



ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

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A Look Back: The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Defense Appropriations

As we await greater detail on the Biden administration’s defense spending priorities, not to mention the official FY 2022 Budget Request, which may not arrive until April or May, we will start by taking a look back at the final FY 2021 defense appropriations. This bill was included as Division C in the FY 2021 Consolidated Appropriations and Coronavirus Relief Aid Package that was passed by Congress in late December 2020 and signed into law by President Trump on December 27.

Due to the holidays and a general lack of useful information, AOC Advocacy did not provide its usual “closer look” at electronic warfare (EW) spending contained in the bill. This information may not be fully known or released until we see the FY 2022 budget request, but the lack of attention to EW programs in the omnibus provides us some hint of where funding levels are set. To recap, the House passed its version of the FY 2021 defense appropriations bill on July 31, 2020, as part of the second “minibus” appropriations package. The Senate took no action until the Senate Appropriations Committee released its recommendations on November 10, after the general election. While the Senate did not actually vote on this recommendation, it served as a baseline for an eventual end-of-session omnibus that was long assumed to be the outcome.

Furthermore, the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which establishes the maximum amount that agencies are allowed to spend on specific programs, was passed by the House on December 8, 2020, and the Senate on December 11. It eventually became law on January 3, 2021, when Congress voted to override President Trump’s veto. Thus, we have five (5) sets of numbers to gauge final program allocations (see Table 1).

A few notes: There was a 2 percent and 2.6 percent increase in procurement and R&D accounts, respectively, from FY 2020. The final appropriations for procurement are in line with final defense authorization limits, but R&D was provided a boost of \$2.3 billion authorization and nearly \$3 billion above both the House and Senate recommendations.

| Category | Budget Request | House Approps | Senate Approps | Omnibus Approps | NDAAs Final |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Procurement | \$130.9 | \$133.6 | \$133.3 | \$136.5 | \$136.5 |
| R&D | \$106.2 | \$104.3 | \$104.1 | \$107.1 | \$104.7 |
| Personnel | \$150.5 | \$149.4 | \$149.6 | \$149.4 | \$157.6 |
| O&M | \$196.6 | \$196.7 | \$194.8 | \$196.7 | \$192.4 |

Table 1. Summary of Defense Spending by Major Category (in billions)

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According to Bloomberg Government, highlights include:

- \$23.3 billion for 10 Navy ships, including two DDG-51 guided missile destroyers, two Virginia-class attack submarines, one Columbia-class submarine, and one frigate
- \$9.6 billion for 96 F-35 aircraft, which is 17 more than requested
- \$2.7 billion for 15 Boeing Co. KC-46 tanker aircraft
- \$1.7 billion for 24 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft, made by Boeing
- \$1.6 billion for nine unrequested Boeing P-8A Poseidon aircraft
- \$1.5 billion for 17 aircraft that are variations of Lockheed Martin's C-130J transport plane, eight more than requested
- \$1.4 billion for 15 V-22 Osprey aircraft, six more than requested
- \$1.2 billion for 12 Boeing F-15EX combat aircraft

Finally, no details were provided for R&D funding. As soon as those numbers are available, we will update our budget data on crows.org/advocacy. It is the view from here that defense provisions in the FY 2021 omnibus are a good example of the concerning trend toward a lack of transparency. The defense budget is the largest pot of discretionary spending that Congress can affect. Yet, most allocations for specific programs happen outside of public view. Furthermore, in the [AOC Advocacy Newsletter from November 25](#), we mentioned that the DOD announced ending public access to its research tools that allow for more straightforward navigation of defense budget materials. The Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) is moving these unclassified materials behind a firewall accessible to government employees only. AOC Advocacy will continue to monitor, update, and release all relevant defense budget material when available and support efforts for greater transparency in the defense budget process.

Congressional Defense Committees for 117th Congress Take Shape

The House and Senate Armed Services Committees (HASC and SASC, respectively) and the Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense (HAC-D and SAC-D, respectively) are finally set for the new Congress.

While the Democrats maintained a majority in the House, there were some notable changes in committee leadership. First, with Rep. Mac Thornberry's retirement, the new Republican Ranking Member of the HASC will be Rep. Mike Rogers (AL-03). The HASC also reorganized its subcommittees, effectively splitting its Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities (IETC) Subcommittee from the 116th Congress into two new Subcommittees - the Intelligence and Special Operations (ISO) Subcommittee and the Cyber, Innovated Technologies, and Information Systems (CITIS) Subcommittee. Rep. James Langevin (RI-02), who is also a chair of the congressional Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO)

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Caucus, formerly the Electronic Warfare Working Group (EWWG), is the Chairman for the CITIS Subcommittee, along with Rep. Elise Stefanik (NY-21) as Ranking Member. These two leaders served in the same roles for the IETC Subcommittee last Congress. The new ISO Subcommittee will be led by Rep. Ruben Gallego (AZ-07) and Ranking Member Rep. Trent Kelly (MS-01).

As expected, the HAC-D announced its new leadership with Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04) taking over the coveted subcommittee chair. She takes over for retired Rep. Peter Visclosky. The Ranking Member will again be Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-42).

In the Senate, the Democrats gained an effective 50-50 majority, with the Vice President casting any tie-breaking vote. This also switches the committees from Republican to Democrat leadership. For the SAC-D, Sen. John Tester (MT) takes over the Subcommittee Chair, while Sen. Richard Shelby will serve as the Ranking Member. For the SASC, Sen. Jack Reed (RI) and Sen. James Inhofe (OK) switch roles as Chair and Ranking Member from the 116th Congress.

As the congressional defense committees begin an aggressive spring hearing schedule in anticipation of President Biden's first budget request and the new Department of Defense (DOD) leadership comprehensive strategy review, we will provide updates on relevant hearings and developments as details become available.

| Defense-Related Committee | Chair | Ranking Member |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| House Armed Services Committee | Rep. Adam Smith (WA) | Rep. Mike Rogers (AL) |
| HASC CITIS Subcommittee | Rep. James Langevin (RI) | Rep. Elise Stefanik (NY) |
| HASC ISO Subcommittee | Rep. Ruben Gallego (AZ) | Rep. Trent Kelly (MS) |
| HASC Tactical Air-Land | Rep. Donald Norcross (NJ) | Rep. Vicki Hertzler (MO) |
| HASC Seapower/Projection | Rep. Joe Courtney (CT) | Rep. Bob Wittman (VA) |
| House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense | Rep. Betty McCollum (MN) | Rep. Ken Calvert (CA) |
| Senate Armed Services Committee | Sen. Jack Reed (RI) | Sen. Jim Inhofe (OK) |
| Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense | Sen. John Tester (MT) | Sen. Richard Shelby (AL) |

Table 2. Overview of Committee Leadership

ICYMI: AOC Discussion | EMSO Leadership

AOC continues its ground-breaking series with thought-leaders and change-makers within electromagnetic spectrum operations across military, government, and industry. These in-depth talks provide insight into how U.S. and coalition forces address the EMS challenges across air, land, sea, space, and cyber. On January 13, the audience heard from General David "DT" Thompson, Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Space Force (USSF). [Read the post-event summary](#). This session is notable in that Bloomberg Government recently released an agency profile for the new military service. In the report, Bloomberg notes that the total FY 2021 budget for USSF will be \$15.5 billion, with nearly two-thirds being deducted to R&D. Looking ahead to FY 2021, the USSF has 42 new contract opportunities over \$1 million with a combined total

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of at least \$12 billion for award or recompet. New Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has confirmed that the new Biden Administration will keep the USSF and provide it the “opportunity to succeed.”

The most recent guest for AOC Discussions was the Honorable Bruce Jette, former Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics & Technology (ASA(ALT)) & Army Acquisition Executive (AAE). He provided a unique perspective on the EMSO community’s challenges to gain relevance in pursuing proper resourcing across DOD. [Read the post-event summary.](#)

Business Opportunities

Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance (SETA) for U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)

On December 17, the U.S. Army released a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking SETA Support from small businesses for a wide range of systems and activities that fall under USSOCOM. The incumbent value of this contract is between \$41.6 million and \$47.5 million. The proposal specifies 86 full-time equivalent senior staff positions requiring security clearance. The work includes project management, engineering services, logistics, and business management functions such as science and technology support, procurement support, and acquisition support. RFP responses are due March 17, 2021.

Technical Services for the Tactical Intelligence Targeting Access Node (TITAN)

On December 16, the U.S. Army Geospatial Center (AGC) released an RFP for technical services for TITAN. The opportunity is intended to provide the Army Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities (TENCAP) and the AGC support for geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) and signals intelligence (SIGINT) efforts in support of future expeditionary ground station technical risk reduction. Specifically, services under this RFP include Systems Engineering Services, Radio Frequency/Communication Services and Information Assurance Services to support the Tactical Intelligence Targeting Access Node (TITAN). Additionally, tasks include; 1) developing hardware and software solutions, 2) assessing current TITAN Surrogate GEOINT and SIGINT software applications and processes, 3) assessing current and future interoperability of the TITAN system with national and tactical approaches; 4) development of the TITAN Prototype ground station Line of Sight and Beyond Line of Sight recommendations in system development, 5) engineering design processes, 6) identifying and analyzing various communication systems and recommending best fit for the TITAN prototype for interoperability. The value of this contract opportunity is approximately \$11.7 million. RFP responses are due March 1, 2021.