



ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018

CONGRESS TAKES THE MINIBUS ROUTE

On August 23, 2018, the Senate passed the FY 2019 Defense & Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations minibus (H.R. 6157). A minibus is a combination of several spending bills into one larger bill. This is the third minibus passed by the Senate this year. The creation of a minibus is intended to speed up the appropriations process by teaming crucial funding provisions with more controversial ones. In the case of H.R. 6157, legislators will have to weigh funding of the nation's military along with more controversial provision found in the Labor-HHS-Education bill.

The Senate also had the option of creating an omnibus appropriations bill, the combination of all appropriations legislation into a single bill. This occurred most recently last year when Congress passed and the President signed the \$1.3 trillion FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act into law. However, after signing the massive spending bill, President Trump vowed he wouldn't sign another one. He didn't feel that the bill was properly vetted due to its size, but signed it in order to keep the military funded. The Senate is hoping minibuses will be more palatable to the President, while still providing the efficiency they are looking for.

The House passed a stand-alone Defense Appropriations bill on June 28, but its Labor-HHS-Education bill has only made it through committee. This means that while the House can go to conference with the Senate to hash out differences on the Defense appropriations bill and build a minibus around it, the final conference-approved bill will be the only time the full House will vote on Labor-HHS-Education funding.

To further complicate things, the FY 2018 fiscal year ends on September 30. In order to make sure military funding is uninterrupted into the next fiscal year, the minibus will need to pass both the House and Senate before then. Otherwise, another Continuing Resolution is required to bridge the gap between the start of the new fiscal year and whenever a final agreement can be reached. With only 11 sessions days for the House (compared to the Senate's 16), it will be an uphill battle to meet fast-approaching funding deadline.

Could these factors add up to a shutdown, especially in an election year? It's possible, but unlikely. Agreement on the defense appropriations bill is far from insurmountable. At a minimum, Congress will break-apart or repackage the minibus approach to ensure that at least defense spending is secure. Furthermore, a continuing resolution until after the election for most other agencies may not be desirable, but is an acceptable outcome, for certain factions on both sides of the aisle. What is problematic for nearly every legislator is the prospect of a shutdown.

Please see page 3 for a visual of FY 2019 Appropriations

ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE BRIEF: COMPASS CALL

The Compass Call mission is critical for assured electromagnetic spectrum (EMS control). However, after nearly 30 years of operations around the world, the host aircraft, the EC-130H has reached the end of its serviceable life. The US Air Force is undertaking a major program overhaul by re-hosting the Compass Call mission on a new EC-37B, a modified Gulfstream G550 jet. This effort has received a great deal of attention from industry and Congress. Click here to read the latest AOC Issue Brief: [The Correct Course for the Compass Call](#).

ON THE HORIZON

Partnership with the Directed Energy Professional Society (DEPS) at their annual Directed Energy Systems Symposium (September 24-28): The AOC is organizing a plenary session on EW gaps and capabilities along with several technical briefings on developing DE weapons policy. For more information, please click [here](#).

Private SIGINT Roundtable (October 23-25): The AOC SIGINT Industry Partnership Project (IPP) will be convening a private roundtable with SIGINT stakeholders from industry and the military at the 3rd Annual AOC Cyber Electromagnetic Activities (CEMA) Conference. To learn more about becoming a SIGINT IPP partner to participate in these and other events, please click [here](#).

Congressional Staffer Program at AOC Convention (November): This year, AOC Advocacy is spearheading a program to bring congressional staff to the 55th Annual AOC International Symposium & Convention in Washington, D.C. from November 27-29. Staffers will have the ability to participate in two separate mornings of programming, including a subject matter briefing and a guided tour of the Exhibit Hall. Each day will revolve around a different topic: EW Industrial Base Trends and Emerging Technologies on the 28th and Core Enabling Technologies on the 29th.

FMS/EW Releasability Workshop (February 2019): The AOC Advocacy Program is in the early stages of developing a two-day workshop to help attendees navigate the FMS/ITAR regulatory regime. The workshop will feature a classified session on EW Exportability and unclassified session focusing on FMS and foreign partner advocacy.

Launch of New Industry Partnership Projects (IPPs) (2019): AOC Advocacy will be creating four new IPPs in 2019, along with continuing the SIGINT IPP. The new IPPs will be Core Enabling Technologies, Vacuum Electron Devices (VEDs), Self-Protection/ASE, and EW Test & Training. For more information, please click [here](#) or email Ken Miller - kmiller@crow.org.

ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

FY 2019 APPROPRIATIONS

