



1 February 2018

January Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period January 1-31, 2018

1. Washington DC Insight.

Summary of FY18 National Defense Authorization Act

The FY18 NDAA is an extensive bill covering policy from authorizing military departments personnel end strength to acquisition reform. Several provisions worth noting for their relevance to Florida include:

- Authorizing construction of one polar-class heavy icebreaker vessel
- Reforming Department of Defense’s Siting Clearinghouse
- Authorization of the Sentinel Landscapes Program
- Requiring a report on contamination in drinking water
- Requiring a report to Congress on investments in military training ranges

The President’s budget request included over \$238 million for MILCON in Florida, an increase of over \$90 million from the FY17 budget request for Florida.

FY 2018 President’s Budget Request for MILCON in Florida **\$(K)**

ARMY	Eglin AFB	Multipurpose Range Complex	18,000
NAVY	Mayport	Missile Magazines	9,824
NAVY	Mayport	Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant	74,994
AF	Eglin AFB	F-35A Armament Research Facility	8,700
AF	Eglin AFB	Long-Range Stand-Off Acquisition	38,000
AF	Macdill AFB	KC-135 Beddown OG/MXG HQ	8,100
AFR	Patrick AFB	Guardian Angel Facility	25,000
DLA	Eglin AFB	Upgrade Open Storage Yard	4,100

SOCOM Hurlburt Field	SOF Simulator & Fuselage Trainer	11,700
SOCOM Hurlburt Field	SOF Combat Aircraft Parking Apron	34,700
SOCOM Eglin AFB	SOF Simulator Facility	5,000

The FY18 defense bills also included the congressional addition of seven Air Force military construction projects over the President's Request using the military services unfunded priority lists as guidance. The State of Florida received two of these projects.

AF	Eglin AFB	Dormitories	44,000
AF	Tyndall AFB	Fire / Crash Rescue Station	17,000

Status of the Fiscal Year 2018 Defense Budget

In December, the President signed the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, providing policy guidance and direction for the Department of Defense. The Act authorizes \$700 billion in defense spending for FY18, however, the congress has not yet appropriated funds. The Federal Government continues to operate at previous year funding levels under a continuing budget resolution, set to expire January 19th.

The President's defense budget request of \$640 billion was \$50 billion over the 2011 Budget Control Act caps. The House Appropriation markup is an additional \$28 billion over the President's request, and the Senate version is \$16 billion over. In general terms, the major difference between House and Senate appropriations is the House addition of a military restoration fund.

PROCUREMENT, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND

The House Appropriations Committee recommends \$12,622,931,000 for the Procurement, National Defense Restoration Fund, in order to replace and modernize the equipment of the military Services and defense agencies.

At midnight, Jan 19, 2018 after Congress failed to agree upon language for a 4th continuing resolution, the Federal Government shut down. Three days later, the government reopened after Congress and the President agreed to a 4th continuing resolution for FY18 and a 6 year extension of the Child Healthcare Insurance Program (CHIP). The CR now goes through February 8th, 2018, when funding will once again be set to expire.

TPG View: Whatever the conference outcome, defense spending will be well above caps put in place in previous years. Final passage of defense appropriations by Congress does

not appear to be held up by any real funding debate, but from other domestic policy issues such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals immigration issue.

Status of the Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Budget

President is set to deliver his State of the Union address on January 30th. Release of his FY19 President's Budget Request is slated for February 12th, 2018. Recently leaked numbers claim the request will top \$716 billion, including emergency war funding and defense nuclear costs. This number would continue the 3-5% growth projection requested by Secretary of Defense Mattis.

a. Congressional Defense Committees

Hearings

- The House Armed Services Committee has already kicked off its hearing season, with the DoD Comptroller testifying January 10th on plans to audit the Pentagon. Comptroller David Norquist estimates expenditures over \$900 million for this effort.

The Pentagon is preparing to spend more than \$900 million in fiscal 2018 to identify and fix problems as part of its first-ever financial audit.

David Norquist, the Pentagon's comptroller, said Wednesday that the first steps of the long-awaited Pentagon audit are already underway.

The audit itself will cost \$367 million in FY18 — covering fees for the independent public accounting firms (\$181 million) and infrastructure to support the audits (\$186 million). That will help fund the roughly 1,200 auditors who will support the 24 individual audits that make up the overall effort.

In addition, Norquist estimated the Defense Department will spend about \$551 million to fix problems identified by the auditors, bringing the total to an estimated \$918 million. While that's not cheap, Norquist spent part of his hearing at the House Armed Services Committee defending the upfront cost as necessary to create the baseline for future reforms.

- On January 18th, Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations are set to testify before the House on the state of the surface warfare fleet. Breaking news in advance of that hearing:

The commander of Naval Surface Forces is stepping down from his post just weeks ahead of his planned retirement, following a reported recommendation that he be relieved.

"Today, I have informed the chief of naval operations that this Thursday I will step aside earlier than previously planned as the commander, Naval Surface Forces, and commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet," Adm. Tom Rowden wrote in a statement. "This was a difficult decision to make, but I make it with the best interest of the Surface Warfare community and the Navy in mind."

Rowden had planned an early retirement in the wake of two tragic ship collisions last summer that left 17 sailors dead.

Investigations into each collision found a variety of watch standing, control and communication errors were to blame, and a number of flag officers have also been relieved for failing to prevent the disasters.

- On January 23rd, the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Cybersecurity held a closed-door hearing on Cyber Warfighting Policy. Witnesses included the Honorable Kenneth P. Rapuano- Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security; Lieutenant General Richard D. Clarke- Director for Strategic Plans and Policy for the J5 Joint Staff; and Mr. Neill Tipton- Director, Information Sharing and Partner Engagement Directorate Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence.
- On January 23rd, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a closed-door hearing to receive a briefing on the Nuclear Posture Review. The Honorable John C. Rood, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and General Paul J. Selva, USAF, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff provided the briefing. Breaking news in advance of that hearing:
 - According to a pre-decisional draft of the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) (Attachment 3) "To meet emerging requirements of U.S. strategy, the United States will now pursue select supplements to the replacement program to enhance the flexibility and responsiveness of U.S. nuclear forces. It is a reflection of the versatility and flexibility of the U.S. Triad that only modest supplements are now required in this much more challenging threat environment".
 - In October, President Trump had told a gathering of high-ranking national security leaders that "he wanted what amounted to a nearly tenfold increase in the U.S. nuclear arsenal." While the report doesn't nearly go

that far, it does call for the development of new, so-called low-yield nuclear weapons — warheads with a lower explosive force.

- On January 24th, the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a closed-door hearing on Global Nuclear Developments. Mr. Scott Woods- deputy National Intelligence Officer for Weapons of Mass Destruction at the Defense Intelligence Agency served as the witness.
- On January 25th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on global challenges and U.S. National Security strategy. Witnesses offering testimony included Dr. Henry A. Kissinger- Chairman of Kissinger Associates and Former Secretary of State; Dr. George P. Shultz- Thomas W. and Susan B. Ford Distinguished Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University and Former Secretary of State; and Dr. Richard L. Armitage- President, Armitage International and Former Deputy Secretary of State.
- The House Armed Services Committee held a full committee hearing January 30th on “Readying the U.S. Military for Future Warfare”. Witnesses include Jim Thomas- Principal and Co-Founder of the Telemus Group and Paul Scharre- Senior Fellow and Director, Technology and National Security Programs at the Center for a New American Security.

Upcoming Hearings

- The Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Airland will receive testimony on Army Modernization on February 7th. Witnesses include Lieutenant General Joseph Anderson- Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7; Lieutenant General John M. Murray- Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8; Lieutenant General Paul A. Ostrowski- Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army and Director of the Army Acquisition Corps, and Major General Robert M. Dyess Jr.- Acting Director, Army Capabilities Integration Center.
- On February 14th, the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support will receive testimony on the current readiness of U.S. Forces. Witnesses include General James C. McConville- Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; Admiral William F. Moran- Vice Chief of Naval Operations; General Glenn M. Walters- Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps; and General Stephen W. Wilson- Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

Nominations and Confirmations

This month, the Department of Defense has finally filled in its top posts with the Senate confirmation of John Gibson as Chief Management officer and John Rood as Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

The Senate Armed Services Committee has also returned to work, holding its latest confirmation hearing Thursday, January 18th, 2018, for a slate of Defense Department nominees: Michael Griffin to undersecretary of Defense for research and engineering, Phyllis Bayer to be assistant secretary of the Navy for installations, energy and the environment, John Henderson to be assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy and William Roper to be assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition.

On January 18th, the Senate Armed Services Committee considered the nominations of:

- The Honorable Michael D. Griffin to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.
- Mrs. Phyllis L. Bayer to become Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations, Energy and the Environment
- Mr. John W. Henderson to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Energy and the Environment
- Dr. William B. Roper to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition

These four nominations were then quickly passed to the full Senate and are awaiting final votes on confirmation.

c. New Administration

National Security Strategy

In December, the President released his Administration's National Security Strategy. The document was generally well received, articulating his vision for a stronger military. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis expects to release his accompanying National Defense Strategy on January 19th. From The National Interest:

The new National Security Strategy (NSS), designed to clarify the administration's foreign-policy concerns and objectives, received largely positive reviews. Even many of the administration's opponents conceded that national security adviser H. R. McMaster and his staff—led in this instance by Nadia Schadlow, deputy assistant to the president for national security strategy—did good work in crafting a serious and perceptive document ahead of schedule.

Reading through the document, here are some of its main themes:

- We live in a competitive environment, internationally.
- The United States has the right to pursue its own interests within this environment.
- Restoration of economic competitiveness is the basis for American power.

- Rebalanced U.S. alliance relationships including increased burden-sharing and commercial reciprocity.
- Border control and homeland security is fundamental.
- American energy dominance.
- Pushing back against numerous adversaries of the United States overseas, including rogue states and major competitors.
- Acceptance of great power rivalry is a fact of life, combined with hopes for regional stability and cooperation where possible.
- A U.S. military buildup.
- Hunting down jihadist terrorists wherever they live.

The first signs of the Administration's priorities and focus will be seen in the fiscal year 2019 President's Budget Request due to be released February 5th. However, Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan has stated that the full effect of the new strategy will not be seen until the President presents his fiscal year 2020 budget request.

National Defense Strategy

The Administration recently released its National Defense Strategy. The Strategy acknowledges an increasingly complex global security environment, characterized by overt challenges and the re-emergence of long term, strategic competition between nations. The document highlights Challenges facing the U.S. military, rapid technological advancements and the changing character of war as well as issues within homeland security.

Defense objectives include:

- Defending the homeland from attack;
- Sustaining Joint Force Military advantages, both globally and in key regions;
- Deterring adversaries from aggression against our vital interests;
- Enabling U.S. interagency counterparts to advance U.S. influence and interests;
- Maintaining favorable regional balances of power in the Indo-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and the Western Hemisphere;
- Defending allies from military aggression and bolstering partners against coercion, and fairly sharing responsibilities for common defender;
- Dissuading, preventing or deterring state adversaries and non-state actors from acquiring, proliferating, or using weapons of mass destruction;
- Preventing terrorists from directing or supporting external operations against the United States homeland and our citizens, allies and partners overseas;
- Ensuring common domains remain open and free;
- Establishing an unmatched twenty-first century National Security Innovation Base that effectively supports Department operations and sustains security and solvency.

BRAC and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment Lucian Niemeyer

While not in the FY18 NDAA, a future base realignment and closure round authorization is still possible, and expected to be offered in the FY19 budget request. Assistant Secretary Lucian Niemeyer remains a staunch supporter of the concept, calling for Congress to authorize a BRAC.

The Pentagon's top installations official has settled on a better way to sell Congress on the wisdom of authorizing a new round of base closures, but it's not clear if the new approach will make a difference. Rather than emphasizing BRAC's potential to save \$2 billion annually and unload unneeded infrastructure, the department instead will focus on the opportunity to increase combat effectiveness by realigning missions and restationing forces, Lucian Niemeyer, assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and environment, tells Defense News.

"We believe there are, ultimately, billions out there we could save annually, but just as compelling is the ability to make our forces more lethal by where they train, how they train, where they are co-located," Niemeyer said. "It's all about location, location, location."

Additional focus areas of Secretary Niemeyer include energy resiliency and contaminated water on military installations, and improving military training ranges. Several reports required by the FY18 NDAA are expected to help inform his efforts.

d. Florida Issues

Force Structure Changes Outside BRAC

In the past month, Florida has been the positive recipient of force structure moves by the military services, with Tyndall being chosen to house a new MQ-9 Reaper Wing. On the negative side, Alabama and Wisconsin were chosen over Jacksonville to base new F-35s.

Florida TAG announced establishment of two Army Security Forces Assistance entities in the State of Florida. These are part of a larger Army effort to enhance assistance to developing nations, and bears closer watching as they are built up.

TPG View: The F-35 basing decision slide deck provided to Congress summarized the two winners as having active associations as the discriminating factor. This factor is not a part of the strategic basing scoresheet.

Offshore Drilling

Early January, 2018, the Trump Administration announced that it would open up both east and west coasts to future oil drilling opportunities. Response in protest from the Florida Governor and congressional delegation was capped by a visit to Florida by the Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. Standing beside Governor Scott, Secretary Zinke announced that Florida would maintain its prohibition.

Of continuing importance to Florida with respect to the military is that the agreement to keep the current ban in place does not make the permanent the prohibition on drilling with respect to the Military Mission Line. Whether to make a drilling ban permanent remains an open issue.

Florida delegation letter sent to Secretary Mattis January 19, 2018 attached.

Budgets: DISASTER RELIEF BILL INCLUDES \$1.5B FOR MILITARY FACILITIES: The \$81 billion disaster aid measure the House is expected to take up this week includes \$1.5 billion to repair military installations in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and nearby areas damaged during hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. The legislation is intended to cover losses from recent hurricanes and wildfires, and includes almost double the funding as the \$44 billion emergency spending request submitted by the White House last month. The House bill includes funds to repair Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and medical military facilities, and to repair or replace equipment damaged by the hurricanes. With Congress continuing to push the Appropriations Bills down the road, the Services and Communities are having to pony up their own resources to repair damage from the Hurricanes, especially Irma for Florida. Continuing Resolutions (CRs) are impacting Service execution and funds for Hurricane relief.

2. Military Services/Programs:

A recent article touted the huge military presence in Northeast Florida. The region hosts about 75,000 active duty, reserves and civilian personnel, accounting for some 14% of the area's work force. The area includes NAVSTA Mayport, NAS Jacksonville, the Marines Blount Island, Camp Blanding, and the Fleet Readiness Center SE (the region's largest industrial employer). Nearby Submarine Base Kings Bay in Southwest Georgia adds to the area work force. According to reports, the impact of the Defense Department on the region is 124,000 jobs, \$4.9B Direct Defense spending, 6000+ Aerospace Industry Employment, and over 100 Aerospace firms that operate in the region. Then factor in the Indirect Labor Force and the impact grows substantially.

3. Installations:

NAS Key West celebrated 100 years of hosting naval aviation.

NAS Whiting Field continues to be in the news. NAVFAC SE, in partnership with Gulf Power and Siemens, recently completed a \$9.8M Utility Energy Savings Contract at NAS Whiting Field. The 13 month project focused on installation of energy and water conservation upgrades in 58 facilities across the installation. As reported, the project savings will exceed \$433,000 in annual energy costs and \$185,000 in operational cost avoidance.

In the meantime, CAPT Todd Bahlau has been relieved of command at NAS Whiting by CAPT Paul Bowdich. At the ceremony, it was announced that NAS Whiting Field was awarded the CNIC Installation Excellence Award for the third time in the last four years. It all speaks well for CAPT Bahlau who will wrap up his career as the Professor of Naval Science at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Mayport

USS LITTLE ROCK (LCS-11) constructed in Marionette, Wisconsin commissioned in December in Buffalo, finds itself locked into the ice in Canada. The ship is destined for homeporting in Mayport, where presumably it will be a little warmer.

Tyndall AFB

MQ-9 Reaper Follow-on:

These are items that remain on the radar screen – now that we are back from the holidays, it is important to get engaged.

- We need to continue to flight follow MILCON Appropriations. Numbers are in the POM for 2019, 2020, and 2021. We need to get engaged and stay engaged
- We also need to keep the EIS on track – these can take up to 2 years to complete.
 - I will contact SAF/IE to see what they can share.
 - Kathy Ferguson can help us if we run into roadblocks

Two other things that require monitoring:

- MILCON for Fire Station is in NDAA – we need to monitor to insure this stays on track
- New JLUS study – what is the interaction with the MQ-9 Basing EIS?

I will make phone calls this week and next to get an update for the EOM report.

Lots of local articles on the MQ-9 coming to Tyndall AFB.

It has recently been announced that 12 “aggressor” aircraft will be coming to Tyndall to help the F-22’s train. (Info from meeting with Jim Breitenfeld).

Eglin AFB

Oil Drilling and the Military Mission Line

This subject has captured the national media – as it stands today, it looks like the Gulf Ranges will have a reprieve from oil exploration. That said, we will follow up with OSD and HAF to get some intel on where they see this going.

NextGen Eglin

We had a great visit with Eglin AFB CE lead for NextGen Eglin Brief. Received a great rundown on what the plan is for the main portion of the Base known as the “downtown” area. Many of the buildings were made in the 1940’s – the infrastructure is in poor condition. Some of the dormitories are uninhabitable (Building 19). There is a MILCON request to get these replaced in 2019. At this point the young enlisted troops are sharing dorms with the EOD folks. If there is not room, they are forced to live off base. The plan has many phases.

Note: The good news is that they have a plan; the tough news is that there are no \$\$ currently dedicated this plan.

Meeting with CAPT Nelson

Met with CAPT Nathan Nelson, Director of Military Affairs for Congressman Gaetz. We discussed the Gulf Range Enhancement (\$30 Mill for phase 1 have been approved), the Military Mission Line, and NextGen Eglin. I told him how much we appreciate the Congressman’s support, and asked him to keep us informed - where we could assist. I did bring up where I saw issues we would work – Ranges, MML, support for the Test mission, and infrastructure at all of the bases in his district (I brought up the issues at Eglin and the Tower at NAS Whiting Field.)

Note: It has recently been announced that 12 “aggressor” aircraft will be coming to Eglin AFB to help the F-22’s train. (Info from meeting with Jim Breitenfeld). In addition, Eglin will be receiving 6 DT&E and 3 OT&E F-35’s.

4. Other federal activities/impacts: NSTR



The Principi Group

February Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period February 1-28, 2018

1. Washington DC Insights

a. Budgets:

Status of the Fiscal Year 2018 Defense Budget

Since last month, there have been two Federal government shutdowns (one lasting three days, the other six hours) and two more budget continuing resolutions. We are now operating on our 5th CR for fiscal year 2018, and it is planned to last until March 23rd-a full six months into the fiscal year. However, there is good news.

On February 9th, as part of the 5th CR, Congress passed, and the President signed, a two-year budget agreement. The two-year budget agreement will provide an additional \$165 billion for defense through September 2019 over current statutory budget caps. In FY 2018, the statutory cap on defense spending will rise by \$80 billion, resetting the cap at \$629 billion. After adding in \$71 billion for the department's overseas contingency operations (OCO) account, which is exempt from the budget caps, total defense spending will reach \$700 billion.

The \$700 billion now slated for national defense for fiscal year 2018 exceeds not only the president's FY 2018 request, but funding levels in both chambers' FY18 appropriations spending bills as well.

The 5th CR agreement keeps the government operating on another temporary funding path until March 23. But Congress must still pass another bill, known as an omnibus, with detailed spending levels for each government program for the rest of this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. These record increases, however, will only go into effect after Congress has drafted and passed the full-year spending bill.

Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Budget Request

Next year, according to the budget agreement, the cap will increase by \$85 billion to \$647 billion; with \$69 billion for OCO. Total defense spending would be \$716 billion in FY 2019.

The FY 2019 budget was released to the public Monday, February 12th. Review is currently underway for issues, funding, and projects of importance and interest to the State of Florida.

Fiscal Year 2019 Military Construction Request for Florida

- Total President’s Budget request for the State of Florida is \$177, 423 million. Included are these projects:

Base	Project	Funding (millions)
Mayport LCS	Operational Training Facility	\$29,110.00
Mayport LCS	Support Facility	\$82,350.00
Eglin AFB	F-35A Integrated Trg Center Academics Bldg	\$34,863.00
Eglin AFB	F-35A Student Dormitory II	\$28,000.00
Macdill AFB	KC135 Beddown Flight Simulator Training	\$3,100,0.00

TPG View: As part of the budget agreement, defense spending is a clear winner, but fiscal conservatives still question the fiscal responsibility of the overall agreement. Concern must also be raised about the sustainability of such levels of spending in the out years.

b. Congressional Defense Committees

Hearings

House Armed Service Committee (HASC) and Senate Armed Service Committee (SASC) Hearings

- February 6th: Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis and General Paul J. Selva- USAF, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared before the House Armed Services Committee for a hearing on “*The National Defense Strategy and the Nuclear Posture Review*”.
 - Secretary Mattis emphasized that the national defense strategy pursues three primary lines of effort to: 1. build a more lethal force, 2. strengthen traditional alliances while building new partnerships, and 3. form the Department’s business practices for performance and affordability.
 - With regards to the Nuclear Posture Review, Secretary Mattis said the review reflects DoD’s strategic priority to 1. maintain a safe and effective nuclear deterrent that will successfully deter nuclear and non-nuclear strategic attacks, 2. assure our allies and partners, 3. respond effectively should deterrence fail and 4. hedge against future uncertainties and dangers.

- February 6th: A House Armed Services Committee hearing was held on “*Addressing Physiological Episodes in Fighter, Attack and Training Aircraft*”. Witnesses for this hearing included, Mr. Clinton H. Cragg-Principal Engineer NASA Engineering and Safety Center; Lieutenant General Mark Nowland, USAF Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations U.S. Air Force; and Rear Admiral Sara A. Joyner, USN Navy Physiological Events Action Team Lead.
 - Clinton Cragg testified that the NASA Engineering and Safety Center’s (NESC) team asserts that a dedicated, coordinated, cross-organizational, and cross-discipline program – under the direction of a single leader with clearly defined authority – would improve US Navy effectiveness in finding and fixing the causes of physiological episodes.

- February 7th: The Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Airland heard testimony on “*Army Modernization*”. Witnesses include Lieutenant General Joseph Anderson-Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7; Lieutenant General John M. Murray- Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8; Lieutenant General Paul A. Ostrowski- Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army and Director of the Army Acquisition Corps, and Major General Robert M. Dyess Jr.- Acting Director, Army Capabilities Integration Center.

- February 7th: The Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to address” Weapons of Mass Destruction”. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Security Kenneth Rapuano and U.S. Special Operations Command’s top deputy, Lt. Gen. Joseph Osterman, testified before the committee on countering the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

- February 13th: The Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Cybersecurity held a hearing on “*Department of Defense’s role in Protecting Democratic Elections*”. Witnesses include Mr. Robert Butler, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Cyber Strategies, LLC; Ms. Heather A. Conley, Director, Europe Program Center for Strategic and International Studies; Dr. Richard J. Harknett, Professor of Political Science And Head Of Political Science Department, University Of Cincinnati; and Dr. Michael L. Sulmeyer, Director, Cyber Security Project, Belfer Center For Science And International Affairs, Harvard University.

- February 13th: The Senate Armed Services Committee held a closed hearing to examine the United States Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program.

- February 14th: The Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support heard testimony on the “*Current Readiness of U.S. Forces*”. Witnesses include General James C. McConville- Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; Admiral William F. Moran- Vice Chief of Naval Operations; General Glenn M. Walters- Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps; and General Stephen W. Wilson- Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force.
 - “Highlights from the hearing include, the **Pentagon needs additional flexibility to effectively spend the budget boost** on pressing readiness needs, the vice chiefs of the military branches testified.
 - “The services' No. 2 officers were asked in a Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support hearing how they can effectively use the \$80 billion addition for fiscal 2018 before it ends in October. “Adm. William Moran, vice chief of naval operations, said the Navy could use transfer authority ‘to move the money around as we go.’”

- February 14th: The House Armed Services Committee heard testimony on “*Air Force Readiness Posture*”. Witness included Lieutenant General Mark C. Nowland, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, USAF, Headquarters U.S. Air Force; Lieutenant General Scott L. Rice, Director, Air National Guard, USAF; Major General Derek P. Rydholm and Deputy to the Chief of Air Force Reserve, USAF.
 - Key takeaways from the hearing include, the service plans to allot \$2 billion for military construction, with the bed-down of new missions, combatant commander needs, and strengthening the nuclear security enterprise ranked as the highest priorities.
 - “In addition, we are funding the construction at the Utah Test and Training Range and the Nevada Test and Training Range so units can use the full range of capabilities available with the F-35A. We also continue to modernize our operational training infrastructure with a blend of live, virtual, and ‘synthetic’ platforms,” according to the testimony. In addition, the service is dedicating \$38 million toward a state-of-the-art virtual test and training center.

- February 15th: The House Armed Services Committee heard testimony on “*Evolution, Transformation and Sustainment: A Review and Assessment of the FY 2019 Budget Request for U.S. Special Operations Forces and Command*”. Witnesses included: General Raymond A. Thomas, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command and Mr. Owen West, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict, U.S. Department of Defense.

- On February 15th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command. The hearing was a review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses included General Lori J. Robinson, USAF, Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command and Admiral Kurt W. Tidd, USN Commander, United States Southern Command.
 - General Robinson noted that “In light of the strategic threat presented by North Korea, defending the United States against intercontinental ballistic missiles remains USNORTHCOM’s highest priority mission. The rapid advancement of the North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile is my primary focus, although I also continually monitor Iranian technology programs that could present a threat in the future.”
- On February 27th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Admiral Michael S. Rogers, USN Commander, United States Cyber Command / Director, National Security Agency / Chief, Central Security Services served as the witness.

Nominations and Confirmations

On February 8th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held the nomination hearings of:

- Mr. Paul C. Ney: To be General Counsel of the Department of Defense
- Mr. Kevin M. Fahey: To be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition
- Mr. Thomas E. Ayres: To be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force
- Ms. Lisa E Gordon-Hagerty: To be Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security

The U.S. Senate Executive Calendar has listed the following nominations:

- **Department of Defense:**
 - Anthony Kurta, of Montana, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.
 - John Henderson, of South Dakota, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.
 - Michael D. Griffin, of Alabama, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. (New Position)
 - William Roper, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

- Phyllis L. Bayer, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.
- John H. Gibson II, of Texas, to be Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense. (New Position)
- **Department of Homeland Security:**
 - Kevin K. McAleenan, of Hawaii, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
- **Department of State:**
 - Carlos Trujillo, of Florida, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador.
- **National Security Agency:**
 - President Donald Trump on Tuesday nominated Lt. Gen. Paul Nakasone, the leader of the Army's digital warfighting arm, to helm the National Security Agency.
 - Nakasone, 54, has been the chief of Army Cyber Command since late 2016. In that role, he also directed Joint Task Force Ares, a special unit that develops digital weapons to attack and disrupt the Islamic State's online operations.
 - Prior to that, Nakasone served at Cyber Command, where he oversaw the units tasked with defending the country's digital networks and information systems, collectively known as the Cyber National Mission Force.

c. Pentagon Perspectives

BRAC

On February 4th, the Northwest Florida Defense Coalition participated in a Fly-In to Washington, DC. During this visit, Assistant Secretary of Defense Lucian Niemeyer announced that the DoD would not pursue authorization for a Base Realignment and Closure Round in fiscal year 2019. Instead, he will spend the next six months collecting data on underutilized facilities to reshape the argument for restructuring and reshaping military installations to improve military readiness and lethality.

Programs

Also discussed by Secretary Niemeyer both at the Fly-In and Association of Defense Communities Conference on February 13th were his focus priorities on installation energy security, intergovernmental services contracts, and military test and training range investment and modernization. On installation energy, exploring energy as a service at Altus AFB and Hanscom AFB. Dedicating \$150 million per year on energy security. On cyber and UAS, Secretary Niemeyer bemoaned to lack of comprehensive DOD long range plans. He asked, “Does cyber even need to be on bases?”

Offshore Drilling

Of continuing importance to Florida with respect to the military is that the agreement to keep the current ban in place does not make permanent the prohibition on drilling with respect to the Military Mission Line (MML). Whether to make a drilling ban permanent remains an open issue.

At the Northwest Florida Defense Coalition Fly-In, Secretary Niemeyer spoke to the group about the ongoing process and engagement between DoD and the Department of Interior. Data is still being collected and discussions continue on the MML and drilling exclusion zones.

A required DoD report on MML is due to Congress in March. Not sure it supports excluding access to SW zones. Current data offered is “Weak” according to Secretary Niemeyer. (Is the report FYDP constrained?)

Air Force Community Conference at Andrews AFB

Three key points stressed by both Secretary Wilson and General Goldfein.

- (1) Installations being empowered to pursue IGSA's
- (2) Encouraging States to support / pass reciprocity in licensing for military and spouses
- (3) Future of military warfare is Remotely Piloted Aircraft.

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities Actions and Activities:

Lockheed Martin Facility in Orlando

Lockheed Martin broke ground Tuesday February 13th on a new research-and-development facility in Orlando, Florida. Lockheed plans to hire 1,800 people to work on new weapons systems for the Pentagon, 500 of whom will staff the Orlando facility.

Engineers at the facility will work to develop new weapons systems including the Long Range Stand-off Missile (LRSO), a plane-launched nuclear cruise missile. The Administration is looking to update the U.S. nuclear arsenal; the plan calls for new nuclear submarines to replace the aging Ohio-class models, new intercontinental ballistic missiles to replace the aging Minuteman III, new plane-launched cruise missiles, and updated command and control systems that better incorporate advancements in computing. Trump’s nuclear posture review also called for new, smaller nuclear missiles that can be launched from submarines.

Comments from participants of the Fly-In:

- Egin needs 200,000 sq ft of additional office space in the coming years to accommodate black programs. Do not expect DoD to provide MilCon.

- Whiting Field has numerous issues of competing importance – new tower, Hwy 87 connector on/off base are two. Defense Access Road program could help the latter issue.
- Need to monitor Gulf Range Enhancement. Staying on track? Timeline bottlenecks? What investment strategy does current plans support?
- Gulf of Mexico underwater testing as a priority. What investment required? Level of activity?
- Hypersonics – what requirements, what telemetry needed? TRMC is committing \$300 million to ground support for hypersonics telemetry. Gulf getting any?
- Expanding Cyber TRMCs. One is at Eglin AFB. Cyber testing a growth opportunity.
- Dredging harbor at Naval Surface Warfare to allow LCS to turn versus backing out.

Service Secretaries Letter

Service secretaries say quality of schools, reciprocity of licenses should be considered in future basing decisions. A letter signed by all three military service secretaries outlining ways state leadership can better support service members was sent to the National Governors Association on Friday, Feb. 23. The letter encouraged state leadership to look at the quality of schools near bases and if reciprocity of professional licenses is available for military families. (attached).

Attachments

- 5 Military Construction Project Form 1391s
- Service Secretaries letter dated Feb 23, 2018

3. Installations

a. Mayport

Growing the Navy to 355 ships is a lofty goal that would bode well for NAVSTA Mayport. Industry claims they can ramp up production to meet demand but building an appropriate work force and growing the supplier base could be problematic. For some major systems there may only be one supplier and the shipyards are having trouble today meeting work force demand. Neither the FY18 Defense Budget or the anticipated FY19 budget will address the issue. The cost of ships has grown exponentially. In 1960 Navy built USS ENTERPRISE, the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier with eight reactors for

\$250 million. In 1990 we were building NIMITZ Class "super" carriers with two reactors for \$3.5 billion. The recently commissioned USS GERALD FORD for around \$14 billion. The cost of building may have gone up, but the cost of the dollar surely has. Navy is budgeting for the COLUMBIA Class submarine, the replacement for the OHIO-Class, the third leg of the nuclear triad. No matter the cost, it is a one-for-one replacement, so the ship count doesn't change. USS ZUMWALT (DDG 1000) came in at \$4 billion, but we are only building three. Even the low end FFGs that are on the drawing board are estimated to come in at a billion dollars each. Even if industry could handle the growth spurt, the costs would seem to be insurmountable. Mayport should not hold its breath waiting for any more than the dozen Littoral Combat Ships they are expecting to receive. They may also see some of the FFGs some 10 years down the road; but then again, that may be all they can handle.

The Florida Senators sent their annual letter to Navy recommending that Navy bring a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to Mayport, part of a plan to create fleet disbursement, a noble plan that the CNO endorses. Here too, it is a funding issue of some \$500-600 million for the nuclear repair facility that would support the nuclear carrier. On top of the Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) that is already there, a carrier and its 4000-man crew could stretch the base to its limits: traffic, parking, housing, welfare and recreation, etc. Not to mention the volatility of having 4000 sailors in town today and gone tomorrow. That would put Dunkin Doughnut on a sinusoidal curve that could be hard to handle for a small business.

b. NW Florida

Keye Sabol attended the reception in DC for the Fly-In contingent from NW Florida. A few items discussed:

-University of West Florida – they are designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education. This needs to be highlighted at all levels. It was briefed at the AF Small Business Summit.

-Gulf Range Enhancement - There are 4 phases. It sounds like the first phase for \$30 Million has been funded. We need to monitor the last 3 phases to insure they get supported. This will go a long ways toward supporting testing of Long Range Stand Off Weapons and Hypersonics.

c. Homestead ARB

We had a good telecom with Larry Ventura and Jon Borgert. Top issues discussed:

-Urban Area Expansion Task Force - this is an effort within the community to research urban expansion opportunities; some of the recommendations could result in Base encroachment.

-Areas of interest for the Commander -Fuel Hydrant System; this was a recommendation from our SWOT and ReSWOT. They had a system that has atrophied over the years. With the ramp they have, HARB should be a contingency base for a number of COCOM's, including SOUTHCOM, USTRANSCOM, and SOCOM. In order to be a

contingency base, they really need to have a fuel hydrant system that is operational.
New Hangar – This is a continuing requirement to insure the infrastructure supporting the mission at HARB is where it needs to be

- The F-35 EIS is being accomplished now – HARB is an alternate.
- They are planning on a November airshow.

-There are a number of Basing Decisions we need to get the timelines for and stay ahead of:

- Battlefield Airmen – Patrick AFB
- Hypersonics Testing – Eglin AFB

d. Team Orlando

Pursuing the next round of funding for the expansion of the Team Orlando member real estate needs will continue to be the main focus of this year. To that end , there is a distinct pursuit of civilian, non-government funding also being sought. Lt.Gen (Ret) Tom Baptiste and the National Center for Simulation is leading the non-government funding sourcing from industry. There will continue to be a significant ask for State funding to meet the Team Orlando expansion needs and Tom will continue that effort this year as well. Intended for next report period we will include a breakdown of funding to date and require square footage with approximate funding levels required.

NCS in partnership with PEO STRI wrote a grant proposal for \$3.2 million to build out the P IVa high bay space to establish a Advanced R&D/Rapid Prototyping Facility The grant will be submitted to Governor Scott’s Florida Job Growth Grant Fund soon. This Prototyping facility is a huge boost to all industry to showcase their solutions for announced requirements in the future. The expectation is that this facility will not only help the services see potential technical solutions early on but will also serve to attract more industry to the Team Orlando area.

4. Other Federal activities/impacts: NSTR

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The Principi Group

March Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period March 1-31, 2018

1. Washington Insights

a. Budgets

Summary of the Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus Budget Agreement

The Omnibus Budget agreement signed by the President March 23rd, 2018, contains nearly \$700 billion for defense, including \$65.2 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations, or "war budget" funding mostly for Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

Overall, this is the biggest year-to-year increase in defense funding in 15 years -- a \$61 billion increase over FY2017 enacted levels.

The fiscal 2018 omnibus budget agreement for the DoD includes \$137.7 billion overall for personnel and the 2.4 percent pay raise; \$89.2 billion for research and development, up \$16 billion over 2017; \$144.3 billion for procurement, up \$25.4 billion over 2017; and \$238 billion for operation and maintenance.

The omnibus fully funds an active-duty end strength of 1,322,500 and a reserve component end strength of 816,900 -- an overall increase of 9,500.

All the troops get funding for a 2.4 percent pay raise that took effect at the beginning of the year, with the possibility for more next year.

In total, the agreement funds the construction of 14 new ships: one aircraft carrier, two Virginia-class submarines, two DDG-51 destroyers, three Littoral Combat Ships, one LX(R) amphibious assault ship, one Expeditionary Fast Transport ship, one Expeditionary Sea Base, one TAO fleet oiler, one Towing, Salvage and Rescue ship (ATS), and one T-AGS oceanographic survey ship.

The agreement also fully funds advance procurement activities for Ohio-class and Virginia-class submarines. Other critical shipbuilding investments include an additional \$225 million for the expansion of the submarine industrial base and \$150 million to accelerate procurement of a Heavy Polar Icebreaker.

The Army gets \$348 million for 116 Stryker Double V-Hull upgrades; \$300 million for Stryker lethality upgrades; \$1.1 billion for the upgrade of 85 Abrams tanks; and \$483 million for the upgrade of 145 Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

In addition, the Army gets \$220 million for National Guard High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle recapitalization, including \$120 million specifically for ambulance modernization.

The omnibus includes a total of \$44 billion for aircraft procurement programs, \$9.5 billion above the amount requested by the Trump administration. The bill provides:

- \$2.9 billion for 10 conventional take-off, six carrier variant, and four vertical take-off F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, as well as additional tooling and spare engines (Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps).
- \$739 million for 10 F-18 Super Hornet aircraft (Navy).
- \$676 million for eight V-22 tilt-rotor aircraft (Marine Corps and Navy).
- \$600 million for five MC-130J aircraft (Special Operations Command).
- \$577 million for 17 AH-64 Apache helicopters (Army).
- \$510 million for three KC-46A tanker aircraft (Air Force).
- \$501 million for three P-8A Poseidon aircraft (Navy).
- \$480 million for six C-130J aircraft (Air National Guard).
- \$400 million for eight MH-60R helicopters (Navy).
- \$387 million for eight CH-47 Chinook helicopters (Army and Special Operations Command).
- \$343 million for four KC-130J tanker aircraft (Marine Corps).
- \$250 million for two CH-53K King Stallion helicopters (Marine Corps).
- \$221 million for seven UH-1Y/AH-1Z helicopters (Marine Corps).
- \$207 million for two C-40 aircraft (Marine Corps).
- \$130 million for two C-37B aircraft (Air Force).
- \$110 million for additional RQ-7 Shadow systems (Army).
- \$108 million for eight UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters (Army National Guard).
- \$107 million for nine MQ-1 Grey Eagle vehicles and payloads (Army).
- \$100 million for one HC-130J aircraft (Air Force).
- \$90 million for 11 UH-72 Lakota helicopters (Army).
- \$84 million for six MQ-8 Fire Scout vehicles (Navy).
- \$40 million for two SATURN ARCH aircraft (Army).
- \$29 million for one Dash 8 maritime patrol aircraft (Southern Command).

Office of Economic Adjustment funding

The omnibus includes \$57.8 million for the Office of Economic Adjustment's various grant programs supporting communities and states addressing BRAC and mission changes, defense industry cutbacks and compatible land use issues. The allocation matches the administration's FY 2018 budget request and is roughly in line with the agency's baseline funding over the past decade

Appropriators Boost BRAC funding to accelerate cleanups

Funding to clean up installations closed during past base closure rounds jumps year-over-year by \$70 million to \$310 million under the fiscal 2018 omnibus. The allocation also represents a \$54 million increase over the Trump administration's budget request and is intended to accelerate remediation at BRAC sites.

"Priority should be given to those sites with newly identified radiological cleanup cost. There are many factors hindering the cleanup of BRAC sites. However, strategic investments can lead to quicker cleanups and faster turnover of DOD property to the local community," the appropriators say. They also direct the department to submit a spending plan for the extra funds within 30 days after the legislation is enacted.

The statement urges the secretary of the Air Force to prioritize BRAC sites contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) stemming from the use of fire suppression foam and

“to move forward with short-and long-term remediation efforts as expeditiously as possible.” Regarding the issue of PFAS contamination, the appropriators say: “Identification, testing, response and prevention activities are ongoing and will require significant attention in future budget requests.”

DoD spending flexibility

The agreement includes two adjustments for FY18 to provide DoD more funding flexibility within the operation and maintenance accounts. The first adjustment increases the limit of obligations in the last two months of the fiscal year from 20 to 25 percent. The second adjustment changes the reprogramming threshold from \$15 million to \$20 million, and modifies the guidelines for realignments between readiness budget line items from requiring prior approval to written notification.

These flexibility changes will allow for smarter execution of the \$230 billion in base and OCO funding provided for the operation and maintenance accounts by avoiding the “use it or lose it” dilemma and allowing more timely execution of readiness line items that have been affected by fact-of-life changes or emergent requirements.

TPG View: While the additional flexibility was pushed for by both personnel on Capitol Hill and in the Pentagon, given the sheer size of the budget, installations should still expect to see calls for end-of-year “shovel-ready” projects. Most likely, the flexibility authorized will not be enough to alleviate “use-or-lose” thresholds.

Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Budget Request

Next year, according to the budget agreement, the cap will increase by \$85 billion to \$647 billion; with \$69 billion for OCO. Total defense spending would be \$716 billion in FY 2019.

The FY 2019 budget request was released to the public Monday, February 12th. Review is underway for issues, funding, and projects of importance and interest to the State.

Select Committee to Consider Calendar Year Budget Cycle

One option a newly formed congressional committee charged with overhauling the budget and appropriations process will consider is shifting the federal government from a fiscal year to the calendar year, reports CQ. The idea is that Jan. 1 would serve as a more powerful incentive than the Oct. 1 start of the fiscal year for lawmakers to wrap up the next year’s appropriations bills, and put an end to the practice of relying on stopgap funding measures. The Joint Select Budget and Appropriations Reform Committee met for the first time Thursday, March 8th, behind closed doors.

b. Congressional Defense Committees

Hearings

House Armed Service Committee (HASC) and Senate Armed Service Committee (SASC) Hearings. *All available testimony hyperlinked below.*

- On March 6th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on “Worldwide Threats”. The Honorable Daniel R. Coats, Director of National Intelligence and

Lieutenant General Robert P. Ashley, Jr., Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency serves as witnesses.

- “Competition among countries will increase in the coming year as major powers and regional aggressors exploit complex global trends while adjusting to new priorities in US foreign policy. The risk of interstate conflict, including among great powers, is higher than at any time since the end of the Cold War. The most immediate threats of regional interstate conflict in the next year come from North Korea and from Saudi-Iranian use of proxies in their rivalry. At the same time, the threat of state and nonstate use of weapons of mass destruction will continue to grow”.
- On March 6th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the Department of the Navy’s FY 2019 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces. Witnesses included, The Honorable James F Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research, Development & Acquisition, U.S. Navy, Headquarters U.S. Navy; Vice Admiral William R. Merz, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems, U.S. Navy, Headquarters U.S. Navy and Lieutenant General Robert S. Walsh, Commanding General Marine Corps Combat Development Command, U.S. Marine Corps, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps.
 - As part of the Joint Force, the maritime dimension of the National Defense Strategy is to increase American naval power by building the Navy the Nation Needs (NNN). The Report to Congress on the Annual Long-Range Plan for Construction of Naval Vessels for Fiscal Year 2019 is the roadmap to attain a 355-ship fleet, prioritizing three elements that the Navy will pursue to grow the force.
- On March 6th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the Marine Corp Readiness Posture. Witnesses included, Lieutenant General Brian D. Beaudreault, Deputy Commandant Plans, Policies, and Operations, U.S. Marine Corps, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps; Lieutenant General Michael G. Dana Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics, U.S. Marine Corps, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps and Lieutenant General Rex C. McMillian, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve; and Commander, Marine Forces North, U.S. Marine Corps, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps.
 - “Modernization is a vital component of our readiness – our ability to deter and defeat technologically sophisticated state actors. Previous decrements to our modernization accounts deferred future capabilities and infrastructure improvements which prolonged our reliance on legacy systems that lack the required capabilities for the future. Over time, legacy systems cost more to repair and sustain. Prioritizing modernization, particularly where we can leverage joint buys, will reduce average unit procurement costs and achieve efficiencies for the Department. Our major investment areas include information warfare, long range precision fires, air defense, command and control, and protected mobility/enhanced maneuver.”

- On March 7th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on “Assessing Military Service Acquisition Reform”. Witnesses included Mr. James F. Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research, Development, and Acquisition; Dr. Bruce D. Jette, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology and Dr. William Roper, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.
 - “We have established four focus areas within the Navy-Marine Corps acquisition community: deliver lethal capacity for the Naval forces; increase agility; drive affordability; and lastly, build a workforce to compete and win. These support the 2018 National Security Strategy and the 2018 National Defense Strategy and will enable our forces to be more lethal, resilient and agile”.

- On March 7th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Lightning II Program. Witnesses included, Rear Admiral Upper Half Scott D. Conn, Director, Air Warfare (OPNAV N98), Headquarters, U.S. Navy; Lieutenant General Jerry D. Harris, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Programs, and Requirements, Headquarters, U. S. Air Force; Lieutenant General Steven R. Rudder, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps and Vice Admiral Mathias W. Winter, Program Executive Officer, F-35 Joint Program Office.
 - “The Carrier Air Wing of the future must rely on the capacity and capabilities of both fourth and fifth-generation aircraft. The F-35C provides unique capabilities that cannot be matched by modernizing fourth-generation aircraft. Stealth technology and advanced integrated systems enable the F-35C to counter rapidly evolving air-to-air and surface-to-air threats. Whether the mission requires the execution of strike, Close Air Support (CAS), counter air, escort, or electronic warfare (EW), the F-35C is vital to our future as they become a lethal cornerstone of our naval air forces. Delivering this transformational capability to front-line forces as soon as possible remains a top priority”.

- On March 7th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on U.S. Strategic Forces Posture and the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request. Witnesses included, General John E. Hyten, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command and The Honorable John C. Rood, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense.
 - “Our new Command and Control Facility is moving toward completion and will support the long-term viability and credibility of our strategic deterrent force. From this new facility, we will conduct strategic planning, warfighting operations, aid the President’s nuclear response decision-making process, provide global situational awareness to the National Command Authorities and combatant commands, and, when necessary, deliver a decisive response in all domains”.

- On March 8th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on Mobility and Transportation Command Posture. Witnesses included, Rear Admiral Upper Half Mark

- H. Buzby, Administrator, Maritime Administration, MRAD and General Darren W. McDew, Commander, U.S. Transportation Command, U.S. Transportation Command.
- “The U.S. Government-owned fleet of 61 strategic sealift vessels includes 15 vessels operated by the Military Sealift Command (MSC) and 46 vessels in the Maritime Administration’s (MARAD) Ready Reserve Force (RRF). Together, these vessels form the surge sealift fleet that rapidly deliver military equipment and supplies during major contingencies. These surge ships must be ready for quick activation and be reliable to enable multiple voyages over several months. These ships provide the initial surge of military capability, followed by sustainment shipping capacity which comes from the commercial industry”.
- On March 13th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on the cyber posture of the Services in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses included Vice Admiral Michael M. Gilday, USN Commander, United States Fleet Cyber Command And Commander, United States Tenth Fleet; Lieutenant General Paul M. Nakasone, USA Commanding General, United States Army Cyber Command; Major General Loretta E. Reynolds, USMC Commander, Marine Forces Cyberspace Command; and Major General Christopher P. Weggeman, USAF Commander, Twenty-Fourth Air Force And Commander, Air Forces Cyber.
 - On March 14th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on a Review and Assessment of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for Department of Defense Science and Technology Programs. Witnesses included, Rear Admiral Upper Half David Hahn, Chief of Naval Research; Ms. Mary Miller, Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistic; Dr. Tom Russell, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology; Mr. Jeff Stanley, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology, and Engineering and Dr. Steve Walker, Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.
 - On March 14th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the Department of the Air Force’s FY 2019 Budget Request for Sea Power and Projection Forces. Witnesses included, Lieutenant General Jerry D. Harris Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans & Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force; Lieutenant General Mark C. Nowland, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans & Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force and The Honorable William Roper, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.
 - On March 14th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on Space Warfighting Readiness: Policies, Authorities, and Capabilities. Witnesses included, Mr. Todd Harrison, Director of Aerospace Security Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies; General Robert Kehler, Former Commander, U.S. Strategic

Command; Mr. Doug Loverro, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy, Department of Defense.

- “Our dependence on space across the full spectrum of conflict creates a vulnerability because our space systems are not adequately protected across the full spectrum of threats. Conflict that begins or extends into space, particularly if it becomes kinetic, will not end well for anyone. Our primary focus should therefore be on deterring conflict in space, and I believe there are three main areas where we can do more to improve our deterrence posture and the readiness of our space forces”.
- On March 15th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for National Security Space Programs. Witnesses include, The Honorable Kenneth P. Rapuano, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security, Department of Defense; General John J Raymond, Commander, Air Force Space Command and The Honorable Betty Sapp, Director, National Reconnaissance Office.
 - “On February 21, 2018, the National Space Council, chaired by Vice President Pence, endorsed and recommended that the President approve a national strategy that protects and advances our vital interest in space. The National Strategy for Space encompasses all aspects of our nation’s space interest. It is composed of a strategic framework and implementation plan outlining four key strategic objectives. The first is to strengthen the safety, stability, and sustainability of space activities. The second is to deter and, when necessary, defeat adversary space and counterspace threats used for purposes hostile to the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners. The third is to maintain U.S. commercial industry as the leading provider of traditional and innovative space technologies, goods, and services on the international space market while limiting potential adversaries’ access to critical technologies and capabilities. The fourth is to maintain and extend U.S. human presence and robotic exploration beyond Earth to transform knowledge of ourselves, our planet, our solar system, and our universe”.
- On March 15th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request on Air Force Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Programs. Witnesses include, Lieutenant General Jerry Harris Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements (A8), Headquarters, U.S. Air Force; Lieutenant General Anthony Ierardi, Director, Force Structure, Resources, and Assessments (J8), Headquarters, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Ms. Susan Thornton, Director for Information Dominance Programs (SAF/AQI), Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.
 - “A central theme of the 2018 National Defense Strategy (NDS) is the reemergence of long-term strategic competition in a world where our competitive military advantage is eroding. It is against this backdrop that the Department of Defense (DoD) must make difficult choices to ensure we continue to field a

lethal, resilient, and adaptable Joint Force that is aligned with the strategic environment and the growing threats within it”.

- On March 20th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on United States Strategic Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. General John E. Hyten, United States Strategic Command, served as the witness.
 - Our new Command and Control Facility is moving toward completion and will support the long term viability and credibility of our strategic deterrent force. From this new facility, we will conduct strategic planning, warfighting operations, aid the President’s nuclear response decision-making process, provide global situational awareness to the National Command Authorities and combatant commands, and, when necessary, deliver a decisive response in all domains.

Upcoming Hearings

- On April 11th, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing to receive testimony on U.S. nuclear weapons policy, programs, and strategy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include, the Honorable Guy B. Roberts, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, And Biological Defense Programs; Dr. Robert M. Soofer, Deputy Assistant Secretary Of Defense For Nuclear And Missile Defense Policy; General Robin Rand, USAF, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command and Vice Admiral Terry J. Benedict, USN Director, Strategic Systems Programs.
- On April 12th, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing to receive testimony on the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include the Honorable Mark T. Esper, Secretary of the Army and General Mark A. Milley, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army.
- On April 17th, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing to receive testimony on Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include, Honorable James F. Geurts, Assistant Secretary of The Navy for Research, Development, And Acquisition; Vice Admiral William R. Merz, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems (OPNAV N9); Brigadier General (sel) James H. Adams, III, USMC, Director, Capabilities Development Directorate; Combat Development & Integration, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps.
- On April 18th, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing to receive testimony on Air Force Modernization in review of the National Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include, Lieutenant General Arnold W. Bunch, Jr., USAF Military Deputy, Office of The

Assistant Secretary of The Air Force for Acquisition; Lieutenant General Jerry D. Harris, Jr., USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters United States Air Force; Brigadier General Brian S. Robinson, USAF, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Headquarters United States Air Force.

- On April 19th, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing to receive testimony on the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include, Honorable Richard V. Spencer, Secretary of The Navy; Admiral John M. Richardson, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; General Robert B. Neller, USMC, Commandant Of The Marine Corps.
- On April 24th, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing to receive testimony on the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include, Honorable Heather A. Wilson, Secretary of The Air Force; General David L. Goldfein, USAF, Chief of Staff Of The Air Force.
- TBD: Seven House Armed Services Democrats are calling for a full committee hearing with the commanders of the U.S. Northern and Southern Commands. In a letter to the top committee leaders, organized by Reps. Ruben Gallego of Arizona and Stephanie Murphy of Florida, the lawmakers warn not hearing from either commander "could signal a lack of committee interest in the critical work" of NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM. "In light of the serious and growing challenges they face, we have an obligation to hear directly from the two combatant commands with responsibility for operations in the Western Hemisphere before we consider this year's National Defense Authorization Act," the lawmakers said.

Nominations and Confirmations

On March 1st, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing for the nominations of:

- Lieutenant General Paul M. Nakasone, to be General and Director, National Security Agency / Chief, Central Security Service / Commander, United States Cyber Command.
- Dr. Brent K. Park, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration.
- Ms. Anne Marie White, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.

National Security Advisor

While not specifically a nomination nor confirmation, President Donald Trump is replacing national security adviser H.R. McMaster with the former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton, injecting a hawkish foreign policy voice into his administration ahead of key decisions on Iran and North Korea.

Bolton will be Trump's third national security adviser. His departure follows Trump's dramatic ouster of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson last week.

In a statement released by the White House, McMaster said he would be requesting retirement from the U.S. Army effective this summer, adding that afterward he "will leave public service."

Bolton, a former U.N. Ambassador, has served as a hawkish voice in Republican foreign policy circles for decades. Bolton has served in the Republican administrations of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, and served as a Bush lawyer during the 2000 Florida recount.

A strong supporter of the Iraq war and an advocate for aggressive use of American power in foreign policy, Bolton was unable to win Senate confirmation after his nomination to the U.N. post alienated many Democrats and even some Republicans. He resigned after serving 17 months as a Bush "recess appointment," which allowed him to hold the job on a temporary basis without Senate confirmation.

c.Pentagon Perspectives

BRAC

Smith, Preble Make the Case for a New BRAC Round

A new journal article argues that DOD needs to conduct another BRAC round as a way to both free up spending for higher priority requirements and increase military effectiveness. The authors — Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.), ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee, and Christopher Preble, vice president for defense and foreign policy studies for the Cato Institute — highlight the ability of base closure communities to recover from BRAC, pointing to the reuse of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and Bergstrom AFB, Texas. In the absence of BRAC, active communities are forced to endure a “death-by-a-thousand-cuts approach” as the services are forced to allocate resources to maintaining unneeded infrastructure.

To counter arguments against authorizing a new round, “Congress needs to take steps to require an emphasis on savings and efficiencies, increase congressional oversight by placing controls on cost growth, and expedite executing and completing recommendations,” the authors state.

DOD Can't Ignore Opportunities to Cut Infrastructure Costs, Reed Says

The Pentagon still needs to look for way to economize on its infrastructure spending even though it didn't request a new BRAC round as part of its fiscal 2019 budget request, Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.), ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee, told reporters Thursday. If there are facilities DOD can consolidate, for example, it should do so on its own, he said. Reed said he would seriously consider a new BRAC round if the department proposed it, despite it being an election year, reported Politico.

TPG View: While Ranking Members Adam Smith in the House and Senator Jack Reed in the Senate maintain the call for a BRAC, appears unlikely in FY19. DoD is not asking, and Senate Chairman McCain is indisposed, leaving Senator Inhofe in nominal charge, and he is adamantly against a BRAC.

Air Force, Navy, USMC Unfunded Priorities Lists

The services have sent to Congress their FY19 Unfunded Priorities Lists (attached are AF, Navy, and USMC lists). The Air Force list is modest compared to previous years, focusing on unfunded

needs in the areas of Space and nuclear weapons. Air Force also asked for \$440 million in military construction projects, but the specifics are not yet released.

Asking for Just \$308M, the Army's Modest Wish List

“The Army in recent years has asked for billions of extra dollars in funding to grow its force and increase its capability beyond what its normal budget requests contain, but this year the service is only asking for \$308 million in its unfunded requirements list sent to Congress earlier this month.” Still tracking down the actual list.

“The list includes just over \$239 million for programs that support the administration's new National Defense Strategy, most of it dedicated to cyber efforts under the Army's Rapid Capabilities Office and cyber electromagnetic activities. Another \$34 million of that would go toward command-and-control infrastructure at the Army Garrison-Humphreys in South Korea.”

MDA eyes space-based sensors, speed-of-light weapons in \$1.2 billion wish list

The Missile Defense Agency has provided Congress a \$1.2 billion wish list to finance 16 projects that were not included in the agency's \$9.9 billion fiscal year 2019 budget request, including bolstering missile defense in South Korea as well as additional investments in new technologies such as speed-of-light weapons, space-based sensors and new warhead development.

Navy Weighs Buying Two More Carriers in One Contract [and basing at Mayport?]

The U.S. Navy is exploring whether it can achieve significant savings in parts and labor by buying its next two aircraft carriers together instead of individually, the service's top weapons buyer said.

The Navy intends to deploy 12 aircraft carriers, up from the 11 today, as a key part of its planned expansion to 355 ships. In a request for proposals on Monday, the Navy asked shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc. “to further define the cost savings achievable” if it makes a block purchase of the third and fourth carriers in the new Ford class.

The proposal is a vote of confidence in the carrier program despite its history so far of major cost increases and delays. The first carrier in the class, the USS Gerald R. Ford, has become the costliest warship ever -- with a budget now capped by Congress at \$12.9 billion -- and it was delivered at least 32 months later than originally scheduled.

For the Navy to commit to two carriers at once, the contractors working on it must demonstrate significant savings, such as in hours of labor or reductions in costs from suppliers, James Geurts, the Navy's top weapons buyer told reporters. “Is there a more affordable way to buy those two?” he asked.

Mike Petters, chief executive officer of Newport News, Virginia-based Huntington Ingalls, said in an email that “we believe the most effective way to reduce cost of aircraft carriers is to take a multi-ship purchase approach and build them every three to four years. Buying two ships at once stabilizes the Newport News Shipbuilding workforce and their national supplier base, allows us to buy materials in quantity, and phase work more efficiently.”

Members of Congress have backed the administration's move toward maintaining a 12-carrier fleet, as new ships are added and older ones are retired, but details about timing of funding, construction and delivery have yet to be worked out.

More than 100 lawmakers -- led by the delegation from Virginia, where the carriers are built -- wrote Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in December urging a dual-buy procurement.

The Navy's fiscal year 2019 budget includes a request to fund the third Ford-class carrier, the USS Enterprise, and plans fiscal 2023 as the first year of full funding for what would be the fourth, a ship still to be named that would replace the USS Carl Vinson when it's retired. Congress must approve the request.

DoD Report: U.S. military continues to prepare for climate change

America's military forces are preparing for the multiple threats posed by climate change. This is nothing new, but it has been obscured by some of the more sensational debates.

According to the latest report from the Defense Department, 50 percent of U.S. military sites have already been affected by floods, wildfires, drought and other weather events made more extreme by rising global temperatures.

Much of this can be charted. As sea level rises, Navy bases on the coast are threatened. Bases in dry regions are threatened by drought as fire seasons get longer. "Droughts are leading to water shortages, heat waves are causing some live-fire exercises to be canceled and shifting wind patterns are disrupting aircraft sorties," the Economist reported.

The Defense Department looks strictly at its mission and "changes in climate affect natural security in several ways," the report stated. "If extreme weather makes our critical facilities unusable or necessitate costly or manpower-intensive work-arounds, that is an unacceptable impact," the report stated.

Previous Defense Department reports have looked at the extreme weather as a security threat because it hampers military operations and creates instability. With sea levels rising twice as fast as 25 years ago, a previous Defense Department report found that 56 Navy bases are at risk with about 3 feet of sea level rise.

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities Actions and Activities:

AF to Stand up Information Operations School in Florida

The Air Force will establish a new information operations technical training school at Hurlburt Field, Fla., beginning in late fiscal 2019, officials announced this week. The decision to create a dedicated training school follows the service's creation of the information operations career field and Air Force specialty code in late 2016, according to a news release. The 14- to 15-week-long curriculum will consolidate and integrate content from existing courses, including information operations intelligence integration, military deception, operational security and psychological operations.

FDSTF Leadership Call

On the Gulf Range enhancement program, we discussed the disconnect between Test and Training, and between OSD oversight entities. As this is a priority area of Lucian's (Range improvement), we will closely follow what is actually getting accomplished.

Army to base new Futures Command in major city, blend tech and academic cultures

The Army is weeks away from unveiling the next phase in its plans to centralize and streamline modernization under one Army Futures Command, including moves to lease office space in a major city where leaders will have access to civilian experts.

The service will start with a list of 30 bases under current review by Army secretary and chief of staff, Undersecretary Ryan McCarthy said. And once a headquarters is established, he added, it will be up to commanders to make decisions about military formalities and how those will mesh with partners from different backgrounds.

“This isn’t like a standard basing decision, where we’re moving a brigade combat team somewhere,” McCarthy said. “We needed access to academia and business, and those two kind of key characteristics. Where the systems engineers, software engineers are.”

“I don’t want to put it on a military installation,” McCarthy told reporters after his speech. “We need access to commercial industry and academia.”

The effort, which was formally announced in October, involves leveraging cross-functional teams geared towards pursuing the service’s top modernization priorities. McCarthy said the service hopes to use the teams, eight of which have already been set up, to drive down the requirements development process from five to seven years to two years or less.

The existing teams are focused on: long-range precision fires; the next-generation combat vehicle; future vertical lift; network command, control, communication and intelligence; assured position, navigation and timing; air and missile defense; soldier lethality; and the synthetic training environment.

Vice Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville praised the speed at which the cross-functional teams are working. The groups are streamlining the requirements development process, he noted.

“There’s collaboration going on between the entire system right now that I haven’t seen in over 12, 15 years of my time on the Army staff, and things are moving” forward, he said.

The Army plans on making a “major decision” about the future vertical lift initiative — which is envisioned as a multi-mission family of helicopters — this fall, McCarthy noted without providing additional details.

To build the new command, the service plans to add three subordinate elements to the existing organizational structure, McCarthy said during his speech. These include: futures and concepts, which will identify capability development opportunities based on threats and technology; combat development, which will establishment requirements for identifying needs; and combat systems, which will engineer and produce solutions.

“The work that they do will be fused with the requirements community” as well as the Army Capabilities Integration Center and Research and Development Command, McCarthy said. However, these organizations will still remain at their current locations, he noted. “We’re not going to move thousands of people from Alabama or Virginia ... around the country. We’re going to look at their roles and responsibilities and align them,” he said.

Hypersonics ‘highest technical priority’ for Pentagon R&D head

As China and Russia threaten to overtake the U.S. with new technologies, development of hypersonic capabilities is the “highest technical priority” for Michael Griffin, the Pentagon’s new

undersecretary of defense for research and engineering. "I'm sorry for everybody out there who champion some other high priority, some technical thing; it's not that I disagree with those. But there has to be a first, and hypersonics is my first," Griffin said at the McAleese/Credit Suisse conference.

The department will be looking to invest more in both offensive hypersonics capabilities and ways to defend against the threat, with new budget items likely to appear in the fiscal 2020 budget, Griffin said, adding that the goal is to leapfrog the work that China and Russia are doing in the hypersonic realm.

Hypersonics again

"Russia and China are outpacing the United States in the development of super-fast missile technology, Pentagon officials and key lawmakers are warning. "Russia says it successfully tested a so-called hypersonic missile this month, while China tested a similar system last year expected to enter service soon.

"'Right now, we're helpless,' Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in advocating for more investment in hypersonics, along with missile defense."

UAVs/AUSs

Washington Post article: Officials pushing for drone identification requirement, new powers for Homeland Security and Justice

Federal officials seeking to expand drone use around the United States said Tuesday they are pushing a pair of security initiatives to deal with what one called "the clueless, the careless and the criminal."

Federal Aviation Administration officials said they want all, or nearly all, drones to have the electronic equivalent of a tail number that would allow them to be identified from afar. Such a requirement, dubbed "remote identification," could help public safety authorities differentiate between potential threats and benign flights and make enforcement easier if people break the law, the officials said.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/dr-gridlock/wp/2018/03/06/u-s-officials-pushing-for-drone-identification-requirement-new-powers-for-homeland-security-and-justice/?utm_term=.b63b80d9ecc5

Florida 'still under consideration' for offshore drilling

According to a recent Politico Article, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke appeared to walk back his previous comments that he would not open Florida's coastal waters to oil drilling, telling lawmakers today the state "is still in the process" as the agency creates its offshore drilling plan.

Zinke's remarks at the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee hearing on Trump's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019 stand in contrast with his January statement that Florida was "off the table." That comment had set off a firestorm of criticism about the seemingly arbitrary manner with which he was exempting the state while keeping all other federal waters under consideration.

When asked by Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) for Maine to be removed from the drilling plan as Florida was, Zinke replied, "Florida is different," before adding, "Florida is still in the process."

An Interior spokeswoman did not immediately reply to requests to clarify whether Interior was still considering the federal waters off Florida's coast for the new five-year plan.

But Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) jumped on Zinke's remarks, saying that it indicated that Zinke's earlier exemption did not apply.

"The Secretary of the Interior ... has just said very confusingly — but bottom line — Florida is still on the table for drilling off of the coast of Florida," Nelson said in a press release. "This is exactly the opposite of what the people of Florida want." Interior will release the new draft of the new plan in "late fall," Zinke said.

USAF awards \$642m EELV launch services contracts to SpaceX and ULA

According to Air Force Technology, The US Air Force (USAF) has awarded two new launch services contracts, with a total value of nearly \$642.43m, to Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) and United Launch Alliance (ULA) for the evolved expendable launch vehicles (EELVs).

Planned to be launched between late next year and 2020, the GPS III missions will deliver sustained, reliable GPS capabilities the US warfighters and their allies, in addition to the civil users.

Under the contracts, the two companies will provide the US Government with a total launch solution for the two missions, which are planned to be carried out from the USAF's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station or the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The current launch services contracts are part of the fourth competition under the current Phase 1A procurement strategy, and are used to meet operational requirements while reducing launch costs through the reintroduction of competition for National Security Space missions.

UWF touts Gulf Coast's cybersecurity achievements in Washington, DC

According to the [Pensacola News Journal](#), the Gulf Coast is becoming one of the country's premier areas for cybersecurity training, and local industry leaders were invited to Washington, D.C., last week to spread the word.

The Washington Cyber Roundtable is a nonprofit industry liaison group that brings together leaders in technology, consulting and professional services to share experience and expertise on cyber issues with government leaders.

A key contributing factor to Pensacola's strength in the cyber realm is partnerships among the private sector, education institutions like UWF and military and government agencies like the National Security Agency, the Department of Homeland Security and the Navy.

Gulf Power powering over 130,000 homes with wind energy

According to a Gulf Power press release, Gulf Power became the leading purchaser of wind energy in Florida in early 2016.

The other renewable sources are the Gulf Coast Solar Centers — three solar farms on three military bases across Northwest Florida — and the Perdido Landfill Gas-to-Energy facility in Escambia County, Florida, the press release stated.

Frustrated Gaetz votes against budget, including Gulf Test Range funding

A \$1.3 trillion federal spending bill that includes \$30 million for upgrades to the Gulf Test Range was passed by Congress late this week without the support of a frustrated Rep. Matt Gaetz. Gaetz is one of the strongest voices in Congress for improving the massive military testing area in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

The 120,000-square-mile range is used by a wide array of military units, including Eglin Air Force Base's 33rd Fighter Wing and 96th Test Wing, and the Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field. The Gulf Test Range accommodates high-altitude supersonic air combat training, air-to-air missile testing, drone targeting, hypersonic weapons testing and space launches.

Gaetz, R-Fort Walton Beach, represents the area of Northwest Florida that includes Eglin, Hurlburt and other military installations.

The \$30 million outlay for the Gulf Test Range will be used to update its automated communications gear, which provides data on the performance of munitions, other military equipment and military personnel. It has not been comprehensively updated since at least the early 1970s. As a result, training and evaluation of munitions tested on the range has not been as effective as it might have been.

Since the 1970s, development of communications and data collection equipment aboard aircraft and onboard munitions has outpaced the range's telemetry capabilities. In some instances, the telemetry equipment does not recognize the munitions and equipment operating in the range.

Gaetz said Friday that he is frustrated that Congress can't take a line-by-line approach to spending plans, and must settle for "one massive up-and-down vote" on funding the government.

In a statement released after the House vote Thursday, Gaetz was critical that the 2,232-page bill, and an additional 1,507 pages of explanatory materials, were made available just 16 hours before the scheduled House vote.

Gaetz was one of nine Republicans in Florida's 27-member House delegation to vote against the spending package. A single Democrat, Rep. Darren Soto of Orlando, voted against the budget bill.

The Senate voted 65-32 early Friday to pass the measure. Both Florida senators, Republican Marco Rubio and Democrat Bill Nelson, voted in favor of the \$1.3 trillion package. Nelson noted the test range funding in an email, saying it is "critical to our Air Force and Navy."

The office of Rep. Neal Dunn, R-Panama City, whose district includes Tyndall Air Force Base, also touted the Gulf Test Range funding in an email Thursday. Dunn's office also noted that he is seeking an additional \$36.9 million in Gulf Test Range funding for the next budget year.

According to Gaetz, work on upgrading the sensor array in the Test Range should begin soon.

"The Air Force is making every indication that the work will start this year," he said.

3. Installations

Homestead ARB

LTG (R) Glenn Spears visited both the U. S. Army Garrison—Miami (Headquarters, U.S. Southern Command) and Homestead Air Reserve Base (482d Fighter Wing) this past month.

Here are a few notes from his HARB visit: Met with USAF Colonel Dave “Tang” Garfield, 482d Fighter Wing commander; Col Brian Neal, 482FW/CV; Mr. Larry Ventura, the wing’s Chief, Environmental Flight (and land-use planner); and Mr. Jonathan Borgert, Homestead Military Affairs Committee.

Leadership provided an overview of the wing’s mission and the economic impact of the wing and their tenants (SOC SOUTH, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 50th Regional Support Group (FL Army National Guard), Detachment 1, 125th Fighter Wing (FL Air National Guard), U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team and the Defense Energy Support Center Americas East).

They are open to other base and mission growth opportunities, such as future joint commercial and/or industry use of the airfield, and believe Air Force Reserve Command would also be supportive. They are keenly focused on the challenges facing future mission growth – principally airfield encroachment, the lack of pipeline-supplied jet fuel and the lack of an operational underground fuel hydrant system. These challenges inhibit the use of Homestead as a major aerial port for contingency and/or Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief operations.

The Homestead Military Affairs Committee stated that the local community is supportive of the base and personnel. He offered to help strengthen Homestead’s mission and future in any way possible. We are working tasks to support their goals.

SOUTHCOM (LTG Spears was former Deputy Commanding General)

Visited with installation leaders and a few associated civic leaders at U.S. Army Garrison—Miami (SOUTHCOM). Here are a few notes from his visit: Army Garrison—Miami. Met with USAF Major General Jon Norman, Chief of Staff, Mr. Herb Newman, Assistant Chief of Staff and Mr. Chuck Walls, Garrison Manager. Met separately with Ms. Pamela Berkowsky, a member of the South Florida Defense Alliance (SFDA).

Leadership shared a number of their priorities: The Commander’s top Garrison / family support priority is to improve access to affordable family and unaccompanied housing. This complex, recently completed and occupied in 2010, is not a typical military installation. The complex, Army Garrison—Miami, has no family or unaccompanied housing facilities, or any of the other troop or family support facilities provided at major military installations. The cost of housing within 40 miles of the headquarters rivals that of Washington, D.C. To improve access to affordable housing, Army Garrison—Miami has a plan to build unaccompanied and family housing on some 60 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to and south of their headquarters complex.

The intent is to then build 140 unaccompanied quarters and 220 family homes. The 60-acre site belongs to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and is the only large parcel of undeveloped land remaining in Doral and the nearby Miami area. The plan is possible, and is logical from an operational and troop-support perspective. That said, **the FAA / Department of Transportation may have competing plans for the property.** The property is also less than three statute miles from, and directly under the flight path of, the approach end of Miami International Airport’s Runway 08 Left. **If pursued, this plan will require carefully synchronized coordination between the Garrison, Miami-Dade County, the Department of the Army, OSD, Department of Transportation and the FAA.**

The Garrison and command stated two other major garrison / family support priorities. These are reducing members' daily travel costs by waiving highway tolls for one vehicle per military family and relieving military families from the area's standard requirement to provide three month's rent (vice national standard of two month's rent) deposit as a prerequisite for leased housing. Finally, we discussed the opportunity to include Homestead ARB as a contingency aerial port for SOUTHCOM, NORTHCOM and FEMA plans. If directed in COCOM contingency and federal emergency plans, the USAF could then advocate for infrastructure improvement resources.

The SFDA's first year focus is support to military personnel and missions in Miami-Dade County. Their focus expands in year two to Miami-Dade and Broward counties, with the objective for year three to be financially self-supporting and to focus on Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe County (west and south to the Keys) and Palm Beach County (to the north). As part of expanding their support, the SFDA intends to focus on growing the healthcare and aviation industries' ties to, and collaboration with, DoD in the area. They compared this SFDA focus for potential partnerships to the Tampa Bay area and the modeling and simulation industry. They also posited that south Florida, with its deep academic and business expertise in environmental and marine sciences, should focus next on the impacts of, and response to, sea level rise.

Chuck Walls (Garrison Manager) outlined a draft plan to enhance the capabilities of SOUTHCOM's Special Operations Command component, SOCSOUTH. SOCSOUTH's headquarters and some support facilities are located on Homestead ARB, where they operate as a non-operationally aligned tenant. This draft plan includes increasing SOCSOUTH's current footprint at Homestead from ~90 acres by an additional ~130 acres. This proposed growth would come from former Homestead AFB property that is now under community jurisdiction. Finally, they noted that the next Florida Governor's Base Commanders' meeting would be held at SOUTHCOM headquarters in June, 2018.

We will attend SFDA economic development event on/about 22 May 2018, and assist Army Garrison—Miami and SFDA interagency and Congressional advocacy for land acquisition from FAA, advocacy for housing MILCON funds, and advocacy within Florida legislature for relief from highway toll for one vehicle per military family and relief from the three-month rent deposit requirement.

Hurlburt AFS

Here's an excerpt from a recent AFA article:

[“USAF to Stand Up Information Operations Tech School at Hurlburt](#)

Air Force officials have announced the creation of a new Information Operations technical training school, which is expected to open in fiscal year 2019. USAF created the 14F Information Operations career field in late 2016. Previously airmen temporarily served in IO positions as a “career broadening” experience and then returned to their core AFSC, limiting institutional knowledge in the field. “Information Operations is not new to the Air Force,” said Col. Ziggy Schoepf, 14F career field manager. “However, this is the first time that the Air Force has codified this capability in a dedicated officer career field. With the creation of the career field and a dedicated schoolhouse, the Air Force is acknowledging the importance of Information Operations to the future of warfare.” The 14F initial skills course will be 14 to 15 weeks long and will “consolidate and integrate content from multiple IO-related training courses,” according to a release. “The course will provide students with cohesive training rooted in social science,” said Schoepf. “Graduates will have the skills to build strategies and plans that sustain or change perceptions and attitudes driving the behavior and decision making of relevant actors.”

LTG Spears is planning visits to APAFR and MacDill in the next 60 days.

Key West

With the passing of the Omnibus Budget Bill, the increase in military spending, and finally the funding to execute post-Hurricane Irma repairs and reconstruction, we will watch closely to assure the money flows south to Key West. If it doesn't, that is another signal that Key West might be at risk. Housing is the big issue. It is "affordable" but it is a mess. Fixing it ought to be a high priority, but we do not sense that it is. We will be reaching out to the Admiral in charge of Naval installation readiness to see where Key West sits on his priority list.

Mayport

According to its website, Naval Station Mayport has grown to be the third largest fleet concentration area in the United States. Mayport is somewhat unique with the harbor capable of accommodating 34 ships and an 8,000-foot runway capable of handling any aircraft in the DoD inventory. At the time of our Re-SWOT last summer, we counted 14 ships homeported in Mayport with more to come, specifically and assuredly were the additional Littoral Combat Ships (LCS). The website today touts 22 ships. Projections will go as high as 38 ships in FY-23; but that includes 13 Patrol Craft (PC), 10 of which will return stateside from overseas homeporting, only to all be decommissioned by FY-26. Frigates (FF and/or FFG) will start showing up in FY-22 and are anticipated to grow to a total of six by FY-24. A first-hand discussion with the top Navy leadership has provided the promise that there will be 33 ships in Mayport by the end of the FYDP (FY-25). That's a 50% increase in ships, large ships and some with multiple crews, not just the smaller PCs, which will have gone away by then.

The latter part of the month was taken up with our team visit to Jacksonville to coincide with the Florida Defense Support Task Force monthly meeting. In addition, we sat in on a daylong meeting of the Florida Defense Alliance. On day our TPG team met with the Mayor's Veterans Support Office, Bill Spann and Harrison Conyers. ADM Bob Natter, USN (ret), a consultant to the City, sat in on the meeting. Mayport has been dredged to 50 feet, a new carrier pier is in place, and the required electrical shore power to accommodate a nuclear powered carrier has been installed. Mayport, however, lacks the \$600M nuclear repair facility that a homeported carrier would need for its reactor support. We raised several issues with respect to the carrier coming to Mayport: a lack of parking; the volatile impact on the local businesses if 4000 sailors are coming and going, the similar volatile impact on the ship maintenance facilities (the continuing laying off of work force when the carrier is deployed); lack of funding (\$600M) for the nuclear repair facility. Mayport would be ripe for another ARG. Having two ARGs in Mayport would lessen the volatility of the ship maintenance workload, and have a smaller more accommodating footprint than the carrier.

Florida National Guard

TPG's Steve Blum (former Director of the US Army National Guard) has had continuing communications with Chief of Staff, FLNG, Ned Woolfolk, and discussed MG Calhoun's, TAG FL, expanded four priorities. They are: the future missions of the ANG at Jacksonville, Joint Training Center Blanding and its future activities to include modeling and simulation. Third, domestic operations, Homeland mission related expanded role. The newest addition is assistance in developing FL NG National Guard and Reserves Equipment Account (NGREA) priorities list.

Florida NG is formulating their future plans for all four and will welcome our assist in theses area.

Team Orlando

NCS in partnership with Program Executive Office Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) wrote a grant proposal for \$3.2 million to build out the P IV; a high bay space to establish an Advanced R&D/Rapid Prototyping Facility. We will track the submission and actions associated with this proposal but in the meantime the Rapid prototyping activities associated with the TrEX /OTA initiative are taking place in the newly acquired spaces. This is not a long term solution since the secure facilities will and the office spaces for the PEO STRI personnel is the actual priority for current newly acquired spaces. Team Orlando and the civilian members of the MODTF will fully support any site visits and /or data call requirements that may be associated with the Army Futures Command location.



The Principi Group

April Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period April 1-30, 2018

1. Washington Insights

a. Budgets

Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Budget Request

According to the budget agreement passed in March, total defense spending will be \$716 billion in FY 2019. For the first time in years, as the congressional defense committees head into their annual process of marking up the defense bills, level of funding is not an open question.

Fiscal Year 2019 Military Construction Request for Florida

- Total President’s Budget request for the State of Florida is \$177.423 million. Included are these projects:

Base	Project	Funding (millions)
Mayport LCS	Operational Training Facility	\$29.110
Mayport LCS	Support Facility	\$82.350
Eglin AFB	F-35A Integrated Trg Center Academics Bldg	\$34.863
Eglin AFB	F-35A Student Dormitory II	\$28.000
MacDill AFB	KC135 Beddown Flight Simulator Training	\$3.100

- House Armed Services Committee Military Construction request for the State of Florida includes the original 5 projects above, plus authorization for additional 4 projects Included are these additional projects:

Base	Project	Funding (millions)
Patrick AFB		\$9.000
Patrick AF Reserve		\$24.00
NAS Whiting Field		\$10.00
Eglin AFB	Cyberspace Test Fac.	\$38.000

b. Congressional Defense Committees

Mark Up

With funding levels agreed to, both House and Senate are accelerating their timeline for marking up the annual national defense authorization act. House committee leadership has called for a slimmed down version, limiting provisions to a set number. House Armed Services Committee plans to focus on only the top 15 legislative proposals submitted by committee members when putting together the legislation, according to an internal memo.

The House Armed Services Committee Subcommittees marked up their bill on Thursday, April 26th.

Below are a few selected provisions from the HASC Mark:

Defense Panel Requests Update on Navy, Air Force Plan to Privatize Lodging

The House Armed Services' Readiness Subcommittee is asking the Navy and Air Force for details on plans to consolidate and privatize their on-base lodging, according to report language in the panel's mark of the fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill. The subcommittee directs the services to brief it by March 1, 2019, on how they will "ensure holistic sustainability and affordability of their lodging programs." The update should include details on capital investment needs to correct facility configuration and capacity deficiencies, how facilities will be adequately sustained over the long term, and the use of best practices designed to reduce government manpower and operational costs.

The lawmakers note their support for the Pentagon's efforts to streamline its business operations, and say there is an opportunity to find savings in functions that no longer need individual military department approaches. They credit the Army's effort to privatize its on-base lodging for upgrading facilities, improving the experience for travelers, saving money and establishing a self-sustaining program.

DOD Could Fund Off-Base Infrastructure Projects under Proposed Authority

Defense communities could pick up critical financial assistance for infrastructure projects which support neighboring installations under a new authority the House Armed Services' Readiness Subcommittee included in its mark of the fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill. The draft legislation would establish the Defense Community Infrastructure Program and would allow DOD to award grants to states and local governments to address "deficiencies in community infrastructure projects or facilities which are located outside of military installations but which support military installations." The department first would need to determine the assistance "will enhance the military value, resiliency or military family quality of life" at the installation.

The language calls for DOD to establish criteria for the eligibility and selection of states and municipalities. It would require participants to contribute at least 20 percent of the total project cost in most cases; the department would be able to waive the cost-share requirement for rural communities. A transportation project, a school, hospital, police, fire, emergency response or other community support facility, or a waste, wastewater, telecommunications, electric, gas or other utility infrastructure project would be eligible for the program.

DOD would be required to provide Congress 14 days before obligating funds "a comprehensive description of how the assistance will address deficiencies in the project or facility, a certification of military need" and, if applicable, certification that the state or local agency will meet the cost-share requirement.

The department's only existing program helping communities pay for infrastructure needed to support an installation is the Defense Access Roads program. It is designed to pay for defense-related transportation needs affecting a surrounding community if they are sudden, unusual or unique, and state and local authorities are unable to address the requirement. The eligibility criteria, however, require traffic to double, an unrealistic standard for urban areas already saddled with severe traffic delays.

House Panel Asks Army to Explore Need for Urban Warfare Center

With an increased likelihood that that next major global conflict will be fought in densely populated cities, the Army should consider constructing an urban warfare training center, according to directive report language in the portion of the fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill authored by the House Armed Services' Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee. "The committee is particularly concerned with the Army's lack of realistic training sites that reflect the scale and density of real-world urban operating environments," the panel says. The center should focus on "basic and advanced skills to fight, survive and win in urban operating environments," lawmakers say.

The panel directs the Army to brief the full committee by Feb. 1, 2019, on its plan for urban warfare training, which should include:

- a description of costs associated with an urban warfare training program;
- a feasibility study for the construction of a training center.

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity of Ballistic Missile Defense System

This committee notes the 2017 report from the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, of the Department of Defense, on the cybersecurity testing gaps that exist for the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). The committee further notes that a plan is needed from the Missile Defense Agency and Director, Operational Test and Evaluation to conduct vulnerability assessments, cooperative vulnerability and penetration assessments, and adversarial assessments on all BMDS mission elements. Therefore, the committee directs the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, in coordination with the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by December 31, 2018, on the BMDS cybersecurity testing road map. The briefing must include a comprehensive plan to improve the cybersecurity posture of the mission elements of the BMDS, including addressing the requirement to further enhance such posture through the integration and dissemination of left- and right-of-launch data, and what process the Director of the Missile Defense Agency will use to incorporate lessons learned from the cybersecurity assessments.

Information Operations

The committee understands the growing importance of space and cyber operations in military operations and in another provision elsewhere in this Act directed the Secretary of Defense to report readiness to conduct operations in the space and cyber domains. The committee believes that information operations are similarly becoming a major factor in military planning and that operational skill in conducting information operations will be critical to future military success. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to assess the value of measuring and regularly reporting the readiness of the joint force to conduct information operations and report his recommendations to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by January 31, 2019.

CYBER-RELATED MATTERS

Comptroller General Review of Current Military Cyber Operations

The committee notes that in the last several years, the Department of Defense has employed cyber capabilities to achieve objectives in or through cyberspace. Unlike military operations that occur in the air and land domains, cyberspace operations and the effects of those operations are not always visible to Congress and the American people. The committee believes that as the Department continues to conduct cyberspace operations, it will be critical that operations are fully aligned with the appropriate authorities, policies and doctrine, rules of engagement, plans,

oversight mechanisms, and lessons learned processes. It will also be important that the Department manages the number of organizations that are conducting these operations, to ensure there are clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and that there are deconfliction mechanisms in place. Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to assess the Department of Defense's current military cyberspace operations. The assessment should identify: (1) the types of cyberspace operations the Department has undertaken, activities undertaken to prepare for cyberspace operations, and the organizations conducting these operations; (2) authorities, policies, doctrine, and rules of engagement for these operations; (3) internal oversight and congressional reporting mechanisms; (4) efforts to develop and synchronize cyberspace operations within combatant commanders' plans; and (5) processes used to deconflict cyberspace operations or mitigate the impact of cyberspace operations on other military operations. The committee directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2019, on preliminary findings, and submit a final report to the congressional defense committees at a date agreed to at the time of the briefing.

National Hypersonics Initiative

The committee is aware of a National Hypersonics Initiative under development by the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, in conjunction with the military services, defense labs, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The committee recognizes the growing amount of resources and emphasis placed by the Department of Defense on the research and development of hypersonic vehicle technology. The committee supports the development of a National Hypersonics Initiative, and believes it is prudent and consistent with the roles and responsibilities granted to the Department's Joint Hypersonics Transition Office as authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-91). Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than September 15, 2018, on the status of the National Hypersonics Initiative.

UAVs and AUVs

Unmanned aerial system units for Army National Guard

The committee understands the Army's current fielding plan for MQ-1C Gray Eagle units includes Active Duty combat aviation brigades and intelligence units, and that at present no systems are planned for fielding to the Army National Guard. However, the committee notes that there are many missions involving military support to civilian authorities for which the MQ-1C Gray Eagle could contribute, including wildfire response, search and rescue, border security, counter narcotics, and communications support during emergencies. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2019, on the potential utility, feasibility, and cost of establishing MQ-1C Gray Eagle units in the Army National Guard. The briefing shall include, at a minimum, a detailed analysis of the resources needed to create a minimum of two Gray Eagle companies in the Army National Guard, and an analysis of how such units could provide support to civilian authorities for domestic emergencies.

MQ-4

The budget request contained \$577.8 million for procurement of three MQ4C unmanned aircraft. The committee understands the MQ-4C will be a forward deployed, land-based, autonomously operated system that provides a persistent maritime intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capability using a multi-sensor mission payload. The MQ-4C's unique combination of long endurance and advanced sensors will support combatant commanders and provide a common operational picture of the maritime environment. The committee supports the budget request of \$577.8 million for procurement of three MQ-4C aircraft. However, how, when, and what quantity

of MQ-4C aircraft will be integrated into the Department of Defense's ISR Global Force Management Allocation Process (GFMAP) for airborne ISR aircraft is still unclear. Therefore, the committee also directs the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), in consultation with the Secretary of the Navy, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than October 15, 2018, that details the strategy and plan to integrate MQ-4C into the CJCS ISR GFMAP process. At a minimum, the briefing should illustrate the methodology that will be used to determine the quantity of MQ-4C aircraft involved in the process, the scheduling start date, the type of aircraft capability, and the capacity of intelligence discipline capability the MQ-4C will provide to the combatant commanders.

Counter-unmanned aerial system threat detection

The committee is interested in advancements in counter-unmanned aerial system (C-UAS) technology and the threat these systems pose to the Armed Forces. The committee supports ongoing efforts by the U.S. Army and U.S. Special Operations Command to develop and employ unmanned aerial system (UAS) threat detection technology, and commends the services for recognizing the seriousness of the threat. In light of recent UAS attacks in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, the committee is concerned about the increased threat from unmanned aerial systems to forward operating bases and special operations forces personnel. The committee believes additional advancements in scalable C-UAS technologies are necessary to effectively detect, track, neutralize, and ensure the force protection and operational security of deployed service members. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by October 31, 2018, on the employment of C-UAS systems. The briefing should include an assessment of the UAS threat to the Armed Forces, a roadmap for C-UAS threat detection technology and capabilities, and the results of operational fielding of C-UAS systems.

Science and Technology

National lab (DoD Labs) integration in defense innovation hubs

The committee has continuing interest in the Department of Defense laboratories and engineering centers, their responsiveness to Department of Defense requirements, and maximizing their expertise and reach. The Department's laboratories are integral to the Department's ability to retain capability in areas where the private sector has no commercial interest, and ensuring that commercial solutions are adapted for warfighter needs in a timely manner so that the United States remains dominant in the land, air, sea, space, and cyber domains. The committee recommends that the Department better enable laboratories and centers to embrace an open and innovative posture, while simultaneously becoming more active in the Department's requirements process. The committee is aware of the Army Research Lab's Open Campus project as an example of open innovation that encourages groundbreaking advances in basic and applied research areas through increased collaboration with the broader research enterprise. The committee believes that this serves as a model for laboratories to become more ingrained in the scientific and research communities, both locally and globally, and become a greater sensor for disruptive technologies that present opportunities or highlight vulnerabilities for the Department. Additionally, the committee recommends that the laboratories increase their presence in innovation hubs across the United States, like those established by the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental, and enhance existing relationships with the Strategic Capabilities Office and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than October 1, 2018, on the respective plan for further integrating the laboratories across defense and commercial innovation hubs, and maximizing their expertise and reach. The briefing should include a robust plan and timeline for increasing the Department's laboratory joint presence in innovation hubs across the United States.

Subcommittee Marks

The Readiness Subcommittee's proposal includes:

Rebuilds troop readiness and makes investments in equipment maintenance by:

- Recommending the Full Committee increase **funding for equipment maintenance, spare parts, and training to rebuild readiness for ships, aircraft squadrons, and ground combat units**;
- Recommending the Full Committee fund **20 Combat Training Center rotations across the Army**—16 Active and 4 Army National Guard;
- Directing the Navy to provide a **clear chain of command for operations, for building readiness, and for shipyard maintenance**;
- Requiring the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) **Inspections be conducted on a no-notice basis** make details of those inspections unclassified and available to the public;
- Requiring the Secretary of the Navy to provide a **report on ways to optimize surface Navy vessel inspection and crew certifications** to reduce redundancies and the burden on inspection visits that ships undergo;
- **Limiting the amount of time a Navy vessel is forward deployed** overseas to no more than 10 years;
- Ensuring the Navy retains **sufficient ship repair capability and capacity in the Western Pacific** by prohibiting the redevelopment of the Former Ship Repair Facility on Guam.

Chairman Wilson: "Even as we recommend higher funding in several areas, we recognize that we are still in the early stages of readiness recovery. While we are pleased to fund essential readiness accounts, we will expect to see steady readiness recovery over time. The American people deserve no less."

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee Mark

Specifically, the ETC proposal:

- **Supports defense innovation, emerging technologies, and advances in Artificial Intelligence:**
- Places **emphasis on policy and programs to advance Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing**, and other technologies of national security consequence;
- Fully **supports innovation efforts of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DIUx)** to ensure technological superiority and overmatch for our warfighters against current and future threats;
- **Advances hypersonic and directed energy weapons research, development, and transition efforts** within DoD;
- Recommends to the Full Committee additional funds to **accelerate Artificial Intelligence, and machine learning programs, as well as directed energy, and hypersonics programs.**
- **Strengthens cyber warfare capabilities and enhances congressional oversight:**
- Prioritizes the **readiness of U.S. Cyber Command, cyber mission forces, and cyber warfare tools and capabilities**, including initiatives to strengthen the cyber workforce;
- Provides a pilot-authority to **improve coordination between DOD and the Department of Homeland Security**, to strengthen defense of critical infrastructure and networks;
- Enhances resiliency of **DOD networks, weapons systems, supply chains, and capabilities**;
- Strengthens congressional oversight of **sensitive cyber military operations and cyber warfare tools and capabilities**;

- Bolsters international **partnerships for cyber warfare and influence operations** to counter aggression, cyber, and information warfare threats.
- **Reinforces counterterrorism and unconventional warfare capabilities:**
- **Authorizes U.S. Special Operations Command programs and activities**, including ongoing efforts in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, and Eastern Europe;
- Extends **critical authorities for special operations and personnel recovery programs;**
- Improves congressional oversight of **ongoing counterterrorism and sensitive activities;**
- Fully authorizes and strengthens **Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) programs and activities**, including the creation of a **Principal Advisor for CWMD to more effectively oversee** policies and activities within the Department.

Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee Mark

Specifically, the proposal:

- Authorizes multiyear procurement authorities for F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft to **generate better cost savings for the taxpayer and provide needed capability to the Navy;**
- The proposal supports Air Force efforts to **develop a 21st century Advanced Battle-Management System (ABMS) to mitigate anti-access, area-denial challenges of potential adversaries by integrating the JSTARS Recap program as the foundational platform for ABMS.** The mark requires the Secretary of the Air Force to continue the **Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System Recapitalization (JSTARS Recap) program** which will significantly increase Battle-Management, Command and Control, and Ground-Moving Target Indicator intelligence capabilities and capacity over what's provided to the combatant commanders today, and to minimize operational risk to joint warfighters as concluded in multiple years of past Air Force analyses;
- Works to facilitate mitigation efforts to **better address physiological episodes in tactical and training aircraft**, and requires the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force to certify that any new aircraft will all have the most recent technological advancements necessary to mitigate PEs;
- Directs the Secretary of the Army to conduct a **cost-benefit assessment and analysis of using multi-year procurement contracts for armored brigade combat team vehicle modernization** to generate better cost-savings and better stability in the industrial base;
- Works to **strengthen and improve ISR investment strategies** in order to more efficiently and effectively meet combatant commander ISR requirements;
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to **provide a detailed cost estimate and baseline schedule for the F-35 continuous capability development and delivery program;**
- Works to **improve short range air defense (SHORAD) as well as indirect fires protection capability.** Directs the Secretary of the Army to provide an accelerated acquisition strategy for the Army's interim maneuverable SHORAD initiative, as well as identify requirements that are similar to both the SHORAD and counter-UAS missions;
- Advances the development and procurement of **lighter, stronger, and more advanced personal protective equipment systems for all warfighters;**
- Sets the conditions and encourages the Department to **explore opportunities to accelerate the Future Vertical Lift program** in order to meet national security challenges.
-

Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee Mark

The Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee's proposal:

- Recommends to the Full Committee **support for the 10 ships included in the fiscal year 2019 budget request**, including two *Virginia*-class submarines, three DDG 51 *Arleigh Burke* destroyers; one Littoral Combat Ship (LCS); two T-AO 205 oilers; one Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB); and one T-ATS towing, salvage, and rescue ship. In addition, the proposal

recommends adding three battle force ships, including one *Ford*-class aircraft carrier and two additional LCS for a total of 13 ships;

- Specifically **authorizes the procurement of CVN-81**, the fourth *Ford*-class aircraft carrier;
- Recommends long lead time material funding in fiscal year 2019 for **two additional Virginia-class submarines** in fiscal years 2022 and 2023;
- Authorizes the **multiyear procurement** associated with 625 SM-6 missiles at a rate of 125 missiles per year;
- Recommends an **expansion in critical enablers** including LRASM, Tomahawk, MK-48 heavyweight torpedoes, and sonobuoys;
- Authorizes the **multiyear procurement of E-2D Advanced Hawkeye and C-130J Super Hercules aircraft**;
- Recommends **full funding for the B-21 Raider program**;
- Establishes a **floor of 479 air refueling tanker aircraft in the Air Force inventory** subject to the results of the Mobility Capability and Requirements Study 2018;
- Recommends full funding for the VC-25B Presidential Recapitalization Aircraft program;
- Recommends **continuing support for the propulsion and propeller upgrades of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve C-130H airlift aircraft**;
- Retains the **hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH-20)** until a replacement capability can be developed;
- Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to enter into a **contract for 10 foreign-built, used sealift vessels concurrent with a plan to construct 10 new sealift vessels**;
- Limits Military Sealift Command fiscal year 2019 expenditures until the Secretary of the Navy has entered into a **contract for two vessels and has completed the requirements documentation for the construction of 10 new sealift vessels**;
- Requires Ready Reserve Fleet vessel **upgrades to comply with SOLIS lifeboat and fire suppression requirements**;
- **Restricts the acquisition of foreign-built training ships and requires construction of the National Security Multi Mission Vessel in U.S. shipyards** to support these State Maritime Academies training requirements; and,
- Recommends an **increase in Maritime Security Program (MSP) funding** to ensure retention of 60 MSP vessels.

Strategic Forces Subcommittee Mark Nuclear

- Requires the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to make a decision on **sustaining one or more large solid rocket motor manufacturers** in the defense industrial base prior to awarding the next contract in the GBSD program;
- Recommends that the Full Committee authorize funding for a safe, secure and reliable nuclear arsenal, recommending that the Full Committee add **funding above the budget request level for the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) nuclear weapons activities and defense nuclear nonproliferation program**, including efforts to modernize the nuclear weapons stockpile and address NNSA's aging facilities and infrastructure;
- Provides for the **Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering to sit on the Nuclear Weapons Council**, which coordinates nuclear weapons programs and policy between the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Conventional Prompt Strike

- Recommends the Full Committee authorize **funding above the President's Budget Request to**

accelerate development and testing for a conventional prompt strike operational capability, and requires a report addressing ambiguity concerns.

Missile Defense

- Recommends the Full Committee authorize funding above the President's Budget Request to **continue development of critical directed energy, space sensing, and hypersonic defense capabilities by the Missile Defense Agency to address the increasing threat, in both capacity and complexity**;
- Continues the committee's commitment to **ensure quality of life is prioritized for the Sailors and personnel that will be operating the Aegis Ashore site in Poland** with appropriate housing accommodations;
- Requires the Director of the Missile Defense Agency **establish a boost phase intercept program using kinetic interceptors**, and initiate development of a missile defense tracking and discrimination space sensor layer;
- Requires the Director of the Missile Defense Agency to **continue development for the Homeland defense radar in Hawaii** to deliver an operational capability in fiscal year 2023;
- Recommends the Full Committee authorize the President's Budget request of \$500 million for **Israeli Missile Defense co-development and co-production of the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow weapon systems**.

National Security Space

- **Establishes U.S. Space Command as a new sub-unified command within U.S. Strategic Command**, to ensure joint space warfighting receives the resources and emphasis that it needs;
- Major Commands in the Air Force are organized into numbered Air Forces (NAF). To ensure prioritization of space within the Service, the proposal **directs the Secretary of the Air Force to establish a new numbered Air Force dedicated to space warfighting** and reorganize the current 14th Air Force to a space support mission;
- Directs the Deputy Secretary of Defense to **develop a plan to establish a separate alternative acquisition system for defense space acquisition to include the space vehicle, ground segment, and terminals**;
- Requires **evaluation and enhanced security of the supply chain for protected satellite communications program and overhead persistent infrared systems**;
- Requires the Department of Defense to **consider the risks, benefits, and cost savings with respect to using small- and medium- size buses** for strategic and tactical satellite payloads;
- Directs the Department of Defense to provide the Committee a briefing on the its **efforts to use commercial items for a follow-on wideband communications system**;
- Continues our commitment to **support innovation in national security space launch** while recognizing the need to maintain risk at acceptable levels to ensure mission success.

Chairman Rogers: "this committee continues to place a high priority on following through with fixing the significant flaws in the organization and management of the national security space enterprise. While we continue to work with the Department on their upcoming reports on organization and management we recognize that Congress must continue to place significant pressure on the bureaucracy of the Department to fix itself. Since last year, President Trump has endorsed the establishment of an independent space force. Jim and I remain committed to laying the foundations for that force within this committee. In addition to tasking the DSD to design a new space acquisition system, we also direct the Secretary of the Air Force to develop a plan to increase the number and improve the quality of the space cadre within the Air Force. We direct the establishment of a new numbered air force which will be responsible for carrying out space warfighting operations which will benefit from the increased numbers of space

warfighters. Lastly, we establish a sub-unified command for space under United States Strategic Command which will further normalize joint space warfighting operations across all services, as Secretary of Defense Mattis testified before the Full Committee just two weeks ago. We look forward to aggressively moving forward to implement a sensible way forward to increase the lethality and agility of our joint space warfighters”.

The HASC full committee will consider the Chairman’s mark on Wednesday May 9th, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Earlier this month, Chairman Thornberry and Ranking Member Smith submitted their [views and estimates](#) to the House Budget Committee, an early step in assembling the NDAA. Ranking Member Smith also submitted additional views, which can be found [here](#). [use “control click” to see imbedded documents, if desired.]

Acquisition reforms likely to be included in the new National Defense Authorization Act will be less complex than previous changes to the Pentagon's weapons buying practices, Thornberry predicted.

On the Senate side, the absence of Senator McCain from Washington, DC also suggests a less ambitious bill will be forthcoming. SASC Mark Up will commence the week of May 7th.

Appropriators are tentatively scheduled to begin their Mark Up of Defense Spending in June.

Hearings

House Armed Service Committee (HASC) and Senate Armed Service Committee (SASC) Hearings. *All available testimony hyperlinked below.*

- On April 11th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on the United States Special Operations Command's Efforts to Transform the Force for Future Security Challenges. Witnesses included, Lieutenant General Scott A. Howell, USAF, Vice Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command; [Lieutenant General Kenneth E. Tovo](#), USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Special Operations Command; [Lieutenant General Marshall B. Webb](#), USAF, Commander, U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command; [Rear Admiral Timothy G. Szymanski](#), USN, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command; and [Major General Carl E. Mundy III](#), USMC, Commander, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.
 - A “National Cyber Strategy” is at the White House awaiting approval, a senior Defense Department official said Wednesday. “I understand that it should be forthcoming in the near future,” Kenneth Rapuano, assistant secretary of Defense for homeland defense and global security, told the House Armed Services Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee on Wednesday. Once it’s released, the Pentagon will then “enhance our cyber posture approach — which we’ll be providing by August — to sync with that national strategy,” he said. “There are a lot of evolving dynamics at play and we still have a relatively new administration,” he added. “There are competing views.” And U.S. Cyber Command chief Adm. Mike Rogers noted that “cyber is a component” of the White House’s national security strategy and national defense strategy.
- On April 11th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on the Health of the Department of Defense Industrial Base and its Role in Providing Readiness to the Warfighter. Witnesses included, [Lieutenant General Edward M. Daly](#), USA, Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Materiel Command; [Vice Admiral Paul A. Grosklags](#), USN, Commander, United States Naval Air Systems Command; [Vice Admiral Thomas J. Moore](#), USN, Commander, United States Naval Sea

Systems Command; [Lieutenant General Lee K. Levy II](#), USAF; Commander, Air Force Sustainment Center, United States Air Force Materiel Command and [Major General Craig C. Crenshaw](#), USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Logistics Command

- On April 11th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on “Cyber Operations Today: Preparing for 21st Century Challenges in an Information-Enabled Society”. Witnesses for the hearing include, [General Keith Alexander](#), Founder and Chief Executive Officer, IronNet Cybersecurity; [The Honorable Michael Chertoff](#), Co-Founder and Executive Chairman, The Chertoff Group and [The Honorable Jeh Johnson](#), Partner, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.
 - The U.S. government and the private sector lack a common operating scheme for detecting cyberthreats, leaving the country ill-equipped to defend against nation-state hackers, former National Security Agency Director Keith Alexander told lawmakers Wednesday. “We can’t see ... other nations attacking us,” the retired general and first head of U.S. Cyber Command said at a House Armed Services Committee hearing. “As a consequence, we have limited abilities to actually defend our nation at network speed.”
- On April 11th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on “A Review and Assessment of the Department of Defense Budget, Strategy, Policy, and Programs for Cyber Operations and U.S. Cyber Command for Fiscal Year 2019”. Witnesses included [Mr. Kenneth P. Rapuano](#), Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security, Department of Defense and [Admiral Michael Rogers](#), Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, Director, National Security Agency.
- On April 12th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on the Posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses included the [Honorable Mark T. Esper](#), [Secretary of the Army](#) and [General Mark A. Milley](#), USA, Chief of Staff of the Army.
- On April 12th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request for Combat Aviation Programs. Witnessed included, [Lieutenant General Arnold W. Bunch Jr.](#), Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition; [Rear Admiral Upper Half Scott D. Conn](#), Director of Air Warfare Division (N98), Headquarters U.S. Navy; [Vice Admiral Paul A. Grosklags](#), Commander of the Naval Air Systems Command, Headquarters U.S. Navy; [Lieutenant General Jerry D. Harris](#), Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force; [Lieutenant General Steven R. Rudder](#), Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Aviation, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps
- On April 12th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on “The Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of Defense”. Witnesses included [General Joseph F. Dunford Jr.](#), Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and [The Honorable James N. Mattis](#), Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense.
 - House Armed Services Chairman Mac Thornberry says after a series of deadly aviation mishaps in recent weeks, he wants to hear how Mattis is using a big funding boost to fix military readiness shortfalls.

"We approved money to begin to turn this readiness situation around, but...I think he needs to be pressed on making sure that it happens and it happens quick because 16 deaths in the last three and a half weeks is just horrendous," Thornberry told reporters Wednesday.

- On April 12th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on “355 Ship Navy: Delivering the Right Capabilities”. Witnesses included [The Honorable James F. Geurts](#), Assistant Secretary of the Navy, for Research, Development & Acquisition, U.S. Navy, Headquarters U.S. Navy; [Vice Admiral William R. Merz](#), Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems, U.S. Navy, Headquarters U.S. Navy and [Vice Admiral Thomas Moore](#), Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, U.S. Navy.
 - To accelerate the move to 355, the Navy plans to extend the service life of the entire class of Arleigh Burke guided-missile destroyers out to 45 years, said Merz, deputy chief of naval operations for warfare systems. Naval Station Norfolk is home to 20 of these versatile ships, which can accompany aircraft carriers on deployment or conduct independent missions.
- On April 17th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include, [Honorable James F. Geurts](#), Assistant Secretary of The Navy for Research, Development, And Acquisition; Vice Admiral William R. Merz, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems (OPNAV N9); Brigadier General (sel) James H. Adams, III, USMC, Director, Capabilities Development Directorate; Combat Development & Integration, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps.
 - Vice Adm. William Merz told the subcommittee that extending the life of its DDG-51 class of ships is only "one lever. “The comment was in response to questions about a potential "dip" in the Navy’s ship count beyond the future years defense program. *Inside Defense* previously reported the service will attempt to extend the service life of one Los Angeles-class submarine, and may extend the life of four others depending on the results. Additional extensions would also help to mitigate a drop in the service's ship count for the years the Navy procures the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarines.
- On April 17th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on “Promoting DOD's Culture of Innovation”. Witnesses include, [Dr. Michael D. Griffin](#), Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Department of Defense and [Dr. Eric Schmidt](#), Chairman, Defense Innovation Board, Department of Defense.
 - Michael Griffin noted that “Our adversaries are presenting us today with a renewed challenge of a sophisticated, evolving threat,” “We are in turn preparing to meet that challenge and to restore the technical overmatch of the United States armed forces that we have traditionally held.”
- On April 18th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on “Oversight and Reform of the Department of Defense ‘4th Estate’”. Witnesses include, [Mr. Preston Dunlap](#), National Security Analysis Mission Area Executive, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and [Mr. Peter Levine](#), Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Defense Analyses.
 - “The legislation would give the Pentagon's chief management officer authority over the so-called Fourth Estate, which comprises 28 agencies and more than a quarter of the Pentagon's civilian workforce “It also would

require a 25 percent funding reduction to the agencies by 2021. Intelligence or combat support agencies, such as the Defense Intelligence Agency, would be exempt, a committee aide said.” A separate acquisition reform proposal, Thornberry said, would focus on streamlining statutes, including repealing roughly 100 acquisition provisions, seven reporting requirements and 12 requirements for positions and offices.

- On April 18th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on “Fiscal Year 2019 Energy, Installations and Environment Budget Request”. Witnesses include, [The Honorable Phyllis L. Bayer](#) Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy; [Mr. Jordan Gillis](#), Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, Department of the Army; The [Honorable John W. Henderson](#), Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy, Department of the Air Force and The [Honorable Lucian Niemeyer](#), Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment, Department of Defense.
 - “We currently have an underfunded maintenance backlog exceeding \$116 billion; 23 percent of the department’s facilities are in poor condition, [and] another 9 percent are in failing condition,” Lucian Niemeyer told the House Armed Services Committee’s subcommittee on readiness. “My frank assessment [is that] it may be too costly to buy ourselves out of this backlog,” he said. “We must work to remove unneeded capacity to fund higher priorities. As noted in the National Defense Strategy, we continue to reduce excess infrastructure and will work with Congress for options for base realignment and closures. These efforts will be enhanced by a careful evaluation we are undertaking of how and when we base new forces and new capabilities.” Niemeyer said DoD budget priorities establish a foundation to rebuild the agility, resilience, readiness and lethality of the armed forces.
- On April 18th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on “Ground Force Modernization Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019”. Witnesses include, [Lieutenant General John M. Murray](#), Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, Office of the U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff; [Lieutenant General Paul A. Ostrowski](#), Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology); [Brigadier General Joe Shrader](#), Commanding General, Marine Corps Systems Command and [Lieutenant General Robert S. Walsh](#), Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.
- On April 18th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on Air Force Modernization in review of the National Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include, [Lieutenant General Arnold W. Bunch](#), Jr., USAF Military Deputy, Office of The Assistant Secretary of The Air Force for Acquisition; [Lieutenant General Jerry D. Harris, Jr.](#), USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters United States Air Force; [Brigadier General Brian S. Robinson](#), USAF, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Headquarters United States Air Force.

- On April 18th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on Accelerating New Technologies to Meet Emerging Threats. Witnesses will include, [the Honorable Michael D. Griffin](#), Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.
- On April 19th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include, the [Honorable Richard V. Spencer](#), Secretary of The Navy; [Admiral John M. Richardson](#), USN, Chief of Naval Operations; [General Robert B. Neller](#), USMC, Commandant of The Marine Corps.
- On April 19th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on the “Army Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request Readiness Posture”. Witnesses include, [Lieutenant General Joseph Anderson](#), Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, U.S. Army; [Lieutenant General Timothy Kadavy](#), Director, Army National Guard, U.S. Army; [Lieutenant General Charles Luckey](#), Chief of Army Reserve, U.S. Army; and [Lieutenant General Aundre Piggee](#), Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, U.S. Army.
- On April 24th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program. Witnesses include, [Honorable Heather A. Wilson](#), Secretary of The Air Force; [General David L. Goldfein](#), USAF, Chief of Staff of The Air Force.
- On April 26th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on the Department of Defense’s Posture. Witnesses will include, the [Honorable James N. Mattis](#), Secretary of Defense; The Honorable David L Norquist, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and [General Joseph F. Dunford](#), Jr. USMC, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- On April 26th, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019- H.R. 5515. [Legislation text can be found here](#)

Upcoming Hearings

New Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) Hearing Possible: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee could convene a hearing on legislation defining the president’s powers to wage war against terrorists, Committee Chairman [Bob Corker](#) (R-Tenn.) said Tuesday.

Nominations and Confirmations

Mike Pompeo Confirmed as Secretary of State

The Senate confirmed Mike Pompeo to be President Donald Trump’s secretary of State after a handful of Democrats facing difficult reelection challenges joined every Republican in backing the CIA director.

“Pompeo’s hawkish foreign policy views drew strong opposition from the left, but he ultimately won over Democratic Sens. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Bill Nelson of Florida, Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Doug Jones of Alabama.

“Pompeo, who was confirmed on a 57-42 vote, was sworn in early Thursday afternoon by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, according to State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert.”

On April 17th, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing for the nominations of:

- Admiral Philip S. Davidson, USN, For Reappointment to The Grade of Admiral and To Be Commander, United States Pacific Command. [Advance Policy Questions linked here.](#)
- General Terrence J. O’Shaughnessy, USAF, For Reappointment to The Grade of General and To Be Commander, United States Northern Command, And Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command. [Advance Policy Questions linked here.](#)
- Gina Haspel’s hearing to be CIA director is being pushed into next month, Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman [Richard Burr](#)’s office noted.

Pending Presidential Nominations

- The President intends to nominate James Anderson to be assistant secretary of Defense for strategy, plans and capabilities. Anderson is now vice president of academic affairs at the Marine Corps University and, earlier, had director of Middle East policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense
- The President also intends to nominate Christopher Miller as chairman of the United States Section of the Permanent Joint Board on Defense for the United States and Canada - the senior advisory body for the defense of continental North America.
- The President intends as well to nominate Meaghan Mobbs and R. James Nicholson to serve on the United States Military Academy's Board of Visitors through Dec. 30, 2020. The board serves as an advisory body to the academy.

c. Pentagon Perspectives

BRAC

Professional Staff with the House Armed Services Committee are considering legislation that would allow communities to self-nominate their installation for closure independent of a BRAC process. They are not at this moment planning on submitting this into this year’s NDAA, but floating the idea for discussion.

DOD Looks to Congress for Direction on Eliminating Unneeded Capacity

During a hearing Thursday of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, DOD’s installations chief acknowledged the department’s recent failure to secure lawmakers’ support for a new round of base closures and reached out to find common ground on an approach that would allow the military to rightsize its infrastructure.

“We realize we have asked for six years and for six years, Congress has said no. We can’t keep doing that. We have to work with you on a common way forward that will allow us to make prudent reductions in our infrastructure,” Lucian Niemeyer, assistant secretary for energy, installations and environment, told the panel during his opening remarks.

While emphasizing the need to ensure “our basing infrastructure is ideally sized to increase the lethality of our forces,” Niemeyer said officials are undertaking a comprehensive review of how

and where they base new forces and capabilities — including hypersonic systems, autonomous vehicles and cyber forces — called for in the National Defense Strategy. “All of these concepts which are called for, and this country desperately needs, need to have a basing infrastructure that will allow us to deploy and train them effectively,” he said.

In the absence of requesting a BRAC round this year, the department is looking at ways to use its facilities more efficiently. Officials, for example, are assessing whether an optimal number of personnel are assigned to each building as part of their effort to determine how much excess infrastructure DOD is carrying.

“Our efforts will allow us to work with Congress further on fair, objective and transparent options for future base realignments and closures,” Niemeyer said.

Beyond several comments and questions from Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.), BRAC was not an overarching topic during the rest of the hearing. A webcast can be found on the committee website.

DOD Installations Chief Lays out Path toward Future BRAC Decision

DOD opted not to include a request for a new round of base closures when it submitted its fiscal 2019 budget proposal earlier this year, but by no means have defense officials given up on the prospect of asking for a BRAC in the future. On Wednesday, the department’s installations chief told lawmakers that because the administration had just released its National Defense Strategy, it didn’t make sense to include a request for a new round. “We weren’t really in good conscience ready to ask Congress for an authorization for BRAC this year,” Lucian Niemeyer, assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and environment, told the House Armed Services’ Readiness Subcommittee.

Instead, officials decided to take a pause. “We’re looking at the National Defense Strategy; we would like to reevaluate to what degree we think moving forward base closures might help us carry out the defense strategy to become more lethal,” he said in response to a question from Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.).

The department is using the pause to reassess its most recent calculation of how much excess infrastructure it is carrying. Niemeyer told Courtney there were “some concerns” about the report DOD released last year that estimated 19 percent of its capacity was excess. The department is embarking on an effort with the services to take a closer look at how fully their facilities are being utilized. “We’re trying to get it to be an enterprise look. . . . and make sure we are optimally occupying our facilities.”

When officials are confident they have a good handle on “exactly where we have excess,” they will brief the defense secretary. Niemeyer did not volunteer how long the process would take or what the next steps may be, however.

He also reiterated the argument that a new BRAC round would not only help DOD save money but it also would provide an opportunity for the military “to get more lethal” by consolidating forces and realigning its installations. Unmanned systems, cybersecurity and other new missions were not significant factors during the last base closure round. “How do we lay in those new technologies onto our existing Cold War basing structure? Do we even know what a base of the future really should look like?” Niemeyer asked.

DOD says water could be contaminated at local military installations

The Department of Defense released a study that says 126 military installations across the country have contaminated water that causes cancer and birth defects.

Three of those military installations are in our area. They include NAS Pensacola, Whiting Field and Eglin Air Force Base.

The DOD conducted groundwater testing and found that military, private and public drinking water systems could pose a threat.

In the study, the DOD states its priority to protect personnel living and working on these properties and the surrounding communities.

The DOD says it's addressing the cleanup responsibility and looking to lower the levels of contaminated water.

[Here's the Pentagon report with the list of all contaminated bases](#)

d. Notes from Meeting with Hill Staff

On Friday, April 6th, Dave Huntoon, Glenn Spears and Greg Kiley met with Jonathan Arias from Senator Rubio's office and Jonathan Murray from Senator Bill Nelson's office. Following are key bullets not captured by other summaries. In short, the two hour meeting was a constructive and positive discussion of issues of concern to Florida.

- On the FDSTF MML presentation, titled "*Southeast Ranges: We're all connected,*" J. Arias had a few critiques. The first slide is pulled directly from DoD publications but is being used by others to make the case FOR opening up drilling. It shows blank space in the Gulf, where there are clearly overlying range operations -- as shown elsewhere in the presentation. Also, later on in the presentation Reps Dunn and Gaetz are credited with securing the \$30 million funding for the Gulf Range Enhancement. Their staff point out that Senators Rubio and Nelson were the instrumental ones securing the funding. [Success has many fathers....]

TPG Analysis: Critique is not about support or lack of support for MML moratorium, but style. Suggest we discuss with FDSTF leadership if we use the presentation in the future.

- Discussed the recently released Air Force Test Center Report (attached). Staff is advocating for more and better threat emitters for the Gulf. They understand the 5th generation emitter issues and requirements and are looking to assist Florida in acquiring.
- Kennedy Space Center Bridge. Jonathan Murray is exploring Defense Access Road (DAR) legislative language change to enable these funds to help replace the bridge by 2021.

TPG Analysis: Key Sabol says the State owns, not NASA. Appears to be an issue of fact to be resolved. Will also watch NDAA mark up for language.

- Hill Staff working Pensacola security enclave access to museum.
- Hill Staff aware of Hydrant system problem at Homestead. They see this base as high risk in next BRAC. Need to get SouthCom UFR list for FY19, and try to push them to add requirement for divert field.
- Corry Station wants cyber, but lack infrastructure. Look for language here, too.
- Corrosion issues with Florida-based aircraft. Looking for addition DOD funding for hangarettes, corrosion control.

- Mayport to get Second ARG near term as part of Navy's Strategic Dispersal Laydown. Senators still hope to see a carrier someday. But, there is no dry dock at BAE, or nearby. An open issue.
- Discussed industry issues with F-35 readiness, ALIS maintenance system, lack of maintainers and running maintenance school 24 hours a day at Eglin.
- Discussed Naval Reserve C-130 prop issues. Used this and Dive School as examples of issues the Hill Staff only became aware of by visiting, but would like to know better and more often how to help installations, units.
- Key West House Annex another issue on Hill Staff radar. Not sure of legislative solution or not.

TPG Analysis: J. Arias encouraged us to pass specific requirements from wing/installation commanders (and community groups) to them. We should continue dialogue and engagement, but ensure installation leadership and FDSTF leadership are aware of what issues we pass along – as part of the strategic plan OR new issues that arise – and are confirmed, supported. We should not run down every pop-up readiness or industry problem, but ensure long-term viability and strength of installations to support the mission and units.

On April 20th, 25th, and 26th, LTG (R) Huntoon and Greg Kiley met with the following staff:

- Rep Matt Gaetz's staffer Charlie Truxel
- Rep Stephanie Murphy's staffer Christy Wagner
- Rep Debbie Wasserman Schultz's staffer Matt Ellison
- Rep Mario Diaz-Balart's staffer Cesar Gonzalez
- Rep Carlos Curbelo's staffer Hector Arguello
- Rep Tom Rooney's staffer Ethan Abner

TPG Analysis: While the individual staffers have varying degrees of knowledge and understanding of the FDSTF, all meetings were very positive with expressed desire by the staff to stay engaged and increase communicating. A few items of focus include:

- *Provided all staff a copy of the FDSTF MML Brief, and expressed need to support drilling prohibition. In same vein, discussed the Gulf Range Enhancement funding, and latest Air Force Test Center Report.*
- *Discussed Air Force unfunded military construction priorities and opportunity that now exists to add MILCON projects to Pres Bud Request.*
- *Discussed Chairman Thornberry's proposal to cut back the so called "DoD 4th Estate. Offered to discuss with Orlando folks.*
- *Discussed Scoring issues with Key West housing. Asked our thoughts on Rep Curbelo's amendment.*
- *Discussed Draft Bill H.R. 5199 introduced by Rep Banks of Indiana. Rep. Murphy's staff concerned over effect on State's Impact Aid.*

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

Pentagon Report Details Far-Reaching Scope of Water Contamination

A recent report prepared by the Pentagon in response to a congressional mandate reveals that more than 100 active and closed installations across all four services have reported elevated levels of the contaminants PFOS and PFOA in either their drinking water systems or groundwater supplies. At 36 installations, drinking water systems tested above the Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines for the chemicals, reported Army Times. Ninety installations reported

contaminant levels above EPA's lifetime health advisories following groundwater testing at on- and off-base locations, according to the March 2018 report.

As of August 2017, DOD identified 401 active and BRAC installations in the United States with at least one area where there was a known or suspected release of PFOS or PFOA. The contamination is believed to stem from the use of firefighting foam.

The department quickly moved to address the 24 drinking water systems that were contaminated in which it managed the water supply. At 12 others, however, a vendor or local utility provides drinking water. Cleaning up contaminated groundwater supplies, though, will take years and cost an estimated \$2 billion, according to Maureen Sullivan, DOD's deputy assistant secretary for environment, safety and occupational health.

[Economic impact of defense in Florida? It's big, naval regional commander says](#)

In a speech given at the Economic Club of Florida on April 9th, Rear Admiral [Babette "Bette" Bolivar](#), commander of Navy Region Southeast, said that military activity was responsible for \$84.9 billion of Florida's Gross State Product, a little more than 9 percent of all economic activity in 2016.

"At Whiting Field, 60 percent of all primary and fixed-wing naval aviators receive their training. Every helicopter pilot in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard also is trained at the base. Another Panhandle base, Naval Support Activity Panama City, has an estimated economic impact of \$673 million. It's the second-largest employer in Bay County, ranked right after Tyndall Air Force Base".

[Wide Variation in Federal Defense Spending From State to State](#)

An April 9th article from the Pew Charitable Trust outlined the Pentagon Budget changes that will affect each state differently. Retirement benefits, which are payments to individuals for military pensions, accounted for 12 percent of spending in the states. More than one-third of the total went to Texas, Florida, Virginia, and California. Nonretirement benefits, which are payments for health care provided through the military's [Tricare Management Program](#), accounted for 3 percent of spending. More than one-fifth of these funds went to Florida and Texas.

['Space Force' Idea Isn't Dead, Intel Chief Says](#)

The U.S. is still mulling creation of a "Space Force" as a new branch of the military to counter the growing threat of Russian and Chinese anti-satellite weapons, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said Wednesday.

At a House Armed Services Committee hearing last month, [Air Force](#) Secretary Heather Wilson was non-committal on forming a separate Space Force while noting interest in the idea from Trump and Vice President Mike Pence.

The new National Defense Strategy recognizes space as a warfighting domain, Wilson said. "I don't remember any president ever openly saying that," she said.

Wilson sidestepped on whether she would support a Space Force while noting that Trump has recreated the National Space Council under Pence's leadership.

She also hailed additional funding in the [recently passed budget](#) that "accelerates our ability to deter and defend and protect our ability to operate and to win in space."

Air Force Gen. John Hyten, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, has repeatedly warned in recent months of advances by Russia and China in developing anti-satellite weapons, while Coats' office highlighted the threat in February in the DNI's 2018 Worldwide Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community.

[The Trump administration is set to announce updates to its conventional arms transfer and drone export policies.](#)

In one anticipated change, the administration is set to propose restoring the ability to sell Category-1 drones through the Direct Commercial Sales process, which allows a company to negotiate directly with a government customer. It will make all eligible countries open for those sales, though deals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, a think tank source said.

The Aerospace Industries Association "has been advocating for years for a more efficient and transparent arms transfer review process," the association's vice president for international affairs, Remy Nathan, told Morning Defense in a statement. "We're looking forward to specific proposals from the Trump administration and providing feedback in the days ahead."

[Air Force Awards a Contract for a Hypersonic Cruise Missile](#)

"The U.S. Air Force has selected Lockheed Martin to design and prototype a new hypersonic cruise missile, as part of a broad Pentagon push to kick start America's hypersonic arsenal.

"The indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract for the 'design, development, engineering, systems integration, test, logistics planning, and aircraft integration support of all the elements of a hypersonic, conventional, air-launched, stand-off weapon' was announced by the service Wednesday.

"The total value for Lockheed could be as high as \$928 million over the course of the program, which has an unspecified timeline."

[Trump's defense-industrial base review coming mid-May](#)

An in-depth review of the American defense-industrial base will be publicly released "around May 15" and will focus heavily on what materials the U.S. is dependent on China for, according to the Pentagon's top acquisition official.

<https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2018/04/25/trumps-defense-industrial-base-review-coming-mid-may/>

[Cybersecurity:](#)

[Pentagon could roll out cyber posture by August](#)

A top Department of Defense official on Wednesday said the law enforcement agency expects to have a national cyber posture approach by the time the White House rolls out their cyber strategy in August.

[Cyber Command has a role, but Pentagon leaders struggle to define it](#)

Nearly a decade after the formation of U.S. Cyber Command senior leaders at the Department of Defense are questioning the scope of the organization's work due to the novelty of formalized military cyber operations and the dynamic cyber environment.

In other words: where does Cyber Command's work begin and end?

[Why the Navy wants more of these hard-to-find software developers](#)

With a relative dearth of cyber expertise in the military, Congress mandated last year the services begin direct commissioning pilot programs. The Navy, however has been doing direct commissioning for highly skilled software engineers for a few years, albeit on a small scale.

The cyber warfare engineer (CWE) program is a highly competitive program with officers on five year rotations performing software or tool development for cyber operators. CWEs serve as members of the cyber mission force, the Navy's cyber mission force teams that serve as the cyber warriors for U.S. Cyber Command, producing cyber tools, but can also conduct target analysis, vulnerability research, and counter-measure development against malicious cyber activities.

Since 2011, the Navy has only recruited 25 of these commissioned officers to its ranks.

Cyber Risk: Building a Defensible Cyberspace

Now more than ever, our economic, national security, and personal lives depend on the maintenance of an adequately defended cyberspace. It is of vital importance that we identify, prioritize and operationalize the innovations that will reverse the trend of offensive dominance in this domain. These innovations must operate on an internet-wide scale and impose high costs on attackers while minimizing cost to defenders. This form of leverage will facilitate a broader thinking to maximize the impact of scalable defensive strategies. Join us for what will surely be a fascinating and timely conversation.

www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/Cyber%20Risk%20Thursday

Pentagon AI center progressing, but hypersonics and lasers may not get same treatment

The Pentagon's new [hub for artificial intelligence](#) could be stood up within six months, according to Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan.

However, the decision to go forward with an AI Center of Excellence does not mean that [hypersonics](#) or [directed energy](#), two other high-priority tech developments for the department, will get the same treatment.

There are obviously differences if something is launched from the sea versus land versus air, [but] the basic physics, propulsion, the real technical building blocks are common," Shanahan said.

"It's mostly around risk reduction, the overlap of the technical challenges is pretty high. If you drew a Venn diagram, most things would lay on top of each other."

More broadly, Shanahan said Griffin has delivered an interim report on the future of 10 key technology areas for the Pentagon, with a final report due in July. That report lays out the key milestones for testing and prototyping between now and 2023 to make sure those technologies are viable within the next decade.

That report would then drive investment planning for the fiscal 2020 budget, which is now underway.

More Politics

Why Ryan called it quits

The speaker reflects on Donald Trump and fatherhood in an interview hours after his surprise retirement announcement.

Paul Davis Ryan — once the Republican Party golden boy, now the speaker of the House who is leaving elective politics after two decades at just 48 years old — said the thing that bothers him the most in today's political climate is "identity politics."

"I'm an old Jack Kemp guy that believes strongly in inclusive, aspirational politics that are based on bringing people together and not exploiting divisions," Ryan said in an interview Wednesday afternoon in his Capitol suite. "With identity politics being played all around and 21st-century

technology accelerating it, and putting gas on the fire — that is my big concern of politics these days. And that makes it harder to have political goodwill in this country because of all this polarization.”

Rubio wants more Cuban military companies under U.S. sanctions

U.S. policy toward Cuba could get tougher, just as the island prepares for a historic change in government.

Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio told el Nuevo Herald he expected the State Department to expand a list of sanctioned entities controlled by the Cuban military.

“In my opinion, the list issued by the State Department under [Rex] Tillerson of entities under sanction was not enough,” Rubio, who helped the Donald Trump administration to shape its policy toward Cuba and draft the new restrictions on military companies that are part of the Grupo de Administración Empresarial S.A. (GAESA), said during an interview in Lima on Saturday.

Florida workers in Blackhawk military helicopter program face potential layoffs

As many as 200 employees at the Lockheed Martin/Sikorsky facility in Jupiter, Florida could be affected by potential layoffs this summer.

"This has been coming for a while," said Rocco Calo, a board member for Teamsters Local 1150 based in Connecticut. Sikorsky is also based in Connecticut.

In a phone interview with WPTV on Wednesday, Calo said unfortunately, they're seeing a big downturn in military work for the Blackhawk and Seahawk helicopters they build.

"In the Florida plant, they were working on Canadian maritime military helicopter program, which is dwindling down now, coming to an end," he said.

3. Planned Actions and Activities (Next Two Weeks)

- Track and report back on both House and Senate Hearing and Mark Up season.
- Continue to monitor FY19 NDAA Mark Up.
- Engage additional House congressional delegation MLAs on re-SWOT, FY19 strategic priorities, including Rep Neil Dunn and Rep Posey
- ADC National Conference, Strengthening America’s Defense Infrastructure, June 18-20, 2018
- 2018 Forum on Science and Technology Policy, 21 Jun through 22 Jun 2018

Attachment

- Assessment of Air Force Test Center

4. BASE INFO

Mayport

USS LITTLE ROCK (LCS-9), commissioned in Buffalo, NY in September 2017 and then trapped in the ice of the St Lawrence River for three months, returned to its homeport of Mayport. The crew was gone for eight months. LITTLE ROCK is one of 12 Littoral Combat Ships that will be homeported in Mayport.

NAS Jacksonville

At NAS Jacksonville, the Executive Officer, CAPT Michael Connor, has fleeted up to take command of the highly touted base with its multiple missions from the Fleet Readiness Center (FRC) to the P-8 Wing to the future TRITON drone operations and training. The Task Force visited NAS JAX in March and had the opportunity to view firsthand the enormous work load at

the FRC and the newly remodeled facilities that will be home to TRITON command and control. It will be a while before TRITON actually shows up in Mayport for JAX control, but they are in the budget and they are coming.

Eglin AFB

Proposed Cuts in DoD Agencies

In a recent article, it was mentioned that “The Defense Information Systems Agency and six other Pentagon agencies would be eliminated by 2021 under a proposal from the House Armed Services Committee chair.” In particular, “The bill would call on the department’s chief management officer to deliver a plan by 2020 to eliminate DISA, as well as the Defense Technical Information Center, Office of Economic Adjustment, **Test Resource Management Center**, Washington Headquarters Services, the Defense Technology Security Administration and Defense Human Resources Activity.

Although not a direct impact on Eglin, cutting the TRMC could be a cause for concern.

Recommend talking about this and seeing what we can do to insure the Test mission at Eglin is not impacted.

Homestead ARB

Glenn had a good discussion with the team down at Homestead. Here are some of his notes:

- They discussed the planned, on-going F-35 EIS at HARB, scheduled for 17 Apr. Nothing to be excited about, all candidate bases go through this process, HARB (as we know) isn't yet the AF's next preferred AFRC F-35 base.
- They also discussed Agricultural structure development (legal grow-houses for medical marijuana...) in the clear zone, and his efforts to restrict that type of construction.
- They talked about "likely best alternative" (our phrase) for aviation fuel -- which is to increase storage capacity on base in addition to re-vitalizing / re-building the hydrants. Options of new fuel supply pipeline south from MIA (~30 miles) considered too, too expensive; option to fuel barge fuel from Turkey Point (in Key Biscayne National Park / Seashore) too environmentally risky. So -- increase storage capacity on base, but supply via over-road truck.

Note: For a large contingency, fuel via trucks for large airlifters and air refuelers can be very limiting and may dissuade COCOMS from using the base as a major leaping off point – a catch-22.

Teleconference with FDSTF staff, HARB Community representative and S FL Defense Alliance staff to plan July 18 - 19 TPG/FDSTF visit to HARB

- Preliminary TPG plans for Wed, July 18 include:
 - Morning briefs with CO, CE, and Encroachment Team
 - Noon meeting with community leaders
 - Afternoon with S FL Defense Alliance Reps
 - Evening community/base leadership social

Jacksonville ANGB

Since JAX did not get selected for the F-35, they have been discussing alternatives and strategies for the way ahead. Keye is planning on meeting with Brig Gen Simpler to get more insight and to see where we can help. They will either meet in Jacksonville or when Gen Simpler visits DC.

A recent article from the AF Magazine discussed talks about retiring the aging F-15 fleet sooner than originally thought. This could have a huge impact on the JAX ANGB and the alert mission they fly at HARB. We need to be engaged in the best strategy for the way ahead.

“The Air Force is still considering retiring many of its fourth-generation F-15 Eagle fighters — and it could happen by the end of the next decade.

Air Force officials said in March 2017 that it was considering retiring its 236 F-15 C and D fighters and replacing them with F-16 Fighting Falcons.

Lt. Gen. Jerry Harris, the Air Force’s deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and requirements, told Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., during a Senate Armed Services air land forces subcommittee hearing Wednesday that the service is still studying its options with the F-15 — especially as it brings the newest F-35 fighters on board.

“There’s nothing off the table,” Harris said. “We’re looking at, as we bring F-35s in, can we grow our capacity rather than just replace one-for-one? If we can’t do that, what’s our least-capable asset to retire, based on the value that it would provide for us?”

Harris said it remains unclear whether the F-15 will last until the end of the 2020s, and that it’s also looking at other older aircraft as well.” The delay in F-35 basing and the retirement on the aging F-15C/D’s can put the base in a no-man’s land. We need to have a strong voice in this as well - and my vote would be to push for F-35’s to replace the F-15’s sooner.

“US Northern Command hopes to continue to fly and maintain its F-15s while working with the Air Force to keep the Eagles upgraded and operational, said USAF Gen. Terrence O’Shaughnessy, who has been tapped to replace USAF Gen. Lori Robinson as head of US Northern Command. The Air Force has previously announced plans to retired F-15C and F-15D aircraft, which are largely flown by Air National Guard units for homeland protection. The plan is to replace them with F-35s as they come online. However, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) raised concerns about this plan Tuesday, claiming the F-35s will not be available fast enough and any plans to retire the F-15s would be premature. During his confirmation hearing, O’Shaughnessy, who is currently the commander of Pacific Air Forces, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that if he is confirmed he will work with the Air Force “to make sure we maintain that capability and capacity that is relevant to the threats we are facing.” **The Air Force has said the retirement of the older F-15s is “inevitable,” and it would be expensive to keep the aircraft functional through the late 2020s.** “

JAX ANGB is becoming a more vulnerable base for closure or realignment. We plan to help develop a strategy for the way ahead.

- We plan to contact the new NORTHCOM commander very early once he's in command. With FDA / FDSTF approval, invite him to visit JAX, HARB and other key FL installations important to NORTHCOM's mission.
- Get Guard leadership and NGAUS behind this if needed.

Patrick AFB

Keye had a good discussion with Paul Hirsch. A few notes:

- Battlefield Airmen
 - This is going back to drawing board. The AF may be looking at consolidation. The original plan was to have 3 bases host Battlefield Airmen (San Antonio being the hub). Now it appears they may be making that only 2 bases (San Antonio being one of them)
 - Other parameters are also changing
 - Bottom line – Patrick may not get Battlefield Airmen Training at their base
- Launch Tempo
 - They will be going to 50 launches a year
 - The Wing Commander insists they will not have to increase manpower to support the expanded tempo. Instead they will rely on an autonomous termination system.

- Note: The system will not help with securing the base and other things required to support launches. We are concerned this will become an issue in the future.
- Bridge/Causeway between Titusville is owned by the state and will get fixed.
- NOTU
 - Admiral Benedict will be retiring this week
 - The mission at NOTU will be good until 2085
- MILCON at Patrick that has been funded
 - \$25 Mill Squad Ops Building and,
 - XY Building equipment funding - year 2 of 4
 - Overall \$134 mill

Key West

- Communicated with NAS Key West POC and received following report:
- A couple MILCON projects are tracking like for a new visitor's qtrs. and fire station at Trumbo point annex and a new hangar at Boca Chica to replace the barrel one that VFC-111 is in. Part of the visitor's qtrs. at Trumbo is still down but the majority is up. Most things are back to normal after Hurricane but hiring personnel is extremely difficult with the latest loss of housing.
- I don't think vacancy rates have even been this low on base or in town.
- City and county are still trying to free up funds that I hear are hung up at FEMA due to bureaucrat processes that have a lot of steps and checks in the block.

- Began discussions with Okaloosa County Defense Support Initiative leadership regarding FDSTF/TPG visit in September

- Coordinated and chaired Working Group meeting of Community Planners from NAS Pensacola, Corry Station, Hurlburt Field, Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Tyndall AFB and NSA Panama City with respective community support organizations.
- Group would like to meet with TPG Team when TPG visits NWFL in Sept
- Discussion topics included:
- Hurlburt: \$300 million MILCON at Hurlburt; Working public school start times to alleviate traffic congestion at gate; Governor vetoed funding for solution; AC 130J impact on Hurlburt; 400 new personnel; 9 more aircraft; 13% increase in ops
- Tyndall: MQ-9 EIS targeted for spring 2020; Hwy 98 Overpass planning on track
- Whiting: Very pleased with Airfield Capacity Study conducted by Gen Sabol.



The Principi Group

Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period May 1 – 31, 2018

1. Washington Insights

The items highlighted in yellow are directly connected to current FDSTF strategic plan recommendation:

Budgets Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Budget Request

According to the budget agreement passed in March, total defense spending will be \$716 billion in FY 2019. For the first time in years, as the congressional defense committees head into their annual process of marking up the defense bills, level of funding is not an open question.

Fiscal Year 2019 Military Construction Request for Florida

- **Total President’s Budget request for the State of Florida is \$177.423 million. Included are these projects:**

Base	Project	Funding (millions)
Mayport LCS	Operational Training Facility	\$29.110
Mayport LCS	Support Facility	\$82.350
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Eglin AFB	F-35A Student Dormitory II	\$28.000
Macdill AFB	KC135 Beddown Flight Simulator Training	\$3.100

- **House Armed Services Committee Military Construction request for the State of Florida includes the original 5 projects above, plus authorization for additional 4 projects** Included are these additional projects:

Base	Project	Funding (millions)
Patrick AFB		\$9.000
Patrick AF Reserve		\$24.00
NAS Whiting Field	Air Traffic Control Twr	\$10.00

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- House Appropriations Subcommittee for Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, included Section 125, for an additional amount for the accounts added:

Service	Unfunded Requirements	Funding (millions)
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Air Force		\$ 144.45
Army NG		\$ 11.00
Air NG		\$ 62.00
Army Reserve		\$ 23.00
Air Force Reserve		\$ 84.80

“Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department’s unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2019 submitted to Congress: Provided further, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.”

a. Congressional Defense Committees

Mark Up

The HASC full committee considered the Chairman’s mark on Wednesday May 9th.

The chairman’s mark authorizes approximately \$717 billion in defense spending, including about \$616.7 billion for the Pentagon and \$69 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations.

The key document links are below, including summaries and the bill’s subcommittee marks:

- [Chairman’s Mark](#)
- [HASC Republican Summary](#)
- [HASC Democratic Summary](#)
- [Emerging Threats and Capabilities](#)
- [Military Personnel](#)
- [Readiness](#)
- [Seapower and Projection Forces](#)
- [Strategic Forces](#)
- [Tactical Air and Land Forces](#)

A few select provisions:

Fourth Estate

Reps. Steve Knight (R-Calif.) and Brown's amendment struck a provision that would repeal the statutory requirement for the Pentagon's Test Resource Management Center. Thornberry had initially proposed eliminating the agency, which provides oversight of Pentagon test and evaluation facilities, as part of his plan to overhaul the 28 defense agencies that don't fall under the military services.

The chairman has already trimmed back his ambitious Fourth Estate overhaul after initial criticism, and Knight and Brown's amendment is notable for the sizable number of Republicans agreeing to overturn part of Thornberry's reform legislation.

Authority for Closing Smaller Facilities included in Chairman's Mark of NDAA

A new authority permitting the Defense Department to close or realign small installations outside of the BRAC process, with the consent of state and local officials, is included in House Armed Services fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill. "The chairman's proposal recognizes that there are small installations around the country that have outlasted their purpose and their continued operation places an undue burden on the taxpayers and on the local community."

The proposal does not authorize a new round of base closures as Thornberry remains concerned that DOD "does not have a full and accurate accounting of its real property or a realistic assessment of its excess capacity."

Training Range Infrastructure Inadequate, Committee Warns

The Pentagon needs to take a close look at its training ranges — including land, sea and airspace — to determine where they need to be modernized, as the infrastructure has not kept pace with advances in combat and weaponry, according to report language in House Armed Services fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill. "Modern war demands extensive training on weapons employment and target identification, as potential adversaries possess complex air defenses and highly sophisticated electronic countermeasures. However training ranges lack sufficient capability and capacity to support full-spectrum training requirements, including the replication of near-peer adversaries capabilities," according to the committee.

To ensure DOD's training range infrastructure is keeping up with competitive demands, the committee directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess:

- the extent to which DOD has identified the current capacity of training range infrastructure to meet the military services' demand for range access;
- the extent to which DOD has evaluated the training range infrastructure to determine whether it is sufficient to conduct training against near-peer adversary capabilities; and

- the extent to which DOD has developed a comprehensive strategy and investment plan to improve the availability and sufficiency of training ranges to meet the department’s training needs.

The committee also directs GAO to brief it by Feb. 1, 2019, on the findings of its review.

House Floor Action included consideration of hundreds of amendments, following past “Regular Order” processes of going through Rules Committee, then being adopted on the House Floor.

Attached is a listing of amendments offered by State Representatives, and annotated are those also “made in order” and adopted. A few select items:

Key West – Curbello amendment authorizes the Navy to lease surplus housing units at Naval Air Station, Key West, FL.

Homestead – Hastings amendment directs the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on military installations that have been available for disaster recovery over the past 10 fiscal years, and installations assessed to be available for fast response in the future

Tyndall – Dunn amendment supports upgrading 34 existing F-22 Block 20 trainers to combat-ready F-22 Block 35s

Statement of Administration Policy on the House version is attached.

On the Senate side, SASC finished their mark up and released their press summary (attached). Details are being held until June, as they then expect to proceed to floor consideration.

Hearings

On May 8th, 2018, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a closed-door hearing on the Niger Investigation and Report. Witnesses included Honorable Owen O. West Assistant Secretary of Defense For Special Operations And Low-Intensity Conflict Honorable Robert S. Karem, Assistant Secretary Of Defense For International Security Affairs; General Thomas D. Waldhauser, USMC Commander, United States Africa Command; Major General Roger L. Cloutier, Jr., USA, Chief Of Staff, United States Africa Command.

Nominations and Confirmations

On May 10th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to consider the nominations of:

- [Dr. Lisa J. Porter](#)- To Be Deputy Under Secretary Of Defense For Research And Engineering
- [Mr. James N. Stewart](#)-To Be Assistant Secretary Of Defense For Manpower And Reserve Affairs
- [Dr. James H. Anderson](#)-To Be Assistant Secretary Of Defense For Strategy, Plans, And Capabilities
- [Mr. Gregory J. Slavonic](#)-To Be Assistant Secretary Of The Navy For Manpower And Reserve Affairs
- [Dr. Charles P. Verdon](#)- To Be Deputy Administrator For Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration

c. Pentagon Perspectives

Military Mission Line Study Released and Memo to follow up

An expansion of oil drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (GoM) would interfere with U.S. military testing unless the Pentagon and another agency develop rules to govern the work, the U.S. Department of Defense said in a report this week.

The Defense Department concluded in a report it sent on May 9 to U.S. lawmakers that drilling east of the Military Mission Line in the GoM, a demarcation more than 200 miles (320 km) west of Florida, would harm military testing operations without the rules.

“Military flexibility in the region would be lost and test and training activities would be severely affected,” without mutually agreed restrictions between the Pentagon and the Interior Department on the drilling, said the report, a copy of which was seen by Reuters.

Industry groups interpreted the report with optimism.

The report confirmed that “collaboration between the Department of Defense and Interior will enable the successful coexistence of continued military training and expanded American oil production,” Erik Milito, a director of upstream operations at the American Petroleum Institute, said.

“There is a lot of ocean out there and while there will be devils in the details, the overall message from the Pentagon should be interpreted as cooperation and coordination,” Randall Luthi, the president of the National Ocean Industries Association, said. Interest in drilling offshore in the U.S. is high as the Trump administration pursues a policy of maximizing oil, gas and coal output for domestic and foreign use.

In January, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said the administration would not allow drilling off Florida after the state’s governor protested that opening it up would harm tourism.

Separately, several Assistant Secretaries, including Lucian Niemeyer signed a Memo calling for more data on operations in the Gulf by August 1, 2018. Copy of Memo is attached.

d. Notes from Meeting with Hill Staff

Joint Interagency Task Force Headquarters.

According to Hill staff, US SOUTHCOM is considering moving JIATF HQ out of Key West to another site in the state of Florida.

They sent the Florida congressional delegations a plan for a JIATF basing study. The decision of remaining or relocating can only be made after they see which locations can accommodate the mission requirements.

- JIATF-S occupies four separate buildings connected by outdoor walkways at Truman Annex, Naval Air Station Key West (NAS KW). Originally built in 1953, three of the buildings are 64 years old, with the fourth more than 50 years old. The age of the infrastructure means they are expensive to maintain, not energy efficient, and prone to failures.
- The mission is highly data driven, operates 24/7/365, and requires diversity for logistics and utilities to continuously perform the mission.
- Building system failure is the most critical risk to JIATF-S, as the command's high cost equipment and high tech operations must run 24/7 without interruption in a highly corrosive environment with continuous exposure to salt water/air that is also vulnerable to flooding and storm surge.
- JIATF-S is also running out of space in the current footprint; plans are underway for building out last available unused space to be used for offices - these are at ground level and these spaces are currently being used for maintenance, storage, and a UPS battery room.

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

SASC Doubles Down On R&D Budget, Pushing New Tech The Pentagon Missed

The Senate Armed Services Committee's version of the 2019 defense budget would increase research and development spending by about \$1.2 billion over the White House's request, pumping cash into some of the Pentagon's most critical modernization programs as lawmakers prod the Pentagon to move faster — and smarter — to head off modernization pushes by China and Russia.

Senate staffers on Friday portrayed the new lines of funding as a way of challenging the Pentagon and White House to better define how it plans to shift to an age of great power competition with China and Russia, while stepping away from the focus on fighting insurgents in the deserts and mountains of the Middle East.

There was some frustration on the Senate side over the timing of the release of the budget and the Pentagon's new National Security Strategy, which weren't tied together in the way that most strategists would like.

"The request and the strategy were not exactly not aligned," one Senate staffer said on Friday. "This wasn't a clearly sequential 'strategy informs budget' type of process." For the lawmakers who marked up the budget, "the strategy raises a lot of questions, and the implications of the strategy are quite significant in terms of what it means to reorient the force toward great power competition...that the budget won't be fully able to capture."

As a result, the final mark — which should be made public in early June after a closed-door markup process this past week — kicks plenty of questions back across the river to the Defense Department about shipbuilding plans, how to pay for force structure changes, and what the plan is for critical hypersonic and artificial intelligence programs.

Overall, the committee voted to add another \$150 million for research and development of hypersonic weapons, a program that received a significant shot in the arm in April when the Air Force awarded Lockheed Martin a \$928 million contract for a hypersonic cruise missile.

In addition, the committee added:

- \$110 million for space constellation efforts.
- \$100 million for test infrastructure and workforce, including for cybersecurity, directed energy, and hypersonics.
- \$50 million for rocket propulsion.
- \$40 million for directed energy.
- \$20 million for quantum information sciences.

The committee is also concerned about the Pentagon's plans for the potential return of sequestration in 2020. To get after that, it wants to shift some money from F-35 procurement to sustainment. Specifically, the 75 F-35s SASC approved is two fewer than the Air Force requested. One Senate staffer noted that the program is already seeing some early sustainment issues, and "if we don't get the sustainment right now, the problems are only going to get exponentially worse" in the future.

Marines Eager for a Light Armored Recon Vehicle Replacement

"By 2023, the Marine Corps wants prototypes for a radically new scout unit they want to be the ground version of the F-35 — scouting ahead into hostile territory, killing key targets, and feeding data back to the rest of the force. Though called the Armored Reconnaissance Vehicle, the project has evolved well beyond a straightforward replacement for the aging Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) into a networked family of manned vehicles, ground robots, and drones, collectively capable of not only reconnaissance but also electronic warfare and long-range precision strikes."

Here's how the Air Force is using its new purchasing power, writes Defense One. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson has a new role: chairman of the board.

Now that Congress has largely put the services in charge of buying weapons, and removed much of the purview of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Wilson has put in place a new governing body to oversee hundreds of billions of dollars in purchases. The panel will meet for the first time next week.

“We’re going to try to be managing more at the strategic level,” Wilson said Monday during a taping of Defense One Radio. (The interview begins at the 12:57 mark in the clip below)

That board is made up of Wilson; Gen. David Goldfein, the Air Force chief of staff; Undersecretary Matt Donovan; and Will Roper, the service’s assistant secretary for acquisition, technology and logistics. The panel will meet three times a year and receive briefings from a dozen or so program executive officers. Each of those senior acquisition officials oversee’s numerous projects.

Right now, the meetings are dubbed “Air Force Acquisition Day,” which Wilson acknowledges isn’t the best name. “It’s more like a corporate board meeting than it is a small business meeting,” she said.

In all, Wilson is now responsible for 465 major programs. Her goal is simple: get capabilities to airmen faster and cheaper.

“We don’t want to just replicate a bureaucratic systems that we just managed to get out from under where nobody’s really accountable, but everybody gets a chance to check off on everything,” she said. “That slows things down and it adds cost.”

Program managers — the officials who actually run projects day-to-day — are being “encouraged to seek help quickly rather than wait until a program is way of track,” Wilson said. These program officials will no longer need to seek “everybody in the Pentagon to move forward on the next step of their projects,” the secretary said. “They are going to be accountable for results: cost, schedule and performance.”

“I want them spending more time managing the programs than managing the Pentagon,” Wilson said.

Buying new software is among the items Air Force leaders plan to discuss at next week’s meeting.

“When we looked at all our programs last year, and which ones were struggling, there was a common theme,” Wilson said. “Almost all of them were having problems because of software problems. The Defense Department doesn’t buy software well.

Another possible agenda item: “how we innovate in sustainment,” acquisition head Roper said at a briefing last month.

Speaking more generally about her plans for changing the way the Air Force buys weapons, Wilson said to expect more prototyping and experimentation, akin to work already being done by Pratt & Whitney and General Electric to build new jet engines. The goal of the project is to increase fuel efficiency by 25 percent and thrust by 10 percent. These new engines could one day replace existing fighter jet engines.

“Instead of trying to do an engineering design and sit down with modeling and simulation and all of that for two or three years, which is what the normal acquisition process would do, we contracted with two of the best engine companies in America and said: ‘See what you can build,’” Wilson said.

“Maybe they’ll get to 24 percent. Maybe they’ll tell us where the constraints are and then we’ll start to set — based on those real experiments, those prototypes — what we want to accomplish in our next-generation engine. But we’ll have real engines and real data. The Air Force and the Defense Department historically has not been allowed to do that kind of prototyping.”

To put the potential savings in perspective, the Air Force plans to spend about \$5 billion on fuel this year.

“If you get a aircraft whose range is is 1,000 miles and you can get a 25-percent increase in fuel efficiency, what does that do for the tankers you need, or for the targets you can reach,” Wilson said. “That’s a big deal.”

Kratos Expands Florida Hub for Military Training & Simulation Programs

Kratos Defense and Security Solutions has unveiled an expansion to its facility in Florida for training and simulation programs in support of the [Defense Department](#).

The company [said](#) the campus in Orlando has added 50,000 square feet of space to accommodate a growing workforce amid continuing demand in the military training and simulation market.

With Older F-35s 'On Life Support,' Wing Struggles to Train Pilots

One of the busiest [F-35 Joint Strike Fighter](#) training units is hoping the U.S. [Air Force](#) can help relieve some of the pressures of training student pilots with ineffective resources.

The 33rd Fighter Wing, the leading training wing for F-35 student pilots, hopes it will receive additional [F-35A](#) aircraft, along with considerable upgrades to its existing fleet, to keep up with training demands, said Col. Paul Moga, commander of the 33rd Fighter Wing here.

The sustainment of F-35s at Eglin is crucial to that training mission.

Although the F-35 is the Pentagon's newest and most advanced aircraft to date, the oldest of the fleet resides at the Florida base. Moga said the planes, part of Lockheed Martin Corp.'s earliest low rate initial production batches, need the additional work.

"Everybody's aware that that fleet is on life support right now, and they need to kind of crank up the machine a little bit if they plan on extending the utility of this fleet another five or 10 years," said Moga, who also oversees the maintenance training units here.

The fifth-generation stealth plane arrived here in 2011 and made the 33rd Fighter Wing the first U.S. F-35 training unit. The first class of student pilots started training in 2013.

Permanent Evolution: SecArmy Esper On Futures Command

"We have to be willing to operate in the grey for some period of time until we find out what works best," Esper said. "We experiment, we try, and we learn."

Army Futures Command will be especially in flux for its first year, between Initial Operational Capability (IOC) this summer and Full Operating Command (FOC) next year. But even after that, Esper said, it needs to keep adapting in a way Army bureaucracies traditionally have not.

"I'm not a carved in stone type of person. I think you have to remain flexible to react to what happens in the environment," Esper said. "It's probably fair to say, by next summer, we should have worked out a great deal.... And over time, you want to continue to refine and make changes.... so the concrete never really hardens."

"That's kind of my approach and that would be my direction to the commander as well," Esper said. "You've got to remain open to change, you've got to remain flexible, you've got to remain accessible. That is the purpose of this command."

Industrial Base Study Sent to White House; Workforce Issues Pose Threat

The Pentagon has completed a study ordered by President Trump of the health of the nation's defense industrial base, and it now is undergoing interagency review. The study, which will identify risk areas within the industrial base and supply chain, is expected to be released publicly when it is ready for publication, reports Defense News. ... DOD last week released a separate study, the annual Industrial Capabilities report, which found that the nation's defense industry continued to outperform other sectors in fiscal 2017.

The report warned, however, that the industry faces significant long-term challenges, including an aging workforce and a lack of employees with science backgrounds, reported Defense News. Aerospace and defense firms are "faced with a shortage of qualified workers to meet current demands as well as needing to integrate a younger workforce with the 'right skills, aptitude, experience, and interest to step into the jobs vacated by senior-level engineers and skilled technicians' as they exit the workforce," the report states.

In Other News: FAA Restricts UAS Flights over Four Bases

The FAA is restricting the airspace up to 400 feet over four installations in response to an apparent uptick in drone sightings by pilots, reports Military.com. The restrictions go into effect June 1 for Naval Support Activity Monterey, Calif.; Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas; and Naval Support Activity Orlando, Fla. Existing restrictions were extended around Naval Support Activity South Potomac, Indian Head, Md. The measure is intended to “address the potential threat posed by malicious drone operations by establishing unmanned aircraft system specific airspace restrictions over select, national security sensitive locations,” according to an FAA notice.

Cybersecurity:

Cyber Operations

Rep. Seth Moulton (D-Mass) plans to offer an amendment to strengthen a provision in chairman’s mark by requiring - rather than requesting - the president to task a National Security Council official to coordinate a whole-of-government response to “malign foreign influence operations and campaigns, particularly those that are cyber-enabled.”

Pentagon could roll out cyber posture by August

A top Department of Defense official on Wednesday said the law enforcement agency expects to have a national cyber posture approach by the time the White House rolls out their cyber strategy in August.

Attachments

- Selected FL amendments to House version
- SAP on House NDAA for FY19
- SASC press release on Senate Mark Up
- April Asst Sec Def memo on drilling in the gu

3. BASE INFO

All our senior leadership on the TPG Team have reviewed the recommendations of the FDSTF Strategic Plan and cross walked them with their respective base activities and community support initiatives.

Orlando

The Army has begun the administrative moves into the new reduced leased spaces. This will take several months and the Army will be adding the necessary additional funds to achieve the end state of getting the PEO STRI organization out of expensive leased spaces and into the new buildings provided by Florida and UCF leadership.

This was a month of intense congressional visits by the National Center for Simulation director Lt Gen Tom Baptiste and deputy George Cheros. The visits to congressman and senators was well organized and the purpose of the visit was achieved which was to inform new elected leaders among others on the great positive impact that Team Orlando makes for National Security and the Central Florida region.

The Army announcement to locate one of the eight Cross Functional Teams, the Synthetic Training Environment (STE) in Orlando is a great decision for Team Orlando and the state of Florida. The STE will drive the future of Army training with the leveraging of Modeling and Simulation technology. Orlando and Team Orlando is perfectly postured to support the evolution of STE as the initiative progresses.

A closing reminder: In the past 45 days Greg Kiley, Glenn Spears and myself have visited nine offices of the Florida Congressional Delegation, including both SEN Nelson and SEN Rubio's staff to review the FDSTF Strategic Plan and to note the specific recommendations for the bases in each of the Congressional districts represented in our office call. All visits were well received and we have already done follow-up work with three offices attendant to the report. We will triple the number of Congressional visits this year compared to last, and continue to advance the specific recommendations of the Plan.



The Principi Group

Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period June 1-30, 2018

Please note that the items highlighted in yellow reflect our continuing focus on the recommendations of the FDSTF Strategic Plan

1. Washington Insights

a. Budgets

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NAS Whiting Field	Air Traffic Control Twr	\$10.00
Eglin AFB	Cyberspace Test Fac.	\$38.00 (RDTE)

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Air Force		\$ 144.45
Army NG		\$ 11.00
Air NG		\$ 62.00
Army Reserve		\$ 23.00
Air Force Reserve		\$ 84.80

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2019 submitted to Congress: Provided further, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction.

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Service	Unfunded Requirements	Funding (millions)
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Navy and MC		\$ 244.40
Air Force		\$ 118.52
Army NG		\$ 22.00
Air NG		\$ 11.10
Army Reserve		\$ 10.00
Air Force Reserve		\$ 14.40

Military Construction Funding Initiatives.—The bill includes funding for military construction initiatives to address important unfunded priorities included in the Department of Defense's unfunded priority lists provided to Congress. All additional funding is reserved for projects that were included in the unfunded priority lists submitted to Congress.

b. Congressional Defense Committees

- Senate Armed Services Committee FY19 NDAA Summary is attached.
- **Also, attached is an extensive listing of Florida interest items contained in the Senate version of the FY19 NDAA.**

TPG View: The Senate NDAA requires DoD to undertake several studies that we should track closely—training ranges report, cyber strategy, space policy and commercial launch. Worth having the team look closely at the language and how the terms of reference are written for the studies. Additionally, there are provision on the Indian River Bridge, Eglin AFB land conveyance, and LACK of Patrick AFB milcon adds.

• **House, Senate Appropriators Advance FY'19 Defense Spending Bills**

The House on Thursday, June 28, easily passed a fiscal 2019 defense spending bill which would provide \$606.5 billion for base defense and intelligence programs and \$68.1 billion for the overseas contingency operations account, a total that is \$20 billion above the current year's allocation. The measure covers an increase in active-duty end strength of 15,600 across the four services. The base budget figure would represent a historic high in defense spending since World War II, after adjusting for inflation and excluding past spending on the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Wednesday the chamber adopted an amendment by Rob Wittman (R-Va.) and Joe Courtney (D-Conn.) to permit the Navy to contract for construction of two new aircraft carriers next year instead of one, a move that could eventually save taxpayers as much as \$2.5 billion, reported Defense News. On Thursday, though, the chamber rebuffed an amendment from the two lawmakers to shift more than \$1 billion from other defense programs to the Virginia-class submarine program in an effort to accelerate the rate at which the Navy acquires new submarines. DOD opposed reallocating the funds, saying it would reduce planned purchases of other types of ships next year while raising shipbuilding costs over time.

Earlier Thursday the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced its own defense spending bill, which would provide almost precisely the same total amount of money, \$675 billion,

House Armed Services Committee Hearings

On Thursday June 21st, 2018 the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on Military Technology Transfer: Threats, Impacts, and Solutions for the Department of Defense.

- Witnesses for the hearing included: The Honorable Kari A. Bingen, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, Department of Defense; Mr. Eric Cheurning Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy, Department of Defense; The Honorable Michael D. Griffin, Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Department of Defense; Mr. Anthony M. Schinella, office of the Director of National Intelligence, Office of the Director of National Intelligence. A joint witness statement is [linked here](#).

On Thursday June 21st, 2018 the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on Aviation Mishap Prevention—a Progress Report.

- Witnesses for the hearing included: [Major General William K. Gayler](#), Commanding General, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, U.S. Army; [Rear Admiral Upper Half Roy J. Kelley](#), Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, U.S. Navy; [Lieutenant General Mark C. Nowland](#), Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, U.S. Air Force; [Lieutenant General Steven R. Rudder](#), Deputy Commandant for Aviation, U.S. Marine Corps.

On Thursday June 21st, 2018 the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on Space Situational Awareness: Whole of Government Perspectives on Roles and Responsibilities.

- Witnesses for the hearing included: The [Honorable Jim Bridenstine](#), Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; [General John Hyten](#), Commander, U.S. Strategic Command and [The Honorable Wilbur Ross](#), Secretary of Commerce, Department of Commerce.

c. Pentagon Perspectives

The Department of Defense and Department of Interior sign MOU on Endangered Species Act

Attached is a June 25 signed Memorandum of Understanding between DOD and DOI:

I. Purpose

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Department of Defense (DoD) and the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) (collectively, the “Parties”). The purpose of this MOU is to establish a mutually beneficial partnership among the Parties to develop and promote effective ecosystem and species conservation and recovery initiatives that will reduce or eliminate the need for Federal protection and regulation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and provide for increased flexibility for military mission activities.

TPG View: Although this MOU will assuredly be contested in the courts, it does signal a marked shift in priority away from overly-environmentalist concerns to promotion of military readiness.

**At the Association of Defense Communities Conference, Meeting with DoD officials
On the prohibition on drilling east of the Military Mission Line**

On June 19th, Members of the FDSTF met with Mr. Lucian Niemeyer to discuss current status of discussions between DOD and DOI on the Gulf MML and the prohibition on drilling. In summary, DOD is still collecting data, with plans to coordinate with DOI on a comprehensive updated map of current training requirements and most likely exploratory drilling locations. Path forward to extend the prohibition will require more close discussion, coordination.

For further background, Representatives Gaetz and Dunn tried to offer an amendment to the House NDAA to extend the prohibition from drilling east of the Military Mission Line. Because it has revenue implications, the amendment could not be accepted. (Initial estimates have it at \$375 million over 5 years.)

Extending the MML moratorium would mean the federal government would be foregoing revenue from leases of drilling fields --according to CBO. There is no real opportunity to change their minds on scoring, just to work within the structure to either find an offset, or think we could push it thru on some other legislative vehicle even with it violating the budget point of order, a prohibitive idea.

TPG View: There are options to get the MML extension, but it will require some strategizing. We need to get the congressional delegation better educated on the scoring aspect. DoD in the meantime is collecting better usage data to defend the military need.

US announces new sanctions on Russia tied to their infiltration of US energy grid

The United States treasury announced on Monday that it was implementing new sanctions on three Russian individuals and five Russia-based firms, alleging that they were responsible for a series of cyber attacks carried out against the United States and its allies. These attacks, which the treasury asserts were conducted under the purview of Moscow's intelligence service, include hacking into the United States' energy grid.

“The United States is committed to aggressively targeting any entity or individual working at the direction of the FSB whose work threatens the United States and will continue to utilize our sanctions authorities, including those provided under CAATSA, to counter the constantly evolving threats emanating from Russia,” Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in written statement on Monday.

This most recent statement echoes similar ones made by Mnuchin in March, when the U.S. Government first formally acknowledged Russia's success at infiltrating the American energy grid while implementing a round of sanctions on others that were allegedly involved in the endeavor. According to officials at the time, the infiltration was detected and “removed from the system,” but it can be difficult to overstate the threat posed by Russia's ability to hack into America's national electrical infrastructure. Experts have estimated that as much as 90% of the U.S. population would die within two years of a permanent national blackout. In more immediate terms, the vast majority of the

country's military bases, law enforcement, and intelligence community rely on commercially sourced power.

With very few long-term redundancies in place, America's defensive infrastructure would be significantly undermined by even intermittent issues with the national energy grid. Satellite communications depend on ground based transmission and reception equipment and a great deal of land-based communications between defensive assets are carried over the same means as public communications. Without electricity, the nation would be hard pressed to mount a significant response to an impending threat.

In November, well before the United States acknowledged its awareness that Russia had managed to gain access to the electrical grid, Lucian Niemeyer, assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and environment spoke to Congress about how far the nation is from having a legitimate solution to the Defense Department's reliance on publicly sourced power. Niemeyer said:

"We're here to find out what the most efficient and effective way we can get toward providing resilient power, [and] to provide redundant power to be able to allow us to continue to operate in case something happens to the grid, it's not something that can happen in a year."

Unnecessary Federal Spending on National Defense Infrastructure Continues

A provision in the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2019 would delay by at least two years a much-needed new round of Base Realignment and Closure.

That delay would represent billions of taxpayer dollars that could have been saved, but instead would have to be allocated to infrastructure that isn't fully utilized.

What is the Base Realignment and Closure process, and why is it so important?

Base Realignment and Closure is the best process available to the Pentagon to reduce unneeded infrastructure. It allows the Defense Department to have a holistic approach to its real estate, through the assessment of its whole inventory of installations and bases for their military value.

The Pentagon then can recommend realignments or closures of bases or other installations. The process is the most feasible way to trim excess infrastructure from the defense budget.

Section 2812 of the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act requires the Defense Department to develop an infrastructure-capacity study identifying the adequacy of the current infrastructure to the force structure. It would be the third such study required in two years.

Congress largely ignored the results of both prior studies when considering the Pentagon's request for another round of realignments and closures of bases, and has continued to press the issue of studying current infrastructure by pushing for slight changes in the methodology required.

In that regard, Section 2812 requires the Defense Department to present any deficit or surplus in infrastructure capacity, while detailing their locations within the United States. That level of detail is usually not done outside of the context of a Base Realignment and Closure round because it generates instability within the defense communities that host bases and other installations.

Just having excess infrastructure does not necessarily lead to a closure or a major realignment, because you need to consider the military value that each installation brings to the department.

Identifying installations in that manner would unnecessarily induce a reaction from the real estate market and from base workers, who would assume that their jobs would possibly be moved. That's why the previous two capacity studies did not go into that level of detail.

As Lucian Niemeyer, the assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations, and environment, said, "[t]hose [methodological] limitations, however, are a necessary element of a pre-Base Realignment and Closure ... analysis that is parametric in nature, so as to avoid identifying specific installations as being at risk for closure."

That type of limitation goes away once there's an authorized round of Base Realignment and Closure, since there's a need to look at individual installations, and the process provides ways to alleviate the effects of closures and realignments in a community.

Every year that the next round of realignments and closures of bases is delayed, an estimated \$2 billion in taxpayer funds are lost in the upkeep of unused facilities. These resources would be better leveraged elsewhere in the defense budget, such as in Apache helicopters or Virginia-class submarines, as by Defense Secretary James Mattis.

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

State provides \$500,000 grant to EDC to help with military safety issues

The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast has been awarded with a \$500,000 from the state's Department of Economic Opportunity.

The Defense Infrastructure Grant will support the Brevard County Emergency Operations Center Civil Site Preparation project supporting Patrick Air Force Base.

The Defense Infrastructure Grant Program protects Florida's military bases by providing funding for local infrastructure and land acquisition needs, as well as other area assets.

Brevard County's EOC serves as a critical component to managing local launch activity and is activated for each launch and launch attempt.

"The EDC is pleased that this award will serve both our local military, and the Space Coast community," Lynda Weatherman, president and CEO of the EDC, said in a statement.

"This grant will facilitate the EOC to continue to serve as a critical asset for our safety, and for the success of our military and space installations," she said.

Along with much of Brevard, the EOC also serves Patrick Air Force Base which houses both the 920th Rescue Squadron and the Air Force Technical Applications Center; Cape Canaveral Air Force Station; and the Naval Ordnance Test Unit, which supports the mission capability and readiness of the US Navy's Trident Submarines and the Fleet Ballistic Missile program of the United Kingdom, as well as an integrated test facility for Strategic Weapons Systems Ashore at Port Canaveral.

Air Force to Double Number of Combat Aviation Advisors

The U.S. Air Force plans to double the number of Combat Aviation Advisors it sends to train partners on special operations missions at a time when the Defense Department's footprint in austere environments has come under scrutiny.

Under guidance in the National Defense Strategy, Air Force Special Operations Command is preparing to grow each of its teams, developing a planned total of 352 total force integration advisors over the next few years, officials said. The CAA mission, under Special Operations Command, has about half that now.

Military challenge strives for rapid rocket launches

The situation: an enemy attack has crippled a critical national security satellite, the Pentagon wants to rush new sensors into orbit. Multiple rockets are instantly mobilized on Cape Canaveral pads and others across the country to launch a batch of small satellites within hours of each other, minimizing the incident's impact on warfighters.

It's a hypothetical scenario impossible to pull off today, with military programs typically taking years to develop large, expensive spacecraft launched in small numbers on big rockets. But a new competition sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) aims to nudge the industry toward a future when launches happen fast, simultaneously or back-to-back, nearly on demand — and even a failure is no big deal.

"We're in an environment now where we view ourselves as threatened in space, and we need ways to go faster, ways to be able to introduce new capabilities," said Todd Master, program manager for the DARPA Launch Challenge. "But the way that we use space today is we do things very slowly."

Already, the Air Force's Eastern Range is preparing for a surge in launches from the Space Coast, potentially as many as 48 a year in the coming years. That's one a week on average, excluding downtime for range maintenance.

But even at that rate, Master said, launches today are treated like major national events, and failures like national tragedies.

"We close air space, we shut down other pads, we kick people off the sites," said Master. "But it doesn't have to be a national event, and it's not going to be a national event moving forward if we anticipate using space the way that we want to."

Florida Delegation Playing Hardball to Extend Offshore Drilling Moratorium

Emboldened by a Defense Department report that expressed worries about unfettered offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, Florida's House delegation is preparing to throw its weight around to win a multiyear extension of a moratorium off its coasts.

The bipartisan commitment from the third largest congressional delegation, reached last week, may affect the \$708.1 billion defense authorization bill that is being considered by the Rules Committee Monday and Tuesday ahead of a vote as soon as Wednesday.

That must-pass defense measure as well as a comprehensive public lands energy bill moving out of the House Natural Resources Committee could be a vehicle for an amendment to extend the moratorium.

"I don't see any light between Democrats and Republicans on this very passionate issue," said GOP Rep. Vern Buchanan, the co-chairman of the Florida delegation. "We are the third-largest delegation, and we have a lot of clout when we are united."

The delegation's decision last week followed a May 10 Pentagon report concluding that offshore drilling activities without Defense Department input would put at risk the national security mission bolstered by military activity in the region. The report urged an open line of communication with agencies identifying drilling sites.

The existing moratorium runs through 2022 and prevents any offshore oil activities in the eastern Gulf. Florida is pushing for an extension of at least five years, with an eye toward permanent extension if possible.

Republicans in the delegation have so far prevented the House Natural Resources' public lands energy bill from reaching the House floor because it does not address the issue, Republican Rep. Francis Rooney said.

"To us in Florida, it's existential," Rooney said of the moratorium.

Rooney, along with GOP Rep. Matt Gaetz, met with House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop of Utah and other oil state Republicans for about three hours on the evening of May 16 to hash out differences and find a path forward for both the energy bill and a

measure to address Florida's concerns. Department of Interior and DOD officials were also present, Bishop said.

After another meeting on May 17, Rooney suggested the defense authorization bill may represent the most likely legislative path to address Florida's concerns. And one potential compromise discussed Wednesday night, Gaetz said, could be an amendment to the defense authorization bill that would give the Defense Department veto power over certain oil activities in the eastern Gulf.

"This can be easily solved," said Bishop, who himself is unopposed to an extension of the moratorium for defense reasons. "It just takes people being rational."

Two amendments have already been filed to the Rules Committee for consideration during the defense authorization debate. One, from Florida Democrats Charlie Crist and Darren Soto, would extend the moratorium until 2029. The other, from Rooney and Florida Democrat Kathy Castor, would put in place a permanent ban on offshore oil activities in the eastern Gulf and Straits of Florida off the state's southern tip.

Earlier this year, Gaetz and Rooney secured a commitment from Speaker Paul D. Ryan that some type of protective measure for the eastern Gulf would move this year, though he did not specify what legislation that would be.

The Pentagon report on eastern Gulf activities has become a type of Rorschach test for advocates and opponents of drilling off the coast of Florida. The oil industry and their Capitol Hill backers interpreted the report as a positive indication that a pathway exists with increased cooperation between all parties involved.

"You can read the report any way you want to," Bishop said. "The way it was written was ambiguous."

In the Senate, a measure affecting the eastern Gulf is not expected to make it into the chamber's version of the defense authorization bill, said Sen. Bill Nelson. The Florida Democrat has made previous attempts to attach a moratorium extension to previous defense authorizations, but has so far been stymied.

"For it to be in the NDAA, we have to get the sign-off from members of other committees [of jurisdiction]," Nelson said. "But there's some who want to drill who are blocking it."

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said she wants to further review the findings of the Defense Department report before offering her opinion on whether an extension of the moratorium is needed.

Murkowski did note that states have specific concerns about offshore drilling that should be addressed, citing the example of migratory whales off the coast of Alaska.

3. Florida, In the News:

1.) [KC-10 Ground Emergency Under Investigation, Air Force Says](#)

Military.com- June 25, 2018

The U.S. Air Force is investigating why a KC-10 Extender refueling aircraft from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst last month had an emergency on the ground, and why the plane's slide-rafts didn't deploy for the aircrew to quickly exit the aircraft.

Furthermore, the service is reducing some Space-A military travel flights on KC-10s out of the New Jersey base as well as Travis Air Force Base, California, as "a precautionary measure," Air Mobility Command spokesman Col. Chris Karns told Military.com in an email.

A KC-10 on May 20 "aborted takeoff due to smoke in the flight deck, causing the crew to evacuate the aircraft," Karns said.

Following the emergency, the slide-rafts failed to inflate. Why the cause of the failure has not been determined, it's now being investigated, he said.

2.) [SpaceX Gets \\$130 Million Air Force Rocket Launch Contract](#)

Military.com- June 22, 2018

SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rockets have been given the green light to carry the U.S. Air Force's national security satellites, the service announced on Thursday.

The service awarded the company, headed by billionaire business magnate Elon Musk, a \$130 million firm-fixed price contract for evolved expendable launch vehicle (EELV) services to deliver Air Force Space Command's 52 satellite, known as AFSC-52, into orbit, the Air Force said.

It will be the first military national security space payload on the Falcon Heavy craft.

"The competitive award of this EELV launch service contract directly supports Space and Missile Systems Center's mission of delivering resilient and affordable space capabilities to our Nation while maintaining assured access to space," said Lt. Gen. John Thompson, Air Force program executive officer for Space and SMC commander.

The classified mission is set for sometime in late fiscal year 2020, and is planned to be launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, the service said.

3.) [Trump tweets full endorsement of Ron DeSantis](#)

Tampa Bay Times- June 22, 2018

"Congressman Ron DeSantis, a top student at Yale and Harvard Law School, is running for Governor of the Great State of Florida," President Donald Trump wrote Friday morning. "Ron is strong on Borders, tough on Crime & big on Cutting Taxes – Loves our Military & our Vets. He will be a Great Governor & has my full Endorsement!"

DeSantis was one of the three Republicans that Trump endorsed in succession on Friday, as U.S. Rep. Martha Roby of Alabama and Gov. Henry McMaster of South Carolina also received praise from Trump's tweeting fingers.

But long before Friday, DeSantis's campaign was touting the president's "endorsement" on its campaign mailers and website. That's because Trump tweeted in December in support of DeSantis, saying he would "make a GREAT Governor of Florida" and that he was a "true FIGHTER."

4.) [National Defense in Jeopardy: Rising Seas Put These Military Bases at Risk of Destruction](#)

Cheat Sheet- June 22, 2018

Rising seas don't just put your city in jeopardy, they also threaten the nation's security. A report by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) found many of America's most influential military bases are at risk should the ocean water rise even a few feet higher. Submarines, research centers, entire fleets of aircraft and rescue equipment — they're all exposed to harmful flooding.

Eglin Air Force Base: Projected sea level rise: 3.7 to 6.1 feet by 2100

Though Florida is home to 21 military installations, a handful of these bases are close to the coast and listed as vulnerable to the impact of rising seas. Eglin Air Force Base spans 464,000 acres across three counties in the Florida Panhandle. It supports and conducts research on weapons systems, representing every branch of the military. The installation is also home to a Special Forces Group assigned to protect more than 30 countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

By 2070, this flooding could affect nearly all of the barrier island facilities within the base. In this scenario, much of the grounds would be deemed a tidal zone rather than useable land.

Naval Station Mayport: Projected sea level rise: 3.7 to 6.1 feet by 2100

Rising sea levels would endanger much of the coastal city of Jacksonville, Florida including Naval Station Mayport. This military base is home to the Navy's third-largest fleet housing 34 ships and aircraft carriers. Mayport already experiences frequent flooding, but daily flooding is thought to become a certainty by 2070.

Just a six-foot sea rise would render 55% of NS Mayport a tidal zone and unusable. Projections from NOAA scientists indicate the sea could rise by another 12.6 inches at Mayport by 2030.

Kennedy Space Center: Projected sea level rise: unknown

Concerns of rising seas have plagued NASA and the Kennedy Space Center since Hurricane Floyd eroded away the coastline of Cape Canaveral in 1999. Multiple other hurricanes since then spurred a \$18 million project to protect against future storm surge posing a risk to space operations. Even the slightest rise in sea level could cause flooding that endangers multiple launch pads and erode the shoreline.

Naval Air Station, Key West: Projected sea level rise: 3.8 to 6.2 feet by 2100

Florida's most exposed military base is Naval Air Station Key West. UCS projects that high tides will "cover 70% to 95% of the station's land area by 2100," as much of its 5,800 acres of land rests no higher than three feet above sea level. A minor Category 1 Hurricane would affect 80% of the facility's land mass and impact national security immensely.

Flooding would endanger the Key West Coast Guard sector, fighter pilot training, the Army Special Forces Underwater Training School, and The Joint Interagency Task Force South, which targets traffickers in illegal narcotics.

5.) [Trump's Space Force Push Reopens Arguments About Military in Space](#)
Space.com- June 20, 2018

President Donald Trump's call this week that to create a sixth branch of the U.S. military — which he called the "Space Force" — has reopened a wider debate about whether such a move is necessary to better manage military space activities. While the idea of a separate, space-focused military branch is not new, Trump's surprise announcement caused a buzz on social media and news outlets.

3. Hill Accomplishments:

- Fielded numerous queries from MLAs during House floor amendment process; relayed relevant questions and issues to Task Force staff
- Obtained Administration SAP on Senate version of NDAA
- Attended ADC Washington Conference, met with DOD officials
- Begin consultations with Florida congressional staff to educate on scoring as related to MML
- Met with Jim Thompsen to discuss Navy contribution to training and testing around the MML

- Obtained June 25 MOU on Endangered Species Act

4. Planned Actions and Activities (Next Two Weeks)

- Track and report back on House and Senate Hearings, and Floor action.
- Awaiting the release of the National Military Strategy; will provide updates
- Continue to monitor FY19 NDAA Conference.
- Continue to engage House and Senate congressional delegation MLAs on re-SWOT, FY19 strategic priorities
- July 18 FDSTF Conference

Attachments

- SASC press release on Senate Mark Up
- Selected provisions in Senate version of FY19 NDAA
- June 25 MOU between DoD and DOI on Endangered Species Act

5. BASE INFO

Air Force Input

DoD Context

1. Continued chatter in DoD, in open media and our own business meeting of BRAC alternatives under consideration by the department. ASD(EIE) Niemeyer stated at the recent ADC summit in DC, "We've been asking for six years for the ability to close bases.... Obviously, that has not been resonating with Congress. We have to take a fresh look."
2. President Trump's recent direction to DoD to create a "Space Force" will eventually impact Florida's Space Coast installations. This change, while likely but not immediate, will require significant Congressional, inter-agency and intra-DoD horse trading. That said, the increased emphasis and reliance on space capabilities, I believe, indicate growth for the Space Coast.

Florida Context

1. **Air Force eyes new cyber training facility in Florida** (- Mark Pomerleau, fifthdomain.com)

The Air Force is outgrowing its current cyber and information operations training facility. The demand for cyber training has increased substantially in recent years, so much so that the 39th Information Operations Squadron had to build another building adjacent to its headquarters in *Hurlburt Field, Florida*, in order to accommodate the influx of new students. "Looking toward the future, we are building a **\$14.2 million**, 36,000-square-foot schoolhouse facility at our main cyber formal training unit," Maj. Gen. Christopher Weggeman, commander of 24th Air Force, wrote in prepared testimony before the Senate Armed Services Cyber Subcommittee in March. As the Air Force expects cyber to play a critical role in future conflicts, schools like the 39th

Information Operations Squadron become increasingly important in preparing airmen for that battlespace. A groundbreaking took place in August 2017 and *construction is scheduled to be completed in late fiscal 2019*. The current schoolhouse is at capacity in terms of space for students and the tailor-made environment or maneuver space each student operates in. During a recent visit to the schoolhouse, Fifth Domain observed a classroom with wall-to-wall desks. Moreover, each student is provided their own segmented working environment to practice on, which in the cybersecurity world is referred to as a sandbox. This sandbox allows students to practice scripts and code without worrying about affecting an operational network or the workspace of other students. “We ... create that maneuver space for our folks to actually operate their weapon systems or to learn concepts; we have to provide that for them. We’re providing the air that they can fly in,” Lt. Col. Angela Waters, the squadron’s commander, told Fifth Domain. In the future, “each student will have their own environment at their desk,” she added. “They’ll have that sandbox environment that they can learn and operate and maneuver in, as well as the network connectivity that they need in order to do, say, intel analysis or to look at open-source information in order to really learn what’s being taught in the classroom and also expand on that knowledge by looking at other resources that are available.” The Air Force’s 39th Information Operations Squadron and its detachment at Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland address the increasing need for cyber training by co-locating and integrating the training community with operators. This capability requires a great deal of computing power and more server space, which the new building will provide. The new building will be “purpose built for cyber training,” Waters said, adding while it will be mainly for the cyber mission forces, they will not be the sole occupant. “As you can see by our current construct, we continue to build out as needed and this was a much-needed expansion for us in order to not only be ready for the future of cyber mission forces but also that additional growth for anyone who’s going to operate ... weapon systems,” she said.

2. HQs SOUTHCOM will host the Florida Governor’s Base Commanders’ meeting on July 23.

Installation Specific Notes

1. HARB. Jim Breitenfeld and I continue to coordinate with base and community leaders for the July FDSTF meeting; the agenda is pretty firm by now. Separately, Jim shared this story from the Miami Herald on “joint-use” (i.e. commercial and military flight operations) of HARB:

Written by [Miami Today](#) on June 26, 2018

SLOWLY EXPEDITING: It’s been more than 2½ years since a request was submitted, but the word “expedited” is still being used to describe Homestead Air Reserve Base’s efforts to allow for civilian use on its premises. Miami-Dade commissioners on Dec. 1, 2015, directed Mayor **Carlos Giménez** to negotiate a joint use agreement with the federal government allowing for limited civilian use of the base, with an estimated timeframe of one to three years. Since then, the request has moved slowly through the necessary

channels, and this month, Miami-Dade Aviation Department spokesperson **Greg Chin** told Miami Today the request had reached the desk of Air Force Secretary **Heather Wilson**, whose approval would allow negotiations to begin. However, a June 19 memo from Mayor Giménez states the request is still pending review from the Federal Aviation Administration, to which it was forwarded by the Air Force Headquarters of Operations in June 2016. Homestead Air Base, Mr. Gimenez wrote, is “trying to expedite the approval process.”

2.USA Garrison-Miami (HQs SOUTHCOM). The military housing initiative continues to slowly move forward. The Garrison recently hosted a “stakeholders” meeting to synchronize the effort, and invited us to attend. Jim B and I both “attended” via conference call. While the “major land acquisition land proposal” is progressing, the Army’s Installation Management Command rep stated that funding for the required MILCON may not be until FY22 or later. The command plans to continue to lease several homes for senior personnel as a bridging strategy. Another concept discussed was inclusion of Coast Guard housing requirements to bolster the total requirement.

3.Patrick AFB. Patrick is among several military installations across the country where current and former housing residents are concerned about cancer-causing chemicals in ground and drinking water. The principal concern is from chemicals used in aircraft fire-fighting foam. The Florida Department of Health is gathering data.

Community Inputs:

Finalizing Homestead visit planning after FDSTF staff and leadership determined how best to use Homestead meeting

Preliminary TPG plans for Wed, July 18 include:

Morning briefs with CO, CE, and Encroachment Team, noon meeting with Homestead community leaders, afternoon with South FL Defense Alliance Reps. Will incorporate SOUTHCOM into visit; evening community/base leadership social. We are continuing active planning with Okaloosa County Defense Support Initiative leadership regarding FDSTF/TPG visit in September. TPG will endeavor to meet with installation and/or key mission leadership from Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field.

Continuing the focus on active statewide discussion regarding drilling east of the GOMEX MML.



The Principi Group

Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period July 1-31, 2018

Please note that the items highlighted in yellow reflect our continuing focus on the recommendations of the FDSTF Strategic Plan

1. Washington Insights

a. Budgets

Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Budget Request

According to the budget agreement passed in March, total defense spending will be \$716 billion in FY 2019. For the first time in years, as the congressional defense committees head into their annual process of marking up the defense bills, level of funding is not an open question.

Fiscal Year 2019 Military Construction Request for Florida

- Total President’s Budget request for the State of Florida is \$177.423 million. Included are these projects:

Base	Project	Funding (millions)
Mayport LCS	Operational Training Facility	\$29.110
Mayport LCS	Support Facility	\$82.350
Eglin AFB	F-35A Integrated Trg Center Academics Bldg	\$34.863
Eglin AFB	F-35A Student Dormitory II	\$28.000
Macdill AFB	KC135 Beddown Flight Simulator Training	\$3.100

- Armed Services Committees’ Conference Military Construction request for the State of Florida includes the original 5 projects above, plus authorization for additional 4 projects. Included are these additional projects:

Base	Project	Funding (millions)
Patrick AFB	Gate	\$9.000

Patrick AF Reserve	Squadron Ops Bldg	\$24.00
NAS Whiting Field	Air Traffic Control Twr	\$10.00
Eglin AFB	Cyberspace Test Fac.	\$38.00 (RDTE)

- House Appropriations Subcommittee for Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, included Section 125, for an additional amount for the accounts added:

Service	Unfunded Requirements	Funding (millions)
Army		\$ 44.10
Navy and MC		\$ 317.80
Air Force		\$ 144.45
Army NG		\$ 11.00
Air NG		\$ 62.00
Army Reserve		\$ 23.00
Air Force Reserve		\$ 84.80

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department’s unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2019 submitted to Congress: Provided further, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction.

- Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, included Section 124, for an additional amount for the accounts added:

Service	Unfunded Requirements	Funding (millions)
Army		\$ 77.60
Navy and MC		\$ 244.40
Air Force		\$ 118.52
Army NG		\$ 22.00
Air NG		\$ 11.10
Army Reserve		\$ 10.00
Air Force Reserve		\$ 14.40

Military Construction Funding Initiatives.—The bill includes funding for military construction initiatives to address important unfunded priorities included in the Department of Defense’s unfunded priority lists provided to Congress. All additional funding is reserved for projects that were included in the unfunded priority lists submitted to Congress.

NOTE: While the Patrick AF Reserve ADD has received congressional defense committees’ Authorization, the disparity in Air Force Reserve initial Appropriations marks put funding at risk.

b. Congressional Defense Committees

Selected items of interest to Florida from House and Senate Reports and the NDAA Conference Agreement:

Land conveyance, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida (sec. 2846)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2822) that would grant the Secretary of the Air Force permissive authority to convey 80 acres of land adjacent to Eglin Air Force Base to the Air Force Enlisted Village.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Air Force Enlisted Village to pay a fair market value for the specified land.

Authority for leasing real property at the Naval Air Station Key West, Florida

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 2825) that would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to lease approximately 19 acres at the Naval Air Station Key West, Florida, for the purpose of constructing, operating, improving, and maintaining housing units under such terms as the Secretary considers appropriate.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

The conferees note the Department already has authority to lease real property that has not been determined excess under title 10 section 2667, United States Code, to include authority to accept types of in-kind consideration. However, the property in question remains in a hopelessly dilapidated and unusable state. The conferees assess that the Department has not managed this particular property in responsible manner and urges the Department to leverage its entire inventory of surplus but not excess properties in support of sailors, marines, and their families around the world.

Authority to transfer funds for construction of Indian River Bridge (sec. 2866)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2835) that would grant the Secretary of Defense permissive authority to transfer up to 50 percent of the shared costs for the construction of the Indian River Bridge to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes.

Strategic plan to improve capabilities of Department of Defense training ranges and installations (sec. 2862)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 2832) that would require the Secretary of Defense, working through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for using existing authorities to address training constraints to improve operations training capabilities requiring training enablers available in and outside the United States.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with a clarifying amendment that requires the strategic plan to include infrastructure requirements.

NEXT STEPS:

- August 13-16, 2018, DOD Conference on *Sustaining Readiness* in St Louis.
- DRAFT QFRs, correspondence between congressional delegation and DoD clarifying Florida test, training range capabilities and strengths.
- Monitor Terms of Reference, office of responsibility for House required GAO report on Training Ranges.

House Report directs the Comptroller General of the United States to assess the Department of Defense's current military cyberspace operations. The assessment should identify:

- (1) the types of cyberspace operations the Department has undertaken, activities undertaken to prepare for cyberspace operations, and the organizations conducting these operations;
- (2) authorities, policies, doctrine, and rules of engagement for these operations;
- (3) internal oversight and congressional reporting mechanisms;
- (4) efforts to develop and synchronize cyberspace operations within combatant commanders' plans; and
- (5) processes used to deconflict cyberspace operations or mitigate the impact of cyberspace operations on other military operations.

NEXT STEPS:

- August 13-16, 2018, DOD Conference on *Sustaining Readiness* in St Louis.
- DRAFT QFRs, correspondence between congressional delegation and DoD clarifying Florida cyber capabilities and strengths.
- Monitor Terms of Reference, office of responsibility for required GAO report.

House Report required the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than March 1, 2019, on how the Air Force will support the requirements for aerial refueling. At a minimum, the briefing shall include:

- (1) the current and future laydown plans for air refueling locations;
- (2) an overview of air refueling operations per air refueling wing locations to include the number of sortie requests, the number of sorties fulfilled, and the locations or missions the sorties supported;
- (3) fully mission capable and aircraft availability rates for all air refueling wings over the past 5 years;

- (4) an assessment of how the Air National Guard force structure, across all States and territories, can be leveraged to support current and emerging air refueling requirements;
- (5) a description of the long-term plan to maintain adequate refueling capability to meet current and emerging requirements;
- (6) a review of manpower levels across the air refueling force, an identification of current and projected skill set gaps, and recommendations on how to address these gaps; and
- (7) an overview of how the Air Force will determine the disposition of KC- 135 aircraft as they are replaced by arrival of KC-46 aircraft.

NEXT STEPS:

- August 13-16, 2018, DOD Conference on *Sustaining Readiness* in St Louis.
- DRAFT QFRs, correspondence between congressional delegation and DoD clarifying Florida refueling capabilities and strengths.
- Monitor Terms of Reference, office of responsibility for required Air Force report.

Senate Report directs the Secretary of the Air Force, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, to submit to the congressional defense committees no later than October 1, 2018, a report on the transportation infrastructure that is critical to the ability of the Department to use the Eastern Range in Cape Canaveral, Florida, for space launch operations. The report shall include:

- (1) An identification of Department and non-Department transportation infrastructure supporting the Eastern Range that is critical to Department space operations, including payload processing, delivery, and Department- operated launch capabilities;
- (2) An assessment of the ability of such transportation infrastructure or alternatives to safely transport all Department mission payloads during the period beginning on the first day of fiscal year 2019 and ending on the last day of fiscal year 2030;
- (3) An analysis of the impact on Department space launch operations of an inability of such transportation infrastructure to safely transport mission payloads through fiscal year 2030; and
- (4) A detailed plan to ensure that payload processing, delivery, and Department-operated launch capabilities are unencumbered by a failure in such transportation infrastructure.

NEXT STEPS:

- DRAFT QFRs, correspondence between congressional delegation and DoD clarifying Florida Space capabilities and strengths.
- Monitor Terms of Reference, office of responsibility for required Air Force report.

Senate Report directs Comptroller General of the United States to complete a report reviewing the Air Force's plan to expand services at RPA bases, as well as the service's plans to implement a combat-to-dwell policy. The report should address:

- (1) Challenges in expanding services at RPA bases and mitigation options;
- (2) How the service can incrementally reduce RPA operator stress and improve workload prior to achieving 1:0.5 combat-to dwell;
- (3) How to balance production of additional sorties with attendant staffing requirements to support training; and
- (4) How to achieve retention goals to support the timeline for increasing the combat-to-dwell time ratio.

NEXT STEPS:

- DRAFT QFRs, correspondence between congressional delegation and DoD clarifying Florida capabilities and strengths.
- Monitor Terms of Reference, office of responsibility for required GAO report.

Other items for consideration / discussion:

- DFAS and 4th estate. Issue will not go away for next year.

Periodic review of the Defense Agencies and Department of Defense Field Activities by the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense (sec. 923)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 913) that would require the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Chief Management Officer (CMO), to submit a plan to transfer several Defense Information Systems Agency functions to other Department elements, to eliminate the Washington Headquarters Service, and to review the efficiency and effectiveness of each Defense Agency and Department of Defense Field Activity.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would remove the portions of the provision related to the Defense Information Systems Agency and the Washington Headquarters Service, and amend the review of efficiency and effectiveness.

- Off-Base Infrastructure Projects

Conferees embrace a new authority allowing DOD to provide funding to state and local governments for off-base infrastructure projects in the FY19 NDAA. The provision adopts the Senate requirement for state and local participants to contribute at least 30 percent of the total project cost. The cost-share requirement can be waived, however, for

rural communities or “for reasons related to national security,” under the compromise language.

A transportation project, a school, hospital, police, fire, emergency response or other community support facility, or a waste, wastewater, telecommunications, electric, gas or other utility infrastructure project would be eligible for the program, according to section 2861.

In the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report, lawmakers underscored the value of the new authority: “The conferees note the importance of the communities that surround and support U.S. military installations and believe that this program can be of tremendous benefit to both the surrounding community and respective installations.”

- Spousal reciprocity as determining factor for new Army, Air Force missions.

Assessment and report on the effects of permanent changes of station on employment among military spouses (sec. 575)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 565) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress assessing the effects that frequent permanent changes of station of servicemembers have on employment of military spouses.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment and to provide a report by February 1, 2019, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives assessing the effects that permanent changes of station have on employment of military spouses.

c. Pentagon Perspectives

Pentagon objects to GOP rider blocking protection of birds

The Pentagon is objecting to a Republican proposal in a defense policy bill that would bar the Fish and Wildlife Service from using the Endangered Species Act to protect two chicken-like birds in the western half of the U.S.

The Defense Department says in a position paper made public Wednesday that the environmental measure inserted by House Republicans is unnecessary. The House-approved language would block endangered-species listing for the sage grouse and lesser-prairie chicken, which roam more than a dozen states west of the Mississippi River.

The birds have become flashpoints in a legal and political battle over whether they warrant federal protection that hinders mining, logging and other economic development in states from Kansas to California.

The Pentagon says in a one-paragraph statement that the GOP provision "is not necessary to protect military testing and training." The department "urges its exclusion" from the defense bill being negotiated by House and Senate leaders, the statement said.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the statement and confirmed its authenticity.

Lucian Niemeier, assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and environment, said Wednesday that officials appreciate "the continued strong support from Congress to protect military readiness, and the ability to fully use all of our test and training ranges."

But Niemeier said military installations are "not experiencing significant mission impacts related to the management" of the sage grouse, lesser-prairie chicken or the American burying beetle, another threatened species targeted by the GOP bill. The burying beetle was once found across the country but has dwindled to less than 10 percent of its historic range.

"Legislation at this time prohibiting the listing of these species may have the unintended consequence of undermining the ongoing working relationships and initiatives that DOD has with our federal, state and private partners as it relates to balancing wildlife conservation and sustaining our readiness capabilities," Niemeier said in a statement.

Utah Rep. Rob Bishop inserted the endangered-species language into the defense policy bill, arguing that federal conservation efforts for the imperiled birds and the beetle undermine military training and readiness.

Retired Major Gen. Paul Eaton, managing director of Vet Voice Foundation, an advocacy group that supports environmental causes, called the GOP rider "a shameful ploy" to undermine important public lands and wildlife protections.

"Congressional leadership must put a stop to this effort and ensure that members of Congress do not hold hostage the National Defense Authorization Act over a rider that has nothing to do with the military," Eaton said.

The GOP rider comes amid an effort by Bishop and other Republicans to advance legislation rolling back the Endangered Species Act. Republicans say the landmark 45-year-old law hinders a host of economic activities important for jobs while doing little to restore threatened species.

Democrats and environmental groups say the law has played a crucial role in protecting imperiled species such as the bald eagle, California condor, brown pelican and Florida manatee from extinction.

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

DOD 'Sustaining Readiness' Conference to Focus on Partnerships, Planning

Leaders from DOD, the services, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, private organizations, and other federal agencies meet next month in St. Louis for the 2018 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference. The conference will provide a forum for DOD and its partners to discuss ways to enhance military readiness at the military's installations and ranges through partnerships and planning. The conference is free for all attendees and will take place from August 13-16 at the historic St. Louis Union Station Hotel.

Naval installation NAVFAC workload

We obtained the NAVFAC Southeast 12 Month Future Workload. Projects fall into categories for "Estimated Cost": Less than \$1M, between \$1-5M, between \$5-10M, greater than \$10M. Of interest is the number of projects at each installation, especially at NAVSTA Guantanamo. The list also included the long sought and long-awaited Air Traffic Control Tower at NAS Whiting Field. Only the largest projects at each installation have been included in the condensed list that follows:

- Blount Island (2): Retrograde Lot Repair (\$1-5M)
- NAS Jacksonville (18): FRC Administrative Renovations (>\$10M); FRC Repairs (>\$10M)
- NAS Key West (19): Hurricane IRMA Repairs, NGIS Facility, Repair Aircraft Maintenance Hangar, and AUTEK Austere Quarters (ALL >\$10M)
- NAS Pensacola (17): "A" School Dormitory (>\$10M) and Addition @ Corry Station (Non-DOD) (>\$10M)
- NAS Whiting Field (7): **Air Traffic Control Tower (North Field) (>\$10M)**
- NSA Orlando (8): NOTU Repairs to Poseidon Wharf (>\$10M); NOTU HVAC and Fire Protection Upgrades (\$5-10M)
- NSA Panama City (6): Wharf Repairs and Test Range Support Facility (Each \$1-5M)
- NAVSTA Mayport (7): Construct NGIS Central Facility (>\$10M); Hurricane IRMA Repairs (>\$10M); LCS Operational Training Facility Addition (>\$10M)
- NAVSTA GITMO (14): Pier and Wharf Repairs, Solid Waste Management Facility, and Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (All >\$10M)

3. Florida, In the News:

- 1.) Navy's New Amphibs Must Be Ready for a High-Tech Fight, 2-Star Says

July 26, 2018- Military.com

The Navy and Marine Corps are on the cusp of changing the way they fight from the sea, and the future amphibious ship fleet must support warfighters' needs for decades to come, a two-star general said this week.

Marines and sailors will face off against cyber, space and underwater threats in future fights, and the amphibious ships they do it from must support next-generation equipment, said Maj. Gen. David Coffman, who serves the chief of naval operations as the director of expeditionary warfare.

"We need to be thinking about how to do warfighting from the sea out to 2070; we're on a 50-year plan," he told lawmakers and industry leaders in Washington, D.C.

Ships joining the fleet years from now likely can't look the same as they do today. Leaders will need to be forward-leaning, Coffman said, as they think about some of the capabilities that could be essential in hotly contested areas decades from now.

That means better networking speeds, medical capabilities and communications, he said. Eventually, autonomous technology -- including undersea vehicles, drones and other unmanned tools -- could take on some of the risky missions Marines face during amphibious assaults.

"Everything we're building should support both manned and unmanned systems," Coffman said. "... We can't go stale in terms of not evolving our capabilities."

Florida Republican Rep. John Rutherford, who serves on the House shipbuilding caucus, recently observed sailors and Marines training with their counterparts from two dozen countries during the massive Rim of the Pacific exercise.

"I believe even more strongly after that visit that we have to be prepared for any kind of fight," he said. That's especially true, he added, considering China's growing influence in the Pacific and North Africa.

The Navy's shipbuilding plan calls for a fleet of 38 amphibs. It's crucial the sea services meet that number at the same time they build other capabilities, like ship-to-shore connectors, said Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Virginia, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee's sea power and projection forces subcommittee.

"Marines can do almost anything," Wittman said. "But until they can walk on water -- and someday they might be able to do that -- we'd better be building them more ships."

Coffman, who's spent much of his career operating with Marine expeditionary units and Navy amphibious ready groups, has seen how everything from email to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter changed the fight. A CH-46 helicopter pilot by trade, he went on to lead the California-based 13th MEU through two deployments with the Boxer ARG.

Ultimately, he said, building the right kind of amphibious ship fleet is about giving sailors and Marines the tools they need to survive. If they're willing to put their lives on the line for the mission, he said, they deserve to have the tools they need to succeed.

"We're going to be graded on whether we give them enough," Coffman said.

2.) Environmental sensing platform adds protection against corrosion

July 25, 2018 -Dayton Daily News

Air Force Research Laboratory is developing an innovative new tool to manage aircraft corrosion more effectively.

Researchers from the AFRL Materials and Manufacturing Directorate are developing and testing a device that could help pre-emptively predict corrosive environmental conditions before they can start causing damage to valuable assets. Called the WISE-MP, which stands for Weather Instrumentation and Specialized Environmental Monitoring Platform, the device can measure conditions that can be detrimental to aircraft, such as pollutants, salt and moisture, to name a few.

The prototype device, which consists of a gas monitor, weather sensor, chloride monitor, and control box mounted on a sturdy aluminum frame, occupies a small footprint. It is portable, durable and waterproof with easy access to components. The platform is low-maintenance, requiring only occasional filter changes and minor adjustments. The WISE-MP control unit stores and transmits data for remote monitoring, and data can be accessed on-site as well.

"It is a complete sensing platform that can provide relevant environmental data for installations where aircraft are housed," said AFRL senior materials engineer Dr. Chad Hunter.

Knowing the concentrations of potential corrosive factors in a given area can give aircraft maintainers a leg up in understanding how to preventively treat and monitor aircraft and other assets that are based at a given location. Anticipating corrosive conditions before they can have a detrimental effect can lead to significant cost savings and less aircraft downtime.

Although the WISE-MP platform is in the early stages of development, Hunter says it holds a lot of promise for aircraft maintainers.

"This system is designed to allow maintainers to collect data to better understand how corrosive the environmental conditions are in a localized environment, and that data will enable more effective corrosion maintenance," said Hunter.

He added that maintainers can use this knowledge to modify maintenance schedules or to take additional preventive measures.

A WISE-MP prototype was recently constructed and deployed for initial testing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where it will be measuring gaseous pollutants, salt concentration, temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind speed and direction, and solar radiation for several months. After monitoring its performance during this test phase, AFRL researchers will then evaluate the system at the Naval Research Laboratory in Key West, Florida, where it will collect data in the region's corrosive seaside environment.

According to Hunter, the research team hopes to deploy units to other military installations for further testing and eventual operational use. It is the hope that in the next few years, an initial basic platform will be in use at several military bases.

"Our goal is to provide a durable and easily deployable sensing platform that can provide an extra measure of protection for our valuable assets," Hunter said.

3.) Russian President Vladimir Putin denies military video targeted Florida

July 17, 2018- NBC2

Russian President Vladimir Putin denies Florida was the target of Russian super missiles. He was referring to a propaganda military video released earlier this year.

The Russian government claimed in the video it was testing new missiles they claim could outmaneuver U.S. missiles. Monday night, Fox News journalist Chris Wallace asked Putin if the video targeted Florida.

He said no.

But experts say that simply isn't true. David Giglietti watched the video and said he liked the graphics as it showed them launching from the communist country and headed toward North America.

They claim the missiles can outsmart U.S. response missiles capable of hitting the east coast. "Obviously they have the technology to reach us. It is Florida. It is the state of Florida," Giglietti said after watching it in its entirety. We showed the video to numerous people. "Yes, that is the state of Florida without a doubt," said David Ortin. Each saw the same thing. "It has a lot of the common shapes that a lot of us from Florida recognized like Lake Okeechobee and the Southwest area," said Sam Lumene. Each person agreed the missiles were pointed toward them. "I mean it's hard to say it isn't Florida," Lumene said.

However, Putin disagreed, saying the video did not specify the missiles were hitting Florida. "There was not a caption saying Florida," Putin told Fox News. When pushed on it, Putin continued to deny the depiction. "You have to look at it more carefully," Putin exclaimed. So, we did, and we took the video to Dr. Jacqueline Salmond, a geography expert at Florida Gulf Coast University.

“We've got a very distinctive shape, and there aren't many places in the world that look like this,” Salmond said. Dr. Salmond compared the Russian image using Google Maps 3-D imaging.

“That gives you a slightly better perspective which matches this 99.9%,” Salmond said with certainty.

That left students like Jacob Hedden of Fort Myers offering this advice to the Russian President.

“He needs maybe a geography lesson,” Hedden said. Putin said the video was made in response to the U.S. missile defense system. He said the video was not designed to be used against the United States, however many in Southwest Florida said they are skeptical of that claim. When Florida Congressman Francis Rooney was asked if he believed Putin's denial, he simply replied, "No."

4.) Eglin AFB in line for millions in military funding

July 5, 2018- NWF Daily News

Military funding and policy bills that recently passed the U.S. Senate include more than \$60 million in proposed funding for an F-35 fighter jet instructional facility and a dormitory for F-35 student pilots and maintenance personnel at Eglin Air Force Base.

The proposed outlay represents just part of the funding that would be coming to Eglin in connection with current defense spending bills, according to recent news releases from the office of Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio.

In all, according to the news releases on the National Defense Authorization Act and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act “provides an additional \$100 million for the restoration and modernization of facilities at Eglin Air Force Base.”

The Senate defense appropriations bill also calls for an additional \$10 million in funding for enhancing the Gulf Test and Training Range. Covering nearly 120,000 square miles in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, the range is used by a wide array of military units, including Eglin Air Force Base’s 33rd Fighter Wing and 96th Test Wing, and the Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field.

“The Gulf Range Enhancement program is a current investment for enhanced capability supporting future mission use of the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range,” Rubio’s office noted in the news release.

The range accommodates high-altitude supersonic air combat training, air-to-air missile testing, drone targeting, hypersonic weapons testing and space launches, but its technology has become outdated. Automated communications gear in the test range which provides data on the performance of munitions, other military equipment and

military personnel has not been comprehensively updated since at least the early 1970s. Since then, development of communications and data collection equipment aboard aircraft and onboard munitions has outpaced the range's telemetry capabilities. In some instances, the telemetry equipment does not recognize the munitions and equipment operating in the range.

The Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act passed 85-10 with both Florida senators, Rubio and Democrat Bill Nelson, voting in favor of the measure. The bill is now headed to a conference committee comprising members of both the Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, who will work to resolve differences between the Senate and House versions of the bill. The bill will set funding for the U.S. military for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, with current proposed expenditures of more than \$700 billion.

"Florida is extremely proud of its growing military presence, and this important bill will benefit our military personnel stationed throughout the state as well as the communities they call home," Rubio said in the news release.

More specifically with regard to Eglin, the Senate's Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Act would allocate \$34.9 million to an academics building for the base's F-35A training efforts. Additionally, the proposal allocates \$28 million to a new dormitory for F-35A student pilots and maintenance personnel. The F-35A is the Air Force version of the next-generation multiple-role fighter jet.

However, while allocating the construction funding to the F-35 training program at Eglin, the Senate's bill would also require the Department of Defense to report, within 180 days of the defense construction bill's passage, on its compliance with a 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendation that Eglin be established as the initial training site for all military services using the F-35 fighter jet.

Initially, that training was planned to involve 107 F-35s, but that number was subsequently reduced to 59 jets. And in a report included with the legislation, the Senate Appropriations Committee notes its members are "aware that since the selection of Eglin AFB as the site for JSF IJTS (Joint Strike Fighter Initial Joint Training Site) ... that some (military) services conduct JSF training at installations other than Eglin AFB."

Noting its further concern that "building construction, renovation and demolition may have already started to support the initial plan of 107 (aircraft) and the full training mission," the committee report "directs the Secretary of Defense to report no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the infrastructure plan supporting the JSF IJTS at Eglin, to include completed facilities and associated capacity and current utilization, and how remaining infrastructure requirements have been adjusted to adapt to the reduced (number of aircraft) and training mission."

The committee report goes on to say that the DoD report “should include the status of the department’s compliance with the 2005 BRAC decision to establish Eglin AFB as the JSF IJTS and the rationale and impact of not fully implementing the decision.”

Asked why Rubio was supporting additional funding for Eglin’s F-35 program in light of concerns about the program, the senator’s press office noted in an email that Rubio “is pleased the Congress is providing funding for important military construction projects at Eglin AFB.”

The email goes on to say that the “2005 BRAC law stipulates that Eglin be home to joint, integrated training for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, and the senator is committed to pushing all services to add personnel and aircraft to support this BRAC requirement.”

5.) Defense grant awarded to Clay County for Camp Blanding

July 6, 2018- WCBJ20

Six projects to protect military installations across the state have been awarded grants, including one in North Central Florida.

Clay County is receiving \$500,000 in defense grants to buffer Camp Blanding from incompatible land development. The money is coming from the Florida Defense Support Task Force Grant Program.

Miami-Dade, Polk, and Bay Counties, along with Gulf Coast State College and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, will also receive grants from the state.

6.) The U.S. Navy’s Biggest Base Is Sinking

July 5, 2018- National Interest

What if the U.S. Navy’s main base in Norfolk, Virginia sinks?

It could happen. And it’s not an isolated problem, as climate change alters coastlines all over the world.

A report from the American Security Project identifies Naval Station Norfolk as America’s fifth most endangered military base. The report also lists Eglin in Florida, Diego Garcia, Bahrain and Guam as being particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Probably more than any other service—and possibly more than any other government agency—the Navy has taken climate change seriously. The sailing branch is making a long-term commitment to biofuels project as part of its Green Fleet initiative.

The Navy’s interest isn’t accidental.

If accompanied by the melting of Arctic ice and rising sea levels, climate change could dramatically affect how the Navy does its job. Global warming has the potential to open up new areas for patrol, but it also puts littoral populations at risk of humanitarian disaster.

No American naval installation is more important than Naval Station Norfolk, the largest naval base in the world. Norfolk services the Navy's largest carriers and amphibious warships and also functions as a major naval air center. The loss of Norfolk or—just as important—the loss of the workforce's homes, would have devastating consequences.

In addition to a general rise in sea levels, climate change could create much more powerful storms. One from the Army Corps of Engineers study suggested that such storms could devastate Norfolk.

The problem extends beyond the base itself. Residents of Norfolk have grown extremely concerned about the prospects of sea level rise—and especially of increased flooding. Since 2000, flooding has intensified dramatically, and most climate models suggest that the trend will continue. By 2100, flood levels could increase by five feet or more.

The Army Corps of Engineers study examined the extent to which Norfolk needed the broader civilian infrastructure—and how vulnerable that infrastructure would become to storm and flood damage in context of higher sea levels. In short, severe flooding would badly damage the infrastructure upon which Naval Station Norfolk depends.

The United States has lost bases to natural disasters before. Hurricanes badly damaged Homestead and Keesler Air Force Bases in 1992 and 2005, respectively. The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991 wiped out Clark Air Base, accelerating a major reduction of the U.S. military presence in The Philippines for more than two decades.

The Navy and the federal government have options for preventing damage to Norfolk, and for keeping the facility open even under serious climate-change scenarios. For one, the Navy could cease construction on particularly vulnerable infrastructure and alter its building plans.

The sailing branch could begin contingency planning in the event a major storm renders the base completely unusable. Finally, the government could protect civilian infrastructure with a system of barriers, levees and flood gates.

Rising sea levels and more powerful storms will threaten every navy in the world. The United States will suffer more than most because of the scale of its naval infrastructure. We simply have more to lose.

The combination of climate change and defense austerity makes the United States particularly vulnerable, as it could become difficult to protect current assets and replace destroyed ones.

It hardly helps that climate change preparedness remains controversial. In 2012, the House Armed Services Committee threatened to undercut the Green Fleet project by prohibiting the Navy from purchasing alternative fuels at higher prices than traditional ones. The House is unlikely to want to spend enormous sums preparing Naval Station Norfolk for rising sea levels.

But of course, mitigation can only go so far. The Navy can't realistically prepare for the most devastating storms that Norfolk might suffer in the future, and the shift of resources to any other base will just redistribute and delay the problem.

Any solution to the broader threat of climate change needs to involve the whole of government, not just the Navy.

4. Congressional Accomplishments and Planned Activities:

- Met with Florida congressional staff to educate on scoring as related to MML.
- Reviewed and excerpted NDAA conference report for items of relevance to Florida. Provided possible action items for follow up.
- Met with Team staff to discuss The Way Forward strategic planning document.

- Will provide on the pending release of the National Military Strategy
- Continue to monitor FY19 Appropriations Conference.
- Continue to engage House and Senate congressional delegation MLAs on re-SWOT, FY19 strategic priorities
- Attending DoD "Sustaining Military Readiness" Conference in St Louis 13-15 August

5. Base Info

- a. Whiting Field News Conference by Congressman Gaetz

We attended Rep Matt Gaetz Whiting Field Hearing this Monday the 20th of July, set up to look at preserving and enhancing the installation. Sen Broxson and Terry McCaffrey also present. A major Gaetz take-away -- Intergovernmental cooperation is key to preserving and enhancing all Florida installations. He asked FDSTF to look at recommending the state legislature amend current statute restricting use of state dollars on military installations.

- b. Air Force News

The Air Force announced the President's nomination of Lt Gen Maryanne Miller to command Air Mobility Command. She currently serves as the commander of the Air Force Reserve Command and, if confirmed, may be an advocate for Homestead's F-35s and infrastructure (fuel system) investment.

US Army Garrison – Miami (HQs SOUTHCOM) hosted the Florida Governor’s Base Commanders’ meeting on July 23.

USAF Installation Specific Notes

1. HARB. The Homestead community hosted the FDSTF’s 65th meeting on 18-19 July. We met with Homestead’s 482d Fighter Wing and Special Operations Command – South (SOCSOUTH) leaders and installation planners on 18 July. The Task Force met at the Hampton Inn in Homestead on 19 July, followed by a base tour. The Homestead community leaders welcomed the Task Force and our team warmly, and in large numbers. There were over 20 community leaders at lunch on 18 July, including elected officials and representatives from local business, education and health sectors. Principal HARB issues remain replacement for the 482FW’s aging F-16s, encroachment, and designation as (and investment for) contingency operations (i.e. aircraft fuel supply system).
2. Eglin AFB/Hurlburt Field. Jim Breitenfeld and LTG (R) Glenn Spears continue coordination for the September FDSTF meetings.
3. USA Garrison-Miami (HQs SOUTHCOM). Glenn met with garrison leaders on 20 July to discuss their housing project, currently stating a requirement of 125 family and 108 unaccompanied servicemember housing units. The plan is to acquire / transfer some 75 acres of a 160-acre parcel adjacent to the headquarters and owned by the Federal Aviation Administration. The recent Housing Market Analysis includes personnel assigned to HQs SOUTHCOM, MARFORSOUTH (co-located w/SOUTHCOM) and SOCSOUTH (at HARB). The command is considering partnering with Coast Guard units in Miami-Dade County / south Florida, which would increase the requirement (and the complexity for program funding). The Garrison’s game plan is to program land acquisition, family housing and MILCON for unaccompanied housing in the Army’s FY21 POM.
4. MacDill AFB. Air Mobility Command announced it will transfer a “high-fidelity, full-motion” KC-135 Operations Flight Trainer (simulator) to the 6th AMW at MacDill. The trainer will come from a unit that will soon receive new KC-46 tanker aircraft. “The Air Force will continue to operate some 300 KC-135 aircraft as the KC-46 comes on line, so optimizing these OFTs is essential.” Separately, the 310th Airlift Squadron at MacDill, assigned three C-37s for DV airlift, may be disbanded in FY19, and their aircraft re-assigned to other units (likely at Andrews AFB). There’s been no public announcement of the move, but I have verbal confirmation from HQs Air Force. I discussed all with Chip Diehl on 30 July.

USAF staff planned actions

1. Coordinate for the September FDSTF meeting with Community Leaders and base commanders.

2. Request approval to visit other Florida Air Force community and installation leadership. Initial plan: August – Patrick AFB, Jacksonville ANG (two days)
September – Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field & Tyndall AFB (two / three days)
October – MacDill AFB & Avon Park Range (two days)

Team Orlando

Now that the Army has announced the headquarters location (Austin, Texas) and the commander for the new four-star Futures Command, the work to build the organizational chart and directorates is in full swing. This has had an impact on Orlando with the cross functional team (CFT) for Modeling and Simulation designated to be positioned in Team Orlando entering a revision of previously announced mission and process. MG Maria Gervais, the new CFT CG, announced that the plan for the OTA program timing that she laid out in a recent M&S conference last month is being reset. OTA rounds 2 and 3 have been canceled (due to happen this summer) until the M&S CFT operational plan is re-synched with the Futures Command. Bottom line, the CFT will locate in Orlando but the timing of activities and actual deliverable is unknown at this time.

At the request of the UCF executive, Dan Holsenbeck, our lead, MG (R) Steve Layfield is continuing to assist Lt Gen (R) Tom Baptiste and his staff to draft a letter for the new incoming president of UCF; the purpose of the letter is to show the new UCF President all that UCF has done to support and enable Team Orlando.

Key West

Jim Hinkle extended a personal invitation to the Vice Chief of the Navy to visit Key West to see firsthand the deplorable housing situation and gain an understanding of the impact that the Combat Tactical Training System has on naval aviation. VCNO is an aviator but of the P-3 persuasion so he has not had much insight into what goes on at Key West. He acknowledged my invitation and agreed to add Key West to a future itinerary. “Hope to visit the area soon.”

General Community Outreach notes:

Actively planning with Okaloosa County Defense Support Initiative leadership regarding FDSTF/TPG visit in September. TPG will endeavor to meet with installation and/or key mission leadership from Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field. Connected Bay County Defense Alliance leadership with Eglin range expert to discuss potential MQ-9 bed down issues. Continued broad based, active statewide discussion regarding drilling east of the GOMEX MML. At least 3 different community organizations looking at mobilizing around this issue; we are focused on assisting in their coordination with FDSTF as one voice.

Please note that TPG continues to be continuously focused on advancing the recommendations of the FDSTF Strategic Plan. Those items highlighted in yellow in the Congressional section of this report at the beginning are linked to specific recommendations from that plan. The report also drives our monthly meetings here in DC within the armed service leadership, and in Florida with base commanders and community leaders.



The Principi Group

Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period August 1-31, 2018

Please note that the items highlighted in yellow reflect our continuing focus on the recommendations of the FDSTF Strategic Plan

1. Washington Insights

Latest news: With Senator McCain's passing, Senator Inhofe (R, Oklahoma) is expected to become the new chairman of Senate Armed Services Committee.

As we enter election season, Senate expected by simple mathematics to remain Republican controlled (Democrats defending 26 seats versus the Republicans only having to hold 9). House could go either way, but the margin of victory could be closer than many expect. Incumbents have a 93.4% re-election rate, and Republicans currently hold a 43-seat majority, 236-193 with 6 vacancies.

a. Budgets

Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Budget Request

According to the budget agreement passed in March, total defense spending will be \$716 billion in FY 2019. The House Defense Appropriators passed their version in June, and on August 23rd the Senate passed their version. Barring a complete breakdown of bipartisanship, both houses expect to be able to wrap up the Fiscal Year 2019 Defense Appropriations spending bill by the October 1, 2018 deadline.

Senate Defense Appropriations Spending

[Senate passes \\$675B in defense spending](#)

Morning Defense- August 23, 2018

In an overwhelming 85-7 vote, the Senate passed its \$675 billion defense spending measure Thursday August 23rd, 2018, setting off a sprint to enact full-year funding for the military before the start of new 2019 fiscal year on Oct. 1.

The Pentagon funding is part of a massive \$857 billion minibus package, H.R. 6157 (115), that also includes annual Labor-HHS-Education spending legislation and accounts for nearly two-thirds of discretionary spending for the coming fiscal year. Eventually, House and Senate appropriators must reconcile the differences in the bills in a joint conference committee.

Defense hawks have ratcheted up the pressure on appropriators to complete their work to ensure full-year military funding is finalized by the start of the new fiscal year. Congress has already finished, and President Donald Trump has signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which sets Pentagon policy but doesn't allocate any funding.

Last Thursday's blowout vote marks the first time since 2009 that the Senate has passed a defense funding bill outside of a catchall omnibus spending bill, which has become a common practice as the appropriations process has deteriorated in recent years.

If passed and signed into law by Oct. 1, it would be the first time since 2006 a defense appropriations bill has been enacted by the start of a new fiscal year.

Last-minute amendments: Just moments before passing the bill, the Senate adopted a manager's package of 53 uncontroversial amendments, including a few about defense.

The package includes: A proposal by Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) to allocate \$4 million for the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, established by the recently signed National Defense Authorization Act. And another proposal from Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) to authorize funding to reimburse the government of Palau for land acquisition costs for defense sites.

"The package, an uncommon bipartisan truce to fund two-thirds of government operations, was strategically crafted to ward off a presidential veto. But the odds remain long that the legislation will even make it to the White House, with just 11 working days left for House and Senate lawmakers to merge opposing versions of the bills — and get Trump's approval — before funding runs out on Sept. 30."

"Capitol Hill leaders say they haven't received concrete assurances that Trump will sign any of the fiscal 2019 bills without a promise for \$5 billion in border wall funding. But Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) has argued that the Senate's progress will convince Trump to sign at least the two biggest measures — Defense and Labor-HHS-Education — by the Sept. 30 deadline."

- [Minibus Text here](#)
- [Committee report here](#)
- [Summary here](#)

Rising National Security Spending and Rising Debts

[CSIS](#)

A new Center for Strategic and International Studies report projects rising national defense spending amid greater deficits than previously estimated. CSIS estimates a total budget authority of \$990.8 billion in national defense spending for the Departments of Defense, Energy, Homeland Security and Veterans Administration.

Likewise, the think-tank notes that for 2018–2027, the Congressional Budget Office projects a cumulative deficit that is \$1.6 trillion larger than the \$10.1 trillion that the agency anticipated in June, as a result of falling revenues and rising spending.

Fiscal Year 2019 Military Construction Request for Florida

- Total President's Budget request for the State of Florida is \$177.423 million. Included are these projects:

Base	Project	Funding (millions)
Mayport LCS	Operational Training Facility	\$29.110
Mayport LCS	Support Facility	\$82.350
Eglin AFB	F-35A Integrated Trg Center Academics Bldg	\$34.863
Eglin AFB	F-35A Student Dormitory II	\$28.000
MacDill AFB	KC135 Beddown Flight Simulator Training	\$3.100

- Armed Services Committees' Conference Military Construction request for the State of Florida includes the original 5 projects above, plus authorization for additional 4 projects. Included are these additional projects:

Base	Project	Funding (millions)
Patrick AFB	Gate	\$9.000
Patrick AF Reserve	Squadron Ops Bldg	\$24.00
NAS Whiting Field	Air Traffic Control Twr	\$10.00
Eglin AFB	Cyberspace Test Fac.	\$38.00 (RDTE)

- House Appropriations Subcommittee for Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, included Section 125, for an additional amount for the accounts added:

Service	Unfunded Requirements	Funding (millions)
Army		\$ 44.10
Navy and MC		\$ 317.80
Air Force		\$ 144.45
Army NG		\$ 11.00
Air NG		\$ 62.00
Army Reserve		\$ 23.00
Air Force Reserve		\$ 84.80

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department’s unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2019 submitted to Congress: Provided further, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction.

- Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, included Section 124, for an additional amount for the accounts added:

Service	Unfunded Requirements	Funding (millions)
Army		\$ 77.60
Navy and MC		\$ 244.40
Air Force		\$ 118.52
Army NG		\$ 22.00
Air NG		\$ 11.10
Army Reserve		\$ 10.00
Air Force Reserve		\$ 14.40

Military Construction Funding Initiatives.—The bill includes funding for military construction initiatives to address important unfunded priorities included in the Department of Defense’s unfunded priority lists provided to Congress. All additional funding is reserved for projects that were included in the unfunded priority lists submitted to Congress.

NOTE: While the Patrick AF Reserve ADD has received congressional defense committees’ Authorization, the disparity between House and Senate in Air Force Reserve Appropriations marks put funding at risk.

b. Congressional Defense Committees

Fiscal Year 2019 NDAA Signed into Law

President Trump signed the NDAA on August 13, 2018 at Fort Drum in New York, home of the Army’s 10th Mountain Division. It’s the earliest a president will have signed the annual policy bill into law in more than four decades.

Possibly lesser understood is the President's Signing Statement that accompanied the signing, whereby he objects to several dozen provisions from foreign policy proscriptions to force structure mandates. The coming months will bear out whether the Administration ignores or accommodates many of the Congress' expectations. Several such as retirements of KC-10A tanker aircraft and timing for the establishment of a Space Force have direct relevance to Florida interest and bear watching. [Attached.]

Other items for consideration / discussion:

- Support for defense manufacturing communities

FY19 NDAA provision ***Support for defense manufacturing communities to support the defense industrial base (sec. 846)*** would provide the Secretary of Defense with authority to establish a program to make long-term investments in critical skills, infrastructure, research and development, and small business support in order to strengthen the national security innovation base, working in coordination with the defense manufacturing institutes. The provision harmonizes the activities of the program with other similar programs to avoid duplication.

The new provision is tied to **Manufacturing USA**, previous 8 locations. <https://www.manufacturingusa.com/institutes> . The Department of Defense (DoD) Manufacturing USA institutes collectively represent nearly 1,000 organizations including defense and commercial manufacturers of all sizes, start-ups, universities, community colleges, and state or local economic developers in active partnership with the U.S. Federal Government. Since 2012, the DoD has established eight Manufacturing USA institutes, combining \$600 million in federal investment with \$1.2 billion in matching funds from industry, academia and state governments to form centers of excellence promoting U.S. competitiveness.

- Off-Base Infrastructure Projects

Conferees embrace a new authority allowing DOD to provide funding to state and local governments for off-base infrastructure projects in the FY19 NDAA. The provision adopts the Senate requirement for state and local participants to contribute at least 30 percent of the total project cost. The cost-share requirement can be waived, however, for rural communities or "for reasons related to national security," under the compromise language.

A transportation project, a school, hospital, police, fire, emergency response or other community support facility, or a waste, wastewater, telecommunications, electric,

gas or other utility infrastructure project would be eligible for the program, according to section 2861.

In the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report, lawmakers underscored the value of the new authority: “The conferees note the importance of the communities that surround and support U.S. military installations and believe that this program can be of tremendous benefit to both the surrounding community and respective installations.”

- Spousal reciprocity as determining factor for new Army, Air Force missions.

Assessment and report on the effects of permanent changes of station on employment among military spouses (sec. 575)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 565) that would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress assessing the effects that frequent permanent changes of station of servicemembers have on employment of military spouses.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment and to provide a report by February 1, 2019, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives assessing the effects that permanent changes of station have on employment of military spouses.

Nominations

On August 21st, the Senate Armed Services Committee held hearing for the nominations of:

- [Mr. Alan R. Shaffer](#), to Be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
- [Ms. Veronica B. Daigle](#), to Be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness
- [Honorable Robert H. McMahon](#), to Be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment
- [Dr. E. Casey Wardynski](#), to Be Assistant Secretary Of The Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs
- [Mr. Alex A. Beehler](#), to Be Assistant Secretary of The Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment

c. Pentagon Perspectives

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

DOD ‘Sustaining Readiness’ Conference Focuses on Partnerships, Planning

Leaders from DOD, the services, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, private organizations, and other federal agencies met this week in St. Louis for the 2018 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference. The conference provided a forum for DOD and its partners to discuss ways to enhance military readiness at the military’s installations and ranges through partnerships and planning.

Keynote speakers included Lucian Niemeyer for OSD and Kate MacGregor with the Department of the Interior.

All speakers stressed the need for collaboration, communication and coordination going forward, especially on items like oil and gas exploration and drilling in the outer continental shelf and on the endangered species act.

On the Gulf, the speakers stressed the new interagency Working Group as having a positive effect on discussions, with DoD’s deadline this month for providing updated input on usage maps. (These would update the 2010, then re-validated 2015 maps.) DOI’s deadline for updated color-coded release of maps with potential drilling locations would come out later September. The DRAFT Presidential Decision on where release leasing in the outer continental shelf is due by the end of the year.

TPG View: Presentations and discussions with speakers from DOI and DOD lead us to believe the working group is working under the assumption the GOMESA 2022 moratorium on drilling east of the military mission line is fully expected to expire. [See attached presentation by DOI’s Dr. Cruickshank] Understanding President Trump, Secretary Zinke, and current Florida Governor have assured there will be no drilling during their tenures does not change the current expectation that the moratorium will expire. In order for the moratorium to extend, Congress needs to deal with the “CBO scoring” issue.

3. Florida, In the News:

1.) [Gaetz backs Space Force: ‘We have no choice’](#)

NWF Daily- August 10, 2018

Creating a Space Force as a sixth branch of America’s military “could be very exciting for Northwest Florida,” says Rep. Matt Gaetz, who represents the area in Congress.

With Eglin Air Force Base already hosting part of the military space mission with the 20th Space Control Squadron, Gaetz said this area is likely to attract some of the federal dollars that would support the Space Force announced earlier this week by Vice President Mike Pence.

Creation of the Space Force ultimately will require congressional action.

“We need to be advocates for the Space Force,” Gaetz said. “Space has advanced substantially as a warfighting domain.”

The 20th Space Control Squadron, which operates a massive radar array at Eglin, in addition to other space surveillance equipment elsewhere, can find, track and target objects in Earth’s orbit. The squadron can track an object the size of a basketball as far as 25,000 miles away.

Gaetz said Friday that creation of the Space Force could also bring more military contractors to Northwest Florida. The area is located between Huntsville, Alabama, and Cape Canaveral, Florida, where much of the current work on space hardware is occurring, he added.

The move toward a Space Force reflects concerns about efforts by U.S. adversaries — particularly Russia and China — to develop weapons “to jam, blind and disable our navigation and communication satellites via electronic attacks from the ground,” Pence said in Thursday’s announcement.

The U.S. Space Force would be focused on protecting those space assets, Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan and Air Force Gen. Paul J. Selva, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters after Pence’s announcement.

Echoing Pence and bolstering his point that Northwest Florida could benefit from a Space Force, Gaetz pointed to last year’s activation of the 96th Cyberspace Test Group at Eglin. The group, the first of its kind in the Air Force, assesses digital security of Air Force offensive and defensive systems.

“Space and cyber are the (warfighting) domains of the future,” Gaetz said.

Gaetz acknowledged that establishing a Space Force could require additional tax dollars. But at least initially, he said the money could come from contingency funding routinely included in defense appropriations.

“Money is always a zero-sum game,” Gaetz said. “You always have to find it somewhere.” With regard to Space Force, “we have no choice” but to fund it.”

According to a Department of Defense plan, the Space Force would be assembled much like the U.S. Special Operations Command, which brings together troops from each of

America's military services. According to the DoD, 80 percent of "space qualified" military personnel are in the Air Force.

Gaetz said he isn't concerned about Space Force diluting the Air Force's mission. Instead, he said it could encourage Air Force personnel to remain in its space-oriented programs. Currently, the Air Force's space enterprises aren't seen as career paths, he added.

"Too many talented people in the Air Force move away from space," Gaetz said.

2.) [AEHF-4 arrives in Florida, prepares for launch](#)

CSMNG.com- August 24, 2018

The U.S. Air Force's Advanced Extremely High Frequency program completed a major program milestone July 27, successfully delivering the AEHF-4 satellite to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

"AEHF-4 delivery and launch marks a significant milestone in fulfilling our communication commitment to the highest priority Department of Defense ground, sea, and air missions. It's an important asset for the warfighter and will be employed for years to come." said Lt. Gen. John Thompson, Space and Missiles Systems Center commander and Air Force program executive officer for space.

The delivery of AEHF-4 sets the path for final checkout of the space vehicle before launch. The satellite will be processed in the Astrotech Space Operations processing facility.

A combined government and contractor team is already executing the final ground activities including a Launch Base Confidence Test to verify satellite integrity after shipment, an intersegment test to verify communication compatibility from the satellite to the ground operations center, and the final battery reconditioning for launch. Following these activities, the satellite will be fueled and prepared for integration with the Atlas V launch vehicle.

"The entire AEHF team met a number of program objectives leading to this important milestone" added Col. David Ashley, chief, Protected SATCOM Division. "There is great enthusiasm and excitement across our entire workforce."

The AEHF-4 satellite is scheduled for launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Oct. 5.

The satellite was transported from the Lockheed Martin satellite integration facility in Sunnyvale, California, via a C-5 Galaxy aircraft. The C-5 crew from the 22nd Airlift

Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, California, ensured the satellite was transported safely and according to the time sensitive schedule. The security support provided by the 129th Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard, was essential to the success of the mission.

“Safe transport of the AEHF satellite was paramount and the total government and contractor team worked tirelessly to ensure mission success,” Thompson said.

The AEHF constellation is designed to replace the Milstar satellite constellation. AEHF will continue to provide survivable, global, secure, protected, and jam-resistant communications for high-priority military ground, sea and air assets.

3.) [Marine General Nominated to Lead Central Command](#)

Military.com- August 23, 2018

The Pentagon says President Donald Trump has nominated Marine Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. for promotion to four-star rank and appointment as the next commander of Central Command.

McKenzie currently is director of the staff that supports the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. If confirmed by the Senate, he would succeed Army Gen. Joseph Votel, who has led Central Command since March 2016.

Central Command, based in Tampa, Florida, is responsible for U.S. military operations throughout the greater Middle East, including in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

McKenzie is a native of Birmingham, Alabama, and a graduate of the Citadel military college in South Carolina. He has commanded U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

3. Accomplishments:

- Met with Florida congressional staff to educate on scoring as related to MML.
- Reviewed and excerpted NDAA conference report for items of relevance to Florida. Provided possible action items for follow up.
- Met with Team staff to discuss The Way Forward strategic planning document.
- August 13-16, DOD “Sustaining Military Readiness “ Conference in St Louis
- TPs for August FDSTF Conference

4. Planned Actions and Activities (Next Two Weeks)

- Continue to monitor FY19 Appropriations Conference.

- Continue to engage House and Senate congressional delegation MLAs on re-SWOT, FY19 strategic priorities
- October 2, 3 travel to Florida pan handle

5. Base Info

Miami – US Southern Command

President Trump nominated Vice Admiral Craig S. Faller to serve as Commander, US Southern Command. The Defense Department announcement was made on 17 August

Space Coast

Continued growth in space launch requirements and opportunities. From a recent Aviation Week story: *“Currently, the spacecraft primarily are used for Earth observations, but that business is expected to be eclipsed in the next few years as broadband operators roll out mega-constellations to provide high-speed internet services via satellites. Already, the Federal Communications Commission has approved the deployment of **5,264** small satellites from four companies...to provide broadband communications services from Earth orbit. Proposals from eight other companies are pending. **And that is just the beginning.**”*

Eglin

Flying Ranges: The Air Force signed a second contract in recent months for development **and flight test** of hypersonic (above Mach 5) missiles. These weapons will require vast airspace for testing and, eventually, training. The first system is dubbed Hypersonic Conventional Strike Weapon (HCSW) and the newest is dubbed Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW). The Air Force wants to have flying prototypes “as soon as possible,” with 2021 cited as the goal. Lockheed Martin won both contracts, at over \$925M and \$480M respectively.

Eglin AFB & Hurlburt Field. Jim B, Greg Kiley and LTG (R) Spears will visit 3-4 October; focus is air space & ranges, the MML and installation issues.

HARB

Special Operations Command – South (SOCSOUTH) may no longer pursue their proposed lease of ~130-acres of prior Homestead AFB property from Miami-Dade County.

Tampa and MacDill

Sec Principi and LTG (R) Spears will visit Tampa and MacDill AFB on 10 October, and LTG Spears will visit Avon Park Air Force Range on 9 or 11 October.

USAF Team Planned actions

Investigate potential of F-15X program, especially via senior leader engagements and addresses, at Air Force Association's annual conference in Sep at Gaylord National Harbor, MD.

1. Contact NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM planners re HARB in CONPLANS
2. Contact SOUTHCOM Dep Cmdr, once confirmed
3. Coordinate with Jim Breitenfeld on Oct NWFL visit and Nov SpaceCoast FDSTF meeting
4. Coordinate with GEN Blum on potential Jacksonville ANG visit
5. Visit Florida Air Force communities and installation leadership. Updated plan:

October – MacDill AFB, Avon Park AF Range (2 days)

October – Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field (2 days)

November – Patrick AFB, Jacksonville ANG (2 days)

Camp Blanding

Many if not all US Army installations are receiving emergency response planning training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC). Craig Fugate, former head of FEMA and past emergency agency chief in Florida has been a presenter. This continues to present an outstanding opportunity to simultaneously conduct a Domestic Operations Exercise that is instrumented and used for evaluating and improving DomOps contingency plans. We are working with Assistant Adjutant General, BG Paul "Trey" Chauncey to plan and conduct such an Exercise in June 2019 at the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center facility.

Florida Community Coordination:

TPG visit to Eglin/Hurlburt communities and installations now set for October 3. Dave Huntoon, Glenn Spears, Greg Kiley and Jim Breitenfeld will be attending. Glenn and Greg working points on visits to Eglin and Hurlburt and working lunch with community leaders regarding GOMEX drilling and MML.

Telecon with FDSTF staff and SpaceCoast Defense Support Team to begin conversation and plans for November FDSTF/FDA/T PG visit.

Coordinating meeting of base community planners and community defense support leaders from 5 NWFL Counties and NAS Pensacola, Corry Station, Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, Tyndall AFB, NSA Panama City

Attended Rep Matt Gaetz's presentation at field hearing at Whiting Field designed to look at preserving and enhancing the installation. Sen Broxson and Terry McCaffrey were among many attendees.

Attachment: Presentation of DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Dr. Cruickshank



The Principi Group

Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period September 1-30, 2018

Please note that the items highlighted in yellow reflect our continuing focus on the recommendations of the FDSTF Strategic Plan

1. Washington Insights

In Washington, while most are caught up with Supreme Court nomination and confirmation process of Judge Brett Kavanaugh, Congress has continued with the business of passing annual appropriations and moving other Senate confirmable nominations.

Also, from September 17-19, 2018, the Gaylord Convention Center in Washington, DC hosted the annual Air Force conference. Big news out of this gathering is Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson's announcement that the Air Force needs to grow from 312 to 386 squadrons.

TPG View: Echoing previous Navy arguments for strategic need for number of hulls, Secretary Wilson's announcement in general was well received, but in specific lacks granularity. Going forward, the call for 20-25% growth in the Air Force is of significant interest to Florida Air Bases.

a. Budgets

Defense Authorizations

Attached is the Association of Defense Communities summary of the FY2019 NDAA.

Defense Appropriations

- The House and Senate passed the final \$675 billion fiscal 2019 defense appropriations bill, included within a "minibus" package with Labor, HHS and Education spending before the end of the fiscal year for the first time in a decade. "Bolstered by an earlier budget deal that increased defense spending caps by tens of billions of dollars, defense hawks have been clamoring to enact full-year funding for the military before the Oct. 1 start of the new 2019 fiscal year." The

President signed the Defense Appropriations and minibus and a continuing resolution for the rest of government on Friday 28 September.

- Funding for New Infrastructure Authority was left out of the Conference Agreement. After the Senate last month approved an amendment allocating \$20 million for the new initiative during consideration of the fiscal 2019 defense spending bill, the possibility that defense communities could obtain infrastructure funding in the coming year appeared favorable. But, alas, plans to take advantage of the new authority will need to be pushed back until at least FY 2020, after conferees negotiating the final version of a two-bill spending package covering the defense and labor-HHS-education titles dropped the \$20 million allocation from the conference agreement.

Military Construction Funding Bill

- The Senate, on September 12th, overwhelmingly passed a spending package that marks Congress' first concrete step toward avoiding the kind of catch-all omnibus that President Donald Trump has said he won't sign this fall. The vote, 92-5, seals a fiscal 2019 bipartisan funding deal that House and Senate leaders reached earlier this week to fund the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as nuclear programs, energy projects, congressional operations and military construction. Among its provisions, the bill would fund the development of a low-yield nuclear weapon proposed by the Trump administration and opposed by many Democrats. Overall, nuclear weapons programs would get a nearly half-billion-dollar boost, bringing the total nuclear weapons program in the Energy Department to \$11.1 billion.
- On September 13th, the House passed the conference report to a three-bill spending package covering the military construction-Veterans Affairs, energy-water and legislative branch appropriations bills, sending that measure to Trump.
- On Friday, September 21st, the President signed the Military Construction Appropriations Act into law.

Fiscal Year 2019 Military Construction Request for Florida

- Total President's Budget request for the State of Florida is \$177.423 million. Included are these projects:

Base	Project	Funding (millions)
Mayport LCS	Operational Training Facility	\$29.110
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Eglin AFB	Cyberspace Test Fac.	\$38.00 (RDTE)

- Congressional Appropriations Committee for Military Construction/Veterans Affairs final Conference Report included Section 125 for an additional amount for the accounts added:

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Navy and MC		\$ 196.85
Air Force		\$ 118.45
Army NG		\$ 22.00
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Army Reserve		\$ 23.00
Air Force Reserve		\$ 84.80

Provided, that such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department’s unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2019 submitted to Congress: Provided further, that such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction.

NOTE: Since the Air Force Reserve received \$84.8 million in funding, we should expect the Patrick AF Reserve ADD has been funded.

b. Congressional Defense Committees

Inhofe Names New SASC Director

Senate Armed Services Chairman Jim Inhofe Wednesday named John Bonsell, a former longtime aide, as the panel's newest top staffer. A retired Army colonel, Bonsell will take over as the Armed Services majority staff director on Monday, the chairman announced. Most recently, Bonsell was a registered lobbyist and vice president of government affairs for the defense contractor Science Applications International Corporation. A longtime staffer for the Oklahoma Republican, Bonsell had also been minority staff director when Inhofe was SASC's ranking member from 2013 to 2015. Bonsell will replace Chris Brose, who served as the committee’s staff director during Sen. John McCain’s chairmanship. “After helping Chairman Inhofe and John with whatever they need through the transition, I plan to take a month or so to reflect and determine where I can have the most impact in my next act.”

Hearings and Nominations

- On September 26th, 2018, the Senate Armed Services Committee held an open/close hearing on Cyber Operational Readiness of the Department of Defense. Witnesses for the hearing included Ms. Essye B. Miller, Acting Principal Deputy, Department of Defense Chief Information Officer; Lieutenant General Vincent R. Stewart, USMC, Deputy Commander, United States Cyber Command; Lieutenant General Stephen G. Fogarty, USA, Commander, U.S. Army Cyber Command and Brigadier General Dennis A. Crall, USMC, Deputy Cyber Advisor and Senior Military Advisor for Cyber Policy.
- On September 26th, 2018, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the Impact of National Defense on the Economy, Diplomacy, and International Order. Witnesses for the hearing included: Dr. Hal Brands, Henry A. Kissinger Distinguished Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Senior Fellow, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessment, Washington, D.C. and Dr. William Inboden Executive Director and William Powers, Jr. Chair, Clements Center for National Security, LBJ School Associate Professor, University of Texas-Austin.
- On September 26th, 2018, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on U.S. strategy in Syria. Witnesses for the hearing included: [Brigadier General Scott F. Benedict](#), Deputy Director J5, Middle East (Strategic Plans and Policy), Joint Staff and [Mr. Robert Story Karem](#), Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Department of Defense.
- On September 27th, 2018, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on Military Review Board Agencies. Witnesses included Ms. Francine Blackmon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Review Boards), Department of the Army, Mr. John Fedrigo, Director, Air Force Review Boards Agency and Mr. Robert Woods, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Department of the Navy.
- On September 28th, 2018, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on Contributing Factors to C-130 Mishaps and Other Intra-Theater Airlift Challenges. Witnesses included Rear Admiral Upper Half Scott D. Conn, Director, Air Warfare, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Department of the Navy; Lieutenant General Jerry D. Harris, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans & Programs, Department of the Air Force; Lieutenant General Donald Kirkland, Commander, Air Force Sustainment Center, Department of the Air Force.

Nominations

On September 25th, 2018, the Senate Armed Services Committee held hearings for the confirmations of:

- General Robert B. Abrams, USA for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea
- Vice Admiral Craig S. Faller, USN to be admiral and Commander, United States Southern Command.
- Alan Shaffer to be deputy secretary of Defense for acquisition and sustainment.

On all pending nominations, as Congress prepares to shut down prior to the mid-term elections, the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, September 25th, approved, in separate voice votes, a slew of civilian and military nominees, including Alan Shaffer to be deputy secretary of Defense for acquisition and sustainment, reports Connor.

All the nominees must now be confirmed by the full Senate. Full Senate action should occur as soon as the Supreme Court nomination is dealt with.

c. Pentagon Perspectives

Air Force: Space Force would cost \$13 billion over 5 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Creating a Space Force as a separate military service, as proposed by President Donald Trump, would cost an estimated \$12.9 billion in its first five years, according to a detailed Air Force plan for how to go about it.

This is the first publicly available cost estimate. When the White House announced plans to establish a Space Force in August, Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan declined to give a figure but said it would be in “the billions.”

The Air Force’s estimate is contained in a Sept. 14 memo from Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson, who proposed that the Pentagon ask Congress for the authority and money to establish a Space Force headquarters in 2020.

“The President has clearly communicated his desire for a military department for space,” she wrote. “Strategic competition with Russia and China is the focus of our approach.”

Creation of Space Force as a separate military service will require congressional action. The administration is expected to submit proposed legislation early next year authorizing the establishment of a Space Force.

The memo says the first-year cost of a Space Force would be \$3.3 billion, and the cost over five years would be an estimated \$12.9 billion.

In an indication of the complexities of creating a new military service, the Air Force says the proposed U.S. Space Force would be a separate department organized under a civilian

secretary appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, along with an undersecretary, four assistant secretaries, a chief lawyer, an inspector general and a legislative liaison. A four-star general would serve as chief of staff.

The proposal said the missions of Space Force would include missile defense. More broadly, it would be “responsible for the preparation of forces necessary for the effective prosecution of war.”

In June, Trump directed the Pentagon to create a “separate but equal” space force. In August, Vice President Mike Pence announced that the administration will work with Congress to come up with a workable approach. The last time the U.S. created a new military service was in 1947 when the Air Force was established as an independent service.

TPG View: Almost as soon as the Air Force estimate was released, Think Tanks began questions both method and motivation for the high estimate. CSIS, CSBA and others have called the estimate “inflated” and meant to call into question the need for creating a separate service. As Florida is the Space Coast, this debate will bear watching and scrutiny in the coming year.

DoD reveals why there’s ‘not going to be another big’ budget increase in 2020

As the Pentagon finalizes its fiscal 2020 planning, the department is not expecting to see its budget top line grow, according to a top official.

“If you look at ’18 and ’19 — two nice step-ups, in terms of funding. And the intent is there’s not going to be another big step up again,” Robert Hood, assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs, told Military Times during a recent interview.

Instead, the Pentagon must focus on finding savings to help fund necessary requirements, including increasing funds for high-tech efforts such as hypersonic weapons. . [Read more.](#)

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

F-35 Testing Delayed

- The F-35 fighter jet was slated to fly into operational testing this month, but that entry date will be pushed back a couple months as the Pentagon’s independent weapons tester waits for the latest software to be delivered. “Robert Behler, the Pentagon’s director of operational test and evaluation, has delayed the start of the F-35’s initial operational test and evaluation, or IOT&E, until his office gets the newest software release — a version of the jet’s 3F software known as 30R02 — according to an Aug. 24 memorandum obtained by the Project on Government Oversight.”

Air Force Requires 74 More Squadrons by 2030, Top Leaders Say

- To prepare for the prospect of a conflict with a near-peer adversary such as China or Russia, the Air Force needs to increase in size from 312 operational squadrons to 386 by 2030, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson said Monday at the Air Force Association’s annual Air, Space and Cyber conference. The service’s target size is based on an in-depth analysis aimed at outlining what the Air Force needs to implement the National Defense Strategy unveiled earlier this year, according to a news release. The 24 percent increase in squadrons is the centerpiece of the service’s “Air Force We Need” proposal. At the end of the Cold War, the Air Force had 401 operational squadrons.
- Command, control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C2ISR) squadrons would experience the largest gain under the proposal, increasing from 40 squadrons to 62 between 2025 and 2030, Wilson said. Tanker squadrons also would grow significantly, increasing from 40 to 54 squadrons, reports Air Force Times. The number of fighter squadrons would rise by 7 to 62.
- The Air Force currently is projected to grow by 15,000 active-duty, Guard and Reserve airmen and civilians to about 685,000 by the end of fiscal 2023. Adding 74 squadrons would require an additional 40,000 airmen and civilians by 2030, said spokeswoman Ann Stefanek.

Florida in the News

- 1.) [GAO to DoD: Fix ‘Fourth Estate’ inefficiencies](#)
Defensenews.com- September 11, 2018

The Government Accountability Office is telling the Defense Department to clamp down on inefficiencies in its 19 agencies and 8 field activities — collectively known as the “Fourth Estate.”

While DoD spends billions annually on these defense agencies and DoD field activities to maintain business functions, it “does not comprehensively or routinely assess the continuing need” for them, according to a report published last week by the watchdog agency.

The Defense Department has agreed to act on GAO’s five recommendations to fix the problems. However, the DoD official who signed off — Chief Management Officer John Gibson — is reportedly being terminated by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis for non-performance.

A former U.S. Air Force finance official with a long defense industry resume, Gibson is the first-ever CMO. The job was established last year in the largest reorganization of the DoD since the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986.

The Fourth Estate includes the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Missile Defense Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and the National Reconnaissance Office.

GAO spotlighted human resources services as a key problem area. While the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, for example, provides consolidated accounting and financial services, HR is spread across six organizations, with overlap between DFAS, the Defense Logistics Agency and Washington Headquarters Service.

“This has resulted in negative effects, such as inconsistent performance information regarding hiring, fragmented information technology systems, and inefficiencies associated with overhead costs,” the GAO report found. “For example, DOD officials stated that there are over 800 fragmented information technology systems used to store and record training records across the department, which are costly to maintain.”

Lawmakers were aware of problems and sought to pare back “Fourth Estate” bureaucracy in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act made law last month. In fact, there’s some overlap between the GAO report and the NDAA.

Spearheaded by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, FY19 NDAA Sec. 921 mandates DoD’s CMO submit plans to cut 25 percent from the budget of certain enterprise wide activities, including logistics, human resources, services contracting and real property management. (Thornberry’s initial proposal was farther reaching, but he scaled it back, and then it was scaled back further amid objections from the White House and key Democrats.)

More broadly, the NDAA Sec. 923 mandates the CMO conduct a sweeping search of all defense agencies and field activities for duplication or ineffectiveness. For those that miss the mark, the CMO would have to develop plans for a fix, including consolidating agencies. The reviews would have to take place at least every four years, with the first due Jan. 1, 2020.

2.) [Central Florida acts as hub for special technology training for Navy, military](#)
Clickorlando.com- September 11, 2018

Orlando's Central Florida research center is home to the Navy's main center for simulation and training systems technologies and is an integral part of the U.S. armed forces.

At the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division facility 1,300 engineers, scientists and support personnel help develop training programs for the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, as well as many federal, state and local agencies. One of those systems is a 3D high simulator that sailor students can train on. With the use of both hands on a touch screen and by sliding one, two or three fingers, students learn how to prepare for a mission, including preparing to launch a torpedo.

"They learn everything from tube loading to unloading, indexing, level changing, launching, both in horizontal and vertical launch. This is so real that they're using it in the fleet for different certifications in mission setups." Todd Estes, command master chief and assistant program manager, said.

The 3D program, called the Multipurpose Reconfigurable Training System, simulates different scenes, one of which virtually places junior sailors inside a Virginia class submarine.

"These applications just like on your home computer, you can go from Outlook to Excel to a game and back to PowerPoint. We can jump from one application to another," said David Thomas, the project manager for the 3D simulator.

The training also includes using virtual reality goggles that make a person feel as if they are inside a torpedo room.

"A Virginia class simulator can load up to 12 vertical weapons and four horizontal weapons at the same time. So, 16 weapons, combination of Tomahawk missiles and torpedoes -- at a time, if necessary, for a mission," Thomas said.

"Orlando is the global home of military simulation and training. Currently, our folks provide simulators for and other training devices across a host of Navy war-fighting areas." commanding officer Cpt. Erik Etz said. The F-18 pilot spoke about the importance this training facility had after Sept. 11, 2001. Etz flew in patrol missions out on the West Coast of the United States.

"I was prepared to do those missions because of training that I received from folks that provide devices right here in central Florida. For the Navy, we have been essential in supporting combat operations since (Sept.) 11, 2001. We provide readiness for the fleet. We ensure that our people are trained and able to meet the requirements of the missions and that they're ready to fight," Etz said.

The Naval Air Warfare Center Training Division supports aircraft, ships and submarines. The 3D simulator can train up to 15 students separately or the students can train as a team and prepare for a big mission.

3.) [County accepts grant for new military tech center](#)
Newsherald.com- September 10, 2018

Bay County commissioners accepted a \$95,000 grant for a new military technology center during their regular meeting Wednesday.

The grant is from the Florida Defense Support Task Force and was obtained through efforts by the Bay Defense Alliance (BDA). The grant will go toward a feasibility study on an Expeditionary Innovation Center (Ex-Cell for short) near Naval Support Activity Panama City and support the base's science lab Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division.

The “neutral facility” will be outside the base fence, to better collaborate with local universities and modeled after similar military tech innovation hubs in Fort Walton Beach and Tampa.

“Since we’re a defense community, we have this unique opportunity to support military members and their families here, as well as the missions of both of our bases,” BDA President Tom Neubauer said. “And this grant is one of many. I think the county has helped us with over \$6.5 million dollars in defense grants over the last 15 years supporting both Naval Support Activity Panama City and Tyndall Air Force Base.”

Students and innovators can “deliver projects to the warfighter,” Neubauer said. An exact location and opening date haven’t been set. A website and collaboration events for the Ex-Cell also is planned later, according to public documents.

“Tom, thank you for all the work you do with Bay Defense Alliance. You work tirelessly,” said Commissioner Robert Carroll, who made the motion to accept the grant.

“It’s a tremendous effort,” Commissioner Bill Dozier said. “You have a good team. We appreciate all the work you all do.”

In a news release sent from Gov. Rick Scott’s office in July about the grant, NSWC PCD Technical Director Ed Stewart said, “this type of organization will allow us to move fast and expand the advantage for our warfighters.”

4.) [Navigation Test Support Ship USNS Waters Currently Berthed at Port Canaveral](#)
Space Coast Daily- September 26th, 2018

Originally an oceanographic survey ship, the 457-foot-long Waters supports the Navy’s Strategic Systems Programs Office by aiding with submarine weapons and navigation system testing.

In 2011, it was homeported in Port Canaveral, Florida.

Waters is operated by Military Sealift Command to provide an operating platform and services for unique U.S. military and federal government missions.

Special missions’ ships work for several different U.S. Navy customers, including Naval Sea Systems Command, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command and the Oceanographer of the Navy.

Waters was originally an oceanographic survey ship, built by the Avondale Shipyard and delivered to the US Navy in 1993.

Under the sponsorship of the Strategic Systems Program Office, Waters was converted in 1998 by Detyens Shipyard to support submarine navigation system testing and ballistic missile flight test support services.

Waters began operating in the fall of 1999, replacing USNS Vanguard, a submarine navigation system test platform ship, deactivated in 1998; and USNS Range Sentinel, a flight test navigation support ship deactivated in 1997.

Free tickets to Saturday's commissioning at Port Canaveral of the USS Indiana, a Virginia-class nuclear-powered fast attack submarine, are now available.

The Navy's newest fast-attack submarine, the USS Indiana (SSN 789), will be commissioned at the Navy Port at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Port Canaveral, Florida, on Saturday, September 29th, at 10 a.m.

5.) [Launch of Transforming Antennas Center means future jobs in groundbreaking technology](#)

As a child, Nicholas Russo always loved science. In elementary school, his show-and-tell projects consisted of demonstrating electronics kits. It wasn't until high school, when he made it to a state science fair, that he realized he could make a living in science.

Thanks to an FIU Presidential Fellowship (PF), Russo, who is 22 years old, is working towards his doctoral degree in electrical engineering with a focus on electromagnetics. Russo is part of the FIU College of Engineering & Computing's Transforming Antennas Center (TAC), which researches and creates origami antennas and wearable technology. Also known as smart clothing, these garments have military use – soldiers can carry or wear flexible garment-based antennas, lights, batteries and other electronics that can all be wirelessly powered.

Tractica, a market intelligence firm that focuses on human interaction with technology, forecasts that smart clothing will grow 72 percent by 2021. Additionally, it estimates that smart military clothing will be a \$500 million market this year.

“This is an important investment by the Air Force in Miami's public research university,” said Diaz-Balart. “FIU is providing solutions for our troops while further advancing innovation and creating jobs for our workforce.”

The Air Force recognized the multidisciplinary aspect of the origami antennas and saw an opportunity to produce human capital, train students and post docs, and expand professors' knowledge in this field.

“We're interested in really compelling scientific and engineering challenges that can lead to applications in the future,” said Ken Goretta, AFOSR program officer. “Compelling science and Air Force relevance can drive us to invest, and origami antennas have that.”

It is that compelling research that attracted postdoctoral fellow Constantine Zekios to FIU. Zekios, a native of Pyrgos, Greece, obtained both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Democritus University of Thrace. In pursuit of better job opportunities, he

came to the United States and worked as a post-doc at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst for three years.

As a researcher focused on electromagnetics, he learned about origami antennas while exploring FIU for his next career move.

“My goal is to do something that has impact, that helps humanity. This is why I’m doing research,” said Zekios. The antennas are a good opportunity to be involved in impactful research in the field of electromagnetics.

TAC was the vision of Stavros Georgakopoulos, the center’s director and inventor of origami antennas. The discovery of the technology was unplanned.

“I was working on wireless power transfer and was trying to develop some new geometries based on folding,” said Georgakopoulos. “One time I was giving a presentation, and we had visitors from outside FIU, and they had a lot of questions on the folding aspect. I got out of the meeting and thought of other applications and realized, I can do folding in antennas – making them small and foldable.”

Georgakopoulos got to work. In 2013, he received his first round of funding through the National Science Foundation Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation (ERFI) grant, which was co-funded by the AFOSR. The research taking place at TAC will not only help the military but also spur a specialized workforce.

While the origami antennas are in the research and concept phase, the goal is that some of these electromagnetic concepts will be deployed soon.

6.) [Analysis of Water Contamination at Military Sites Finds Health Risks Due to Toxic Chemicals Worse than Thought](#)
Union of Concerned Scientists- September 25th, 2018

A Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) analysis released today highlights the significant health risks posed to military families and communities by a class of synthetic chemicals found in firefighting foam, nonstick cookware and other products.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are long-lasting compounds known to accumulate in the human body and environment, including water supplies. Exposure to these chemicals is associated with a range of detrimental health effects including kidney and testicular cancer, liver damage, and decreased immunological response.

Military installations and adjacent communities are especially at risk because the sites use PFAS-containing firefighting foam in their trainings and operations. These chemicals have seeped into the ground and waterways near military sites, and in turn contaminated groundwater and the drinking water that serves the bases and nearby homes.

Considering a new scientific assessment by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), an office within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, UCS found that the threats facing military families and nearby communities is worse than previously thought. The ATSDR draft report suggests that the safe level of PFAS in drinking water should be seven to 10 times lower than the current, non-enforceable federal guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This means that thousands of families living on or near current or former military installations face potential risks from levels of PFAS once deemed safe, and some might not even know it. “The EPA is not doing nearly enough to protect families, especially military families, from PFAS contamination of their water,” said Genna Reed, the UCS analyst who reviewed the evidence of PFAS contamination. “These chemicals can have serious health consequences, but their manufacturers have downplayed the risks for decades, putting profits ahead of public health.”

“This report reaffirms what concerned Granite Staters already know – urgent federal action is needed to address PFAS contamination at military bases and communities across the country,” said Senator Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire. “I’m glad to be participating in the first-ever Senate hearing on PFAS this week, but we have far more work to do to protect Granite Staters and Americans from contamination in their drinking water. I’ll keep working across party lines to ensure that all of our people have the quality and safe drinking water they need to thrive.”

The draft ATSDR report is the same one that political appointees within the Trump Administration attempted to suppress. In documents obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request by UCS, one White House official called the ATSDR draft a potential “public relations nightmare.” It was only after a robust public outcry and bipartisan congressional oversight that the assessment was finally released.

“Families like mine who lived on or near military bases deserve reliable information about the risks they face,” said Charise Johnson, a research analyst at UCS. “The Trump administration owes it to them to tell the truth and help reduce the risks. It’s no wonder that a White House official referred to the report as a potential ‘public relations nightmare.’”

The UCS analysis, which mapped 131 military sites across 37 states at which PFAS levels have been detected in drinking water and groundwater, found:
Of the 32 sites with direct drinking water contamination, more than half had PFAS concentrations that were at least 10 times higher than the risk level established by the ATSDR.

More than 90 percent of the military sites, 118, had PFAS concentrations at least 10 times higher than the threshold identified by the ATSDR report.

Nearly two-thirds of the sites, 87, had PFAS concentrations at least 100 times higher than the risk level identified in the ATSDR report.

The ten sites with the highest detected PFAS levels in groundwater include bases in California, Florida, Delaware, Virginia and Texas, as well as former base sites in Louisiana, South Carolina and Illinois. These sites have PFAS levels in groundwater more than 100,000 times higher than the suggested threshold.

The number of military sites with PFAS contamination is likely even higher since the Pentagon used the EPA's drinking water health advisory of 70 ppt as the PFAS detection level and only tested for the two most common compounds.

“We need immediate action to reduce the risk to military families from PFAS contamination,” Reed said. “The federal government must limit the future use of PFAS chemicals, set an enforceable standard for PFAS contamination in drinking water, mandate reporting of PFAS releases, and provide support to clean up contaminated sites. Service members, their families and nearby communities deserve better.”

7.) [North Florida Land Trust Marks Largest Conservation Easement Acquisitions to Date](#)

Florida Trend- September 18th, 2018

North Florida Land Trust has acquired two conservation easements in Clay County marking the nonprofit organization's largest conservation easement acquisitions to date. The two properties totaling approximately 2,551 acres will now be protected from high intensity development and will serve as a buffer for the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. NFLT works closely with Camp Blanding to identify lands that are both prime for conservation and important to protect the military base from the threat of encroaching development. Funding for the purchases was provided by the Army National Guard.

“These conservation easement acquisitions mean we have been able to keep thousands of acres free from high intensity development in perpetuity,” said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. “These are the largest conservation easement acquisitions North Florida Land Trust has been able to accomplish at one time in all of our 19-year history. This is about national security, economic development, community relations and conservation all working together for the greater good.”

3. Accomplishments:

- Met with Florida congressional staff to educate on scoring as related to MML.
- Reviewed and excerpted NDAA conference report for items of relevance to Florida.
- Coordinated with Jim Heald on upcoming October 3 visit to Florida.
- Attended AFA Air, Space & Cyber Conference, Gaylord National Hotel, MD

4. Planned Actions and Activities (Next Two Weeks)

- Continue to monitor FY19 Appropriations Conference.
- Continue to engage House and Senate congressional delegation MLAs on re-SWOT, FY19 strategic priorities.

3. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities

DoD Context

1. The President's nominee to lead US Southern Command, VADM Craig Faller, faced "harsh questions" from some members of the SASC during testimony on Tuesday. VADM Faller faced scrutiny for alleged misconduct focused on a Christmas 2004 reception hosted by "Fat Leonard" Francis; Faller has been cleared by DoD and DoJ.

Air Force Context

1. The Air Force Association hosted its annual Air, Space and Cyber Conference and Technology Expo September 17-19 in National Harbor, MD. Among several speeches and media events by SECAF, CSAF and other leaders, their main emphasis was on "growing the Air Force we need" to meet the National Defense Strategy. SECAF Wilson stated that the Air Force needs to increase its operational squadrons from a current 312 to 386 (Active, ANG and AFR) to meet the strategy. The largest growth, by percent of current units, would be in C2ISR (+55%), Space (+44%), tankers (+35%), and AF SOF (+35%). Lots of unstated details, but it's an aspirational goal and now a clear mark in the sand. Growth in almost any of missions, if funded by Congress, would likely flow to Florida with its preponderance in Space and AF SOF.
2. General Maryanne Miller took command of the USAF's Air Mobility Command on September 7, becoming the first four-star Air Force Reserve general and the first to command an active Major Command.

4.Base Info

- a. HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, the UK's newest aircraft carrier, sailed into Mayport in preparation for some F-35 training exercises.
- b. A new Expeditionary Innovation Center, paid for by a \$95K grant from the FDSTF, is set to open near NSA Panama City. Its purpose is to assist the installation and students at Florida State Panama City to "use rapid innovation technology to assure that the military is able to deliver tools to the war-fighter much more quickly."

- c. NAS Pensacola welcomed evacuated aircraft from four East Coast Naval Air Stations ahead of Hurricane Florence. A total of 60 aircraft from Oceana, Beaufort, Patuxent River, and Norfolk made their way to NAS Pensacola.
- d. We have been talking about this since our original SWOT at NAS Whiting Field and revisited the issue in our RE-SWOT. The Triumph Gulf Coast board of directors, chaired by Congressman Gaetz, has agreed to a grant of some \$8.5M for site development for the long-awaited Whiting Aviation Park in Santa Rosa County. The industrial park will be on 267 acres adjacent to NAS Whiting and has “through the fence” access for private companies. We endorsed this plan from the beginning (Increased military value for Whiting. Total cost is more than \$17.7M and will create more than 200 jobs when complete. “The proposal supports the regional strategic initiative to expand aerospace and defense industry cluster...”
- e. LTG (R) Spears discussed future mission possibilities for the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville with Lt Gen Cactus Rice and members of his staff during AFA. More to follow and in coordination with GEN Blum.
- f. Eglin AFB & Hurlburt Field. We will re-schedule our planned orientation visit to the Panhandle to late 2018 or early 2019.
- g. Sec Principi and LTG Spears plan to visit Tampa and MacDill AFB in October, and LTG Spears to visit Avon Park Air Force Range.
- h. HARB. The recent commander of the 482nd Fighter Wing, Col Dave Garfield, has been nominated for promotion to Brigadier General. His follow-on assignment is not yet released. On September 9, Col David Piffarerio took command of the wing from Garfield.
- i. Orange County Mayor Jacobs hosted her last reception as Mayor before moving on the Education Commissioner position in November of this year. Event was 5-6 Sept at the Orlando Convention Center. The theme this year for the MS&T industry Technical Summit was Big Data Analytics in the MS&T domain. LTG Tom Baptiste and The National Center for Simulations co-hosted the event with Mayor Jacobs. The event exceeded all previous years’ attendance by both industry and Government representatives.

We attended this event and can report that the Orlando MS&T community is solidly intact and growing in the Team Orlando footprint of Orlando. The

partnership of the military with the University of Central Florida could not be stronger. We spoke with several UCF senior leaders who unanimously spoke to the great achievements from being associated and a significant part of the Team Orlando concept of collaboration and deep MS&T research. UCF continues to offer a highly accredited graduate and undergraduate program for modeling simulation and testing that is an excellent source of top talent for both military and industry needs. This MS&T growth in Orlando by the Florida leadership is reflected in the USAF decision to establish two service wide Network Ops Centers in Research park, the build out of a new and large Secure Facility (SCIF) by the Army that will also serve multi service needs, the Army announcement to establish PEO STRI as the executive agent for all Army cyber training using Orlando as the hub service wide, and the Army Futures Command's cross functional team for MS&T is now in Orlando and growing and the significant industry growth in the Orlando area. Bottom line: The Mayor's Tech Summit reaffirmed the importance and commitment to the Team Orlando partnering consortium as a key element to national security.

5. Attachment: ADC Summary of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act



The Principi Group

Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period October 1-31, 2018

Please note that the items highlighted in blue reflect our continuing focus on the recommendations of the FDSTF Strategic Plan

Functional Area: (Congressional Review)

1. Washington Insights

- A. Largest story for the month is the devastation resulting from Hurricane Michael, especially the damage to Tyndall AFB. [Congressional Delegation letter to President is attached.](#)

President visited Florida October 15th.

Vice President visited October 25th and committed to rebuilding and, importantly, restoring the mission at Tyndall AFB.

FDSTF, including TPG's Greg Kiley toured Tyndall AFB Oct 26th. Press coverage: <https://www.mypanhandle.com/news/florida-defense-support-task-force-surveys-damage-ahead-of-tyndall-recovery-efforts/1553125803>

Participants included:

1. **Congressman Neal Dunn** (FL-2)
2. **Mr. Craig Deatherage**, CMSgt, USAF (Ret), MLO to Dr. Dunn
3. **Mr. Matt Blackwell** (Legislative Director, Congressman Dunn)
4. **Representative Jay Trumbull**, Chair, FDSTF (FL House District-6)
5. **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, Vice Chairman, FDSTF (Bay Defense Alliance)
6. **Senator Doug Broxson** (FL Senate District-1), FDSTF member
7. **Mr. Kevin Brown** (Senator Broxson's Staff)
8. **Mr. Bill Williams** (Former Gulf County Commissioner)
9. **Senator George Gainer** (FL Senate District-2)
10. **Ms. Andrea Gainey** (Sen Gainer's Staff)
11. **Ms. Kim Rodgers** (Sen Gainer's Staff)
12. **Senator Bill Montford** (FL Senate District-3)
13. **Taylor Peck** (Senator Montford's Staff)
14. **Brig Gen Brian Simpler**, USAF (FL ANG) - for MG Calhoun, FL TAG
15. **Col Jim Heald**, USAF (Ret), FDSTF member

16. **Mr. Glen McDonald** (Bay Defense Alliance)
17. **Mr. Roy Woods** (FEMA)
18. **Col Bruce Grant**, US Army (Ret), VP, Military and Defense Programs
19. **Col Terrance McCaffrey**, USAF (Ret), Executive Director, FDSTF
20. **Kathleen Kennan** (EFI Communications Director)
21. **Ms. Michelle Griggs** (Admin Assistant, FDSTF)
22. **Ms. Kellie Jo Kilberg** (Chair, FL Defense Alliance)
23. **Mr. Greg Kiley** (The Principi Group)
24. **Ms. Becca Hardin** (EDA Chair, Bay County)
25. **Mr. Wil Cramer** (Chair, Chamber of Commerce)
26. **Ms. Carol Roberts** (Chamber of Commerce)

Summary of the tour: Tyndall AFB leaders are still assessing extent of the damage, with initial estimates that fully 30 percent of the buildings are a total loss. That said, of the 300 buildings that employees have inspected — out of 704 total — at least 37 percent are fixable. There is some room for hope that devastation is not as complete as once thought.

TPG view: As for the future of the base, there are many still debating what missions and how much to rebuild. I got a long time with Rep. Dunn as we sat on bus together. He has the right idea about pushing for getting missions back and quickly. The need to continue to push positive message on rebuilding cannot be understated. During the tour, and in conversations with FDSTF members, base leadership, and Dr. Dunn and his staff, we discussed some of the issues that need to be resolved. There are over 800 housing units that were privatized on base. How, when, and who rebuilds is an issue to follow. Similarly, MWR facilities, quality of life structures are nonappropriated account items. Will be important to watch how they are covered as we focus rightly so on mission rebuild. Similarly, there will need to be a balance between rebuilding quickly and planning a smarter rebuild for a base of the future that could be decades in the planning and jeopardize Tyndall's existence altogether. Sidebar conversations with Jim Heald and Tom Neubauer included an update on moratorium on drilling in the gulf and range equipment condition following Hurricane Michael. Expectation is to continue dialog during the Cocoa Beach visit next month.

Tyndall AFB News Update: Rep. Kay Granger (R-Texas), chair of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, last week said the committee is prepared to provide whatever assistance is required to support areas devastated by Hurricane Michael. “[Rep. Neal Dunn (R-Fla.)] has kept me updated on the situation on the ground, especially at Tyndall Air Force Base,” Granger said in a written statement. “I will be visiting Tyndall soon to see firsthand what is needed for the base and the community to fully recover,” she said.

It could cost \$2.5 billion to rebuild Tyndall but the investment is justified, partially because of the installation’s proximity to the Gulf Test Range, which accommodates high-altitude supersonic air combat training, said David Deptula, a retired Air Force lieutenant general who now is dean of the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies. “It makes sense to rebuild it,” Deptula told Defense News. “Other than its proximity to

testing ranges, it makes sense for mission, economic and political purposes.” He dismissed the notion that the 325th Fighter Wing’s F-22 Raptors could be moved elsewhere. In July, the Government Accountability Office recommended DOD consider consolidating its F-22 fleet into larger squadrons or wings as a way to increase aircraft availability. Such a move would provide a larger pool of aircraft and spare parts to draw from in a contingency, GAO said.

Officials Grapple with Next Steps; Florida Lawmakers Insist on Full and Rapid Recovery for Base

Air Force officials on Friday remained uncertain how long Tyndall AFB would remain closed, after Hurricane Michael’s 150 mph winds swept through the installation last week leaving nearly every building damaged. “One hundred percent of the housing for that base is uninhabitable,” Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters in Washington. Tyndall and the surrounding region will require assistance for at least weeks, Lengyel said, with establishing communications beyond the Florida Panhandle one of the base’s first priorities. It also is not clear where the 3,600 airmen and families who live at Tyndall will be assigned, reported [Federal News Network](#). “The initial concern right now is for the families and the people who were displaced from that,” he said. “I don’t think they can live on Tyndall, plus the schools and the rest, so there’s a lot to do with how they begin to mitigate the disaster that happened there.”

Two days after Hurricane Michael flattened Tyndall AFB, Florida Sens. Marco Rubio (R) and Bill Nelson (D) and Rep. Neal Dunn (R) urged the Air Force’s senior leaders to expedite the effort to repair and restore operations at the installation.

“Each of us stand ready to work with the Air Force to rebuild Tyndall AFB and advocate for the resources needed to do so,” states the [Oct. 12 letter](#) to Secretary Heather Wilson and Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein. “As the Air Force conducts its damage assessment, we request consistent, immediate, and detailed communication of the funding and support needed to repair infrastructure, restore operations and provide for local service members, civilians and their families,” the lawmakers say. The letter also highlights Tyndall’s primary missions — the Air Force’s training wing for the F-22 Raptor, and the air operations center for NORAD and U.S. Northern Command. ...

- B. Second major effort this period was meetings held in the Fort Walton area with Greg Kiley and Jim Breitenfeld and local leaders.

Florida meetings covered emerging Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscapes program with Eglin’s Tom Talbert, Eglin Growth management issues with Gordy Fornell, and larger group discussion on the Moratorium on oil drilling east of the Gulf military mission line. [Presentation attached.](#)

Attendees:

Tom Talbert, Eglin

Jim Heald, FDSTF Member
Kay Rasmussen
Jim Breitenfeld
Nathan Sparks, Okaloosa EDC
Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA
Sally Curan, Eglin Range
Chris Smith, Eglin Range
Gordy Fornell, LtGen, (ret)
Bob Marinan, DSI Chair
Nathan Nelson, Rep Gaetz staff
Keith Hoskin, Gulf Power
Bruce Grant
Terry McCaffrey (Phoned-in)

a. Budgets

TPG View: Now that FY19 budget cycle has wrapped, speculation has begun on FY2020 levels. In short, we can expect flat to modest 1-2% growth. There will be much noise about the Budget Control Act still having effect, and potential for large decrease in spending levels, but with continued emergency supplementals and tight political congressional balance, expect more to stay the same rather than change beyond the level of FY19's \$716 billion for defense. Latest news on DoD preparing multiple budgets tracks with projections on flat to limited growth.

Latest News: Budget Request for Defense

President Trump's desire to trim spending across the government is forcing the Pentagon to prepare an alternative fiscal 2020 budget request for \$700 billion, a sizeable cut from its original draft proposing \$733 billion in total federal spending on national security. The \$700 billion figure represents a 2.2 percent reduction from current year spending. The cut would not last for just one year and, instead, will mark the starting point of a five-year budget projection calling for defense spending to remain relatively constant, Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan told reporters Friday. Officials will now develop two parallel budget requests and use the higher one to show likely tradeoffs from scaling back the request, reported Defense News.

Shanahan said modernization would likely absorb a significant cut in the new budget draft. "The way I would think about those two budgets and the approach, there are certain things that you can't change. There are just near-term costs that we're going to spend in the next year that are on contract, and for all intents and purposes are fixed. Then there are other investments we would make in science and technology and procurement, where we have [options] in terms of timing," he said.

DOD Shouldn't Get Used to Regular Order for Its Next Spending Bill

The Pentagon obtained a historic, 10 percent jump in its topline funding in fiscal 2018

and a further increase this year following a two-year budget deal lawmakers reached in February, but a possible change in control of the House and the return of the statutory spending caps could upset Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' plans to continue rebuilding readiness and fulfill new modernization priorities. If nothing else, a congressional deal over the FY 2020 budget almost certainly won't be realized nearly as quickly as this year's was, with the president signing a defense spending bill prior to the start of the fiscal year for the first time in a decade.

"I think it's going to be a long, hard, drawn-out fight over the next year," said Todd Harrison, director of defense budget analysis at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told the [Washington Examiner](#). Most analysts expect the two parties to negotiate another two-year budget deal to loosen the spending caps, which extend through FY 2021. For now, the outcome of that negotiation is unknown. "The FY20 budget request will come out in February, or it's supposed to. We'll see if it comes out on time, and I don't think we're going to have a resolution to that for probably, you know, a year and a half from now," Harrison said. "I'd be looking at the spring of 2020 as when we might actually get close to a budget deal."

A Democrat takeover of the House possibly could limit growth in DOD spending but the most likely outcome, regardless of the results of the midterms, still appears to be a deal which provides increases for both domestic and defense spending. Also looming is the growing national debt, which presents another threat to the 3 to 5 percent annual defense budget growth Mattis believes is necessary for the nation to keep up with its major adversaries.

"We don't quite know when the crunch will come with respect to the deficit and the debt, but I'm quite sure it will come," Hal Brands, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, said in testimony to Congress. "And so, if we don't get a handle on the problem, at some point we are going to find we are constrained in paying for national security."

b. Congressional Defense Committees

Hearings

- On October 10th, 2018 the Senate Armed Services held a hearing on Air Force Readiness. Witnesses included Honorable [Heather A. Wilson](#), Secretary of the Air Force; General David L. Goldfein, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force and [Mr. John H. Pendleton](#), Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, United States Government Accountability Office.
 - Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson said that the Air Force trained 1,160 new pilots in fiscal 2017, and expects to train 1,311 in fiscal 2019, before expanding further.
- **Air Force to Defend Growth Plan in March**
The Air Force will make its case to Congress in March for an enormous expansion in its force structure, Secretary Heather Wilson told editors and reporters on Wednesday at Bloomberg headquarters. "The Air Force is too small

for what the nation is asking us to do,” she said, reported Bloomberg. “The difference between what is needed and what is available is measured in risk.” Last month Wilson announced a plan to increase the number of operational squadrons from 312 to 386 by 2030, a change prompted by the need to prepare for the prospect of a conflict with a near-peer adversary such as China or Russia

Nominations

On October 11th, the Senate confirmed Robert H. McMahon, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment.

On October 11th, the Senate confirmed James Stewart to be assistant secretary of Defense for manpower and Reserve affairs.

The following nominations in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee scheduled for October 16th have been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date.

- Thomas McCaffery to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and
- William Bookless to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration

c. Pentagon Perspectives

GAO Report: Use of Intergovernmental Support Agreements Has Had Benefits, but Additional Information Would Inform Expansion

In 2013, Congress authorized the military services to enter into IGSAs with local and state governments to receive installation services, if an agreement will provide financial benefits or enhance mission effectiveness. As of July 2018, the military services had approved 45 IGSAs at 33 installations.

In this report (attached), GAO, among other objectives, evaluated the extent to which the military services have (1) realized and monitored the benefits from IGSAs and (2) supported the use of IGSAs and monitored whether installations are evaluating opportunities to use IGSA.

TPG View: IGSAs are an excellent tool to strengthen community / military installation ties. Each military installation should continue to explore potential and possible use. The 45 examples on the GAO report demonstrate the variety of services which could be shared. Recommend each local installation review attached report.

Defense Industrial Base Study Release: President to Follow ‘Blueprint’ for Responding to Deficiencies in Defense Base, Adviser Says

In response to the hundreds of vulnerabilities the nation’s defense industrial base faces — including a dwindling number of suppliers for many critical components, overreliance on foreign manufacturers and looming labor shortages — the Trump administration will immediately begin implementing the recommendations in a new [interagency study of the defense base](#), Peter Navarro, assistant to the president for trade and manufacturing policy, says in an [op-ed in the New York Times](#). The president, for example, soon will

sign determinations authorizing the use of funds to expand manufacturing capabilities in areas such as lithium seawater batteries, critical for anti-submarine warfare, and cutting-edge fuel cells for the Navy's future unmanned underwater vehicles.

Another step will be to modernize DOD's network of depots, arsenals, shipyards and ammunition plants "to ensure American leadership in advanced manufacturing," Navarro says. Trump also will direct the secretary of labor to more precisely target occupations for current and future growth — including systems engineers and high-skilled tool operators — expand worker training and education programs, and ensure appropriate incentives to recruit and retain workers are in place. That step is needed to alleviate a significant shortage of skilled workers in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields as well as machinists, welders and other skilled trade workers needed to build and maintain ships, combat vehicles and aircraft.

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

1.) Politicos are pushing to rebuild Tyndall, but should the Air Force bother?

Defense News- October 28, 2018

The Trump administration has vowed to rebuild Tyndall Air Base, the hurricane-ravaged home of the Air Force's F-22 Raptor training fleet, though it seems the Air Force faces a long road ahead, and the journey could be fraught with budgetary and political battles.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence visited the post Oct. 25 to announce the White House's intent to restore the post, where — according to at least one lawmaker — 17 of the post's 55 F-22s used to train pilots for high-end air superiority missions were damaged when the post was struck by Hurricane Michael earlier this month.

"President [Donald] Trump and I are committed to providing the resources necessary to rebuild Tyndall Air Force Base so that it can continue to be a vital and critical part of our national defense," Pence said.

That decision is welcome news to the Air Force and Florida lawmakers like Sen. Marco Rubio who have lobbied the Trump administration to make Tyndall great again. The post not only plays a key role in the air defense of the United States; it impacts \$2.5 billion in the local economy and 20,000 jobs in the surrounding Bay County, Florida, area, according to Gov. Rick Scott.

Hurricane Michael, the third-most intense Atlantic hurricane to make landfall in the U.S., hit Oct. 10, forcing the evacuation of the post's 11,000 personnel, destroying facilities and disrupting its operations. The post's 325th Fighter Wing provides training for all F-22A Raptor pilots, and its 601st Air Operations Center provides aerospace warning and control for North American Aerospace Defense Command defensive counter-air activities.

2.) How a 2-Star Army General Took Charge of a Broken City Military Times-

October 29, 2018

Mark McQueen's sand-colored combat boots have walked the ground during many disasters. Afghanistan. Iraq. Florida's Panama City.

The two-star general had no sooner retired from the Army and started his job as city manager for this Gulf Coast community when it was slammed by a category 4 hurricane. Hurricane Michael became the most devastating hurricane to hit Florida in decades. Almost all of Panama City's water, sewer, electric and cell services were wiped out.

Despite McQueen having no municipal experience and having been on the job only two weeks, city leaders say he's exactly the man they need for the long recovery ahead. "I believe the Lord sent him," Panama City Commissioner Billy Rader said. "God knew this was going to happen before we did."

The 58-year-old was a rare choice when commissioners picked him out of a candidate pool of 80 people, and not just because his experience was from the military. When McQueen accepted the job six months ago, he asked the commission for a grace period to wrap up his military service and end his a civilian job as a church's business administrator. There was another pressing matter, too. "There was a gentleman who needed a kidney," he says casually.

That's right. In the last four months, McQueen has retired from the military, started a new job, helped coordinate one of the largest hurricane responses since Katrina, and donated a kidney. To a stranger.

In August, he donated his left kidney to a man at his church, and took a few weeks to recover (the recipient is doing well).

McQueen came to Panama City in 1988 for a job at a local community college. He met his wife here, and they raised their two children here. Over the years, he rose in the ranks of the military, from officer to Special Operations Command, to his final assignment as commanding general of the 108th Training Command headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina. There, he commanded some 7,000 soldiers. One of their tasks was to repair Baghdad's infrastructure.

Another, more recent assignment was to help orchestrate the emergency response to Hurricane Florence on Sept. 14. He missed a recent city commission meeting because of that. On Sept. 24, he marked his first day on the job, and outlined to the local paper what he wanted to accomplish in his first 120 days.

He spoke of looking "down and in" and "up and out" to set the framework for a long-term strategic plan. He mentioned five-year goals and a long-term vision that stretched toward 2050. All that lasted approximately two weeks.

When Hurricane Michael bore down on Florida's Panhandle, he ordered an evacuation for parts of the city and unrolled his Army bed mat and camouflage blanket in the corner of

the police chief's office. As the eyewall of the monster storm passed over the city, the police station's roof threatened to lift. Water trickled into the building.

When the storm passed, he surveyed the damage in this city of 40,000 people. Ninety percent of all the power poles were down. One of the two wastewater treatment plants was inoperable. Cellphones weren't working. The city's lush tree canopy was in splinters, covering roads and homes. "This is Baghdad with trees," he said. "One hundred percent collapse of infrastructure." His own home wasn't damaged — "only a few roof tiles" — which allowed him to pour all of his focus into the city.

Now, more than two weeks since the storm, he's still sleeping in the chief's office, but took a day to fly to Washington, D.C.

His retirement ceremony from the military was Friday. It was his first day off since before the storm.

After, he plans to return to Panama City and pull on his combat boots for the long haul. He knows he has his work cut out for him. Tens of thousands of homes are unlivable, and in a city where 75 percent of the schoolchildren get free or reduced price lunch, it will be a challenge to find affordable housing — or any housing at all — for the needy.

Said McQueen: "I'm going to rebuild the economic engine of the city. We're going to work the problem, and create a solution."

3.) North Florida Land Trust buys 2,300 acres of 'critical' conservation land for \$5.4 million Jacksonville News- October 26, 2018

The nonprofit North Florida Land Trust, in a crucial conservation coup, now owns a 2,300-acre piece of property within a "critical wildlife corridor" surrounding the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in southern Clay County.

The conservation organization paid \$5.4 million for the land located near Lawtey that connects Camp Blanding to Jennings State Forest. The tract is within the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) wildlife corridor — considered a vital wildlife corridor that stretches from the Ocala National Forest to the Osceola National Forest.

"We own it. ... This one is our largest upland acquisition to date and important to protect for both its ecosystem benefits and for the buffer it provides for Camp Blanding," Jim McCarthy, land trust president, said Monday.

The tract is composed mostly of pine stands of various ages, hardwood forests and scattered mature pines along with excellent native groundcover, McCarthy said. It is home to various species including the threatened gopher tortoise as well as quail and other ground nesting birds. The tract also contains Boggy Branch — one of the headwater tributaries of the Black Creek watershed. That in itself makes it an important acquisition, he said.

McCarthy said if they can restore some of the creek such restoration should be able to help alleviate flooding downstream. The organization as yet hasn't completed its management plan for the property, so at the moment, it is an idea to explore further, he said.

However, a current hunting lease on the property will remain, he said. The acquisition is the most recent fruit of the organization's continuing longtime partnership with Camp Blanding, he said.

"We have been working in partnership with Camp Blanding for a number of years to protect lands that provide crucial habitat for plants and wildlife and allow critical training for active and reserve troops and emergency responders," McCarthy said. "Since 2016, we have protected nearly 6,000 acres in partnership with the military."

Camp Blanding is Florida's largest National Guard installation, and earned state and national recognition for its environmental stewardship. The 80,000-acre military installation, McCarthy noted, also is key the O2O landscape and partnership.

The land trust will manage the tract for forestry and wildlife via practices such as prescribed burns that will benefit populations of fire-dependent animals including the gopher tortoise and Bachman's sparrow.

The organization has focused on preserving land within the O2O corridor, which provides important habitat for the Florida black bear as well as numerous endangered species including the red-cockaded woodpecker, indigo snakes and gopher tortoises.

The land trust leads the O2O Wildlife Corridor Partnership, which includes public and private organizations dedicated to improving land management and conservation within the corridor.

To acquire the property, the land trust worked closely with the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands on this transaction. Funding was provided by the Army National Guard, McCarthy said.

Last month, the land trust obtained two property easements for conservation totaling 2,551 acres for slightly more than \$8 million also adjacent to Camp Blanding. That deal marked the organization's largest conservation easement acquisition to date.

The two tracts — which measure about 4.2 square miles — will be protected from high density development as well as serve as a buffer to the military installation. The money for the easements came through the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program.

Conservation easement agreements allow the landowner to continue to own and use the property but permanently limits how the land can be used to protect its conservation

values. Bear Bay Timber Company owns 2,057 acres while the McArthur Family Trust owns the remaining 494 acres of the property.

The Bear Bay Timber easement secures a 14-mile wildlife corridor from Florida 16 in Penney Farms to Georges Lake near Florahome. The McArthur Family Trust easement sits along the eastern boundary of Camp Blanding, providing a natural connection between the Bear Bay Timber tract and the military base, according to the land trust.

Both easements boast a variety of habitat, including mixed hardwood forest, pine flatwoods, floodplain swamp and the blackwater stream, Ates Creek. Those properties also are within the O2O.

The land trust champions environmental protection primarily in Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Union and Volusia counties.

Founded in 1999, the organization has protected thousands of acres of environmentally significant land, including property at Big Talbot Island, the River Branch Preserve, Pumpkin Hill, Moccasin Slough, along the St. Marys River and other valued natural areas predominantly in Northeast Florida.

The organization is funded largely by private and corporate contributions. It works with private landowners and other public agencies at all levels of government, not-for-profit partners and foundations.

4.) **Senator to Air Force: Fix Hurricane-Damaged F-22s Fast** DoD Buzz- October 24, 2018

Sen. Marco Rubio is urging the U.S. Air Force to repair and restore the F-22 Raptor stealth fighters damaged during Hurricane Michael as soon as possible in order to meet mission demands.

In a letter addressed to Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson Monday, the Florida Republican stressed urgency, saying the service must ready the fleet to meet Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' request to have an 80 percent mission capability rate in a year's time.

"As you finalize damage assessments of the aircraft that endured Hurricane Michael, I urge you to begin implementation of the framework laid out by Secretary Mattis starting with all Tyndall AFB fighter aircraft," Rubio said. "Additionally, I ask you waste no time or effort in providing a supplemental funding request to Congress to repair and restore these aircraft to mission capable status as soon as possible."

While the F-22 overall has a roughly 49 percent mission-capable rate overall -- meaning less than half of the aircraft are flyable at any given time -- the lawmaker zeroed in on the readiness rate for jets stationed at Tyndall.

"As Hurricane Michael approached the Florida panhandle, 31 percent of F-22 aircraft at Tyndall Air Force Base were designated non-mission capable (NMC) and were sheltered in place," Rubio said.

Fifty-five of the fifth-generation fighters are assigned to the 325th Fighter Wing, he said. That figure corresponds with reports that up to 17 aircraft may have been damaged by the Category 4 storm. Photos of F-22s left behind in shredded hangars that have surfaced on social media in recent weeks have some in the aviation community theorizing that a significant chunk of the F-22 fleet -- roughly 10 percent -- may be left stagnant for good.

"While the damage assessment of these remaining aircraft is still underway, the facts are clear that any damage sustained could have been avoided if the [non-mission capable] rate for the F-22 was lower," Rubio said.

The Air Force has yet to disclose exactly how many twin-engine jets are nonrecoverable versus those they will attempt to fix. Officials last week said five to seven temporary hangars are being constructed at Tyndall, each capable of housing two aircraft; the Air Force, however, cautioned against assuming that 10 to 14 Raptors may have been damaged.

Some F-22s that sustained minor damages will be moved to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, early next week to join F-22s that were previously moved there. Officials have not said just how long the aircraft will remain there.

While some aircraft have been moved out of active status for testing purposes, the Air Force has 183 of the Lockheed Martin-made F-22s in its inventory today. More than 160 belong to active-duty units; the remainder are with Air National Guard elements. Four aircraft were lost or severely damaged between 2004 and 2012.

Production was cut short in 2009, with original plans to buy 381 fighters scaled down to a buy of just 187.

Rubio noted that the small fleet is already challenging to sustain, given parts reliability and maintenance dwindles in dwarfed fleets.

"This significantly smaller than planned inventory has resulted in maintenance and supply challenges that have affected aircraft availability rates," he said.

But "as the threat from near-peer competitors continues to evolve and grow, this aircraft is vital to the U.S. military's ability to defeat high-end adversaries," the senator said.

Rubio said he will facilitate communication between Congress and the service "to accomplish the priority of ensuring our air superiority aircraft meet this mission capable goal." "I look forward to working with you to accomplish this," Rubio said.

The Air Force is reviewing Rubio's request, Air Force spokeswoman Capt. Carrie Volpe said. Wilson has received the letter, and she "will respond directly to the senator," Volpe said.

5.) [Harris, L3 Technologies agree to largest defense merger in history in \\$33.5 billion deal](#) Florida Today – October 14, 2018

Melbourne-based Harris Corp, and New York-based L3 Technologies Inc. on Sunday announced they have agreed to a "transformational merger of equals" in what will be the largest merger in defense industry history.

The stock deal is valued at \$33.5 billion, based on current stock prices.

The combined company — to be called L3 Harris Technologies — will be based in Melbourne and will become the eighth-largest company based in Florida, based on current Fortune 500 rankings. Harris Director of Public Relations Jim Burke said the deal is likely to mean an expansion of the company's operations in Brevard County, although there is "no head count target" for the expansion at this point.

Harris currently employs about 6,600 people in Brevard, while L3 has about 100. In addition to expansion of staff in Brevard, Burke said the deal will expand career opportunities for current Harris employees. L3 Harris Technologies will be the sixth-largest U.S. defense contractor based on revenue, with about \$16 billion in annual revenues and 48,000 employees worldwide.

L3 Technologies is the larger company, with about 31,000 employees and \$10 billion in annual revenue. Harris has about 17,000 employees and \$6 billion in annual revenue.

L3 currently is the seventh-largest U.S. defense contractor and Harris is the ninth-largest, based on annual revenue.

The merger is expected to close in mid-2019, and is subject to regulatory approvals and approval by the stockholders of each company.

The merger agreement was unanimously approved by the boards of directors of both companies. Under terms of the merger, L3 shareholders will receive 1.3 shares of Harris common stock for each share of L3 common stock they own. Upon completion of the merger, Harris shareholders will own about 54 percent and L3 shareholders will own about 46 percent of the combined company.

Burke said deal has been under negotiation "in earnest" for several months, although the chief executive officers of the Harris and L3 have known each other for a long time and have had more informal conversations for some time about their companies.

In addition to its corporate headquarters, Harris has two segment headquarters based in Brevard County — electronic systems, and space and intelligence systems.

L3 has a facility in Melbourne that develops modems for military communications networks.

“This transaction extends our position as a premier global defense technology company that unlocks additional growth opportunities and generates value for our customers, employees and shareholders,” Harris Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer William Brown said in a statement announcing the deal. “Combining our complementary franchises and extensive technology portfolios will enable us to accelerate innovation to better serve our customers, deliver significant operating synergies and produce strong free cash flow, which we will deploy to drive shareholder value.”

L3 Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Christopher Kubasik said the merger “creates greater benefits and growth opportunities than either company could have achieved alone. The companies were on similar growth trajectories, and this combination accelerates the journey to becoming a more agile, integrated and innovative non-traditional” defense contractor “focused on investing in important, next-generation technologies.”

Kubasik said L3 Harris Technologies “will possess a wealth of technologies and a talented and engaged workforce. By unleashing this potential, we will strengthen our core franchises, expand into new and adjacent markets and enhance our global presence.”

The combined company’s board of directors will have 12 members, with six directors from each company.

Brown will serve as chairman and chief executive officer, and Kubasik will serve as vice chairman, president and chief operating officer for the first two years following the closing of the transaction. For the third year, Brown will transition to executive chairman and Kubasik to chief executive officer, after which Kubasik will become chairman and chief executive officer.

Burke said, under this plan, Brown would leave Harris after that.

Harris supports government and commercial customers in more than 100 countries. The company has three business segments: communication systems, electronic systems, and space and intelligence systems.

L3 Technologies is a provider of global intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance programs, communications and electronic systems for military, homeland security and commercial aviation customers. L3 Technologies develops advanced defense technologies and commercial solutions in pilot training, aviation security, night vision, weapons, maritime systems and space.

The companies said the combined operation will have “a well-balanced portfolio of complementary franchises.” They said about 57 percent of the combined company's

revenue would come from the U.S. military. The other 43 percent would come from a combination of other U.S. government agencies (13 percent), foreign governments (17 percent), and commercial customers (13 percent).

"The combined portfolio brings depth and balance of relationships across a wide range of customers, in both the U.S. and international markets," the companies said in their announcement. "Increased scale will enable the combined company to be more cost-competitive, expand capabilities to provide end-to-end solutions across multiple domains of air, sea, land, space and cyber," as well as enhanced leadership in in other areas, such as radio-frequency and spectrum technologies.

6.) [100 Percent of Tyndall Housing Unlivable After Hurricane Slams Base](#)
Military.com- October 12, 2018

About 600 military families face long waits to return to housing destroyed by Hurricane Michael at Tyndall Air Force Base in the Florida Panhandle, the commander of the National Guard said Friday.

Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told defense reporters that "100 percent of the housing on that base is uninhabitable" after the eye of Michael passed over Tyndall as a Category 4 storm.

The families were safely evacuated before the storm hit, and the service will have to find other accommodations for them until repairs can be made, he said, adding he had no idea on a timeline for restoration of base operations or repairs for the demolished housing.

He noted that Tyndall is the main base for training on the F-22 Raptor, the Air Force's most advanced fighter, and also serves as a center for training on battle management.

"As far as figuring out a timeline" for repairs to housing and a return to operations, "I'm not informed at this point," Lengyel said.

The base near Panama City, Florida, "took a beating" from the hurricane, but 50 F-22 Raptors stationed there had been flown out to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and Texas Fort Worth Alliance airport before the storm hit, Col. Brian Laidlaw, commander of the 325th Fighter Wing, said in a Facebook post.

However, the Air Force said it anticipates that some F-22s that had been left hangared at the base were damaged in the storm. Officials have not publicly said how many of the aircraft might be damaged.

Laidlaw said the 3,600 airmen and family members stationed at the base won't be allowed to return until their safety can be ensured.

"I know that you are eager to return. I ask you to be patient and try to focus on taking care of your families and each other. We can rebuild our base, but we can't rebuild any of you," Laidlaw wrote.

At a Defense Writers Group session at George Washington University, Lengyel said a total of 3,583 Guard soldiers and airmen had been activated in the response to the hurricane. Most of them -- 2,932 -- were from Florida, he said, and 625 were called up in Georgia.

He added that another 133 from the Guard were still activated in North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, but they are expected to be released soon.

A total of more than 10,000 Guard soldiers and airmen were on standby for possible call-up in the response to Hurricane Michael, Lengyel said, but he expected that they would not be needed.

Lengyel said that most of the Guard's response is still in search-and rescue-mode and efforts at debris clearance. He also said that that Guard had set up 11 distribution points to supply food, water and other assistance to stranded residents.

The Army reported that "serious communications problems in the Panhandle" caused by storm damage are limiting operations.

In the effort to restore power, the Army's Corps of Engineers is ready to install 55 generators when requested by state authorities and has another 30 generators en route to the area, officials said.

3. Congressional Liaison activity and planned actions over next two weeks:

- Met with Florida congressional staff to educate on scoring as related to MML.
- Met with Bruce and Jim B., October 3.
- Met with Eglin's Tom Talbert, October 2.
- Met with Gordy Fornell, Lt Gen (ret) October 3.
- Met with NW Florida community leaders, October 3.
- Visited Tyndall AFB October 26.
- Begin to track FY2020 Authorizations and Appropriations Build.
- Continue to engage House and Senate congressional delegation MLAs on re-SWOT, FY19 strategic priorities.
- Meet with congressional delegation staff concerning Tyndall rebuilding, moratorium on off shore drilling in gulf.
- Plan for Cocoa Beach visit, Nov 14-15.

4.Base Info

NSA Panama City

By Ed Offley | Special to the News Herald

Posted Oct 29, 2018 at 5:00 PM

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY — For the past eighteen days after Hurricane Michael, Commander Jay Sego and his staff have worked nonstop assessing the storm damage that brought operations at this 657-acre research and development facility to a halt.

After obtaining a muster of 100 percent of the command's 2,800 military and civilian employees, inspecting each of the base's 221 buildings for wind damage, surveying its water lines for leaks, and counting each of the hundreds of felled trees needing removal, Sego told reporters on Monday there was one final list to review: the many blessings that the base and its people can count.

Unlike Tyndall Air Force Base, which sustained major damage to most of its physical infrastructure, NSA-PC avoided the brunt of the storm, Sego said. None of the forty-nine houses on base sustained serious damage, and the hurricane's wind direction resulted in few breaches in the base perimeter fence due to downed trees. Nevertheless, a number of buildings received moderate to severe damage and will require substantial repairs over the months ahead, he said. Sego said it is too early to provide a monetary estimate for the structural damage and economic impact from three weeks of inactivity.

With the help of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11 based in Gulfport, Mississippi, the base's road network has been cleared of felled trees, and a detailed inspection of the base water system has identified areas needing repair. Likewise, electricity, telephone service and computer network capabilities are returning to normal, Sego said. Families living on base – who were forced to evacuate along with the rest of the workers – began returning over the weekend.

Commanders of various tenant organizations at the base voiced similar assessments of how the storm disrupted their operations, although the specific impact did vary from one unit to another. While the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center has been able to bring back its 190-man training staff and the 200 students enrolled in current diving classes, Commander Sam Brasfield said the school will not be able to resume its full training schedule until January. Likewise, Captain Aaron Peters said the Naval Surface Warfare Center staff was able to shift some of its research and development work to an adjunct facility in south Florida, but will see unavoidable delays in work while repairs proceed on the twelve buildings in his command that were damaged. "My number one task now is getting people back here and supporting the (Navy) warfighter," Peters said. By shifting teams from damaged buildings to intact structures, and implementing a "maxi-flex" schedule that enables employees to adjust their hours so as to be able to take care of personal needs as well as work tasks, the unit is making real gains toward a return to normal, Peters added.

The tenant Coast Guard operations institute on the base suffered major losses of fifty percent of its infrastructure during the hurricane, said Master Chief Mark Kennan, officer-in-charge of the detachment. However on the plus side, he said, Coast Guard station itself and its four assigned vessels escaped crippling damage and are back to full operations and patrols.

The Navy Experimental Diving Unit, which conducts scientific research into advanced diving procedures and capabilities, avoided major storm damage, said Captain Jay Young, its commanding officer. Most of the unit's 140 military and civilian employees have returned and are on board, he said. "We're fully operational," Young said. "Yes, it's only three weeks (that work was halted by the storm), but it's a busy three weeks. The taskings have not gone away, some of them will shift" to a later date. "There are still many challenges remaining as we recover," Sego said. "We have teammates who have lost homes and the base has sustained damage to buildings that will take time to repair. But we are fortunate and will continue ... all our primary missions here on the installation." Sego and his tenant unit commanders said their greatest accomplishment was successfully accounting for all of the people who work at NSA-PC, and for helping them find emergency lodging and other assistance during the weeks after the storm. Navy commands throughout Florida, as well as Bay County, Panama City and Panama City Beach governments were also a great help, Sego said.

US Air Force HQs Update

SECAF Wilson and CSAF Goldfein both spoke publicly at the annual Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium in late October and re-emphasized their position that the "Air Force the Nation needs" includes a 24% increase in operational squadrons. This unfunded growth would include, among others: seven more fighter squadrons, 14 more tanker squadrons, seven more special operations squadrons and 22 more C2/ISR units.

Air Force leadership, including SECAF, CSAF and the Air Combat Command commander, all declare that Tyndall will be rebuilt and that the principal missions of First Air Force (air component for NORTHCOM and NORAD air defense) and the host 325th Fighter Wing (F-22 training and combat-ready squadrons) will return. There's not yet been a publicly-available estimate for the cost to repair damaged aircraft, or the cost to repair / replace damaged and destroyed facilities. FDSTF members and Greg Kiley toured Tyndall last week.

Installation Specific Notes

Army Garrison-Miami (SOUTHCOM). On Oct 17, OSD approved the Major Land Acquisition Waiver, a key step toward acquiring the necessary land (from the DoT/FAA) and funding MILCON for barracks and Military Family Housing construction. Current goal is to fund in Army's FY22 POM. Garrison leadership may request FDSTF / TSG advocacy to enable a federal inter-agency transfer of land (DoT – DoD), which would eliminate a projected FY22 ~ \$34M Army outlay.

MacDill AFB. Sec Principi and I visited base leaders, toured the base and met with community / TBDA leaders on 29 Oct. The new wing commander, Col Steve Snelson, shared his priorities and challenges. His installation and operational risk-reduction priorities match the threats we've outlined – grow / gain new mission aircraft (KC-135 and KC-46), airfield encroachment (Florida Rock), easing commute/transportation and improve K-12 school quality.

Avon Park Air Force Range. We visited the Avon Park “Deployed Unit Complex” on MacDill. This tenant facility is oft-forgotten but extremely valuable to deploying units that then train in the Avon Park range airspace and other nearby ranges. There’s great potential here, but funding is always a challenge. We shared some ideas and will follow-up with their parent command, Air Combat Command.

Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB. Both bases suffered some damage from Michael, but were spared the devastation of Tyndall. Both have resumed full operations.

HARB. Homestead will host the Thunderbirds and other aerial performers at “Wings over Homestead” November 3-4.

Community Liaison and Support (*Items highlighted in blue support the FDSTF Strategic Plan*)

Coordinated Team meeting with Greg Kiley and myself with Eglin/Hurlburt Community and Range leaders regarding:

- i. Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico,**
 - ii. Range sustainment and enhancement**
 - iii. Eglin mission growth and space needs**
 - iv. Sentinel Landscape application**
- **Worked closely with Space Coast community team regarding November TPG visit. Visit now confirmed with visits/briefings to and by:**
 - i. 45th Space Wing CO**
 - ii. 920th Rescue Wing CO**
 - iii. AFTAC Leadership**
 - iv. NOTU CO**
 - v. Community leaders**
 - **Engaged NWFL community leaders in dialogue with NWFL military installation community planners following Hurricane Michael**
- **Planned Actions and Activities (Next Two Weeks)**
 - **Closely monitor and report on drilling in FL waters and ranges**
 - **Continue planning for November TPG visit to SpaceCoast in conjunction with FDSTF meetings**
 - **Monitor FL Legislature post-election leadership activities and committee appointments**
 - **Begin planning for January FDSTF/TPG visit to USSOUTHCOM in Doral**
 - **Provided direct support and background to Service Teams as requested**
 - **Continue to engage with Florida Defense Alliance to support efforts and coordinate with TPG activities and initiatives**

- **Follow up with bases and communities and complete full round of contacts**
- **Continue to communicate with local military community support POCs for activities and issues of interest to Team. Distribute relevant information to TEAM**
- **Continue to monitor and report media and other public sources for information related to FL military installations and their host communities**

Attachments:

1. Congressional Delegation letter to President on Hurricane Michael.
2. Greg Kiley Presentation on Drilling Moratorium
3. GAO Report on IGSA



The Principi Group

Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period November 1-30, 2018

1. Washington Insights

Biggest news out of Washington, DC for the month of November is the midterm elections and its implications on defense spending and policy for the State. Also, the congressionally-mandated National Defense Commission released its report (attached), with scheduled hearings and press coverage.

Mid-Term Election Analysis

While President Trump was not on the ballot, he was a key factor in this election for both Democrats and Republicans. The Republicans that closely aligned themselves with Trump saw success and those that tried to distance themselves (primarily moderate Republicans) while running more moderate districts, lost. Invoking the President's name and running against his policy positions also had an impact on Democratic turnout which played a substantial role in flipping the House.

Representative Pelosi had a similar impact on the Republican and Democratic electorate. Many Republicans successfully used her policy positions and voting history in their campaigns to drive turnout. Alternatively, many Democrats running in more conservative areas distanced themselves from her and declared they would not support her for Speaker.

All told, the House and Senate results reflect a shift in both party's bases that first became apparent in 2016. Heading into 2020, Democrats are the party of urban voters across the economic spectrum and affluent, educated suburban voters, particularly women. Broadly speaking, Republicans did well in areas where Trump won more than 50 percent and performed poorly in areas where he was below that threshold.

Lame Duck Session Began November 13

The House and Senate returned November 13th. While Congress passed full-year spending bills for over half of the federal government (Energy/Water, Legislative Branch, VA/Military, Defense, Labor/HHS, and Education), the current Continuing Resolution (CR) for the remainder of the government (including Treasury/IRS and SEC) expires at midnight on December 7th.

Passage of legislation to fund the rest of the federal government is the highest priority.

Because the President is adamant about funding for the border wall in the upcoming spending bill and Democrats (particularly House Democrats who may now have more negotiating leverage) desire to provide protection for Dreamers, a battle over spending may emerge and a partial government shutdown is possible. In the end, it may boil down to neither side getting what they want and a short-term CR providing government funding into 2019.

Depending on the negotiations on the spending bill, there may be a willingness to add other outstanding issues to the spending bill, including:

Tax Package (technical corrections, extenders, Tax Reform 2.0, IRS administration): There is a desire by Republicans and Democrats to address some tax issues before the end of the year. There is bipartisan support to pass a bipartisan IRS administration package and the retirement provisions passed as part of tax reform 2.0. Despite the bipartisan interest in some of these issues, the package could collapse under its own weight and/or the political dynamics may prevent a favorable outcome.

Disaster Relief: There is a possibility that a second disaster supplemental may be addressed during the Lame Duck. – Hurricane Michael funding? --

Flood Insurance: a short-term extension is likely to be added to whatever spending bill is passed.

NAFTA: The President is expected to sign the updated United States-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement at the end of the month at which point Congress will need to pass the legislation. Passage of the bill is highly unlikely during the Lame Duck.

Appointments: Senate Republicans are expected to continue addressing pending nominations, specifically judicial nominations.

In addition to considering pressing legislative matters, the incoming Congress will hold leadership elections during each respective party's caucus meetings and determine committee assignments.

House Republicans selected Rep Kay Granger from Texas as the appropriations ranking member on Thursday November 29th: The House Republican Steering Committee met Thursday morning to decide the next GOP leader of the House Appropriations Committee: The 36-member group decided on Granger ahead of three other GOP contenders: Reps. [Robert Aderholt](#) of Alabama, [Tom Cole](#) of Oklahoma, and [Tom Graves](#) of Georgia. Rep Granger was the Defense Subcommittee chair.

Congressionally-mandated National Defense Commission report (attached).

From the executive summary:

The security and wellbeing of the United States are at greater risk than at any time in decades. America's military superiority—the hard-power backbone of its global influence and national security—has eroded to a dangerous degree. Rivals and adversaries are challenging the United States on many fronts and in many domains. America's ability to defend its allies, its partners, and its own vital interests is increasingly in doubt. If the nation does not act promptly to remedy these circumstances, the consequences will be grave and lasting.

Press: Commission report emerges as tool for budget hawks in Congress

A recently released report from a congressionally mandated commission is emerging as a tool for defense hawks who hope to increase military budgets in the coming years. The report, put out by the National Defense Strategy Commission on Nov. 14, warned that a "crisis of national security" looms for America, thanks to growing threats from countries like Russia and China and aging American assets.

The commission identified several issues that have created this situation for America's military, including the need to modernize certain capabilities, tensions between the military and civilian sides of the Pentagon, and a decaying industrial base. But during a Tuesday hearing at the Senate Armed Services Committee, senators latched onto one clear message from the report: the need for increased funding.

SASC chairman Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., opened up his comments by noting that fiscally "we got ourselves into this mess and we've got to get ourselves out of this mess," while reiterating his belief that the Pentagon needs to be funded at around the \$733 billion budget that had been expected until just a few weeks ago when the White House cut it down to \$700 billion.

In response, Gary Roughead, a retired admiral who was the 29th chief of naval operations from 2007-2011 and who served as co-chair for the commission, said the authors of the

report are “very mindful that it will take money” to accomplish the National Defense Strategy, and called \$733 billion an ideal “floor” for the Defense Department.

Other senators were quick to jump on that point, with several offering that removing the threat of sequestration would help provide fiscal certainty for the department as it looks to invest, a statement not denied by Roughead or Eric Edelman, a former U.S. ambassador and undersecretary of defense for policy from 2005-2009.

Even before the committee hearing, pro-defense lawmakers were starting to use the report and its dire conclusions to argue for a budget boost in negotiations over the Pentagon’s nascent 2020 budget. And it could prove useful as hawks prepare for what may be an uphill battle, with Democrats who favor domestic spending taking the House in January.

In an interview earlier this month, Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., a member of the commission before being tapped to replace the late Sen. John McCain, called it “a valuable messaging document” for the budget fights to come.

“With Democrats taking the House, there’s an additional challenge,” Kyl said. “My hope is that the bipartisan nature of this commission will enable Democrats who are in doubt to come to the right conclusions, and that the intelligent Democratic members of the commission can perhaps persuade members who don’t have the facts on the need to do this.”

a. Budgets

Most analysts expect the two parties to negotiate another two-year budget deal to loosen the spending caps, which extend through FY 2021. For now, the outcome of that negotiation is unknown, but the most likely outcome, regardless of the results of the midterms, still appears to be a deal which provides increases for both domestic and defense spending.

Latest News: DoD to give Trump \$700B budget plan later this month

The Defense Department will present the White House with a \$700 billion budget plan during the last week of November, Deputy Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan said today. The plan comes at the request of President Donald Trump, who in October said the Defense Department budget will “likely be \$700 billion” next year, amounting to a 2.3 percent cut from the what was originally planned.

Shanahan told reporters at the Pentagon he is trying to protect cybersecurity, space, Army modernization and hypersonic missile development from any cuts.

He declined to name specific programs on the chopping block but said potential areas that might be reduced include number of total troops and platforms that are purchased. The

pace of modernization and troop pay could also be squeezed to account for the smaller overall budget.

The military branches are expected to recommend where to make the cuts on Monday, he said.

The smaller budget request is likely to meet some resistance on Capitol Hill, especially in the Senate, which will remain under Republican control. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) this week insisted that "the \$733 billion defense budget originally proposed by President Trump for fiscal year 2020 should be considered a floor, not a ceiling, for funding our troops."

TPG View: Now that FY19 budget cycle has wrapped, speculation has begun on FY2020 levels. In short, we can expect flat to modest 1-2% growth. There will be much noise about the Budget Control Act still having effect, and potential for large decrease in spending levels, but with continued emergency supplementals and tight political congressional balance, expect more to stay the same rather than change beyond the level of FY19's \$716 billion for defense. Latest news on DoD preparing multiple budgets tracks with projections on flat to limited growth.

b. Congressional Defense Committees

Defense Staffers:

House: Paul Arcangeli, the Democratic staff director for HASC, is expected to become the panel's top staffer. Arcangeli led HASC staff when Democrats last held the majority and has stayed on under ranking Democrat Smith.

Jen Stewart has been the HASC majority staff director under Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) since September 2017.

On the Appropriations Committee, Shalanda Young is staff director for Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), who would be in line to chair the powerful spending panel. And Rebecca Leggieri is the Democratic clerk for the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee under ranking member Pete Visclosky (D-Ind.).

Senate: With Senate Armed Services Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) likely to keep his gavel, John Bonsell would continue as majority staff director. The experienced Hill aide — a longtime Inhofe staffer and most recently a chief lobbyist for defense contractor SAIC — rejoined the panel in September when Inhofe took over as chairman after the death of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.).

Liz King, similarly a longtime staffer for ranking Democrat Jack Reed of Rhode Island, is likely to remain the minority staff director.

On Senate Appropriations, Shannon Hines has been staff director since Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) took over as chairman in April. He also chairs the Defense Appropriations panel.

Outlook for House Armed Services Committee with new Chairman Adam Smith
Rep. Adam Smith Chairmanship of HASC has major implications for oversight and agenda setting, as he has stated in his “Dear Colleague” letter to fellow representatives asking for their vote for Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Smith has vowed tougher scrutiny of military personnel and planning matters, pointedly criticized the fiscal 2019 defense budget of \$716 billion as too high and promised to oppose new nuclear weapons spending.

“The Trump White House, by and large, has let the Pentagon have a lot of free rein,” Smith said. “I think that’s inappropriate, and I think there is a real role for Congress to step in where the White House has stepped back to make sure our military is not engaged in ways” contrary to American values or interests.

Smith said as chairman, he will push for Congress to reassert its oversight role, particularly in places like Niger and Yemen, where U.S. involvement is little understood by the American public. He wants the committee “actively engaged” in fighting for the rights of women and members of the LGBTQ community to take part in military service however they desire.

Smith is a supporter of another base closure round, a smaller role for the U.S. military in the world, and a smaller nuclear weapons arsenal. He opposed Trump’s proposed 355-ship Navy and has touted his votes to end building Northrop Grumman’s B-2 bomber and Lockheed Martin’s F-22 fighter.

Rep. Visclosky era begins on HAC-D: In addition to Smith, longtime Democratic appropriator Pete Visclosky of Indiana is poised to take over the influential House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. The low-key lawmaker, who represents the northwestern corner of Indiana that includes Gary, will be tasked with crafting annual Pentagon spending legislation, the largest of the 12 yearly government funding bills.

SASC Dems get shaken up: Three of the most vulnerable Senate Democrats sit on the Armed Services Committee. McCaskill fell to Missouri’s Republican attorney general, Josh Hawley. And Donnelly was soundly defeated by former Republican state legislator and businessman Mike Braun. And, finally, Florida’s own Bill Nelson lost to Governor Scott.

Inhofe remains Chairman of SASC: With a rejuvenated Senate majority, Oklahoma Republican Jim Inhofe will hang on to his Armed Services gavel. He took over the panel in September following the death of Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.). From that influential perch, he'll continue to be a staunch ally of the Trump administration and likely push for continued high levels of defense spending.

All three SASC Republicans up for reelection — Roger Wicker of Mississippi, Deb Fischer of Nebraska and Ted Cruz of Texas — won as well.

Nominations

On December 4th, 2018, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing for the pending nomination of:

- Lieutenant General Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., USMC to be general and Commander, US Central Command; and
- Lieutenant General Richard D. Clarke, USA to be general and Commander, US Special Operations Command

On December 5th, 2018, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing for the pending nomination of:

- Thomas McCaffery to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; and
- William Bookless to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration

Hearings

On Wednesday, December 5, 2018 the House Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing on “Department of Defense’s Artificial Intelligence Structure, Investments, and Applications” Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities’, Witnesses include Dr. Lisa Porter, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense For Research and Engineering; Department of Defense; Mr. Dana Deasy, Chief Information Officer-Department of Defense.

On December 5th, 2018 the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing on United States Navy and Marine Corps Readiness. Witnesses include: Honorable Richard V. Spencer, Secretary of the Navy; General Robert B. Neller, USMC, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps; Admiral William F. Moran, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations And Mr. John H. Pendleton, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, United States Government Accountability Office.

On Thursday, December 6, 2018 the House Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing on “National Defense Strategy Commission: Assessment and Recommendations” Full Committee. Witnesses include Ambassador Eric Edelman Co-Chair Commission on the National Defense Strategy; Admiral Gary Roughead, USN (Ret.) Co-Chair Commission on the National Defense Strategy

On Thursday, December 6, 2018 the House Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing on “Naval Surface Forces: On the Road to Recovery?” via the Subcommittee on Readiness and Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces. Witnesses include Admiral John C. Aquilino, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet-Department of the Navy; Admiral Christopher W. Grady, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command-Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Northern Command, Department of the Navy

c. Pentagon Perspectives

Vice Chief of Staff for the Air Force Steve Wilson

Gen. Steve Wilson made these points this week:

F-16, F22, F-35 are the highest priority. The goal is readiness 80% (up from 50-70%)

To reach that goal the shortfall of 4,000 maintainers must be fixed. The AF expects to do that by this December.

The “key to the plan” is money for parts, maintenance, and “the sorties we need”

These fighter squadrons are the “blunt force” and their priority is the result of the new National Defense Strategy. The latest NDA returns China and Russia to the top threat, replacing the war on terrorism (which slips to #3 behind Iran/N. Korea).

Also helping to improve the blunt force aircraft readiness will be not flying the blunt force down-range against terrorists. (i.e. use the proposed OA-X aircraft, now called the LAE – light attack experiment)

<https://www.janes.com/article/84549/usaf-demonstrates-aeronet-international-datalink-for-light-attack-aircraft>

““The USAF has had to come face to face with the knowledge that sometimes we are flying fifth-generation aircraft against targets that are often just a single person, and that's not cost effective.”

This is explained in the Air Superiority 2030 Flight Plan”

<https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/airpower/Air%20Superiority%202030%20Flight%20Plan.pdf>

“... develop capability options to enable joint force Air Superiority in the highly contested environment of **2030 and beyond**.”

Also, to get the best airman who are leaving the AF (from pilots to cyber warriors) to join the Guard or Reserve the AF has to offer them very challenging assignments. They must have a schedule that accommodates their civilian careers but most of them really do welcome an occasional deployment. Money is not the main issue because if they're bored they'll leave.

Competing thoughts on a Space Force

DoD's Space Force Plan Diverges from USAF Vision

The Pentagon's plan to create an independent Space Force would create a lean new military service headed by a secretary and uniformed chief of staff and built from staff and commands now in the Air Force, Navy, and Army.

But the plan, outlined in a 13-page draft proposal reviewed by Air Force Magazine, diverges from an earlier Air Force proposal by leaving out the National Reconnaissance Office and describing a lean organization in which many support functions would remain with the current parent services.

Under the plan, the Defense Department would "consolidate the preponderance of space missions" under the Space Force, but leave service-specific, space-related missions, such as Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, cyber operations, and "the overall missile defense mission," in the existing armed services. Those missions might be re-evaluated for inclusion in the new force later on. Read more.

"The Air Force failed to identify space as essential to their identity. A Space Force would have had no such qualms. A Space Force would have used the opportunity of the threat to push even harder and faster to defend U.S. space assets, not engage in a retreat -- because if they did not, they would no longer matter. Similarly, while the Air Force jealously advocates for more and more resources for air operations, and consistently attempts to expand its mission space to engage in new areas of warfare, it consistently tries to shed space missions as unnecessary or unessential." - Doug Loverro, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy

Space Force policy memo being drafted to establish new military branch

Vice President Mike Pence held a meeting of the National Space Council at the National Defense University to discuss the next steps toward creating a Space Force as a new branch of the U.S. military.

According to a draft of the policy directive, the Defense Department would have to submit a legislative proposal to the White House Office of Management and Budget by Dec. 1 recommending that a Space Force be formed as a separate branch of the armed forces. DoD also would submit a budget request for the new service to be included in the president's budget blueprint for fiscal year 2020.

According to the draft policy document, the Space Force would be composed of a Department of the Space Force led by a civilian and a U.S. Space Force led by a four-star officer who would be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The term Space Force only applies to the new branch, not to U.S. Space Command, a unified combatant command that is in the process of being formed. The Space Force would be responsible to provide space services to all U.S. combatant commands.

The draft also directs the Pentagon to form a Space Development Agency in fiscal year 2019.

A big unknown is how Congress might react to the administration’s proposal.

The legislative branch has the final say on whether plans for a new military service can move forward. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have endorsed the establishment of U.S. Space Command but many are not yet sold on the idea of a new military service, and would want to consider alternatives such as organizing a Space Corps under the Department of the Air Force.

Opponents have challenged the idea of a separate service as wasteful spending that would drain resources and focus from the national security space mission, and have cautioned about unintended consequences of breaking up the Air Force.

Mattis Asks Trump to OK US Space Command, Pick Leaders

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has asked President Trump to approve the creation of a new military headquarters for space warfare, as Pentagon officials proposed earlier this summer.

House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Adam Smith has his doubts about the Space Force.

On the other hand, Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) and Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.)—the chairman and ranking member of the House Strategic Forces Subcommittee—both won re-election. The two leaders are among the biggest proponents of the Space Force, and were among the first to introduce the idea of creating a separate service for space.

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

Report on Transportation Infrastructure Critical to Eastern Range Spacelift Operations, October 2018

This report highlights transportation infrastructure critical to Eastern Range spacelift operations, at risk of failing to meet US government spacelift mission requirements. In particular, NASA’s Indian River Bridge comprises a critical link that enables the transportation of satellites from a processing facility in Titusville, Florida to NASA and Air Force launch facilities in the Eastern Range, and it is projected to no longer be viable by 2021.

The report outlines alternative courses of action that would prevent any ensuing disruption to our assured access to space. Those options include an alternate transportation route, alternate payload processing, and a full repair or rebuild of the Indian River Bridge. The latter would be the most preferred option, so the Air Force stands ready to assist NASA with that effort.

TPG View: Gulf Range Update (Prohibition on drilling east of the Military Mission Line)

As we all know, this year, the Trump administration announced its plans to open nearly all U.S. waters to offshore drilling activities. In a new draft five-year program (2019-2024) for oil and gas development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), the Department of the Interior (DOI) outlined its plans to expand future oil and gas leasing to nearly all U.S. waters, the largest number of potential offshore lease sales ever proposed.

While the Administration has promised Florida leaders they will not support oil drilling off the coast of Florida, the Moratorium on Drilling east of the Military Mission Line in the Gulf is still set to expire in 2022. Nothing the Administration has done to date changes the expiration date.

Gulf Coast Business Leaders Launch Coalition to Protect Coast from Offshore Drilling.

More than 2,000 Gulf Coast Businesses United Against Dirty and Dangerous Offshore Drilling.

The Florida Gulf Coast Business Coalition (FGCBC) publicly launched its alliance against the expansion of dirty and dangerous offshore oil drilling off Florida's Gulf Coast. The press conference was held at Tradewinds Islands Grand Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida on Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

As to where things in Washington stand today, DoD range-use maps are still delayed, then a DOI overlay of potential oil rich areas is yet to be built. These government products not being available delays President Trump's larger Energy Program.

In the meantime, Congress has not determined how best to proceed itself in extending the moratorium and protecting the Gulf. As you may recall, the MML was incorporated as part of a revenue sharing tax bill, GOMESA back in 2006. Changes to tax bills, revenue sharing between states and the federal government are among some of the most difficult bills to craft. We continue to monitor, assist staff.

Tyndall AFB Update:

Tyndall to Host First Exercise Since Hurricane Michael Ravaged Base

The 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group at Tyndall AFB, Fla., will host its first live weapons evaluation since Hurricane Michael nearly destroyed the base in October. During Combat Archer, which runs Dec. 3-14, F-22s from the 27th Fighter Squadron at JB Langley-Eustis, Va., and F-35s from the 58th Fighter Squadron will fire live weapons.

The exercise will include QF-16s from the 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron, with the 81st Range Control Squadron providing command and control, and the 53rd Test Support Squadron providing electronic attack pods. The F-22s and F-35s will fly out of nearby Eglin Air Force Base and the live firing will be conducted in warning areas of the Gulf of Mexico south of Tyndall. The 83rd Fighter Weapon Squadron will conduct data collection and analysis at Tyndall, according to a 53rd Wing release. The Air Force announced earlier this month that the 53rd WEG will remain at the Florida base, and it recently received its first QF-16 after the storm hit

Air Force Contemplating Moving up to 800 Personnel to Eglin AFB

About 525 personnel, primarily pilots and maintainers, attached to three units previously assigned to Tyndall AFB will be reporting to work at Eglin AFB, located about 70 miles west on the Florida Panhandle, over the next four months. The personnel are assigned to the 43rd Fighter Squadron, which trains F-22 pilots; the 372nd Training Squadron's Detachment 4, which provides F-22 maintenance training; and the 2nd Fighter Squadron, which flies the T-38 Talon and provides air-to-air combat training. But officials are contemplating moving a total of 800 personnel through next summer to Eglin as part of the transition triggered after Hurricane Michael devastated Tyndall last month. The three units are expected to remain at Eglin for the foreseeable future.

It's not yet clear what the ultimate impact will be for Eglin's host community, reports the Panama City News Herald. Some of the personnel moving to Eglin may opt to remain in the Panama City area, Eglin spokesman Andy Bourland said. Installation officials are talking to local school districts and real estate agents about the potential impacts resulting from hundreds of additional families moving to the area.

Last week, six F-22 Raptors from Tyndall AFB's 325th Fighter Wing arrived at Eglin, the first of 31 of Tyndall's stealth fighters expected to move there.

All Military Services Get Failing Grade in First-Ever Audit of Pentagon

The first-ever audit of the of the \$2.7 trillion enterprise that is the Defense Department identified widespread problems in cybersecurity, but found little in the way of savings that could offset potential budget cuts next year, according to Pentagon and Congressional officials.

Without going into detail, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, in a statement on the report, said the audit identified "multiple material weaknesses" across the department but also provided "invaluable information that will help us target and prioritize corrective actions."

David Norquist, the Pentagon's comptroller and prime mover behind the audit, said no glaring instances of fraud were found but the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Special Operations and the Transportation Command all received failing grades.

"We didn't pass. That's the blunt and bottom line. We have issues and we're going to fix them," Norquist said.

That was to be expected in a first-time audit, Norquist told defense reporters in a Pentagon news conference shortly before the audit's release Thursday night.

"If you're not fixing it, the auditors will come back in exactly a year and find you didn't fix it," Norquist said before the report's release. "And they're going to come the next year, and the next year until you fix it, so each year I'll be able to tell you how many findings we closed."

F-35 Update

Word is circulating that Congressional backers of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter are tired of boosting the program on their own and are pressuring the Pentagon to request more of them in its new fiscal 2020 budget.

"In a letter to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis obtained by POLITICO, Congressional F-35 Caucus co-chairmen Reps. John Larson (D-Conn.) and Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) admonished the Pentagon for not requesting more of the fifth-generation fighters in recent years, leaving Congress the heavy lifting of funding the program."

CRS issues a series of defense primers: The Congressional Research Service has issued a series of updated primers ahead of the new Congress on the defense budget.

Florida in the News

1.) [Military's push for solar backup power loses speed under Trump](#)

McClatchy's: November 28, 2018

Camp Lejeune's 55,000 shiny solar panels, like other renewable energy projects on military bases across the country, are on the front lines of a plan to provide backup power in case terrorists, cyber saboteurs or violent weather cripple the nation's electric grid.

But President Donald Trump has all but eradicated the words "renewable energy" from the agenda and, according to two former Pentagon officials, slowed progress toward upgrading emergency electricity supplies at bases like Camp Lejeune.

Now it's no longer clear that the Pentagon will make use of all of the solar farms installed both to combat global warming and to enhance national security at U.S. installations here and abroad.

McClatchy gathered data on more than 70 bases that have partnered with electric utilities in solar energy projects that were part of an effort toward replacing decades-old backup systems relying on costly and sometimes unreliable diesel generators.

Only a couple of dozen bases, mainly small ones, have so far incorporated their solar projects into new, computer-commanded configurations known as “microgrids,” as experts recommend. Microgrids blend and distribute energy from multiple resources to provide reliable emergency power at less cost.

A microgrid could include large-scale battery storage and any of a range of options, including solar, natural gas, diesel generators, biomass, wind turbines, geothermal, hydrogen-based fuel cells and even small-module nuclear reactors. If any of these sources failed or needs replenishing, the computer program would instantly switch to another.

“I am concerned, and I am frustrated,” said Dennis McGinn, a retired admiral who as an assistant Navy secretary managed both that service’s and many of the Marine Corps’ energy needs during Obama’s second term. Progress, he said, “has slowed down,” even while private-sector technology is leaping ahead.

After Hurricane Florence’s tropical winds and days-long deluge hammered Camp Lejeune last month, knocking out power for days, the rows of solar panels installed by Duke Energy were useless. On a normal day, they feed Duke’s other customers in and around Jacksonville, N.C. Three years after its activation, the system was not yet fully wired so its electricity could be redirected to the base during an emergency. As a precaution a few days before Florence hit, Duke turned off the solar project that converts photons in the sun’s rays to electricity, in case flooding or other conditions might make it a safety hazard, company spokesman Randy Wheelless said.

Lejeune and the nearby Marine Air Station at Cherry Point, N.C.. relied on their diesel generators to ride out days of post-Florence power outages.

The rising risks to the U.S. electric grid in recent years have awakened the Pentagon to the possibility that a lengthy outage could paralyze military bases if their backup diesel generators, most of which experts say are poorly maintained, perform poorly. The cyber threat is now so great that federal agencies must contend with tens of thousands of incidents each year. Last March, a government alert revealed the FBI and Department of Homeland Security had detected that “Russian government cyber actors” had gained “remote access” to U.S. energy sector networks.

“What the Army has recognized is that there is an increasing possibility of a longer event,” said Executive Director Michael McGhee of the Army Office of Energy Initiatives. “There is now sophistication among people who want to do harm to the power grid.”

Further, the catastrophic damage from Hurricanes Sandy, Harvey, Florence and Michael on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts since 2012 could be a harbinger of worse onslaughts to

come. Scientists warn that seas warming from climate change will produce ever stronger hurricanes in the years ahead.

Trump: End 'war on coal'

While President Barack Obama beckoned the military services to each help fight global warming by adding carbon-free renewable energy equal to the output of a large nuclear power plant, Trump repeatedly dismissed climate change as “a hoax” during his presidential campaign. After his election, he vowed to end Obama’s “war on coal.”

Last May 17, Trump repealed a 2015 Obama executive order directing federal agencies to help fight global warming over the next decade by cutting energy consumption 25 percent and using renewable sources to meet 30 percent of each building’s energy needs.

Trump issued his own executive order that set a government-wide objective of reaching energy “sustainability,” but scrapped Obama’s numerical goals. Only once did Trump’s order mention the words “renewable energy,” in pledging to comply with a law requiring its use.

2. Military Sees Climate Change as Growing Threat

RTO Insider- November 26, 2018

When Hurricane Michael’s 130-mph winds flattened a swath of the Florida Panhandle in October, Tyndall Air Force Base saw its marina destroyed, power lines downed and all of its hangars and 17 of the base’s \$339 million F-22 Raptors damaged.

With the base facing potentially several years of repairs, the 95th Fighter Squadron’s F-22s and 36 airmen were moved to bases in Virginia, Alaska and Hawaii, at least temporarily.

The hurricane was the latest example of the severe weather that scientists say will occur increasingly in the future because of climate change. Although Commander in Chief Donald Trump has dismissed climate change as a threat, the Defense Department has been planning for it since at least 1977, when the Army Corps of Engineers’ Institute for Water Resources conducted its first study. The first National Conference on Climate Change and Water Resources Management, which the corps took part in, was held in 1991. (See related stories, Military not Waiting for Trump’s Resilience ‘Solution’ and US Climate Report Spells out Coming Challenges to Industry.)

Crews repair power lines at Tyndall Air Force Base after Hurricane Michael hit the Florida Panhandle in October. U.S. Air Force
Frank Rusco, who oversees the Government Accountability Office’s work on a variety of federal government energy programs, credited the department’s “mission-readiness focus.”

“In terms of resilience and responding to climate change, they’re definitely a leader. They have been thinking about these things deeply and for a long time because they want to [protect] their supply lines, their fire capacity, their infrastructure,” he said in an interview. “Other agencies, if that’s their business, like [the Federal Emergency Management Agency], of course, they’re thinking about it. ... And [for] a lot of other agencies probably that’s pretty far from their radar screen.”

October’s hurricane wasn’t the first severe storm to damage DOD facilities. In 2012, storm surge from Hurricane Sandy destroyed almost 8 miles of water and sewer piping at Naval Weapons Station Earle, N.J., resulting in a one-month disruption of service and causing an estimated \$24 million in damage.

In 2013, Fort Irwin, Calif. experienced three power outages within 45 days as a result of flash floods from extreme rain events. U.S. Army

In 2013, Fort Irwin, Calif., experienced three power outages within 45 days as a result of flash floods from extreme rain events.

In at least two instances — Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., after Hurricane Andrew (1992) and Langley Air Force Base, Va., after Hurricane Isabel (2003) — storm damage has been severe enough to cripple operational missions for a time.

In addition, thawing permafrost, melting sea ice and rising sea levels have increased erosion at several Air Force radar early warning and communication installations on the Alaskan coast, damaging infrastructure, including utilities. As one example of the potential costs, the Air Force spent \$46.8 million to repair erosion to the Cape Lisburne Long Range Radar Station’s 5,450-linear-foot rock seawall, which protects the base’s airstrip from waves.

The Air Force spent \$46.8 million to repair erosion to the rock seawall at the Cape Lisburne Long Rand Radar Station, Alaska, which protects its airstrip from waves.

U.S. Air Force

Melting Arctic sea ice also has created a new venue for potential international conflicts, opening the region to shipping, oil and gas drilling and mining. Russia has increased its military presence in the region.

More ominously, DOD strategists say climate change could exacerbate regional tensions, with conflicts over scarce water resources and climate-driven mass migrations leading to increased terrorism and other conflicts.

“Climate change is impacting stability in areas of the world where our troops are operating today,” Defense Secretary James Mattis told the Senate Armed Services Committee in written testimony early this year. “It is appropriate for the combatant

commands to incorporate drivers of instability that impact the security environment in their areas into their planning.”

Retired U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Stephen Cheney said a four-year drought that caused crop failures was one of the contributors to the Syrian Civil War.

“Syria’s civil war is a poster child for climate change as a national security threat,” Cheney, CEO of the national security think tank the American Security Project, told Congressional Quarterly.

Defense locations facing multiple risks from climate change | Department of Defense Congress Balks

Members of Congress have resisted Trump administration efforts to downplay the threats. In July, 34 Democratic and 10 Republican members of Congress signed a letter to Mattis expressing concern over a Washington Post report that the administration was attempting to scrub references to “climate change” from DOD’s annual, congressionally mandated report on the subject. The Post reported that all but one of 23 references to “climate change” contained in a December 2016 draft were deleted or changed to “extreme weather” or “climate” in the final report submitted to Congress in January.

In its 2018 defense bill, Congress required each service to report their 10 bases most vulnerable to climate change.

For the climate change report released in January, DOD surveyed more than 3,500 defense installations worldwide on whether they had experienced effects from climate risks. More than half said they had, with many citing multiple risks. Drought was the most cited impact (782) followed by wind (763) and non-storm surge related flooding (706). Others cited extreme temperatures (351), flooding from storm surge (225) and wildfires (210).

One of the biggest concerns for military planners is the world’s largest naval base in Norfolk, Va., where most of the land surrounding the installation is less than 10 feet above sea level. The U.S. expects sea level in the region to rise to between 2.5 and 11.5 feet by 2100. The Navy is concerned about a loss of military readiness when sailors and other employees living off-base are unable to reach work because of flooding. Norfolk city officials estimate improving storm water pipes, flood walls, tide gates and pumping stations will cost hundreds of millions; some residents may have to abandon their homes.

GAO Findings

A 2014 GAO report said that while DOD had begun developing sea-level-rise scenarios for 704 coastal locations, it had not set milestones for completing the tasks (GAO-14-446). It also reported that department planners lacked guidance beyond current building codes for how they should incorporate climate change into construction and renovation

programs. It said base officials rarely propose climate change adaptation projects because the services' funding processes did not include climate change in the criteria used to rank potential projects.

In November 2017, GAO reported that DOD had implemented one recommendation and had taken steps toward implementing the remaining two recommendations from its 2014 findings (GAO-18-206).

The new report added six more recommendations, "including that DOD require overseas installations to systematically track costs associated with climate impacts; re-administer its vulnerability assessment survey to include all relevant sites; integrate climate change adaptation into relevant standards; and include climate change adaptation in host-nation agreements.

2.) [At Southcom, Mattis Sees Stability in Western Hemisphere](#)

US News and World Report: November 26, 2018

Defense Secretary James Mattis said Monday that the U.S. military brings stability to most of Latin America through its operations run across the hemisphere by the Miami-based Southern Command.

Mattis spoke Monday at a ceremony appointing Navy Adm. Craig Faller as new leader of the command that oversees U.S. military operations in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is also responsible for security of the Panama Canal and the naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In brief remarks, Mattis said the Western Hemisphere is not as chaotic and prone to conflict as much of the world because of strong U.S. military alliances and cooperation with most of the 31 nations in the region.

"There is more in this hemisphere that binds us together than drives us apart," Mattis said. "Our hemisphere's military forces can be stabilizing forces."

Mattis singled out Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua as countries in the Southern Command where democracy is either under threat or nonexistent.

"Their people deserve better," he said.

Mattis did not mention the caravan of mostly Central American migrants attempting to seek asylum in the U.S. But the outgoing Southern Command leader, Navy Adm. Kurt Tidd, said the caravan is an example of the kind of challenges the U.S. military faces in the Western Hemisphere, along with international criminal organizations, terrorism threats, powerful hurricanes and drug trafficking.

"We have to be more attentive to the threats in this hemisphere. What affects one, affects all," Tidd said, adding that lawlessness and high crime in some countries "are the drivers of migration from Central America."

Also attending Monday's event was Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He did not speak to the audience.

According to his Navy biography, Faller most recently served as senior military assistant to Mattis. He has previously led forces in support of U.S. operations in the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Faller, a native of Fryburg, Pennsylvania, now leads a Southern Command headquarters that boasts about 1,200 military and civilian personnel from all armed services. Military operations include bases in Florida, Arizona and Texas.

"As I see it, the Western Hemisphere is our neighborhood," Faller said. ""Our bonds are permanent and we will work tirelessly to build that trust."

Attachments:

1. Report on Transportation Infrastructure Critical to Eastern Range Spacelift Operations, October 2018
2. National Defense Commission report

Air Force Input

One of several key topics of the FY20 defense budget debate will likely be the creation of a separate Space Force or service. In September, the Air Force estimated the cost to create this separate service would cost some \$13B (over five years, and including the cost of a new headquarters facility). Todd Harrison wrote in an opinion piece in *The Hill* on Nov 27th that he estimates the five-year cost would be between \$1.5B and \$2.7B. Harrison further wrote that the cost, while not unimportant, was not the principle factor in establishing a separate service. He opined that creating a separate space service would a) correct fragmented authorities and responsibilities, b) create viable career paths for military and civilian space professionals and c) establish a consistent advocate for national security space policy, organization, training and equipment. Whatever Congress decides, I believe it bodes well for Florida's Space Coast and the "space piece" of defense and aerospace industries.

ADM Craig Faller took command of US Southern Command from retiring ADM Kurt Tidd on Nov 26th. We expect, but have yet to confirm, that ADM Faller will sustain command emphasis on housing as US Army Garrison-Miami's top installation priority.

Air Force Context

1. Marilyn Hewson, CEO of Lockheed Martin, stated on 28 Nov that she believes that development of hypersonic weapons is still a “funding priority” for Congress and the Defense Department. The Air Force currently has two such programs of record, the Hypersonic Conventional Strike Weapon and the Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon. This technology will require vast airspace ranges to test and train.

Installation Specific Notes

1. HARB. Homestead’s 482d Fighter Wing has a new wing commander, new vice wing commander and new Mission Support Group commander. Larry Ventura requested that I visit HARB again soon to help him and the new commander develop an “installation strategic plan.”
2. Tyndall AFB. Additional pre-Michael missions are returning. The live air-to-air missile program, “Combat Archer,” will resume at Tyndall in early December. This two-week air-to-air Weapons System Evaluation Program is scheduled for December 3-14 and will include F-22 and F-35 missile live-fires at QF-16 drones operated by Tyndall’s 82d Aerial Targets Squadron in the eastern Gulf Ranges airspace. The F-22 training continues to operate from Tyndall (academics and simulators) and Eglin (flight ops). No official word on return of the wing’s currently-dispersed, operational F-22 squadron, the 95th Fighter Squadron.
3. Patrick AFB and Cape Canaveral AFS. Excellent visit there earlier this month.
 - a. Host 45th Space Wing pushing for 48 annual space launches, expect 24 in 2018 and 30 in 2019. Commander appreciates strong community support, operationally looks east and, if needed, south over Cuba for launch airspace – but no major access / airspace concerns. He did mention sea level rise as a concern.
 - b. 920th Rescue Wing (Air Force Reserve), like most reserve units, wants to stay in place as it is “critical to retention and recruiting.” He mentioned frequent use of Avon Park ranges, and wants to use them more. They received MILCON for their C-130 hangar and will soon receive new aircraft simulators.
 - c. Naval Ordnance Test Unit has a growing mission with new boats and missiles. Commander is very concerned about encroachment pressure, especially from Port Canaveral.
 - d. Air Force Technical Applications Center is a one-of-a-kind organization that pre-dates the Air Force. It conducts nuclear assessments around the globe, employing seismic, atmospheric air sampling and other sensors on behalf of USG, USAF and several allies. Their half-civilian and highly educated workforce is aging; commander needs to recruit skilled scientists and engineers.
4. Avon Park Air Force Range. Worked an ongoing solar farm development and potential airspace encroachment issue with Avon Park team, development authority, Homestead ARB and Air Force Reserve Command. Will continue to

monitor but initial assessment is that the development will not negatively affect flight training or operations.

Navy Issues

Military Services/Programs – While Hurricane Michael severely damaged Tyndall AFB, the Naval Support Activity Panama City came through with only a few scratches, by comparison. It seems as if its tenants also fared pretty well, again in comparison, with infrastructure intact *for the most part*. The installation sent most of its personnel to NAS Pensacola in the aftermath of the storm, as did Tyndall, but the Command leadership of NSA PC “worked nonstop assessing the storm damage that brought operations...to a halt.” None of the 49 houses on the base sustained serious damage. Winds knocked down hundreds of trees but in a direction that only resulted in a few breaches of the base perimeter. Roads have been cleared, thanks to the Gulfport SeaBees. Need for repairs to the water system have been identified. Electricity, phone service, computer networks returned to normal. Families are returning.

- The Naval Diving and Salvage Training center is operational but not expected to resume its full schedule until January.
- The Naval Surface Warfare Center will experience unavoidable delays in its work while repairs are made to its 12 buildings.
- The Coast Guard sustained major losses, but the station and its four vessels escaped crippling damage and are back to full operations.
- The Navy Expeditionary Diving Unit, a unique tenant, avoided major storm damage.
- Navy commands throughout Florida, as well as Bay County, Panama City, and Panama City Beach governments were cited for their extraordinary assistance by the Base Commander.

1. **Other Federal activities/impacts** – Not far from NSA Panama City, to the East, is Springfield, FL in Bay County. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos visited the site of the new “Cedarfield” campus which incorporated elementary schools from Cedar Grove and Springfield, the latter devastated by Hurricane Michael. DeVos was accompanied by Congressman Neal Dunn with the purpose of seeing the damage first hand. She opined that recovery would come through the state’s department of education, and Congress if they can pass a Hurricane recovery bill. Dunn’s for action. There is significant concern for job stability in the classrooms. Without stabilized FTE funding, they are “going to start losing teaching positions and administrators” They are waiting for a FEMA process to come up with \$50M to rebuild Tyndall Elementary and another \$50M for repairs to several other schools in the area. Devos and her escorts held a round table discussion at Rutherford High School and basically said folks had to “work through the state

agency.” The longer it takes to receive aid, the harder it will be to put it all back together.

Team Orlando

The 2018 IITSEC convention concluded this report period. As predicted, there was a tremendous turn out from Industry, academia and government alike. This year was sponsored by the Navy, NAWCTSD specifically. In my view there was an increased dialogue about the 2019/2020 defense budget in every forum as it pertains to the anticipated 2020 budget decrease of approx. \$30 billion. The Modeling and Simulation community used this year’s conference to renew and showcase the cost savings aspect of training with simulations in the face of a continued BCA and / or reduced budget. The uniformed service reps at the conference were equally keen to see and touch cost saving and effective MS&T solutions. Next report will include the IITSEC after action comments and statistics compiled by NTSA.

The Team Orlando leased space movement into non-leased space continues. This remains a key item being tracked and assisted where appropriate by the NCS and UCF. It is confirmed that the USAF will establish the 2 Network Op Centers inside the Team Orlando provided space along with the expansion of PEO STRI, arrival of the new Cross Functional Team, (STE), in Orlando.

Community Liaison notes

Coordinated with SpaceCoast community team and supported November TPG visit. Trip included visits/briefings to and by: 45th Space Wing CO, 920th Rescue Wing CO, AFTAC Leadership, NOTU CO, Community leaders. Working with Gen Spears to begin planning Jan 16 – 17 Team visit to South Florida Defense Alliance and SOUTHCOM

SpaceCoast Visit Takeaways

Bullet Point Takeaways

- 45th Space Wing
 - Goal is 24 launches this year and 30 next year
 - ‘Drive for 48’ is stated goal for annual launch rate
 - Astronauts to launch in 2019
 - Post-hurricane funding seems OK
 - CO would like a P4 Conference Center
 - Rising seas a real issue

- 920th Rescue Wing
 - Wing owns 12% of AF rescue capacity
 - Critical for Wing to stay at Patrick due to reserve nature and retaining strength

- New maintenance hangar due in FY20
- C130 J simulators supposed to be coming
- Strong user of Avon Park
- Avon Park needs more billeting
- Rising seas an issue

- AFTAC (Air Force Technical Application Center)
 - 3000 sensors around the globe---and beyond
 - Newer 135s due
 - 1100 staff - 50/50 mil/civ
 - Lots of budget autonomy
 - Aging workforce a critical issue
 - Spousal certification an issue in recruiting talent
 - CO mentioned Utah Model. Local EDC to follow up
 - Per TPG suggestion, they like the idea of connecting with Team Orlando. George Cheros at Team Orlando given copy of AFTAC brief by TPG.

- NOTU (Naval Ordnance Training Unit)
 - Busy unit and growing-----Submarine missile training and T&E
 - Due to increase from 1300 to 2300 personnel over next ten years
 - New generation of sub missiles will mean new testing
 - Occupy 20% of Cape Canaveral but squeezed for space to grow
 - Many facilities old and corrosion an issue
 - Long range growth plan needs advocacy
 - Good TPG opportunity
 - Encroachment a very real concern
 - Port growth an issue



The Principi Group

Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period December 1-31, 2018

Functional Area: (Congressional Review)

1. Washington Insights

We are now two weeks into a partial government shutdown, but defense should be little affected. As debate plays out between Administration and Congress over FY19 funding for rest of the Federal the government and the border wall, defense continues to build its 2020 budget for next year.

The big news this past month for the defense world is that Secretary of Defense James Mattis has resigned and Deputy Secretary Shanahan has been named acting Secretary for the foreseeable future. Mattis' resignation letter:

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/5655955-Secretary-Mattis-resignation-letter.html>

As many remember in 2013 the federal government shut down for 16 days. That shutdown differs significantly from the shutdown this year, as there were no appropriations bills that were signed that provided funds for 2014.¹ Unlike in 2013, roughly 75% of the federal government has already been funded for fiscal year (FY) 2019, including, among other things, the legislative branch. However, departments and agencies that face potential funding shortfalls are busy undergoing their “shutdown procedures,” a process by which they categorize certain employees as “excepted²”—meaning they must continue to work during the shutdown – and those that are “non-excepted,” leaving them furloughed.³ Also, as part of the shutdown, certain departments and agencies may have sufficient resources to continue operations for a period of time, even though they are not receiving any additional funding.⁴

¹ The “Pay Our Military Act” that was signed on September 30, 2013, provided for funding of the military in the event of a government shutdown.

² This term used to be “essential,” but there was concern that determining some employees as “essential” while others were not would decrease morale; thus the term was changed to “excepted” as defined under the Anti-deficiency Act.

³ Essential employees are required to work but will not receive pay until the federal government is funded. Those employees deemed “non-essential” have historically been paid retroactively for the time that the government was shut down.

⁴ For example, the Environmental Protection Agency had about 4 additional days of funding during the shutdown in January 2018.

In fact, the biggest drawback of a funding impasse is that Congress won't be able to address a number of issues that were set to be included in a year-end government funding bill that will now drift into next year or fade entirely. By failing to close the loop on those measures, Congress is forced to punt urgent issues into next year.

CURRENT STATUS

Authorization laws signed:

- Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019 (September 21, 2018)
- Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (September 30, 2019)

Departments and agencies already funded for fiscal year (FY) 2019 include⁵:

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Labor
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior⁶
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Social Security Administration

The following departments and agencies have not been funded and are affected by the Federal government shutdown.⁷

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of the Interior
- Department of State
- Department of the Treasury
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Communications Commission
- General Services Administration
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Justice
- Department of Transportation
- District of Columbia
- Executive Office of the President
- Food and Drug Administration
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- U.S. Postal Service

⁵ There are several smaller agencies that were also funded through the authorized legislation stated above.

⁶ The Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Project were funded as part of the Energy and Water Development division of the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019. The other major parts of the Department of the Interior have not yet been funded.

⁷ While not a Department or agency, the Judiciary and Washington, D.C. have also not yet been funded.

Here is how a shutdown affects various services:

Service	Status	Rationale
Military	Still provided	Already funded
Social Security Benefits	Still provided	Already funded
Medicare	Still provided	Already funded
Veterans benefits	Still provided	Already funded
Flights (TSA, Air Traffic Control)	Still provided (mostly)	Essential function
Federal prisons and border control	Still provided	Essential function
Post Office	Still provided	Self-funded
Food Stamps	Still provided	Essential function
Head Start Programs	Still provided	Already funded
National parks	Partially available Services at those parks may be limited (e.g., no trash pickup)	To the extent prior funds are still available. Open air national parks remain open
Smithsonian	Partially available	Until prior funds are depleted
Metro and metrobus	Still provided	Essential function
Food inspection	Still provided	Essential function
D.C. Services (e.g., trash pickup)	Likely provided	In 2013, the mayor of D.C. deemed all employees “essential” to continue to provide all services

TPG View:

Secretary Principi, General Huntoon and I had a good, frank discussion with Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz. Worth passing along are the questions she posed to us and to which we responded:

- *How involved was the Florida Defense Support Task Force in the discussions that led to Secretary Wilson’s announcement last Friday that Tyndall will be the home to three F-35 squadrons?*
- *Are you actively encouraging Members on both sides of the aisle to support supplemental funding for Tyndall?*

- *One of your charges is to assist bases in meeting Department of Defense renewable energy goals. How that is going and how do Florida bases compare to others around the country with respect to meeting renewable energy goals?*
- *What are the top items that I can help you with as the Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs?*
- *What is being done at the state level to improve support for military families and veterans with regard to education, health care, employment and family programs?*

Rep. Wasserman Shultz is now Chairwoman of House MilCon/VA appropriations. She expressed that she plans to be very active supporting military installations of Florida. She asked for our help with specifics.

On December 19th, General Huntoon and I had a meeting with Rep. Stephanie Murphy. Another frank discussion with a member of the House Armed Services Committee. She wanted more, engaged interaction with FDSTF going forward. Moratorium on the MML was discussed and she understands the mandatory spending concerns with extending the moratorium..

a. Budgets

Latest news: [Trump embraces \\$750B for defense](#)

Politico- December 10, 2018

“President Donald Trump has told Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to submit a \$750 billion budget proposal for fiscal 2020, in a reversal from his pledge to trim defense spending, two people familiar with the budget negotiations have told POLITICO.

“The \$750 billion figure emerged from a meeting last Tuesday at the White House between Trump, Mattis and the Republican chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, both people said.”

The plan comes after Pentagon officials scrapped a \$700 billion proposal they had been working on to meet 5 percent cuts ordered by the president, add Connor O’Brien and Wesley.

Most analysts expect the two parties to negotiate another two-year budget deal to loosen the spending caps, which extend through FY 2021. For now, the outcome of that negotiation is unknown, but the most likely outcome, regardless of the results of the midterms, still appears to be a deal which provides increases for both domestic and defense spending.

TPG View: Still our view that we can expect flat to modest 1-2% growth. Latest Presidential statement about \$750 billion for FY2020 is interesting, but does not speak

for what House Democrats will want. The President himself called it a negotiating position.

b. Congressional Defense Committees

INHOFE OUTLINES HIS PRIORITIES

In his first official speech as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) outlined his six priorities for the committee moving forward.

First, he said, the National Defense Strategy will “serve as a blueprint” for everything the committee does. Though he spent eight years on the House Armed Services Committee and 24 hours in SASC, Inhofe said the bipartisan strategy is the best he’s ever seen. “Everyone varnishes the truth around this country and they don’t let people know the real threat out there,” but the NDS clearly warns that America is losing its advantage, Inhofe said.

His second priority is to rebuild readiness and the third is to modernize US forces to prepare for the renewed great power competition.

For the Air Force, he said, this means modernizing its fighter, bomber, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance fleets. As the US has spent the last two decades focused on counter terrorism operations, China and Russia have used that time to modernize their own forces. “Unfortunately, they’ve been doing a good job,” Inhofe said. “They are doing things better than we can do it and America’s military advantage has eroded in key warfighting areas such as power projection, cyber, space, electronic warfare, air and missile defense, submarine warfare, long-range ground-based fires,” he said.

Inhofe said he also wants to see increased investments in “key technologies,” such as artificial intelligence, quantum science, and hypersonics.

Fourth, the US must care for its service members, which he said includes everything from educating military children to quality medical care. Fifth, SASC will remain focused on defense and acquisition reform. And finally, he said, “all of these priorities require resources,” so the committee will remain committed to “returning to strategy-driven” defense budgets.

Hearings

On December 11th, 2018 the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the Department of Defense’s Artificial Intelligence Structure, Investments, and Applications. Witnesses for the hearing included [Dr. Lisa Porter](#), Deputy Undersecretary of Defense For Research and Engineering, Department of Defense and [Mr. Dana Deasy](#), Chief Information Officer, Department of Defense.

On December 12th, the house Armed Services Committee held a hearing on the Security Clearance Processing Status Report. Witnesses for the hearing included [Mr. Garry Reid](#), Director for Defense Intelligence, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for

Intelligence; Mr. Dan Payne, Director, Defense Security Service and [Mr. Charles Phalen](#), Director, National Background Investigations Bureau.

On December 12th, 2018 the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on United States Navy and Marine Corps Readiness. Witnesses included [Honorable Richard V. Spencer](#), Secretary of the Navy; [General Robert B. Neller](#), USMC, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps; [Admiral William F. Moran](#), USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; [Mr. John H. Pendleton](#), Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, United States Government Accountability Office.

Asked about the order, John Pendleton, a director for defense capabilities and management, said it would be “difficult to achieve.”

Nominations

DoD taps new head of Air Force Materiel Command

“The Air Force’s top uniformed acquisition official has been tapped to pin on his fourth star and take the reins of Air Force Materiel Command,”

“Lt. Gen. Arnold Bunch has served as military deputy of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition since 2015.”

Trump Taps Milley for Next Joint Chiefs Chairman

In a tweet, President Trump said he would nominate Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. If confirmed, Milley would succeed Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, who has served in the position since September 2015. Despite Trump’s early announcement, Dunford is expected to remain in place through September 2019 when his term expires, according to a DOD spokesman.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs is one of several military leadership posts slated to turn over next year, including Adm. John Richardson as the chief of naval operations, Gen. Robert Neller as commandant of the Marine Corps, and Air Force Gen. Paul Selva as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, reports Military Times. President Trump also will need to select someone to replace GEN Milley as Army Chief.

c. Pentagon Perspectives

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

[Air Force Proposes F-35 Fighters Be Stationed at Tyndall](#)

Military.com- December 7, 2018

The U.S. Air Force plans to refurbish Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, in hopes of stationing three squadron's worth of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters at the base in the near future, officials announced Friday.

The service is recommending that Congress use "supplemental funding for rebuilding the base to prepare to receive the F-35 fighter at the north Florida installation," officials said in a release.

"We have recommended that the best path forward to increase readiness and use money wisely is to consolidate the operational F-22s formerly at Tyndall in Alaska, Hawaii and Virginia, and make the decision now to put the next three squadrons of F-35s beyond those for which we have already made decisions at Tyndall," said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson.

The move would also help boost the number of F-22 aircraft that have been reassigned from Tyndall to other bases amid Tyndall's reconstruction. Squadrons may have the opportunity to plus-up their operational F-22 squadrons from "21 to 24 assigned aircraft," the release said, which may help the stifling fleet.

In July, the Government Accountability Office said the F-22 is frequently underutilized, mainly due to maintenance challenges and fewer opportunities for pilot training, as well as the fleet's inefficient organizational structure.

If Congress approves the decision and supplemental funding is allocated, the F-35 could be based at Tyndall beginning in 2023, Wilson said. The service added that basing already announced in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin "will not be affected by this decision."

The Air Force in recent weeks announced it would relocate its Tyndall F-22 stealth fighter fleet, dividing the aircraft between Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, after Hurricane Michael severely damaged the base in October.

[Navy Plans to Deactivate F-35s at Eglin Air Force Base](#)
Military.com- December 12, 2018

The U.S. Navy is set to deactivate its F-35 Lightning II squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and plans to move operations to Naval Air Station Lemoore, centralizing its Joint Strike Fighter operations out west.

Strike Fighter Squadron 101 (VFA-101), known as the Grim Reapers, will move to the California naval base because it is "the center of the universe for the F-35C," as current and future operational squadrons are set to be based out of Lemoore, said Cmdr. Ron Flanders, spokesman for Naval Air Forces.

"The Navy is moving forward with the deactivation of VFA-101 at Eglin Air Force Base next year, and the re-alignment of F-35C assets into strike fighter squadrons to support VX-9 Detachment Edwards Air Force Base, Naval Aviation Warfare Development Center (NAWDC) at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada, and maintain Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) production at VFA-125, while transitioning Navy

and Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornet squadrons to the F-35C Lightning II," Flanders said in a statement Tuesday. Defense News first reported the move on Dec. 7.

NAS Lemoore is home to Strike Fighter Squadron 125, a replacement squadron, as well as Strike Fighter Squadron 147 (VFA-147). VFA-147 is slated to become the Navy's first operational F-35C squadron. The service hopes to declare the F-35C initial operating capability ready in February, with VFA-147's first deployment scheduled aboard the USS Carl Vinson in 2021.

Flanders said the Grim Reapers "will not be disestablished," the squadron will just be placed in a reserve capacity until the transition is complete.

For some time, Eglin Air Force Base had been expecting that the Navy -- like the Marine Corps -- would leave the base, officials previously told Military.com.

Florida in the News

Florida Lawmakers Urge Congress to Support Request for \$2B to Begin Rebuilding Tyndall AFB

Florida's two senators and the congressman representing the area neighboring Tyndall AFB last week asked House and Senate appropriators to support the Air Force's request for \$2 billion to repair buildings that can be saved after Hurricane Michael swept through the installation in October and begin the planning necessary to rebuild other facilities. "We urge you to support the amount requested by the Air Force to fulfill immediate requirements to the sum of \$2 billion," Sens. Marco Rubio (R) and Bill Nelson (D) and Rep. Neal Dunn (R) wrote the chairman and ranking members of both chambers' Appropriations committees.

"Half of this urgent need would allow Tyndall to salvage what buildings can be saved, make repairs, and begin the planning and design necessary to follow the military construction requirements to ensure Congress can adequately justify the funding. The other half of this amount would cover costs relating to personnel reassignments as the recovery progress continues, and the cost of sending the F-22 Raptors to other locations to ensure the Air Force mission is not impacted. This funding is needed now," the delegation stated.

The letter highlighted the Air Force's long-term plan to replace Tyndall's operational F-22 unit with three F-35 squadrons starting in 2023. "Basing F-35s at Tyndall in the wake of hurricane damage allows the Air Force to use recovery funds to rebuild the base in a tailored way to accommodate the unique needs of the F-35," the lawmakers wrote.

[Florida-based fighter jets coming to join Alaska air force following hurricane](#)

KTUU December 12th, 2018

Military officials are recommending that a portion of fighter jets from Florida should come up to Anchorage, citing that the planes are still operational and need to go elsewhere.

The operational F-22 Raptors, which were formerly housed at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, will now be moved to other operational bases across the country, including at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, according to a news release issued by Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan.

In the release, Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, said, "We have recommended that the best path forward to increase readiness and use money wisely is to consolidate the operational F-22s formerly at Tyndall in Alaska, Hawaii and Virginia, and make the decision now to put the next three squadrons of F-35s beyond those for which we have already made decisions at Tyndall."

The need to move the planes stems from Hurricane Michael, which hit the gulf coast on Oct. 10, damaging a reported 95 percent of the facilities at Tyndall AFB, including the base's hangars and flights operations buildings.

Sullivan called the hurricane "a tragedy that caused catastrophic damage to Tyndall."

"Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson stands ready to support additional F-22s, and Alaskans stand proud in welcoming our new airmen and their families to our great state," Sullivan said in a statement.

[New Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army appointed](#)

Army.mil- December 10, 2018

The U.S. Army appointed its newest Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) Dec. 3 during an investment ceremony here in the Pentagon.

The Honorable Dr. Mark T. Esper, Secretary of the Army, selected retired Brig. Gen. Thomas P. "Patt" Maney to represent Florida (North), and selected retired Brig. Gen. Mabry E. "Bud" Martin to represent North Carolina (West).

"It is my distinct privilege to invest Bud and Patt into the CASA program," Esper said. "Their background in the military and in the business and public sectors have proven them to be accomplished leaders. I have no doubt each will do great things for our Army family."

CASAs are a vital part of the Army, promoting good relations between the Army and the public and advising the Secretary about regional issues.

Each state, the District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories have one or more CASAs appointed to provide a vital link between the Army and the communities for which they serve. CASAs are usually business or civic leaders who possess a keen interest in the welfare of the Army and their communities.

CASAs serve a two-year term without compensation. Terms may be extended to a total of 10 years of service. The secretary may recognize a civilian aide as a CASA Emeritus after 10 years of service with distinguished service.

Thomas P. "Patt" Maney

"I am blessed to have had successful dual careers of service as an Okaloosa County Court judge for 29 years and as an Army Reservist for almost 37 years, eight and a half of which were active duty," Maney said. "The education and experience of each career contributed to success in the other. I am honored to again have the opportunity to serve North Florida, its soldiers and their families in implementing Secretary Esper's priorities."

A combat wounded veteran, Maney's North Florida military community contacts are extensive given his long service and command of Pensacola's 350th Civil Affairs Command and service on the Florida Defense Support Task Force. He said his deployment experiences in Bosnia and Afghanistan made him acutely aware of challenges facing veterans and their families.

As a judge, he started Florida's first Veterans Treatment Court, championed local military history and monuments, recruited establishment of a Vet Center, and actively supported southeast Army units, families, and veterans. Selected for the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, he serves on the Supreme Court's Steering Committee on Problem Solving Courts; the Mid Bay Bridge Authority; Board of Control for Southern Regional Education; and the Veterans Administration secretary's Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans.

[Offshore drilling still a threat despite constitution ban, environmentalists argue](#)
Pensacola News Journal- November 18, 2018

Although Floridians voted overwhelmingly earlier this month to amend the state's constitution and ban offshore drilling in Florida waters, environmentalists warn the state remains at risk of federally controlled waters being opened to drilling.

"We enjoyed a really big win on election day when 70 percent of Floridians voted to ban offshore drilling in public waters," said Hunter Miller, Florida spokesman for environmental nonprofit Oceana.

The amendment prohibits oil and gas exploration or extraction in state waters, which extend three miles off the Atlantic Coast and nine miles off the Gulf Coast.

"It sent a strong message that Florida doesn't want dirty and dangerous drilling operations," Miller said.

Look back on the BP oil spill: A comprehensive look back at the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

But the federal government is not bound by the Florida Constitution. The Trump Administration is expected to announce its updated offshore drilling plan in the coming months and that has Miller worried.

Miller believes there is also a chance the oil industry could reach a deal with outgoing Republican leadership members of the U.S. House of Representatives before Democrats take control next year to expand offshore drilling.

"Communities that care about our coasts need to remain vigilant. While we cheer this victory, we know that the fight is not over," he said.

Christian Wagley of the nonprofit Gulf Restoration Network agreed.

"Amendment 9 sent a powerful message, but there continues to be a drilling threat in federal waters," he said.

U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fort Walton Beach, has opposed drilling in federal waters off the Panhandle. Gaetz did not respond to requests for comment about the environmental groups' fears of unexpected Congressional action.

Wagley said the massive 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which dumped more than 210 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico and brought globs of weathered oil to Pensacola Beach, showed drilling far from Florida can have serious consequences for the state. The oil formed a slick extending over thousands of square miles of the Gulf of Mexico, polluting an estimated 1,100 miles of shoreline. The explosion that caused the spill killed or injured more than two dozen workers. "Just because a rig isn't right off of our shores, doesn't mean it cannot affect us profoundly," he said.

Like Miller, Wagley said he is anxiously awaiting the Trump Administration's updated offshore drilling proposal.

In the past, military operations along the Panhandle have been deemed incompatible with drilling.

But Wagley said the Department of Defense and the oil and gas industry could reach a compromise to allow drilling in the eastern Gulf.

"I know there have been efforts to try and get the military to bend on that," he said. David Mica, executive director of the Florida Petroleum Council, said offshore energy doesn't have to be incompatible with military testing and training.

"Our industry currently operates in many areas that are very important to our nation's military," he said. "We need to be careful that we don't use our military operations as a red herring just to oppose oil and gas exploration and production."

And, Mica said Floridians should understand that the offshore drilling industry has come a long way since the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster.

"A lot of Floridians have that memory, but a lot of people know it is like comparing an iPhone 4 to an iPhone 10. In terms of regulatory standards and technology, our industry has never been safer than it is today," said Mica, who added that Floridians consume 28 million gallons of gas and diesel fuel each day.

Amendment 9, Mica, said was "redundant and unnecessary" because the offshore drilling ban in state waters had already been approved by the Florida Legislature.

"It has been Florida law for the last 30 years," he said.

But Wagley said the constitutional amendment sent a stronger message about how Floridians feel about offshore drilling.

"Other states have banned drilling in near-shore waters, but they have done it legislatively. This is the most solid step toward banning drilling that any state has taken. Placing the prohibition in our (state) constitution, this is a huge deal because we are the only state in the nation that has done it," he said.

Planned Actions and Activities (Next Two Weeks)

- January FDSTF Meeting in Florida
- Begin to track FY2020 Authorizations and Appropriations Build.
- Continue to engage House and Senate congressional delegation MLAs on strategic priorities.
- Meet with congressional delegation staff concerning Tyndall rebuilding, moratorium on off shore drilling in gulf.
- Miami ADC Installation Innovation Forum in March 2020

3.Military Services/Programs

US Navy

During our last conference call, the issue was raised about the number of ships in Mayport and expectations for growth. The number of 60 ships was mentioned. Attached is the current planning document for ships in Mayport by Class OUT TO fy26. While the numbers grow to 38 by FY23, that is a direct result of the Patrol Craft (PC) returning from the Middle East in preparation for their decommissioning. The ship count also reflects the new FFX that should start construction in FY20 and start delivering by FY24. It is possible that a report or rumor of growing to 60 ships in Mayport could be directly

tied to the growth to a 350-ship navy or more. Latest insights indicate that number could not be reached until at least FY40 and industry and the ship building budget will be hard pressed to meet that kind of growth line. The COLUMBIA-class submarine, the replacement for the OHIO-class, the third leg of our nuclear triad, will suck the shipbuilding budget dry. Also affecting this growth is a work force crisis, even today let alone for the future. So, expanding the Navy to meet additional ship counts is problematic. I have also attached a paper I wrote when this conversation first started. Note the additional concern for single source major suppliers. These sub-contractors that build unique, one of a kind components. They are limited in expanding their output for items such as screws, reduction gears, condensers, diesel engines, etc. 350, 355, 400...all pie in the sky. Another ARG? Absolutely! More Frigates? Of course. 60 ships? Unlikely. The previous Commanding Officer opined that he was already at his limits just for parking, not to mention housing and other support facilities.

As of 1 July 2019, Navy will deactivate its F-35C Fleet replacement squadron at Eglin AFB and move its assets to Lemoore, California. The shift will cost the Eglin area 29 officers and 239 enlisted personnel. The move is not surprising as the F-35C, like the Marine Corps F-35B version, move to Fleet concentrations.

Other Federal activities/impacts: CNO ADM John Richardson visited the Hurricane Michael damaged NSA Panama City. He came away with a positive outlook and no indication that the damage would not be rectified, and the mission sustained. Good news for the folks in that area that are still in the recovery mode.

US Air Force

DoD Context

The FY20 Defense Budget deliberations will begin in earnest under a new Congress and an acting or, perhaps, a newly-confirmed SECDEF with the President's Budget request submittal due to Congress in early February. Forecast, rumored and tweeted Defense topline for FY20 vary from \$700B to \$750B, and there are likely excursions on either side.

The future of a DoD Space Force will likely be set by the new Congress as well. Leading options include a separate department and service or a separate service under the Department of the Air Force. I don't think either construct will dramatically affect Florida.

Air Force Context

Following Hurricane Michael, Florida begins 2019 with solid indications that Tyndall AFB will be rebuilt, although likely with a different aircraft type assigned. The Air Force already disbursed the 95th Fighter Squadron and plans to permanently re-assign the Airmen and the associated operational F-22s to other F-22 wings in Virginia, Hawaii and Alaska. The AF further announced their intent (with Congressional approval) to

beddown the next three active-duty squadrons of new F-35As to Tyndall. The remaining Tyndall-based F-22s, used for formal (initial) aircrew training, will continue to operate from Eglin AFB for the near-term. The unique F-22 simulators located at Tyndall survived Michael relatively unscathed, and were quickly back in use. Most all remaining tenant missions have or will soon return to Tyndall.

Installation Specific Notes

HARB. Homestead's 482d Fighter Wing has a new wing commander, new vice wing commander and new Mission Support Group commander. The wing commander, Col Dave Piffarero, requested TPG-TSG help to develop an "installation strategic plan." I will meet with him on 15 Jan.

USA Garrison-Miami (SOUTHCOM). The Garrison Manager recently briefed ADM Faller on installation / garrison issues. Housing, vehicle toll relief and elimination of the 90- vice normal 60-day rental deposit requirement remain top installation issues.

MacDill AFB. The 927th Air Refueling Wing (Air Force Reserves) commander asked TPG-TSG support to justify "locality pay" for MacDill-based civilians and Air Reserve Technicians. I suggest we initiate this study and effort once we have the new contract.

Avon Park Air Force Range. Worked an ongoing solar farm development and potential airspace encroachment issue with Avon Park team, development authority, Homestead ARB and Air Force Reserve Command. Will continue to monitor but initial assessment is that the development will not negatively affect flight training or operations.

Planned actions

1. Meet with SOUTHCOM Deputy Commander
2. Meet with 482d Fighter Wing Commander
3. Contact NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM planners regarding the use of HARB in CONPLANS
4. Coordinate with GEN Blum on potential Jacksonville ANG visit (post contract-renewal)
5. Initiate Tampa area federal civilian employee locality pay study (post contract-renewal)

US Coast Guard

In 2018, Pensacola saw an increase in the number of Coast Guard members who call the city home with two Coast Guard cutters, the Decisive and Dauntless, being based out of NAS Pensacola. The Decisive and Dauntless each carry a crew of about 76, and the Cutter Cypress, which has been based at Pensacola since 2011, has a crew of about 48.