

UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND



Reporting Period: 19 Sep – 7 Oct 2016

Published: 11 October 2016

ENVIRONMENT ON THE HILL:

After a couple of weeks of Congress facing great pressure to prevent a government shutdown which hinged on settling differences related to the water supply crisis in Flint, Michigan, they were able to arrive at an agreement to forward a stop-gap, (better known as a [continuing resolution](#) (CR)) bill to the President. House lawmakers passed the bill with a final vote of 342-85 (Republican 170 Yeas/75 Nays/1 No Vote. Democratic 172 Yeas/10 Nays/4 No Vote). On 29 September with about 36 hours before the end of the fiscal year, President Obama signed the CR into law funding the government; until 9 December 2016. The 10 week CR allows federal agencies and programs to continue operations (at 0.496% less than the 2016 funding levels) until the annual appropriations act is passed for the rest of FY 17. Highlights of the CR titled “Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act” include the following:

- ZIKA FUNDING: \$1.1 billion to address the Zika virus, and make money available through FY 2017.
- STATE DEPARTMENT: \$175.1 million for the State Department and other foreign aid programs. \$145.5 million used for the Global Health Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development.
- POLITICAL DISCLOSURE RULE: The bill would maintain a provision from the fiscal 2016 spending law barring the Securities and Exchange Commission from issuing a rule requiring companies to disclose their political contributions.
- MILITARY CONSTRUCTION-VETERANS AFFAIRS: The measure provides \$82.3 billion in FY 2017 discretionary funding for programs covered by the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs appropriations bill.
- GUANTANAMO BAY: DoD would be prohibited from closing or realigning the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or using federal funds for housing the detainees at any U.S. facility.
- MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM: Directs the Maritime Administration to maintain payments to 60 ships that conduct sealift operations under the administration’s Maritime Security Program; providing \$3.5 million per ship.

Although the passage of the eighth consecutive CR is a better option when comparing it to a government shutdown like in 2013; the harmful effects of the CR will be felt throughout the government, none more so than the Department of Defense (DoD). The CR prevents DoD from initiating and funding new programs that were not funded in FY 2016. Additionally, it bars increasing production rates for projects sustained by 2016 funds and the use of funds to initiate multiyear defense contracts. These and other impacts cause “grave concerns” for the DoD said Secretary of Defense, Ashton Carter. “It undercuts stable planning and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars” Carter told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Shortly after the CR was signed, lawmakers quickly returned to their home districts and the campaign trail for the final stretch leading up to the November elections. Congress is scheduled to return to the Hill to start the [lame-duck session](#) on November 14 to address the unfinished business left behind. The tasks below await lawmakers when they wrap-up the last few weeks of the 114th Congress:

- MINIBUS OR OMNIBUS: Congresses biggest task is resolving the 11 remaining appropriations measures which are needed to fund the government after 9 December for the remainder of the FY 2017. The question is, whether lawmakers will utilize an omnibus (using one bill to fund the government) or a set of minibuses (using two or more bills to fund the government). Indications are members of Congress prefer mini busses as opposed to an omnibus.
- NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA): With only 20 legislative days after their return in November, Congress will need to work quickly. The biggest disagreement between the House and Senate remains whether or not to put a bird native to the American West on the Endangered Species List (Greater Sage-Grouse). Details of the final language concerning Goldwater-Nichols reforms have not been released.
- Potentially impacting the negotiations dealing with the NDAA and the defense appropriation bill will be a new request from DoD in the form of a defense supplemental to the 2017 overseas contingency operations budget. In November, the Administration is expected to send the supplemental request to Congress which will be utilized to fight the Islamic State and to pay for the additional troops the U.S. is expected to leave in Afghanistan through 2017.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Hearing(s):

Hearing Date	Witness(es)	Committee & Hearing Topic
20 Sep 2016	Gen John Hyten Future Commander, USSTRATCOM	Senate Armed Services Committee Confirmation Hearing; To Be Commander of USSTRATCOM
27 Sep 2016	Admiral James O. Ellis Jr. Former Commander, USSTRATCOM Mr. Martin C. Faga Former Dir. of NRO & Former Assistant Sec. of the Air Force for Space Dr. John J. Hamre Former Deputy Sec. of Defense	House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Strategic Forces National Security Space: 21st Century Challenges, 20th Century Organization
28 Sep 2016	Dr. Edward R Franchi Naval Research Laboratory Dr. Jeffery P Holland Army Corps of Engineers Maj Gen Robert D McMurry Air Force Research Laboratory Dr. Philip Perconti Army Research Laboratory	House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Emerging Threats & Capabilities Department of Defense Laboratories: Innovation through Science and Engineering in Support of Military Operations

REPORTS:

Congressional Reports:

Due Date	Description	Status
1 Nov 2016	DoD Transportation Protective Services (OPR: SDDC)	UPDATED Report currently in the final stages of drafting. Source report requirement; Senate NDAA Committee Report, pg 107.
2 Dec 2016	Capability to transport and treat military personnel exposed to highly infectious emerging diseases (OPR: TCSG)	UPDATED Letter report sent to Joint Staff, 23 Sep 2016. Joint Staff submitted an interim letter to HASC & SASC requesting an extension until 2 Dec 2016. Original due date, 30 Sep 2016. Source report requirement; Senate NDAA FY17 Committee Report, pg 107.
6 Feb 2017	Level of readiness of CRAF carriers (OPR: TCERC)	Second year required report currently being drafted. Source report requirement; NDAA FY16; Sec. 1085.
6 Feb 2017	Assessment on Duplication/ Inefficiencies within DLA & USTRANSCOM (OPR: SECDEF)	Institute for Defense Analyses identified to perform the subject assessment on USTRANSCOM & DLA. (Preliminary brief due NLT 15 Dec 2016 to HASC/SASC).
TBD	Study on Space-A Travel System of the DoD (OPR: SECDEF)	Requires enactment of the FY17 NDAA before commencement of the study.

NOMINATIONS/CONFIRMATIONS:

Nomination Date	Nominee	Status/Information
13 Jul 2016	LtG Aundre Piggee	Confirmed on 15 Sep to the rank of Lieutenant General.
6 Sep 2016	GEN Gustave Perna	Confirmed on 15 Sep to the rank of General.
9 Sep 2016	Gen John Hyten	Confirmed on 28 Sep to be the next commander of U.S. Strategic Command.
13 Sep 2016	Lt Gen Jerry Martinez	Confirmed on 28 Sep to the rank of Lieutenant General.

CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR:

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

■	House only	■	Senate only	■	Both in session
---	------------	---	-------------	---	-----------------

CONGRESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT(S):

Date	Topic	Information
Jan 2017	Sealift Recapitalization & Mariner Manning	Professional Staffer Member event to inform/discuss Sealift Recapitalization & Mariner Manning.
Feb 2017	USTRANSCOM Update	Annual House and Senate Armed Services Committee Professional Staffer Members visit to USTRANSCOM.

RECENT QUOTES:

- Sen. Mark Warner's (D-VA) comment regarding the continuing resolution:
 - "I welcome the efforts to avert a government shutdown" "nonetheless, it's unfortunate that political dysfunction has brought us to the point where we celebrate Congress doing the barest minimum of its obligations. As I've long-maintained, this is not a responsible way to conduct our nation's business."
- Sen. Barbara Mikulski's (D- MD) comment regarding the continuing resolution:
 - "Is it perfect? No. Is it acceptable? Yes. Is it necessary? Yes."
- House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-TX) stated that prior to the recess that NDAA negotiations ended on a positive note:
 - Negotiations, "are in a pretty good place."

MISCELLANEOUS INFO:

- Minimal legislative activity is expected for the next few weeks thus, the next edition of the "Dome Lines" will not be published until early December when our Nation prepares to welcome a new President and Congress.
- Legislative Affairs related documents, to include this and previous editions of the "Dome Lines," can be found at the Legislative Affairs [SharePoint site](#). For those without access to the SharePoint site, this edition can be found on the USTRANSCOM public [website](#).

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR USTRANSCOM LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS TEAM

EMAIL: TRANSCOM.SCOTT.TCCC.LIST.LA@MAIL.MIL PHONE: 618-220-4811 571-312-8926 (D.C. OFFICE)