

POLITICO

Panetta's SecDef transition memo - Chuck Hagel has few Senate pals - Afghanistan's future not just about troop levels - Congress reacts to AF tanker decision

By Austin Wright – January 10th, 2013

TOP DOC: PANETTA'S SECDEF TRANSITION MEMO — Leon Panetta's chief of staff, Jeremy Bash, will run SecDef transition efforts, the Defense secretary informed service leaders in a memo obtained by Morning D. Marcel Lettre, principal deputy ASD for legislative affairs, has been named director of the SecDef Transition Task Force and will report to Bash.

"I am determined that this process be carried out in an effective and orderly fashion to ensure the continued ability of the Department to carry out its critical missions," Panetta said in the memo, dated Jan. 7. "Accordingly, the Secretary of Defense transition efforts will be organized and led by my immediate office and will serve as the sole mechanism for the purpose of receiving, assigning, and implementing requests for transition-related information and support."

Read it here, for Pros: <http://politico.pro/VUrK4E>

TOP TALKER: CHUCK HAGEL HAS FEW SENATE PALS — The SecDef nominee never thought he'd have to win a Senate popularity contest, according to POLITICO's Jonathan Allen and Darren Samuelsohn. "Maybe that's why he wasn't terribly careful about whom he confronted or whom he offended," the pair report. "In a chamber known for back-patting and elbow-rubbing, the former Nebraska senator mostly rubbed people the wrong way. Now, on his path to the Pentagon, he has to hope that irritation doesn't come back to bite him."

Said John Ulyot, a former Marine intelligence officer who was the spokesman for SASC under Chairman John Warner from 2003 to 2007: "He was respected as a colleague in the normal Senate tradition but was somewhat of a lone wolf and did not forge the deep personal relationships with his fellow Republicans that would translate into a ready reservoir of support for his nomination." More here: <http://politi.co/UOnJUp>

HAPPY THURSDAY AND WELCOME TO MORNING DEFENSE, where we're always on the lookout for tips, pitches and feedback. Email us at awright@politico.com, and follow us on Twitter @[morningdefense](https://twitter.com/morningdefense), @[abwrig](https://twitter.com/abwrig) and @[POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

HAPPENING TODAY: Panetta is hosting Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the Pentagon at 10:30 a.m., and the big question is whether they'll emerge from the meeting with any new details regarding post-2014 war plans. Panetta and CJCS Gen. Martin Dempsey are scheduled to hold a press briefing at 3 p.m.

BUT THE FUTURE OF AFGHANISTAN IS NOT JUST ABOUT TROOP LEVELS, as Pro's Kate Brannen reports in an analysis of the looming decisions to be made about the direction of the war. From the story: "Far more important than the final number is the strategic reason behind staying in Afghanistan, said Anthony Cordesman, a national security analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Cordesman is frustrated that reporters don't ask administration officials more serious questions about what post-2014 troops would be assigned and how their missions would be tied to a larger strategy that involves much more than military manpower." There's more here, for Pros: <http://politico.pro/VQDhT1>

MITCH McCONNELL TO AFGHANISTAN -- The Senate minority leader is traveling to Afghanistan this week along with other senators, Karzai told reporters after meeting with the Kentucky Republican. "Some of the other senators are headed with Sen. McConnell tomorrow to Afghanistan," Karzai said during a photo op on Capitol Hill. "I'm sorry I'm not there to receive them and host them." POLITICO's Kate Nocera has more: <http://politi.co/UBv3gw>

BACK TO HAGEL ... OP-ED: THE HEARTBREAKING HATERS — POLITICO's David Rogers, who served as an infantry medic in 1969 in Vietnam, brings his own experiences to the debate over Hagel, calling the drama over the SECDEF nomination loopy — and heartbreaking. "Heartbreaking in the sense that old Hagel colleagues in the Senate can seem so blinded by their sense of injury that they would throw him to the wolves to get back at President Barack Obama," Rogers writes. "Loopy because Washington's politics — and its press — appear to have lost all sense of context from which to judge the man before them." <http://bit.ly/VTXHdj>

WHAT PROS ARE READING —

-- **HAGEL BACKERS DENY INDUSTRY FUNDING:** Per POLITICO's Tim Mak and Kenneth P. Vogel, "According to at least one news report on Friday, The Podesta Group was approaching defense contractors to ask for help paying for ads backing Hagel in two Washington news outlets — including POLITICO's Playbook email — but that's not so, a spokesman said. Half a dozen defense lobbyists representing top firms said independently they weren't aware of any solicitations." <http://politico.pro/VU4iV8>

-- **WILL HAGEL AND KERRY BE BATMAN AND ROBIN?** Per POLITICO's Stephanie Gaskell, "Chuck Hagel and John Kerry fought in Vietnam and served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee together. And their new alliance — if they're confirmed as secretaries of Defense and the State Department — will mean new challenges involving the nation's security. How well will they work together?" <http://politico.pro/13hSWQO>

TRIVIA TIME — On this day in 1946, the United Nations held its first general assembly in which city? For the answer, read on.

**** A message from POWERJOBS:** Looking for top talent in the Defense industry? Start by listing your open positions at POWERJOBS.com — the new jobs site for the influential industries that make up Washington’s workforce — including Defense. Launched by POLITICO, WTOP and ABC7, the reach of POWERJOBS is unmatched. Get 50% off online listings now through Friday, Jan. 11, using the code “**WELCOME**” at sales.powerjobs.com. **

AND THEN THERE WERE NINE: AF WHITTLES DOWN LIST OF KC-46 BASE POSSIBILITIES — Nine bases made the cut as possibilities to host the first batch of KC-46 tankers, set to roll out in FY16. The Air Force plans to pick three winning bases in the spring. The nine that made the cut are Altus Air Force Base, Okla.; McConnell AFB, Kan.; Fairchild AFB, Wash.; Grand Forks AFB, N.D.; Forbes Air Guard Station, Kan.; Joint-Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.; Pease Air Guard Station, N.H.; Pittsburgh International Airport Air Guard Station, Pa.; and Rickenbacker Air Guard Station, Ohio. Here’s the announcement: <http://1.usa.gov/VltheP>

-- **CONGRESS REACTS:** Press releases poured in from lawmakers celebrating bases in their states and districts being chosen. “This is welcome news for Pease and the 157th Air Refueling Wing, which provides the best tanker support in the Air National Guard,” Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte said in a joint statement. Sen. Patty Murray, meanwhile, tweeted out the news: “#Fairchild AFB is on short list to house @USAirForce KC-46A #tankers.”

-- **NOT ALL SMILES:** One member who was not pleased with the announcement was Rep. Bill Young of Florida, whose MacDill Air Force Base did not make the cut. “I told Gen. Welsh that I felt like I had been misled over these many years as we developed this program,” Young told Air Force Times. <http://bit.ly/VTy19Z>

WHO’S WHERE WHEN --

8:50 a.m.: Dempsey welcomes Kazakhstan’s first deputy minister of defence, Col. Gen. Zhasuzakov Saken Adilkhovich, to the Pentagon.

1 p.m.: Alan Rudolph, director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency’s chemical and biological defense division, participates in a Defense Media Activity bloggers roundtable at Ft. Belvoir, Va.

2:30 p.m.: The Stimson Center hosts a briefing in Washington on U.S. reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. John Sopko, special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, is speaking at the event.

6:30 p.m.: The Cato Institute’s Christopher Preble delivers a presentation in Washington titled, “Overkill: The Case for Re-evaluating U.S. Nuclear Strategy.”

MAKING MOVES --

-- **BOEING GETS NEW VP FOR INVESTOR RELATIONS:** Troy Lahr has been named vice president for investor relations at the aerospace giant, succeeding Stephanie Pope, who’ll take over as vice president for financial planning and analysis. Both will report to Greg Smith, Boeing’s chief financial officer. More here: <http://bit.ly/WzhRZe>

-- **INSA NAMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS:** The Intelligence and National Security Alliance yesterday appointed six new members to its board of directors and five new members to its board of advisers. New directors: DeEtte Gray, president for intelligence and security at BAE Systems; Bernard Guerry, senior vice president of operations and general manager of national intelligence at General Dynamics; Deborah Oliver, executive vice president and COO of the SI Organization; Kathy Pherson, CEO of Pherson Associates; Tim Reardon, president for intelligence at Lockheed Martin Information Systems and Global Solutions; and Allan Sonstebly, associate director for applied research laboratory at Pennsylvania State University.

New advisers: Michael Johnson, chief scientist at DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis; Al Munson, a senior fellow at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies; Michael Rodrigue, deputy director at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; Peter Seegers, a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers; and Hal Smith, vice president and general manager at North American Public Sector.

SPEED READ --

-- Todd Harrison of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments said yesterday a March sequester would require DoD to furlough "virtually all" of its civilian employees for one month before the end of the fiscal year. Marcus Weisgerber of Defense News breaks it down: <http://bit.ly/U53b66>

-- Via Bloomberg's Tony Capaccio: "Boeing Co. (BA) agreed to provide \$1 million in replacement parts for its F-15 fighters in a confidential settlement over a jet that broke apart in midair in 2007, according to the Pentagon's inspector general." <http://bloom.bg/13iCy1L>

-- Via the AP: "The Marine Corps has advised its legal staff that spouses clubs operating on its installations must admit same-sex spouses if they wish to remain on the bases." <http://bit.ly/XldzaF>

-- Per WaPo, "The 2008 conviction of Osama bin Laden's media secretary in a military commission at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, must be vacated because of a ruling by a federal appeals court in another terrorism case, the Justice Department said in a court filing Wednesday." <http://wapo.st/RH6UYV>

-- Also via WaPo, a federal circuit appeals court will consider today whether to order the release of postmortem Osama bin Laden photos. <http://wapo.st/13iDZOy>

TODAY'S TRIVIA ANSWER — The first U.N. general assembly, comprised of 51 nations, was held in **Westminster Central Hall in London, England**. "One week later, the U.N. Security Council met for the first time and established its rules of procedure," according to the History Channel. "Then, on January 24, the General Assembly adopted its first resolution, a measure calling for the peaceful uses of atomic energy and the elimination of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction." More here: <http://bit.ly/i5kIKv>

YESTERDAY'S TRIVIA ANSWER — "Goldfinger" was the third James Bond film and the first to feature an Aston Martin, according to the History Channel. And, as many

readers noted, it's also the best film in the Bond franchise — with “Skyfall” being a close second. Big salutes to the readers who sent us the correct answer: Walker Zorensky, William Bodie, Jamie Graybeal, Scott Curtis, Thomas McDonnell, Peter Flynn, Terrence Lavis, Josh Brooks, David Hitchcock, Stephen Francis, Craig Meyers, Michael Hughes, John Taylor, Randy Pullen, Jonathan Boyd, Chuck Collier and Philip Odom.

THE NAME'S D. MORNING D. Have a great Thursday.

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