



ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER December 22, 2020

Congress Finally Passes FY 2021 Budget

On Monday, December 21, almost three months into the current fiscal year, Congress voted on a final package of legislation that included a COVID stimulus and appropriations for the remainder of FY 2021. The \$1.4 trillion omnibus appropriations bill has \$696 million for national defense. The legislation is expected to pass both the House and Senate and receive the President's signature in the coming days. Details of the spending bill are still forthcoming, but according to Bloomberg Government, the measure will provide a boost for major programs including 96 F-35 aircraft, 17 more than requested; an additional \$189 million for the first five CH-47F Block II Chinook aircraft; funding for 12 F-15X fighter aircraft; an additional 16 MQ-9 Reaper drones; and 10 new Navy ships, including two DDG-51, two attack submarines, and one frigate.

For EW-related programs, details have not been released, but AOC will provide an update in the coming days.

GAO Releases Report on EMSO Governance and Oversight

On December 10, the GAO released its long-awaited [report on Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations \(EMSO\) governance and oversight](#). The report responded to a provision by Congress in the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act to assess the Department of Defense (DOD) EMS Strategy. Of course, the drafting of a new EMS Superiority Strategy (EMSSS) was underway at the time through the efforts of the EMSO Cross Functional Team (EMSO CFT), which was ultimately released in October. So this new GAO report is both a comprehensive assessment of DOD efforts on EMS enterprise and a culmination of several more recent developments in 2020, including the new strategy and the EMSO Doctrine (JP 3-85).

The GAO provided five recommendations. The DOD concurred with the first two and partially concurred with the last three. They are as follows:

- Ensure that the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as Senior Designated Official of the CFT, identifies the procedures and processes necessary to provide for integrated defense-wide strategy, planning, and budgeting for joint electromagnetic spectrum operations, as required by the FY19 NDAA.

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- Ensure that the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Senior Designated Official of the CFT proposes EMS governance, management, organizational, and operational reforms to the Secretary.
- Assign clear responsibility to a senior official with authority and resources necessary to compel action for the long-term implementation of the 2020 strategy in time to oversee the execution of the 2020 strategy implementation plan.
- Ensure that the designated senior official for long-term strategy implementation issues an actionable implementation plan within 180 days following the 2020 strategy issuance.
- Ensure that the designated senior official for long-term strategy implementation creates oversight processes that would facilitate the department's implementation of the 2020 strategy.

[Read the AOC Advocacy Issue Brief on the report.](#)

NDAAs Headed toward Veto and Override

Both the House and the Senate recently passed the FY 2021 NDAA by overwhelming majorities. The House passed the NDAA on December 8 by a vote of 335-78, and the Senate, as expected, followed suit on December 11, by a vote of 84-13. The President has reiterated his intent to veto the bill but has not officially carried it out yet. He is opposed to the Conference Report because it does not include a repeal of Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, a provision that shields internet and social media companies from liability, and establishes a process to rename military bases named after Confederate generals from the Civil War. President Trump has until December 23 to veto the bill, or it automatically becomes law. If the President issues his veto, Congress will have until January 3, 2021, to override. Both chambers have indicated that they will return before the start of the new Congress to carry out an override vote, which requires 288 votes in the House and 66 votes in the Senate.

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That's a Wrap

With the expected passage and signing into law of the FY 2021 omnibus appropriations bill and pending developments on the NDAA veto, Congress has completed its legislative business for the 116th Congress. The 117th Congress will be sworn in on Monday, January 3, including the expected re-election of Rep. Nancy Pelosi as the Speaker of the House. There will likely be little legislative activity until the next presidential administration's start on January 20, barring unforeseen emergency measures.

The Democrats in the House of Representatives will have a significantly narrower majority than the previous Congress, currently as small as 222-213. The House requires 218 votes to pass legislation, so the Democrat party will have little margin for error and will likely need to rely on bipartisan legislation that draws in Republican members. Likewise, in the Senate, both Georgia's final two seats will be decided on Tuesday, January 4. If Republicans win one or both, they will retain a similarly narrow majority with 51 or 52 members. If the Democrats win both seats, the Senate will be tied at 50-50, and the Vice President will need to reside on any tie vote.

Business Opportunities

Joint All Domain Operations (JADO) MQ-1C Gray Eagle Payloads

On December 2, the Army released a Request for Information (RFI) on JADO MQ-1C Gray Eagle Payloads. According to the notice, the Product Manager (PdM) Aerial Enhanced Radar, Optics and Sensors (AEROS) is seeking information from industry to identify potential existing sources capable of providing Aerial Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (AISR) payloads for the MQ-1C Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) platform that meet the JADO environment. JADO Gray Eagle AISR payloads include Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), Moving Target Indicator (MTI), Electronic Intelligence (ELINT), Communications Intelligence (COMINT), Air Launched Effects (ALE), and Radar Warning Receiver (RWR).

JADO Concept of Operations (CONOPS) demands integrated AISR capabilities, increased ranges and resolutions to support target location and Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF) without the use of the traditional line of site visual equipment to include Electro Optical, Infrared (EO/IR) and Full Motion Video (FMV) required for today's Counter Insurgency (COIN) mission. This market survey precedes a potential Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Gray Eagle sensor payload JADO demonstration where systems will be quantitatively compared to identify the highest performer and best value based on Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and production unit cost.

The value of this solicitation is more than \$100 million. Pre-RFP response is due January 15, 2021.

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ALQ-131, ALQ-172, and ALQ-161 Electron Tubes

Last month, the Air Force Sustainment Center/Robins AFB, GA, released an RFP for ALQ-131, ALQ-172, and ALQ-161 Electron Tubes. This requirement is for a Firm-Fixed-Price, Indefinite Delivery contract with one (1) basic year and four-(1) year options for the ALQ-172 Repair of Electron Tubes/Traveling Wave Tubes. The Basic is for a total quantity of 60 electron/traveling wave tubes. The 4-(1) year Options are for a quantity of 58 each (Option Year I), 60 each (Option Year II), 60 each (Option Year III), and 60 each (Option Year IV). The electron/traveling tubes are used in the ALQ-172 Countermeasures System, which is the primary Radio Frequency Electronic Warfare system installed on the B-52H strategic bombers, MC-130H Combat Talon II transports and AC-130U gunships.

RFP responses are due Jan. 3, 2021. The estimated value of this contract is \$1.43 million.

For questions, comments, or additional information on any of the above topics, please contact Ken Miller, AOC Director of Advocacy and Outreach, at kmiller@crow.org.
