

# UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND



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## ENVIRONMENT ON THE HILL:

Since the second week of November the nation has been anticipating the peaceful transfer of power between President Barack Obama and now the 45th President of the United States (U.S.), President Donald Trump. While the country awaits to see the new Administration's approach to governing, the 115th Congress kicked off on the 3rd of January with a full schedule. Lawmakers began their first Congressional session of the new Congress with committee organization meetings, shuffling and assigning new and old members of Congress to specific committees and subcommittees, preparing for over 1,000 Presidential Appointment positions requiring Senate confirmation and conducting confirmation hearings for the few who have already been appointed. As lawmakers' schedules quickly fill-up, they too are preparing for the dynamic transition along with the challenges and opportunities they expect to face in the Republican controlled Congress and Administration.

As the 115th arrived on the Hill, they swore in the newly elected freshmen class members to Congress and re-elected the Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan (R-WI). Chamber leaders then began the process of assessing and assigning lawmakers to committee positions. Of the 215 total committees and associated subcommittees among the House and the Senate, USTRANSCOM typically engages directly with Armed Services Committees, Defense Appropriations Subcommittees and Transportation Committees with cross-jurisdictional responsibilities for Defense programs. Listed below are those committees of interest and their respected Chairmen and Ranking Members. A complete list of all committee members can be found by clicking the title of each committee. Note: To this date, not all committees have updated/published lists of membership.

## Committees of Interest

### [House Armed Services Committee \(HASC\)](#)

Chairman	Ranking Member
Mac Thornberry (TX)	Adam Smith (WA)

### [HASC Readiness Subcommittee](#)

Chairman	Ranking Member
Joe Wilson (SC)	<u>TBD</u>

### [HASC Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee](#)

Chairman	Ranking Member
Robert Wittman (VA)	<u>TBD</u>

### House Appropriations Committee (HAC)

Chairman	Ranking Member
Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ)	Nita Lowey (NY)

### HAC Defense Subcommittee

Chairwoman	Ranking Member
Kay Granger (TX)	Peter Visclosky (IN)

### House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Chairman	Ranking Member
Bill Shuster (PA)	Peter DeFazio (OR)

### **House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee**

\* As of the publish date for this edition, members have not yet officially been assigned to the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee.

### Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC)

Chairman	Ranking Member
John McCain (AZ)	Jack Reed (RI)

### SASC Seapower Subcommittee

Chairman	Ranking Member
Roger Wicker (MS)	Mazie Hirono (HI)

### SASC Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

Chairman	Ranking Member
Jim Inhofe (OK)	Tim Kaine (VA)

### SASC Cybersecurity Subcommittee

Chairman	Ranking Member
Mike Rounds (SD)	Bill Nelson (FL)

\* In an effort to address the everyday threat of cyber and its associated challenges, Chairman McCain established the new Cybersecurity Subcommittee which he stated will be “devoted entirely to cyber issues” and will be focused on ensuring our military has the “resources, personnel, and capabilities necessary to defend, deter, and respond to our adversaries in cyberspace.”

### Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC)

Chairman	Vice Chairman
Thad Cochran (MS)	Patrick Leahy (VT)

## SAC Defense Subcommittee

Chairman	Vice Chairman
Thad Cochran (MI)	Richard Durbin (IL)

### Confirmation Hearings

President Trump continues to select his political appointees in an effort to fill key positions within his cabinet. Of the more than 4,000 Presidential nominees, 1,212 require Senate confirmation. Secretary of Defense (General James Mattis, Ret. USMC) and Secretary of Homeland Security (General John Kelly, Ret. USMC) received early confirmation votes and are now in office. Secretary of Transportation (Elaine Chao) is expected to be confirmed this week. Central Intelligence Agency, Director Mr. Mike Pompeo, and United Nations Ambassador, Nikki Haley, have also been confirmed and are in office. Below are the stated goals of Secretary Mattis, Secretary Kelly and Secretary of Transportation Nominee Chao from their respective hearings. Hyperlinks to view each hearing and others are listed under the "Hearings" section.

#### Secretary of Defense, James Mattis (Confirmed)

- Maintain a safe and secure nuclear deterrent
- Field a decisive conventional force
- Retain irregular warfare as a core competency of our Armed Forces
- Budget Control Act; defense decisions should not be based on sequestration ... debt problem cannot be fixed solely on the backs of the military
- Military Readiness; need to improve military readiness ... there is a "reset problem," and a maintenance problem ... need to enhance the future force
- Cybersecurity; military cannot craft a strategy in isolation ... will need to work with the DHS and other agencies
  - o U.S. will need to create guiding principles on cyber deterrence
- Emerging Technology; need to avoid a situation where the U.S. is dominant in outdated forms of warfare ... need for a forward looking strategy
  - o DOD will need to work with civilian enterprises

#### Secretary of Transportation, Ms. Elaine Chao (Awaiting Confirmation)

- Safety will ... be the primary objective
- Potential for private investment in our nation's infrastructure
- Address the exciting new technologies transforming travel and commerce
- Jones Act; the Jones Act is a very important program that secures national security
  - o We have seen two wars now in the last 25 years
    - If we did not have ... Merchant Marine assets to assist the gray hulls ... our country would not have been able to supply our troops,
    - All of that is not done on the gray bottoms, gray hull bottoms, but rather merchant Marine bottoms
- Merchant Marine fleet; is part of the way that we are able to be effective overseas and protect this country
  - o I am a great proponent of the U.S. flag merchant marine fleet

#### Secretary of Homeland Security, John Kelly (Confirmed)

- Border Security; physical barrier alone will not do the job ... need for a multi-layered defense ... technology will be important, including drones and sensors
- Counterterrorism; enhancing information sharing between law enforcement internationally

- Cybersecurity; public and private sectors recognize the need to work together, though there are some privacy issues ... to be addressed
  - o DHS's mission is protecting the .gov network and working with commercial entities
  - o Need to find ways to keep pace with rapidly evolving threats
  - o There are problems in government with jurisdiction ... between the armed services, the intelligence community, and DHS

### Confirmation Votes & Results

Shortly after the inauguration ceremonies, Senate lawmakers agreed to head back into session and begin the debate and voting process to confirm a handful of Presidential Nominees. Both Secretary James Mattis (98-1) and Secretary John Kelly (88-11) were confirmed 20 Jan. The Senate is expected to take up and vote on a few of the remaining nominees in the coming weeks to include Secretary Chao's nomination which is set for consideration on 31 Jan.

As the new Secretary of Defense settles into his new position, former Defense Secretary Ashton Carter wrote in his [exit memo](#) for the incoming Trump administration to keep acquisition initiatives going. He stated that what matters "is how we buy things, how quickly we buy them, whom we buy them from, and how quickly and creatively we're able to upgrade them and repurpose them to be used in different and innovative ways to stay ahead of future threats." Carter not only left behind these words of wisdom but will also leave behind Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work for several months. President Trump's administration asked Deputy Work to stay on for the short term in an effort to allow time in selecting a successor.

### Defense Buildup

Last week SASC Chairman, Senator John McCain, published a white paper titled [Restoring American Power](#) which may be used as a guide towards the future U.S. military and the next National Defense Authorization bill. This paper presents a case for increases in defense spending (\$54 billion above the amount the Pentagon is planning to ask for) and for reversal of the Budget Control Act. The document describes the increasing number of threats our country has and will encounter in the future while the military's size and capabilities continue to decline making it difficult to meet its strategic objectives.

Shortly after President Trump was sworn-in, the White House released a message in its commitment in [Making Our Military Strong Again](#). The memo pledges to "rebuild our military" and pursue the "highest level of military readiness" while putting an end to "defense sequester."

## CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

### Hearing(s):

Hearing Date	Hearing Topic & Committee	Witness(es)
5 Jan 2017	<a href="#">Foreign Cyber Threats to the United States</a> Senate Armed Services Committee	Honorable James R. Clapper, Jr. - Director of National Intelligence Honorable Marcel J. Lettre II - Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Admiral Michael S. Rogers, USN - Commander, USCYBERCOM/Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Services

10 Jan 2017	<a href="#">Civilian Control of the Armed Forces</a> Senate Armed Services Committee	Dr. Eliot Cohen - Robert E. Osgood Professor of Strat Studies, Johns Hopkins School of Adv Int'l Studies Dr. Kathleen Hicks - Senior VP; Henry A. Kissinger Chair; Dir, Int'l Security Program, Ctr for Strategic and Int'l Studies
10 Jan 2017	<a href="#">Nomination Hearing - Mr. John Kelly</a> <i>(view on Mozilla Firefox)</i> Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Government Affairs	Mr. John Kelly, USMC (Ret.) - To be Secretary of the Dept of Homeland Security
11 Jan 2017	<a href="#">Nomination Hearing - Elaine Chao</a> <i>(view on Mozilla Firefox)</i> Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation	Honorable Elaine Chao - To be Secretary of the Dept of Transportation
12 Jan 2017	<a href="#">Confirmation Hearing – Mr. James Mattis</a> <i>(view on Mozilla Firefox)</i> Senate Armed Services Committee	Mr. James Mattis, USMC (Ret.) - To be Secretary of the Dept of Defense

## REPORTS:

### Congressional Reports:

Due Date	Description	Status
6 Feb 2017	Level of readiness of CRAF carriers (OPR: TCERC)	<b>UPDATED</b> Report sent to Joint Staff (J4) on 6 Jan 2017 for coordination. Source report requirement; NDAA FY 16; Sec. 1085.
Final report due with FY 18 budget submission	Assessment on Duplication/ Inefficiencies within DLA & USTRANSCOM (OPR: SECDEF)	<b>UPDATED</b> Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) identified to perform the subject assessment on USTRANSCOM & DLA. On 21 Dec 2016, OSD AT&L sent an interim response to HASC and SASC leadership stating that the IDA team will provide preliminary findings in Feb 2017 and submit the final report to Congress NLT the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of FY 17.
TBD	Study on Space-Available Travel System (OPR: SECDEF)	<b>UPDATED</b> No later than 23 Mar 2017 Secretary of Defense shall enter into a contract to conduct an independent study on the space-available travel system of the DoD. Report will be due to congressional defense committees no later than 180 days after entering into a contract. Source report requirement; NDAA FY 17; Sec. 352.

## CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR:

January					February					March				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
2 New Year's Day (Observed)	3 115th Congress Convenes	4	5	6			1	2	3			1	2	3
9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
16 MLK Jr. Day	17	18	19	20 Inauguration Day	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17
23	24	25	26	27	20 Presidents' Day	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24
30	31				27	28				27	28	29	30	31

Both chambers in session
  Both chambers in recess
  Senate only in session
  House only in session

## RECENT QUOTES:

- Sen John McCain, Chairman Senate Armed Services Committee, told reporters that he created the subcommittee to deal with the cyber domain:
  - "It's an additional subcommittee because it's [cyber] a long term challenge."
- Sen McCain, statement during confirmation hearing for retired James Mattis nominee for Secretary of Defense (Confirmed, 20 Jan).
  - "I ... believe that our nation needs General Mattis's service more than ever"
- Rep Mac Thornberry, Chairman House Armed Services Committee, published an [article](#) regarding the current and future state of our military:
  - "Making America great again begins with making our military great again."

## 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](#) and [LinkedIn](#) page.

### HOW TO CONTACT YOUR USTRANSCOM LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS TEAM

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