



# Legislative Update

## Senate passes National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

Last evening the Senate finally passed the NDAA. This is the bill that funds the Defense Department for the fiscal year that we are already in, operating under a Continuing Resolution. The bill as passed by the Senate calls for \$662 Billion for defense, \$27B less than the President requested originally and \$43B less than DoD ultimately received for FY 2011. The bill now must be reconciled with the House version before final passage.

## The Military Coalition accepts legislative committee goals for 2012

Yesterday at the December meeting of The Military Coalition the eight legislative committees of the Coalition presented their legislative goals for next year. AUSN was represented at this meeting by our President, RADM Tim Moon USN (Ret) and our Executive Director, RADM Casey Coane USN (Ret). The next step is for Committee chairs to meet and develop the master list of The Military Coalition goals. Once that is complete we will bring you that list.



## Senator McCain withdraws amendment

Early this week Senator McCain, Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, "dropped" an amendment to the NDAA prior to its passage. This amendment would have allowed enrolment fees for TRI CARE Prime for retirees in 2013 and beyond to be indexed as the DoD had originally intended. This would have resulted in unlimited fee increases in the out years. AUSN and The Military Coalition had fought to get language in the bill which allowed indexing but tied to the COLA increase received by retirees. Because the Coalition constantly monitors these bills on your behalf we learned immediately of the McCain amendment. In less than 48 hours the Coalition with AUSN signing on had sent a letter to every Senator once again making the case that open ended indexing was an unacceptable change to an EARNED benefit. The result, the amendment was withdrawn. This is the value of membership in AUSN and our participation in The Military Coalition.

Read our recent blog: [The Navy Budget post the Super Committee Failure](#). Last evening we spoke with a source in Secretary Panetta's office which leads us to believe that this blog is right on target.

Please continue to use our [CAPWIZ system](#) on our web site to let your elected officials know how you feel. We have been asked to let you know when it is no longer necessary to communicate on a particular topic and we will begin to do that. For now, continue

to tell your representatives how concerned you are about the potential \$600B in additional cuts facing DoD.

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