UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND

Reporting Period: 4 Sep – 22 Nov 17 Published: 27 Nov 17

ENVIRONMENT ON THE HILL

Taxes…DACA…CR…BCA…Shutdown…Sequestration?
As Congress returns this week with only 14 legislative days remaining on their calendar, they will face several significant challenges with their end-of-year workload: funding the government beyond 8 Dec, tax reform, topline budget levels, DACA (deferred action on child immigrants), hurricane relief, Children's Health Insurance Program, and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act renewal. On top of all that, Congress must deal with sexual harrassment allegations against at least two members and one Senate candidate. Good news is the NDAA has been sent to the President who should be signing it in the coming days.

KEY DOCUMENTS:

Senator McCain's letter to SECDEF.
This letter sets expectations on DOD for the upcoming release of the National Defense Strategy.

SECDEF - Lines of Effort

APPROPRIATIONS:

Senate Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee (SAC-D), released their draft DOD Appropriations Bill. It needs to be passed by full Committee and the Senate floor, then conferenced with the House Bill before a final vote by the congress.

The Bill provides $581.3 billion in base Department of Defense funding
- $15.4 billion above the President's budget request
- $45.1 billion less than the NDAA authorized $626.4 billion base budget
- $59.3 billion above the Budget Control Act $522 billion legal ceiling for the Pentagon

NDAA BILL LANGUAGE:

The House passed the final version of the NDAA on 14 November and the Senate passed it on 16 November. Below are some excerpts of interest to USTRANSCOM.

Mobility Capability and Requirements Study (MCRS):
- Sec. 144. (1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a mobility capability and requirements study that estimates the number or airlift aircraft, tanker aircraft, and sealift ships needed to meet combatant commander requirements. (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than September 30, 2018, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committees.

Prohibition from charging services tariffs for service operated aircraft on channel routes:
- Sec. 1044. Prohibit U.S. Transportation Command from charging a tariff when a military service operates their aircraft on a route that is designated by USTRANSCOM as a channel route.

National Defense Sealift Fund:
- Sec. 1021. National Defense Sealift Fund.
-- Provides authority to purchase used vessels, but limits procurement of foreign built vessels to two.
-- Requires Navy's annual 30-year shipbuilding plan to include vessels in auxiliary ship category.
-- Directs SECNAV to submit a report to Congress regarding sealift recapitalization plan.

Report to congress on Combat Logistics Force, Ready Reserve Force, and MSC Surge Fleet:
- Sec. 1072. Report on Defense of Combat Logistics and Strategic Mobility Forces.
-- Requires SECNAV to provide a report on Combat Logistics Force, the Ready Reserve Force, and the MSC Surge Fleet.

Report to Congress on European Deterrence Initiative within 120 days:
- Sec. 1273. Future years plan for the European Deterrence Initiative.
-- Requires SECDEF to submit to the congressional defense committees a future years plan on activities and resources of the European Deterrence Initiative.

Maritime Security Program (MSP) Funding:
- Sec. 3501. Maritime Administration.
-- Authorizes $300M for the Maritime Security Program (MSP).

Restriction on new entries into the MSP:
- Sec. 3503. Maritime Security Fleet Program; Restriction on Operation for New Entrants.
-- Affects vessels covered by an operating agreement after the date of the enactment of the Fiscal Year 2018 NDAA, by prohibiting a MSP payment to a vessel operating in the transportation of cargo between points in the United States and its territories, either directly or via a foreign port.

Funding:

Title	Request	Authorized
Army Procurement, JECC/JCSE Equipment	$5.1M	$5.1M
Navy Procurement, JECC/JCSE Equipment	$4.3M	$4.3M
Air Force Procurement, JECC/JCSE Equipment	$5.1M	$5.1M
Air Force O&M, USTRANSCOM	$0.5M	$0.5M
AF RDT&E, Deployment & Distribution Enterprise (TRANSCOM)	$26.2M	$26.2M
National Defense Sealift Fund	$509.3M	$516.3M

<u>HASC NDAA Accompanying Committee Report:</u>
Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET) report briefing to HASC:
- Railroads for National Defense
-- Commander/SDDC to provide a briefing to the HASC, not later than 30 days after completion of the next updated Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET) report, regarding the analysis and findings of the report.

Assessment & brief to HASC on DFARS "Cyber Security and Incident Reporting" clause:
- Assessment of Effectiveness of Cyber Reporting
-- To ensure that these tools are effective at helping small businesses and other non-traditional defense contractors meet this requirement, the committee directs SECDEF to conduct an assessment of the DFARS clause, "Cyber Security and Incident Reporting" and a briefing to the HASC by 7 Dec 18.

GAO Assessment of DoD's efforts to institutionalize vendor vetting:
- Vendor Vetting Process and Guidance

-- The HASC continues to believe that a comprehensive vendor vetting process is essential to prevent the DoD from awarding contracts to companies having ties to violent extremist organizations or other inappropriate entities. The committee is encouraged by the fact that two combatant commands, USCENTCOM and USTRANSCOM, have established vendor vetting cells to determine whether potential vendors actively support any terrorist, criminal, or other sanctioned organization, but is concerned about the extent to which the Department has developed an approach to institutionalize vendor vetting across the Department. Therefore, the committee directs the GAO to assess the Department's efforts to institutionalize vendor vetting across the Department and geographic combatant commands.

SASC NDAA Accompanying Committee Report:
Lighter-than-air (LTA) logistic airship efforts:
- The SASC has continuing interest in advanced lighter-than-air (LTA) logistic airship technology and remains eager to see practicability, operating utility, and cost benefits proven, believing that advanced technology in this area can provide a transformational logistic capability for the DoD. …The committee directs that, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, SECDEF shall:
(1) Identify a senior leader for airship technical initiatives;
(2) Provide an outline for a future DoD airship technology strategy; and
(3) Lay out notional estimates for time, costs, and other necessary resources to conduct an incremental demonstration for technical viability with suitable decision points and off-ramps.

SENATE ACTIONS ON NOMINATIONS & CONFIRMATIONS

- Robert H. McMahon, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (11/16/2017)
- Joseph Kernan, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (11/16/2017)
- Guy B. Roberts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (11/16/2017)
- Robert L. Wilkie, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (11/16/2017)
- Robert Behler, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense (11/16/2017)
- Thomas B. Modly, to be Under Secretary of the Navy (11/16/2017)
- James F. Geurts, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy (11/16/2017)
- Shon J. Manasco, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (11/16/2017)
- Mark T. Esper, to be Secretary of the Army (11/15/2017)
- John H. Gibson II, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense (11/07/2017)
- David Joel Trachtenberg, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (10/17/2017)

Nominations in process:
- Randall G. Schriver, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense
- Michael D. Griffin, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
- John C. Rood, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
- Alex A. Beehler, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army
- R. D. James, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army
- Dean L. Winslow, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense
- John Henderson, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
- Anthony Kurta, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
- Owen West, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

RECENT HEARINGS OF INTEREST

Hearing Date	Hearing Topic	Committee
19 Oct 17	Modernizing the Food for Peace Program	Senate Foreign Relations Committee
16 Nov 17	Coast Guard Readiness	Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation
30 Oct 17	Physical & Cyber Security (Ports)	House Homeland Security Committee

CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR

December

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13 Hanukkah begins	14	15
18	19	20 Hanukkah ends	21	22
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29

January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day	2	3 House Convenes at Noon for a Quorum Call	4 D.C. Work Week	5 D.C. Work Week Votes no later than 3:00 p.m.	6
7	8 D.C. Work Week Votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.	9 D.C. Work Week	10 D.C. Work Week	11 D.C. Work Week Votes no later than 3:00 p.m.	12 No Votes	13
14	15 Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr	16 D.C. Work Week Votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.	17 D.C. Work Week	18 D.C. Work Week	19 D.C. Work Week Votes no later than 3:00 p.m.	20
21	22 District Work Week	23 District Work Week	24 District Work Week	25 District Work Week	26 District Work Week	27
28	29 D.C. Work Week Votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.	30 D.C. Work Week	31 D.C. Work Week House Republican Issues Conference			

MISCELLANEOUS INFO:

Are you traveling out to Washington D.C. and need a place to work from, check email, store luggage while in meetings? USTRANSCOM members can call our Legislative Affairs D.C. team (Col William "Doug" Hall or Lt Col Chris Thackaberry at (571) 312-8926/8854) to schedule a visit. The office is just a ~7 minute drive from the Pentagon.

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