
Washington Update

Columbia Chamber Military Outreach Group

August 24, 2021



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FY22 Legislative Timing

HOUSE SCHEDULE

RELEVANT SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP DATES:

- **June 25, Friday:** Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations
- **June 30, Wednesday:** Defense Appropriations (Closed) – Homeland Security

RELEVANT FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP DATES:

- **June 30, Wednesday:** Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
- **July 13, Tuesday:** Homeland Security – Defense Appropriations

FLOOR CONSIDERATION: MILVA was on House floor in late July as a part of the first minibus, DoD will likely follow after August Recess

FY 2022 NDAA HOUSE: Subcommittee markup July 28/29 with a full committee markup on September 1.

SENATE SCHEDULE

Senate Appropriations Chair Patrick Leahy initially suggested the committee to begin marking up spending bills before the August recess. Infrastructure has likely pushed this timing back for most bills, but they did mark MILVA

FY 2022 NDAA SENATE: Subcommittee markup July 19/20 with a full committee markup on July 21/22. Bill will not be filed until after August recess.

Earmarks and Congressionally Directed Spending

The House of Representatives will be bringing back earmarks in the form of “Community Project Funding.”

- House Republicans have voted to participate in the earmark process, but some Members have vowed not to participate, including much of the South Carolina delegation.

The Senate is also bringing back earmarks and Appropriations Chairman Pat Leahy has issued guidance.

- The Senate prefers the term “Congressionally Directed Spending Items.”
- Republicans voted not to engage in earmarks, but it is a nonbinding vote which means each Republican Senator can decide whether they will submit requests and engage in the process.
- 17 Republican Senators requested CDS, including Senator Graham

Don't get hung up on “Community Project Funding”, our delegation has and will continue to plus up accounts and engage in targeted requests as they have done for the last decade when “earmarks went away”. All Members have publicly disclosed their requests

Pending Legislative Successes for the Midlands

Thanks to the hard work of our delegation, the Midlands has several pending successes in both the House and Senate, some of which were in the President's Budget, and some which were congressional adds. These include:

- **+34M** in the President's Budget for Reception Barracks Complex Phase 2, Increment 2 at Fort Jackson
- **+9.8M** in the President's Budget for McEntire F-16 Training Center
- Hazardous Cargo Pad, McEntire Joint National Guard Base, **+9M**. This pad will provide the 169th Fighter Wing a hazardous cargo pad, which they currently do not possess.
- Reception Barracks Complex, Ph 1, Fort Jackson, **+\$21M**. The estimated cost to complete the project was higher than originally requested and the project will not be able to be completed without these additional funds. It was on the Army's UFR list and is in the pending MILVA Appropriations packages.
- **\$120M** for the DoD Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program, to fund projects that improve energy resilience, contribute to mission assurance, save energy, and reduce DoD's energy costs
- Keeping Fort Jackson's cost to completes under the WIP curve threshold. Work in Progress or Planned (WIP) Curve.—The Committee directs the Services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (on behalf of itself and defense agencies) to submit a WIP curve for each project requested in a budget submission above \$90,000,000
- **+\$150M** to implement recommendations in the Army National Guard Readiness Center Transformation Modernization Plan, including \$50M for planning and design and \$100M for construction

Nominated and Pending Defense Nominees (as of July 27)

Confirmed:

- Lloyd Austin, secretary of defense: Jan. 22
- Kathleen Hicks, deputy secretary of defense: Feb. 8
- Colin Kahl, undersecretary of defense for policy: April 27
- **Christine Wormuth, secretary of the Army: May 27**
- Michael McCord, Defense Department comptroller: May 28
- Ronald Moultrie, undersecretary of defense for intelligence and security: May 28
- Jill Hruby to be administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration: July 22
- **Heidi Shyu to be undersecretary of defense for research and engineering: July 22**
- Caroline Krass to be Defense Department general counsel: July 22
- Ely Ratner to be assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs: July 22
- Shawn Skelly to be assistant secretary of defense for readiness: July 22
- Gina Ortiz Jones to be undersecretary of the Air Force: July 22
- **Meredith Berger to be ASA Navy for energy, installations and environment: July 22**
- **Frank Kendall to be secretary of the Air Force: July 26**

Approved by committee, awaiting Senate confirmation vote:

- Susanna Blume to be director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation
- Christopher Maier to be assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict
- Deborah Rosenblum to be assistant secretary of defense for nuclear, chemical and biological defense
- Frank Rose to be principal deputy administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration

Nominated, position is privileged and bypasses committee vote:

- Carl Spangler to be Army comptroller

Received confirmation hearing, awaiting committee vote:

- **Carlos Del Toro to be secretary of the Navy**
- Gil Cisneros to be undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness
- Kathleen Miller to be Defense Department deputy comptroller
- Mara Karlin to be assistant secretary of defense for strategy, plans and capabilities
- Michael Connor to be assistant secretary of the Army for civil works

Nominated, awaiting Senate confirmation hearing:

- Celeste Wallander to be assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs
- Brenda Sue Fulton to be assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs
- **Rachel Jacobson to be assistant secretary of the Army for installations and environment**
- Gabe Camarillo to be undersecretary of the Army
- **Andrew Hunter to be assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition, technology and logistics**

But What about BRAC?

President Biden has previously stated that he is supportive of a new BRAC round. House and Senate Leadership on the HASC, SASC and HAC-D have publicly stated support of a BRAC or BRAC-like action. At the ADC conference in late June Air Force Leadership publicly called for a BRAC.

The fact remains that all Services have significant excess capacity and maintain facilities that are either obsolete or in severe disrepair. This takes budget resources away from creating modern and sustainable facilities. Congress commissioned a Department of Defense Infrastructure Capacity Analysis in 2016 that found the Department of Defense overall has 22 percent excess installation capacity.

FSRM Deferment is also a possible trigger. Starting in 2011 when the Budget Control Act (sequestration) was enacted, all the services have deferred maintenance (FSRM spending) on infrastructure. This deferred maintenance has a compounding affect when relatively minor repairs and standard maintenance become major repairs with large price tags. USAF is predicting that at the current rate, they will have an \$80B backlog by 2050.

In the absence of a BRAC, Congressional defense leaders have set up a series of trigger activities and force structure reviews that have given the Department of Defense more flexibility to make movements outside of the specter of Congressional politics.

Due to the COVID pandemic, DOD was forced to substantially expand telework. Due to this, DOD is rethinking what personnel need to be physically present to work and which ones can work remotely. This primarily applies to civilians but is also applicable to Reserve & Guard personnel. Active duty will likely see the least amount of lasting impact. The result is that fewer personnel will need to utilize DOD infrastructure to perform their duties. DOD is in the process of understanding the full impact and any implications this could have for a future BRAC?

Preparing for a Future BRAC

Gaining support of community for the long-term effort

Briefing leadership on the new threat environment

Conducting updated analysis of installation strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, & threats

Protecting installation projects and priorities through completion of FY 2022 defense legislation

Preparing for new educational liaison activities with DoD/Service leadership

Addressing potential DoD base consolidation initiatives outside of BRAC process

Improving Installation facilities and capabilities

Exploring new and expanded mission opportunities

Enhancing resiliency, energy efficiency, availability, and security

Addressing transportation and infrastructure issues

Reviewing any actual/potential encroachment

Considering housing and other quality of life issues

Researching potential changes in state law and policy

Questions or Comments?



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