



In This Week's Legislative Update:

[HELP NAME THE UPDATE!!!](#)
[AUSN ANALYZES FY13 REPROGRAMMING REQUEST AND FY14 OCO SUPPLEMENTAL](#)
[AUSN ANALYZES HOUSE INTRO VERSION OF FY14 NDAA](#)
[AUSN ANALYZES HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARKUP OF FY14 MILCON/VA BILL](#)
[HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, HEARING ON VA CLAIMS PROCESS](#)
[HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, SEAPOWER SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP OF FY14 NDAA](#)
[HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, MILITARY PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP OF FY14 NDAA](#)
[HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, TACTICAL AIR SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP OF FY14 NDAA](#)
[SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON RURAL HEALTHCARE](#)
[AUSN ON THE HILL](#)
[PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK](#)
[NEW LEGISLATIVE ALERTS](#)
[NEXT WEEK OUTLOOK](#)
[AUSN LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT SEEKING LEGISLATIVE LIAISON VOLUNTEERS FOR 2013](#)

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 with your recommendation. Legislative Update naming recommendations will be accepted until the end of May when a name will be announced.

AUSN ANALYZES FY13 REPROGRAMMING REQUEST AND FY14 OCO SUPPLEMENTAL

On Friday, 17 May 2013, the Department of Defense (DOD) sent two document over to Congress, the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) budget request, also known as the "war budget," and the latest Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) reprogramming request, which is needed largely to make up for underestimates of war costs in the current fiscal year. In regards to the reprogramming request, in a memo to Congress, DOD comptroller Robert F. Hale seeks to explain why the new war request, which he says totals \$79.4 billion, is only 10 percent less than the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) enacted level, even though troop levels in Afghanistan are plummeting to a greater degree, stating that, "There are several major reasons for the smaller decline in dollars compared to troop strengths." In regards to the Navy, the reprogramming request for the remainder of FY13 states a need for an increase of \$285.8 million. Of this amount, \$231.7 million will be for Navy Operation and Maintenance (O&M) expenses, \$23 million for other Navy procurement such as Reactor Power Units (RPU), \$28.1 million for Shipbuilding and Conversion for shortfall in DDG-51, *Arleigh Burke* Class destroyers, Advanced Procurement (AP), and lastly, for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) for the Navy, \$3 million for a new start for Interoperable Warhead Program studies.

In regards to the FY14 OCO Supplemental request, after the budget was released on 10 April 2013, the OCO line items were not included due to the complexities of sequestration and fiscal uncertainty regarding preparations for the goal of the draw down in Afghanistan. An \$88 billion "placeholder" for war costs was included in the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) President's Budget (PB) that remained until last week Friday when draw down figures were decided upon for 2014 and beyond. The FY14 OCO document that was recently released states that, "By February 2014, half of our troops there will be home, and by December 2014, United States' combat operations in Afghanistan will be over. Still, the United States will maintain a commitment to Afghanistan's sovereignty and security, and we will continue to equip, train, advise, and assist the Afghan National Security Forces; support economic development and governance efforts; and pursue our counterterrorism goals against al Qaeda and its affiliated groups." The OCO document states

that there will be a transitioning of the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan from combat to support as the number of U.S. troops on the ground declines from an average of 68,000 in Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) to an average of 38,400 in FY14.

In addition, the FY14 OCO document contains an additional \$904.2 million for OCO expenses for the Defense Health Program (DHP). Looking at specific Navy accounts with OCO, the document contains \$240.1 million for Navy OCO Aircraft Procurement, \$86.6 million for Navy OCO Weapons Procurement, \$206.8 million for Navy and Marine Corps OCO Ammunition Procurement, and \$18 million for Navy OCO Other Procurement.

Details can be found at [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on the FY13 Reprogram and FY14 Request](#).

AUSN ANALYZES HOUSE INTRO VERSION OF FY14 NDAA

On 15 May 2013, House Armed Services Committee Chairman, Representative Howard 'Buck' McKeon (R-CA-25), and Ranking Member, Representative Adam Smith (D-WA-09), introduced the 'by request' intro version of the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The bill is H.R. 1960, authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2014, which contains many of the legislative proposals of the Department of Defense found in the FY14 Budget Request, including a total of \$526.6 billion for military personnel for FY14 and a 1% increase in military pay. Additional funding levels for FY14 include, for Navy and Marine Corps Procurement; \$17.9 billion for aircraft, \$3.1 billion for weapons, \$14.1 billion for shipbuilding and conversion, \$589 million for Navy and Marine Corps ammunition and \$6.3 billion for Other Navy Procurement. As has been traditional practice of the Armed Services Committee under leadership of both parties, the Committee will strike all of the provisions after the enacting clause, inserting first the Subcommittee markups, occurring this week, and finally the Chairman's mark when it is considered on 5 June 2013. The introduction of this bill marks the beginning of the Defense Authorization process, providing the vehicle for further consideration by the House and Senate.

Details can be found at [AUSN's Legislative Analysis of House Intro Version of FY14 NDAA](#).

AUSN ANALYZES HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARKUP OF FY14 MILCON/VA BILL

On 21 May 2012, the House Appropriations Committee (HAC) approved the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MILCON/VA) Appropriations bill by voice vote.

The legislation provides the nation's military with the infrastructure needed to house, train, and equip military personnel, supports the quality of life of our troops and their families, and maintains our military base structure. The bill also funds Veterans' benefits and programs to ensure that all Veterans receive the services they have earned as a result of their sacrifices and service to the country. The bill totals \$73.3 billion in discretionary funding, which is \$1.4 billion above the enacted level for fiscal year 2013, and approximately \$2.4 billion above the current level caused by automatic sequestration spending cuts, which do not affect Veterans spending. This level is nearly \$1.4 billion below the President's request for these programs.

The HAC approved bill provides \$9.9 billion for military construction projects, a decrease of \$646 million below last year's FY13 level and a decrease of \$400 million from the FY14 PB request. Much of the reduction is attributable to savings from the privatization of family housing (a savings of \$106 million). The bill also provides a total of \$147.9 billion in both discretionary and mandatory funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The total discretionary funding for Veterans programs in the bill is \$63.1 billion, which is \$2.1 billion above the FY13 enacted level, with \$54.5 billion of this total provided last year in advance funding in the FY13 Appropriations bill. The HAC continues the tradition of Advanced Appropriations by including \$55.6 billion in advance for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15). Some of the priority programs funded included \$344 million for a single Department of Defense (DOD) - VA electronic health record, providing \$155 million for the Veterans Benefit Management System, a paperless claims process system, as well as \$136 million for the Veterans Claims Intake Program, which aims to eliminate the paper-based system by digitally scanning existing paper health records. With 856,092 pending Veteran disability compensation claims as of August 2012, and an average wait time of 254 days, the VA has made it a priority to eliminate the backlog by the end of 2015. Overall, the bill is \$12.2 billion above the FY13 enacted level, but \$5.1 million below the FY14 PB request (a 3.3% decrease).

Details can be found at [AUSN's Legislative Analysis of HAC Passed Markup of FY14 MILCON/VA Bill](#).

HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, HEARING ON VA CLAIMS PROCESS

On 22 May 2013, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) held a hearing concerning the claims of Veterans that have been pending for over two years and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA's) deadlines and attempts to complete them in a timely manner. Notable witnesses included General Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and Diana Rubens, Under Secretary for Field Operations, VBA. In his opening statement, HVAC Chairman, Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01), stressed the importance of the VA ensuring that their goals were good policies and not good public relations and statistics strengtheners. He acknowledged the VA for the work that they had done so far involving these claims, but stated that every Veteran deserves the same treatment and the VA should not shift resources away from new claims in order to succeed in their overhaul completion of the old claims. With Veterans waiting two years to gain benefits, Mr. Miller challenged the witnesses on what the VA is doing to better address the workload as a whole and in the long term. HVAC Ranking Member, Representative Michael

Michaud (D-ME-02), challenged the VA to have timely and accurate completion of the totality of their claims and requested an entirely new processing system as well as regular updates on the initiatives to see their completion and success. Mr. Michaud acknowledged the accomplishments that the VA has done in decreasing the backload as a whole but expressed his desire for an even shorter processing time (less than 180 days) for claims.

In the statement from Under Secretary Hickey, she provided an update on the initiative that was launched in April to have all claims that have been pending for over two years processed within 60 days. With 30 days left, there are 34,834 claims completed out of the previous 67,718; a 51% completion so far. Multiple HVAC Members, including the Chairman, commented on the ridiculousness and un-acceptableness of a file sitting for that long without anything being done to it in the first place. Under Secretary Hickey agreed with them but assured that they would all be completed and the problem would not happen again. Despite concerns that the sudden completion of 50% of the claims would have a huge impact on statistical analysis and make the VA incorrectly look more efficient, General Hickey assured the Committee that all the work being done was solely for the Veterans and not for the VA's benefit.

Representative Paul Cook (R-CA-08), a retired Marine Corps Colonel, brought up the issue of the loss of trust in the VA and the government as a whole. As a retired servicemember, Mr. Cook provided the most expressive and thorough questioning of the witnesses, declaring himself as the most cynical member of the Committee in regards to their promises and challenged the VA to continue their sudden motivation with processing claims in order to gain back the trust of Veterans who had given up on the system and are not receiving the benefits that they deserve. Representative Phil Roe (R-TN-01) questioned the 120 day goal for processing claims that the VA had presented, with it taking over 100 days on average just for the information to be gathered. General Hickey then discussed the VA's new movement to automate their system and create a paperless environment in order to cut down the waiting time as well as make the process simpler.

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, SEAPOWER SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP OF FY14 NDAA

On 22 May 2013, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, held its markup of H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14). The markup was held by HASC- Seapower and Projection Forces Chairman, Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04), and the HASC- Seapower and Projection Forces Ranking Member, Representative Mike McIntyre (D-NC-07). The Subcommittee approved markup includes various items of special interest in relation to affairs affected the Navy and Seapower. The Navy has recently experienced a \$4 billion shipbuilding shortfall. According to Representative Randy Forbes (R-VA-04), the "nation needs to look into the future and make stern decisions about how it intended to shape it."

Some specific items of interest to the Subcommittee included concerns regarding the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) radars and the Navy's long range plan for the construction of Naval vessels. In particular, the Subcommittee is concerned that the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) radars are not being optimally used to provide maximum protection. To ensure that the LCS program fully leverages the various capabilities of its modern radar technologies to protect this new class of ship, the Subcommittee encourages the Department of the Navy to fully utilize the capabilities provided by the current LCS radar suite and ensure that the embarked crew is fully trained on the radar's capabilities. Furthermore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report to the Congressional defense Committees by 3 March 2014, on the steps the Navy has taken to enhance LCS sailors' training on the radars full range of capabilities. In addition, the Subcommittee believes that there will be significant pressures on the ship construction accounts that will result from the *Ohio* Class replacement ballistic missile submarine program, while concurrently supporting the balance of ship construction requirements. The Subcommittee also believes that a significant increase to the ship construction accounts is unsustainable in times of budget challenges. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the average ship construction investment over the last 30 years, in current dollars, is \$16.0 billion. Therefore, to better understand the significance associated with even sustaining the current ship construction investment throughout the long-range plan, the Subcommittee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a report to the Congressional defense Committee by 1 March 2014, that provides an update to the long plan for the construction of naval vessels based on \$16.0 billion across the entirety of the long-range plan and to assess the corresponding reductions in the shipbuilding plan.

Details can be found at [AUSN's Legislative Analysis of HASC-Seapower Markup of FY14 NDAA](#).

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, MILITARY PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP OF FY14 NDAA

On 22 May 2013, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Military Personnel Subcommittee, held its markup of H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14). The markup was held by Vice Chairman, sitting in for Chairman- Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC-02), Representative Walter Jones (R-NC-03), and Ranking Member, Representative Susan Davis (D-CA-53). In his opening remarks, Representative Jones gave a brief synopsis of the markup's newer topics as compared to recent years, more specifically the additional provisions and support that the sexual assault issue has experienced. The other subjects included a higher focus on military dependents, extension on bonuses and pay, and improved personnel readiness. Representative Jones also addressed his concern about the Administration continually attempting to raise fees on medical care for Veterans, TRICARE, which he assured, would not happen. After these opening statements, there were no verbal objections to the Military Personnel Markup for FY14 and it was agreed upon by unanimous consent.

Some items of interest to the Subcommittee included concerns regarding Suicide as well as the Military Health System (MHS)

development. An increase in suicides among military and family members has become a concern of the Department of Defense (DOD), directly impacting military and individual readiness. Therefore, the Subcommittee directed the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) in the markup to review the ability of the services to collect information and perform analysis on suicide among immediate family members as part of their suicide information retention and analysis by 1 April 2014. In addition, the committee received the March 2013 report of DOD on MHS governance reform implementation plan as required by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13), but the report does not clearly describe the linkage of the goals to the responsibilities of the newly established Defense Health Agency. In addition, the report neither provides the information to understand how the Department developed its goals or a detailed schedule. The Subcommittee remains concerned that the Defense Health Agency could result in greater costs and personnel expenditures if these aspects were left out, leading them to direct SECDEF in the markup to address the shortcomings no later than 30 June 2013, or by separate letter to the Full Committee within 30 days.

Details can be found at [AUSN's Legislative Analysis of HASC-Military Personnel Markup of FY14 NDAA](#).

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, TACTICAL AIR SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP OF FY14 NDAA

On 23 May 2013, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, held its markup of H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14). The markup was held by Chairman, Representative Michael Turner (R-OH-10), and Ranking Member, Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-CA-46). The HASC- Tactical and Land Forces Subcommittee submitted its markup of the NDAA of FY14 with no amendments and a vote of 14-0.

Regarding the F-35 aircraft, the HASC-Tactical and Land Forces Subcommittee recognized the importance of the Pentagon's F-35 development program. In past years the committee has expressed concern with the F-35 program's production plan due to major procurement concerns and recognized the need for an independent team of subject matter experts to review the development of software critical to the F-35 aircraft. This independent review of the F-35 program's Research and Development (R&D) should help alleviate concerns expressed in the HASC NDAA markup of Fiscal Year 2013. The Subcommittee continues to support the F-35 development and procurement program, and believes a software development review by the Department will ensure that the F-35 program remains on schedule to provide a fifth generation capability in support of our national security strategy.

Details can be found at [AUSN's Legislative Analysis of HASC-Tactical Air Markup of FY14 NDAA](#).

SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON RURAL HEALTHCARE

On 23 May 2013, the Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce held a hearing on the status of Federal Healthcare in Rural America. Notable witnesses included The Honorable Robert A. Petzel, Under Secretary for Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Subcommittee Chairman, Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), opened the hearing highlighting the importance of cooperation among Federal agencies that work together to serve the same clients. Senator Tester also acknowledged the medical advances that had been made in treating Veterans, through the VA, such as telemedicine applications to reach out to those in rural areas. Senator Tester concluded his opening statement by emphasizing the need to leverage Federal resources and viewing the challenged as collaboration among Federal agencies, rather than, as a competition.

Subcommittee Ranking Member, Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), followed Senator Tester's remarks. He thanked the witnesses and said that the importance of protecting our Veterans could not be more emphasized. Senator Portman acknowledged that there is a lack of healthcare providers in rural areas, leaving Veterans unable to cope with both "visible and invisible wounds of war." Senator Portman proceeded to cite the high cases of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in recent Veterans, as well as the deaths of 22 Veterans from suicide per day. Senator Portman, echoing Senator Tester issued closing remarks by calling agencies to, "leverage resources of our nation for rural Veterans."

Secretary Petzel of the VA spoke first from this panel stressing that his agency's commitment to Veterans and their mental health as their top priority. Secretary Petzel commented that the VA had made progress in its goal of hiring mental health professionals, asserting that nearly all of the 1,600 projected hires in mental health were filled. Secretary Petzel continued to describe the methods the VA was undertaking to conduct outreach via Public Service Announcements (PSA's) and internet outreach. Citing the White House's executive order to improve the rural population's access to health, Secretary Petzel stressed the VA's commitment to broadening access to health in rural Veteran communities.

Notable questions included when Senator Tester asked Secretary Petzel how many hires the VA had made as part of its pledge to improve mental health services. Secretary Petzel replied that the agency had hired in total, 18,600 employees in the mental health field and from March 2012 to March 2013, and it had added 1,556 mental health personnel in particular. Senator Tester also asked Secretary Petzel if long-term programs such as recruitment efforts would continue. Secretary Petzel replied that recruiting efforts would continue and remarked that current recruiting efforts had been responsible for reducing the vacancy rate from 13% to 11% in medical health personnel positions at the VA. Through continued assessments, Secretary Petzel said the VA would continue to monitor its progress in mental health efforts, especially in rural areas with difficulty of access. Senator Portman asked Secretary Petzel whether telemedicine was actually an effective method of providing healthcare in illnesses other than behavioral ones.

Secretary Petzel defended the telemedicine model, acknowledging that telemedicine solutions were becoming widely accepted and had a higher satisfaction rate with Veterans since it allowed for ease of access and wider coverage. Secretary Petzel was asked whether non-VA providers should be included in more efforts to supplement VA health care efforts, to which he replied that the policy should be expanded to treat more Veterans through private providers that are held by VA standards.

AUSN ON THE HILL

In addition to monitoring the markups and hearings on Capitol Hill this week, AUSN met with Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Representative Tammy Duckworth (D-IL-08) at a roundtable forum to discuss the Troop Talent Act of 2013, a bill that AUSN supports, see [AUSN Letter of Support to Senator Kaine](#), and would help servicemembers transition from active duty to the civilian workforce by aligning skills acquired in the military with civilian credentials or licenses required for employment. AUSN also had a meeting with staff of Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) to discuss the Senate's formation of a VA Claims Transparency Caucus and its effectiveness in helping to address the backlog in claims. AUSN also went to the Pentagon a few times this week to talk to the Office of the Chief of Navy Reserve (OCNR) to discuss equipment needs as stated in last week's release of the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Report (NGRER) for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14), see [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog on NGRER for FY14](#), as well as met with the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs (Navy-OLA), to discuss continued collaborative efforts. Towards the end of the week, AUSN received an updated brief by various industry partners regarding multiple systems onboard the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and the future of the program. Finally, a bill that AUSN has long supported, the Stolen Valor Act, see [AUSN Letter of Support on Stolen Valor Act](#), passed the House and Senate this week and is now on its way to the President for signature into law. As noted in [Senator Dean Heller \(R-NV\) press release](#), the makes it a Federal crime to lie about receiving a military decoration or medal in order to profit or benefit financially, respecting the Supreme Court decision last year, while ensuring deceit for tangible financial benefit and profit is properly prosecuted.

By the time this update is being written, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Subcommittee on Readiness is wrapping up its markup of the FY14 NDAA, whereby the panel's mark was noteworthy for explicitly rejecting a Pentagon request to begin another Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round in 2015. Their markup also would require a report from Department of Defense (DOD) officials on how they will control support costs for two systems that are expected to prove expensive to maintain: F-35 fighter jets and Littoral Combat Ships (LCS).

PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK

H.R. 2086, Pay As You Rate Act. Introduced by Representative Dina Titus (D-NV-01), the bill would direct the Secretary to make interim payments of disability compensation benefits for certain claims for such compensation prior to the adjudication of such claims.

H.R. 2076, Servicemember Medical Evaluations Review Act. Introduced by Representative John Kline (R-MN-02), the bill would direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System of the Armed Forces and to submit to Congress a report on such system.

H.R. 2065, Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act. Introduced by Representative David McKinley (R-WV-01), the bill would amend title 38, United States Code, to require recipients of per diem payments from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the provision of services for homeless Veterans to comply with codes relevant to operations and level of care provided.

H.R. 2056, (Official title yet to be released). Introduced by Representative Allyson Schwartz (D-PA-13), the bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit to certain recently discharged Veterans, to improve the coordination of Veteran job training services between the Department of Labor, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and the Department of Defense, to require transparency for Executive departments in meeting the Government-wide goals for contracting with small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled Veterans.

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 #113-14: SUPPORT H.R. 2002 & S. 871, Combating Military Sexual Assault Act

NEXT WEEK OUTLOOK

Next week Congress will not be in session for the Memorial Day recess. There won't be any Friday update next week as a result; however AUSN has planned meetings with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) as well as with Representative Susan Davis (D-VA-53) and Representative J. Randy Forbes (R-VA-04). In addition, AUSN will be meeting with the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans group to discuss Blue Water Navy legislation and efforts on Capitol Hill. Hope everyone has an enjoyable Memorial Day, while taking the time to remember all those who served.

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, 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 and copy RDML Graf, at grafrl@cox.net.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Anthony A. Wallis, Legislative Director
Phone (o): 703-548-5800, (m): 703-517-9310
E-mail: Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org
Legislative Action Center: [Contact Congress](#)