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**HELP NAME THE UPDATE!!!**

We received great responses the past few weeks on renaming the Legislative Update. Some of the top finalists are; "Standing Watch," "Standing THE Watch," "Attention on Deck," "Legislative Watch," and "From Ship to Shore." Please feel free to email Anthony Wallis, the Legislative Director, at [anthony.wallis@ausn.org](mailto:anthony.wallis@ausn.org) with your recommendation. Legislative Update naming recommendations will be accepted until the end of May when a name will be announced.

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS, DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON FY14 NAVY BUDGET**

On 7 May 2013, the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense (HAC-D) held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Navy Budget request. The three-member panel included notable witnesses as, the Honorable Raymond E. Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), and General James F. Amos, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. HAC-D Vice Chairman, Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ-11) opened the hearing raising his concern with the future of the Navy shipbuilding program. While Representative Frelinghuysen recognized that 43 ships were under contract, he reminded the Committee that, "a good portion of those ships don't seem to be the classic combatants such as large cruisers, guided missile destroyers, or submarines normally associated with the U.S. Navy's dominance." Noting the possible further negative effects of sequestration, Representative Frelinghuysen concluded his statement by calling for budget discipline. HAC-D Ranking Member Congressman Pete Visclosky (D-IN-01) echoed Representative Frelinghuysen's remarks and thanked the panelists for their appearance before the committee.

Secretary Mabus opened his statement by outlining the goals and challenges the Department of the Navy faced during sequestration, noting how, "We've have to balance our mission with our resources." The Secretary acknowledged the difficulty of having to operate during Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) and admitted that cuts would and already had real impact, including cancelled deployments and missions to the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) as well as the, "across the board cuts totaling more than \$4 billion from our operation and maintenance accounts, and about \$6 billion from our investment accounts." Secretary Mabus acknowledged that Central and Pacific Command remained priorities despite the sequester environment. Other observations made by Secretary Mabus included the reduction in fleet and the Marine Corps' end strength to 182,000 by Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) as well as the reduction in flight time

and ships' time at sea. The CNO, Admiral Greenert, next outlined his remarks as three points: "our enduring tenets for decision making, our budget strategy for 2013... and our intended course for 2014." Admiral Greenert recognized the Navy's three tenets as, "warfighting first, operate forward, and be ready." The three tenets would be applied despite budget shortfalls and he proceeded to discuss the obstacles facing the Navy and acknowledged the \$8.6 billion shortfall in the 2013 Operations and Maintenance (O&M) account. Admiral Greenert cautioned the Committee that, "sequestration leaves us with a \$4.1 billion in Operations and Maintenance short and \$6 billion in investment short in FY14." The continuation of sequestration past FY14 would make manpower, nuclear maintenance, and critical fleet operations liable to reduction. However, Admiral Greenert concluded his statement on an optimistic note by looking forward to future procurements and a 300-ship fleet by 2019.

In the question and answer portion of the hearing, Representative Jim Moran (D-VA-08) referenced a recent Bloomberg news article which dealt with the release of a classified study of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS.) Representative Moran, referencing the article, criticized the LCS program for being built on the lowest levels of survivability and characterized it as ill-suited for combat operations. Concluding his statement, Representative Moran asked the panelists why the LCS program continued to move forward. Secretary Mabus answered the question, defending the LCS program and depicting it as one of the Navy's "best performing programs," which had lowered its price through the competition of two different models. Secretary Mabus concluded that the LCS was now being delivered near the price briefed to Congress. Admiral Greenert also defended the LCS by acknowledging its Level Three status, but explaining that the recently released classified study noted in the Bloomberg article was over a year old and the ship was not designed for stand-alone surface warfare as referenced in the article. Representative Jo Bonner (R-AL-01) replied to Representative Moran's criticism of the LCS program by recounting his conversation with the reporter of the Bloomberg article. He noted that the journalist had not visited Mobile, AL to see the LCS being built nor had seen it in action. Representative Bonner concluded by pointing the Committee to the attention of a recent Forbes magazine article that discussed the important role of the LCS in the Navy of the future. Secretary Mabus echoed Representative Bonner's defense and noted the four LCS vessels, including the soon to be active USS *Coronado*, to be all deployed soon, like the USS *Freedom* in Singapore, and they will be a test of their crucial capabilities to the Navy.

Finally, Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) asked the panelists what efforts were being taken by the Navy to prevent sexual assault in the ranks. This follows the Department of Defense (DOD) Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, released earlier this week, that found that the number of sexual assault victims in the military has increased by over a third in the past two years and that roughly 70 servicemembers are victimized each day. Secretary Mabus expressed his outrage for sexual assault in the ranks, noting that the Navy could not continue to be a great military force if such incidents continue. General Amos noted that the Marine Corps had doubled the amount of arrests and convictions for sexual assaults. Admiral Greenert concluded by emphasizing the importance of eliminating the stigma of not reporting assaults and getting businesses and shore patrol involved in sexual assault prevention.

#### **SENATE ARMED SERVICES, SEAPOWERS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON NAVY SHIPBUILDING**

On 8 May 2013, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), Subcommittee on Seapower held a hearing concerning the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Budget Request and Naval Shipbuilding Programs. Notable witnesses were the Honorable Sean J. Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), Vice Admiral (VADM) Kevin M. McCoy, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, and Vice Admiral (VADM) Allen G. Myers, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Integration of Capabilities and Resources (N8). In his opening statement, SASC- Seapower Subcommittee Chairman, Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), noted that budget reductions resulting from the sequester will exaggerate shortfalls in funding for shipbuilding and readiness and doubted that the Navy will have the financing needed to meet the 30 year ship building plan released the week before. SASC- Seapower Subcommittee Ranking Member, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) suggested that even if sequestration were resolved in the near future, the prospects for reductions to the Navy's Fleet remain high and steps should be taken to reduce costs of expensive ship building platforms particularly, the Ohio Class Replacement Submarine (SSBN-X) program. He went on to state that for another 23 years, the United States will assume significant risks in the ability of our Navy to protect U.S. interests around the world, referencing the fact that the Navy, according to its 30 year shipbuilding plan, does not expect to meet its goal of a 306 ship fleet until 2037. In the hearing, other members of the Subcommittee noted that there was reason to doubt whether even these numbers are achievable. The Navy's shipbuilding budget request totals \$10.9 billion in FY14 and the plan is to get to \$17 billion by Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18). However, what was frustrating to the members of the Subcommittee, was that none of those numbers reflect budget caps now in law or potentially deeper cuts that could come in future years, through sequestration and the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011.

The joint written statements of Secretary Stackley, VADM Myers and VADM McCoy detailed the Navy's shipbuilding plans for several platforms. The statement explained that with more than half of the service life of the Nimitz-Class Aircraft Carriers still remaining, the Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH) continues as a key enabler for the enduring presence of the aircraft carrier fleet. The joint written statement noted that this year's budget request includes \$1.75 billion for the last year of funding for the RCOH of USS *Abraham Lincoln* and \$246 million for advance procurement for RCOH of USS *George Washington*. They also described the FY14 President's Budget (PB) request included \$1.8 billion to procure four Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) with a total of fourteen to be procured across the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). Additionally, the FY14 PB called for \$232 million to continue construction of the DDG-1000, *Zumwalt* Class, guided missile destroyers.

In his opening remarks, Secretary Stackley acknowledged that sequestration has put the Navy's shipbuilding plans at risk and explained that the effects will negatively impact ship and weapons programs. VADM McCoy detailed efforts being undertaken to cut costs and increase quality from the shipbuilding programs. Chairman Reed asked if any talks had taken place to provide supplemental funding for the Ohio Class Replacement submarines. Secretary Stackley admitted that no such talks had taken place and explained that the Navy's shipbuilding plan would be dominated by the submarine if sequestration is not resolved. Ranking Member McCain wondered if the Navy would be able to afford 300 ships if funding continues for the submarine program, given the effects of sequestration. Secretary Stackley replied that they could not and would fall short of the goal of 300 ships.

#### **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILCON/VA HEARING ON FY14 NAVY BUDGET**

On 9 May 2013, the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Military Construction & Veteran Affairs (SAC- MILCON/VA) held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Budget Request for Department of the Navy (DON). There were two panels that testified before the committee. The first panel consisted of the Honorable Robert F. Hale, Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller), and Mr. John Conger, Acting Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Installations and Environment). The second panel focusing on DON funding, featured Roger M. Natsuhara, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment), Major General James A. Kessler, Marine Corps Installations Command and Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (Facilities) and Rear Admiral (RADM) Kevin Slates, Director, Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division.

SAC- MILCON/VA Subcommittee Chairman, Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), opened the hearing by focusing on the negative effects of sequestration for both Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) and FY14, especially as they related to MILCON activities. He was also concerned by potential budget shortfalls and lack of savings in the future. After thanking the panelists for their service, Senator Johnson acknowledged SAC- MILCON/VA Ranking Member, Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL). Ranking Member Kirk turned the attention of the Committee into the possible negative effects of an additional Base-Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round. He reflected on the costs of the 2005 BRAC round as well as the need to examine overseas installations before the discussion of any new BRAC as requested by the Department of Defense. Specifically, Ranking Member Kirk noted on the 2005 BRAC, it was estimated to cost \$13 billion and in actuality, it cost \$35 billion.

Undersecretary Hale began his statement by explaining the rationale behind BRAC. He acknowledged that the budget does not take into account the continuation of sequestration and wished the passage of legislation to stop it. In addition, he emphasized the importance of being "good stewards" with DOD's budget, stating that, "the only effective way to do that is to authorize a new round of Base Realignment and Closure... BRAC does save money." Lastly, Undersecretary Hale pledged that the same mistakes from the 2005 BRAC would not be repeated and characterized in the proposed 2015 BRAC. Deputy Undersecretary John Conger echoed remarks made by Undersecretary Hale by encouraging a new BRAC round noting that, "The previous five rounds of BRAC are providing us with the recurring savings of \$12 billion." He also acknowledged the mistakes made in the 2005 round, however, Deputy Undersecretary Conger also told the committee that without BRAC many functions could not be moved and that the only way to manage them was through BRAC.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Natsuhara began his opening statement noting how DOD is requesting over \$12 billion in various appropriations accounts, a decrease of \$619 million from the President's FY13 request, for FY14. In regards to DON, their request, to operate, maintain and recapitalize the Navy's shore infrastructure is \$1.7 billion which keeps pace with last year's request and supports several key objectives of the Defense Strategic Guidance of 2012. For instance, he highlighted that the Navy and Marine Corps are investing approximately \$657 million to enhance warfighting capabilities in the Asia-Pacific region such as the new hangar, apron, and infrastructure (\$132.2 million) at

Marine Corps Base, Hawaii which will support the second squadron of MV-22 "Osprey" aircraft arriving in 2016 as well as the Navy's wharf improvements (\$53.4 million) at Naval Base Guam. Additionally, the Navy is investing over \$200 million in projects such as the Broad Area Maritime Surveillance hangars in California (\$17.5 million) and Guam (\$61.7 million) and the E/A-18G Growler (\$32.5 million) and P-8 Poseidon (\$85.2 million) projects in Washington state that will ensure the United States remains capable of projecting power in anti-access and area denial environments. The third increment of the Explosive Handling Wharf (\$24.9 million) at Naval Submarine Base Bangor, Washington supports the objective of maintaining a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent. In regards to BRAC, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Natsuhara stated that since the former Naval Air Station Brunswick in Maine closed in 2011, the Navy has disposed of 79 percent of the surplus property. He went on to state that the community is experiencing success in creating short-term and long-term jobs as it continues to implement its redevelopment plan for the property. Overall, the Navy continues to reduce its inventory of properties closed under BRAC and of the original 131 installations with excess property, the Navy only has 23 installations remaining with property to dispose. The Navy anticipates reducing this number by six installations this year, with the remainder to be disposed as we complete our environmental remediation efforts. Under the previous BRAC efforts, the Navy has been able to realize approximately \$4.4 billion in annual recurring savings. The 2005 BRAC alone resulted in approximately \$863 million in annual recurring savings. He did realize that although there remain cleanup and disposal challenges from prior BRAC rounds, the Navy continues to work with regulators and communities to tackle complex environmental issues.

Later during the hearing, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) emphasized the concerns with BRAC to the witnesses that her colleagues had by stating some of the findings that there have been with recent BRAC rounds. She stated that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) did an analysis, which was released in June of last year and found that the one-time costs grew from \$21 billion, estimated by DOD, to an actual \$35 billion to the Federal government to implement BRAC. That was a 67 percent increase. Overall, the military construction costs increased 86 percent from the original estimate, \$13.2 billion to \$24.5 billion. Finally, the 20-year net present value savings expected to be reaped by the DOD decreased by 72 percent. She did stress that she wasn't saying there wouldn't be any annual, recurring savings, but the fact is DOD is way off in its estimates, and from her perspective, DOD lost some valuable assets in this country. This includes what she has heard from very high ranking Naval officers that have told her what a mistake it was to close the Brunswick Naval Air Station in Maine, the last Active Duty air station in the Northeast, and now the P-3's have to come from Jacksonville, Florida, to patrol the North Atlantic shipping lanes.

#### **AUSN ON THE HILL**

Aside from regularly monitoring Congressional hearings, the past few weeks AUSN was actively engaging Congress through meetings and events on Capitol Hill. This past week AUSN met with staff of Representative Bill Young (R-FL-13), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense (HAC-D), as well as his Committee staff to discuss funding items of interest including Military Healthcare as well as Shipbuilding concerns of the Navy. Other notable meetings included staff meetings with the offices of Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense (SAC-D), Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA). These meetings primarily focused on items relating to the development of the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as well as the FY14 Defense and Military Construction & Veterans Affairs (MILCON/VA) Appropriations bills. AUSN also met with industry representatives to discuss future Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) programs that the Navy is looking into, including replace the old MQ-8B "Fire Scouts" with the new MQ-8C models. Earlier this week, AUSN attended a GI Film Festival World War II Documentary screening at the US Capitol, hosted by Members of Congress and VSO's, meeting with living World War II Veterans.

As part of AUSN's regular participation in the Military Coalition (TMC), a Guard and Reserve Committee meeting of the TMC occurred this week where AUSN and other TMC members met and listened to SgtMaj Michael Schultz, Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA) at the Office of the Secretary of Defense- Reserve Affairs (OSD-RA). During the meeting, he mentioned that OSD-RA is looking into Reserve Component suicide numbers in depth for time spent serving in a Title 10, Active Duty status and that they looked for the TMC to help in combating suicide amongst our servicemembers. In addition, AUSN received a brief from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for planning this year's Veterans Day celebration as AUSN is an Associate members of the Veterans Day National Committee. AUSN also received a healthcare brief from Humana which was helpful for not only the Legislative Department but also the Member Services Department of AUSN. Finally, AUSN hosted its first Legislative 'Drumbeat' with its Legislative Liaisons with a successful conference call, hearing about all the efforts and meetings our Liaisons are having with Members of Congress and staff back in the states.

## **PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK**

**S. 928 (Official title yet to be released).** Introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), the bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of claims for compensation under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

**S. 927 (Official title yet to be released).** Introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), the bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a demonstration project to assess the feasibility and advisability of using State and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of benefits and services for Veterans and to improve coordination of outreach activities relating to such benefits and services.

**S. 922, (Official title yet to be released).** Introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), the bill would require the Secretary of Labor to carry out a pilot program on providing wage subsidies to employers who employ certain Veterans and members of the Armed Forces and require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on providing career transition services to young Veterans.

**S. 894, (Official title yet to be released).** Introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), the bill would to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend expiring authority for work-study allowances for individuals who are pursuing programs of rehabilitation, education, or training under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to expand such authority to certain outreach services provided through Congressional offices.

**S. 893, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2013.** Introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), the bill would provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2013, 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.

**S. 889, Servicemembers Choice in Transition Act of 2013.** Introduced by Senator John Boozman (R-AR), the bill would amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense.

**S. 877, Veterans Affairs Research Transparency Act of 2013.** Introduced by Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), the bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow public access to research of the Department.

**S. 871, Combating Military Sexual Assault Act of 2013.** Introduced by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), the bill would provide victims of sexual assault with Special Victims' Counsel – a military lawyer who will assist sexual assault victims throughout the process as well as enhance the responsibilities and authority of the Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

**S. 863, (Official title yet to be released).** Introduced by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), the bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal time limitations on the eligibility for use of educational assistance under All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program, to improve Veterans education outreach.

**H.R. 1898, (Official title yet to be released).** Introduced by Representative Michael Turner (R-OH-10), the bill would protect the child custody rights of deployed members of the Armed Forces.

**H.R. 1842, Military Family Home Protection Act.** Introduced by Representative Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD-07), the bill would amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to improve the protections for servicemembers, surviving spouses, and disabled veterans against mortgage foreclosures.

**H.R. 1824, VA Regional Office Accountability Act.** Introduced by Representative Grace Meng (D-NY-06), the bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress an annual report on the performance of the regional offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**H.R. 1796, Troop Talent Act of 2013.** Introduced by Representative Tammy Duckworth (D-IL-08), the bill would ensure that the education and training provided members of the Armed Forces and veterans better assists members and Veterans in obtaining civilian certifications and licenses.

**H.R. 1770, (Official title yet to be released).** Introduced by Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT-09), the bill would amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the different treatment under the Survivor Benefit Plan accorded members of the Reserve Components who die from an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty during inactive-duty training compared to members of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty while on active duty.

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 #113-12: SUPPORT H.R. 1796 & S. 700, Troop Talent Act of 2013**

## **NEXT WEEK OUTLOOK**

Next week Congress will be in session, hosting another round of hearings as consideration of the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Defense Appropriations and Military Construction & Veterans Affairs (MILCON/VA) Appropriations bills move closer to be written and marked up. AUSN will also be meeting with staff of the offices of Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC), Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) as well as Representative John Kline (R-MN-02), both of which have a keen interest on Navy equipment as well as Veterans education and healthcare priorities. In addition, AUSN staff will be attending the Sailor of the Year (SOY) Celebration Ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial in downtown D.C. next week with Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), Michael Stevens.

## **AUSN LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT SEEKING LEGISLATIVE LIAISON VOLUNTEERS FOR 2013**

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

However, AUSN is still seeking TWO VOLUNTEER AUSN MEMBERS per state, (PARTICULARLY to fill remaining gaps from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming) to act as AUSN Legislative Liaisons and meet with their Members of Congress AT LEAST TWICE a year, preferably once in the late Spring and once in the early Fall. The goal will be to have AUSN Members engage their Congressional Delegation and report to the Legislative Director at the AUSN Headquarters on what transpired and what they need. AUSN Headquarters will provide necessary copies of Legislative Alerts, Fact Sheets, Priorities/Objectives Cards and any other information in preparation for meetings upon request.

To qualify for being a 2013 AUSN Legislative Liaison, you must;

- Be an Active AUSN Member (and be a permanent resident of State you wish to liaison with)
- Be willing to meet with your Senators' offices TWICE a year (which have District offices throughout your State)
- Be willing to engage with at least ONE House Member District office TWICE a year
- Report to AUSN Legislative Director, Anthony Wallis, and/or the NEW National Vice President of Government Relations, RDML Robin Graf, USNR (Ret), on meetings and important highlights via e-mail
- Stick STRICTLY to FEDERAL issues of concern (AUSN Priority Card) to AUSN that are nation-wide and benefit all members of the Navy community.

IF INTERESTED, please contact AUSN'S Legislative Director, Anthony Wallis, at [anthony.wallis@ausn.org](mailto:anthony.wallis@ausn.org) and copy RDML Graf, at [grafrl@cox.net](mailto:grafrl@cox.net).

## **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

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