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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS, DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON CR/SEQUESTRATION IMPACTS

On 26 February 2013, the House Appropriations Committee (HAC), Subcommittee on Defense (HAC-D) held a hearing on Department of Defense (DOD) Fiscal Challenges. This focused on the effects of sequestration, but mainly looking at the problems of a second Continuing Resolution (CR) where the current one expires on 27 March 2013. The witnesses were all the Chiefs of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), including Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert and the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), General James F. Amos. HAC Chairman, Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY-05), spoke about our national defense facing sequestration and the expiring CR this month, looking at the constraints if there isn't funding for the rest of Fiscal Year 2013, these "Twin threats. He described his plan where he wants to roll the MILCON/VA and Defense FY13 Appropriations bills into a second CR. Under this new CR plan, it would save the Federal Government money by continuing multi-year procurements and program development plans, otherwise canceling these will cost taxpayers money in the long run. He then asked if the witnesses believed that it was critical for Congress to pass a CR with the House and Senate passed DOD and MILCON/VA Appropriations Bills where all the Joint Chief's replied, "Yes Sir."

HAC Ranking Member, Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY-17) stated in her opening remarks that with three days left until sequestration occurs, she said this risks both our economic recovery and overall national security. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects economic growth will be cut by a third if sequestration occurs and a George Mason University study says sequestration could total a loss of 2.14 million jobs. Admiral Greenert, opened saying that one of the most important tenants of our Navy, operate forward, is at risk. Delays of the deployment of the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) USS Harry S. Truman, Refueling and Complex Over-haul (RCOH) maintenance delay of the USS Abraham Lincoln and the initial construction of the new USS John F. Kennedy are just three examples of the impacts of sequestration and the CR are having on our Navy, and those are just the carriers. An \$8.6 billion shortfall has caused the Navy to cancel ship and aircraft maintenance, reduce operations, curtail training for forces that will soon deploy, and notify 186,000 of civilian employees of a possible furlough. The Navy has lost \$600 million in February because of irreversible cuts... and through the month of March, if they don't have the opportunity to reallocate funds, it

would be another \$1.2 billion total.

Some notable Questions and Answers began with Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ-11) asking on the size of the forces as a consequence of sequestration and how the CR is complicating goals and objectives. Admiral Greenert, said that 315 ships were on the way for being procured for 2020 before the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) mandated sequestration. Today, with the current fiscal climate, the Navy is looking at having 295 ships, but if sequestration is triggered, coupled with an additional CR at the same levels as last year, the Navy is looking to having fewer than 265 ships by 2020. General Amos, said that Marines are already on their way down from 202,000 Marines down to 182,000 Marines, which is about ok for now, but with sequestration, he's not sure if they will be able to maintain that. In addition, Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) asked about the impacts on Military Families that the current fiscal climate presents. General Amos, responded they have a little over 19,000 civilian employees that salaries come from appropriated funds. A large percentage of those affected, if not almost all, of that deal with child development centers train our children, our mental health providers and work both Marines and Sailors that return back from combat. These civilian employees are eligible for furloughs to begin, which will happen shortly, impacting all those crucial civilian positions with teaching, Child Development Centers and Victim Support Programs on Domestic Violence. Admiral Greenert responded that they, the Joint Chiefs, need the means to move money and said he met with the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) and with the freedom to move funds; they can help fund wounded warrior and important civilian people programs.

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, SEAPOWER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON FUTURE OF SEAPOWER

On 26 February 2013, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, held a hearing titled; "The Future of Seapower." The witnesses included the Honorable John Lehman, former Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), and Admiral Gary Roughead, U.S. Navy (Ret.), former Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). Both Secretary Lehman and Admiral Roughead spoke of their firsthand experience with the kinds of cuts posed to the Navy today (both having served during the naval draw-down of the 1970's) and the severe impact these drawdowns have on the fleet. HASC- Seapower Chairman, Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04), began by noting that in the past five years roughly 25% of destroyer (DDG) deployments have exceeded the standard deployment length. A key tenet in the shipbuilding plan is an assumed ship service life for most ships of 35 years. If ships do not get the planned shipyard repairs, as a result of sequestration and a second CR at Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) levels, attaining this service life will be problematic and ships will be retired prematurely. In FY12, the existing force structure only satisfied 53% of the total Combatant Commander demand. It has been estimated that to fully support the Combatant Commander requirements would necessitate a fleet size in excess of 500 ships. Chairman Forbes continued by highlighting that without an increase in force structure, this trend will only get worse.

Secretary Lehman spoke first on the 1970's Naval draw-down, saying, "We had the exact same situation in the 70's, and we ran the fleet into ground. We went to 50 percent for deployments... and the Navy dropped to the lowest readiness ever where the former CNO testified to this Committee then that we would lose a war if we ended up going into a conflict." He also pointed to the time directly after the draw-down of the 70's, saying, "we had the lowest morale, the lowest retention, the lowest recruiting, because families couldn't live for very long with that kind of lifestyle." In continuing with the impact on the Sailor and their families, Admiral Roughead spoke of his early naval career, during the 1970's draw-down, "going back to my early years, I recall knowing the date that I was to deploy. I didn't know the date I was coming home, and there's one thing that Sailors don't like and that's uncertainty. You can tell them how long the job is, how hard the job is going to be and they'll sign up willingly. But the uncertainty injects questions and doubt in the minds of those that we're asking to do the very hard work." He went to on to describe how the Navy has reduced its budgets before, but this time is different. In contrast to earlier Department of Defense (DOD) reductions this time the industrial base is smaller, more brittle and unsure. Unlike previous periods of defense growth, the spending of the past eleven years was not directed toward increasing the inventory of major capital assets that enable and sustain our global presence. Admiral Roughead specified that there is not excess inventory that can absorb a procurement holiday or assets which we can rapidly jettison and still support our global interests and that the increasing costs of the All-Volunteer Force are distorting distributions of spending within DOD and crowding out procurement and operations. He closed saying that under sequestration, he believed Fleet size would likely plunge to around 220 ships and operational and tactical competence will erode quickly.

Towards the end of the hearing HASC- Seapower Ranking Member, Representative Mike McIntyre (D-NC-07), asked Secretary Lehman what he thought the best way to strengthen naval procurement was, and the Secretary answered that

returning to the tried and true method of Line Management and Accountability is the surest way to strengthen naval procurement. He continued to say that each and every time we cut Army or Navy personnel the Pentagon somehow adds personnel. Secretary Lehman then pointed to the fact that we are continually growing the amount of bureaucracy we put in front of us and that this way of doing things makes it even harder to achieve mission success.

HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON VA/DOD ELECTRONIC RECORDS

On 27 February 2013, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) held a hearing on the status of the Department of Defense's (DOD) and Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) status on the implementation of a joint electronic health record. The four testifying panelists were Mr. Roger Baker, Assistant Secretary for IT at the VA, Dr. Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Ms. Elizabeth McGrath, Deputy Chief Management Officer at DOD, Ms. Valerie Melvin, IT Director at the US Government Accountability Office (GAO), and Jacob Gadd, Deputy Director of Healthcare at the American Legion. HVAC Chairman, Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01), opened the hearing with his shock at the failures of the Integrated Electronic Health Record (IEHR) from a new program, to just adding on to existing technology. He is upset at the surprise the problems, in part due to recent announcements of a successful program so far, and that this project is vitally needed for our veterans. HVAC Ranking Member, Representative Michael Michaud (D-ME-02), also agreed with the necessity for this program to operate well and he stressed that as long as there is no efficient IEHR, veterans will slip through the cracks in receiving the help they need, however IEHR isn't a new program, and the lack of its success is a huge disappointment.

Mr. Baker stated that he is there to assure that the VA and the DOD remain committed to the goals set out to implement the IEHR. He testified that many of the problems in the program stem from poor job communication and a budget that is doubled the original cost. The project's new strategy is to reduce risk, reduce cost, and to increase program functionality. Successes of the project include a single data standard that is transferring VA electronic information to DOD data centers to provide a central connectivity point. Dr. Woodson's testimony described DOD's end goals that included ensuring an integrated health data center while modernizing the entire system in the process. In addition, he stated that with the current fiscal battles in Washington, there has been a recent life cycle cost estimate which has led to some of the project re-evaluations in regards cost and functionality. According to Ms. Melvin, there have been varying levels of process completion but problems with management. The project has been limited by the likes of poor oversight and unfulfilled key management facilities. Institutional differences between the two Departments, DOD and VA, could as well impede the much needed healthcare programs. Mr. Gadd stated the American Legion recommended Veteran Service Organization (VSO) interaction in the process, but VSO participation was almost entirely left out. In addition, he recommended integrated scheduling that includes all of the departments within the VA itself.

Some notable Questions and Answers began with Chairman Miller asking about the need to build off of existing technology. Ms. McGrath answered that there was risk in continuing integration from scratch, a belief the Chairman felt was a U-turn from the original process. Representative Tim Walz (D-MN-01) then asked what the vision moving forward was that each Department is looking for in an integrated system, such as a private model. Dr. Woodson responded that there is work on implementing a data exchange to work with the private sector on developing a better integrated and easily communicable system between DOD and the VA.

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, MILITARY PERSONNEL HEARING ON BUDGET IMPACT ON END STRENGTH

On 27 February 2013, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on the impact to military end strength in a budget constrained environment. Two notable witnesses included the Acting Under-Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Ms. Jessica Wright, and the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (DCNO-MPTE), Vice Admiral (VADM) Scott R. Van Buskirk. HASC- Military Personnel Chairman, Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC-02), opened the hearing with his own reservations about the ability of our Armed Forces to accomplish its missions under a sequestered budget. He stressed that shrinking the military is no simple task and such fiscal pressures could create a dangerous decline in manpower losses. Ranking Member, Representative Susan Davis (D-CA-53), stated the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 makes the military take a hard look at its current force and on top of that, sequestration and the expiring Continuing Resolution (CR) will add additional complications to a problem that Ms. Davis feels only Congress can end before it harms our service members.

Ms. Wright began her testimony with the fact that by Friday of this week, \$46 billion in budget reductions (an overall

9% cut) will begin to take effect because of sequestration. No matter what parts of the military are hit, there will be disastrous consequences. There are difficult resets in our forces taking place, such as equipment and training, to meet current Department of Defense (DOD) operational strategies. Ms. Wright thanked Congress for exploring the option of the next Continuing Resolution (CR) for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) for the military to have flexibility in adjusting to the possible cuts, but there needs to be a fix to prevent force readiness hits. VADM Van Buskirk began his testimony by saying that sequestration has left the Navy with a feeling of unprecedented uncertainty. Impacts are already being felt, with cuts to training, deployment, and the civilian workforce. Civilian workers will be sorely missed, and their absence will impact future recruitment past FY13. Currently, there is no need to reduce manpower numbers for this year, and all separations from the Navy are following standard voluntary measures. On the upside, he stated that after nearly a decade of declining manpower, the Navy is on track to meet their FY13 active end strength authorization of 322,700, while selected Reserve FY13 end strength authorization declines as planned, from 66,200 in FY12, to 62,500 for FY13. If the existing CR were extended to the full year, however, the Navy would apply funding for investments to restore the most critical operation and maintenance requirements. Non-deployed ships posed the greatest disruption to Sailors and their families, due to missed tax and financial benefits, and this disruption effects moral. While military compensation is exempt from sequestration, there is a cost to the force in having to do more. VADM Van Buskirk stressed what the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Jonathan Greenert, indicated in his testimony before the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) a few weeks ago, the battle force could be as many as 50 ships smaller than the numbers reflected in the Navy's most recent shipbuilding plans, or 30-40 ships fewer than the Navy's current battle force. That would result in the need to reduce end strength, and a possible corresponding need for implementation of voluntary and involuntary force management tools. VADM Van Buskirk ended his testimony asking Congress to approve an appropriations bill soon.

Some notable Questions and Answers began with Chairman Wilson asking what measures are in place to ensure proper balance between voluntary and involuntary separations from the military. VADM Van Buskirk responded these balances are done through workforce stabilization, and if involuntary separations are necessary, they are done so, but only after the Navy has taken careful precautions and looked at end-strength numbers and the capability to perform required missions. Ranking Member Davis asked about the impact that civilian furloughs are having upon DOD. Ms. Wright responded that these furloughs affect civilians all around the country, including Reservists, whose civilian jobs are working for the all branches, including the Navy.

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, TACTICAL AIR-LAND HEARING ON BUDGET IMPACT ON PROGRAMS

On 28 February 2013, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, held a hearing titled: "Impacts of a Continuing Resolution and Sequestration on Acquisition, Programming and the Industrial Base." Notable witnesses included Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Sean Stackley, and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Integration of Capabilities and Resources (DCNO- ICR), Vice Admiral (VADM) Allen Myers. HASC- Tactical Air and Land Forces Chairman, Representative Michael Turner (R-OH-10), opened by informing the Members of the Committee and the witnesses that the hearing was the last hearing on sequestration before it will be enacted, starting 1 March 2013. Secretary Stackley opened by thanking the Committee for its part in the passage of the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and then listed off affects the Navy has already felt by sequestration. He then notified the Committee that the Navy has already cancelled 13 scheduled deployments, is preparing to not receive 327 aircraft from depot maintenance, will lose \$2.6 billion in the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) F-35C program, research and development operational setback with the JSF as well as \$6.5 billion in the Navy's procurement of the F-35 and is preparing to furlough 186,000 Navy civilian personnel.

VADM Myers, in some of his opening remarks, noted how the Department of the Navy's (DON) \$7.8 billion dollar sequestration investment reduction would potentially impact over 100,000 private sector jobs across the nation considering direct and indirect impacts to the economy. He estimated that the hiring freezes have already impacted over 1,000 Navy-wide vacancies. With an average Navy-wide civilian personnel attrition rate of approximately 350 per week, or approximately 18,000 vacancies per year, the impacts to the workforce are severe. The United States Marine Corps (USMC), which is not immediately implementing an across-the-board hiring freeze because it instituted hiring freezes in 2011 and 2012, is limiting expenditures on civilian labor resulting in approximately 400 full-time equivalents below 2010 levels. The impact of sequestration in FY13 would result in a loss of more than \$1 billion in aircraft production. The reductions will affect the F-35 JSF, H-1 Huey and Cobra Rotary-Wing Aircraft, P-8A Poseidon Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and E-2D Hawkeye Surveillance Aircraft. VADM Myers then continued to list examples of the impacts due to a strict year-long Continuing Resolution (CR), which the current one expires on 27 March 2013,

including the inability to transition to an MV-22 multi-year procurement, resulting in approximately \$1.1 billion in additional program cost to deliver the same number of these aircraft as well as the inability to execute new starts for KC-130J, which extends their delivery schedule. Looking at DON, he stated that sequestration would impact all 50 states, from prime contractors, to the supplier base, and to the scientific, engineering, and technical services sectors. Assuming a nine-percent sequestration reduction for the 1 March 2013 and 27 March 2013 potential budget cut orders combined the Navy projects industry contract awards will be reduced by approximately \$6.7B in FY13.

SEQUESTRATION BEGINS, AUSN LOOKS TO NEW CR TO HELP BUDGET BLEEDING

Sequestration will begin today, 1 March 2013, impacting budgets across the entire Federal government. The Senate defeated on 28 February 2013, competing Democratic and Republican alternatives to the \$85.3 billion in automatic spending cuts scheduled to begin Friday. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has stated that contract terminations may be considered to save money, if officials deem that it makes sense. At the Pentagon, particularly, the subtraction with sequestration will amount to \$42.7 billion in 2013, or 13 percent per program. On the upside there is traction on the CR debate. The real action on this begins as soon as next week on the House floor, when a funding bill for the entire government is to be considered. That measure will reflect the sequestration cuts, set to begin tomorrow, but will give at least DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) power to choose where they occur. House Appropriations Chairman, Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY-05), explained the details of this measure at a Republican Conference meeting. He is drafting a FY13 spending package that would effectively cap spending at around \$974 billion.

The current CR expires on 27 March 2013, when Congress is scheduled to be on Easter recess. The new CR measure would combine a CR for most Federal agencies, and new FY13 Defense and MILCON/VA bills. That move would, in effect, allow military and veterans' programs a chance to soften the effect of the sequester by giving them greater flexibility to manage spending. This is something that AUSN supports and is advocating for consideration of on Capitol Hill. Looking ahead to next year, as most Members of Congress and organizations who track budget matters know, the President's Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) budget (PB) request is running seven weeks late and almost surely will not be released before the House and Senate act on their budget resolutions (CR) next month. OMB has declined to say when it will issue its detailed spending plan for FY14, set to begin 1 October 2013, but officials and Congressional staffs have been alerted to prepare for a 25 March 2013 release.

Details can be found by going to [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on Sequestration and CR Debate](#).

AUSN ON THE HILL

This past week, Congress returned to tackle the debate on Sequestration, set to be triggered on 1 March 2013. In addition to monitoring these important hearings on budget impacts to our military and Navy's readiness, AUSN met with a few Congressional offices, including Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL-27), who sits on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, to discuss how the budget cuts effect Navy positioning and commitments around the world, that House Foreign Affairs is looking at, as well as other matters of interest. This past week, AUSN spoke to a few industry partners, including Boeing and HealthNet, to discuss the looming budget decisions and how sequestration cuts to programs and platforms are impacting Navy and veteran communities. The Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus, led by Representatives Jeff Denham (R-CA-10) and Tim Walz (D-MN-01) on the House side and Senators Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) on the Senate side, announced in a [press release](#) the launch of their 'I Hire Veterans' Initiative for the 113th Congress this week. As one of the many [Veteran Service Organization's \(VSO's\) that support this initiative](#), AUSN, which actively looks at hiring veterans in our offices, has posted the ['I Hire Veterans' logo on our Advocacy section of our website](#). Finally, AUSN had some key meetings this week with MCPON Michael D. Stevens, again revolving around budget discussions and collaboration with AUSN. All of this came on the eve of the implementation of sequestration, set to begin today, 1 March 2013, due to failed negotiations between the White House and both chambers of Congress.

PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK

S. 378, (Official title yet to be released). Introduced by Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), the bill would amend title 37, United States Code, to provide travel and transportation allowances for members of the reserve components for long distance and certain other travel to inactive duty training.

S. 12, (Official title yet to be released). Introduced by Senator Dan Coats (R-IN), the bill would provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients.

H.R. 857, (Official title yet to be released). Introduced by Representative Paul Cook (R-CA-08), the bill would amend section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to eliminate the Department of Defense sequestration for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and sequester such eliminated sums over a period of fiscal years 2015 through 2021.

H.R. 844, VetSuccess Enhancement Act. Introduced by Representative Mark Takano (D-CA-41), the bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the eligibility period for veterans to enroll in certain vocational rehabilitation programs. Furthermore, it extends the Department of Veterans Affairs' Rehabilitation & Education (VR&E) VetSuccess program eligibility period by 5 years (from 12 years from their date of separation to 17 years).

H.R. 834, (Official title yet to be released). Introduced by Representative Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ-02), the bill would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct cost-benefit analyses for the provision of medical care by the Department of Veterans Affairs in certain geographic areas served by multiple Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

H.R. 825, Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act. Introduced by Representative Joe Heck (R-NV-03), the bill would exclude from consideration as income under the United States Housing Act of 1937 payments of pension made under section 1521 of title 38, United States Code, to veterans who are in need of regular aid and attendance.

H.R. 821, (Official title yet to be released). Introduced by Representative Alan Grayson (D-FL-09), the bill would amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide surviving spouses with certain protections relating to mortgages and mortgage foreclosures.

H.R. 773, (Official title yet to be released). Introduced by Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04), the bill would amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to exempt the Department of Defense from reduction under any order issued to carry out a sequestration pursuant to section 251A.

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 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 was one new Legislative Alerts sent this week based on hearings and interaction with Congressional staff, as well as traction on the issue. 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. If you have not seen them, please go to the [Legislative Alerts](#) section on the AUSN webpage and/or check your e-mail for the following alerts which were titled:

Legislative Alert #113-4: SUPPORT H.R. 690 and S. 240, Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit Correction Act

NEXT WEEK OUTLOOK

Next week, AUSN will be meeting with a few Congressional offices as well as attending a few hearings including a House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (HAC-MILCON/VA) that will begin to look at a Continuing Resolution (CR) and implications for the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) budget. In addition, AUSN will be monitoring the House Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (HVAC-DAMA) hearing on our Veteran Cemeteries. Also next week, the House is expected to introduce its final package CR bill that is expected to include Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) Defense and MILCON/VA appropriation measures, easing the budget uncertainty of the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In addition, this bill is also expected to have language granting authority to these agencies to implement the sequester as they see fit, rather the indiscriminate across the board cuts they would normally be subject to. Finally, on 6 March 2013, AUSN will be presenting written testimony on our National Legislative Objectives and Priorities regarding Veteran concerns before a Joint House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing.

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. We're hoping to start the program up in April 2013, right after the President is expected to drop his Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Budget request and Congressional hearings commence.

However, AUSN is still seeking TWO VOLUNTEER AUSN MEMBERS per state, (**PARTICULARLY** to fill remaining gaps from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, 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. 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.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS

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