



**Legislative Alert #113-27: FINAL UPDATE- URGE the Senate to Adopt Further Priority Amendments in their FY14 NDAA DEFENSE**

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**Issue Background:** Next week, the Senate will wrap up its lengthy debate, which began the week before Thanksgiving, on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14), setting it up for final passage. The House passed their bill last summer, H.R. 1960, to eventually be conferenced with the Senate upon passage of their bill, currently in the form of S. 1197. The Senate now has before it more than 500 amendments filed for floor consideration. Senate leadership recently closed further amendment submissions to the FY14 NDAA. Due to the short time frame to pass the FY14 NDAA and conference the bill with the House, as both chambers plan to adjourn for the year on 13 December 2013, the Senate will likely look at a scaled-back version, or the House's (or even a bicameral measure informally agreed to by the Armed Services Committee Chairmen and Ranking Members). Such a bill would have to be stripped of all controversial items. After Senate passage, the package would then be sent back to the House for final approval. It is important, however, that the Senate considers these proposed amendments, many of which contain language of priority bills of interest, important to our current and former Sailors, their families and the Navy community.

**Action Required:** Contact your Senators and urge them to support priority amendments to the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) being proposed on the Senate floor during consideration in the next week.

**Details (To Be Put Into Letter):**

As the Senate finalizes its consideration of the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) before they adjourn on 13 December 2013, the Senate should be considering a wide array of priority amendments that help our Navy and Veteran community. The following amendments were introduced just before the Senate left for the Thanksgiving recess week and are encouraged to be immediately considered and adopted:

These include Senate Amendment (S.Amdt.) 2371 by Senator Jack Reed (RI), creating a pilot program to rehabilitate and modify homes of disabled and low-income Veterans (derived from S.1593, the Servicemember Housing Protection Act of 2013); S. Amdt. 2384 by Senator Jon Cornyn (TX), which protects military overseas voting rights (derived from S. 1728, the Safeguarding Elections for our Nation's Troops through Reforms and Improvements (SENTRI)

Act); S. Amdt. 2404 by Senator Angus King (ME), which retroactively applies authority for re-computation of retired pay for Reserve Component retirees for certain service in active status after retirement for those who retired before 28 October 2009; S. Amdt. 2440 by Senator Joe Donnelly (IN), which updates the two-tiered preference eligibility for members of the Reserve Component of the armed forces (derived from S. 1320, Military Reserve Jobs Act); S. Amdt. 2446 by Senator Saxby Chambliss (GA), pertaining to funding and support for the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps; and S. Amdt. 2455 by Senator Patrick Toomey (PA), authorizing a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) study on matters relating to claiming and interring unclaimed remains of Veterans (derived from S. 1755, Dignified Interment of our Veterans Act).

In addition, the Senate should support and consider S. Amdt. 2460 by Senator John Boozman (AR), which seeks to improve the information provided regarding educational and disability employment protections under the Transition Assistance Program (derived from S. 889, the Servicemembers' Choice in Transition Act of 2013); S. Amdt. 2468 by Senator Edward Markey (MA), which requests updates for the cost estimates of the SSBN(X) submarine program and its alternatives; S. Amdt. 2496 by Senator Robert Menendez (NJ), the Naval Vessel Transfer and Security Enhancement Act; and finally S. Amdt. 2500 by Senator Dean Heller (NV) requiring prompt responses from the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) when the VA Secretary requests information necessary to adjudicate benefits claims, (derived from S. 674, Accountability for Veterans Act).

**Take Action:** Click the “Take Action” link at the top of the Alert to immediately email and/or write to your Senators. 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](mailto:Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org).