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SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON VETERAN FINANCIAL RIGHTS

On 31 July 2013, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) held a hearing regarding preserving the rights of servicemembers, Veterans and their families in the financial marketplace. Notable witnesses who testified included Ms. Holly K. Petraeus (Assistant Director, Office of Servicemember Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau), Colonel Paul Kantwill (Director of Legal Policy, Office of the Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense), Mr. Eric Halperin (Special Counsel for Fair Lending, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice), and Mr. Paul Leonard (Senior Vice President, Housing Policy Council, the Financial Services Roundtable).

In his opening statement, SVAC Chairman, Senator Bernard Sanders (I-VT), expressed his displeasure with the 14,000 instances of failing financial institutions to properly reduce servicemembers mortgage interest rates and the 300 improper foreclosure that have occurred. He stressed aggressive enforcement when violations occur and stated that when men and women go off to war, they are vulnerable and should not get ripped off at home for benefits that they have earned. In his opening statement, sitting in for SVAC Ranking Member, Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), Senator John Boozman (R-AR) stressed the effects that military service has on the entire family and how difficult finances can become when a servicemember goes off to war. With all of these issues at home, he emphasized that our military families have enough to deal with without having to worry about being taken advantage of.

Ms. Petraeus began her opening statement by reiterating the three missions of the Office of Servicemember Affairs; to educate servicemembers, deal with complaints, and coordinate with consumer protection members. Out of the 4,500 complaints received from servicemembers and their families in the last year, the main concerns were mortgages and credit card issues. She discussed several complaints that they have heard from Veterans including pension advances, college loans, and mortgages. Colonel Kantwill, in his opening statement, expressed his belief that the current status of the SCRA was largely positive with federal enforcement agencies being swift and effective when dealing with issues. He assured the Committee that the Department of Defense (DOD) was leveraging all of their resources in order to look closer at the issues and remove the abuse while balancing regulation with education for servicemembers about their benefits. Mr. Halperin discussed the priority to protect the rights, homes and credit of servicemembers while they are serving the nation. The failure of lenders and services to comply with the law was unacceptable considering the great personal sacrifices that servicemembers are making. He stated that they were engaging in outreach and education as well to remind individuals of their rights and expectations from the organizations serving them. In his opening statement, Mr. Leonard provided the statistic that more than 80% of servicemembers and their families were not aware of their protections and that they were expanding personnel, adding resources, and increasing communication and training to deal with this issue.

Chairman Sanders began the question and answer segment by asking the panel about whether servicemembers were aware of the protections given to them under the law. Ms. Petraeus answered first by discussing the findings that certain individuals at financial services through their misunderstanding, lack of knowledge of the protections, misapplication and misinformation that they provide

to servicemembers do great damage to military families. Colonel Kantwill discussed the pre-deployment and post-deployment briefings that were provided in order to make sure that servicemembers understood their benefits as well as the family support groups that existed for the same reasons. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) asked about the whether the panel believed that GI Benefits at for-profit colleges was a loophole that should be removed. Ms. Petraeus expressed her displeasure and disgust with the tactics that Veterans were being pursued with in order to get them to enroll at certain for-profit colleges. She agreed that its removal would take away some of that incentive and further protect Veterans. Senator Boozman asked about the differences between the short and long information forms that were presented to financial services representatives in order to obtain servicemember benefits. Mr. Leonard explained that because of the length and detail in military orders that servicemembers receive, the short forms existed to display only the key information that financial service representatives need to initiate benefits in an effort to speed up the process.

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HEARING ON STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW

On 1 August 2013 the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) held a hearing on the recent release of the Defense Strategic Choices and Management Review. The hearing, led by the witnesses Deputy Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter, with the full participation of General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), and Admiral James Winnefeld, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (VCJCS), the Service Secretaries and the Service Chiefs, was to understand the impact of further budget reductions on the Department and develop options to deal with these additional cuts. It had three specific objectives: First, to help the Department of Defense (DOD) prepare for how to deal with sequestration if it continues in Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14); Second, to inform the fiscal guidance given to the military services for their Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) through Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) budget plans; and Third, anchor the upcoming Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), which will assess our defense strategy in light of new fiscal realities and the many threats and complexities and uncertainties of this new century.

Representative Mac Thornberry (R-TX-13), HASC Vice Chairman, opened the hearing saying that he directed the Strategic Choices and Management Review four months ago to help ensure that DOD is prepared in the face of unprecedented budget uncertainty. Although DOD strongly supports the FY14 President's Budget (PB) request and long-term budget plan for the entire Federal government, the deep and abrupt spending cuts under sequestration that began on 1 March 2013 of this year, are considered the law of the land. Sequestration will continue in the absence of an agreement that replaces the Budget Control Act. These management reforms, consolidations, personnel cuts, and spending reductions will reduce the Department's overhead and operating costs by some \$10 billion over the next five years and almost **\$40 billion** over the next decade. They will make the Department more agile and more versatile. He also stated that past efficiency campaigns have shown that implementation can be very challenging, so effective follow-through is critical, if savings targets are to be realized. This is especially true of Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) reductions. Representative Thornberry had asked Deputy Secretary Carter to identify someone from outside DOD who is deeply knowledgeable about the defense enterprise and eminently qualified to direct implementation of the OSD reductions and report to the Deputy Secretary. He stated that these changes would be far-reaching and require further analysis and consideration. Though defense bureaucracies are often derided, the fact is that these offices perform functions needed to manage, administer, and support a military of our size, complexity, and global reach.

Following these opening remarks HASC Ranking Member, Representative Adam Smith (D-WA-09), stated that these issues really come down to sequestration and that we are only 3 to 4 months into sequestration and if we do nothing to force Congress to act, there will be a bleak future for our national security. He makes clear in his opening statement that he is perfectly both willing to take cuts in the defense budget as of all government organizations, but sequestration was meant as a threat and Congress didn't want it to get this far where we have to forcefully take a step back with our national security. He closed noting that the negative impact of sequestration has been deep and profound and this problem didn't happen overnight and there have been drastic consequences.

Dr. Carter and Admiral ADM Winnefeld, opened by stating that they believed military compensation alone makes up over half of the defense budget. They stressed that it takes time to downsize forces and move our troops while drastic measures in 2013 as a result of sequestration have caused readiness stand downs and furloughs, reducing the efficiency of DOD drastically. They believe that at some point the rate of growth in military and civilian pay should slow. They also believe that while we must affectively honor our forces and be fair equating their compensation to the labor market, no one in uniform is overpaid for what they do for this country. People are DOD's most important asset and we must sustain compensation packages that recruit and retain the finest military in the world. The significant military pay and benefit increases over the last decade reflected the need to sustain a force under considerable stress, especially the Army and Marines, during the height of the Iraq and Afghan campaigns. One post-9/11 war is over, and the second, our nation's longest war, is coming to an end. Overall, personnel costs have risen dramatically, some 40 percent above inflation since 2001. They both stressed that DOD cannot afford to sustain this growth. Reflecting these realities, the President's FY14 budget included a package of modest compensation-related reforms that have the strong support of DOD uniform leadership. Congress has signaled its opposition to some of these proposals, including modest increases in TRICARE fees for working-age retirees. But given our current fiscal situation, DOD has had no choice but to consider compensation changes of greater magnitude for military and civilian personnel. The Strategic Choice and Management Review developed compensation savings options that we believe would continue to allow the military to recruit and retain the high-quality personnel we will need. Both witnesses went on to state that if we were to pursue these options, we would need Congress's partnership to implement many of them. Notable examples of areas the witnesses requested Congressional help included; Changing military health care for retirement -- for retirees to increase use of private-sector insurance when available; Changing how the basic allowance for housing (BAH) is calculated, so that individuals are asked to pay a little more of their own housing costs; Reducing the overseas cost-of-living adjustments (COLA). In total, they

identified these examples would save **\$63 billion** over the sequestration time frame and an additional **\$97 billion** of savings with some of the changes to existing they recommend which ends up being about 1/3 of the cuts needed to take under the sequester. They also noted that Secretary Hagel, in regards to equipment, was being forced to look at making significant reduction, as a result of sequestration, even looking at reducing the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) size from 11 to 8 unless significant cost savings is found. They closed by stating that DOD needs help with these issues, otherwise they will be “all tale and no teeth.”

As the discussion continued into asking the witness for answers to questions on sequestration, their closing statement was that DOD has a responsibility to give America's elected leaders and the American people a clear-eyed assessment of what our military can and cannot do in the event of a major confrontation or a crisis after several years of sequester-level cuts. In the months ahead, DOD will continue to provide their most honest and best assessment. The inescapable conclusion is that letting sequester-level cuts persist would be a huge strategic miscalculation that would not be in our country's best interests. HASC Vice Chairman Thornberry continued to focus on the impact to DOD sequester-level cuts would have and how they would equally harm other missions across the Federal government, which is to support a strong economy and support a strong national defense. He was alarmed by what the witnesses said about compensation, noting that it is equally important to provide support through this difficult economy to our servicemembers, Veterans and their families. All of this, he stated, is part of our overall readiness capabilities and responsibilities to our military. He reiterated how our military and their livelihoods are threatened by sequestration. It is the responsibility of the nation's leaders to work together to replace the mindless and irresponsible policy of sequestration. He closed saying that sequestration and cuts to their benefits is unworthy of the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform and their families, and even as we confront tough fiscal realities, our decisions must always be worthy of the sacrifices we ask America's sons and daughters to make for our country.

JOINT HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SEAPOWER AND READINESS HEARING ON NAVY SURFACE FORCE

On 1 August 2013, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Subcommittees on Readiness and Seapower & Projection Forces held a rare Joint Subcommittee hearing on ensuring Navy surface force effectiveness with limited maintenance resources, mostly as a result of budget constraints and sequestration related impacts. HASC, Seapower & Projection Forces Chairman, Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04), skipped his opening statement and proceed to move on to the witnesses testimonies.

Rear Admiral (RADM) Thomas Rowden, Director, Surface Warfare (OPNAV N96), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), began his opening statement by saying that the Navy's mission is to have the qualifications to attain, maintenance to accomplish, and tactics to learn in regards to readiness. He stressed that the Navy must always be ready to go into harm's way and protect American interests, therefore the Navy needs to make sure that Sailors are trained and ships are fully operational. RADM Rowden explained that this goal is becoming harder to achieve with sequestration, as difficult decisions involving maintenance and training are made. The risk of ships decommissioning before their life cycle is up looms over our Navy's capabilities due to the budget cuts, and the Navy needs the continued support of Congress to preserve such capabilities. RADM Timothy S. Matthews, Director, Fleet Readiness (OPNAV N43), Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), began his opening statement by saying that he was very concerned about the budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) given the already ongoing effects of sequestration. The Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) appropriations bill, the Continuing Resolution (CR) passed last March, with sequestration left the Navy with a **\$4.1 billion** shortfall in our Operations and Maintenance (O&M) accounts compared with the President's FY13 budget submission. This has had an impact on Fleet operations and readiness in FY13, and will carry over into FY14. RADM Matthews went on to explain that the cuts are causing all the past work to fall under risk, as DOD civilian and worker furloughs and overtime restrictions have resulted in maintenance delays to ships and compressed training cycles. Delays and impacts have been observed onboard the USS *Ross*, USS *Milius*, USS *Comstock*, USS *Laboon* and USS *Mitscher*. He is concerned that the Navy's budget challenges will be greatly exacerbated in FY14 and beyond. FY14 sequestration will result in a **\$14 billion** budget shortfall in the Navy, which will have a significant impact on O&M accounts and will derail the efforts the Navy has made to restore the material condition of our surface fleet. As he has witnessed the increase in material deficiencies and readiness degradation this year alone, RADM Matthews hoped that Congress could help improve the current condition of the surface fleet.

Many questions were raised in regards to the current and future status of Naval forces in regards to sequestration. HASC, Seapower & Projection Forces Ranking Member, Representative Mike McIntyre (D-NC-07), and Chairman Forbes raised questions involving how the long term underfunding of ship maintenance accounts impacts the size and capability of the surface forces. RADM Rowden responded by stating that the delay of maintenance will end up increasing the price to accomplish said maintenance over time. He also added that ships may end up being decommissioned early to compensate for the underfunding, resulting in the reduction of 295 ships to 257 ships by 2020. HASC, Readiness Chairman, Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA-01), asked how the deterred maintenance availabilities would affect overall readiness as Sailors are rotated through their duties at sea. RADM Rowden replied that the deployment of Sailors can easily get delayed, along with the deployment of ships. He believes this would have a large impact on retention as Sailors may get frustrated in longer deployments and waiting to be deployed, both scenarios strain our military families and community. RADM Rowden was also concerned that reliability of Naval platforms and Navy equipment would go down, as you cannot train Sailors on equipment that is not properly repaired and maintained. In terms of the future, HASC, Readiness Ranking Member, Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), wished to know from both Admirals their comfort level with the number of battle-force ships being used to rebalance to the Pacific. RADM Rowden believed that the United States is currently ready, while stressing the importance of maintaining a modernized fleet for Commanders. RADM Matthews added to this by stating that the pace of developments would slow, but they still have the motion to continue.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARKUP OF FY14 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

On 30 July 2013, the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense (SAC-D) approved the draft version of the Defense Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) and submitted it for approval by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The markup was held by Chairman, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Ranking Member, Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS). In his opening remarks SAC-D Chairman Durbin addressed the detrimental effects of Sequestration on the effectiveness and readiness of the military stating, "Because this bill goes line by line to reduce wasteful or unnecessary spending this is a fiscally responsible way to deal with cutting a budget, not Sequestration... If Sequestration continues, especially if it is coupled with long term continuing resolutions for the Department of Defense (DOD) the consequences will be much more serious than what we have seen so far."

On 1 August 2013, the Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC) approved the final version of the Defense Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14), formally announced as S. 1429. The Full Committee markup was held by SAC Chairwoman, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and SAC Ranking Member, Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL). The Defense Appropriations Bill for FY14 was approved with a vote of 22-8 with two abstentions. In total, the SAC markup provides a base budget of **\$516.6 billion**, a decrease of **\$844 million** below the Fiscal Year 2013 enacted level and **\$714 million** above the President's Budget (PB) request. This is approximately **\$32.2 billion** above the current level caused by automatic sequestration spending cuts. It also includes **\$77.8 billion** for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) for Defense activities related to the Global War on Terror. In regards to Military Personnel and Pay, SAC approved **\$129.1 billion** to provide for 1,361,400 Active Duty troops and 833,700 members of the Reserve Component. This funding level is **\$2.4 billion** below last year, due to the reduction in troop totals. This also includes the 1% pay raise for the military, which is in line with the Senate's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Senate Appropriators essentially green lit spending on other programs as well such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), for which DOD requested **\$8.4 billion**. SAC also approved development programs for weapons such as the Navy's replacement for the Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine (SSBN-X), whose annual costs will increase significantly over the next decade. During the debate on the Defense Appropriations Bill for FY14 members of the Committee offered amendments to the bill. A manager's package was proposed by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), accepted unanimously regarding procurement of MQ-1 and MQ-9 drones and DDG-51 contracts. SAC also allocated **\$1 billion** for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) and increased funding for the Virginia Class submarine program by **\$227 million** (while terminating the Virginia Payload Module due to high cost, risk, and lack of validated requirement), and increased the DDG-51 *Arleigh Burke* Class destroyer program funding by **\$100 million** to fund a ten-ship multi-year contract commitment. SAC members also joined Congress' three other defense panels in rejecting DOD's request to retire nine warships as the Navy struggles to meet a requirement of a 306-warship fleet and the military attempts to shift its focus to the Pacific theater of operations.

Under report language of S. 1429, with the Defense spending bill, lawmakers would direct **\$2.4 billion** for the seven cruisers and two amphibious dock landing ships (LSD's), making it available through September 2021, but directing the Navy to begin an overhaul of at least one cruiser in Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14). The legislation all but ensures the Navy will be unable to retire the ships as it wishes. The Committee says that under its plan, the vessels collectively would have more than 100 years of service life remaining. The report states that, "The Committee is concerned with this proposed elimination of force structure and believes it is disconnected from the strategic shift to the Asia-Pacific, creates future unaffordable shipbuilding requirements, and exacerbates force structure shortfalls that negatively impact DOD's ability to meet Combatant Command requirements." The report continues to state that, "The Committee notes that some key assumptions that led the Navy to propose prematurely retiring these ships have changed." The Committee report states that the condition of at least one ship is better than the Navy's prior assumption. It also found that the scope and cost of modernization efforts required for these platforms to maintain their operational relevance for the balance of their service lives was overestimated.

The SAC approved markup also included for Defense Health and Military Family Programs a total appropriation of **\$33.6 billion**, which is **\$858 million** above last year's level, and **\$348 million** above the FY14 PB. This funding helps provide essential care for our troops, military families, and retirees through various DOD programs. Included in this funding is **\$297 million** increase for TRICARE to ensure servicemembers aren't paying more out-of-pocket costs for their health care and also adds **\$60 million** for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Psychological Health.

An analysis of the bill text and Committee report by AUSN is forthcoming and will be released on our website later in the next week.

AUSN ON THE HILL

In addition to monitoring this week's hearings, AUSN began analyzing the progress of the Senate Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Defense Appropriations bill that made its way through the Subcommittee and Full Committee. A formal bill number hasn't been introduced yet, but AUSN will keep an eye out in the next few weeks as the official Committee Report is released. In addition, [an op-ed piece by AUSN was featured in Roll Call Newspaper](#) on Sequestration and Military Compensation this week, looking at the impact to the Department of Defense (DOD) and military personnel that such budget cuts and desire to have further cost savings is having, and could have, on military readiness, recruitment and retention. Earlier this week, AUSN met with the Deputy Chief of the Navy Reserve (DCNR) to discuss equipment items and to meet with our Legislative Interns. AUSN also had a great meeting with VADM

Mel Williams, USN (Ret.) who is the Dean of Military and Veteran Initiatives at George Washington University (GWU) about collaborative efforts on student Veteran initiatives. In addition, AUSN met with Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04) and his staff to discuss Navy equipment items as well as staff of Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) to discuss concerns regarding provisions of the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which should be put onto the Senate floor for consideration after the August recess. Finally, AUSN had a successful 'Drumbeat' with its Legislative Liaisons this week, discussing, amongst other things, the upcoming August recess and what to expect from Members of Congress returning to their states and districts.

PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK

S. 1399, The Servicemember Student Loan Availability Act. Introduced by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), the bill would amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service.

S. 1387, The Housing Assistance for Veterans (HAVEN) Act. Introduced by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), the bill would establish a pilot program to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify homes of disabled and low-income Veterans.

H.R. 2974, (Official title yet to be released). Introduced by Representative Jackie Walorski (R-IN-02), the bill would amend Title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility for beneficiary travel for Veterans seeking treatment or care for military sexual trauma (MST) in specialized outpatient or residential programs at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 2953, (Official title yet to be released). Introduced by Representative Michael Michaud (D-ME-02), the bill would provide Medicare payments to Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities for items and services provided to Medicare-eligible Veterans for non-service-connected conditions.

H.R. 2907, The National Guardsmen and Reservists Parity for Patriots Act. Introduced by Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC-02), the bill would amend Title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces who have served on Active Duty or performed active service since September 11, 2001, in support of a contingency operation or in other emergency situations receive credit for such service in determining eligibility for early receipt of non-regular service retired pay.

H.R. 2859, The Servicemember Student Loan. Introduced by Representative Tammy Duckworth (D-IL-08), the bill would amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service.

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 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 #113-18: SUPPORT H.R. 2785 and S. 1320, the Military Reserve Jobs Act of 2013

NEXT WEEK OUTLOOK

Next week, and up until 9 September 2013, the House and Senate will be in Congressional Recess. Consequently, for the next month or so, there will not be any Legislative Watch newsletters sent out. However, AUSN will continue to hold a few meetings on Capitol Hill with staff while lawmakers are out of town as well as start reviewing and preparing materials for AUSN's Annual Business meeting. We encourage all of you register and attend as our Resolutions, which form AUSN's Legislative Objectives, are discussed and debated. Upon the return of Congress in September, debate will be underway on a potential Continuing Resolution (CR) since none of the Appropriation bills will have passed for the President's signature. However, there is a possibility that Defense and MILCON/VA for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) may be the method by which Congress moves a CR for all the other Appropriation bills. As for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the Senate is expected to put the bill for floor consideration and amendments sometime in mid to late October, with a conference on the House passed version sometime in the late November-early December time frame. All the while, however, when lawmakers return from the August recess after Labor Day to debate the CR, they'll have to deal with the "elephant in room" which is finding a way to reduce Federal spending to avert further sequestration with only a few legislative days to do so before the start of the next fiscal year on 1 October 2013. The other option Congress could explore would be to delay its implementation for the next fiscal year for a few months at the most. Just this past week, Presidential adviser Dan Pfeiffer told reporters that the administration would be "happy" to talk with Congress about a temporary solution to the sequester if a long-term repeal cannot be achieved in the next few months. We'll see how this unfolds in September. See you in the fall!

AUSN LEGISLATIVE INTERN FAREWELL

As the summer draws to a close, we wish to say thank you to our 2013 Summer Legislative Interns. We had a total of 6 throughout the summer (4 at any given time). Mr. Mike Perez, a student from George Mason University, interned with us this past Spring and stayed throughout mid-June until he accepted an internship for a Defense think tank. Mr. Jason Harvey, a USMC Veteran, also interned with us this past spring and stayed until mid-June when we were pleased to hear he had been accepted as a paid intern in the office of the Republican Conference Secretary, Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC-05), in her Capitol office. Our other interns included, Ms. Jackie Moffitt, a student from George Mason University, Ms. Jessica Hunt, a student from James Madison University, Mr. Mike Allis, an NROTC MIDN from George Washington University and Mr. Eric C. Young II, a student from the University of William and Mary. This summer, all our interns did a wonderful job covering Congressional hearings, attending meetings on the Hill, receiving briefs on Navy equipment, visiting the Pentagon and meeting with Members of Congress and staff with AUSN. We thank them for their help and look forward to their future successes. Fair winds and following seas!

CALL FOR AUSN NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

In preparation for AUSN's Annual Business Meeting, [Annual Meeting Registration Now Open Here](#), (formerly Annual Conference) in Alexandria, VA on 26- 27 September 2013, proposals for 2013 National Resolutions are currently being accepted. Any AUSN member may propose a Resolution or Resolution change which should address a legislative or policy issue related to the missions and goals of our organization. Resolutions are received, reviewed, and processed by the Resolutions Committee at the Annual Business Meeting.

Resolutions must be timely, concise, and include sufficient background information. Resolutions must be submitted 30 days in advance of the 25 September 2013 meeting in order for proper staffing, review and formatting as needed.

A listing of current Resolutions, adopted by the Resolutions Committee at the 2012 meeting, can be found and reviewed at the [AUSN National Resolutions webpage](#). For new submissions, changes and edits, as well as instructions on formatting, changing or adding new Resolutions, please visit our "[How To/ Resolutions Format](#)" which also includes a downloadable form for submission at the top right of the page as well. Please follow instructions on the form carefully.

Proposed Resolutions and Resolution changes can be sent by mail to AUSN Headquarters, ATTN: AUSN National VP of Government Relations and Resolutions Committee Chair, RDML Robin Graf, USN (Ret.), 1619 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. They can also be sent by email to anthony.wallis@ausn.org at least 30 days before the Annual Business Meeting, no later than **25 AUGUST 2013**.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS

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