



ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

January 25, 2021

AOC Advocacy Newsletter Returns

Welcome to 2021 and the first AOC Advocacy Newsletter of the new year. The newsletter will be released twice a month or as frequently as events warrant. Our goal is to provide coverage of and unique perspective on significant developments in Congress and DoD that directly impact our growing electromagnetic spectrum operations (EMSO) community. This goal includes the defense budget, congressional hearings, military service initiatives, and important contract opportunities. In addition to living on the [AOC Advocacy webpage](#), and distribution to AOC membership, the Advocacy Newsletter will be delivered to stakeholders throughout government, industry, and Congress.

Additionally, AOC Advocacy will release regular issue briefs, event summaries, and articles. If you would like to be on the mailing list for advanced copies of releases, please contact Ken Miller, AOC Director of Advocacy and Outreach, at kmiller@crow.org.

The Way Ahead: What to Look Forward to in the Coming Months

With the 117th Congress and a new Administration officially underway, it's time for an early look at what to expect in the coming months. Unlike other sectors more driven by political division, defense budget and policy will likely continue to move forward in a bipartisan manner with only incremental change. Still, there are three areas to keep an eye on in early 2021.

1. Pressure on the Defense Budget

Former President Trump recently signed the \$2.3 trillion FY 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which contained \$696.4 billion for defense, on December 27. After ten years of uncertainty brought about by the Budget Control Act (BCA), FY 2022 marks the first year with no statutory budget caps. In recent years, Congress has passed three separate bipartisan agreements to lift caps to increase defense spending. Over the past four years, the defense budget has increased roughly 14 percent - but only about 1 percent in FY 2021 from FY 2020. These increases brought defense spending to near pre-BCA levels and halted a 10-year slide of defense spending as a percentage of GDP.

Year	Defense Budget	%GDP
2011	711.3	4.58%
2017	598.9	3.11%
2018	655.1	3.16%
2019	676.1	3.4%
2020	693.8	3.2%
2021	696.4	TBD

Table 1. Defense Budget Trend

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The BCA has come to an end, but defense spending will still likely see a relatively significant decrease in years to come. The fiscal pressures brought about by the COVID pandemic, and other Biden Administration priorities are sure to challenge the largest pot of discretionary spending that Congress and the Administration can affect. Furthermore, members of the new Biden Administration emphasize the shift in their national security vision away from a Defense Department focus and more toward other agencies to lead on diplomacy, homeland security, climate change, and COVID response. The impact this new vision will have on the defense budget and EMSO-related programs and priorities, specifically, remains unknown. Still, it is a clear foundation for cuts to the overall defense budget.

Fiscal Year	Date Submitted	President
FY 2022	??	Biden
FY 2021	February 11	Trump
FY 2020	March 11	Trump
FY 2019	February 12	Trump
FY 2018	May 22	Trump
FY 2017	February 9	Obama
FY 2016	February 2	Obama
FY 2015	March 4	Obama
FY 2015	April 10	Obama

Table 2. President's Budget Submission

The next action will be for President Biden to submit his budget request for FY 2022. Current law requires the President to submit the budget request in the first week of February (technically February 1). However, that target is rarely, if ever, achieved. With COVID still occupying lawmakers' attention and a tumultuous election season, the formal budget request may not arrive until at least April. For comparison, President Trump submitted his first budget on May 22, 2017. Before him, President Obama submitted his first budget following the Bush Administration on May 7, 2009.

2. Changes in Congress

For the first time since 2010, the Democrat party controls the administration and both chambers of Congress (albeit the Senate is 50-50 with Vice President Harris providing any tie-breaking votes). In the House, the Democrat majority shrunk significantly given President Trump's loss and now stands at 221 to 211 with three vacant seats. This shift will have minimal impact on committee assignments for incumbent Members. Still, the House Armed Services Committee will have a new Ranking Member in Rep. Mike Rogers (AL-03) to serve alongside returning Chairman Adam Smith (WA-09), following Rep. Mac Thornberry's retirement. Subcommittee assignments and other committee reorganization have yet to be announced. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense will have a new Chair (TBD) to serve alongside the new full committee chair, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-03). The coveted seat may go to the most senior Democrat on the panel, Rep. Bette McCullom (MN-04). The Republicans have appointed Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-42) to be the Subcommittee's Ranking Member. In the Senate, which only changed over to Democrat control on January 20, committee leadership will be determined by a new power-sharing agreement under negotiation. The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) will likely see Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) switch roles as

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Chairman and Ranking Member, respectively. This will set the tone on defense policy and budgets. Additional changes to the SASC and Professional Committee Staff remain to be seen.

It is also worth noting that all four Co-chairs of the congressional Electronic Warfare Working Group - Reps. Rick Larsen (WA-02), Don Bacon (NE-02), James Langevin (RI-02), and Austin Scott (GA-08) are turning for another term. The group is expected to continue its efforts to educate Congress and raise awareness about the importance of electromagnetic spectrum operations (EMSO). Stay tuned as their plans for the year come into focus.

3. DOD EMS Superiority Strategy and Implementation of Sec. 152 of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

Following the veto override for the FY 2021 NDAA on January 1, the bill is now officially law, including an important provision to the AOC, Section 152, that orders the transfer of responsibilities and functions relating to Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO) from US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) to an appropriate entity within DoD. The provision provides the DOD two years to make the decision and transition.

Relatedly, the DOD EMS Superiority Strategy Implementation Plan and Roadmap will be due in the early-April timeframe. The Strategy identifies five goals, each of which will draw some measure of congressional attention,

especially as it deliberates on the FY 2022 defense budget. Over the past several years, Congress has exercised its authority to intervene legislatively to help close persistent EMSO gaps. Most of these efforts have focused on governance. As DOD begins to carry out these initiatives in the coming months, Congress will likely provide close oversight, but also begin to shift attention to other gaps, including EMS workforce, training, and investment in advanced capabilities to counter emerging threats.

EMS Superiority Strategy Goals

1. Develop Superior Capabilities
2. Evolve to an Agile, Fully Integrated EMS Infrastructure
3. Pursue Total Force EMS Readiness
4. Secure Enduring Partnerships for EMS Advantage
5. Establish Effective EMS Governance

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ICYMI: AOC Discussion | EMSO Leadership

This month, AOC launched a new virtual series featuring the most senior military leaders in the US and NATO. AOC Discussions gives attendees access to thought-leaders and change-makers within electromagnetic spectrum operations across military, government, and industry. These in-depth talks provide insight into how US and coalition forces address the EMS challenges across air, land, sea, space, and cyber. On January 6, General John Hyten, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Senior Designated Official (SDO) for EMSO, opened the series to share his thoughts on the DOD EMS Superiority Strategy, among other topics. General David Thompson, Vice Chief of Staff of US Space Force, followed on January 13. [Read AOC Advocacy's post-event reports.](#)

Up Next:

January 27 - General Charles Q. Brown, Chief of Staff, US Air Force

February 3 - Air Chief Marshall Sir Stuart Peach, Chairman, NATO Military Committee

February 10 - The Honorable Dr. Bruce Jette, Former Assistant Secretary of the Army
(ASA(ALT))

February 24 - Vice Admiral Jeffery Trussler, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (N2/N6)

For more information and to register, visit crows.org/discussions.

USAF Awards 36 Slots for JADC2 Contract

According to Bloomberg Government, on January 13, the US Air Force awarded \$950 million to 36 companies for its Joint All Domain Command and Control (JADC2) initiative, also known as the Advanced Battle Management System (ABMS). This follows 70 other contracts awarded in 2020. The FY 2021 defense budget includes a \$3.3 billion request for JADC2 research and development through FY 2025. For more information on the JADC2 initiative, you can [read a recent Congressional Research Service report.](#)

Business Opportunities

Army CCDC C5ISR Center releases Air Launch Effects (ALE) Request For Information (RFI)

Back in August 2020, the Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (CCDC) C5ISR Center released a Request for Information (RFI) for its ALE program, a family of small and large unmanned air launched systems that operates as a team to detect, identify, locate, report (DILR) and deliver lethal and nonlethal effects against threats across multiple scenarios and domains in a complex operating environment. Pre-RFP response deadline has been moved to January 31, 2021.

Army Contracting Command (ACC) releases C5ISR Forecast

On January 20, ACC released a forecast for contracting opportunities in the C5ISR market. Among the six (6) opportunities totaling approximately \$550 million is a notice for Directional and Discreet Electronic Warfare for a value of to \$25 million. Specifically, this opportunity effort is to provide Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E) support for Integrated Offensive Electronic Warfare (IOEW) programs focusing on the maturation of Cyber and EW techniques, and supporting technologies to defeat: active and passive air/ground ISR systems; terrestrial and beyond-line-of-sight communication systems; Radar enabled kinetic weapon systems; and supporting processing systems. [Find the complete ACC summary of the forecast.](#)

PMA-260 Common Aviation Support Equipment Virtual Industry Day 2021

On January 12, PMA - 260, the NAVAIR Common Aviation Support Equipment Program Office announced a virtual industry day to provide opportunities for industry officials to learn about the technology requirements of PMA-260 with the potential for follow-up one-on-one meetings regarding the technologies that the industry has developed that address current or future challenges. The focus areas for industry day include (1) maximizing component efficiency; (2) feasibility of Additive Manufacturing devices; and (3) development of common and open architectures/frameworks for O-level test equipment. Bloomberg Government estimates the value of this opportunity to be between \$10 million - \$100 million. Pre-RFP responses are due February 13.

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.
