons to Ukraine amid Russia's invasion of the country. In a statement, SASC chairman Sen. Jack Reed called the bill an "important step forward."

[European Central Bank Raises Rates for First Time in 11 Years](#)



[Biden to unveil \\$37B budget request for funding law enforcement, crime prevention \(ABC News\)](#)

President Joe Biden will unveil on Thursday an expanded budget request to Congress with \$37 billion in funding for law enforcement and crime prevention for what the White House is calling his "Safer America Plan." But Biden's request is aspirational -- it's for fiscal year

2023, which for the U.S. government begins this October, and it needs to be approved by Congress. Presidential administrations past and present often make large, ambitious budget requests as a messaging tool, only to see them not come to fruition or to be whittled down. As part of his "Safer America Plan," the White House said Biden will request "a fully paid-for new investment of approximately \$35 billion to support law enforcement and crime prevention -- in addition to the President's \$2 billion discretionary request for these same programs." According to the White House, the requested funding would be used in hiring and training 100,000 new police officers for "accountable community policing," clearing court backlogs, solving murders and setting up community task forces to share intelligence. The funds would also target crimes not directly related to guns, such as fentanyl trafficking.

[Americans filing jobless claims at highest level in 8 months](#)

[Schumer's legal weed bill is finally here \(POLITICO\)](#)

Senate leaders are introducing sweeping legislation Thursday meant to lift federal prohibitions on marijuana more than 50 years after Congress made the drug illegal. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act would decriminalize weed on the federal level and allow states to set their own marijuana laws without fear of punishment from Washington. The bill has been a long time coming — Schumer, along with Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.) proposed a discussion draft more than a year ago — and its odds of passing in this Senate are slim. But the legislation will shape the conversation around cannabis legalization going forward and portions of it are likely to find their way into other bills that could pass before the end of the year. The legislation includes both Democratic and Republican priorities: It expunges federal cannabis-related records and creates funding for law enforcement departments to fight illegal cannabis cultivation. It also establishes grant programs for small business owners entering the industry who are from communities disproportionately hurt by past drug laws, requires the Department of Transportation to research and develop a nationwide standard for marijuana-impaired driving, and restricts the marketing of cannabis to minors.

Advanced Technologies

[How The New Hypersonic Weapons Tracking Constellation Will Work \(The Warzone\)](#)

The U.S. Space Development Agency, or SDA, announced on Monday that it was

awarding more than \$1.3 billion in two prototype agreements to send 28 small satellites into low Earth orbit. Scheduled for launch in three years, the satellites are designed to provide the initial missile warning/missile tracking capabilities of the future National Defense Space Architecture, or NDSA. The NDSA consists of multiple components, including two layers of space-based platforms, which the SDA describes as the Transport Layer and the Tracking Layer. The Transport Layer — which is basically a communication layer/constellation — will provide "assured, resilient, low-latency military data and connectivity worldwide to the full range of warfighter platforms." It is planned as a constellation varying in size from 300 to more than 500 satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO) ranging from 750 kilometers to 1,200 kilometers in altitude. With a full constellation, 95% of the locations on the Earth will have at least two satellites in view at any given time while 99% of the locations on the Earth will have at least one satellite in view.

[DARPA launching research project to revolutionize brain injury diagnosis on the battlefield](#)

[Senators Take Aim At Quantum-Enabled Hacking With New Bill \(Defense One\)](#)

Experts believe quantum computing may render some of the core cybersecurity algorithms at the heart of many modern-day digital experiences—from accessing money via an ATM to sending secure messages—obsolete. A new bipartisan bill pushes the U.S. government to prepare more quickly for that eventuality. The problem is a complex one, literally. The public key encryption standards for everything from bank transactions to secure communications are based on the mathematical principle of factorization. A classical computer would take around 300 trillion years to crack them. But a quantum computer, able to process bits composed of values far more diverse than “1” or “0,” could crack the same encryption standard in seconds. While no quantum computer yet exists that can perform such a trick, the rapidly growing field suggests it’s possible within the decade. And that won’t stop adversaries from attempting to steal encrypted data now for later decoding, according to the bill’s authors. “The rapid progress of quantum computing suggests the potential for adversaries of the United States to steal sensitive encrypted data today using classical computers, and wait until sufficiently powerful quantum systems are available to decrypt it,” reads a draft of the bill, obtained exclusively by Defense One.

[A Look At Tech Amendments In The 2023 House NDAA](#)

[US, UK governments offer \\$1.6M for tech that trains AI while preserving privacy \(FedScoop\)](#)

The U.S. and U.K. governments launched a competition series Wednesday offering \$1.6 million in prize money for developing privacy-enhancing technologies allowing artificial intelligence models to be trained with sensitive data safely. Entrants will create federated learning solutions that prevent organizations' raw data from being revealed, shared or combined as it's used to train AI improving financial crime detection, forecasting a person's risk of infection during a pandemic, or both. The series was announced in 2021 at the Summit for Democracy, which will showcase winning solutions in the financial crime and public health emergency tracks, or generalized solutions, when President Biden convenes it in early 2023. "This important initiative reflects our common purpose of developing technologies and driving innovation in a manner that reinforces our commitment to and expression of democratic values and the fundamental right to privacy," said Alondra Nelson, outgoing director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, in the announcement.

Military Installations & Communities

[New program to cut child care costs for military families coming to more states \(Military Times\)](#)

A program aimed at reducing child care costs and providing options for military parents is coming to more states. The Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-Plus program will expand to the Miami-Dade County area in September, to Texas in October and to Colorado in November, said Gilbert Cisneros, Jr., undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. The program, which began in 2019 in Maryland and Virginia, expanded to Nevada in September 2021, and to Washington state in February. "We'll continue our concerted effort to educate states on what Military Child Care In Your Neighborhood-Plus can do and encourage their participation, especially in those states where our military families are stationed," Cisneros said during the Military Child Education Coalition's Global Summit Wednesday. "We are looking forward to more states joining us in the coming days."

[Army Cuts Force Size amid Unprecedented Battle for Recruits](#)

[Sailors Waiting Months for Separation Orders, with Bills Growing and Lives Put on Hold](#)

[\(Military.com\)](#)

It took the Navy 123 days to get Christopher Atkins his separation orders. While he waited for the paperwork that affirmed what both he and the Navy already knew -- that his service was over -- his life was put on hold and thousands of dollars of expenses piled up. According to the Navy, thousands of sailors are facing delays because of held-up paperwork as the service's personnel offices deal with backlogs. A spokesman for the Navy's Personnel Command, Cullen James, told [Military.com](#) in an email that a variety of factors have caused the backlog, but he placed much of the blame on sailors. "Currently more than 70% of transactions are being submitted less than 60 days prior to a Sailor's official separation or retirement date," James said, noting that "every transaction that is submitted late takes away from transactions that are submitted on time, and puts stress on the entire system."

[Commander of Scandal-Plagued California National Guard Steps Down](#)

[Army establishes independent prosecutor office, misconduct amnesty policy \(Defense News\)](#)

The Army last week unveiled two new steps in its effort to revamp how it responds to sexual harassment and assault in the ranks, bringing the service closer to compliance with congressionally mandated reform targets. As required by the annual defense bill for 2022, the Army officially established an independent prosecutor's office, reporting to Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, according to a general order made public Thursday. The Army also announced it had implemented a "safe-to-report" policy, which shields sexual assault victims from discipline for minor misconduct — such as underage drinking — that may emerge as part of an investigation into the assault. Congress mandated the services adopt such policies in the fiscal 2021 defense bill. One of the Army's senior civilians overseeing reforms to its troubled Sexual Assault/Harassment Response and Prevention program, known as SHARP, indicated that more changes will come. "We continue to look for ways to improve the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program," said Dr. James A. Helis, who leads the Army Resilience Directorate. "This directive helps reduce the stigma associated with reporting, so offenders can be held accountable for their actions and victims can get the support they need to heal."

Homeland Security

[Senators unveil bipartisan legislation to reform counting of electors \(Axios\)](#)

A bipartisan group of 16 senators introduced legislation on Wednesday to reform and modernize the Electoral Count Act of 1887, including by clarifying the role of the vice president in certifying presidential elections. The bill, if passed by the House and Senate, would mark the first major legislative response to the Jan. 6 Capitol attack and the events that it preceded it. It's the culmination of months of negotiations by senators — led by Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) — who set out to find common ground on electoral reform after Republicans first expressed interest in January. The first bill is narrowly focused on reforming the 1887 law that former President Trump tried to exploit to overturn the results of the 2020 election. The second bill, which only has five Republican co-sponsors, creates penalties for intimidation of election workers, voters, and candidates.

[DHS spent millions on cellphone data to track Americans and foreigners inside and outside U.S., ACLU report says](#)

[Republicans plot immigration moves if they control House \(Roll Call\)](#)

When House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy led a group of House Republicans to the U.S.-Mexico border this year, he had a warning for Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas about what Republicans would do if they were in charge. “At any time, if someone is derelict in their job, there is always the option of impeaching,” McCarthy told a crowd of reporters gathered near the border in April. Months away from the midterm elections that could flip control of the House, Republican lawmakers already are plotting how they’ll handle immigration issues if they emerge victorious in November. Stuck in the minority for four years, they’re eager to restart construction on former President Donald Trump’s border wall and undo Biden-era immigration policies. They also want to ramp up accountability for Biden administration officials such as Mayorkas, whom they blame for historically high border crossings. This month, the House Republican Conference is poised to unveil plans for a future majority, developed by its American Security Task Force. Border security is expected to be a key component of that plan.

[Border Patrol Agents Seize Over 200 Pounds of Fentanyl](#)

[DHS Establishes New Office of Health Security \(DHS\)](#)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) this week established the Office of Health Security, a new office that will serve as the principal medical, workforce health and

safety, and public health authority for DHS. “Over the past several years, Americans have faced a series of unprecedented challenges impacting their health security, from the pandemic to natural disasters and more,” said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas. “Our Department must be prepared to adapt to an ever-expanding, dynamic, and complex public health threat landscape. The Office of Health Security will lead our efforts to meet that charge.” Led by DHS’s Chief Medical Officer, the Office of Health Security will unify the Department’s medical, workforce health and safety, and public health functions under one organization.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[FCC chair proposes raising broadband speed standards \(The Hill\)](#)

Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel on Friday proposed raising broadband speed standards in a notice to the rest of the commission. Rosenworcel said the current standard, set in 2015, isn’t “just behind the times” it’s also “harmful” by masking the extent to which low-income and rural communities are “left behind and left offline.” “That’s why we need to raise the standard for minimum broadband speeds now and while also aiming even higher for the future, because we need to set big goals if we want everyone everywhere to have a fair shot at 21st century success,” she said in the announcement. Rosenworcel’s notice proposes increasing the national broadband standard to 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads.

[T-Mobile Dominates in New Report from Ookla](#)



[Most US Cities Plan to Use Infrastructure Aid on Roads and Bridges \(Wall Street Journal\)](#)

Most US cities will pour their share of the federal infrastructure spending package into fixing crumbling roads and bridges, prioritizing motor vehicle infrastructure over other projects like public transit, airports and railways. About four in five cities said they plan to spend their money on local roads, bridges and major projects, with 56% prioritizing road

safety, according to a survey of 153 localities conducted by the National League of Cities and Polco. About 60% said they would use funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act on water projects. A little more than a third of the municipalities said they would spend their money on broadband Internet access. About 26% said they'd put the money toward public transportation, while a little more than a quarter cited electric vehicles, buses, and ferries. Just 13% identified airports as a spending priority. Ports and waterways and passenger and freight rail came in at the bottom with less than 10% each.

[USPS will make 40% of its new trucks electric, up from 10%](#)

[White House touts 1 million affordable broadband program sign-ups \(CNN\)](#)

Vice President Kamala Harris is set to announce Thursday that 1 million American households have signed up for broadband internet credits through the Affordable Connectivity Program -- a provision of the bipartisan infrastructure bill passed last year -- since the introduction of [GetInternet.gov](#) in May. White House officials are calling it an important milestone and a concrete example of the administration's efforts to lower costs for Americans amid high inflation. It will take some time for many of the other infrastructure projects funded by the bipartisan bill -- new roads and bridges, for example -- to come to full fruition due to planning and approval processes and getting shovels in the ground. But the connectivity program is a rare effort yielding nearly immediate and tangible benefits, a critical win the administration can tout ahead of midterm elections this November. "That's about lowering costs and giving people opportunity. The effort was very aggressive. It's happened over the past couple of months. It represents hundreds of millions of dollars in cost saving for American families," Mitch Landrieu, the former New Orleans mayor now tasked with implementing the infrastructure bill for the White House, said in an interview with CNN. "And it's because everybody put their shoulder to the wheel. And every one of the federal agencies reached out to all of our folks across the country and worked hard to continue to sign up Americans, so it's a great milestone that we've reached."

Biotechnology & Healthcare

[Covid Rises Across U.S. Amid Muted Warnings and Murky Data \(New York Times\)](#)

Covid-19 is surging around the United States again in what experts consider the most transmissible variant of the pandemic yet. But something is different this time: The public health authorities are holding back. In Chicago, where the county's Covid warning level was raised to "high" last week, the city's top doctor said there was no reason for residents

to let the virus control their lives. The state health director in Louisiana likened a new rise in Covid cases there to a downpour — “a surge within a surge” — but characterized the situation as concerning but not alarming. And the public health officer in King County, Wash., Dr. Jeffrey Duchin, said on Thursday that officials were discussing reissuing a mask mandate but would prefer that the public mask up voluntarily. “We’re not going to be able to have infinite series of mandates forcing people to do this, that and the other,” he said.



[CDC signs off on Novavax Covid-19 vaccine for adults](#)

[VA's \\$16 billion medical records overhaul could triple in cost \(Army Times\)](#)

Veterans Affairs officials announced Wednesday they will delay the planned deployment of the department's new electronic medical records to sites in Idaho amid concerns the \$16-billion project could be endangering veterans and may triple in cost. Senate lawmakers said the latest postponement — and other promised fixes to the training and deployment process — don't go far enough to acknowledge the deep-seated problems with the system, some of which may not be reparable. "For nearly two years, [local employees] have done all they can to provide healthcare to veterans in the middle of a pandemic, and with an electronic health record system that is not delivering," Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., said during a hearing on the issue. "We know this program faces very real problems. And we need to work together to make needed improvements without delay."

[WHO moves to roll out first malaria vaccine in Africa](#)

[House passes legislation to enshrine a right to contraception in federal law \(NBC News\)](#)

The House voted 228-195 largely along party lines Thursday to pass legislation to codify the right to contraception nationwide, seeking to protect it from potential Supreme Court intervention. The Right To Contraception Act, sponsored by Rep. Kathy Manning, D-N.C., would establish a right in federal law for individuals to obtain and use contraceptives. It would also affirm a right for health care providers to provide contraceptives and allow the Justice Department and entities harmed by contraception restrictions to seek enforcement of the right in court. Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Fla., said the United States is facing "a perilous time, where an extremist Supreme Court and the GOP are rolling back our rights."

Climate & Development

[Biden announces new climate change programs, but no emergency declaration \(CNBC\)](#)

President Joe Biden announced new executive steps to combat climate change on Wednesday, but fell short of issuing a climate-emergency declaration as some Democrats have called for amid stalled negotiations over major environmental legislation in Washington. "Since Congress is not acting as it should... this is an emergency and I will look at it that way," Biden said. "As president, I'll use my executive powers to combat the climate crisis in the absence of executive action." The initiatives include providing \$2.3 billion in funding for a program that helps communities prepare for disasters by expanding

flood control and retrofitting buildings, as well as leveraging funding to help low-income families cover heating and cooling costs. The president also is directing the Department of the Interior to propose new offshore wind areas in the Gulf of Mexico, a plan that could power more than 3 million homes and help the administration reach its goal to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030. Biden is ordering the Interior secretary to advance wind energy development in the waters off the mid- and southern Atlantic Coast and Florida's Gulf Coast.

[European Gas Prices Fall as Nord Stream Restart Brings Relief](#)



[More Investors Vote Against Corporate Directors Over Climate Change \(Wall Street Journal\)](#)

Investors are increasingly voting against the election of corporate directors to get companies they see as laggards on climate change to raise their ambitions. So far this year, investors have cited climate change as a reason for opposing the election of a

management-backed director at 225 U.S. companies, up from 157 in 2021 and 83 in 2020, according to shareholder disclosures. The preliminary 2022 data, which includes figures through July 7, was analyzed by Hannah Orowitz, U.S. head of environmental, social and governance at Georgeson LLC, which provides strategic shareholder services to corporations and shareholder groups. Votes on corporate directors typically take place at annual shareholder meetings, along with votes on proposals concerning how companies should disclose or set targets on climate change and diversity, which are also becoming more common. Although votes on proposals aren't legally binding in the U.S., shareholders do have the power to vote directors out of the job.

[Solar panels are feeling the heat too: How heatwave temperatures are hampering solar power](#)

[Jobs in renewable energy are growing in the US \(World Economic Forum\)](#)

The transition to renewables is boosting employment opportunities in the US, a new report finds. In its United States Energy & Employment Report 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy reveals green job rises in every energy sector. More than 3 million of the 7.8 million jobs in the US energy sector are in areas aligned to America's goal of being carbon neutral by 2050. This means renewable energy jobs in 2021 accounted for around 40% of total energy jobs. In the motor vehicles sector, hybrid electric vehicles saw the biggest jump in employment, with 23,577 new jobs. This led to an overall 25% jump in new jobs in carbon-reducing motor vehicles and component-part technologies. COVID-19 failed to slow jobs growth in electric and hybrid vehicles, the report notes. This contrasts with the energy sector as a whole, which saw a sharp decline in employment of nearly 840,000 jobs in 2020.

Next Week's Hearings

[Armed Services Committees](#)

HASC: None Listed

SASC: None Listed

Defense Appropriations Subcommittees

House: None Listed

Senate: None Listed

Homeland Security Committees

House:

- **Wednesday, July 27th at 2:00PM EST:** [Assessing CBP's Use of Facial Recognition Technology](#)
 - **Witnesses:**
 - Ms. Rebecca Gambler, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)
 - Mr. Jeramie D. Scott, Senior Counsel, Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)
 - Nicol Turner Lee, PhD, Director, The Center for Technology Innovation (CTI), The Brookings Institution

Senate:

- **Tuesday, July 26th at 10:00AM EST:** [Corruption, Abuse, and Misconduct at U.S. Penitentiary Atlanta](#)
 - **Witnesses (Panel 1):**
 - Erika Ramirez, PhD, Former Chief Psychologist, U.S. Penitentiary Atlanta
 - Terri Whitehead, Former Jail Administrator, U.S. Penitentiary Atlanta
 - Rebecca Shepard, Staff Attorney, Federal Defender Program, Inc.
 - **Witnesses (Panel 2):**
 - Michael Carvajal, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons

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