



Action Alert

Legislative Alert #112-10: Limit the End-Strength Reductions in the Military
DEFENSE

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Issue Background: Last February, the President released his Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) which contained numerous, and alarming, cuts in the overall end strength in the Navy, Navy Reserves and Marines. These reductions, looking at all services combined, total a net loss of 31,300 Active Duty and Reserve Component service members proposed in the FY13 Budget Request.

Action Required: Contact your Representatives and Senators and urge them to re-evaluate the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13), addressing the reduction in 3,000 Active Duty Navy, 3,700 Navy Reserve, and 4,800 Active Duty Marines from Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) authorized levels as the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act is being considered by the House and Senate. Currently Representative Allen West (FL-22) has a bill, H.R. 4294 the Limited End Strength Reduction Act, that addresses these force reductions as well.

Details (To Be Put Into Letter):

As Congress begins its consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13), currently in the form of H.R. 4310, it is imperative that Members and Senators take into account 'strategy' over budget driven decisions by the Department of Defense (DOD) in determining appropriate end strength requirements. As a country at war, now is not the time to start thinning our national security force. Our service members are already being asked to sacrifice precious time with their families, serving multiple (in some cases four or five) tours of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). By reducing the number of readily available Sailors, by 3,000 Active Duty Navy and 3,700 Navy Reserve, and Marines, by 4,800 Active Duty Marines, as proposed in the FY13 Budget Request, we are not only reducing our strength, but increasing the time we ask our service members to spend away from their loved ones.

In these economic times, we understand that close inspection of how our money is spent, is needed. In doing so, we will undoubtedly find areas in which we can run more efficient and effectively. By trying to cut corners to our national defense, we create more problems for both our service members and our way of life. Legislation, such as H.R. 4294 of Representative Allen West (FL-22), addresses these dramatic reductions. However, work on the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) markup of the FY13 NDAA, as well as future House and Senate floor

consideration, need to be the forum as well for addressing this concern and should be considered in a manner that keeps strategy over budget for our nation's Active Duty and Reserve Sailors and Marines end-strength during our continued overseas operations.

Take Action: Click the "Take Action" link at the top of the Alert to immediately email and/or write to your Senators and Representatives. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. You can also write and/or e-mail the 'Details' section or edit as you desire for a more personalized communication . Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use the Contact Congress feature on AUSN's website as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org.