



ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020

Progress Halts on Defense Budget as Congress Enters August Recess

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic dominating its attention, Congress was able to make decent progress in recent weeks on the annual defense budget. As Congress enters August recess, the House and Senate passed their respective versions of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization (NDAA). **The House also passed H.R. 7617, the second FY 2021 Appropriations Minibus, which included the Defense Appropriations bill, on Friday, 7/31, by a party-line vote of 217-197.** The minibus also included appropriations bills for Commerce-Justice-State, Energy & Water, Financial Services, Labor-HHS-Education, and Transportation-HUD.

Table 1: Defense Appropriations During Election Years
(Presidential Election Years underlined)

Election Year	Fiscal Year	Type	Bill No.	Signed	Notes
2000	2001	Presidential	HR 4576	<u>8/9/2000</u>	Passed through regular order
2002	2003	Mid-term	5010	10/23/2002	CR until final passage
2004	2005	Presidential	HR 1268	<u>5/11/2005</u>	CR until Emergency Supplemental
2006	2007	Mid-term	HR 5631	9/29/2006	Passed through regular order
2008	2009	Presidential	HR 2346	<u>6/24/2009</u>	CR until Emergency Supplemental
2010	2011	Mid-term	HR 1363	4/9/2011	CR until final passage
2012	2013	Presidential	HR 933	<u>3/26/2013</u>	CR until Remaining Year Approps
2014	2015	Mid-term	HR 83	12/16/2014	CR until remaining year Omnibus
2016	2017	Presidential	HR 244	<u>5/5/2017</u>	CR until remaining year Omnibus
2018	2019	Mid-term	HR 6157	<u>9/28/2018</u>	Minibus

The Senate has not yet moved on any FY 2021 appropriations bills, let alone defense appropriations. In this light, there will be little to no further progress on appropriations until a lame duck session following the general election in November. **There are only 13 legislative days left in the fiscal year following August recess when both chambers are in session.** Thus, we can expect a Continuing Resolution when both chambers return in Sep-

tember prior to the end of the current fiscal year on September 30.

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Progress Halts on Defense Budget (cont)

Taking a look at defense spending progress during election years, the **Table 1** shows that only once in the past 20 years (CY 2000) has the defense appropriations bill during a presidential election year been signed into law before the start of the next presidential term, meaning an agreement was neither reached before the election nor during any post-election lame duck. Furthermore, only during 2000, 2002, 2006 and 2018 was Congress able to pass the defense spending bill BEFORE the November election. **Using history as a guide, it is quite possible that an agreement on FY 2021 defense spending might not come until spring 2021.**

Table 2: Defense Spending Progress Table

	Type	Subcmte	Cmte	Floor	Conference	Signed
HR 7617	Appropriations	7/8/20	7/14/20	7/31/20		
S ???	Appropriations					
HR 6395	Appropriations	6/23/20	7/1/20	7/21/20		
S 4049	Appropriations	6/9/20	6/23/20	7/23/20		

Table 3: HR 7617 (in billions)

Category	2021 Request	2021 House Total	FY 2020 Total
MILPER	\$150.52	\$149.36	\$142.45
O&M	\$196.63	\$196.70	\$199.42
Procurement	\$130.87	\$133.63	\$133.89
R&D	\$106.22	\$104.35	\$104.43
OCO	\$68.65	\$68.44	\$70.67
Subtotal Major DoD Accounts	\$652.89	\$652.48	\$650.86

Army Releases RFI for EW Maintenance Contractors

On July 20, the Army released an RFI for sustainment of MODI, a dismounted electronic countermeasures system designed by Sierra Nevada Corporation. The contract runs through the PEO IEW&S, PM for Electronic Warfare & Cyber, out of Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Pre-RFP response is due August 19, 2020.

AFRL Posts \$397 million Electronic Warfare Solicitation

On July 14, the Air Force Research Lab released an Advanced Research Announcement (ARA) on Multi-Spectral Defensive Electronic Warfare (MSDEW). According to the announcement, MSDEW will develop sensors and systems supplies to meet the need for improved joint lethality in contested environments, the ability to strike diverse targets inside adversary air and missile defense networks, and support a force which can deploy, survive, operate, maneuver, and regenerate in all domains while under attack. The initiative could provide up to \$397 million over 5 years (through July 2025). Pre-RFP is due August 14.

ICYMI: US and Australia to work more closely on EW

At a press conference on July 28, Australian Defense Minister Linda Reynolds told reporters that the US and Australia “agreed to further deepen our defense science technology and also our industrial cooperation. This includes hypersonics, electronic warfare, and space-based capabilities. This will ensure the alliance maintains its capability edge in a rapidly modernizing environment. Further reducing barriers to industrial base integration will also strengthen our interoperability and also our shared resilience.”

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