



Legislative Update

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AUSN MONITORS NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA) DEBATE IN THE SENATE

On 28 November 2012, AUSN began monitoring the debate of the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the annual defense bill, which began as the Senate adopted by voice vote a motion to proceed with debate on amendments. This follows months of legislative wrangling, whereas the bill, in the form of [S. 3254](#), would provide \$631.4 billion in discretionary funds for defense activities, \$525.8 billion for the base Defense Department budget, \$88.2 billion for the war in Afghanistan in the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account and \$17.4 billion for the Department of Energy and other national security programs related to nuclear safety.

Senator's had generally agreed not to address the military detainee's issue, to allow for the voice vote of the proceeding on debate of S. 3254 and its amendments. Senators are expected to ignore thorny issues, including the automatic, across-the-board budget cuts (i.e. sequestration) set for 2 January 2013. As it is currently written, the defense authorization bill would require the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) to submit a report to the House and Senate Armed Services committees (HASC and SASC) on the potential impact of the sequestration of funds authorized and appropriated for FY13.

AUSN is monitoring debate on the amendments, over 200 and counting being submitted, in the coming days to the NDAA, with many notable ones having already passed including a Mental Health and Suicide Prevention amendment by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), an amendment by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) requiring that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) submit a plan to Congress to reduce the current backlog of pending claims for veterans' benefits, coordinating local and state entities, and many others. However, on 29 November 2012, the White House issued a [Statement of Administration Policy on S. 3254 with a veto threat](#) on numerous provisions in the NDAA that AUSN supports which includes TRICARE rates, TRICARE Pharmacy Copays, additional procurement of F/A-18 "Super Hornets" amongst other provisions. As of the writing of this update, the Senate is still considering and debating amendments.

Details can be found by visiting [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on NDAA Amendments being tracked](#).

AUSN TOURS MARINETTE MARINE SHPYARD AS NAVY SHIPBUILDING FACES BUDGET CUTS

Last weekend, AUSN's Legislative Director, Anthony Wallis, toured the [Marinette Marine Corporation \(MMC\) Shipyard](#) up in Marinette, Wisconsin on the border of Wisconsin and Michigan. MMC is partners with Lockheed Martin, amongst others, on the development of the Freedom class variant of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS). On the tour, AUSN learned that much of the work is kept locally within the greater Northern Wisconsin region, ensuring that business stays within the local community if there is something that the shipyard needs specialized assistance with.

All the while that AUSN was on this tour, debate on the future of the shipbuilding industry was taking shape to begin when Congress returned this week to consider a long list of 'must-do' which includes the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which authorizes, amongst its many provisions, the continued production and procurement of the LCS. The Navy has publicly pushed for a 300 plus ship fleet for many years now, with a large solution to the lingering size of the fleet currently at 287 being

the LCS. The Navy plans to buy 55 of the vessels with counter-mine and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

Details can be found by visiting [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on Shipyard Visit and Budget Concerns](#).

AUSN ON THE HILL

Hope everyone had a wonderful and enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends! This past week, AUSN was working behind the scenes with Congressional staff on the Senate side in preparation for the amendment debate on efforts AUSN has put forth in recent months, including a provision that would grant Veteran Status to twenty-plus year career Reservists who otherwise can't be deemed, "Veterans of the Armed Forces," as the current U.S. Code states. The Senate Amendment being track on this issues is Senate Amendment 2947 to the FY13 NDAA, S. 3254, introduced by Senators John Boozman (R-AR), Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR) and Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME). AUSN sent [Legislative Alert #112-8](#) on the amendment in bill form as S.491 earlier this year (if you haven't contacted your members of Congress on this, please click the alert link and do so). In addition, AUSN met this week with staff of Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) on pending veteran bills of interest, including veteran status and mental health concerns regarding TBI and PTSD that were going to take shape in the form of a few amendments to the NDAA. Senator Sanders is in line to become Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, competing with Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), after Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) stepped down to accept the Chairmanship of the Senate Budget Committee. This week, AUSN also held another one of its regular Navy Now Forums where Vice Admiral (VADM) Kendall Card, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (DCNO) for Information Dominance, spoke about his role and responsibility in cyber security and intelligence.

PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK

S. 3467, (Bill text not available yet). Introduced by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), the bill would amend title 10, United States Code, to improve and enhance the capabilities of the Armed Forces to prevent and respond to sexual assault and sexual harassment in the Armed Forces.

In the advocacy section of the website, you can click on [Bills of Interest](#) to get daily revisions on Congressional action for priority bills. I STRONGLY encourage you all to visit our [Advocacy](#) page, especially the [Capitol Hill Blog](#) which receives almost daily submissions when Congress is in session to see what AUSN is doing for you on Capitol Hill.

We also encourage you and your friends and family to visit the re-designed [AUSN FACEBOOK PAGE](#). If you have an account, please Login and "Like" us, which will allow you to see our [TWITTER](#) feeds and other updates from AUSN that shows us monitoring Capitol Hill on your behalf!

NEW LEGISLATIVE ALERTS

There were no new legislative alerts this week. Again, when these alerts are sent to your email, please click on the TAKE ACTION link that is at the top of the alert email to send a letter response to your Members of Congress (a few of you have written in that you wish to send letters, but don't know how). Please continue to go to the [Legislative Alerts](#) section on the AUSN webpage and/or check your e-mail and submit ones you haven't seen yet to your Congressional delegation.

NEXT WEEK OUTLOOK

Next week, Congress will be in session to further consider the FY13 NDAA, with Senate approval leading to eventual Conference with the House sometime in early to mid-December. Senate Majority Leader, Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), said today, Friday, that inundated with amendments, the Senate was going to be unable to meet its goal of passing the FY13 NDAA today. Continued debate on the bill is uncertain as possible consideration may occur over the weekend or continue early next week, but the Senate will be passing a series of amendments by Voice Vote today before adjourning for the day.

In addition to the debate on the FY13 NDAA, the House began opening negotiations to avoid the "Fiscal Cliff" and sequestration. One point of optimism arising behind Congressional doors is the recent revival of talks concerning the Simpson-Bowles plan; a bipartisan plan that would cut Pentagon spending by a little over \$100 billion, in an undisclosed amount of time. Specifically, the plan mandates significant changes to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) and V-22 "Osprey" Tilt-Rotor Aircraft programs, as well as proposes a potential military pay-freeze, something the Veteran Service Organization (VSO) community is closely watching. However, a recent private conversation on Wednesday between the Speaker of the House, Representative John A. Boehner (R-OH-08), and President Obama that was leaked to the press, resulted in a halt in talks and a deterioration of progress on finding a solution as the Speaker's office claimed a distrust with the Administration with allegations of them leaking information on these conversations.

AUSN LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT SEEKING LEGISLATIVE INTERNS FOR 2013

AUSN is looking for unpaid Legislative Interns to start as early as mid-January 2013 and continue throughout the spring. Candidates should have, or be pursuing, a degree in Political Science/ Government Affairs or Communications. Strong writing and personal skills a must as well as an interest and passion for the United States Navy and Navy Reserve.

In addition to administrative tasks, i.e. answering phones and helping to schedule appointments, interns will monitor and write After Action Reports on Congressional Hearings of interest such as House and Senate Armed Services, Appropriations and Veterans' Affairs Committee hearings. Interns will also have the opportunity to attend meetings with Congressional Staff along with the Legislative Director as well as other meetings off of Capitol Hill. The Legislative Director is also willing to oversee a research project of the intern's interest if they are pursuing class credit for the internship.

Candidates can submit a cover letter, resume and 1-2 page writing sample to the Director of Legislation, Mr. Anthony A. Wallis at Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org or fax it to 703-683-3647 by December 10. Schedules are flexible/negotiable and Metrorail travel reimbursement is available to interns as well as free parking at our headquarters off of King Street in Alexandria.

Further details can be found at [AUSN's Legislative Intern webpage](#).

AUSN LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT SEEKING LEGISLATIVE LIAISON VOLUNTEERS FOR 2013

AUSN is seeking TWO VOLUNTEER AUSN MEMBERS per state to act as AUSN Legislative Liaisons and meet with their Members of Congress AT LEAST TWICE a year, preferably once in the late Spring and once in the early Fall. The goal will be to have AUSN Members engage their Congressional Delegation and report to the Legislative Director at the AUSN Headquarters on what transpired and what they need. AUSN Headquarters will provide necessary copies of Legislative Alerts, Fact Sheets, Priorities/Objectives Cards and any other information in preparation for meetings upon request.

To qualify for being a 2013 AUSN Legislative Liaison, you must;

- Be an Active AUSN Member (and be a permanent resident of State you wish to liaison with)
- Be willing to meet with your Senators' offices TWICE a year (which have District offices throughout your State)
- Be willing to engage with at least ONE House Member District office TWICE a year
- Report to AUSN Legislative Director, Anthony Wallis, and/or the NEW National Vice President of Government Relations, RDML Robin Graf, USNR (Ret), on meetings and important highlights via e-mail
- Stick STRICTLY to FEDERAL issues of concern (AUSN Priority Card) to AUSN that are nation-wide and benefit all members of the Navy community

IF INTERESTED, please contact AUSN'S Legislative Director, Anthony Wallis, at anthony.wallis@ausn.org and copy RDML Graf, at grafrl@cox.net. Once we have enough AUSN Volunteers (two from each State) we will notify you with further instructions before the end of the year/early January 2013.

The Association of the United States Navy is continuously on and/or monitoring Capitol Hill, advocating for your concerns and utilizing our strong relationships with Members of Congress, Staff and cooperating with other military associations to tell the Navy and our veterans' story. This is an ALL HANDS ON DECK effort and your grassroots advocacy will help make the changes that need to happen!

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS

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Legislative Action Center: [Contact Congress](#)