National Security Division Report

Week ending May 28, 2021

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and General Mark Milley Testimony on President's 2022 Budget Request

Austin, Milley: President's FY22 Budget Request Sufficient for Defense Mission

https://appropriations.house.gov/events/hearings/fiscal-year-2022-department-of-defense-budget

The president's budget request for fiscal year 2022 is expected to contain $715 billion in funding for the Defense Department. DOD leaders have said they believe this is ample to accomplish things the department wants to do in the coming year.

While the full presidential budget request has not yet been made public, lawmakers were aware of the total dollar amount for the Defense Department.
"This budget provides us the ability to create the right mix of capabilities to defend this nation and to deter any aggressors," Austin said during testimony today before the House Appropriations Committee, subcommittee on defense.
“The FY22 budget request is appropriate to meet the Defense Department's needs,” said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley, "It strikes an appropriate balance between preserving present readiness and future modernization."

Resolution No.35: National Defense Budget

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to support budget increase in military spending to reverse the effects of sequestration; and, be it finally RESOLVED, That Congress never allows our military forces to reach a weakened state in these uncertain and perilous times.

Bipartisan Bill Calls for $25B in Infrastructure Funds for Shipyards

A group of bipartisan lawmakers have drafted legislation aimed at recapitalizing America's public and private shipyards, as Congress and the Biden administration grapple with a nationwide infrastructure improvement plan.

The Supplying Help to Infrastructure in Ports, Yards, and America's Repair Docks (SHIPYARD) Act, unveiled Wednesday, would use the Defense Production Act to give the Navy the $21 billion it's seeking to recapitalize its four public yards. The service would have 20 years to use the funds, a Senate aide told USNI News. This would provide the Navy more leeway than if it received the funding in annual appropriations bills.

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) is leading the legislative effort. The bill is written to fulfill the Navy's Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan (SIOP) initiative that calls for $21 billion over the course of 20 years to upgrade the four public yards.

"The SHIPYARD Act will leverage DPA funding authority to expedite and expand the U.S. industrial base needed to promote national defense. DPA Title III authorities are available to support protection or restoration of critical infrastructure, among other purposes," a Congressional summary of the legislation reads. "The bill allows a 20-year period to obligate funds to align with SIOP, but all funds will be available upon enactment to give the Navy flexibility and the ability to accelerate improvements."

The legislation, if passed, would also allot $2 billion for the private construction yards and another $2 billion for the private repair yards. The bill would give the Navy secretary discretion over how those funds were dispersed.

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Resolution No. 29: Commercial Shipbuilding for Defense

The American Legion urge Congress to stop further erosion of our vital maritime capability; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the President and Congress to boost naval budgets, promote commercial shipbuilding, expand the use of U.S. flagged ships in world commerce, and resist foreign actions that would further damage America's defense industrial base.

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DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

May 24, 2021:

- Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Evans, W.)

Legislative Issues

- Support for Afghan Interpreters through the Special Immigrant Visa Program – The American Legion advocate for support for Afghan Interpreters who stood shoulder to shoulder with U.S. Forces and Diplomats contributing to saving countless American lives. The American Legion urges the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to recognize the contributions of Afghan SIV recipients. (Resolution No. 16, 2018) Recognition for Afghan and Iraq Combat Translators.
- Availability of Healthcare benefits for residents at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in proposed language of the FY22NDAA – The American Legions support funding that provides long-term solvency and viability of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (Resolution No. 107, 2016)
- Quality of Life for Service members and their Families – We owe our military men and women a debt of gratitude we can never repay for all that they — and their families — sacrifice to serve our country. Ensure the Coast Guard is paid – The American Legion supports a fully funded United States Coast Guard (Resolution No. 23, 2016)
- Expedited Citizenship through Honorable Military Service – The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed before discharge (Resolution No. 15, 2018)
- Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure – The American Legion supports refined processes and policies that will enhance interagency cybersecurity, promulgate best practices and standards, and protect critical infrastructure from cyber and other electronic attacks. (Resolution No. 20, 2017)
- Addressing the Forever Wars – The American Legion advocate for elevating diplomacy to build a better, safer world (Resolution No. 22, 2020)

Staff Activity:

- Staff attended a virtual hearing by the House Appropriations Committee on Defense with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Chairman of the Joint, Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley who provided testimony on the Fiscal Year 2022 Department of Defense Budget. Within the FY22 Defense budget, top priorities noted were capabilities to ensure future readiness and modernization of the force. Though the president's budged has not been released, the

expected $715 billion funding for The Department of Defense is believed to be sufficient to accomplish the defense mission.

- Staff attended a virtual meeting with USGLC to discuss the International Affairs budget for the breakdown of all Federal budget spending. International affairs currently make up 1% of the budget with Social Security at 19.7%, Medicare 14.4%, and defense at 12.7% for the larger portions. “No budget cycle is the same.” Other points of interest during the discussion were of USAID and their current mission to promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad, and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world; all coming at the forefront of Americas foreign policy and international development. Other points of interest include agriculture, food security, trade, innovation, and technology.
- Staff attended a virtual meeting with The Military Housing round table to discuss the current food security issues with service members and housing. The Military Housing has delivered over one million meals to service members since the start of the pandemic, and they continue to do so. Another area of concern was childcare challenges during the pandemic. With America reopening, childcare will be another source of tension getting the ball rolling once more. Many daycare centers on military installations have opened their doors to alleviate this problem.

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