

Nuke Overhaul Ordered To Fix Failures

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has concluded that problems in the nation's nuclear forces are rooted in a lack of investment, inattention by high-level leaders and sagging morale, and is ordering top-to-bottom changes, vowing to invest billions of dollars to fix the management of the world's most deadly weapons, two senior defense officials told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Hagel ordered two lengthy reviews of the nuclear force after a series of stories by the AP revealed numerous problems in management, morale, security and safety, leading to several firings, demotions and other disciplinary actions against a range of Air Force personnel from generals to airmen.

Hagel's moves, while not dramatic, are designed to get at the core of the problem, the officials said.

The senior defense officials discussed the reviews and Hagel's response to them on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to be cited by name.

Hagel was expected to announce his decisions at a morning news conference Friday and then fly to Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, home of a Minuteman 3 missile unit whose recent setbacks are emblematic of the trouble dogging the broader force.

The Air Force has been hit hardest by the problems, particularly its Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile force based in North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. The AP documented numerous missteps over the past two years, including misbehavior by ICBM force leaders, lapses in training, violations of security



Hagel

rules and exam cheating. The Navy, which operates nuclear-armed submarines, had its own exam-cheating scandal this year and has suffered from a shortage of personnel.

Hagel's reviews concluded that the structure of U.S. nuclear forces is so incoherent that it cannot be properly managed in its current form, and that this problem explains why top-level officials often are unaware of trouble below them.

The reviews also found that a combination of problems amount to fundamental flaws, rather than random or period slip-ups that can easily be fixed, the defense officials said. They said the nuclear forces are currently meeting the demands of the mission but are finding it increasingly hard to cope.

When he ordered the two reviews in February, shortly after the Air Force announced it was investigating an exam-cheating ring at one ICBM base and a related drug investigation implicating missile crew members, Hagel was said to be flabbergasted that such misbehavior could be infecting the force.

"He said, 'What is going on here?'" one of the senior defense officials recalled.

Among his more significant moves, Hagel authorized the Air Force to put a four-star general in charge of its nuclear forces, the two senior defense officials said.

The top Air Force nuclear commander currently is a three-star Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson is responsible not only for the 450 Minuteman ICBMs but also the nuclear bomber force. Hagel has concluded that a four-star would be able to exert more

influence within the Air Force, the defense officials said.

Hagel also OK'd a proposal to upgrade the top nuclear force official at Air Force headquarters in the Pentagon from a two-star general to a three-star, the officials said.

He concluded that despite tight Pentagon budgets, billions of dollars more will be needed over the next five years to upgrade equipment. That will include a proposal to replace the Vietnam-era UH-1 Huey helicopter fleet that is part of the security forces at ICBM bases. The Air Force declared them out of date years ago but put available resources into other priorities.

The defense officials said Hagel would propose an amount between \$1 billion and \$10 billion in additional investment. An exact amount had not yet been determined.

Hans Kristensen, a nuclear expert with the Federation of American Scientists, said Thursday that while he had not seen the Hagel reviews or heard what actions Hagel was ordering, he was skeptical that it would make much difference.

A cascade of embarrassments befell the Air Force over the past two years, beginning with an AP story in May 2013 revealing one missile officer's lament of "rot" inside the force. Another AP story in November disclosed that an independent assessment for the Air Force found signs of "burnout" and elevated levels of personal misconduct among missile launch crews and missile security forces.

The AP also disclosed last year that four ICBM launch officers were disciplined for violating security rules by opening the blast door to their underground command post while one crew member was asleep.

ISIS, al-Qaida Branch To Work Together

ISTANBUL (AP) — Militant leaders from the Islamic State group and al-Qaida gathered at a farm house in northern Syria last week and agreed on a plan to stop fighting each other and work together against their opponents, a high-level Syrian opposition official and a rebel commander have told The Associated Press.

Such an accord could present new difficulties for Washington's strategy against the IS group. While warplanes from a U.S.-led coalition strike militants from the air, the Obama administration has counted on arming "moderate" rebel factions to push them back on the ground. Those rebels, already considered relatively weak and disorganized, would face far stronger opposition if the two heavy-hitting militant groups now are working together.

IS — the group that has seized nearly a third of Syria and Iraq with a campaign of brutality and beheadings this year — and al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, known as the Nusra Front, have fought each other bitterly for more than a year to dominate the rebellion against Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The Associated Press reported late last month on signs that the two groups appear to have curtailed their feud with informal local truces. Their new agreement, according to the sources in rebel groups opposed to both IS and Nusra Front, would involve a promise to stop fighting and team up in attacks in some areas of northern Syria.

Cooperation, however, would fall short of unifying the rival groups, and experts believe any pact between the two sides could easily unravel. U.S. intelligence officials have been watching the groups closely and say a full merger is not expected soon — if ever. A U.S. official with access to intelligence about Syria said the American intelligence community has not seen any indications of a shift in the two groups' strategy, but added that he could not rule out tactical deals on the ground. The official insisted on anonymity because he said he was not authorized to speak publicly about the subject.

Comet Lander Ends Up In Cliff's Shadow

BERLIN (AP) — A shadow was cast — literally — across Europe's historic mission to land on and explore a comet. Scientists said Thursday the landing craft not only bounced twice, it also came to rest next to a cliff that's blocking sunlight from its solar panels.

The good news is that the lander Philae is stable and in good health: Its scientific instruments have already begun gathering reams of data to send back to Earth, including the first pictures taken from the surface of a comet.

The bad news is that its useful lifetime may now be much shorter.

With just a day or two left before the lander's primary battery is exhausted, scientists were considering what acrobatic maneuvers to risk in order to get the solar panels out of the shadows so they can keep Philae going for a few more months.

The first photos sent back to Earth revealed the comet's rocky terrain, including an image that showed one of the lander's three feet in the corner of the frame. They indicate that Philae's instruments are working properly, said Jean-Pierre Bibring, the lander's lead scientist at the European Space Agency.

Democrat Votes Sought For Keystone

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a blend of crude oil and raw politics, Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu scrapped on Thursday for converts among fellow Democrats for legislation to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline before a runoff election that threatens to end her career in Congress.

The White House said President Barack Obama took a "dim view" of the bill but did not explicitly threaten a veto. Even so, Senate Democratic officials said the party's leadership agreed to give Landrieu room to try and pass the measure only after receiving assurances that Obama would not sign it.

The maneuvering took place as House Republicans readied a vote for Friday on their own identical pipeline bill — advanced by Rep. Bill Cassidy, who is Landrieu's rival in the Dec. 6 runoff. Landrieu led in a first round of voting last week, but Cassidy is favored to win the runoff, leaving Landrieu in urgent need of a way to shake up the race.

Landrieu sought to cast herself as an independent-minded lawmaker as she maneuvered for supporters for her bill in the Senate and for votes back home. "My leadership didn't give me permission to do this. Nobody asked me to do it," she said in remarks on the Senate floor.

The Senate Republican leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, offered a different view. "We never would have gotten to this point without the tireless leadership of Senator Hoeven in the Senate and Congressman Cassidy in the House, he said. Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota is the bill's leading Republican supporter in the Senate.

Liberia Lifts Ebola State Of Emergency

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Liberia's president said Thursday she is lifting a state of emergency imposed to control an Ebola outbreak that has ravaged the country, as Mali reported a fourth person now believed to have died of Ebola in its capital.

Also Thursday, Doctors Without Borders announced that accelerated clinical trials will be launched in West Africa to speed the search for a treatment for the virus that has killed more than 5,000 people.

In a nationwide address, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said enough progress has been made to lift emergency measures but added that the move does not mean the outbreak is over. There have been fewer Ebola cases in Monrovia, the capital, though fresh hotspots have emerged. One of those is near the border with Sierra Leone, which along with Guinea has also been hit hard by the disease.

Liberia's emergency measures closed schools, banned large public gatherings, shut some markets and allowed the government to restrict people's movements. Schools remain closed, but officials are discussing how and when to reopen them.

Meanwhile, a hospital spokesman in Bamako, Mali's capital, confirmed Thursday that a girl has become the fourth suspected Ebola victim there.

Ambush Suspect Charged With Terrorism

BLOOMING GROVE, Pa. (AP) — Authorities have added terrorism charges against a man accused of ambushing a Pennsylvania State Police barracks and killing a trooper, and they say he told them he wanted to "wake people up." State police say Eric Frein called the Sept. 12 slaying of Cpl. Bryon Dickson an "assassination" in an interview after his capture.

Police filed the additional counts on Thursday. He was already charged with first-degree murder. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

In court papers, police say they found a letter addressed to "Mom and Dad" on a thumb drive belonging to Frein. They quote the letter as saying that only a revolution "can get us back the liberties we once had."

Frein is accused of opening fire outside the Blooming Grove barracks, killing Dickson and seriously wounding another trooper.

Immigration Executive Order To Affect Millions

BY ALICIA A. CALDWELL AND ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is poised to act soon to unveil a series of executive actions on immigration that will shield possibly around 5 million immigrants living in the country illegally from deportation, according to advocates in touch with the White House.

The estimate includes extending deportation protections to parents and spouses of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have been in the country for some years. The president is also likely to expand his 2-year-old program that protects young immigrants from deportation.

Timing of the announcement is unclear, though it's expected before the end of the year. White House Press



Obama

Secretary Josh Earnest said Obama would review final recommendations after returning from his Asia trip next week. Congressional Republicans are strongly opposed to Obama's plans, and as lawmakers returned to Capitol Hill this week following midterm elections in which the GOP retook the Senate, they vowed to oppose him.

Some conservatives in the House and Senate announced plans to push for language in must-pass spending bills to block the president from acting. But other Republicans warned that such a push could result in another government shutdown like the

one last year over Obama's health care plan.

The advocates, who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of a public announcement, said that final details of the plan remained in flux. But the White House is likely to include parents and spouses of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, stipulating that they've resided in the U.S. for some period of time — possibly as little as five years. That group totals around 3.8 million people, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Although Obama is not able to grant citizenship or permanent resident green cards on his own without Congress, he can offer temporary protection from deportation along with work authorization, as he has done in the past.

Adjustments also are expected to the existing Deferred Action for Childhood

Arrivals program that allowed immigrants under 31 who had arrived before June 2007 to apply for a reprieve from deportation and a work permit. More than 600,000 young immigrants have been shielded from deportation to date under the program. Removing the upper age limit so that applicants don't have to be under 31 — one option under consideration — would make an additional 200,000 people eligible.

There may also be tweaks to business visa programs to speed up visas or make more available for high-tech workers or others.

Changes are also expected on the law enforcement side, including to a controversial program called Secure Communities that hands over people booked for local crimes to federal immigration authorities.

OBITUARIES

Evelyn Winquist

Evelyn Winquist, age 89 of Yankton passed away Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at Avera Yankton Care Center, Yankton. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 AM, Friday, November 14, 2014 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Rev. Robert Wullweber officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery. Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton is assisting with the arrangements.

Evelyn was born September 7, 1925 in Winner, SD to Frank Earl and Marie (McCoy) Coleman. She attended the Catholic School in Winner and was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton. Evelyn married Harvey Winquist on February 16, 1968 and they made Yankton their home. She was employed as a housekeeper at motels and



Winquist

Shalom Nursing Home. Evelyn enjoyed the company of all employees at the Fryn' Pan and her presence will be truly missed. She also enjoyed visiting with other tenants from her apartment complex.

Evelyn is survived by her sister, Dorothy (Austin) Carpenter of Forest Grove, OR and nephews, Russell and Thomas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey, her parents, brothers, Jim and Bill Coleman and nephew, David Carpenter.

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www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Ralph Johnson

Funeral services for Ralph P. Johnson, 96, of Bellevue, Nebraska and formerly of Yankton, South Dakota, will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2014 at Legacy Affordable Burial & Cremation Solutions at 1014 W. 8th St. in Yankton. Burial will follow in the Yankton Cemetery, Yankton, with military honors.

Visitation will be held prior to the service beginning at 11:00 a.m. Ralph

passed away Thursday, November 13 at Midland Hospital in Papillion, Nebraska. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.



Affordable Burial & Cremation Solutions
Yankton, SD
www.goglinfh.com

Shirley Kluthe

Shirley Kluthe, 96, of Scotland, South Dakota and formerly of Plankinton passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at Landmann-Jungman Hospital in Scotland.

Funeral services are pending with Goglin Funeral Home, Scotland. Online condolences may be

sent at www.goglinfh.com.



Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp
www.goglinfh.com

Charles Campbell

A Funeral Mass for Charles Campbell, 86, of Tyndall will be 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at St. Leo Catholic Church in Tyndall, followed by Military Honors.

Visitation will be at the church Monday from 5 to 7 p.m., followed by a 7 p.m. wake service.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Chapel in Springfield is in charge of arrangements. Inurnment will take place at a later date in the Springfield Cemetery.

Charles P. Campbell, son of Russell and Evelyn (McGoldrick) Campbell, was born September 4, 1928 in Springfield, SD. He died Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton. Charles attained the age of 86 years, two months and eight days.

Chuck completed high school and then joined the U.S. Navy. He served in WWII and the Korean War.

Chuck married Beverly J. Mosier on March 31, 1951 in Sioux City, IA. Two children were blessed to this union. Chuck farmed for six years



Campbell

and worked for the ASCS/FSA office in Tyndall for 33 1/2 years.

Chuck was a member of St. Leo Catholic

Church in Tyndall. He served on numerous boards including Knights of Columbus, American Legion-Avon, St. Michaels Hospital Board, Tyndall Rotary, Bon Homme 4H buildings, BY Water and Bon Homme golf course board of directors. Chuck loved to golf, watch boxing, collect coins, but most of all dogsit and spend time with the 2 "girls" Gwen & Callie (Craig's 2 Dobermans) and share omeos with them.

Thankful for having shared his life are sons: Craig and fiance' Cheryl of Avon and Mark of Elgin, TX; four grandchildren: Amanda of Tyndall, Shawn and wife Megan of Tyndall, Tyler and wife Tausha of Tea and Heath and wife Stacey of Wheatland, CA; six great grandchildren: Sophia, Eli, Liam, Cash, Crue and Shayla; sister Adella MacHummel of

Foster, IA; aunt ElvaMae Sulzbach of Sioux City, IA; and fiance' Lois Raysby of Tyndall and her six children.

Chuck was preceded in death by his wife Bev in 2008, stepbrother Jay and stepsister Patty.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
November 14, 2014

George Hamilton

George F. Hamilton, 71, of Hartington, Nebraska, died Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, at his residence after a brief illness.

His services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington.

Rodney Ness

Rodney Ness, 66, died Nov. 12, 2014, at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Services will be held on Sunday evening at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Viborg.

Viewing will begin at 5 p.m. at the church. Register online at www.viborgfuneralhome.com/.

Harriet Randall

Harriet Randall, 92, of Vermillion, died Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014, at her residence.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion.

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605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com 402-254-6547