



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

Legislative Update



KEITH'S CONGRESSIONAL CORNER



"In the development of air power one has to look ahead and not backwards and figure out what is going to happen, not too much what has happened."

- Gen. Billy Mitchell

There is a fiscal storm building. The Secretary of the Treasury has stated that Congress has to address the debt limit by mid-September. A compromise is still needed regarding the spending cap limits on Security and Non-Security spending, otherwise sequestration's draconian budget cuts return in January 2020.

There are fewer than 15 legislative days remaining before the end of this fiscal year, so time is running short. The House goes on recess in a week, and the Senate a week later. Speaker Nancy Pelosi wants to raise the federal debt limit before adjourning, and Senate Majority Leader McConnell wants to raise it as part of another two-year spending agreement.

Just before the July 4th recess, the Senate passed its version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and last week, the House of Representatives passed its typically bi-partisan version—by party line votes. Now, conferees from both the House and Senate will be working to pass it for the 59th year in a row.

The NDAA will likely pass and become law sometime this Fall, however, a budget showdown may lead to yet another continuing resolution (CR) when FY 2020 begins October 1st. We have had one year of stable funding through appropriations, and a CR is detrimental to the world's predominant Air Force and our nation.

In addition to the USAF's procurement programs discussed previously, there are several good provisions in this NDAA for Airmen, their families, and to veterans (see below).

What is good for our nation is that Dr. Mark Esper, recent acting secretary of defense, had his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC). Hopefully, the world's best military will have a permanent secretary again soon. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs nominee and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, also had his confirmation hearing.

AFA's CyberPatriot program is operating at the speed of electrons and is on pace to eclipse last year's record-breaking number of teams in this next year of competition. The Mitchell Institute has been informing the national security debate in order to increase F-35 procurement rates and accelerate investment in the Next-Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) program.

StellarXplorers has been rocketing their program to new heights and fostering the imagination of high school students through teaching the critical role of space in our daily lives.

"Houston, Tranquility Base here...the Eagle has landed."
- Neil Armstrong, Commander, Apollo 11

We have discussed America's Space dominance repeatedly in this update. This week we celebrate America's collaborative achievement of 50 years ago—on July 20, 1969—when U.S. astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin (Air Force) landed their lunar module, Eagle, on the moon. Meanwhile, Columbia Command Module pilot Astronaut Mike Collins (Air Force) orbited the moon waiting for news like the rest of the world.

The world watched while Armstrong and then Aldrin descended from the lunar module's ladder to walk on the moon, and we all remember Armstrong's immortal words:

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."
- Neil Armstrong, Commander, Apollo 11

The U.S., has made several giant leaps for mankind, both in technology, and new domains. We continue to advocate because we must maintain technological advantages.

We hope everyone is having a happy and safe summer.

AIR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

"That tells you the mindset of the Senate. They do not want a big new thing to pop up and grow."
- Anonymous Source

[Space Force legislative talks at impasse over personnel issues, cost concerns](#)

SpaceNews.com | 15 Jul 2019 | by Sandra Erwin

The Senate and the House have passed competing versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

Although both chambers voted in support of a space service to be nested inside the Air Force, much still remains unresolved.

The administration and the Senate are still far apart on multiple fronts.

"It (the FY 2020 NDAA) cuts \$123 million from F-15 spares and repair parts. Now, 28 of these aircraft are grounded today. The average age of the fleet is 35 years. And yet, this bill cuts \$123 million from the spare cuts to get those planes flying again. I think -- flying again. I think that's a mistake."

- Rep. Mac Thornberry, Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee

[House NDAA Passes Chamber Along Party Lines](#)

AirForceMag.com | 12 Jul 2019 | by Rachel Cohen

The House passed its version of the 2020 defense policy bill in a 220-197 party-line vote July

12, signaling that, at least this year, the bipartisan goodwill that typically accompanies the chamber's annual National Defense Authorization Act is gone.

Summary

- Authorizes \$733 billion for national security in House NDAA (\$17 billion cut from President's Budget)
- 3.1 percent military pay raise (largest in a decade)
- Increases personnel end strength
- Space Corps created under the Air Force (similar to provision from 2 years ago)
- Along with the Senate, the House NDAA procures more F-35 fighters in addition to F-15EX fighters
- Cut \$103 million from Global Bases Strategic Deterrent (GBSD)
- \$500 million cut, representing 50 percent of the budget, to the Air Force's Next Generation Air Dominance effort to design a suite of air superiority capabilities including a replacement for the F-22 fighter
 - Funds B-21 Raider bomber development
 - Requires the secretary of the Air Force to make available and conduct military type certifications for light attack experimentation aircraft as needed
 - Directs the military services to adopt a Tenants' Bill of Rights in response to the problems with privatized military family housing
 - Massive benefits expansion
 - SBP-DIC offset elimination (huge win. AFA and The Military Coalition (TMC) have been advocating for this over several years.) Repeals a deeply unpopular offset in military survivors benefits offered by the Defense and Veterans Affairs Departments, known as the "widow's tax"
 - Overturns the Feres Doctrine, which bars active-duty troops from suing the military for medical malpractice
 - Allows Air Force reserve component personnel to provide pilot training and instruction to address our nation's pilot shortage
 - Authorizes funding to assist military installations recovering from earthquakes and other natural disasters in 2019
 - Slows DOD's plan to decrease 18,000 military medical billets before the issue is studied further
 - Avoids additional TRICARE costs
 - Delays the deadline for Post 9/11 GI Bill transferability
 - Promotes posthumously Lt. Col. Dick Cole to the rank of colonel
 - Defense Resale (Commissaries and Exchanges) - Requires a report regarding management of military commissaries and exchanges to the congressional defense committees. Slows possible consolidation
 - Spouse Employment: Makes spouses and other dependents of active duty members of the Armed Forces eligible for the Direct Employment Pilot Program
 - Provides federal employees 12 weeks of paid family leave
 - Provisions regarding sexual assault

[Arlington's Southern Expansion](#)

AirForceMag.com | Jul 2019 | by Brian Everstine

With space running out, Arlington spreads out to surround the US Air Force Memorial—and to limit who can be buried on its hallowed grounds.

With more than 20 million living veterans today, nearly 2 million currently serving members in

the Active, Guard, and Reserve components, and tens of thousands of new veterans becoming eligible for burial at Arlington every year, change is in the wind.

“This is not any of our money, it’s not Air Force money, its taxpayer money. We better do our best to be great shepherds of it.”

- Lt. Gen. Duke Richardson, Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics

[Air Force official stresses vitality of compromise between industry, government](#)

FederalNewsNetwork.com | 12 Jul 2019 | by Steff Thomas

As government contracting becomes more and more complicated, the defense community must learn how to heed industry requests more often. Lt. Gen. Duke Richardson, recently appointed the Air Force’s top acquisition official, said an agreement goes both ways. At a June 19 Life Cycle Industry Days event in Dayton, Ohio, Richardson told the audience that industry should only push back if what

the government asks for doesn’t add value to the contract, and the government should always try to compromise unless it would hurt the department’s integrity.

[Defense Department Accelerates Hypersonic Weapons Development](#)

NationalDefenseMag.com | 11 Jul 2019 | by Yasmin Tadjeh

A renewed sense of urgency spurred by rivals Russia and China has pushed the U.S. military to speed up the development of hypersonic technology.

The systems are characterized by their maneuverability and ability to reach speeds of Mach 5 and greater.

[Here’s the No. 1 rule for US Air Force’s new advanced battle management system](#)

DefenseNews.com | 9 Jul 2019 | by Valerie Insinna

The U.S. Air Force has started work on a data architecture for its [Advanced Battle Management System](#), the family of platforms that will eventually [replace the E-8C JSTARS surveillance planes](#).

But the “biblical” rule for the program, according to the service’s acquisition executive Will Roper, is that “we don’t start talking platforms until the end,” he told Defense News at the Paris Air Show in June.

YOUR AIR FORCE – DID YOU KNOW?

“**Buzz Aldrin** (born Edwin Eugene Aldrin Jr.; January 20, 1930) is an American engineer and a former astronaut and fighter pilot. As the [Apollo Lunar Module](#) pilot on the [Apollo 11](#) mission, he and mission commander [Neil Armstrong](#) were the first two humans to land on the Moon.

Born in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, Aldrin graduated third in his United States Military Academy at West Point class in 1951, with a degree in mechanical engineering. He was commissioned into the [United States Air Force](#), and served as a jet fighter pilot during the Korean War. He flew 66 combat missions and shot down two MiG-15 aircraft.

After earning a Sc.D. degree in astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Aldrin was selected as a member of NASA's Astronaut Group 3, making him the first astronaut with a doctoral degree. His first space flight was in 1966 on Gemini 12 during which he spent over five hours on extravehicular activity. Three years later, Aldrin set foot on the Moon at 03:15:16 on July 21, 1969 (UTC), nineteen minutes after Armstrong first touched the surface, while [Command Module Pilot Michael Collins](#) remained in lunar orbit. A Presbyterian elder, Aldrin became the first person to hold a religious ceremony on the Moon when he privately took communion.

Upon leaving NASA in 1971, he became Commandant of the [U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School](#). He retired from the Air Force in 1972, after 21 years of service." - Wikipedia

Michael Collins (born October 31, 1930) is an American former astronaut, test pilot, and retired major general of the [United States Air Force Reserves](#). Selected as part of the third group of fourteen astronauts in 1963, he flew into space twice. His first spaceflight was on Gemini 10, in which he and Command Pilot John Young performed orbital rendezvous with two different spacecraft and undertook two extravehicular activities (EVAs, also known as spacewalks). His second spaceflight was as the command module Pilot for [Apollo 11](#). While he stayed in orbit around the Moon, [Neil Armstrong](#) and [Buzz Aldrin](#) left in the Apollo Lunar Module to make the first crewed landing on its surface.

Collins is one of [24 people to have flown to the Moon](#), which he orbited 30 times. He was the seventeenth American in space, the fourth person (and third American) to perform a spacewalk, the first person to have performed more than one spacewalk, and, after Young, who flew the command module on Apollo 10, the second person to orbit the Moon alone.

Prior to becoming an astronaut, he graduated from the United States Military Academy, and from there he joined the [United States Air Force](#) and flew F-86 Sabre fighters at Chambley-Bussieres Air Base. He was accepted into the [U.S. Air Force Experimental Flight Test Pilot School](#) at [Edwards Air Force Base](#) in 1960. He unsuccessfully applied for the second astronaut group, but was accepted for the third." - Wikipedia

QUOTES TO NOTE

"I think it's a misconception that industry and government don't have aligned interests, we actually do, they're very aligned. If we don't deliver, we both look bad, very bad. No one cares about why and what the excuses are. You can blame [industry] all you want. But guess what government program office? You're responsible... Or Lockheed, or Boeing, or Northrop or whoever... you can blame the government program office. But guess what? You're part of that team too."

- Lt. Gen. Duke Richardson, Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics

"Space is 'a war-fighting domain, just like the land, air and sea.'"
- Vice President Mike Pence

"We have acknowledged that space is a warfighting domain similar to air, land, and sea. Now we must organize and develop the joint force to posture for space superiority across the

continuum of conflict—and that work is ongoing.”

- Gen. Jay Raymond, Commander, US Space Command and Air Force Space Command

KEY DATES TO WATCH

2019

Jul 24	Mitchell Inst: A Review of the NPR, National Security Strategy, and Nuclear Deterrence with Gen Stephen Wilson, Vice Chief of Staff, USAF, at Capitol Hill Club
Jul 25	Mitchell Inst: Missile Deterrence Breakfast with Rep Mike Turner (R-OH) House Armed Services Committee, Capitol Hill Club
Aug 23	AFA Breakfast with Gen. James Holmes, Commander, Air Combat Command at Key Bridge Marriott
Sep 14-15	AFA National Convention at Gaylord National Hotel, National Harbor, MD
Sep 16-18	AFA's Air, Space & Cyber Conference at Gaylord National Hotel, National Harbor, MD
Oct 1	FY 2020 Begins

If you have questions, please contact:

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