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AUSN MONITORS DEBATE HELD BY CSIS ON ASIA-PACIFIC REBALANCE

On 19 June 2014, AUSN attended the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) bipartisan discussion between Representative Randy Forbes (R-VA-04), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, and Representative Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI-01). The brief, titled, Sustaining America's Enduring Role in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Congressional Perspective, focused on the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region and the Congressional work being done on this effort.

FURTHER READING:

During the CSIS Brief, moderated by Michael Green, Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair at CSIS and Associate Professor at Georgetown University, questions were posed on, "Why the Asia-Pacific? What did [the Representatives] hope to achieve through the Committee and legislation focused on this region?" The Asia-Pacific region, according to Representative Forbes, is becoming one of the most important regions in the world, and one in which a strategy must be created by the U.S. and its allies in order to ensure stability as its importance on the world stage increases. Forbes also stated that while over the past decade the U.S. Army and Marine Corp have stepped up and worked tirelessly, this next decade will be that of the U.S. Navy's. Representative Hanabusa agreed with Representative Forbes, stating that the 21st Century, as President Obama has also said, will be defined by the Asia-Pacific region whether America is in a compromising or conflicting relationship with it. Therefore, she and Rep. Forbes recognized the need to begin to ask questions in order to understand the significance of the region, what resources the U.S. would need to engage there, and what the defense and diplomatic strategies would be towards this pivot to Asia-Pacific from the focus on the Middle East.

Representative Forbes also referenced a statement from the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), who stated that for the U.S. to simply speak publically about China would cross the line and antagonize them. To this, Representative Forbes stated that if China is to become a major power, "then they need a thicker skin." "We believe in the market place of ideas," he said, and China cannot simply determine what that marketplace will consist of. Representative Forbes believes that there is danger in not talking about China and the growing power of Asia-Pacific, but we must do so in a polite manner. Furthermore, America's diplomatic strategy should be three fold according to Representative Forbes:

there must be proper strategy, that strategy must be communicated to leaders and allies, and the capability to see it through must exist. He also believes that during this time of pivoting our attention to Asia-Pacific, we should be showing the strength of our Navy. However, the Navy recently attempted to discontinue funds to fuel the USS *George Washington* (CVN-73), a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. The Defense Appropriations Subcommittee rejected that attempt and instead appropriated funds to continue fueling the carrier; these types of reductions, however, show weakness instead of the Naval strength which the U.S. should be displaying. Representative Forbes referenced Admiral Locklear later on, saying that if the Navy is to be expected to run ports and protect places around the world, we need a bigger Navy.

For more details, see [AUSN's Capitol Hill Blog CSIS Debate on Asia-Pacific Rebalance](#)

HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON EVALUATING VA CARE TO VETERANS

On 23 June 2014, the House Committee on Veteran Affairs held a hearing on the systematic lack of accountability and wait time problems within the VA. The hearing was presided over by HVAC Chairman, Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01), and HVAC Ranking Member, Representative Michael Michaud (D-ME-02). The witnesses for the panel included Dr. Thomas Lynch, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations at the Veteran Health Administration (VHA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Dr. Carolyn Clancy, the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Quality, Safety, and Value also from the VHA. During opening statements, Chairman Miller spoke about his serious concerns over the VA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report on the systematic lack of integrity within the VA. He elaborated on the number of Veterans nationwide, 57,000, and how many Veterans have enrolled in the VA over the last decade, 64,000. In Ranking Member Michaud's opening statement he said that there is a lack of confidence in the VA and the need for a good analysis of the VA's problems. He also mentioned the need for VHA standards as well as the very significant responsibility to take care of our Veterans.

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

Dr. Lynch gave his opening statement next. He took responsibility for the unacceptable wait times and the need to fix it. Dr. Lynch also talked about position productivity and the 125,000 positions in the VA. Chairman Miller then opened up the round of questioning by asking how quickly the VA can hire people to fill needed positions. Lynch didn't know the answer. The Chairman then asked how many patients each doctor saw per day in the VA. Lynch stated that each doctor saw on average 10 patients per day. This was compared to about the 20-30 patients per day non-VA doctors see. Next, Ranking Member Michaud asked what the role of Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) is within the VHA. Dr. Lynch elaborated that it is a VHA program that offers health care contracts to provide eligible Veterans access to: inpatient specialty care, outpatient specialty care, mental health care, limited emergency care, as well as limited newborn care for enrolled female Veterans following birth of a child. Furthermore, the witnesses stated that this program identifies other community providers as well. Representative Lamborn then asked about the ridiculous wait times and why the community providers were not being identified sooner. Dr. Lynch said that was unacceptable. Representative Tim Huelskamp (R-KS-01) asked how the VA can make decisions if there is not accurate data. The inaccurate data was the main concern for Dr. Lynch and he couldn't respond to many of the Representative's questions because the data was not accurate. Representative Brad Wenstrup (R-OH-02) questioned the witnesses on whether or not VA doctors use Relative Value Units (RVUs), which are a type of standard for most non-VA doctors. Dr. Lynch replied that the VA does use notable metrics for VA physicians. The last notable question was by Representative Dina Titus (D-NV-01) who asked about the care for Female Veterans.

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HEARING ON DOD ACQUISITION

On 24 June 2014, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) held its hearing on acquisitions made by the Department of Defense (DOD) and reviewed several case studies to determine what methods work best within the DOD in order for it to run efficiently. The witnesses present at the hearing were Dr. Christopher Lamb, Deputy Director of the Institute for National Strategic Studies, the Honorable Brett Lambert, Senior Fellow for the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), the Honorable Elizabeth McGrath, Former Deputy Chief Management Officer at DO, Mr. Ronald O'Rourke, Specialist in National Defense at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), and Vice Admiral (VADM) David Venlet, USN (Ret.), former PEO F-35 and NAVAIR Commander. The hearing was held by HASC Chairman, Representative Buck McKeon (R-CA-25), HASC Vice Chairman, Representative Mac Thornberry (R-TX-13), and HASC Acting Ranking Member, Representative Loretta Sanchez (D-CA-46). The hearing began with opening remarks made by the Chairman, Acting Ranking Member, and all witnesses. Chairman McKeon expressed his concerns that lasting improvements need to be made to DOD with regards to acquisition, stating that the cycle of failed acquisition needed to be broken and that through case studies the Committee needed to determine what is working and

what is not working for DOD. Acting Ranking Member Sanchez elaborated on the need to maintain efficient acquisition, and placed an emphasis on the importance of equipment to the DOD, especially the development of cutting edge defense systems.

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

Next began the round of opening statements by the witnesses whereby Mr. Lambert testified that DOD relies on Industrial Age policies and procedures which hinder it from acquiring the best Information Age technologies, and he called for an acquisition reform that focuses more on creating and sustaining and that provided goods directly to the military. He also argued for an acquisition process that could keep pace with the more global, commercial, and complex Millennial Industrial Base. Mr. O'Rourke testified on issues related to Navy acquisition and remarked on several examples of successful Navy acquisition programs such as the Nuclear Propulsion program, the Virginia Class Attack Submarine Program, the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System, as well as the Mobile Landing Platform (MLP) Ship Program. He also emphasized the success of the Navy's implementation of the use of Multiyear Procurement (MYP) and Block Buy Contracting programs as examples of successful DOD acquisitions. VADM Venlet called for better acquisitions by making existing and new programs perform better while removing programs that do not work. Ms. McGrath stated that steps needed to be made towards a more efficient model of acquisition and called for more collaboration and increased use of prototypes as well as stronger program managers in areas of information technology (IT). Dr. Lamb testified that "efficient and effective acquisition is not possible without reform of other associated DOD planning processes" and called for more flexibility within the program.

Following these opening remarks, Chairman McKeon noted existing problems within DOD regarding barriers to fast methods of procuring military supplies. He then deferred to the Committee members for rounds of questioning. Acting Ranking Member Sanchez opened by asking for responses regarding the implementation of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) and questioned the witnesses on whether or not the program should be continued. The consensus of the witnesses was that JROC was a needed place to discuss valuable acquisition processes. When further questioned about what acquisition methods work within DOD, Mr. O'Rourke stated that some methods of success are known while others such as IT face a learning curve. Mr. Lambert further remarked that the continued training and equipping of people was important in order to continue to establish successful methods. Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA-01) questioned what Congress could do better to provide the best value in the decision process to which the witnesses responded that training and providing more voice to those building acquisitions as well as streamlining efficient methods to enhance acquisitions was needed.

Through further questioning by Committee members, issues over trust and security within acquisitions arose, and Representative Jackie Walorski (R-IN-02) questioned issues of trust within the process. Mr. Lambert remarked that trust has evaporated in some acquisition areas, and Ms. McGrath furthered this by adding that it seems that contractors have forgotten they reside on the same team as the DOD. When asked about possible security threats due to the new Millennial Industrial Base, Mr. Lambert stated that the main issues with overseas technologies revolve around counterfeit goods rather than goods made for nefarious purposes and added that mapping the supply chain in order to identify vulnerabilities was a necessary precaution. Mr. O'Rourke called for a degree of responsibility from Congress and praised long tenures in office as ways to remain personally accountable for decisions regarding acquisition.

JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE VETERANS AFFAIRS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON VA HEALTHCARE BILL

On 24 June 2014, the first Conference Committee meeting of conferees from the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) was held to discuss pending Veteran claims and healthcare legislation that has recently passed out of both chambers. This was the first time in 15 years that both HVAC and SVAC have engaged in a formal Conference Committee. The Committee was created for the purpose of compromising on the differences between the House and Senate on H.R. 3230 and S. 2450, the Veterans' healthcare legislation brought to the table following the reports of mismanagement and unacceptable wait lists at VA facilities around the country, specifically at the Phoenix, Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System (HCS). The Conference Committee is co-chaired by SVAC Chairman, Senator Bernard Sanders (I-VT), and HVAC Chairman, Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01). The remaining conferees are as follows: Senator John D. Rockefeller (D-WV), Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI), SVAC Ranking Member- Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE), Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK), Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Representative Doug Lamborn (R-CO-05), Representative Phil Roe (R-TN-01),

Representative Bill Flores (R-TX-17), Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI-01), Representative Mike Coffman (R-CO-06), Representative Brad Wenstrup (R-OH-02), Representative Jackie Walorski (R-IN-02), HVAC Ranking Member-Representative Mike Michaud (D-ME-02), Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL-05), Representative Mark Takano (D-CA-41), Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA-26), Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ-01), and Representative Tim Walz (D-MN-01).

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

While no specific decisions were made during this first hearing, each conferee had five minutes to discuss their views on H.R. 3230, S.2450 and the problems at hand. In his opening statement, Chairman Sanders stated, “The cost of war does not end when the last shots are fired. . .war is a terribly expensive proposition in terms of human life, human suffering, and in financial terms. . .if we are not prepared to take care of those we send to war, then we shouldn’t send them in the first place.” The Chairman also referenced and agreed with a recent quotation from Senator McCain, which stated that if there ever was an emergency which emergency funds should be used for, this is it. Even though there is wide spread bipartisan support for the bill, the use of these funds has caused a great deal of hesitation, particularly with House members. Chairman Miller in his opening statement called for further bipartisan efforts to ensure the two goals of the legislation are met: to make sure there is timely access to healthcare for all Veterans, and to hold VA officials and staffers accountable. A common theme throughout all of the statements presented by the Conferees, but first stated by HVAC Ranking Member Michaud, was that the bill cannot be short sided, but rather must see beyond the immediate crisis and look for ways to fix and reform the VA for good. SVAC Ranking Member Burr mentioned that it was, “becoming obvious that a cultural problem in the VA has taken root, and reforms are desperately needed.” However, he had reservations as to not only the cost of the bill being presented, but also as to the fact that 8 million eligible Veterans not currently in the VA health care system would be suddenly enrolled for two years, which could cause further issues.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated that the Senate’s legislation, S. 2450, could cost anywhere from **\$35-\$50 billion** a year, while the House bill will cost between **\$44 billion** and **\$54 billion** a year. Despite the higher potential costs of the House bill, it apparently increases deficits by far less as written because it works within the normal discretionary appropriations process and doesn’t provide a new mandatory appropriation like the Senate bill. Several members mentioned other programs such as the project Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH), which has been a three-year pilot program that provides specific non-VA health care services to eligible Veterans closer to their homes. Members including Senator Tester and Ranking Member Michaud mentioned ARCH due to their concerns that the 40 mile access rule in the legislation, along with other aspects of the bill, will cause the VA health care system to become more like an assembly line, when the medical issues our Veterans are dealing with need to be cared for with the utmost capability and consideration. In a similar light, Senator Begich spoke of the Alaska Heroes Card Act as a model to follow for the whole nation, as it has served as a Choice Card, also supported by members such as Representative Kirkpatrick and Senator Brown, which allows Veterans to have the choice to access care from other clinics and treatment facilities beyond VA locations. The Conference Committee concluded that it is committed to passing a piece of legislation with haste that will provide the courageous men and women of our nation with the timely healthcare they deserve. The next meeting time for the Conference Committee has not yet been announced.

HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON VHA AND VBA COLLABORATION

On 25 June 2014 the House Committee on Veteran Affairs (HVAC) held a hearing concerning the interaction between the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) in terms of the processes and challenges facing the placement and conduction of medical examinations. The witnesses present at the hearing were Mr. Thomas Murphy, Director of Compensation Service at the VBA at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), who was accompanied by Ms. Beth McCoy, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations at the VBA, Dr. Gerald M. Cross, Chief Officer of the Office of Disability and Medical Assessment at the VHA, and Ms. Patricia D. Murray, Director of Clinical Programs and Administrative Operations at the VHA. Also present at the witness table was Mr. George C. Turek, Founder, Owner, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Veterans Evaluation Services. In his opening statements, HVAC Chairman, Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01), spoke of how the VHA has failed in accomplishing its mission of honoring the men and women who are America’s Veterans and providing them with quality and accessible healthcare. He also made it clear that any excuse provided by the VA to protect the institution and not the Veterans it has failed will, “fall on deaf ears.” With recent whistleblower allegations concerning the deaths of Veterans either on backlogged waitlists or left off of lists entirely, Congress is calling for a massive cultural shift and reform of the VA. Chairman Miller spoke of a, “lack of focus on mission” in the VA, and called the hearing for the specific purpose of, “exploring the current division between the VHA and VBA on provision of Compensation and Pension exams (C&Ps) for disability adjudications as well as the contracting tools which each association holds.” The

issues which the Chairman hoped to address in the hearing were space limitations for appointments, staff shortages, and how the 8,200 registered C&P examiners could be better used to treat Veterans. Two concerns with this idea are that many examiners no longer have the credentials in order to be able to transfer to providing treatment for Veterans, and many staff members also work part time. However, the Chairman was eager to hear the panelists' thoughts and assessments on how to best utilize the C&P resources and staff, and to gain further knowledge as to the problems plaguing the VA. HVAC Ranking Member, Representative Mike Michaud (D-ME-02), commended the VA in his opening statement on its improvement in processing claims and reducing its claims backlog by 50% from its highest point in 2013. However, he also emphasized that management by crisis is not a long term or acceptable solution, and that the business of the VHA and VBA should be to serve Veterans, not to perform metrics.

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

Following Ranking Member Michaud's remarks, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Turek were invited to present their opening statements. Mr. Murphy spoke from the perspective of the VBA, and discussed how the VBA and VHA have begun to work together to try and make the C&P process more efficient by using Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) to capture all relevant information to make a claim for a specific conditions. Upwards of 70 of these DBQs can be completed by private doctors, saving Veterans time and money since they will not have to travel to a VA office. He also mentioned that while the national standard for completing C&P exams is 30 days, or 44 days for the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES), the average wait time is 24 days, and 32 for IDES, and from Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) until today there have been around 1.58 million C&Ps completed. Recently 51 Veterans were examined by contractors, and then had to be reexamined in order to ensure that the strict standards of C&P examinations were upheld. The VBA and VHA, according to Mr. Murphy, have worked to expand the capacity for disability examinations provided internally and through contractors, which has improved the ability to access benefits. In his opening remarks, Mr. Turek spoke of the challenges which both the VHA and VBA face due to their divergent qualities. An example of the differences between the ways Medical Disability Examinations (MDEs) are processed is the use of different scheduling systems—the VHA uses the Complaints Automated Tracking System (CATS) while the VBA uses DemTRAN. The workflow processing is therefore different even though the MDEs are the same. Mr. Turek suggested that until the “significant backlog of Veterans waiting to receive C&P benefits improves, Congress should pass legislation making all outsourced MDE contracts mandatory-funded.” Simple access would also go a long way instead of having to hire and train new staff, and to streamline the process would make things much more effective.

Chairman Miller opened up with questions following the opening statements. He read three different sets of numbers to the committee of the reported C&Ps completed, each of which was different. After doing so he asked Dr. Cross how it is possible to take those numbers at face value if they are all different. Dr. Cross responded vaguely that the statisticians that pulled those numbers had good reason. The Chairman responded with a list of follow up questions including if the VHA pays for C&P exams from its general fund, if that is the same fund that the VA pays for its primary care with, if the VHA is suffering from long appointment wait times, and if there is no separate line budget for the C&P line process. The answer to all of these questions was yes. Ranking Member Michaud asked Ms. McCoy when the VA will be adjusting staffing to ensure that areas are adequately addressed for timely outcomes on behalf of our Veterans, to which she responded that the primary goal right now is to reduce claim backlogs and continue to process non waiting claims. By the end of this year 1.3 million claims will be processed. Rep Michaud also asked why there was such disparity in the number of examinations this month as pointed out by the Chairman, to which Mr. Turek said that with two different contracts between the VHA and the VBA, one of which is demand and the other discretionary respectively, each association can only take so many cases per month. He recommended that a more stable contract be produced.

Representative Jon Runyan (R-NJ-03) continued with the questions, stating that he supported standardization of qualities between the VBA and VHA and asked what the most frequently conducted C&P is, to which Dr. Cross responded Muscular Skeletal. Ms. Murray then answered the Congressman's next question about how many exams are deemed unacceptable by saying that the VHA is constantly monitoring the sufficiency of exams, and right now they are only 1% insufficient, and that DBQs have helped to standardize medical evidence that is more efficient for overall use. Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA-36) asked, “What measurements does the VA have in place where a Veteran can provide feedback on the quality of the medical assessment?” Ms. Murray reported that Veterans are surveyed and give feedback for their appointments during normal medical examinations. There is no such process for C&Ps yet, but they are working on it. In order to appeal a result from the medical assessment there is a yearlong appeals process. Dr. Cross also mentioned that they are working on a separation health assessment which will be a standard examination at the time of departure from the service in order to have baseline data. Dr. Cross was soon after asked to submit to the committee the amounts which he has received in bonuses as incentives for completing sufficient examination himself. It was of the

witnesses' opinions that they do not believe that further falsification of numbers are occurring, and they are attempting to control the system as best as possible.

AUSN ON THE HILL

This week, aside from covering the numerous hearings, AUSN's Legislative team was very involved in debates surrounding the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on Capitol Hill. AUSN first took time on Monday to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the GI Bill with many Veteran groups and recognize its historic importance in helping our servicemembers and Veterans. In addition, AUSN participated in a roundtable forum held by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) with other Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) regarding the status of improving healthcare provided to Veterans and ongoing Congressional actions. AUSN also held a meeting with the Office of the Chief of Navy Reserve (OCNR) to discuss concerns and collaborative efforts. The AUSN Legislative team also listened to an updated brief on Mefloquine exposure to our Veterans as well as participated in a strategy roundtable with Representative Tim Walz (D-MN-01), who is also a member selected to sit on the Veterans Conference Committee to discuss emergency Veteran healthcare legislation that has passed both the House and the Senate and need to be agreed upon. Finally, AUSN met with staff of Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL-01), Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC), to discuss pending Veterans legislation and further discuss the Veterans Conference Committee.

PRIORITY BILLS INTRODUCED THIS WEEK

H.R. 4974 Doctors' Education Loans Impact VA Employee Retention (DELIVER) Act. Introduced by Representative Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH-01), the bill would amend Title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the repayment of higher education loans for certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

H.R. 4971, Ask Veterans Act. Introduced by Representative Beto O'Rourke (D-TX-16), the bill would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct annual surveys of Veterans on experiences obtaining hospital care and medical services from medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

H.R. 4948, The VA Investigation and Accountability Act. Introduced by Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA-26), the bill would provide for emergency supplemental appropriations for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

H.R. 4942, Underserved Veterans Access to Health Care Act. Introduced by Representative Dina Titus (D-NV-01), the bill would amend Title 38, United States Code, to increase the number of graduate medical education residency positions at hospitals administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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 #113-46: URGE Senate to Reconsider and Amend Alarming Sections of SASC Passed FY15 NDAA

NEXT WEEK OUTLOOK

Next week, both the House and the Senate will be in recess due to the 4th of July Holiday. AUSN will be taking care of a few Administrative items on the agenda at Headquarters as well as participating in its regular meetings with The

Military Coalition (TMC). There will be no Legislative Watch next week, but there will be the following week, so from the Legislative Team at AUSN, we wish you and your family's a safe and Happy 4th of July!

CALL FOR AUSN NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS FOR 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

2014 National Legislative Resolutions will be considered at AUSN's Annual Business Meeting 19-20 September 2014 at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. Resolutions must be timely, concise, and include sufficient background information. Resolutions must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of the 2014 Annual Business Meeting in order for proper staffing, review, and formatting as needed. Any member may propose a resolution which should address a legislative or policy issue related to the missions and goals of our organization. Resolutions are received, reviewed, and processed by the Resolutions Committee.

Proposed resolutions should be sent to the AUSN Headquarters, Resolutions Committee Chair, CDR Bill Manofsky, USN (Ret.). Submissions can be sent via e-mail to: Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org or by U.S. mail to: Attn: National VP of Government Relations and Resolutions Committee Chair, CDR Bill Manofsky, USN (Ret.); Association of the United States Navy; 1619 King Street; Alexandria, VA 22314.

To request a new resolution or amend an existing Resolution, see [last year's 2013 Resolutions](#), please visit the "[How to Format Resolutions](#)" section of the website with a downloadable form to fill out and send as well. Current NEW Resolutions needed, for example, include the CH-53K "King Stallion," the E-2D "Advanced Hawkeye," and the MQ-8 "Triton." Current amendments to an existing Resolution needed, for example, include the Military Pay Raise to match Employment Cost Index (ECI) - amendment bullet to Resolution 34, and Restoration of Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) calculations for retirees who joined the service prior to 2014 as a result of the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2013- amendment bullet to Resolution 35.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS

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