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**CONGRESS COMMEMORATES NAVY RESERVE CENTENNIAL**

**BY Edgar Rodriguez, Director of Legislation and Government Relations**

The 100th anniversary of the Navy Reserve fell on March 3rd of this week and Congress celebrated this milestone by passing a resolution recognizing the Centennial. The Senate version of the resolution was introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Mark Warner (D-VA), John McCain (R-AZ), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Mark Kirk (R-IL), Angus King (I-ME), and Gary Peters (D-MI). The House version of the resolution was introduced by Rep. Janice Hahn (D-CA).

As stated by Senator Collins in a press release, "The roots of maritime service by patriotic Americans can be traced back to the Revolutionary War, when fishermen and farmers from seaside towns in New England, though outnumbered and outgunned, engaged in combat with British warships in defense of their homes, their families, and their freedoms. The first "citizen sailors" were from Machias, Maine."

To read the resolution in its entirety, visit Congress.gov: <https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/sres86/BILLS-114sres86ats.pdf>

**HOUSE ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE HEARING ON THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED AUMF**

**By Roza Kessaci, Legislative Intern**

On March 3rd, 2015, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing regarding the President's proposed Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) against ISIL and the United States Policy strategy and posture in the Greater Middle East. Ms. Wormuth, Secretary of Defense for Policy, and General Lloyd Austin, United States Central Command, presented testimony explaining current progress and the steps needed to obtain success in the region.

Ms. Wormuth spoke about the current DOD strategy and its impact in the Middle East. She noted that there are two main goals that need to be achieved; 1) degrade and defeat ISIL and 2) prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. She also stated that the United States military and local coalitions are working together in assisting Iraqi and Syrian governments to train and equip their forces; stating that ultimately it will be Iraqi forces and Syrian fighters who will secure gains against ISIL. Currently, the United States is working with 60 nations in the effort to degrade and defeat ISIL.

General Austin also testified to the current progress achieved by the United States military. He stated that the military's primary goal is to ensure a stable government in Iraq, stating that this would be necessary before any involvement in Syria could be possible. He stated that the ultimate goal for the U.S. is to move the region towards increased stability.

To view the hearing in its entirety, visit the Committee's website at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-19Hhj65y8>

**SENATE ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE HEARING ON THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR FY 2016**

**By Roza Kessaci, Legislative Intern**

On March 3rd, the Senate held a hearing concerning the Review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2016 and beyond. The Honorable Ashton Carter, Secretary of Defense, and General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee to discuss the DOD's budget.

They stated that if sequestration is reinstated in a few months, it will have debilitating effects. Carter noted that a number of necessary reforms slated to take place in the Department of Defense will not be permissible with sequestration.

General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman, emphasized the importance on the budget plan, PB16. General Dempsey stated that the budget plan represents a combination of capability, capacity, and readiness investment that is crucial in remaining at low manageable risk to U.S. defense strategy.

To view the hearing in its entirety, visit the Committee's website at: <http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/15-03-03-review-of-the-defense-authorization-request-for-fiscal-year-2016-and-the-future-years-defense-program>

### **SENATE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON FY 2016 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS BUDGET**

By Jessica Taylor, Legislative Intern

On March 4, 2015, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing regarding budget requests and justifications for the U.S. Navy and the Marine Corps for the fiscal year of 2016. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, Admiral Johnathan Greenert, and General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., all testified before the Subcommittee and Chairman Thad Cochran to request more allocated funds.

The main concern for Secretary Mabus is that cutting back on shipbuilding will prove to be dangerous for the United States. Secretary Mabus emphasized numerous times the necessity to preserve ships, and he ensured Senator Richard Shelby that "shipbuilding will be protected until the last dog dies." Both Admiral Greenert and General Dunford addressed the issue of currently being able to maintain the status quo, however, current funding levels are well below the level required to modernize forces. He stated that without more funding from Congress, both the U.S. Navy and the Marine Corps will decline in certain aspects of warfare.

To view the hearing in its entirety, visit the Subcommittee's website at: <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/webcast/defense-subcommittee-fy16-us-navy-marine-corps-budget-hearing>

### **AUSN LEGISLATION INFORMATION**

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### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERN:**

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