

UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND



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ENVIRONMENT ON THE HILL:

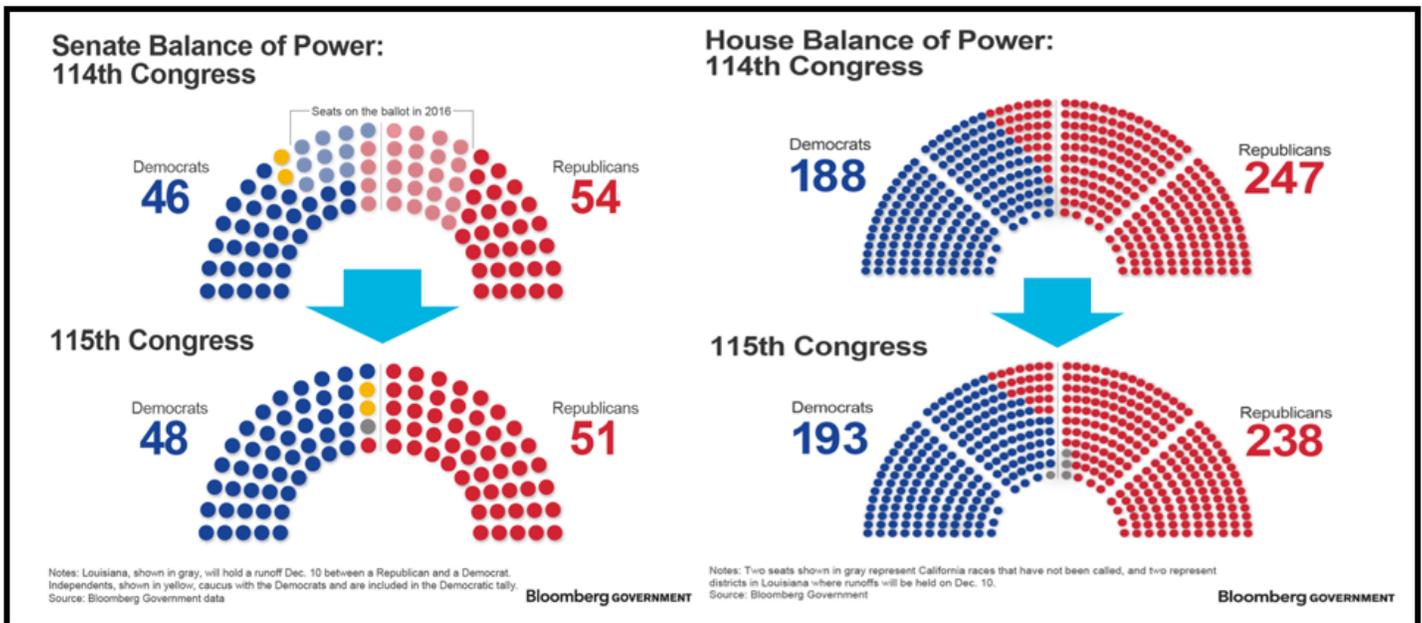
With the 2016 elections behind us, lawmakers returned to Washington D.C. on 14 November for one week before their Thanksgiving break (21-25 November). Their first week back was a lame-duck session focused on getting themselves organized and drafting an agenda for the 115th Congress, which begins early January. In addition to establishing the groundwork for the 115th, members returned to Capitol Hill focused on how to fund the government for the remaining FY 17 once the current continuing resolution (CR) expires come 9 December, and resolving the differences between the two versions of the FY 17 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) amongst other Congressional business.

This edition of the “Dome Lines” will provide a general review of how the 2016 election effected the Congressional body, while focusing on the impacts felt on the Senate and the House Armed Services Committees. This edition will also provide a preliminary Congressional leadership position review, introduce the newly elected veterans who will become members of the 115th Congress, provide a status on the NDAA, and take a look at the developments in funding the government for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Congressional Election Results

With 34 (24 Republican seats and 10 Democratic seats) of the 100 Senate seats up for election in 2016, control of the Senate was up for grabs. Democrats needed to gain five seats to take the chamber back but fell short by only picking up two seats. Thus Senate Republicans proved to be far less vulnerable than initially predicted. Most battleground races featuring a Republican incumbent were much less competitive than anticipated. In the end, only Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) were the only two incumbent Senators that lost their re-election bids.

In the House all 435 seats were up for election. Although Republicans lost six seats in the chamber they finished the election night strong. While it was never likely that Democrats would retake the chamber, Republicans maintained their majority. 1928 marks the last time that Republicans controlled The Presidency with the sizable majorities in the House and Senate; they will experience this control in the 115th Congress, a key factor and an opportunity enabling Mr. Trump’s policy plans to become law. However, it is unclear how easy this will be given that key party leaders have had less than favorable opinions of the President-elect.



- Notes: Senate graphical display. Louisiana, shown in gray, will hold runoff Dec 10 between a Republican and a Democrat. Independents, shown in yellow, caucus with the Democrats and are included in the Democratic tally.

- Notes: House graphical display. Two seats shown in gray represent California races that have not been called and two represent districts in Louisiana where runoffs will be held on Dec 10.

Source: Bloomberg Government

Election Impacts on the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC)

The SASC's committee makeup will remain basically unchanged. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) was able to fight off a tough re-election and will remain Chairman of the Committee as Republicans maintain control of the Senate. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) is also expected to keep his position as the ranking member. Although membership of the committee will stay relatively the same, Sen. Ayotte's re-election defeat has created an opening to lead the SASC subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support.

Election Impacts on the House Armed Services Committee (HASC)

HASC will have 11 new committee members at the beginning of the year, however, leadership positions are not expected to change. Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-TX) and ranking member Adam Smith (D-WA) will maintain their current positions in the HASC which will provide stability and allow the committee to continue pursuing the acquisition reform agenda it began with the FY 17 NDAA. However, leadership for two HASC subcommittees will become available in the new Congress. As a result of Rep. Randy Forbes (R-VA) losing his primary, the chairmanship of the Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee will open up as will the ranking member slot of the Tactical Air and Land Forces subcommittee which Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) held before she lost her bid for the Senate. It is now up to Chairman Thornberry and the Democratic Caucus to fill these positions before the start of the 115th Congress.

Congressional Leadership Positions

As a result of the Congressional election outcomes, retirements and term limits, leadership changes among some committees are certain, while others stayed the same. See the list below of leadership positions of those key Congressional Committees that are of interest to USTRANSCOM.

- Senate Committee Leadership for the 115th Congress

Committee	Chairman	Ranking Member	Notes
Senate Armed Services Committee	John McCain (R-AZ)	Jack Reed (D-RI)	No Change
Senate Appropriations Committee	Thad Cochran (R-MS)	Patrick Leahy (D-VT)	Sen Mikulski (D-MD), current Ranking Member, will be retiring at the end of the 114th Congress.
Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee	John Thune (R-SD)	Bill Nelson (D-FL)	No Change

- House Committee Leadership for the 115th Congress

Committee	Chairman	Ranking Member	Notes
House Armed Services Committee	Mac Thornberry (R-TX)	Adam Smith (D-WA)	No Change
House Appropriations Committee	Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)	Nita Lowey (D-NY)	Rep. Rogers (R-KY), current Chairman will reach his term limit at the end of the 114th Congress
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee	Bill Shuster (R-PA)	Peter DeFazio (D-OR)	No Change

Note: Senate and House Subcommittee (e.g. Senate Seapower Subcommittee, House Readiness Subcommittee, House Coast Guard & Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, etc.) leadership members are yet to be determined. Historically, leadership positions have been named in mid-December or shortly after the beginning of the new Congress.

Veterans Elected to 115th Congress

The number of veterans in Congress has dwindled over the last three decades. However, after this year's election, nine additional veterans will join the 115th Congress (see below). These new members bring the total of veterans holding seats in Congress to just over 100 members.

- Senate

- o *Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)*, lost both legs in Iraq when a rocket-propelled grenade brought down the Black Hawk helicopter she was co-piloting. She has served in the House since 2013. In early 2015, a few months after winning re-election to a second term, she announced her bid to run for the Senate in 2016. In the House, Duckworth has assignments on the Armed Services and Oversight and Government Reform committees.

- House

- *Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL)*, was an U.S. Army Ranger who specialized in defusing explosive devices. He lost both his legs due to an improvised explosive device in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2010.
- *Rep. Scott Taylor (R-VA)*, joined the U.S. Navy out of high school and became a SEAL at age 19. His eight years of service included time in Central and South America and he speaks Spanish fluently. He also served in Iraq, where he was seriously injured in a sniper operation in Ramadi.
- *Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI)*, is a retired three-star U.S. Marine Corps general. Bergman also has experience as a pilot for Northwest Airlines. Bergman supports efforts to reduce federal spending, simplify taxes and cut environmental regulations.
- *Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL)*, is a retired physician, U.S. Army veteran and businessman. The son and grandson of career Army officers, Dunn spent 11 years as an attending urologist in the service. He built a successful urology practice, founded a community bank and raised his family in Panama City before running for Congress.
- *Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN)*, serves in the U.S. Navy Reserve as a supply corps officer. He has received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. As a previous member of Indiana's state Senate, he was re-elected while deployed in Afghanistan in 2014.
- *Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)*, is a U.S. Navy Reserve intelligence officer who served with a Special Operations task force in Afghanistan and earned a Bronze Star. He will represent the Monterey County area which was previously represented in Congress by his father, Leon Panetta.
- *Rep. Anthony Brown (D-MD)*, a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, was an aviator and judge advocate. In 2004 while he was serving in the Maryland House of Delegates, he was deployed to Iraq, where he earned a Bronze Star.
- *Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA)*, served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, including active duty service during the 1991 Gulf War. In 2004, he was elected to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

Funding of Government

Before Congress left in October for its five week recess, it was able to pass the CR bill ([H.R. 5325](#)) which helped fund the government through 9 December and provided full year funding for the Veterans Affairs Department and military construction projects. However, upon their return to Capitol Hill and entering a lame-duck session, lawmakers knew they had a huge task awaiting them, to include funding the government beyond 9 December and passing the NDAA. During their first week back in session (14-17 November) lawmakers were unable to pass any of the 11 remaining appropriations bills, though reports indicate members have set the ground work to draft another CR to fund the government through the end of March. Such a CR would allow the new Trump Administration and the Republican controlled Congress the opportunity to impact the FY 17 spending process and shape the funding priorities. It is highly unlikely the government will shut down after 9 December, but there is potential for vigorous debate before a funding bill is passed, since many members on both sides of the aisle prefer an omnibus to a CR.

Additionally, the planned CR has the potential of becoming increasingly complex and filled with special provisions. Some provisions would benefit and allow the Department of Defense (DoD) the capability to initiate new contracts on a variety of top procurement items such as the Ohio-class submarine replacement

and prevent delays of programs such as the General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper drone and Lockheed's C-130 programs. Furthermore, the CR may also address DoD's Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding and President Obama's [supplemental funding request letter](#) which was sent to Congress requesting \$11.6 billion of additional funds to be added to this fiscal year's OCO coffers. The additional funds request would increase OCO to \$85.3 billion for FY 17. If approved by Congress, the extra war-related funding would provide \$5.8 billion for the DoD to continue operations in Iraq and Afghanistan in the fight against the Islamic State and other terror groups. The Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development would receive the other half of the \$11.6 billion to support counterterrorism efforts, refugee aid and improved embassy security.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 17

For 53 consecutive years, an NDAA has been produced and become law. As yet, however, there is no NDAA for FY 17. Reports indicate that productive conversations regarding the NDAA occurred last week among conference committee members and that negotiations between the House and Senate are essentially over. Reportedly, both chambers were able to resolve key issues in the reauthorization of defense programs and agreed to remove two highly contentious amendments regarding the greater sage grouse and workplace protections based on sexual orientation. House and Senate leaders will likely wrap up negotiation details and publish a conference report by early December.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Hearing(s):

Hearing Date	Witness(es)	Committee & Hearing Topic
17 Nov 2016	Mr. Bob Work Deputy Defense Secretary Mr. James Clapper Director of National Intelligence Mr. Marcel Lettre Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence	House permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Intelligence Community's support for the DoD

REPORTS:

Congressional Reports:

Due Date	Description	Status
1 Nov 2016	DoD Transportation Protective Services (OPR: SDDC)	UPDATED Report complete and submitted to Congress and Joint Staff. 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)	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 FY 17 Committee Report, pg 107.

6 Feb 2017	Level of readiness of CRAF carriers (OPR: TCERC)	UPDATED Draft report sent to industry carriers for consultation/inputs. Comments due back 30 Nov. Source report requirement; NDAA FY 16; 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 FY 17 NDAA before commencement of the study.

CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR:

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
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RECENT QUOTES:

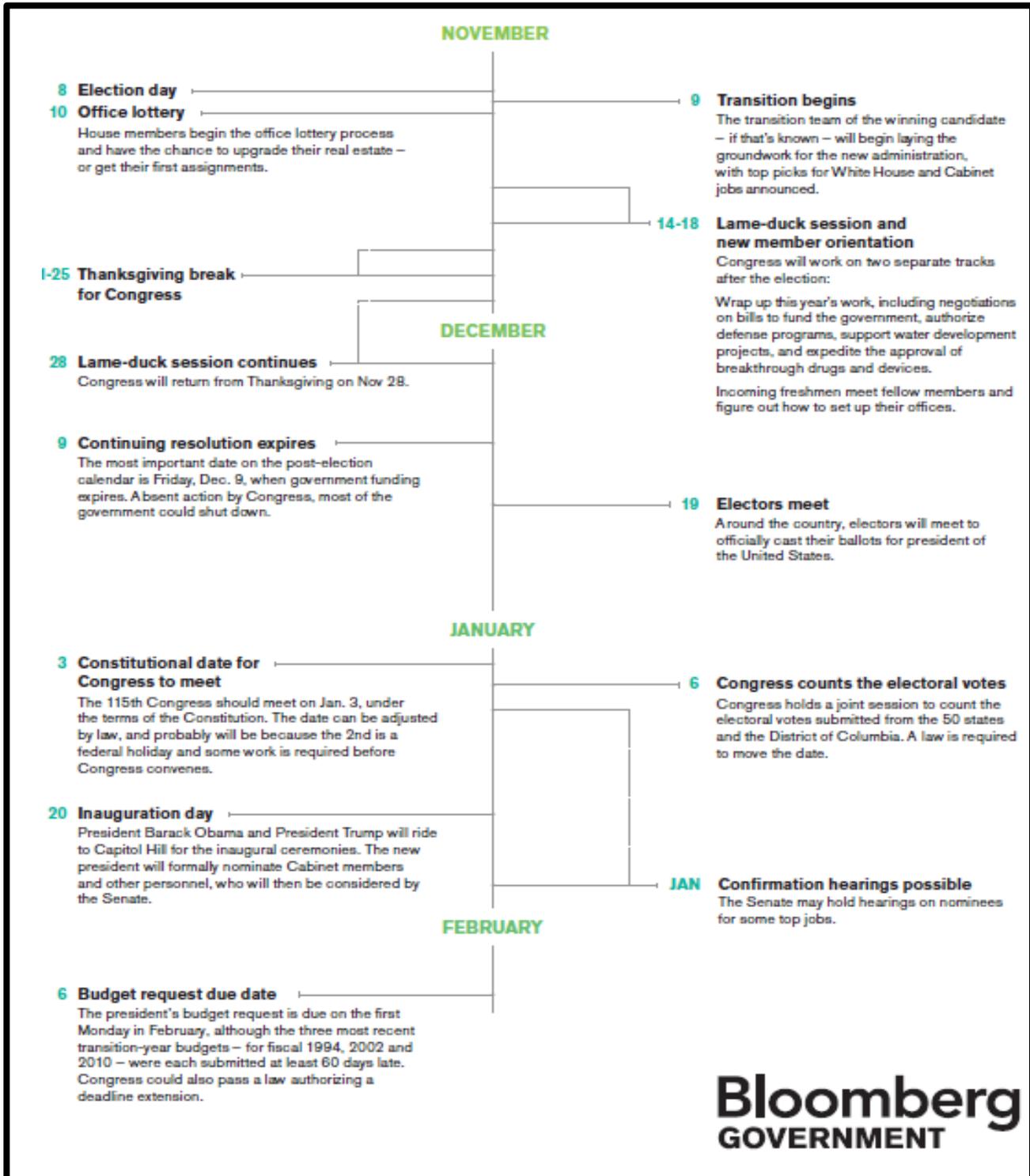
- Soon-to-retire, Sen Barbara Mikulski, Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Committee Democrat said:
 - "We are prepared to do an omnibus, we are prepared to do minibuses ... what we are not prepared to do is a CR."
- Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain regarding the likelihood of completing the 2017 NDAA:
 - "Optimistic," conferees can finish the 2017 defense authorization bill but is "uncertain whether it can be done by the end of the year."
- House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers said he would address the supplemental funding request and try to deliver on those funds during the current CR and in the lame-duck session:
 - "We want to be sure that our military has adequate resources during this interim period."

MISCELLANEOUS INFO:

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](#).

Key Transition Dates

Below are key transition dates and actions our government, Administration and Congress will be taking part in during the next few weeks.



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