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AUSN ANALYZES DOD REPORT ON SEQUESTRATION

AUSN looked at a report which outlines the impacts the Department of Defense (DOD) would face today in having to plan and operate at the sequestration levels and documents the significant cuts to forces, modernization, and readiness that would be required at those levels. For defense, this report illustrates the additional warfighting risk DOD will incur if the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011's automatic reductions persist. For most Navy force structure elements, the BCA funding level would have a greater impact on the post- Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) force levels, because 8 fewer ships would be procured and would deliver outside the FYDP. The one exception would be cruisers and destroyers. At the BCA funding level, the Navy would lay-up 6 destroyers (in addition to the 11 cruisers) awaiting mid-life modernization and overhaul. This would extend the period that the ships would not be available for regular operations and surge.

FURTHER READING:

Additionally, projected sequestration level cuts from Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) to Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) would increase these cuts to more than **\$1 trillion** removed from DOD's budget in the 10-year period from Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) to FY21. While DOD has been able to reach the current caps with an acceptable level of risk across the services, if sequestration level funding persists, our forces will assume substantially larger risks with reduced readiness and modernization, leaving the United States with an unbalanced military. Every appropriation title would be affected with these cuts. One-third of cuts would be from the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) accounts while two-thirds would come from modernization accounts, a split that would impact the ability of our forces to meet our strategic goals in future years. The impact on Navy force structure would be huge. Three *Virginia* Class attack submarines (SSNs) would be lost in total; while as many as five would be out of commission from FY15 until FY19. Additionally, the Navy would see a decline in civilian personnel from its current level of 194,000 to 189,000 by 2019 and a reduction in Active Tactical Aircraft (TACAIR) squadrons, not to mention the loss of air wings associated with the loss of an entire carrier.

If sequestration level funding were maintained, modernization would be hit the hardest. However, that could have severe impact in the future as Procurement and Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) are crucial in developing and advancing both our armed forces and the technology they are provided with. Over the course of the FYDP, **\$66.2 billion** would be cut from Procurement and RDT&E, a dangerous consequence when coinciding with the Department's "Pivot" towards re-balancing to Asia.

For more details, see [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on DOD Sequestration Report](#).

AUSN ANALYZES DOD SELECTED ACQUISITION REPORTS

*AUSN recently received the Department of Defense (DOD) Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) for the December 2012 through December 2013 calendar year. SARs are a series of reports that summarize the latest estimates of cost, schedule, and performance status of DOD programs that DOD publishes every year in conjunction with submission of the President's Budget (PB). Furthermore, the total program cost estimates provided in the SARs include research and development, procurement, military construction, and acquisition-related operations and maintenance. Of the 77 programs that had been reported on by previous SARs, the December 2013 reporting period has reported a net cost decrease of **\$4.4 billion** (-0.3%). DOD credits the primary reason for this decrease in net cost to planned quantities being purchased (**-\$14.9 billion**), the application of lower escalation rates (**-\$3.6 billion**), and reductions in associated support requirements (**-\$2.5 billion**). Notable programs discussed include the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), the Arleigh Burke Class (DDG-51) destroyer and P-8A "Poseidon."*

FURTHER READING:

Of the 77 programs that had been reported on by previous SARs, the December 2013 reporting period has reported a net cost decrease of **\$4.4 billion** (-0.3%). DOD credits the primary reason for this decrease in net cost to planned quantities being purchased (**-\$14.9 billion**), the application of lower escalation rates (**-\$3.6 billion**), and reductions in associated support requirements (**-\$2.5 billion**). The decreases, however, in net cost have been partially offset by a net stretch-out of development and procurement schedules (**+\$6.8 billion**), a net increase in program cost estimates (**+\$5.5 billion**), and engineering changes to hardware/software (**+\$4.4 billion**).

The E-2D "Advanced Hawkeye" Aircraft saw program costs increase **\$1.2 billion** (+5.9%) from **\$20.5 billion** to **\$21.7 billion**, primarily due to the net stretch-out of the procurement buy profile delaying 10 aircraft beyond the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) and extending the end of production two years from Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) to Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) (**+\$759.1 million**). Additional increases in cost were procured due to the addition of fighter to fighter backlink, data fusion, integrated fire control, net enabled weapons J11 message, navigation warfare anti-global positional system jam electronic protection, and stores performance assessment requested quality (**+\$341.3 million**). The Tactical Tomahawk (TACTOM) saw program costs decreased **\$1.8 billion** (25.8%) from **\$7.1 billion** to **\$5.3 billion**, mostly due to a decrease of 1,161 TACTOM missiles from 4,951 to 3,790 (**-\$1.2 billion**) and associated schedule, engineering, and estimating allocations (**-\$586.2 million**).

For more details, see [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on DOD Selected Acquisition Reports](#).

AUSN ANALYZES HOUSE INTRO VERSION AND HASC SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUPS OF FY15 NDAA

The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) held Subcommittee markups of the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) this week. The bill, in the form of H.R. 4435, was introduced on 9 April 2014 as a 'by request' version since it mirrored language of the FY15 President's Budget (PB) request. The introduction of this bill marks the beginning of the Defense Authorization process, providing the vehicle for further consideration by the House and, as has been traditional practice of HASC under leadership of both parties, the Full Committee will strike all of the provisions after the enacting clause, inserting the Chairman's mark and Subcommittee marks when it is considered on 7 May 2014. AUSN took the liberty to analyze four relevant HASC Subcommittee Markups this week: Seapower and Projection Forces, Military Personnel, Tactical Air (TACAIR) and Land Forces, and the Readiness Subcommittees.

FURTHER READING:

On 30 April 2014, HASC- Seapower and Projection Forces and HASC- Military Personnel held their Subcommittee markups of H.R. 4435. In the HASC- Seapower and Projection Forces markup, notable provisions included addressing the current need to support an 11 carrier fleet by supporting the Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH) of the aircraft carrier, USS *George Washington* (CVN-73). In addition, the Subcommittee supported the construction of two *Arleigh Burke Class* (DDG-51) Flight IIA destroyers, continued procurement of *Virginia Class* submarines (SSNs) and advance procurement for Littoral Combat Ships (LCS). Furthermore, the HASC- Seapower and Projection Forces markup required that the Comptroller General of the United States provide an additional report to the Congressional defense committees by 1 April 2015, which examines the study, results, and conclusions regarding the procurement of future small surface combatants such as the LCS. The report will synthesize the study's methodologies and research theories, proposals of alternate ship designs or modifications to the LCS, and a cost-benefit analysis which weighs the

cost, schedule and requirements of the LCS. The study will also be compared with the formal analysis of alternatives, which was set forth in the Department's acquisition policy. In the HASC- Military Personnel markup, notable provisions included additional attention to combating suicide within the military community, continuing the implementation of robust oversight and reform of sexual assault in the military, and the rejection of any proposed cuts to the benefit and compensation programs that would increase out-of-pocket costs for military families. In particular, the HASC- Military Personnel mark does not include any fundamental changes to the TRICARE benefit whereby they defended not implementing FY15 PB proposals since Congress established the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) to look at these issues and the Subcommittee expressed the need to be informed of the MCRMC analysis before proceeding with wide impacting changes. The markup also does not include the requested reduction in the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) that would require a 6% out of pocket expense for housing for all servicemembers." Other subjects included in the markup required the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review and report to the Department of Defense (DOD) on all ethics programs, and increased oversight in the restructuring of the military healthcare system by requiring the GAO to examine the new Defense Health Agency (DHA) structure.

On 1 May 2014, HASC- TACAIR and Land Forces and HASC- Readiness held their Subcommittee markups of H.R. 4435. In the HASC- TACAIR and Land Forces markup, notable provisions included addressing shortfalls and equipment modernization. The markup supports Marine Corps aviation recapitalization for 19 V-22 "Osprey," 26 new H-1 series helicopters, and continued development of the CH-53K heavy lift helicopter as well as continued support of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program with 34 new aircraft and continued test and development. In particular, the markup requires the Comptroller General of the United States to review the F-35 acquisition program and to submit a report not later than 15 April 2015, and each year thereafter until the F-35 acquisition program enters full rate production. Each report would include the extent to which the F-35 aircraft acquisition program is meeting cost, schedule and performance goals; the progress and results of developmental and operational testing; the progress of the procurement and manufacturing of the F-35 aircraft; and an assessment of any plans or efforts of the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) to improve the efficiency of the procurement and manufacturing of the F-35 aircraft. In the HASC- Readiness markup, notable provisions included identifying concerns with depleted force readiness levels and also high levels of assumed risk as a result of repeated national security resources costs. In particular, the markup had a provision which directed the Commander, U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) to consult with the Commander, Pacific Air Forces and produce a brief by 30 March 2015. The brief will detail the airlift and tanker capabilities in the PACOM area. It will include the cost of current rotational tanker presence in the Western Pacific, the cost of permanently stationing tankers, and any plans for future bed down of permanent and rotational airlift and tanker assets needed to meet PACOM's operational requirements. Furthermore, the markup rejects the FY15 PB proposal of another Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round and directs SECDEF to submit a report to the Congressional defense committees detailing the overall effectiveness of the property disposal process. This report is due by 2 March 2015 and must address the prior BRAC rounds (1988, 1991, 1993, 1995, and 2005), by military department.

For more details, see AUSD's [Legislative Analysis Documents of HASC Subcommittee Markups of FY15 NDAA](#).

SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HEARING ON ACQUISITION REFORM

*On 30 April 2014, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) held its hearing on the reform of the defense acquisition system in light of the forthcoming markup of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) by the Committee and the impact upon the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). The witnesses present at the hearing were the Honorable Frank Kendall III, Under Secretary Of Defense For Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics at the Department Of Defense (DOD), Mr. Michael J. Sullivan, Director, Acquisition And Sourcing Management at the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Mr. Jonathan L. Etherton, Senior Fellow For Acquisition Reform at the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), Mr. Moshe Schwartz, Specialist In Defense Acquisition Policy at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), and Mr. David J. Berteau, Senior Vice President at the Center For Strategic And International Studies (CSIS). The hearing was held by SASC Chairman, Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), and SASC Ranking Member, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK). At the start of the hearing, Chairman Levin cited his Weapons Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 with Senator John McCain (R-AZ) as a reason for progress in defense acquisition in the last five years. He also cited the 2014 GAO report on defense acquisition which stated that 50 out of 80 programs reviewed had reduced their overall costs, whereby 64 percent of programs had gained buying power by reducing unit acquisition costs and that a total of **\$23 billion** had been saved in the last year. Ranking Member Inhofe noted the need for properly trained program managers and acquisition specialists in order to reduce program management and acquisition costs.*

FURTHER READING (*Full AUSN Transcripts & After Action Reports (AARs) available upon request*):

In the first panel of witness opening statements, Undersecretary Kendall discussed his Better Buying Initiatives which were implemented four years ago in four planned sets and that progress has been made after just one set with the second set about to be implemented. The Undersecretary also emphasized that one size does not fit all for defense acquisitions reform because of the diversity of defense programs and that uncertainty within the budget makes long and short term planning for acquisitions very difficult. Mr. Sullivan testified that incremental acquisition has helped improve costs and that more can be done by giving incentives to industry for cost-control within programs. Additionally, Mr. Sullivan pointed out some issues in the current defense acquisition program including: the different goals of stakeholders, few consequences when funds are inefficient for programs already started, too much power being placed with the contractor once a contract is awarded, and the mismatch between the long length of product development versus the short tenures of program managers, although he stated that stability at the office of the Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics with Undersecretary Kendall and Dr. Ashton Cater before him, has helped in decreasing the mismatch. Mr. Etherton began the testimony of the second panel of witnesses by mentioning that successful reform will require an extended period of cultural change within DOD along with legislative actions targeting acquisition and business reforms. Mr. Schwartz added by stating that now is a good opportunity to improve defense acquisitions, but DOD needs help from Congress to change both the culture and the perverse incentives within the acquisition chain. Mr. Berteau testified that innovation is occurring in the global marketplace more than it is occurring within DOD and that the Department needs to look at how it can take advantage of the advances being made globally.

Following opening statements, Chairman Levin began a round of questioning by asking Undersecretary Kendall what legislation he needs to continue improving defense acquisitions. Undersecretary Kendall responded that he has a team working on a legislative proposal to simplify the laws governing defense acquisition in order to make them easier to understand, follow, and thus implement. Chairman Levin then asked Mr. Sullivan how much information should be reviewed and at what points during the acquisition process. Mr. Sullivan said that there needs to be information at the start on mature technology, at the critical decision review and he suggested more prototyping to ensure a stabilized design, and at the production introduction with process controls emphasizing quality and efficiency. Ranking Member Inhofe asked Mr. Sullivan about what the GAO's role in improving acquisition is, to which Mr. Sullivan responded that GAO analysis is important as it looks for efficiencies, especially in incorporating good data at key decision points to maximize quality and efficiency. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) asked Undersecretary Kendall if he had the necessary people in place to provide analysis and the data needed at decision points throughout the acquisition process, to which the Undersecretary responded he did, and that he has been building up staff capabilities and expertise since assuming the position. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) asked about changing the military way of doing business in regard to acquisition to encourage and increase continuity and expertise in program managers. In response, Undersecretary Kendall acknowledged that tenure is important but that the recent wars have changed rotations, however he is working on a promotion program for program managers so they stay within the Department rather than leaving because they face very steep promotion curves. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) asked Undersecretary Kendall about the liability of terminating the MH-60 helicopter program, leaving the Navy 29 aircraft short, to which the Undersecretary responded he would need to take that for the record and would have a response within a week or two. Chairman Levin then asked Mr. Berteau what can be done to generate competition if programs lack buying power. Mr. Berteau suggested incentives for industry to meet costs, especially financial incentives, and to reduce loopholes for contractors.

SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON VA OVERMEDICATION

On 30 April 2014, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) held a hearing to discuss the issue of patient overmedication, particularly in the realm of pain management, within the Military Health System and at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The first panel of witnesses included Dr. Robert Petzel, Undersecretary for Health at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). He was accompanied by Dr. Tracy Gaudet, Director of the Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation and Dr. Peter Marshall, Director of Primary Care Pain Management at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. The second panel of witnesses included BG Norvill V. Coots, USA, Deputy Commanding General (Support) for the U.S. Army Medical Command and Assistant Surgeon General for Force Protection. He was accompanied by COL Kevin Galloway, USA, Program Director for the Army Pain Management Program, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Division. The third panel included Dr. Josephine Briggs, Director of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at the National Institute of Health (NIH). The hearing was presided over by SVAC Chairman, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and SVAC Ranking Member, Senator Richard Burr (R-NC). Chairman Sanders began the hearing stressing that Veterans need to receive proper treatment for chronic pain and issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Opiates, while sometimes proven to be effective, come

with significant risk of addiction or misuse whereby Chairman Sanders expressed a desire to see more careful monitoring of patients who were prescribed certain medications. Ranking Member Burr then expressed his desire to hold more oversight hearings and voiced concern the overuse of certain drugs, dual prescriptions, and the incidences of Veterans feeling compelled to self-medicate to solve their medical issues.

FURTHER READING (*Full AUSN Transcripts & After Action Reports (AARs) available upon request*):

SVAC members were given an opportunity to speak, whereby Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) expressed concerns about the reports of patients dying due to extended waitlists at VA medical facilities in Arizona and asked for a timetable on the Inspector General (IG) investigation being conducted. Next, Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) mentioned his concern that frequent prescription medication use was masked more deeply rooted problems, particularly in the instances of mental health issues. Chairman Sanders gave Dr. Petzel an opportunity to give a brief statement on the allegations about VA medical facilities in Phoenix, AZ whereby he said the VA was very concerned and hoping for a quick turnaround by the IG office on the issues with that facility. Continuing with his opening statement, Dr. Petzel stressed that an opioid safety program was in place and the VA was making the use of alternative treatments, such as meditation, yoga, and acupuncture, more available to Veterans. BG Coots stressed in his opening statement that the Department of Defense (DOD) and the VA were taking a standardized approach to pain management, which would help lead to a smooth transition of health services when an Active Duty servicemember enters the VA system. Dr. Briggs made sure to emphasize in her opening statement that NIH was committed to cooperative research and partnerships with the VA when it came to pain management and reducing reliance on prescription medication.

Chairman Sanders asked Dr. Petzel about the progress that was being made concerning overmedication and its relationship to chronic pain. He replied that currently 650,000 Veterans were prescribed some form of opioid; however, this number was 50,000 fewer than it was 18 months ago, and that is due in part to the pain management clinics that were available at every VA medical center. He went on to describe the Opioid Dashboard, which is a tool the VA uses to determine which doctors are prescribing opioid medications above the standard and in turn, to educate them about alternatives. When asked by Chairman Sanders about the most promising forms of alternative treatment, Dr. Gaudet replied that research was showing the best results with mind-body practices, such as yoga or spinal realignment. She added that these were non-invasive and low risk procedures. Additionally, acupuncture was proving to be very effective at treating chronic pain and migraines.

Ranking Member Burr asked the panel whether it was easier to write a patient a prescription or deliver an alternative treatment plan. Due to the individualized nature of alternative treatment, Dr. Gaudet said that it was, in fact, easier and quicker to write a prescription. However, she asserted that this system needed to be adjusted. Senator Isakson asked whether DOD was facing the same challenges with overmedication that the VA was dealing with. BG Coots replied that in 2011, 26 percent of Active Duty members were on some form of opioids. He also asked about individuals with both mental health issues and chronic pain issues. Dr. Petzel replied that as pain is often a precursor to suicide, individuals with symptoms of both were carefully monitored.

AUSN ON THE HILL

These past few weeks, besides monitoring Congressional hearings, AUSN has been busy engaging Members of Congress and staff. In the past few weeks, AUSN met with Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, as well as staff of Representative Duncan Hunter (R-CA-50), staff of Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), staff of Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC-02), staff of Representative James Bridenstine (R-OK-01), and staff of the House Armed Services Committee. Additionally, AUSN participated in an F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Brief for senior Executives of military associations down in Suffolk, VA in the morning where our Vice-Chairman of the Board, MCPON Jim Herdt, USN (Ret) attended with Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04) and a few AUSN members in the area attended the public afternoon brief. AUSN also had a wonderful visit with the Deputy Chief of the Navy Reserve (DCNR), RDML Eric Young, USN as well as a visit with the Navy Sea Cadet Corps where we discussed the creation of a new Congressional Caucus that would address youth military programs. Furthermore, AUSN participated in a roundtable discussion with MajGen Arnold Punaro, USMC (Ret) who now leads the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) about the ongoing impact that sequestration is having on the industrial base and the role that military compensation is having in ongoing discussions as well. AUSN was also part of a four person panel, hosted by the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), regarding the impact the budget is having on the military family, in Newport News, VA. AUSN spoke about, in particular, military pay raise cuts and reductions in Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and was joined by AUSA, Air Force Association (AFA) and the National Military Families Association (NMFA). Finally, AUSN attended a MSO/VSO Roundtable discussion about ongoing Veteran

needs and priorities with the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC), Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01), where other House leadership attended including House Majority Whip, Representative Kevin McCarthy (R-CA-23) and House Republican Conference Chair, Representative Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA-05).

AUSN was also pleased to see that the House of Representatives passed on 30 April 2014, by a vote of 416-1, the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MILCON/VA) Appropriations bill, H.R. 4486. The **\$165 billion** bill is the first appropriations measure to pass either chamber for the coming fiscal year. It would provide **\$6.6 billion** for overall military construction, which is a **\$3.2 billion** cut from the **\$9.8 billion** enacted for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14), and equal to the FY15 President's Budget (PB) request. The VA's portion would total **\$158.2 billion**, of which **\$64.7 billion** would be discretionary funds. Under the bill VA spending, which was not subjected to sequestration, would rise by **\$10.3 billion** over FY14 levels. Of the 24 amendments offered during House floor debate, 16 were passed. As soon as the revised House passed text of H.R. 4486 is available, AUSN will do an analysis and post in our [MILCON/VA Appropriations Analysis section of the website](#).

PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK

S. 2276, Caring for America's Heroes Act. Introduced by Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), the bill would amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to mental health services under the TRICARE program.

S. 2258, the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2014. Introduced by Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), the bill would provide for an increase, effective 1 December 2014, in the rates of compensation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled Veterans.

H.R. 4560, Servicemembers Student Loan Relief Act. Introduced by Representative Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH-01), the bill would allow members of the Armed Forces and National Guard to defer principal on Federal student loans for a certain period in connection with receipt of orders for mobilization for war or national emergency.

H.R. 4559, (Official title yet to be released). Introduced by Representative Aaron Schock (R-IL-18), the bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the time period for contributing military death gratuities to Roth IRAs and Coverdell education savings accounts.

H.R. 4517, the Examination of Exposures to Environmental Hazards during Military Service and Health Care for Atsugi Naval Air Facility Veterans and their Families Act of 2014. Introduced by Representative Kurt Schrader (D-OR-05), the bill would authorize the provision of health care for certain individuals exposed to environmental hazards at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, to establish an advisory board to examine exposures to environmental hazards at such Air Facility

H.R. 4504, Department of Defense Suicide Tracking Act. Introduced by Representative Niki Tsongas (D-MA-03), the bill would improve military readiness by establishing programs to consistently track, retain, and analyze information regarding suicides involving members of the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces and suicides involving dependents of members of the regular and Reserve Components.

H.R. 4495, Asia-Pacific Region Priority Act. Introduced by Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04), the bill would strengthen the United States commitment to the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

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 Alert 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 #113-42: SUPPORT H.R. 4305 & S. 2231, Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers (MEPS) Act

NEXT WEEK OUTLOOK

Next week, AUSN will be actively engaged on Capitol Hill, not only with meetings with Congressional staff, but also our Executive Director, VADM John Totushek, USN (Ret.), will be presenting testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) on Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) proposals for military compensation and benefits (see [AUSN Press Release](#)). AUSN will also be monitoring the 7 May 2014 Full Committee markup of the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as well as doing an analysis of the markup and finishing the analysis of the recently House passed FY15 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MILCON/VA) Appropriations bill. Finally, AUSN will be monitoring a few hearings as well as participating in a Maritime Industry event honoring Representative Duncan Hunter (R-CA-50).

AUSN will bid farewell to our spring 2014 Legislative Interns next week. This spring we say 'Fair Winds and Following Seas' to five talented young men and women who were exceptional in providing the vital support to our staff and helped with our legislative efforts. Mr. Sam Martin, a Purdue NROTC graduate, will begin OCS this summer as he was accepted into the Marine Corps. Ms. Juliana Crum, a senior at American University, will graduate and play volleyball for year overseas in Europe since this year her team won the NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship. Mr. Bennett Griesmer, a junior at American University, will continue his studies and expand his experiences at AUSN as well as his work as a Capitol Hill intern last semester for Representative Jim Moran (D-VA- 08). Ms. Lillie Wade, a senior at George Mason University, will graduate and be pursuing research and analytical positions related to Defense and Veteran non-profits in the DC area. Finally, after an internship with Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) and AUSN this spring, Mr. Matthew Short, a senior at George Mason University, will graduate and pursue a Master's program in National Security Studies at Georgetown University in the fall. We wish all of them the best in their future endeavors and look forward to receiving our summer 2014 Legislative Interns in the coming weeks.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS

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