**Weekly Report**  
National Security Division  
*Week ending 9 Aug 2019*

National Security Strategy:

1. Protect the homeland, the American people, and the American way of life  
2. Promote American prosperity  
3. Preserve peace through strength  
4. Advance American influence

Click here to read more.

National Defense Strategy:

1. Rebuilding military readiness as we build a more lethal Joint Force  
2. Strengthening alliances as we attract new partners  
3. Reforming the Department’s business practices for greater performance and affordability

Click here to read more.

**The Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2019 and National Defense**  
(National Defense Strategy, Line of Effort: Rebuilding military readiness as we build a more lethal force)

On August 2, President Trump signed H.R. 3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (BBA 2019), into law. The bill raises the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) budget caps for both defense and nondefense for FY 2020 and FY 2021, the final two years of the discretionary caps. The bill also suspends the debt ceiling through July 31, 2021 and extends cuts on certain mandatory programs from FY 2027 to FY 2029.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
<th>FY 2020</th>
<th>FY 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior BCA Budget Cap for National Defense (050) Base Budget</td>
<td>$647B*</td>
<td>$576.2B</td>
<td>$590.2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Cap Increase in BBA 2019</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+$90.3B</td>
<td>+$81.3B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newly Revised Budget Caps for National Defense (050) Base Budget</td>
<td>$647B</td>
<td>$666.5B</td>
<td>$671.5B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) / Emergency Funding**</td>
<td>$69B</td>
<td>$71.5B</td>
<td>$69B</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL National Defense (050)</td>
<td>$716B</td>
<td>$738B</td>
<td>$740.5B</td>
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* The budget cap for FY 2019 was raised from the original cap of $562.1 billion to $647.0 billion by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.  
** OCO and emergency supplemental funding does not count toward the budget caps.
The BBA 2019 is a two-year agreement that raises the budget caps for both defense and nondefense in FY 2020 and FY 2021. The deal increases the defense cap for FY 2020 by approximately $90 billion above the previous cap of $576 billion and raises the FY 2021 budget cap of $590 billion by approximately $81 billion.

Total national defense funding of $738 billion for FY 2020 under BBA 2019 represents real growth of 1 percent above FY 2019 appropriated levels. It is 1.6 percent less than the $750 billion requested by the Trump administration for FY 2020. However, $7.2 billion in the requested amount was designated as emergency funds for border wall construction.

The $738 billion topline thus falls between the $743 billion for regular defense activities (including $2 billion in emergency funds for hurricane relief and recovery) in the FY 2020 request and the previously projected topline of $733 billion for FY 2020 included in the administration’s FY 2019 budget request.

The timing of the BBA 2019 deal also means that Congress can, in theory, pass defense appropriations before the start of the fiscal year on October 1.

This would be the first time since FY 2004-2005 that defense would have appropriations enacted before the beginning of the fiscal year for two years in a row. And because this is a two-year budget deal, it means Congress may also be able to pass appropriations on time for FY 2021, which would be the first time in at least 50 years for defense to have on-time appropriations three years in a row.

**Key take away:**

Under current law, there are no caps on defense and nondefense discretionary spending for FY 2022 and beyond. While this means there is no longer a statutory ceiling on spending, the BCA budget caps did not act as a ceiling in practice.

After FY 2021, there will be no ceiling on the defense budget and no floor. The structure and timing of negotiations that the BCA created since 2011 will no longer exist, and Congress will be left to return to regular order in the budget process.

[Click here to read more](#)

**CENTCOM postures for defense while strengthening partner capacity**

(National Security Strategy, Line Of Effort: Preserve peace through strength)

May brought a shifting of focus in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, as the command requested additional forces due to clear indications that Iranian and Iranian proxy forces were making preparations to possibly attack U.S. forces across the region – on land and at sea. The additional forces and capabilities were a prudent defensive measure and intended to reduce the possibility of future hostilities.

These forces: the Bomber Task Force of B-52Hs, a Patriot battery battalion, and the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group, were successful in deterring the immediate threats posed to U.S. forces.
U.S. Air Forces Central Command published its May Airpower Summary.

“Increasing our air presence in the Arabian Gulf, and our ability to detect and attribute Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps malign actions is critical to maintaining deterrence,” said Lt. Gen. Joseph T. Guastella, U.S. AFCENT commander. “We are prepared to defend our forces, integrate allies and partners, and protect our interests.”
Operation Freedom’s Sentinel in Afghanistan

The month of May began a historic change in the tactics of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces designed to support the Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace talks held in April 2019. The ANDSF began moving from being a defensive force holding checkpoints to an offensive force, strategically focused on taking the fight to the Taliban.

Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria

Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) continued to put pressure on Daesh in May, to prevent a resurgence following the defeat of the physical caliphate.

AFRICOM Commander visits Somalia as pressure on al-Shabab increases


Army Gen. Stephen Townsend, the new commander of U.S. Africa Command, visited Somalia on Wednesday and pledged to continue pressuring violent extremists such as al-Shabab.

AFRICOM said Townsend’s trip allowed him to assess the situation in Somalia, and reinforce AFRICOM’s commitments to the region’s security. “I am committed to working together and advancing our partnership with Somalia,” Townsend said in the release. “Along with Somalia and other international partners, we will apply continued pressure on violent extremist organizations. This pressure creates conditions and opportunity for further political and economic development.”
“We’re in the business of protecting our country from these threats,” Townsend said. “Degrading the capability of terrorists who operate here makes the entire region safer and prevents its export to other places. This is important work for our country, the Somalis and our allies.”

In a sign of how American involvement in Somalia is increasing, AFRICOM carried out as many airstrikes in the nation in the first seven months of 2019 as it did for the entirety of 2018. According to statistics from AFRICOM last month, the U.S. military carried out its 47th airstrike in Somalia on July 27 to target suspected Islamic State militants in the Golis Mountain region, which is a reputed terrorist hotbed.

AFRICOM said Wednesday that the U.S. is coordinating its diplomacy and development efforts with military activity. “They agreed on the value of security operations to liberate areas from al-Shabab and preparing Somali forces to take over from the African Union Mission to Somalia,” State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said in the release.

The Prime Minister added the partnership with the U.S. is key to reform and sustaining progress, according to the AFRICOM website.

“Through our strategic partnership and support with the U.S. government, Somalia has made tangible progress in security, reconciliation, and debt relief,” said Khaire, adding the two nations will continue to partner meaningfully in pursuit of their bilateral interests.

“The United States of America offers the best security partnership and training in the world,” Townsend said. “We invest in our partners, dedicating the time, energy and commitment to make sure they are ready for any challenge.”

Click to read more here.

**Important Date: 7 August.**

"In valor there is hope." - Publius Cornelius Tacitus (56 - 117), Senator and Historian of the Roman Empire

Purple Heart Day. A time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Recognition Day and Purple Heart Appreciation Day.

Click link to watch video.

**POW/MIA Update**

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made 4 new announcements. Click on the links to read more:

News Releases
*August 7, 2019*

**USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Savage, L.)**
**Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Mangan, D.)**
**Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Brockett, N.)**
**Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Galvan, W.)**
Staff Activities

- This week staff continued to develop briefing and sponsor pages for National Security Commission programs. These sheets will be used by the Marketing Division to seek corporate donors to fund The American Legion’s National Security programs that promote community service.

- Tuesday, staff (Gold Star Family Coordinator) participated in a one-day Caring For Military Surviving Families Forum. This event solicited ideas and practices which strengthen advocacy; while providing a united voice of caring and survival.

- Wednesday, National Security Division staff and Executive Director met with SFC Randall Pike, USA HQDA Outreach NCOIC and Richard Odom Army Outreach to continue dialogue in supporting National Commander Theater Engagements in the EUCOM and INDO-PACIFIC Area Of Responsibility. The Executive Director also thanked them for all their support for the American Legion National and Past National Commander(s) visit to the Pentagon last week.

Rhonda Powell, Director
National Security Division