

US delays missile test over N. Korea tensions

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The Pentagon has delayed an intercontinental ballistic missile test due to take place in California next week amid soaring nuclear tensions with North Korea, an official said. The defense official told AFP that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel rescheduled the Minuteman 3 test at Vandenberg Air Force Base...

Republican's gird for a fight over Hagel at Pentagon

Instead of Michele Flournoy, Obama leans to Chuck Hagel [Photo The Atlantic]

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[Republicans gird for battle over Hagel at Pentagon](#) (via [AFP](#))

Comments from Republican lawmakers on Sunday presaged a fierce confirmation battle for the man US President Barack Obama is reportedly about to nominate as his defense secretary: Chuck Hagel. Obama has decided he wants the 66-year-old former Republican senator to succeed Leon Panetta at the Pentagon...

The Daily Show – Donald Rumsfeld extended interview

Jon accepts Donald Rumsfeld's apology – "Donald Rumsfeld discusses the Bush administration's face of certainty about Iraq intelligence." Once again, Jon digs through the veneer and demands real answers – Rumsfeld denies the known truths and blames earlier administrations for not having the "army you would like to have".

[The Daily Show – Donald Rumsfeld Pt. 1](#)

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Part II

[The Daily Show – Exclusive – Donald Rumsfeld Extended Interview Pt. 2](#)

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DoD admits all detainees at Quantico treated

'inhumanely', not just Manning UPDATED

In one of the ugliest [news conferences I have ever witnessed](#), "Defense Department Spokesman Geoff Morrell dismissed allegations that Private First Class Bradley Manning has been improperly detained for his alleged role in the release of classified documents by WikiLeaks". Morrell then proclaims that ALL prisoners are enduring the [same conditions](#) that Amnesty International has declared 'inhumane' as Bradley Manning.

Read the transcript [here](#).

So assertions by liberal bloggers, or network reporters or others that he is being mistreated, or somehow treated differently than others, in isolation, are just not accurate. And I'm glad you asked the question, so I had the opportunity, hopefully, to clear that matter up once and for all.

Yes.

Q: Could I just follow up on that? I mean, all of that being said, he still does spend 23 out of every 24 hours in that cell by himself. He's not allowed to exercise in the cell. He's not allowed to arbitrarily just write letters. He has to specifically ask for anything more than, say, one book at a time. Are – is there any concern that – because from what we've heard, even the forensic psychologist who spoke with him and examined him recommended that he not be on this protective order. I think that there's a – there's a question out there as to exactly how the brig commander – what criteria is being used to keep him under this order for such a long period of time, considering he's still in a pre-trial status.

MR. MORRELL: Just as though he is not being treated any worse than any other detainee, he is not being treated any better than any other detainee. He is not going to receive special privileges, which is essentially what you are asking him to receive. He is being treated exactly like everyone else in the brig is being treated. That's what's appropriate. We treat them all equally. And I don't understand why there would be a need for an exception to those rules to be made for Private Manning – or anyone else, for that matter.

Q: Well, are there other prisoners who have been under this protective order for the length of time that Private Manning has?

MR. MORRELL: That's probably a question that's best addressed to my colleagues at Quantico, in terms of the population at the brig there, how long some have been there versus others. I don't believe that this is an unusually long period of time. A case is being built to prosecute him on the charges that were – again, to correct another mis-report yesterday that – you know, there were cable news reports yesterday that somehow Private Manning was being held without charge – not just that he was being held in conditions that the media thought were inappropriate, but that he was being held without charge – and how un-American that is.

As you all know who work in this building, who received the charge sheet back in July, he most certainly has been charged. And he has not only been charged with illegally downloading classified information, but he has been charged with disseminating classified information to people unauthorized to receive it. So those are very serious charges levied against him, related to a very discrete incident involving mostly the downloading of Apache gunship video from Iraq, but also some cables as well were mentioned in the charging sheet back in July. He is, as we mentioned a person of interest in the much larger leak by WikiLeaks of additional classified documents, cables and tactical field

reports and so forth. But I think the manner in which he is being held is completely appropriate and completely consistent with how any and all detainees at the brig are treated.

UPDATE: Manning's lawyer David Coombs issued a [response](#) to Geoff Morrell's claims Manning is treated the same as every other detainee.

Despite the assertion of Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell, PFC Bradley Manning is not being treated like every other detainee at the Quantico brig. Morrell stated during today's Pentagon briefing that PFC Manning's "confinement is not in the least different from the manner in which anyone else at the brig is being held." This statement is patently false.

PFC Manning is being treated differently. He is the only detainee being held in Maximum (MAX) custody and under Prevention of Injury (POI) watch. Every other detainee is being held in Medium Detention In (MDI) and without POI watch restrictions. What is the difference?

Maximum –

(1) Supervision must be immediate and continuous. A DD 509, Inspection Record of Prisoner in Segregation, shall be posted by the cell door and appropriate entries made at least every 15 minutes.

(2) They shall not be assigned to work details outside the cell.

(3) They shall be assigned to the most secure quarters.

(4) Two or more staff members shall be present when MAX prisoners are out of their cells.

(5) MAX prisoners shall wear restraints at all times when outside the maximum-security area and be escorted by at least two escorts (confinement facility staff or certified escorts, per article 7406).

Medium

(1) Supervision shall be continuous within the security perimeter and immediate and continuous when outside the security perimeter.

(2) They shall not be assigned to work outside the security perimeter.

(3) They shall wear restraints outside the security perimeter unless the CO/OIC/CP0IC directs otherwise.

(4) They shall be escorted by at least two confinement facility staff or certified escorts, per article 7406, unless the CO/OIC/CP0IC directs only one escort is required.

(5) They may be assigned dormitory quarters.

Under the above restrictions, every other detainee is allowed outside of their cell for the majority of the day. The facility is not locked down when they are walking in the brig. They do not wear hand and leg restraints outside of their cell. They are not escorted by guards when outside of their cell. Every other detainee is assigned to work details during the day. These work details allow them move freely within the facility and also outside of the facility whenever within the security perimeter.

If Manning is reduced to medium watch then and only then will he be treated like every other detainee in the brig.

**Cyberwar is the US
militarizing the internet? US**

Cyber Command

Is the Pentagon's mobilization of a new cyber command unit [effectively militarizing](#) the internet?

The Pentagon is spending \$150 million this fiscal year on a new command to lead cyberwar efforts, which are aimed principally at defending military computer networks or attacking those of the enemy.

"The United States has powerful offensive capabilities in cyberspace," says Herbert Lin, an analyst at the National Academies, which advises the government on science and technology issues. "The question is how they should be using them."

Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said WikiLeaks' publishing of stolen documents endangers lives and gives enemies valuable information. Assange's lawyers say a huge file of unreleased secret material will be made public if the United States attempts to prosecute him.

Josh Rushing, of [Al Jazeera asks](#), "Is the US contributing to the militarisation of cyberspace? Are the reports of cyber threats being distorted by a burgeoning security industry? And are the battles being waged in cyberspace interfering with the Internet as we know it?"



Cyberattacks by a nation against an enemy or another nation may be occurring but not acknowledged. The U.S. has never acknowledged attacking another computer network.

China has been suspected by the United States of attacking systems, and Iran's nuclear facilities were infected this year by a computer worm. Experts such as software company Symantec say the Iran incident had to have been a massive

undertaking involving numerous skilled computer scientists with ample resourcing.

“What hit the Iranian nuclear facilities ... most people assume came from a government,” says James Lewis, a specialist at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Some say using cyberwarfare tactics to prevent the spread of information, as in the case of WikiLeaks, would not work.

“The National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) has [recommended formation](#) of a central cyber security command on the lines of the US Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) set up last May to fight back the new generation attacks on the government’s computer systems and networks.”


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Maddow – Obama budget priorities

Peter Orszag of Office of Management and Budget speaks with Rachel about this years proposed budget a la Obama.

Media ban on flag draped

coffins lifted

About bloody time. The country has been [spared the images](#)  of the fallen warriors for too long.

The Pentagon will relax its ban on media coverage of returning U.S. war dead by allowing families to decide whether to allow photos and television footage of the flag-draped coffins of their loved ones, Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Thursday.

Gates ordered the change after reviewing a 1991 ban that prevents news organizations from recording images of war dead arriving at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where the Pentagon has its main mortuary.