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SENATE ARMED SERVICES, SUBCOMMITTEE AND FULL COMMITTEE MARKUPS OF FY14 NDAA

This week, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), Subcommittee's on Airland, on Readiness, and on Personnel held OPEN markups of S. 1034, the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). These were the only Subcommittee's to hold OPEN markup hearings for the bill, as the Subcommittee's on Seapower and on Strategic Forces decided to have theirs in CLOSED session. After the Subcommittee markups, unlike the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), the SASC Full Committee will hold its Full Committee markup of the bill in CLOSED session as well, thus the final reported FY14 NDAA revised bill will not be reported until after the CLOSED session completes its mark and updates the legislation with amended provisions. As of the writing of this Legislative Watch, SASC has just wrapped up its markup of its version of the FY14 NDAA, passing it for Senate floor consideration. An analysis will be done by AUSN upon the Committee's reporting of the markup.

In regards to the OPEN Subcommittee markups and what is known about the bill, the SASC, Subcommittee on Airland draft measure, overall, would match the President's Budget (PB) request of **\$3.6 billion** for the Navy F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) and **\$2.8 billion** for the Air Force variant of the fighter. The draft mark would also authorize **\$1.9 billion** for upgrades to the C-130J Super Hercules. Subcommittee Chairman, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), explained that the Department of Defense's (DOD) budget request for bases and Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) totaled **\$49 billion** with **\$37.1 billion** for procurement programs and **\$11.9 billion** for research and development. The SASC Subcommittee on Readiness draft measure, overall, authorizes **\$162.3 billion**; slightly more than the PB request of **\$162.2 billion**. They matched the PB request of **\$80.7 billion** for the war in Afghanistan, but boosted war-related Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding by **\$155 million** with its portion of the FY14 NDAA bill. The panel

authorized shaving **\$1.3 billion** from Military Construction (MILCON) projects and would approve an increase of **\$1.5 billion** for military training and maintenance of equipment that was cut by sequestration in Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13). Among the major funding changes to offset FY13 sequestration impacts in O&M accounts, the Subcommittee added **\$448.5 million** for the Navy. The Subcommittee also refused to authorize a new Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round in 2015. The SASC Subcommittee on Personnel was expected to have the most spirited debate, particularly regarding provisions of the Subcommittee draft that address the military's growing problem of sexual assault. The Personnel Subcommittee markup contained a provision that would take the decision for prosecution out of the accused's chain of command for all felony-level offenses-aside from uniquely military crimes-but keep it within the military itself. The measure reflects the far-reaching legislation offered by Subcommittee Chairwoman, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), who included almost verbatim language from her stand-alone bill, S. 967. The measure would also limit commanders' ability to overturn convictions, a move supported by most lawmakers and Pentagon and military leaders.

However, by 12 June 2013, as the SASC Full Committee began its markup in CLOSED session of the bill in the late afternoon, the Committee announced its adoption, 17-9, an amendment that keeps in the military chain of command decisions on whether to prosecute uniformed personnel accused of sexual assault. The amendment, written by the SASC Chairman, Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), would require that, when a commander opts not to send a case to trial, a report must be issued by his/her superior and it would make retaliation against victims of sexual assault a crime. The amendment replaces a provision included by SASC, Personnel Subcommittee Chairwoman, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), in her panel's mark. Senator Gillibrand's language moved the decision for prosecuting felony-level offenses, like sexual assault, but not including uniquely military crimes, outside the immediate chain of command and put it in the hands of military lawyers. The vote presents a victory for the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), who had wanted to retain a role for commanders in disciplining their units.

Other portions of the SASC, Personnel markup of the draft bill include setting military end strength for Active Duty Navy at 323,600. The draft legislation also authorizes **\$136.8 billion** for military personnel, which includes pay, allowances, bonuses, death benefits and permanent change-of-station moves. Additionally, it would authorize a 1% pay raise for all members of the uniformed services, meeting the PB request, but less than the 1.8% of the HASC passed FY14 NDAA (which will likely be a subject of debate when the House and Senate eventually go to conference on the NDAA). The measure also rejects the President's request for increases in military health care, TRICARE, fees.

In regards to other amendments, the Full Committee did release a few details of amendments being considered in CLOSED door session on 13 June 2013. In total, SASC Members have written more than 200 amendments to the bill. Some of the proposed amendments included one proposed by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) that would remove a provision in the bill raising the cost cap for the USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN-78) aircraft carrier, which is set to be the most expensive piece of military equipment ever built. The Navy, which says it is working to stabilize the program's costs, wants to raise the cost cap from \$11.75 billion to **\$12.9 billion** for the aircraft carrier. Aside from blocking the cap increase, his amendment would require the Navy to submit quarterly financial reports on the ship. Senator McCain's amendment would also block construction of the next carrier until CVN-78 has launched, several technologies to be used on CVN-79 have been proven, and the design and cost of the carriers have been updated. Senator Manchin, meanwhile, offered several amendments; including requiring a report on the effects of sequestration and another report on women in the military, including retention rates and reasons for leaving the military.

By Thursday evening, SASC Members had completed consideration of its version of the FY14 NDAA, which forecasts a Senate floor battle on sequestration cuts to the DOD. The Committee approved the Defense Authorization bill by a vote of 23-3. Members adopted 100 amendments of the 200 filed. Ten amendments were disposed of by roll call vote. SASC Chairman, Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), said panel members found **\$1.8 billion** in "savings and efficiencies" to restore sequester cuts that have affected flying hours and other training for the armed forces. Ranking Member, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), however, said more sequester replacement funding is needed, stating that, "It just doesn't make any sense when the military has 18 percent of the budget [that] it has to be responsible for 50 percent of the cuts... [where] several Senate members are going to be very difficult to deal with if the Senate cannot find a way to make up the sequester cut." During debate in the SASC markup, the Committee ultimately rejected Senator McCain's amendment, and decided to increase to **\$12.9 billion** the cap on construction costs for the USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN-78) aircraft carrier. The committee is expected to release details of the bill and amendments and vote tallies in the next few days, whereby AUSN will provide an analysis of the bill in the next week.

Details can be found at [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on the SASC FY14 NDAA Markups](#).

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON FY14 BUDGET REQUEST

On 11 June 2013, the Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC), Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing concerning the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) President's Budget (PB) request for the Department of Defense (DOD). Notable witnesses included General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Chuck Hagel, and Robert F. Hale, Undersecretary of Defense- Comptroller. In his opening statement, SAC-D Committee Chairman, Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL), raised concerns about what the impact of sequestration and spending reductions would have on the nation's defenses. Chairman Durbin emphasized the need to make smart decisions and to make sure that the spending cuts were reasonable and un-harmful to the nation as a whole. The Chairman cited the PB requests for FY14 of **\$515.6 billion** in base funding and **\$79.5 billion** for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), with the question for Secretary Hagel of how the DOD would absorb the **\$52 billion** in cuts from sequestration. Chairman Durbin lastly brought up the issues of suicide and sexual assault and expressed the need for a call to action and a change of mindset. SAC-D Ranking Member, Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), had a brief opening statement calling for the awareness of the consequences of sequestration and the impact that it will have on the DOD and, ultimately, our national security.

In the opening statement from SECDEF Hagel, he acknowledged the Subcommittee's support of the servicemen and women and their families and promised that they would never lose sight of those very important people. He then repeated the numbers from the FY14 budget request and provided some examples of where the cuts were coming from and what effect they were having. He emphasized that the FY14 PB gave DOD the time and flexibility to plan and implement spending reductions wisely and responsibly. He concluded with the promise that DOD would continue to search for new ways to operate more affordable, efficiently, and effectively but stated that continued cuts would require significant reductions in military capabilities. General Dempsey praised the servicemen and women and their undaunted will to win but discussed the means to win that are becoming more uncertain with these budget cuts. By cancelling training and exercises, the military is becoming less ready for unforeseen circumstances. He ended his testimony by warning that if our military power becomes less sustainable, that it will lose its credibility and risk breaking commitments and losing the confidence of important allies as well as the men and women in uniform.

Senator Durbin brought up the issue of the lack of a civilian pay raise since 2011 which could not only result in disenfranchisement in working as a DOD civilian employee, but also result in fewer contract employees. Secretary Hagel acknowledged that significant changes needed to be made and that the furlough process did include contractors. Ranking Member Cochran raised concerns about the 30 Year Shipbuilding plan, the falling inventory, and the negative impact that it could have. SECDEF Hagel described the issue more by explaining that by retiring old ships that cost more to maintain, they are able to acquire new technologies and ships to help move the military forward. He went on to state, however, that DOD is committed to that 300-ship Navy. SECDEF Hagel clarified, though, that if you go through the 30 year shipbuilding plan, many of the dips is due to the retirement of these older ships that new ships have multi-mission packages for, such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS). Finally, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) followed up with the 30 Year Shipbuilding plan discussion by asking about the procurement plan for *Arleigh Burke* Class destroyers (DDG), currently planned for 10 ships in the most recent Future Year Defense Program (FYDP), and the shortfall that the Department of the Navy is facing with shipbuilding due to sequestration, about **\$306 million** short this year alone. She asked about DOD's support of this multi-year procurement plan. SECDEF Hagel responded that they are examining the feasibility/ commitment and if it is obtainable for that 10th ship. He turned it over to Comptroller Hale who responded that recent reprogramming requests have a small amount of money that could be used to alleviate this problem, but sequestration continues to complicate procurement plans. That said, he did stress that DOD does want to have that 10th ship.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON EDUCATION PROGRAMS

On 12 June 2013, the Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC), Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing regarding Voluntary Military Education Programs. SAC-D Chairman, Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL), opened the hearing stating that the chaos of deployment and stress that affects servicemembers gives them the deserved right to an excellent education. Chairman Durbin expressed concerns about the recruiting tactics, accreditation process, and counseling associated with private colleges and universities and he hoped to look at Veteran education programs, such as the program put in place at Northern Illinois University, to improve the quality of education that servicemembers receive. SAC-D Ranking Member, Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), shared Chairman Durbin's views, and they both recognized the benefits of an education for military personnel. The Honorable Frederick Vollrath, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and Force Management, conveyed the goals that the Department of Defense (DOD) has been working

within its policy noted in its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to include military education counseling, accreditation problems, and items in the best interest of our servicemembers.

The witnesses included a wide variety of individuals, who all expressed concerns and ideas similar to Chairman Durbin. Mr. Terry W. Hartle, the Senior Vice President of the American Council on Education, was extremely supportive of the effort that the DOD has put forward in regards to tightening up the education program, but he urges that the measures taken will be realistic for the institutions involved. Mr. Steve Hunderson, President and CEO of the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities, stressed the point that different sectors need to work together to collect the data needed to assess the success of military students. Mr. James Selbe, Senior Vice President for Partnership, Marketing, and Enrollment Management at the University of Maryland University College, stated that it is important for the military students working towards a degree to receive easy access to education, the ability to earn college credit through service, and tuition assistance. Mr. Neiweem, a former military education recruiter at DeVry University and Veteran, expressed his concern about the practices that the for-profit schools use to recruit servicemembers with deception and pressure.

Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) raised a question addressing the exact process on how financial aid counseling is provided and the extent that the counselor can advise said servicemember. He believes that the 200 counselor to 200,000 student ratio is inadequate to provide the proper guidance needed. Chairman Durbin elaborated and asked why it appeared that private colleges have been targeting more military students, aimed at Hunderson, as Tuition Assistance and the G.I. Bill are not included in the current 90/10 ratio rule of Federal vs. Non-Federal aid. Mr. Hunderson claimed that private schools were not financially driven to enroll these students, while Mr. Neiweem said that his experience has led him to believe that profit is what matters to for-profit schools. Both of these questions raised an ultimate question on how the mistreatment of military students can be eliminated. The options discussed by Senators on SAC-D were the enforcement and regulation of a more thorough accreditation process, a change in recruitment tactics and consequences for noncompliance, and the development of a system to collect data to better servicemember's experiences. Assistant Secretary Vollrath stated that DOD is currently looking to putting all these options into motion.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARKUP OF FY14 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

On 12 June 2013, the House Appropriations Committee (HAC) marked up and approved by unanimous consent the Defense Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14). In a statement about the bill, HAC Chairman, Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY-05), stated, "This bill makes the hard choices to keep our nation safe, secure, and constantly prepared for whatever threats we may face. It provides funding to advance our missions abroad, to prepare and equip our troops, and to ensure the effectiveness of the world's greatest military... and, given our current budget challenges; it reflects common-sense decisions that save taxpayer dollars wherever possible, without affecting the safety or success of our troops and missions."

In total, the HAC markup, further detailed in the HAC Committee Report, provides **\$512.5 billion**, a decrease of **\$5.1 billion** below the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) enacted level and **\$3.4 billion** below the President's request. This is approximately **\$28.1 billion** above the current level caused by automatic sequestration spending cuts. It also includes **\$85.8 billion** for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) for Defense activities related to the Global War on Terror. The Pentagon's request, which came to **\$52 billion** above the budget caps, deferred hard choices on weapons programs, force structure and other Congressional priorities. However, some of the reductions made, for cost savings include: **\$1 billion** in anticipated excess funding; **\$437 million** for the proposed civilian pay raise; and **\$2.1 billion** in savings from rescissions of unused prior-year funding. In regards to military equipment, the Committee recommended a total of **\$98.4 billion** for procurement.

For the Department of the Navy, the FY14 HAC markup supports battle forces totaling 280 ships at the end of FY14, including 14 fleet ballistic missile submarines, 10 aircraft carriers, 26 support ships, 7 reserve ships, 223 other battle forces ships, 1,691 Navy/Marine Corps tactical/ASW aircraft, 637 undergraduate training aircraft, 502 Fleet Air Training aircraft, 308 Fleet Air Support aircraft, 257 Reserve aircraft, and 257 future aircraft in the pipeline. Other notable sections brought up in the HAC Markup report included Sexual Assault concerns, request for a report on future manning of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), transferring **\$21.3 million** into the Embedded Mental Healthcare Providers account, request for a report on funds for an integrated Electronic Health Record between the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), and **\$1.5 billion** in National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA), of which over **\$50 million** is for the Navy Reserve.

Details can be found at [AUSN's HAC Markup FY14 Defense Appropriations Bill Analysis](#).

SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON PENDING VA BENEFITS LEGISLATION

On 12 June 2013, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC), held a hearing concerning pending legislation involving Veterans benefits as well as the process that the VA has been making involving the backlog in claims processing. There were two panels as well as Senators outside the committee that presented arguments and new legislation. The notable witnesses on the first panel were Curtis L. Coy (Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Thomas Murphy, Director, VA Compensation Service, Richard Hipolit, VA Assistant General Counsel, and John Brizzi, VA Deputy Assistant General Counsel. Notable witnesses on the second panel were Mr. Ian de Planque, Deputy Legislative Director, The American Legion), and Colonel Robert F. Norton, USA (Ret.), Deputy Director, Government Relations, Military Officers Association of America), Chairman Sanders (I-VT) began the hearing by welcoming Senators who are not members of the SVAC but have additional expertise and bills to present in the area being explored. These Senators included Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI), Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Senator Al Franken (D-MN), Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) who all presented bills that they had written and supported before the two panels were brought in.

The bills varied in specifics, but all involved Veterans in some way. Senator Tester presented the Ruth Moore Act which would relax the evidence required to report and prove a sexual trauma case to the VA. Senator Merkley brought the Spouses of Heroes Education Act which would ensure that post 9/11 widows and widowers gain the same educational benefits for higher education that are authorized for their children under the John. D. Fry Scholarship program and are not being met by limited DEA funding for their use. Members of the Committee also introduced legislation including Senator John Boozman (R-AR) with the Veterans Paralympic Act of 2013 with the goal to reauthorize the sports program for the coming year to improve the physical and mental health of Veterans.

After other bills were introduced, SVAC Chairman, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), welcomed the first panel which consisted of representatives of the VA. Chairman Sanders provided commentary and questions on the backlog and requested updates on progress as well as details about future goals. Mr. Murphy promised that by the end of 2015, every claim filed by a Veteran would be completed within 125 days with 98% accuracy with the aid of new technologies and the elimination of paper claims with electronic means. The panel also showed support for many of the bills passed and the Chairman acknowledged that the Committee would be keeping up with the VA's progress and expects frequent reports from them to ensure that the promises are being met.

Chairman Sanders then welcomed the second panel, which consisted of representatives from the Veterans Service Organizations (VSO's). The panel agreed with much of the legislation brought forth by the second panel, including Mr. de Planque's support of legislation whereby Veteran would gain access to in-state tuition rates throughout the country and Mr. Norton with his support for legislation ensuring an easy transition and work for Veterans upon their return. The Chairman brought up their connection with the VA and asked if they had been able to collaborate with them in order to get the support that they needed. The panel responded positively to the VA's efforts but Mr. De Planque requested that the VA present their goals for the future so that VSO's could see where they see themselves going. Chairman Sanders then closed the hearing with the note that if programs are going to be expanded and improved, that funding needed to be provided. He urged the panel members from the VSO's to find out what programs in the VA are not needed and if those financial resources that could be used elsewhere.

HOUSE SET TO PASS FY14 NDAA

As of the writing of this entry, the House is poised to pass today, 14 June 2013, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14), H.R. 1960. The House Rules Committee early Thursday morning, 13 June 2013, established floor consideration for 172 amendments to H.R. 1960, setting up debates on military detainees, sexual assaults and overall spending levels in the **\$638.4 billion** bill, but refused to address the current budget sequestration. The bill's authorization for regular defense funding is roughly equal to the President's Budget (PB) request but about **\$50 billion** more than the projected post-sequestration defense cap under the Budget Control Act. Despite the threat of **\$50 billion** in cuts to defense, lawmakers did not make any other amendments in order that would address sequestration throughout the House Floor debate of H.R. 1960.

As debate continued Thursday, and resuming all day today, the House also turned back an amendment from Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-03) that would reduce the number of aircraft carriers the U.S. Navy must maintain from 11 to 10. "How many more ships can we lose?" asked HASC, Seapower Subcommittee Chairman,

Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04). Of the notable amendments that passed, one included an amendment by Representative David McKinley (R-WV-01) that requires the Secretary of Defense to establish an electronic tour calculator so that reservists could keep track of aggregated active duty tours of 90 days or more served within a fiscal year. For each active duty tour totaling 90 days served 'inside' a FY, a reservist who subsequently qualifies for a reserve retirement (at age 60) may credit such tours towards early retirement. Another notable amendment included one by Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC-02) that requires a report from the comptroller general evaluating the different programs and contracting methods that Medicare and TRICARE use to prevent and correct improper payments to medical providers as well as requires an evaluation of the effectiveness of these programs.

Details can be found at [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on House NDAA Consideration and Amendments](#).

AUSN ON THE HILL

In addition to monitoring developments with the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as well as the development of the FY14 Defense Appropriation bills in both the House and Senate, and Congressional hearings, AUSN was active in engaging lawmakers this past week. Earlier in the week, [AUSN sent letters to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee](#) regarding a few funding items of interest to be considered by both Committees as they format their FY14 Defense Appropriations bill. AUSN also met with the staff of the Congressional Navy and Marine Corps Caucus Co-Chairs, Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04) and Representative Susan Davis (D-CA-53), to discuss collaboration between the Caucus and AUSN on a variety of projects and initiatives.

PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK

S. 1148, Veterans Benefits Claims Faster Filing Act. Introduced by Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM), the bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide notice of average times for processing claims.

H.R. 2310, Guard Units and Reservists Deserve (GUARD) Remembrance Act. Introduced by Representative Richard Hanna (R-NY-22), the bill amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make available for purchase Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for members of the Reserve Components who performed certain training.

In the advocacy section of the website, you can click on [Bills of Interest](#) to get daily revisions on Congressional action for all AUSN priority bills. We 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 [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, and after the flurry of this week's Authorization and Appropriation Bills, there may be a calm as the Senate continues to work on its Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriation bills for Defense and Military Construction & Veterans Affairs (MILCON/VA). However, as of right now, the only major bill on the Senate's agenda next week is the Senate Appropriations, Subcommittee on MILCON/VA markup of the FY14 MILCON/VA Appropriations bill on 18 June 2013, followed by the Full Senate Appropriations Committee markup of the bill by 20 June 2013. On the other hand, the House may be ambitious enough to take up and pass the FY14 Defense Appropriation bill that was recently marked up this week by the House Appropriations Committee (HAC), putting pressure on the Senate to move its bill. There will also be two House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) hearings next week on education benefits for Veterans and another on disability benefits claims. AUSN will also be meeting with Senate staff on the creation of a Congressional focus group on processing claims at the Department of Veterans

Affairs (VA) as well as staff of Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL). Finally, AUSN will be meeting with OPNAV at the Pentagon to discuss ongoing debate with the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS).

AUSN LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT SEEKING LEGISLATIVE LIAISON VOLUNTEERS FOR 2013

AUSN has received numerous volunteers for the Legislative Liaison program and is grateful for everyone who has thrown their hands up to help in our grassroots efforts in the states. AUSN's Legislative Director and National Vice President of Government Relations have spoken recently on our current volunteers and are finalizing details which will be released before the end of the month. The program officially launched on 1 April 2013 and we have already had our volunteers out in the field engaging their Members of Congress in their state and district offices.

However, AUSN is still seeking **TWO VOLUNTEER AUSN MEMBERS** per state, (**PARTICULARLY** to fill remaining gaps from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming) 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.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Anthony A. Wallis, Legislative Director
Phone (o): 703-548-5800, (m): 703-517-9310
E-mail: Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org
Legislative Action Center: [Contact Congress](#)