



“The nation that forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten.”

~ Calvin Coolidge (1862-1933) ~

WASHINGTON REPORT

Congress Passes 2011 Budget

Congress approved Thursday a spending bill to keep the government running for the remainder of fiscal year 2011. The vote was bipartisan in both Chambers with the House voting 260 to 167 and the Senate 81 to 19. Passage of the bill, HR 1473, the Department of Defense Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, reflected bipartisan support based on the agreement reached last weekend through negotiations between Senate, House and Presidential leadership.

For defense spending the final agreement increases Pentagon spending to \$513 billion, up from the base bill of \$508 in fiscal year 2010. While the total amount is less than the level NAUS supported, it allows for 1.43 million active-duty and 846,200 reserve troops, allocate an additional \$158 billion toward overseas operations, and fully fund the 1.4 percent across-the-board pay increase.

The bill, though titled the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, actually provides resources for the remainder of fiscal year 2011, which ends September 30, to all departments and agencies of the federal government.

House Works to Complete Fiscal Year 2012 Budget, Congress Leaves Town

With passage of the continuing resolution, HR 1473, the Senate completed work, adjourned and began a two week Easter break. The House is voting today on passage of the fiscal year 2012 federal budget, which NAUS is told proposes a \$553 billion Pentagon budget, the same amount recommended by the President in his February budget request. Following the vote, the House will also begin its Easter break. Both chambers return May 2.

President Re-Engages in Budget Efforts

This week President Obama became an active player in the ongoing debate and negotiations in reducing overall spending by introducing his plan to reduce government spending by \$4 trillion over the next 12 years. To achieve the reductions, the President proposed to trim domestic spending, increase taxes, and cut defense spending.

Though the President’s speech did not cite specific cuts in the defense budget,

Wednesday speech set the level of reductions at \$400 billion in defense reductions over the 12-year period.

In comments about the deep cuts, Defense Secretary Robert Gates warns that the U.S. military will have to scale back its overseas commitments and shrink to meet President Barack Obama's proposed \$400 billion defense cuts. To achieve this level of reduction the Defense Secretary said, officials must identify military missions the country is willing to go without.

First Lady and Dr. Biden Launch Effort to Support Service Members' Families

NAUS Director of Chapter Management Jack Chmielewski attended a White House briefing Tuesday called to announce the launch of a national effort to increase public support for service members and their families.

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, are spearheading the new campaign that will focus on four areas: employment, education, wellness and public awareness. Both women are advocates for military families.

Mrs. Obama said that with 1 percent of the population serving in the military, the rest of the country can help our troops and families affected by lengthy and repeated deployments. "Working together, we're going to make sure our military families are never forgotten," Michelle Obama said.

The group also will launch a public awareness campaign to educate Americans about military families and their needs. A new [Joining Forces Website](#), will provide volunteering opportunities to serve military families.

NAUS applauds the First Lady and Dr. Biden for launching a national effort to increase the awareness of the difficulties that our brave warriors and their families face due to the long separations that deployments bring.

HEALTH CARE NEWS

TRICARE Young Adult Program Update

The TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) program has not been implemented yet but is expected to be soon. We learned a bit more about the program through our conversations with TRICARE Management Activity and a Webinar they conducted on the planned benefit this past Monday, April 11. Here are a few of the items we picked up:

To qualify for TYA, dependents must be under 26, unmarried and not eligible for their own employer-sponsor health plan or coverage under the Continued Health Benefit Care Program (CHCBP).

The military sponsor must be eligible for, and purchase TRICARE coverage for themselves in order for their dependent to purchase TYA coverage. Reserve component members eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select or Tricare Retired Reserve would have to participate in those programs before their child could apply for TYA.

A dependent can only receive the same type of coverage that the military sponsor is receiving (e.g. TRICARE Standard). Additionally, if the military member drops their coverage or is disenrolled for nonpayment, the dependents coverage will be terminated as well.

TYA coverage can be purchased retroactively to Jan. 1, 2011. The enrollee will be required to pay back premiums plus the first three months of regular coverage. This may not be fiscally possible for some, and unless significant medical expenses were incurred during the retroactive period, this option offers no financial advantage to the vast majority of applicants.

TYA enrollment will be allowed year-round and those who sign up for TRICARE Standard initially can switch to TRICARE Prime in the fall if they are eligible (military sponsor must also be eligible for and in TRICARE Prime).

There will be no retroactive coverage with TRICARE Prime when it becomes available in the fall; the retroactive provision expires 30 September.

Once TYA is implemented, dependents can apply for the program through three regional contractor Websites. Applications will be filled out on the site, printed out and signed by the dependent, not the military member. By law, the dependent must certify they are not married or eligible for other healthcare coverage.

If the dependent is not listed in DEERS, the military sponsor must add them before starting the application process!

Completed applications will be mailed to the regional contractor and must include the first 3 months of premiums. Automated monthly payments will be required thereafter through a bank account, debit card, etc.

The young adult will receive a welcome letter/enrollment card and coverage begins 1st day of the month following the contractor's receipt of the application and payment. At that time the military sponsor may visit a military ID card-issuing facility with their dependent to get a military identification card. The ID card can only be used to access care at military treatment facilities (no BX, commissary, etc.).

And last but not least, TYA can be ended at any time but it should be done in writing with the reason for the requested termination clearly stated. This may be important later on. A one year "lockout" from the program will apply for nonpayment or termination unless the reason for the withdrawal is the dependent obtained employer-sponsor

coverage.

The April 11 Webinar has been posted online for anyone wishing to view it. The presentation lasts about an hour and twenty minutes and it can be viewed [here](#).

Allergy Tests Covered for TRICARE Beneficiaries

TRICARE beneficiaries are eligible to receive care for the testing and treatment of conditions relating to allergies. This includes prescription medication approved by the FDA and allergy treatments administered by allergists. However, beneficiaries are responsible for the cost of most over-the-counter medications. For more information on TRICARE allergy services, click [here](#).

ACTIVE DUTY NEWS

Military May See Two Deposits for April 15 Pay

Because of all the uncertainty last week on whether or not the Government might shut down, DFAS took positive actions and now Active Duty and Reserve Service members should have seen one deposit for pay for April 1-8. Don't be alarmed. The second payment for April 9-15 should be complete and you should have a second deposit today. If you need more information go to the DFAS [website](#).

111 Years of Navy Submarine Service

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Submarine birthday message to the Fleet April 11:

"For 111 years, our Submarine Force has been protecting America's interests around the world, underway at sea on ships that sink by design, operating independent for weeks and months in the depths over the vast expanse of hydrospace. U.S. submarines are tasked with a range of missions including the collection of vital intelligence, operating as part of carrier strike groups, and defending our nations interests forward deployed.

At the heart of these operations, onboard every submarine is a finely tuned crew of expert submariners and operators. It takes significant dedication and teamwork to maintain these ships, keep them at sea operating and accomplishing the Navy's mission. Those deployments and missions would not be successful without this team of Undersea Warriors we call submariners.

Let's not forget the submarine team ashore who work tirelessly to keep our submarines ready for tasking and on point. The submarine headquarters staffs ashore (Force, Group and Squadron), the nation's two submarine tenders, service support commands, and training commands, these organizations do the hard work it takes to prepare and deploy these ships into harm's way. They ensure we provide the support our combatant commanders require and continue to prove that our great Navy is a Global Force for

Good.

Thank you, submariners, for what you do every day and for your continued service and dedication to our nation and our Navy.

Happy Birthday Shipmates! Going Deep ... Dolphin 36 ... HOOYAH!

NAUS salutes the Nation's submariners past and present. Takes something special to serve on a ship that is designed to sink! BZ to all Bubbleheads!!! (Navy term describing submariners.)

Marines Launch E-Newsletter

The Marine Corps Connection (MCC) is a new weekly e-newsletter to assist readers to keep current on the latest headlines and events involving the entire Marine Corps family. You can sign up to receive it at [this website](#).

Base Realignment Impacts Transfers

There are expected to be many more than normal military moves this year, due to Base Realignment. Moving season is about to kick into high gear and officials are asking service members to book their moving dates early as possible and remain flexible when doing so.

When you are notified of a move, the first stop should be your local personal property shipment office, and then the [Move.Mil website](#). [Military OneSource](#) also offers families a many online moving resources, including "Plan My Move." Service members should also watch the video posted on the [Military Move](#) website, which explains in detail how to navigate the online claim system.

Seaman-to-Admiral Application Deadline

The Seaman-to-Admiral (STA-21) commissioning program, which provides an opportunity for qualified enlisted sailors to receive college educations and Navy commissions, is looking for applications for fiscal year 2012. The deadline for submitting application packages is July 1. For more information, contact your command career counselor or the NSTC Officer Development directorate at [\(850\) 452-9563](tel:850-452-9563). For more information about the STA-21 program, visit the [STA-21 website](#).

Blue Angels in Ft. Worth, Texas This Weekend

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels are scheduled to headline the 2011 Air Power Expo aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, this weekend April 16-17.

The Blue Angels will be performing at the air station's air show as part of their 2011 demonstration schedule. The NAS Fort Worth performance will include a flight demonstration that exhibits the choreographed refinements of skills possessed by all naval aviators. For more information on the Blue Angels, including their 2011 Show

Schedule, visit the [Blue Angels website](#).

Spring Edition of Coast Guard Magazine

The Spring Edition of Coast Guard Magazine is available online and you can download [here](#).

This issue features "[A Week in the Coast Guard](#)," providing a snapshot of the many roles, missions and significant events the Coast Guard performed during the week of Feb. 7-13, 2011.

VETERANS NEWS

Free App for Disabled Veterans

A new app for Android phone users provides helpful information for disabled military veterans, their families and their caregivers. The [ADA Guide -- Disabled Veterans app](#) for Android contains the Americans with Disabilities Act Guide: "ADA: Know Your Rights -- Returning Servicemembers with Disabilities." The publication explains the rights under the act and provides information on where veterans can get assistance. The app is free and available for download in the [Amazon Appstore](#).

Afterburner Available

The March 2011 edition of the *e-Afterburner* has been posted on the Air Force retiree website [here](#). This edition is available in both .doc and .pdf formats for downloading and printing.

Japanese American Veterans Honored

Thirteen thousand Japanese-American (Nisei) veterans of WWII will soon receive the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian award. It will be presented to three units: the 100th Inf. Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service. The ceremony will take place in Washington, D.C. However, because many of the aging veterans will not be able to attend, a Hawaiian-based celebration will be held Dec. 17 with a parade in Waikiki followed by a banquet at the Honolulu Convention Center.

New Benefit for Paralympic Veterans

Some veterans in training for the Paralympics may now be able to qualify for a monthly subsistence allowance from the VA under a new program to make it easier for disabled veterans take part in competitive sports. Not all disabled veterans will qualify for the subsistence allowance. The allowance will be pegged to the VA's subsistence allowance for participants in a full-time institutional program. Those rates start at \$554 per month for veterans without dependents. The current rate table is available on the VA's [Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service webpage](#). Applications for the allowance must be submitted through the U.S. Paralympics.

NAUS NEWS

CAPT Roger Parsons

NAUS board member CAPT Roger Parsons, NOAA (Ret), passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Annette, and the Parsons family.

Roger was an exceptional individual, a friend and a leader in the Uniformed Services community. He will be missed by all of us privileged to have known and worked with him.

NAUS on the Road

Members of the NAUS staff will be speaking at a pair of events **tomorrow, April 16**.

Patrick AFB

NAUS President Matz will be the keynote speaker at the Patrick AFB, FL, Military Retiree Day. A breakfast will be served at the base dining facility from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. and the speakers will kick off at 9:15 a.m. at the Patrick base theater.

Dover AFB

Senior Legislative Assistant Morgan Brown will be presenting a Legislative Update at the Dover AFB, DE, Retiree Appreciation Day. The program runs from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will be held at the Landings Club on base.

Come by and meet your NAUS representatives and bring a friend to join.

Matz's Farewell Dinner

As much as we would like him to stay, our intrepid leader, NAUS President MG Bill Matz is retiring very soon. Although all the details have not been finalized, we are letting you know what we know for now and when other details are available we will pass them along.

There will be a "Farewell Dinner" for MG Matz and his wife Linda at the Ft. Belvoir, VA, Officers Club from 6 pm until 9 pm on Saturday, June 18th. Everyone attending will pay their own way to town, room and meal costs. There will be a cash-bar only. Make your reservations early; attendance is limited.

NAUS Scholarships - Only Two Weeks Left to Apply

The application for the annual NAUS Scholarship Program remains open. Application and supporting information (available on the [NAUS Scholarship Page](#)) must be submitted to NAUS by April 30, 2011.

We will be awarding four \$2,000 undergraduate scholarships for the 2011-2012 School Year!

Here are the requirements for eligibility:

- Applicant must be a member of NAUS in good standing, or the spouse, child or

- grandchild of a NAUS member in good standing.
- Applicant must also be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment in, an undergraduate degree- or certificate-granting program from an accredited institution of higher learning on a full- or part-time basis. (If part-time, applicant's course load must be at least 12 semester hours or 24 quarter hours annually.)
 - If in high school, applicant must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) during the most recent two semesters, or if applicant is enrolled in college, must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale).

Not a NAUS Member Yet? [Join online.](#)

[Back to top](#)

Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen stand in harm's way around the globe to defend our nation and our cherished liberties. NAUS asks you to please pray for their continued strength and protection—and pray as well for their families, who daily stand in support of their spouses, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters.

GODBLESSAMERICA

[1-800-842-3451](tel:1-800-842-3451)

[Feedback](#)