



Legislative Update



AUSN is interviewing Candidates for the position of Director of Legislation. The short list is now five and we expect to be back in battery with a new Director by the end of January.

AUSN participates in Amicus Brief filed before The Supreme Court: AUSN signed on to an amicus brief filed before the Supreme Court this month in the case of United States v Alvarez. Mr. Alvarez was accused of falsely claiming prior military status and personal decorations. The ninth circuit court in California overturned a conviction and the case will now be heard by the Supreme Court. Ruling expected in the spring.

AUSN attended the quarterly TRICARE Management Activity briefing this week. Highlights are:

- May 1, 2012 dental coverage moves from Delta Dental to Metlife
- Pharmacy co-pays are adjusted beginning in 2012 to encourage use of Military Treatment Facilities or Home Delivery.
- TRICARE beneficiaries can get approved vaccines for no cost from:
 - Military Treatment Facilities
 - TRICARE providers
 - Participating network pharmacies -- to find one call 1-877-363-1303 or go to www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/pharmacy
- TRICARE Young Adult -- dependents 21-26 depending on student status. TYA Prime added 1 January 2012. TYA Standard has been available since 1 May 2011. If you have young adults not covered by another medical plan this is an important benefit
- TRICARE Reserve Select monthly premium decreased for 2012. AUSN and others have been working to get this adjustment as we recognized that the premium was excessive when TRS was introduced

Congress set to recess today the 16th but as we write this there remains work to be done. Wednesday the House passed the conference version of the National Defense Authorization Act. The Senate passed it late Thursday. The Bill is now on its way to the President and is expected to be signed. Highlights of the bill:

- Includes 1.6% pay raise
- Defense budget for FY 2012 \$662B, \$26.6B less than DoD requested
- Reduces FY2012 F-35 procurement by one F-35A Air Force aircraft and requires that beginning with lot 6 Lockheed must adhere to a fixed price contract and pay any overages. In lot 5 Lockheed and DoD continue to share overages.

- Provides \$14.9B in navy shipbuilding to include LCS, DDG-51 class, DDG 1000 class, and LPD-17 class.

AUSN and The Military Coalition were successful in arguing against inclusion in the NDAA conference version an amendment by Senator Carl Levin, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. This amendment would have called for a committee to recommend changes to the current military pay and benefits system but most importantly would require a "BRAC" type up or down vote with no amendments.

Final Appropriations Bill still held up in Congress as we write but would provide a baseline defense budget of \$518.1B, \$20.8B less than the President requested. The omnibus spending bill is expected to pass before Congress adjourns today.

Reminder: [AUSN Capitol Hill Reception](#) 17 January 1700-1900 in the Rayburn Foyer. VCNO, ADM Mark Ferguson and Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee will attend.

Copyright ©2000-2011 Association of the United States Navy. All Rights Reserved.
Association of the United States Navy
1619 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
866-672-4968
www.ausn.org