



# Washington Examiner

## Army open to renaming 10 US bases named for Confederate heroes of the Civil War

James McIntyre

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**REBELS UNDER NEW SCRUTINY:** In the wake of nationwide protests over the treatment of black suspects at the hands of police and the public statements from black U.S. military officers, both current and former, about racism in the ranks, the Army has softened its long-standing resistance to renaming 10 U.S. Army bases honoring heroes of the Confederacy.

The reversal came in a one-sentence statement issued on behalf of the civilian leader of the Army, **Ryan McCarthy**. “The secretary of the Army is open to a bipartisan discussion on renaming bases,” said an Army spokesperson who did not want to be identified.

**THE 10 FORTS:** The Army has 10 well-known forts named after Confederate officers: Beauregard, Benning, Bragg, Gordon, A.P. Hill, Hood, Lee, Pickett, Polk, and Rucker.

Who are these heroes? “Among other qualities, the nine Confederate generals and a colonel include the head of its army (Lee), the reputed Georgia chief of the Ku Klux Klan, and the commander whose troops fired the opening shots of the Civil War,” writes Mark Thompson, a former reporter for *Time* magazine who first raised the issue with the Pentagon five years ago.

Thompson, who is now a national security analyst with the Project on Government Oversight, detailed the careers of the 10 and how they were selected for the honor of having bases named for them in his original 2015 article.

**ABOUT RECONCILIATION, NOT DIVISION:** “Every Army installation is named for a soldier who holds a place in our military history,” the Army’s top spokesman said at the time, according to a 2015 report from the *Associated Press*. “Accordingly, these historic names represent individuals, not causes or ideologies. It should be noted that the naming occurred in the spirit of reconciliation, not division.”

“When the Army says, as it did in 2015 that the naming of the installations was about individuals and reconciliation, I'd like them to show me Ft. Benedict Arnold,” said **Vernon Guidry**, a former spokesman for Defense Secretary **Les Aspin**, in a recent Facebook comment. “These names ‘honor’ the cause of the Confederacy, and it is time to stop it.”

**BANNING THE REBEL FLAG:** The discussion comes four days after the Marine Corps issued new guidance that bans almost all displays of the Confederate battle flag at Marine installations.

“The Marine Corps shall remove the Confederate battle flag from all installation public spaces and work areas in order to support our core values, ensure unit cohesion and security, and preserve good order and discipline,” the directive states.

“Displays where the confederate battle flag is depicted, but not the main focus of the display” are exempted, the guidance says. “For example, works of art, educational, or historical displays depicting a civil war battle where the Confederate battle flag is present, but not the main focus of the work.”

**EXTENDING THE BAN:** Democratic Illinois **Sen. Tammy Duckworth**, a combat veteran, is calling on the other services to follow the Marine Corps’s lead.

“Critics of banning the public display of the Confederate Battle Flag may accuse me of seeking to ‘erase’ history. Nothing could be further from the truth. My own family has ancestors who fought for the North as well as some who fought for the South. The Civil War tore apart my family as it did so many others,” she said.

“Honoring the ‘lost cause’ of those who waged war against the United States of America, or defending the right of an individual State to allow its residents to own, sell and kill fellow Americans as property, has no place in our Nation.”

**LEE GETS 10-DAY REPRIEVE:** Meanwhile, Virginia Democratic **Gov. Ralph Northam’s** plan to remove a massive statue of Confederate **Gen. Robert E. Lee** from Richmond’s Monument Avenue, where it has stood since 1890, was put on hold by a circuit court judge last night.

Richmond Circuit Court Judge **Bradley Cavedo** granted a 10-day injunction as the result of a lawsuit from the great-grandson of the couple who deeded the land on which the statue sits to Virginia, with the condition that the state “affectionately protect” the statue.

Northam was proceeding with plans to remove the monument and put it in storage last week when the judge’s order temporarily blocked the removal, which was to begin this week.

Good Tuesday morning and welcome to *Jamie McIntyre’s Daily on Defense*, written and compiled by *Washington Examiner* National Security Senior Writer **Jamie McIntyre** ([@jamiejmcintyre](mailto:@jamiejmcintyre)) and edited by **David Sivak** and **Tyler Van Dyke**. [Email here](#) with tips, suggestions, calendar items, and anything else. Sign up or read current and back issues at [DailyonDefense.com](http://DailyonDefense.com). If signing up doesn’t work, shoot us an email and we’ll add you to our list. And be sure to follow us on Twitter: [@dailyondefense](https://twitter.com/dailyondefense).

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**HAPPENING TODAY:** The Senate Armed Services Committee beginning marking up National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021. Most of the sessions are closed, being held at the “secret” level, but this afternoon’s subcommittee on personnel meeting is open.

**NOT HAPPENING TODAY:** The House Armed Services Committee got a closed-door briefing from Army Secretary **Ryan McCarthy** on Monday about the use of National Guard

troops in crowd control and the contingency plans to deploy active-duty troops on the streets of Washington and other cities to quell violence.

But Democrats on the committee, led by Chairman **Rep. Adam Smith**, are demanding that Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Joint Chiefs Chairman **Gen. Mark Milley** appear in person to answer questions about the use of troops in domestic crowd control.

“We have been informed that they will not appear as requested. This is unacceptable,” said Smith and 30 of his fellow Democrats in a statement Friday. “We insist that they appear before our committee. Our military leaders are sworn to be accountable to the people of this country, and Congress is constitutionally responsible for oversight. They must appear and testify on these crucial matters in order to meet that responsibility.”

**NO REFUSAL:** The Pentagon denies that the top leaders are snubbing the Democrats.

“Secretary of Defense Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Milley have not ‘refused’ to testify before the HASC as some are reporting,” said spokesman Jonathan Hoffman last week. “The DOD legislative affairs team remains in discussion with the HASC on this request.”

“The chairman remains adamant that Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley testify before the committee to give an on-the-record account leading up to the events in the military’s response in the District, including the clearing of demonstrators in Lafayette Square and the helicopter response in the area, as well as engage in a more broad policy discussion about the use of military service members during civil unrest,” said **Monica Matoush**, a spokeswoman for Smith.

**‘UNFATHOMABLE’:** House Democrats are also in a lather about reports that the Trump administration has discussed the possibility of conducting a live nuclear test.

In a letter to Esper and Energy Secretary **Dan Brouillette**, five committee and subcommittee chairmen and chairwomen call the idea “short-sighted and dangerous.”

“It is unfathomable that the administration is considering something so short-sighted and dangerous, and that directly contradicts its own 2018 Nuclear Posture Review,” they write. “The NPR, which this administration often cites as inviolable, makes clear that ‘the United States will not resume nuclear explosive testing unless necessary to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.’ There is no information to suggest nuclear explosive testing is necessary based on these factors.”

**MR. TRUMP, ‘TEAR DOWN THAT FENCE’:** House and Senate Democrats are calling for **President Trump** to remove more than 1 mile of temporary fencing installed around Lafayette Square and parts of the Ellipse in order to greatly expand the protective bubble around the White House.

“This unique park should be a symbol of freedom & openness, not a militarized zone behind which President Trump cowers in fear of protesters who are crying out for justice,” tweeted House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** and Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** on Monday. “Your conversion of this unique public park in the heart of our Nation’s capital to what looks like a militarized zone denies citizens access to the park and sends the worst possible message to the American public and people around the world.”

Meanwhile, as it previously announced, the National Park Service plans to begin dismantling the fence Wednesday, reopening most of Lafayette Square.

**GERMANY TROOP DRAWDOWN:** Word that Trump wants to withdraw 9,500 American forces from bases in Germany and cap the U.S. troop presence there at 25,000 was greeted with a yawn from NATO Secretary-General **Jens Stoltenberg** on Monday.

Speaking at a forum sponsored by the Atlantic Council, Stoltenberg expressed no concerns about the plan. “Over the last few years, we have actually seen an increase in the U.S. presence in Europe again,” he said. “And this is not only about Germany. We have seen, for instance, a new U.S. brigade deployed to Europe. We are seeing more rotational presence. We have seen the U.S. taking a lead, or the lead function, in the NATO battle group in Poland, more rotational military presence of U.S. forces in the Baltic countries, in Romania, including with a base for missile defense.

“So over the last years, we’ve actually seen more U.S. presence, including investing in propositioned equipment, more exercises.”

**NO DECISION YET:** “While we have no announcements at this time, as commander in chief, President Trump continually reassesses the best posture for the United States military forces and our presence overseas,” NSC spokesman **John Ulyot** told the *Washington Examiner* in response to questions about the Germany plan.

And **Thomas Spoehr**, the Heritage Foundation's director of national defense, told the *Washington Examiner's* **Abraham Mahshie** that the White House may not have made a firm decision.

“As best we can tell, talking to people in the administration, it’s still a draft plan,” he said. “We’re hoping that it isn’t finalized, that there’s still room for the administration to reconsider this plan.”

Spoehr, a former Army lieutenant general who was stationed in Germany in the 1980s when U.S. troops numbered more than 300,000, described the move as a potential “significant loss of our fighting and deterrence capability in Europe.”

“This move is kind of a shot out of blue. It came out of nowhere, a contradiction to everything else the administration has done,” he said. “It’s difficult to explain militarily.”

**GOING, GOING ... :** Hundreds of National Guard troops who were rushed to the capital a week ago are now heading home. Of the 4,000 troops from Washington, D.C., and several other states, 600 returned to their home states over the weekend, and an additional 1,500 left in the past 24 hours.

All additional guardsmen from states supporting D.C. are expected to return home by Wednesday, the National Guard Bureau said.

**GOOD TO GO:** The Pentagon is easing its restrictions on official travel by members of the military and civilian employees of the Defense Department.

Esper has signed a memo authorizing a move to a “conditions-based, phased approach to personnel movement and travel.”

As of Tuesday, DOD personnel can travel to 39 states and five countries that meet the criteria for the lifting of travel restrictions. The 11 states that remain off-limits are: California, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin.

The five countries where travel is permitted are: Bahrain, Belgium, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

The Rundown

**Washington Examiner**: NATO downplays report of Trump European troop withdrawal

**Military Times**: Plan to pull American troops from Germany worries US lawmakers

**Washington Examiner**: West enlisting Asian and Pacific nations against China ‘bullying and coercion’

**Talk Media News**: Milley: nothing has changed, he “absolutely” will not follow illegal orders

**Air Force Magazine**: Unorthodox NDAA Season Begins in the Senate

**Military Times**: Key debate on military protest response, budget priorities set to happen behind closed doors on Capitol Hill

**AP**: Erdogan says Turkey, US reached agreements on Libya

**Air Force Magazine**: F-15E Proves Ready to Fly with New Nuclear Gravity Bomb

**Bloomberg**: Navy \$13 billion aircraft carrier had launch system failure?

**The Atlantic**: Biden’s Bad Foreign-Policy Ideas, Kori Schake, The Atlantic, 6/7/20

**Hollywood Reporter**: US Military Could Lose Space Force Trademark to Netflix Series

Calendar

**TUESDAY | JUNE 9**

10 a.m. — Mitchell Institute Aerospace Nation webcast: “A Conversation with **Will Roper**,” who is the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, technology, and logistics.

Invitation only. After the event, a recording will be posted at

<https://www.mitchellaerospacepower.org/aerospace-nation>.

10:30 a.m. (change) — Heritage Foundation webinar: “Keeping Pressure on Iran Through the UN Security Council,” with State Department Special Representative for Iran **Brian Hook**; and **Brett Schaefer**, senior research fellow for international regulatory affairs at Heritage.

<https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/event>

1 p.m. — Center for Strategic and International Studies webinar, with former Defense Secretary **William Cohen**, former Homeland Security Secretary **Jeh Johnson**, and former Joint Chiefs Chairman retired **Adm. Mike Mullen**, moderated by **Nancy Youssef** of the *Wall Street Journal*. <https://www.csis.org/events/online-event>

1 p.m. — Atlantic Council webinar on the future presence of U.S. forces and how the United States can support an independent and sovereign Iraq, with former Iraqi Foreign Minister **Mohamed Ali Alhakim**; and **Abbas Kadhim**, director of the Atlantic Council's Iraq Initiative. <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event>

1:30 p.m. — **Maj. Gen. Peter Gallagher**, network cross functional team director, and **Joe Welch**, deputy, program executive office command control communications-tactical, will deliver remarks as part of Aberdeen Proving Ground's virtual Advance Planning Briefing to Industry two-day event. Register: [usarmy.apg.cecom.mbx.apbi-registration@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.apg.cecom.mbx.apbi-registration@mail.mil)

2 p.m. G50 Dirksen — Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel markup of National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021. <https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings>

2 p.m. — Woodrow Wilson Center Kissinger Institute on China and the United States book discussion via webcast on *Superpower Showdown: How the Battle Between Trump and Xi Threatens a New Cold War*, with co-author **Bob Davis**, senior editor at the *Wall Street Journal*; co-author **Lingling Wei**, reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*; and former **Rep. Jane Harman**, D-Calif., director, president and CEO of WWC. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/webcast>

10:30 a.m. — Heritage Foundation webinar: “Keeping Pressure on Iran Through the UN Security Council,” with State Department Special Representative for Iran **Brian Hook**; and **Brett Schaefer**, senior research fellow for international regulatory affairs at Heritage. <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/event>

### WEDNESDAY | JUNE 10

10 a.m. — Association of the United States Army “Thought Leaders” livestream on the Army's integration of innovation in partnership with the defense industry, with **Gen. John Murray**, Army Futures Command commanding general. <https://www.bigmarker.com/ausaorg>

10:30 a.m. — Heritage Foundation webinar: “Army Aviation – The Future of Vertical Lift,” with **Brig. Gen. Walter Rugen**, director, Future Vertical Lift Cross Functional Team., U.S. Army Futures Command; **Patrick Mason**, program. executive officer, aviation, U.S. Army; retired Army **Lt. Gen. Thomas Spoehr**, director, Heritage Foundation Center for National Defense. <https://www.heritage.org/defense/event/webinar>

11 a.m. — Middle East Institute webinar: “CENTCOM and the Shifting Sands of the Middle East,” with Marine **Gen. Frank McKenzie**, commander of U.S. Central Command; and **Bilal Saab**, senior fellow at MEI. <https://www.mei.edu/events/centcom>

11 a.m. — Heritage Foundation webinar: “Immigration and Border Security: Where Are We Now and What's Next?” with Acting Homeland Security Deputy Secretary **Ken Cuccinelli**; **Lora Ries**, senior research fellow for homeland security at Heritage; **Hans von Spakovsky**, senior legal fellow at Heritage; and **James Jay Carafano**, vice president of the Heritage Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute. <https://www.heritage.org/homeland-security/event>

11:30 a.m. — Mitchell Institute Aerospace Nation webcast: “A Conversation with **Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice**,” who is the director of the Air National Guard. Invitation only. After the event, the recording will be posted at <https://www.mitchellaerospacepower.org/aerospace-nation>.

2 p.m. — House Armed Services Committee hearing: “Department of Defense COVID-19 Response to Defense Industrial Base Challenges,” with **Ellen Lord**, undersecretary of defense for acquisition and sustainment. <https://armedservices.house.gov/hearings>

2 p.m. — Nuclear Threat Initiative webinar: “The Military Case for Extending the New START Agreement,” with former Energy Secretary **Ernest Moniz**, co-chair and CEO of NTI; and retired Air Force **Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz**, former director of the National Nuclear Security Administration. <https://zoom.us/webinar/register>

2 p.m. — Center for Strategic and International Studies webcast: “The Military and Pandemics: Early Lessons and Future Actions,” with retired Army **Lt. Gen. David Barno**, visiting professor of strategic studies at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies; and **Nora Bensahel**, visiting professor of strategic studies at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. <https://www.csis.org/events>

#### **THURSDAY | JUNE 11**

10 a.m. — George Washington University Project for Media and National Security Defense Writers Group conference call conversation with **Thomas McCaffery**, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. <https://nationalsecuritymedia.gwu.edu>

10 a.m. — Mitchell Institute Aerospace Nation Nuclear Deterrence Forum webcast with **Gordon Chang**, author and China expert; and **Rick Fisher**, senior fellow on Asian military affairs at the International Assessment and Strategy Center. Invitation only. A recording will be posted afterward at <https://www.mitchellaerospacepower.org>.

5 p.m. — George Mason University National Security Institute “NatSec Nightcap,” with former **Sen. Saxby Chambliss**, former vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; and **Jamil Jaffer**, founder and executive director, NSI. <https://nationalsecurity.gmu.edu/natsec-nightcap>

#### **FRIDAY | JUNE 12**

10 a.m. — Center for Strategic and International Studies book discussion via webcast, on “The Kill Chain: Defending America in the Future of High-Tech Warfare,” with author **Chris Brose**, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and **Jude Blanchette**, chair in China studies at CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/events/online-event>

2 p.m. — Cato Institute webinar: “Terrible Twos? Taking Stock of U.S.-North Korea Relations Two Years After Singapore,” **Victor Cha**, Korea chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; **Suzanne DiMaggio**, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; **David Kang**, director of the University of Southern California's Korean Studies Institute; and **Doug Bandow**, senior fellow at Cato. <https://www.cato.org/events>

#### **MONDAY | JUNE 15**

10 a.m. — Association of the United States Army “Thought Leaders” livestream, with retired Army **Gen. Martin Dempsey**, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and author of *No Time for Spectators*: <https://www.bigmarker.com/ausaorg>

#### **TUESDAY | JUNE 16**

11 a.m. — Nextgov and *Defense One* webcast: “Genius Machines: AI on the Frontlines.”  
<https://govexec.webex.com>