

JEMSO Provision in HASC Chairman's Mark of H.R. 5515

On Wednesday, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Chairman's Mark of H.R. 5515 the House version of the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was released. Its final version, combined with the final subcommittee markups, will be combined to create the final H.R. 5515. The Senate will markup their own version of the NDAA the week of May 21. Both chambers will then need to reconcile their bills to create the final FY 2019 NDAA.

In a win for the EW community, H.R. 5515 contains language similar to H.R. 5522-the Joint Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations Readiness Act (JEMSORA), which was introduced a few weeks ago by Rep. Don Bacon and endorsed by the AOC. JEMSORA called for joint campaign modeling for joint electromagnetic spectrum operations, followed by an interim report and annual reports. H.R. 5515 differs in its requirements; these are highlighted below.

Joint Campaign Modeling

The biggest difference when it comes to the joint campaign modeling section is that while JEMSORA says the Secretary of Defense "shall develop and implement a capability to conduct joint campaign modeling," (Sec. 3), H.R. 5515 says "shall develop a plan, and the estimated cost and schedule of implementing the plan," in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Sec. 1057(a)). Therefore, while a plan is required under both bills, implementing the plan is not under H.R. 5515.

The plan required under the H.R. 5515 adds Sec. 4-Assessment of Capabilities and Capacity of JEMSORA, along with language from Sec. 5(b)(3), evaluating the "sufficiency of experimentation, testing, and training infrastructure, ranges, instrumentation, and threat simulators required to support the development of electromagnetic spectrum capabilities," (H.R. 5515 Sec. 1057(a)(3)).

JEMSORA called for an interim report on the joint campaign modeling plan, followed by annual reports through 2024. H.R. 5515 calls for one report on the plan, to be completed by February 18, 2019.

Briefings

JEMSORA did not request any briefings to Congress. However, H.R. 5515 calls for two different kinds of briefings: annual briefings for the next 5 years and a one-time briefing. These briefings cover all the topics that would have been included in JEMSORA reports, with a few key additions.

Annual briefings: Required in these briefings is "an update of the governance, organizational structure, and activities of the Electronic Warfare Executive Committee of the Department of Defense," (Sec. 1057(c)(1)(A)) and "an assessment of the progress in achieving the goals and objectives described in— the current strategy for the electromagnetic spectrum warfare enterprise issued by the Executive Committee; and Department of Defense Directive 3222.04, dated May 10, 2017," (Sec. 1057(c)(1)(B)(iii)).



One-Time Briefing: As part of the one-time briefing, there will be "an update on the progress of the Department in implementing the pilot program authorized by section 234 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017," (Sec. 1057(d)(1)(A)). This is the pilot program that allows the use of sustainment funds for modernization on EW systems.

Omissions

The entire second section of JEMSORA is eliminated. This was the findings section. Sections like this tend to be removed when individual bills are combined into larger legislation.

H.R. 5515 leaves out what some might consider to be JEMSORA's most divisive portion. While it does call for "an assessment of Department of Defense governance, organizational alignment, human capital, and other applicable resources responsible for the development, management, and implementation of joint electromagnetic spectrum policy, doctrine, concepts, requirements, capabilities, and operational activities," (Sec. 1057(d)(1)(F)) in the one-time briefing, it leaves out some specifics as outlined in JEMSORA.

These omitted specifics are:

Sec. 5(b)(7)(A): "a review of the mission, alignment, effectiveness and resource efficiency of existing joint organizations with responsibility for such operations such as the Joint Electronic Warfare Center, the Joint Electromagnetic Preparedness for Advanced Combat, the Joint Spectrum Center, the Joint Navigation Warfare Center, and the Electromagnetic Space Analysis Center "

Sec. 5(b)(7)(B): "a review of the offices within the Joint Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense with primary responsibility for joint electromagnetic spectrum policy and operations"

Sec. 5(b)(7)(C): "recommendations for organizational changes to enhance coordination, effectiveness, and resource efficiency with respect to joint electromagnetic spectrum policy and operations across the Department of Defense"

For more information about H.R. 5515 and the FY 2019 NDAA, please contact Amanda Crowe at crowe@crows.org.