



## **In This Week's Legislative Watch:**

[HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON SHUTDOWN IMPACT ON VA SERVICES](#)  
[AUSN LOOKS AT DOD MEMO ON GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AND FUTURE IMPACTS](#)  
[HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS, HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON VA PRESCRIPTION DRUGS](#)  
[AUSN CONCERNED WITH DEATH GRATUITY IMPACT BY SHUTDOWN](#)  
[HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, READINESS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON PAY OUR MILITARY ACT](#)  
[HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, SEAPOWER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON AIR/SEA BATTLE](#)  
[AUSN ON THE HILL](#)  
[PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK](#)  
[NEW LEGISLATIVE ALERTS](#)  
[NEXT WEEK OUTLOOK](#)

### **HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON SHUTDOWN IMPACT ON VA SERVICES**

On 9 October 2013, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) held its hearing on the effect of the Government Shutdown on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in regards to benefits and services to Veterans, focusing in particular on clearing the record as conflicting information has been provided by the VA. The witness present at the hearing was The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The hearing was held by HVAC Chairman, Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01), and HVAC Ranking Member, Representative Michael H. Michaud (D-ME-02). All HVAC members were in attendance.

The HVAC began its hearing opening remarks made by the Chairman, Ranking Member, and witnesses. Chairman Miller expressed his concern that recent information coming out of the VA has been confusing and conflicting. The purpose of the hearing was to make public the relevant information of what benefits would be affected by the shutdown and when. He also highlighted an advanced appropriations bill passed by the House in July which would fully fund the VA if it were to pass the Senate. Ranking Member Michaud highlighted the need to pass a clean CR or VA appropriations bill as soon as possible, otherwise crucial programs would be suspended and Veterans would be unable to receive certain benefits. Secretary Shinseki testified that 7,000 VA workers have been furloughed. In addition, Veterans' claims had been backlogged for years, hitting a high earlier this year, but have since been reduced at a steady pace. The shutdown has stalled the progress being made, undoing the past year's work of processing older claims in the backlog. Secretary Shinseki also warned that after 1 November 2013, if the Government Shutdown continues, that the VA will not be able to continue funding, and sending payments out. That means Veterans will not receive pensions, compensation, educational, vocational rehab, survivor benefits and other vital imbursements in a Government Shutdown that lasts over a month. The Secretary also testified that the VA could not perform its day to day responsibilities without other Federal agencies that have been more-so impacted by the shutdown, such as the Department of Education and Department of Labor.

Following these opening remarks Chairman Miller deferred to the Committee members for rounds of questioning. Chairman Miller first asked why the VA and Department of Defense (DOD) had not been exempted from the shutdown as they had been in 1995. Secretary Shinseki commented that regardless of how much the VA got, in advanced appropriations, it still could not perform its duties without a complete budget for the rest of the government, as the VA relies on services from many other departments. This was followed by a question from Ranking Member Michaud

asking how quickly the VA could get up and running after a budget was passed, to which the Secretary replied that it depended on the length of the shutdown.

Through further questioning by the Committee members, Secretary Shinseki concluded that 80% of the VA was unaffected by the shutdown, including hospitals (with one exception in North Chicago), community centers and other VA buildings around the country. The statement made by the President that Veterans would not have access to PTSD counseling was not entirely correct as far as Veterans' Affairs programs are concerned, not wanting to discuss other related programs executed by other agencies. Secretary Shinseki, in responding to questions by Committee members, stated that he is using carryover funds from Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) to continue as many operations not exempted as possible for as long as he can, and to prevent as many furloughs as possible. Current VA construction projects will continue without being interrupted, as funds were already appropriated for those, but developing projects and the conversion from a paper to digital claims system is being delayed due to the Government Shutdown.

### **AUSN LOOKS AT DOD MEMO ON GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AND FUTURE IMPACTS**

On 30 September 2013, the United States Congress was unable to pass an appropriations bill to continue to fund the government, causing a Government shutdown. Hours before the 1 October 2013 deadline Congress did, however, pass the Pay Our Military Act, ensuring payments for our Active Duty servicemembers. Congress is currently attempting to address the Government Shutdown while preparing for a debt ceiling debate before 18 October 2013, the date where the Treasury Department is expected to reach the current debt limit. The shutdown, debt ceiling breach and debates that surrounds them, could have harmful long-term effects on the Navy and the nation's military readiness.

On 5 October 2013, Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Chuck Hagel, working "closely with the Department of Justice," interpreted the Pay Our Military Act to include all personnel "who are performing activities deemed 'essential' pursuant to the 'CONTINGENCY PLAN GUIDANCE FOR CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, SEPTEMBER 2013.'" SECDEF further explained in a Memo to the Department of Defense (DOD), that there are two categories of civilian personnel which will go back to work under this interpretation, effective 7 October 2013. First in this category are, "employees whose responsibilities provide support to servicemembers performing active service and their families on an ongoing basis" and second, "employees whose responsibilities contribute to sustaining capabilities and Force Readiness." In simpler terms, about 350,000 civilian DOD employees have returned to work, which is almost half of the 800,000 Federal civilian employees furloughed.

One of the major targets during these fiscal debates within DOD, which may impact overall military readiness, has become aircraft carriers. One of the military's most expensive programs, discussions have begun within the Navy to determine if it is possible to complete the mission with less than the currently mandated 11 carrier fleet. Both parties in Congress seem hesitant to allow a smaller fleet, but recognize the cost associated with aircraft carriers. A report issued by the non-partisan Stimson Center argues that a 10 carrier fleet could save around **\$2 billion** annually. These annual savings may become the reality in this current fiscal environment. Maintaining a 10 carrier fleet reduces the need for thousands of Sailors, and eliminating a carrier air wing would cut roughly **\$5 billion** in reduced purchases of F-35C Joint Strike Fighter aircraft. These numbers may be too great to simply ignore by some Members of Congress. These savings do come at a cost to our military readiness. First, this reduced fleet would require longer deployments and stretching out maintenance cycles to ensure we maintain as many operational carriers as possible. This makes it necessary to provide a steady source of funding for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) in order for the Navy to respond to the country's military needs. This would further decrease our forward presence and prevents the U.S. from engaging in a second theater if we are already engaged in a large scale operation.

Details can be found at [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on DOD Memo on Shutdown and Future Impacts](#).

### **HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS, HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON VA PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

On 10 October 2013, the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC), Subcommittee on Health, held a hearing titled, "Between Peril and Promise: Facing the Dangers of VA's Skyrocketing Use of Prescription Painkillers to Treat Veterans." The witnesses present were Mrs. Heather McDonald, Spouse of Scott McDonald (deceased), Mrs. Kimberly Stowe Green, Spouse of Ricky Green (deceased), Joshua Renschler, Sergeant, US Army (retired), Justin Minyard, First Sergeant, US Army (retired) and Robert L. Jesse, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The hearing was held by HVAC- Health Chairman, Representative Dan Benishek (R-MI-01), and HVAC- Health Ranking Member, Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA-

26).

The HVAC- Health Subcommittee began its hearing with opening remarks made by the Chairman, the Ranking Member, and witnesses. Chairman Benishek began by stating that he worked at a Veterans Service Center and has seen the impact that chronic pain has on a Veterans work and family life. He explained that the intent of this Subcommittee hearing was to initiate the best practices for our Veterans receiving care. He stressed that no one should have to suffer the kind of loss experienced by the witnesses and that the stakes are too high to lose our nations Veterans to chronic pain. He closed by stating that Veterans in this position should be referred to a specialist and not treated by a primary care physician. Ranking Member Brownley explained that chronic pain is more prevalent amongst Veterans than their civilian counterparts. In fact, she mentioned that chronic pain is the most common medical problem with Veterans who are receiving treatment through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). She stressed that since prescription drugs can lead to death, that safe and effective pain management is crucial to providing the proper care. She concluded by saying that the VA recognizes this problem.

Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01), HVAC Chairman, began by mentioning how a person's pain level sets their tone for the day. He also cited that in the last 11 years, the VA has seen a 29% increase in patients and during that same time a significant increase in narcotic prescriptions. He stated that anything less than a happy healthy life for our Veterans is unacceptable. Mrs. McDonald speaking in reference to her deceased husband, a Veteran, mentioned, that within his first six months of treatment he was taking as many as 15 pills in a given day for back pain. She described her discussion with the VA hospital, after the death of her 35 year old husband, and was told that more testing would not have been routine in her husband's case. She was told that when Veterans say they are in pain, they are prescribed narcotics, and if that is not working, they change the narcotics. Mrs. Green, speaking on behalf of her 34 year old deceased husband, also a Veteran, stated that his cause of death was mixed drug intoxication, which he was prescribed through the VA due to service connected back pain. She claims that the VA does have the proper guidelines, but they were not followed, and that consequently, she believed that this resulted in her husband's death. She also said that the Pain Management Director admitted that the guidelines have not been fully implemented. Mr. Renschler, a Veteran, described his treatment through the VA as the reason he has permanent nerve damage. He stated that through his first year with the VA, he was prescribed 13 different medications. He also claimed that an outside pain doctor informed him that his permanent nerve damage was a result of his delay in care. Secretary Jesse opened by stating that, "We are strongly committed to ensuring that Veterans do have what they need to manage their pain, and that includes not just medications but to truly get to the root cause of this." He also noted that overuse of and addiction to prescription painkillers is a "national crisis" affecting tens of millions of Americans. He said that about 50 percent of soldiers of recent wars came back affected by chronic pain to some extent. Members of the Subcommittee voiced their concerns that these circumstances were unacceptable and that the VA needed to be more accountable for the issuance of prescription drugs and the treatment of conditions by our Veterans. When asked about the VA's work to correct this problem, Secretary Jesse responded, "We are doing absolutely our best to try to change the system to one that rewards a visit and giving a prescription to one that is built on building relationships."

#### **AUSN CONCERNED WITH DEATH GRATUITY IMPACT ON SHUTDOWN**

AUSN has been deeply concerned and monitoring the impact that the Government Shutdown is having upon the families of deceased family members and the death gratuity payments they are supposed to be receiving. When a member of the U.S. military dies, the Department of Defense (DOD) is supposed to pay eligible family survivors a **\$100,000** non-taxable gratuity within three days of the death of a servicemember's to help surviving family members cope with immediate financial hardships. After four U.S. servicemen died in an attack in Afghanistan on Sunday, the Pentagon said that because of the partial government shutdown, those benefits could not be paid.

SECDEF Hagel said in an official statement that both the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the DOD agreed that the Pentagon can enter into a contract with Fisher House to provide the benefits, including a **\$100,000** death gratuity. After the shutdown ends, DOD would reimburse the Fisher House Foundation, which provides housing for family members of service members undergoing medical care. In his statement, however, SECDEF Hagel voiced his frustration, noting, "I am offended, outraged and embarrassed that the Government Shutdown had prevented the Department of Defense from fulfilling this most sacred responsibility in a timely manner."

Despite the announced by SECDEF Hagel, in their interpretation of the short and vaguely worded law that provides funds for both Active Duty servicemembers and now most DOD civilian employees, the Pay Our Military Act which passed last week, DOD officials determined they still did not have the necessary legal authority to make death gratuity

payments to the families directly during the shutdown. Thus, Congress would have to enact legislation to provide the funding authority for such payments. Earlier this week, to address this concern, Representative Ron Barber (D-AZ-02) introduced H.R. 3274, the Fallen Heroes and Family Assistance Act. H.J. Res 91, a House resolution which passed by a vote of 425-0 late Wednesday afternoon, contained language of Representative Barber's bill. [AUSN sent a letter of support for this bill, also sending it to House Leadership](#) for its immediate consideration. Legislation, such as this, is needed so as to not put DOD in the position to rely on charities to fund what is an essential responsibility and duty our Federal government has for honor the families of deceased men and women in uniform. Thankfully, as of early morning today, Friday, 11 October 2013, the Senate, in an unusual exception from the Democratic majority's recent stance on no 'piecemeal' legislation, had passed H.J. Res. 91, which would temporarily reinstate military death and funeral benefits during the shutdown, by Unanimous Consent, and it is now on its way to the President for signature into law. Funds allocated under the measure would be available until 15 December 2013 or until an appropriations law is enacted, whichever comes first.

Details can be found at [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on Death Gratuity Concerns](#).

### **HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, READINESS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON PAY OUR MILITARY ACT**

On 10 October 2013, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Subcommittee on Readiness, held a hearing titled, "The Interpretation of H.R. 3210: the Pay Our Military Act." The witnesses present were the Honorable Robert F. Hale, Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller, Department of Defense (DOD), the Honorable Jessica L. Wright, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, DOD, and Mr. Robert S. Taylor, Acting DOD General Counsel. The hearing was presided by HASC- Readiness Chairman, Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA-01), and HASC- Readiness Ranking Member, Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU).

The HASC- Readiness Subcommittee began its hearing with opening remarks made by the Chairman, the Ranking Member, Representative Mike Coffman (R-CO-06) and Comptroller Hale. Chairman Wittman began by stating that the purpose of this Subcommittee hearing was to explain who is back to work and why those people are back and not the employees who are still furloughed. He explained that the Pay Our Military Act (POMA) was written with language that provided for a broad interpretation of who should be considered excepted employees. He further mentioned that this current shutdown should not affect bills, such as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which he says was overwhelmingly passed with bipartisan support. He also applauded private organizations that have stepped up to fill the void left by the Government Shutdown. Ranking Member Bordallo emphasized that we cannot use piecemeal legislation to cherry-pick which government departments they want open. She also warned that Congress cannot hold the debt-ceiling bill hostage for unrelated matters. Representative Coffman, the sponsor of H.R. 3210, explained that the bill continues to pay for military and contractors, but makes no mention of civilian personnel. Comptroller Hale, speaking on behalf of all three witnesses, said that DOD urges Congress to end the lapse of appropriations. He explained that DOD can only pay for certain activities and that about 40,000 DOD civilian employees are still not covered by POMA. In addition, he stressed that the current lack of appropriations, even with the enactment of POMA, is having adverse effects on the military. He claimed that as a result of the shutdown, the Federal government has lost roughly **\$600 million** as a result of fines, late fees, lost contracts, and other consequences. He closed by explaining that due to DOD's interpretation of POMA, they do not have the authority to pay the death gratuity, while noting that roughly 29 servicemembers have died since the Government Shutdown began on 1 October 2013.

Following these opening remarks Chairman Wittman deferred to the Subcommittee members for questioning and comments. The Chairman first inquired as to how the decision is made concerning who gets paid. Comptroller Hale explained that contracts made before Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13), which he said are most contracts, can get paid, while Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) contracts can be entered into if considered essential activities, but will not be paid until appropriations are made available. Ranking Member Bordallo asked if DOD is using military personnel to circumvent the current shutdown. Ms. Wright answered that the military is not yet using borrowed military manpower to fill in civilian positions which have been furloughed, however she did acknowledge that military leaders have begun to talk about this. The Chairman then asked how we are paying private vendors. Comptroller Hale responded by saying that DOD is basically issuing IOU's to these vendors until the shutdown ends. Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT-02) asked about both paying civilians and purchasing consumables, which are not included in POMA. The panel answered that civilians who have been furloughed may only get paid if that is included in an appropriations bill, but while consumables are being depleted, they do not have access to the funds to replenish. Representative Susan Davis (D-CA-53) asked how health care premiums for furloughed employees will be paid. Ms. Wright answered that health care will continue to be paid for government employees.

## **HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, SEAPOWER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON AIR/SEA BATTLE**

On 10 October 2013, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing on the Armed Forces Development and Intergration of Air/Sea Battle (ASB) Strategy, Governance, and Policy into the Services' Annual Program, Planning, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) Process. The witnesses present included Rear Admiral (RADM) James G. Foggo III, USN, Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations and Brig. Gen. Kevin J. Killea, USMC, Director of the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory. The hearing was presided by HASC- Seapower Chairman, Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04), and HASC- Seapower Ranking Member, Representative Mike McIntyre (D-NC-07).

Chairman Forbes opened by introducing the concept of the Air Sea Battle (ASB) Office, which was created partially in response to the reduced budget of the Joint Staff. ASB represents a new, integrated way of fighting war with all of the military services participating. In particular, ASB seeks to counter Anti-Access and Area Denial (A2AD) efforts by enemies of the U.S. Chairman Forbes stated that he intends to shed some light on the future of ASB and force integration, and discuss its strategies, current gaps, and training initiatives. Chairman Forbes also emphasized the bipartisanship aspects of the Subcommittee and its general expertise. Ranking Member McIntyre expressed support for ASB but also expressed a desire to determine just how much is being done to further it. He clarified that ASB is a concept, not just a strategy, so it is designed to apply to a wide variety of battle conditions and eventualities. ASB addresses the need of the military to get to the fight and then counter asymmetric warfare efforts against them. Ranking Member McIntyre also discussed the lack of funding shifts to the Navy and Air Force even in light of the Iraq and Afghanistan drawdowns, and that the funding distribution among the services will have to change to effectively utilize ASB.

RADM Foggo used his opening statement and responses to discuss the Navy aspect of ASB. ASB, he explained, is designed to allow access to any part of the global commons, even in light of A2AD efforts. Developing A2AD technologies that could be implemented include highly effective submarines, fighter aircraft, missiles, and mines. He also emphasized the importance of both space and cyberspace in modern battle, and mentioned that ASB includes these battle spaces in its purview. In order to defeat threats to access, ASB requires the development of a pre-integrated force. He again emphasized that ASB is a concept, not a strategy, and that it represents a universally applicable new way of war. He said the ASB Office seeks to create an "iron mountain" of weapons, logistics, and troops. To explain the kind of integration that ASB will entail, he used the example of the operations in Libya, during which ASB was under development. There, Navy and Air Force munitions and sorties were able to destroy or disable the entire Libyan defensive force and armor without any casualties or boots on the ground, accomplishing the goal of protecting civilians. ASB, he said, must be able to achieve this kind of success while remaining flexible and resilient and prepared for a more stressing environment. More integrated platforms like the LCS and F-35 would help further these goals. He also spoke briefly about the importance of foreign allies, which will be integrated more heavily into the ASB concept as its development progresses. Finally, he clarified that ASB is designed very deliberately to shape the battle space and not escalate conflict. Brig. Gen. Killea emphasized the need for an effective joint operational approach towards A2AD, and that the interoperability of the different services will be crucial in the future to deter threats and maintain access to the global commons. He noted that ASB is one of the many lenses that the Marines use to view their priorities, and that he looked forward to further collaboration with the other services.

## **AUSN ON THE HILL**

This week, AUSN continued to monitor developments with the shutdown, now in its second week, as no immediate agreement is in sight. In about a week, 18 October 2013, the United States will breach its debt ceiling, i.e. borrowing authority, and we will begin defaulting on our loans. Given this catastrophic scenario to the economy, a sort of 'grand bargain' appears to be spoken about on Capitol Hill about finding a packaged deal to not only address ending the Government Shutdown with a Continuing Resolution (CR), but also address the debt ceiling and possibly take a look at sequestration. A tall order, but all part of a discussion by lawmakers on Capitol Hill to alleviate the financial situation the United States is facing. To address these concerns, AUSN was invited to speak on [WUSA Channel 9 Morning News to discuss the Government Shutdown, debt ceiling, sequestration and the impacts they are having on our military and Veterans](#). After the interview, AUSN's Executive Director, VADM John Totushek, USN (Ret.) sent [letter to House and Senate Leadership](#), addressing concerns regarding the shutdown and debt ceiling. AUSN also addressed these concerns during a live [Facebook Chat with our Members and followers](#) (NOTE: You may need a Facebook account to Login and Read in its entirety) on Thursday afternoon from 1400-1500ET. AUSN has been hearing from members who are concerned with the funding shortfalls for members of the Reserve Component, whereby AUSN mentioned this in the

interview Tuesday morning as well as sent a [Letter of Support to Representative Austin Scott \(R-GA-08\) for his bill H.R. 3241](#) which addresses this concern. Lastly, earlier this week AUSN met with staff from the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to discuss collaborative efforts and how AUSN can be of assistance during these difficult fiscal times.

#### **PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK**

**H.R. 3274, Fallen Heroes and Families Assistance Act.** Introduced by Representative Ron Barber (D-AZ-02), the bill would amend the Pay Our Military Act to make appropriations available to continue the payment of a death gratuity and certain other death-related compensation in the event of the death of members of the Armed Forces and certain other persons who pass away during a Government shutdown.

**S. 1568, (Official title yet to be released).** Introduced by Senator John Boozman (R-AR), the bill would make technical corrections to the Pay Our Military Act to include midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, who are appointed as midshipmen in the Navy Reserve.

**H.R. 3246, Support Our Department of Defense Civilian Employees Act.** Introduced by Representative Michael Turner (R-OH-10), the bill would amend the Pay Our Military Act to ensure that all civilian and contractor employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard are paid in the event of a Government shutdown.

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 were two new Legislative Alerts sent this week based on hearings and interaction with Congressional staff, as well as traction on the issues. 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 #113-21: SUPPORT H.R. 3225 & S. 1564, Funding Vital VA Programs During Government Shutdown**

**Legislative Alert #113-22: URGE Congress & President to Find a Bipartisan Solution to End the Government Shutdown and Address the Debt Ceiling Debate**

#### **NEXT WEEK OUTLOOK**

Next week it appears Congress will be in, despite its earlier schedule to be out for the Columbus Day holiday week. With the Government Shutdown approaching week three and the United States facing the looming debt ceiling on 18 October 2013, much work will need to be done. Although developments on Thursday and Friday with meetings at the White House this past week showed signs of both sides, Congress and the Administration, inching closer to a compromise/deal, the most optimistic observers speculate a deal could manifest as early as mid-next week, but speculation at this point is difficult given that legislation on such talks has yet to be introduced. Nevertheless, the [Navy has already announced in a Press Release](#) its plans to cancel the christening ceremony, in anticipation of a continued Government Shutdown, for the first of the new class of destroyers, the USS *Zumwalt* (DDG-1000), originally scheduled for 19 October 2013, and postpone for a later date. In addition to monitoring developments with the Government Shutdown, AUSN will be attending Congressional hearings, most of which focusing on financial impacts to our military and Veterans. In addition, AUSN will also be attending briefs on the F/A-18E/F ‘Super Hornet’, E/A-18G ‘Growler’, H-60 ‘Knighthawk’ and ‘Seahawk’ programs as well as a Legislative forum and discussion at the American Legion. Finally, AUSN will be participating in a Press Conference by The Military Coalition (TMC), as noted in an [AUSN Press Release sent out this week](#), which is expected to be next week Tuesday at the World War II Memorial to urge Congress and the Administration to end the Government Shutdown.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

Anthony A. Wallis, Legislative Director

Phone (o): 703-548-5800, (m): 703-517-9310

E-mail: [Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org](mailto:Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org)

Legislative Action Center: [Contact Congress](#)