



The Principi Group

Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the period January 1-31, 2019

Functional Area: (Congressional Review)

1. Washington Insights

Biggest story out of Washington, DC is the end of the 35-day partial government shutdown and start of 21-day negotiation period on the contentious border security debate. Deadline for resolution is February 15th. The shutdown did not directly affect defense spending, but the precedent and lack of cooperation between parties has many concerned for implications for the next two years. More directly, the emergency spending disaster relief which is very much needed for Florida is a hostage to the current dysfunctionality between congress and the administration. Things to watch for in coming weeks include how the President does in the February 5th State of the Union, the rollout of the 2020 President's Federal Budget Request (unscheduled), and progress on emergency spending for recent natural disasters and raising the national debt ceiling.

Over at the Pentagon

The new year brings new leadership. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is out after two years. Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, a former Boeing executive, is in as acting Defense secretary. At first, President Donald Trump promised to name a permanent replacement "shortly," but has since suggested Shanahan may serve for a "long time." Among the other leading contenders for the top post: Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson.

David Norquist, who has served as Pentagon comptroller since May 2017, is the department's acting deputy defense secretary and assumes Shanahan's former duties. As DOD's chief financial officer, Norquist most recently led the department's first comprehensive audit.

a. Budgets

Latest news:

Defense Department funding for fiscal 2019 is secure, but a quarter of rest the federal government, including parts of the Coast Guard, remains shuttered since Dec. 22.

Fiscal 2020 federal budget to be released first week of February. Expected Defense request to be between \$733 -\$750 billion.

TPG View: Still our view that we can expect flat to modest 1-2% growth. Latest Presidential statement about \$750 billion for fy2020 is nice but does not speak for what House Democrats will want. President himself called it a negotiating position.

House Disaster Relief Package includes \$1.5B to Rebuild Installations

Military installations affected by Hurricanes Michael and Florence, including Tyndall AFB and three Marine Corps bases, would receive \$857 million for construction funding and \$600 million for operation and maintenance, under an emergency spending bill House Democrats released Friday. The Democrats' \$12 billion disaster aid package builds on the \$7.8 billion emergency measure the House passed in late December, reported CQ. That GOP-drafted bill separately included \$5.7 billion for border security and never reached the president's desk.

Milcon funds in the Democrats' measure would be allocated to three accounts:

- Air Force — \$700 million for planning and design, and construction needed to respond to Hurricane Michael; funds would be used for planning and design for the relocation of Tyndall's F-22 mission, beddown of F-35 units and construction of other facilities needed to rebuild Tyndall, according to an [Appropriations Committee release](#); the Air Force would need to submit a basing plan and future mission requirements to Congress for installations affected by the storm prior to spending the funds;
- Navy and Marine Corps — \$115 million for planning and design for construction projects at Marine Corps Air Station New River, MCAS Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune in North Carolina; and
- Army National Guard — \$42 million to rebuild an Army readiness center and operations facility.

The measure also includes \$400 million in operation and maintenance funding for the Air Force and \$200 million in operation and maintenance funding for the Marine Corps to address the impact of the two storms. It is not yet clear when the emergency spending package would receive a vote in committee or on the House floor.

TPG View: Sadly, any meaningful discussion of emergency spending legislation making it to the President's desk is caught up in the larger border wall funding impasse between the White House and Congress.

b. Congressional Defense Committees

With the new congress and Senator Bill Nelson of Florida loss, Senator Nelson is out as number 2 ranking democrat on SASC, but SASC welcomes new Senator Rick Scott:

<https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2019/01/03/big-shakeup-coming-to-senate-armed->

[services/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DFN%20EBB%2001.04.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief](https://www.defense.gov/services/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DFN%20EBB%2001.04.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief)

House Appropriations news

Rep Granger picks Calvert as top Defense Appropriations Republican. Rep. Ken Calvert of California will serve as the top Republican on House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in the new Congress, the full committee's incoming ranking Republican, Rep. Kay Granger (R-Texas), said Thursday, via our colleague Connor O'Brien

Nominations

Search continues for a new Secretary of Defense. Despite President Trump's recent pronouncement that Shanahan could lead the Pentagon "for a long time," the White House has been searching for a permanent replacement for his predecessor Jim Mattis. The effort, however, has not proved fruitful. Former Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl (R) last week became the second person to say he is not interested in the job. Retired Army Gen. Jack Keane previously turned down the job. Kyl temporarily filled the late Sen. John McCain's seat last year, after serving three terms in the Senate before retiring in 2012.

Hearings

On January 24th, the House Armed Services Committee held an [Organizational Meeting for the 116th Congress](#).

On January 29th, the House Armed Services held a hearing on the Department of Defense's [Support to the Southern Border](#). Witnesses included: The Honorable John Rood, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense and Vice Admiral Michael Gilday, USN, Director of Operations (J3), Joint Staff.

On January 29th, the Senate Armed Services held a hearing on the Department of Defense [Enterprise-wide Cybersecurity Policies and Architecture](#). Witnesses for the hearing included Mr. Dana Deasy, Department of Defense Chief Information Officer; Vice Admiral Nancy A. Norton, USN Director, Defense Information Systems Agency, Commander, Joint Force Headquarters-Department of Defense Information Network; Brigadier General Dennis A. Crall, USMC, Principal Deputy Cyber Advisor and Senior Military Advisor for Cyber Policy.

On January 29th, the Senate Armed Services held a hearing on [China and Russia](#). Witnesses included: Mr. Elbridge Colby, Director, Defense Program Center for a New American Security and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy and Force Development; Mr. Ely Ratner, Executive Vice President and Director of Studies, Center for a New American Security and Former Deputy National Security Advisor to the Vice President and Mr. Damon M. Wilson Executive Vice President, Atlantic Council.

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

Florida in the News

Rubio MML legislation

Senator Rubio made local news with his message on focus areas for the coming year. <http://sunshinestatenews.com/story/fight-florida-continues-new-congress>

Paragraph six mentions the moratorium on drilling off the coast and his desire to extend that moratorium 5 years.

TPG View: This is the same legislation he offered last year. Language attached.

House MML version (Castor, Buchanan, et al)

FL Representatives Buchanan, Castor, Crist and Francis Rooney have reintroduced the bipartisan Florida Coastal Protection Act, which would make permanent the current moratorium on oil drilling slated to expire in 2022. [Here](#) is a press release with the details.

TPG View: This is the same legislation offered last year. Language attached.

Protect the Military Mission Line from offshore drilling

<https://www.news-press.com/story/opinion/contributors/2018/12/28/protect-military-mission-line-offshore-drilling/2415953002/>

As the 116th Congress begins on Jan. 3, the Florida delegation should unite to stop offshore drilling off the Gulf coast of Florida and must push Congress to enact legislation to make the moratorium on offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (EGOM), eastward from the Military Mission Line (MML) at Long. 86 deg, 41 min., permanent. The MML was established by the 2006 GOMESA law to delineate the military testing area as being off limits to oil exploration. This moratorium will expire in June 2022 unless extended and it is rumored that the Department of Interior would like to permit seismic testing in this area. There is no rationale for seismic unless they expect to lease for drilling after June 2022.

Our Florida economy depends on tourism and a large military presence. Any potential, however remote or speculative, for the kinds of environmental damage we have seen take place in the other areas where drilling and production have been allowed will be devastating for our economy, environment and our future in Florida. There are plenty of places marketing for tourists where there is no risk of offshore drilling and we must compete with them. Aside from the immediate existential risk of a large, multi-million-barrel spill like Deepwater Horizon, there are numerous spills going on right now throughout the middle and western Gulf. One, the Taylor spill, has been discharging oil and chemicals into the Gulf offshore of Louisiana since 2004 and has released between 1.5 to 3.5 million barrels of oil in that period.

Additionally, we have a clockwise current in the near offshore Gulf, running right through one of the areas thought to have oil and gas, the Destin Dome. This current assures that any pollutants introduced into the Gulf off our north and west coasts will flow all the way down the coast across Florida Bay to the Keys.

Aside from risks to our tourism-based economy, our strong military presence throughout Florida needs the east central Gulf, east of the MML (this is why it was a military demarcation in the first place) for their exclusive use for testing, free of drilling rigs, platforms and supply vessel traffic. As the May 2018 Department of Defense report “Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico” clearly shows, the military is planning to increase testing out in the EGOM in the future:

In one of its most poignant references, the Department of Defense called the eastern Gulf of Mexico an “irreplaceable national asset” for combat force readiness and for accomplishing the goals of the 2018 National Defense Strategy. The MML creates a large-scale, flexible and irreplaceable training ground for our development of our leading defense technologies. The growing threat assessment of security risks in the Arabian Gulf region make this training even more important. The report notes several times the proximity to major military bases and its large scale make the EGOM area a unique asset for national defense that cannot be replicated. It is important to mention the over \$70 billion in economic impact Florida’s military bases have on our state, according to research by the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

The people of Florida are clearly opposed to offshore drilling. The November 2018 ballot contained a ban on offshore drilling, Amendment 9, which won with over 68% in favor. This widespread support should indicate to the entire Florida delegation, members of both parties and both chambers, that voters are overwhelmingly against letting the moratorium expire in 2022. Floridians understand all our livelihoods depend on a pristine environment, and that offshore drilling in the Gulf threatens our futures.

As 2019 begins, we want to ensure our constituents that we will continue to fight to permanently ban offshore drilling off our coast.

Shanahan Keeps Tight Grip on Space Force Planning

Even with a packed agenda as acting defense secretary, Patrick Shanahan plans to remain hands-on in formulating a proposal to establish a new military branch for space. [Space News](#)

New Office to Support \$3B Rebuilding Effort at Tyndall AFB

The Air Force last month established a program management office to lead both the near-term effort to resume operations at Tyndall AFB and the long-term redevelopment of the installation devastated by Hurricane Michael in October. Reconstruction of Tyndall, located on the Florida Panhandle, is expected to take upwards of five years and cost an estimated \$3 billion, according to an [Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center news release](#).

Short-term objectives of the new office include completing detailed assessments of damaged facilities, quickly repairing facilities and constructing temporary facilities needed to meet near-term mission requirements. The office intends to rely on cutting-edge construction standards and incorporate “smart city” functionality connecting base facilities with utility infrastructure to enhance installation resiliency.

“We are really excited about being able to implement a 21st century installation,” said Amy Vandever, an installation planner for the Air Force Civil Engineer Center. “We have multiple opportunities that will make this installation good for the next 70 to 80 years. Tyndall will be leading the way,” she said.

Five Communities Awarded ADC Honor

ADC named five communities to the 2019 class of Great American Defense Communities, a recognition of the unique contributions communities that host military installations make to improve quality of life for service members and military families.

The 2019 class, along with neighboring installations, includes:

- Bay County, Fla. (Tyndall Air Force Base);
- Clovis, N.M. (Cannon AFB);
- Greater Columbia region, S.C. (Fort Jackson);
- Middle Georgia (Robins AFB); and
- The North Country-Fort Drum. N.Y.

“The communities we recognize through the Great American Defense Communities program represent the best examples of what communities can do to create great places for our military families to live and work,” ADC President Bill Parry said in a press release.

Communities are selected following a competitive nomination process based on community building and integration, support and collaboration, educational and employment opportunities, and family support. The communities selected for the 2019 class will be honored throughout the year, including at the Defense Communities National Summit in June 2019. The initiative, which is in its fourth year, is sponsored by USAA.

[DoD report calls climate change ‘national security issue,’ notes Eglin efforts](#)

NWF Daily News- January 27, 2019

Eglin AFB is one of four Air Force installations in Florida included among the 79 DoD “priority installations” in the report. The report notes specifically that Eglin is now, and will be for the next 20 years, vulnerable to recurrent flooding, drought and wildfires. EGLIN AFB — A Congress-mandated report on how climate change might affect the effectiveness of the U.S. military takes specific note of efforts at Eglin Air Force Base to address coastal erosion through artificial reef construction.

The \$329,000 report, ordered in last year's National Defense Authorization Act — a military funding and policy bill — calls climate change “a national security issue.” The study also notes that the Department of Defense already “factors in the effects of the environment into its mission planning and execution. ...”

“DoD is incorporating climate resilience as a cross-cutting consideration for our planning and decision-making processes,” the report adds, “and not as a separate program or specific set of actions.”

Previous

[Gulfstream tapped for C-20, C-37 fleet support](#)

UPI.com- January 24, 2019

Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. has been awarded a contract modification for continued support of the C-20 and C-37 fleets for all four branches of the U.S. military and the Coast Guard.

The \$80 million deal, announced Wednesday by the Department of Defense, picks up a "Year Two" option in the original contract to cover task orders for the second one-year term. The total cumulative value of the contract is \$594.4 million dollars, according to the Pentagon.

Both the C-20 and C-37 fleets, which operate from military bases in the United States, Germany, Belgium and Italy, are used primarily for transportation of high-ranking government and Pentagon officials.

The new contract will cover task orders and continued logistics of the fleets for the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard through Jan. 31, 2020, **at bases in Maryland, Hawaii, Florida, and the District of Columbia, as well as in Germany and Italy.**

The C-20 is a twin-engine, turboprop aircraft operated by the Air Force from Joint Base Andrews in Maryland and Ramstein Air Base in Germany. There are currently five C-20B and two C-20H aircraft deployed and in operation, according to the Air Force.

The C-37 is also a twin-engine, turboprop aircraft operated by the Air Force, which has nine C-37As operating from Joint Base Andrews, as well as MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii and Chievres Air Base in Belgium.

Both aircraft can carry 12 passengers and are capable of worldwide secure and non-secure communications.

[Climate Change is a Threat to Military Security](#)

Council on Foreign Relations- January 23, 2019

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) released a congressionally-mandated report detailing the challenges climate change poses to the U.S. military. Citing increased exposure recurrent flooding, drought, desertification, wildfires, and thawing

permafrost, the report highlights how climate change affects U.S. military readiness to respond to national security emergencies.

More on:

Military Operations Climate Change National Security

The report includes a list of selected events where mission related activities at military installations were compromised due to environmental vulnerabilities as well as a brief list of policies taken to mitigate future damages. To quantify the extent to which the military is threatened by climate change, the report tracked seventy-nine priority American domestic installations chosen by their critical operational roles. While the public report was circumspect on details given the sensitive strategic nature of the subject, it did identify climate change as an important and tangible threat to the U.S. military.

The report represents another in a series of public acknowledgements that spans four administrations that the military is not immune to extreme weather. Last year, numerous concrete examples raised public awareness of the issue. In October, category four Hurricane Michael thrashed the Florida coast with winds reaching one hundred and thirty miles per hour on Florida's panhandle. In its way was U.S. Air Force Base Tyndall, which houses not only the headquarters of the Florida Air National Guard, but also the 325th Fighter Wing, a major combat force of F-22 Raptors and a principle training center and testing site for their pilots, maintenance crews, and equipment. The base, like surrounding civilian areas, was not able to regain a normal operating status for almost a month. During the recovery period, critical training and maintenance schedules for the almost a third of the nation's F-22s was disrupted, forcing the fighter jets to relocate to other regional airbases less able to run such a high volume of them.

Additionally, rebuilding has been costly and time consuming, thereby diverting man-hours and resources that could have been spent on other matters. The situation starkly demonstrates how a severe weather event can be tumultuous for critical but routine activities such as patrolling and training.

Tyndall is not the only base exposed to weather related threats. Of the seventy-nine installations analyzed in the report, 67 percent reported that they are currently facing problems from recurrent flooding, and 76 percent reported that flooding has the potential to create vulnerabilities in the next twenty years. Acute extreme weather events, like hurricanes, have a higher probability of occurring in the future due to climate change. This means there is possibly more stress that could come to Tyndall and other coastal bases in the future.

California's wildfires have also taken their toll on nearby military bases. The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, which is based near the Sierra Nevada, was forced to evacuate in September of last year when wildfires got too close. According to the DoD report, 46 percent of the installations analyzed are now vulnerable to wildfires. This is in addition to facility vulnerabilities from drought, which, in turn, increases the risk of fire in Western Regions of the country. Stressed water supplies from extended

periods of drought can also require contingency planning for when bases are must be temporarily put out of commission.

Of course, protecting operational bases against severe weather events is not the only worry the military has in the face of climate change. The warming of the poles has also opened a new strategic landscape which directly connects the United States and Canada to Russia and China via the Arctic Ocean. As ice that used to cover the ocean melts and it becomes possible to move significant traffic through the area, policing the region against China and Russia will become a critical, and expensive, mission for the U.S. Navy. Arctic ice melt will also increase the extent to which foreign military vessels have access to North American shores.

Beyond direct U.S. military activities related to the homeland, the DoD report mentions that the U.S. military carries out significant humanitarian and disaster relief efforts, as directed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). If climate change does lead to an increased severity of global natural disasters, the military may need to expand its capacity to deal with traumatic events in different parts of the globe, on top of expanding requirements and strains at home.

Climate change also threatens increased destabilization in regions outside of the United States, which may put strain on deployed troops or even require U.S. military intervention. Sea-level rise could threaten rapidly developing cities along the coast of Africa like Mogadishu, Djibouti City, and Mombasa with damaged infrastructure and compromised water supplies. Any major displacement from these major cities would be a geopolitical risk and put even more strain on the already stressed global immigration channels. This could also cause an increase in piracy if economic conditions deteriorate around the Horn of Africa.

With so many present and future challenges being exacerbated by changing global climate patterns, it is important that military leadership internalize these threats and examine the entire military system to prepare for the challenges it will be facing. The DoD report lists some of the activities currently being undertaken by the military. Major initiatives include designing construction standards to better withstand natural events and developing research programs to better understand facility risks from environmental vulnerabilities. However, the report was very limited in its scope as compared to the mission of the DoD. For example, it neglected to cover international installations or the Marine Corps. It also did not provide congress with strategies to prioritize resources for mitigating future threats.

Moving forward, the DoD should expand on the initial report to fill in missing gaps and provide congress with more actionable budget recommendations. Specifically, DoD should develop and maintain a separate fund dedicated for research and systematic improvements to address these environmental vulnerabilities. The DoD should also commission robust studies for each Geographic Combatant Command to better understand how climate change may impact each region of the world in which the United States has strategic or militaristic interests. This will be important for understanding how

climate change could impair access or movements of deployed troops and equipment and allow the military to improve planning for future types of climate-related missions the military may have to conduct.

Contingency plans are needed for vulnerable bases that might need to be evacuated or otherwise go offline due to a natural disaster.

Dangerous skepticism at the highest levels of political leadership can still limit the DoD's ability to respond adequately to the changing world. The report was sent directly to Senator Jim Inhofe, chairman of the Committee on Armed Forces, who is notable for his speeches on the Senate floor denying the existence of climate change. What Congress decides to do moving forward from this initial report could have lasting implications for national security. Congress could call for more robust analytical reports and create new funding channels to drive research and preparation for environmental specific threats, or Congress could ignore the report, claiming satisfaction, and leave the military scrambling to work on this important issue by diverting resources from other budgets and performing sub-par preparation. So far, little news has surfaced from Congress about the report, indicating that it may be business as usual for the DoD.

[Debbie Wasserman Schultz Will Lead Military Construction and VA Appropriations Subcommittee](#)

Florida Daily- January 22, 2019

With Democrats now in control of the U.S. House, a congresswoman from South Florida has claimed a major perch.

Last week, U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., will chair the U.S. House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. She becomes the first woman to hold that position.

“The MilCon/Va Appropriations Subcommittee is the only one in the Congress that makes policy and provides funding for the entire life cycle of an individual's service, from their time in the military and after they leave the service and join the ranks of veterans,” the South Florida Democrat's office noted when she announced her new assignment.

“I'm truly honored to be the first woman ever to take this gavel,” Wasserman Schultz said. “After this historic election cycle when a record number of women were elected to Congress, serving in this role will allow me to bring a unique perspective to quality of life issues for our military and veterans.

“I'm also fiercely determined to work diligently, and across the aisle, to ensure that our nation's veterans and the men and women who serve, get the resources and support they need,” Wasserman Schultz added.

After a dozen years of service in both chambers of the Florida Legislature, Wasserman Schultz was first elected to Congress in 2004. Wasserman Schultz took to the national stage in 2011 when she became chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and led the party in 2012 as then President Barack Obama won a second term.

Staying in that post, Wasserman Schultz drew fire from a supporter of U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who accused her of helping longtime ally former U.S. Sec. of State Hillary Clinton win the Democratic presidential nomination. Wasserman Schultz stepped down from the DNC post in July 2016.

Wasserman Schultz represents a secure Democratic district but there have been some rough spots in recent elections. Back in 2016, she faced a primary challenge from Tim Canova who had Sanders' support. Wasserman Schultz had to work to defend her seat but she won the primary 57 percent to 43 percent. She went on to beat Republican Joe Kaufman 57 percent to 41 percent in the general election. A solid margin to be sure but she had thumped Kaufman 63 percent to 37 percent in 2014, a good year for Republicans though redistricting in 2016 could have impacted her smaller margin over Kaufman that year.

In 2018, Wasserman Schultz got back on track despite Canova running with no party affiliation. She won with 59 percent while Kaufman took 36 percent in his latest bid to topple her. Despite his previous showing against her, Canova pulled only 5 percent. As she takes the gavel on the subcommittee, Wasserman Schultz looks safe if she runs again in 2020.

Destin-based consulting firm gets \$95M military contract

NWF Daily- January 20, 2019

Risk Mitigation Consulting, Inc., a Destin-based consulting firm specializing in risk assessment at military installations, has been awarded its largest-ever contract, a \$95 million deal for work at Navy and Marine Corps facilities across the continental United States.

The bulk of the work is slated for installations in California, but RMC also will be working at facilities in Florida, Virginia, Georgia, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, among other states, according to the Jan. 2 contract award announcement from the Department of Defense.

"It's a large prime contract for us," said Nick Streitz, RMC's proposal manager. "It is to date our largest win."

RMC won the contract in competition with five other firms vying for the business, Streitz said.

RMC has 85 employees, with its CEO, Micheal Zeigler, working from Destin. The firm's employees are scattered across the United States, and the company will be bringing in additional staff to assist with the \$95 million contract, Streitz said.

In technical terms, the contract covers "mission assurance assessments" at the Navy and Marine Corps installations, with the work expected to take five years to complete.

In layman's terms, what RMC will be doing is assessing the degree to which infrastructure — water and electrical systems, for example — at the various installations might be vulnerable to cyber attack. That kind of attack can, Streitz explained, be just as

devastating to a military mission as a cyber attack on an installation's digital and computer infrastructure.

Following its assessments, RMC will present its findings regarding infrastructural vulnerabilities to the installations' leadership, and will recommend ways to address those vulnerabilities.

In focusing on cyber threats to physical, rather than digital, infrastructure at military bases, RMC has carved out a specialized place in the consulting market, according to Streit.

"We saw a niche area," he explained. "People weren't really looking at ... utilities that cross onto the base" from the surrounding community.

RMC does enjoy some advantage in the contracting arena as a veteran-owned business with service-disabled personnel on the payroll. But, Streit said, the company's move from what largely had been a subcontracting role — performing work for contracts won by other companies — into the prime contracting arena is a bit daunting.

Looking to the future, RMC plans to remain a small business, Streit said. Moving forward, he added, the company will be working to expand its "mission assurance" consulting to include Air Force and Army contracts.

3. Accomplishments:

- Presented at the January FDSTF meeting
- Participated in the January FDA conference call
- Multiple calls with Rep Gaetz staff

4. Planned Actions and Activities (Next Two Weeks)

- Begin to track FY2020 Authorizations and Appropriations Build.
- Continue to engage House and Senate congressional delegation MLAs on strategic priorities.
- Meet with congressional delegation staff concerning Tyndall rebuilding, moratorium on off shore drilling in gulf.
- Miami ADC Installation Innovation Forum in March 2020
- Set office call for SEC Principi and LTG (Ret) Huntoon with REP Gaetz for 5 FEB

US Navy

Military Services/Programs – Ships continue to arrive in Mayport. USS WICHITA (LCS-13) was commissioned in Mayport in early January. That makes five Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) of the FREEDOM-Class homeported there now along with the LCS Squadron Commander and his staff. USS INDIANPOLIS (LCS-17) will be arriving in Mayport later this year. Survivors of the USS INDIANPOLIS disaster in WWII have been sharing their stories of their survival with the commissioning crew to provide a backdrop for the spirit and soul that the new ship will bring to the Fleet.

Recently announced were the 2019 COMMANDER NAVY INSTALLATIONS COMMAND (CNIC) EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS. In the large installation's category, NAS JACKSONVILLE finished second to the category winner NAVBASE SAN DIEGO, but as it turns out that means that NAS JACKSONVILLE is the best Naval Air Station in the Navy.

US Air Force

DoD Context

Acting SECDEF Shanahan stated that the department had found its “preferred candidate” to lead the future US Space Command, though he did not reveal the name. Many are betting on Gen John “Jay” Raymond (Clemson, 1984), current commander of Air Force Space Command. Pundits expect the administration to formally propose that the Space Force / Corps be organized as a separate service under the Department of the Air Force—at least initially

The Department and US Southern Command continue to monitor political, economic and civil unrest in Venezuela.

Air Force Context

Several defense media reports indicate the Air Force may, in fact, include funding for new Boeing F-15X aircraft in the FY20 budget request. If funded by Congress, these would be excellent backfill for the FANG’s 125th Fighter Wing at Jacksonville.

Installation Specific Notes

HARB. I will discuss use of HARB in US Northern Command’s contingency planning with the NORTHCOM J3 next week.

Team Orlando

Team Orlando started off the new year celebrating a long several year march to the ribbon cutting of the Partnership 4 building inside the team Orlando Research Park. This milestone marked the beginning of an expansion vision for Team Orlando and the University of Central Florida. The new building, made possible by grants and money from the State of Florida and the University, paves the way for exciting new development and deeper partnering between the Government, Academia and Industry. Immediate occupancy will be by the newly formed Army Cross functional Team called Synthetic Training Environment (STE) and some initial elements of the cyber training initiative. Bottom line this was a very successful pursuit to a long-awaited solution that will benefit all for years to come. Great Accolades and thanks to Lt Gen (Ret) Tom Baptiste of the National Training Center for Simulation, UCF leadership and the State of Florida.
Key information:

Lt Gen (Ret) Tom Baptiste announced that he will retire from the position of President of the National Center for Simulations effective 1 April. The search for his replacement is underway by the NCS board of directors.

Community Liaison

- Supported Gen Spears to complete planning Jan 16 – 17 Team visit to South Florida Defense Alliance and SOUTHCOM
- Engaged with S FL Defense Alliance and FDSTF staff
- Participated in highly successful TPG/FDSTF/S FL Defense Alliance visit to SOUTHCOM
- Attended and supported TPG presence at Jan 17 FDSTF meeting in Miami
- Continue to engage NWFL community leaders in dialogue with NWFL military installation community planners following Hurricane Michael
- Convened meeting of NW FL Base-Community Working Group consisting of installation community planners and liaisons and community defense support reps
- Attended historic Whiting Field first-of-its-kind OLF Land Swap with neighboring county. Whiting deeded more distant OFL to neighboring county in return for a closer and brand new built to Navy specs OLF. OF NOTE: Rear Adm Bolivar moving to Navy Region SW soon
- Continue to monitor and report media and other public sources for information related to FL military installations and their host communities. FL Updates distributions included items on:

Corry Station	Patrick AFB
NAS JAX	Eglin AFB
Tyndall AFB	NSA Panama City
NAS Whiting Field	Hurlburt Field
NAS Pensacola	Blount Island
Cape Canaveral AFS	Gulf Range
NAS Mayport	Team Orlando
FL CODEL	



The Principi Group
Florida Monthly Advocacy Report
For the Period February 1-28, 2019

Functional Area: (Congressional Review)

1. Washington Insights

First of two top stories is the President's declaration of an emergency to build a Border Wall. Relevance to Florida is that the President has stated the Administration plans to use existing Military Construction accounts to help pay for the Wall. While the State is still awaiting Emergency relief funding from the devastating Hurricane Michael, this call to use Military Construction funds is definitely of concern.

Press: President Donald Trump will pay for the wall at the southern border in part by taking \$3.6 billion from military projects across the country and the world.

The decision means Florida bases could lose up to \$177 million for planned construction, more than all but eight other states, according to a list of eligible projects compiled by the House Appropriations Committee.

Among the projects in jeopardy are \$3.1 million to relocate KC-135 Stratotanker pilot flight simulators to MacDill Air Force Base. The KC-135 are refueling planes "critical to the joint warfighter and our allies."

Other projects that could lose funding include: \$83 million for Littoral Combat Ship support facility and \$29 million for Littoral Combat Ship operational training facility at Mayport Naval Base in Jacksonville, and \$35 million for a F-35A training center and \$28 million for a F-35A student dormitory at Eglin Air Force Base in Okaloosa County.

Border Wall Latest Update (Feb 26, 2019): Thirteen Republicans joined all House Democrats in opposition to Trump's attempt to seize funds for the border wall without going through Congress. The resolution now heads to the Senate, where it stands a chance of passing.

"The House voted Tuesday to overturn President Donald Trump's national emergency declaration, delivering a harsh rebuke to the president's attempt to go around Congress to fund a border wall,".

“Every Democrat voted in favor, along with 13 Republicans. The Senate, which needs just four GOP votes to approve it and send it to the president’s desk for his first veto, will vote on the resolution in the coming weeks.”

On a parallel track: “Rep. Tom Reed (R-N.Y.) said in an exclusive interview that he plans to unveil a bipartisan resolution on Wednesday that would require Congress to approve an executive declaration within 60 days or else it expires.”

On the Senate side, “Vice President Mike Pence faced a wall of resistance from Senate Republicans on Tuesday as he tried to sell President Donald Trump’s national emergency declaration on the southern border, according to multiple GOP sources,” per POLITICO’s Burgess Everett.

Meanwhile, the head of U.S. Northern Command said illegal border crossings aren’t a military threat.

Second top news is the last-minute agreement to keep Federal Government running as the February 15 deadline neared. Here’s what we was in the deal:

- \$1.375 billion for border barriers – reportedly that is enough to support 55 miles of coverage (9 miles less than the President’s Budget Request). Some have said the 55 miles where the barriers can be sited have already been identified, others indicate that the money can be used wherever the administration chooses);
- Agreement includes funding for future disasters (FEMA funding in the Homeland bill) but doesn’t include emergency disaster relief funding for last year’s hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes;
- Deal anticipates all 7 remaining FY 2019 appropriations bills being included in the package (Recall, Defense Appropriations had passed already).
- Agreement appears to be a modest deal with funding for border security below what many expected and what the WH wanted but without significant new legislative restrictions on DHS activities. There are arguments to be made for and against the agreement on both sides.
- Summary of text attached.

a. Budgets

The entire FY 2020 authorizations and appropriations process has been delayed. The Administration has indicated it will now deliver its FY 2020 federal budget March 12, 2019.

With the change of control in the House, the House schedule is uncertain and will likely be driven by negotiations on the Budget Control Act (BCA) spending levels for FY 2020 and FY 2021.

The Senate is likely to mark bills up in committee on a bipartisan basis at FY 2019 levels (which are higher than BCA levels) and be poised to move bills on the Senate floor once the House starts passing its bills.

If a BCA agreement is reached between the House, Senate and the Administration, the House and Senate process should move relatively expeditiously on FY 2020 appropriations bills, perhaps even reaching completion before the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2019. However, if BCA discussions drag on or fail, the appropriations process will likely become hostage to those deliberations.

Budget Control Act

When the Trump Administration submits its FY 2020 budget request, Congress will get an official position from the White House on whether it supports modifications to current BCA levels.

Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate will have to decide the levels for the FY 2020 bills and are likely to choose either the existing BCA levels (requiring cuts) or current FY 2019 levels.

Congress and the Administration need to reach a budget agreement for FY 2020 (and FY 2021) to facilitate this year's appropriations process and to provide federal spending certainty during the lead up to the 2020 elections. Under the Budget Control Act levels set for FY 2020 and FY 2021, federal defense and non-defense spending would have to drop by \$226 billion from currently-anticipated FY 2019 spending levels.

There have been three two-fiscal year adjustments to the Budget Control Act in the past six years: up \$64 billion for FY 2014-2015; up \$80 billion for FY 2016-2017; and up \$293 billion for FY 2018-2019. These budget negotiations are expected to be difficult, uncertain, and politically charged.

Congressional Democrats are likely to seek significant increases in the domestic discretionary caps, defense hawks will seek increases in the defense caps, fiscal hawks will seek adherence to existing Budget Control Act levels for either or both caps for FY 2020 and FY 2020, and the White House has sent mixed messages on its wishes for federal spending in the next two years.

The President has **variously** called for: a 5 percent cut in domestic and defense spending, a freeze on defense spending, and (most recently) a significant increase in defense spending.

Overseas Contingency Operations Fund

Administration to Boost Defense Spending by Padding Overseas Fund.

The Trump administration set up another showdown with Congress by confirming Monday, February 25, 2019, that it will move some domestic defense spending to the overseas contingency operations (OCO) fund, which is exempt from spending caps.

“Fiscal conservatives may feel uncomfortable using OCO in this way,” Russ Vought, the acting director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) wrote in a Real Clear Politics op-ed. “Yet, as long as Congressional Democrats insist on demanding more social spending in exchange for continuing to fund defense spending, expanding the use of OCO funds remains the administration’s only fiscally responsible option in meeting national security needs while avoiding yet another increase to the spending caps.”

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) called the plan a “gimmick,” according to Military Times.

b. Congressional Defense Committees

Hearings

- On February 13, 2019 the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing to receive testimony on the Current Condition of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative. Witnesses included: [Family Members](#); [Mr. Christopher Williams](#), President, Balfour Beatty Communities; [Mr. John G. Picerne](#), Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Corvias Group; [Mr. John Ehle](#), President, Hunt Military Communities; [Mr. Denis Hickey](#), Chief Executive Officer, Americas Lendlease Corporation; [Mr. Jarl Bliss](#), President, Lincoln Military Housing; [Honorable Robert H. McMahon](#), Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment; [Honorable Alex A. Beehler](#), Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment; [Honorable Phyllis L. Bayer](#); Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment; [Honorable John W. Henderson](#); Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy.
- On February 14th, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command. Witnesses included: [Honorable Owen O. West](#), Assistant Secretary of Defense, Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict; [General Raymond A. Thomas, III](#), USA, Commander, United States Special Operations Command and [General Paul M. Nakasone](#), USA, Commander, United States Cyber Command / Director, National Security Agency / Chief, Central Security Service.
- On February 26, 2019 the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on [Naval Surface Forces Readiness: Are Navy Reforms Adequate?](#) Witnesses for the hearing included: Admiral Christopher W. Grady, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Northern Command, Department of the Navy and Admiral John C. Aquilino, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Department of the Navy.

- On February 26, 2019 the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on [Department of Defense Information Technology, Cybersecurity, and Information Assurance](#): Witnesses for the hearing included: [The Honorable Lisa Hershman](#), Acting Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense and [Brigadier General Dennis Crall](#), USMC, Deputy Principal Cyber Advisor, Department of Defense.
- On February 26, 2019 the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing on [INF Withdrawal and the Future of Arms Control: Implications for the Security of the United States and its Allies](#). Witness for the hearing included: The Honorable Richard G. Lugar, Former U.S. Senator from Indiana; The Honorable Alexander Vershbow, Former Deputy Secretary General of NATO and The Honorable Paula DeSutter, Former Assistant Secretary of State for Verification, Compliance, and Implementation.
- On February 26, 2019 the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on United States Strategic Command and United States Northern Command. Witnesses for the hearing included: [General John E. Hyten](#), USAF, Commander, United States Strategic Command and [General Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy](#), USAF, Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command.
- On February 28, 2019 the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on Military Personnel Policies and Military Family Readiness. Witnesses included: Lieutenant General Thomas C. Seamands, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Vice Admiral Robert P. Burke, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, N-, Lieutenant General Brian T. Kelly, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services; Lieutenant General Michael A. Rocco, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; Sergeant Major Daniel A. Dailey, USA, Sergeant Major of the Army; Master Chief Petty Officer Russell L. Smith, USN, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Adobe Chief Master Sergeant Kaleth O. Wright, USAF Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green, USMC, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

National Military Strategy

Gen. Joe Dunford, the outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has finished his new edition of the National Military strategy — but currently has no plans to roll out a public version of the traditionally unclassified document.

2. Military Services/Programs: Installations and Regional Activities:

- Space Force

- This month, President Trump signed a scaled-down Space Force proclamation.
- **Press: Trump Signs off on Scaled-Back Space Force.** President Donald Trump signed a directive Tuesday to create Space Force. The

administration's budget, expected to be delivered to Congress mid-March, will include language setting up Space Force and requesting seed money of less than \$100,000. The Space Force would be housed within the Air Force – similar to how the Marine Corps operates under the Navy – and eventually become the fourth military service, according to the President's plan. He initially wanted to stand Space Force up as its own service but met resistance. "There's no reason to believe that space-related programs would fare any better than they do today under the U.S. Air Force recognizance," said former NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, now a professor at Syracuse University

- *TPG suggests questions be raised during hearing season as to what exactly this means to the Florida Space Coast moving forward.*

- **Hurricane Michael**

- As previously mentioned, the disaster relief funding is still an outstanding issue that congressional delegation needs to be asked about.
- Also not to be missed is the damage done at NSWC Panama City, and the fact it has NOT been included in previous DRAFTS of emergency disaster relief funding bills.
- **Press:** URS Group Inc. was awarded a \$21 million "modification" on a current contract for repairs to Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA PC) from Hurricane Michael, a public notice on the Department of Defense website says. "The work to be performed provides for removal of carpet, walls, windows and other unsalvageable items due to water penetration, clean-up of roofing materials and tarping of rooftops to mitigate further water intrusion," the notice stated. "Repairs include roof replacement, roof decking, and sealing roof penetrations. The repairs also include correction of architectural, structural, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, fire protection, electrical deficiencies and any other incidental related work as found due to damage from the hurricane.
- Rep Debbie Wasserman Schultz was reported to be touring the damage areas just this week. This is a significant positive note because even until two weeks ago, some Hill congressional delegation staff remained unaware of the damage done at NSWC Panama City.
- Virginia's congressional delegation is making a play for F-22's to be moved to Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton Roads. The entire delegation wrote to the Air Force secretary asking for the move. The planes were moved from Tyndall Air Force Base and are at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., for up to three years while the Pentagon finds their next home.

- **Light Attack Aircraft**

- The Air Force has made public statements saying they are backing away from the congressionally-supported light attack aircraft program. Several of the Florida Delegation have responded by letter to Air Force leadership.

- **Press: Questions on Light Attack:** Lawmakers from both parties [are questioning](#) an Air Force decision to defer the service's light attack program, and on Friday asked Shanahan to explain the service's reasons. Twelve lawmakers signed the [letter](#): Eight from Florida (the A-29 Super Tucano is made in Jacksonville) and four from Kansas and Nebraska (the AT-6 is manufactured in Wichita).
- *TPG suggests you make sure Air Force leadership are questioned during the upcoming hearing season as to their reasoning.*
- **Additional locations TPG are closely tracking:**
 - Mayport
 - Amid emergency declaration, lawmakers split on safety of big Mayport projects
 - Homestead/SOUTHCOM
 - More reason to sustain and enhance Homestead and link it to SOUTHCOM. US military planes from Florida land near Venezuela border with aid
 - MacDill
 - Over Half Of Military Families Dissatisfied With Privatized Housing. Multiple issues of substandard housing found across the country
 - Eglin AFB
 - Eglin Noise Committee hears request to reroute jets as F-22s relocate from Tyndall

On the Moratorium on drilling in the gulf

TPG View: Several congressional staff have signaled to TPG that they finally understand the fiscal / revenue nature of the previous legislation prohibiting drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. They say they now have DRAFT legislation with offsets needed to extend the Moratorium past 2021. We suggest you ask for detail.

MILCON Projects ISO Hurricane Michael Recovery

Attached is a Navy-generated white paper on damage and need for MilCon suffered by NSWC Panama City.

TPG View: I reached out and provided Rep. Wasserman Shultz office the attached paper. They were unaware of the millions of dollars in damages because Big Navy had not provided detail.

DOD Study Disputes Air Force on More Mobility Aircraft

The Air Force does not need to increase the number of mobility aircraft as it has said, according to a new study from the Pentagon and U.S. Transportation Command. Congress asked for the study in the defense authorization bill.

The Mobility Capabilities and Requirements Study was submitted to Capitol Hill last month, according to an executive summary released last week. It concluded that the Air Force has the capability of meeting the needs of the National Defense Strategy through 2023.

That is at odds with recent statements from Air Force leaders. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson said in September that the Air Force will need 14 more aerial refueling squadrons and one more airlift squadron, also citing the National Defense Strategy, according to Air Force Magazine.

Earmarks May Be Back

Soon after Congress finishes up the current fiscal year's spending bills, work will begin on the 2020 appropriations process, which may once again include earmarks. Democrats are considering reinstating the "directed spending" that has been forbidden since 2011, according to CQ.

"I am working to restore the Congress' constitutional duty to exercise the 'power of the purse' through congressionally directed spending with reforms to ensure transparency and accountability," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said in a written statement to CQ. "I am discussing this issue with members on both sides of the aisle and both chambers."

Earmarks that provide funding for specific local projects are popular with many lawmakers who say Congress should get to decide where to spend money instead of leaving it up to administration bureaucrats; critics say such "pet projects" encourage corruption and waste.

Earmarks, which have never made up a significant portion of the federal budget, have been largely taboo since a series of scandals showed money flowing to friends and campaign contributors.

Florida Member Request form Attached.—obtained from Florida congressional delegation staff.

Florida in the News

1. [Florida lands first blow over Colorado in battle to house Space Force](#)
The Gazette- February 25, 2019

Colorado Springs is home to the bulk of the military's space troops with Air Force Space Command and Army Space and Missile Defense Command at Peterson Air Force Base and other units at Schriever Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station and Fort Carson. But that didn't slow Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis from making a pitch to put the Space Force in a new home.

“Today, I am formally sending a request to @realDonaldTrump to place the headquarters for the Space Force Combatant Command here in Florida @NASA Kennedy in Cape Canaveral,” DeSantis wrote on Twitter.

Trump on Tuesday signed “Space Policy Directive 4,” which called for the creation of a Space Force and placing the new service, temporarily, under the Department of the Air Force. The approach is designed to woo lawmakers who fear pushing space troops into a new service branch will balloon bureaucracy and costs.

The Space Force is still just a dream for Trump, who began crusading for the new service early in his presidency and continues to use the proposal as a crowd-pleaser at his rallies.

Congress must create the service and set new policies that will outline its roles and missions. Lawmakers will also hold sway on where the new service is located and what real estate, if any, will be transferred to the branch.

Colorado lawmakers have pushed for more than a year to house the new service, with Colorado Springs Republican U.S. Rep Doug Lamborn leading the charge. Lamborn this year took the post as ranking member of the powerful subcommittee overseeing military readiness and told The Gazette he will use that heft to push the service to Colorado.

Lamborn was joined Wednesday by Colorado Republican U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, who issued a plea to house the Space Force here.

“Colorado is proud to support our nation’s military space operations today and into the future,” Gardner said in a statement. “I look forward to reviewing the Administration’s proposal for expanded space operation and development.”

What the Space Force will look like is still up in the air, and the new service could be killed before it is launched by House Democrats. Washington Democratic Rep. Adam Smith, who heads the House Armed Services Committee, is already tangling with Trump over the president’s border wall deal.

In declaring an emergency to build the border wall, Trump targeted more than \$3.5 billion in military construction funds and also raided a Pentagon account for counter-narcotics operations.

“It is not our top national security priority to build a wall at our southern border.,” Smith said on Twitter. “Taking money from the Department of Defense for this purpose makes us less safe.”

2. [Lockheed's Hellfire, Harris Corp. and Longbow grab \\$58.3M in Orlando defense work](#)

Orlando Business Journal- February 25, 2019

Central Florida's military defense sector continues to boom as three contracts were awarded to two global military firms and one joint venture company made up of two government contractor powerhouses.

The U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy each awarded Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT), Harris Corp. (NYSE: HRS) and Longbow LLC — a partnership between Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman Corp. (NYSE: NOC) — contracts with a combined **Error! Bookmark not defined.** of \$58.3 million, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Lockheed Martin got the largest of the three contracts. The U.S. Navy awarded the Bethesda, Md.-based company a \$33.3 million, two-year deal for work on the Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile. The company's Missiles & Fire Control campus in southwest Orlando will provide redesign, integration and test of radio frequency sensors for the missile. Part of the work also will happen in Wayne, N.J.; and Nashua, N.H.

Meanwhile, Lockheed Martin's southwest Orlando campus can take on even more work now, thanks to its \$50 million, 255,000-square-foot Research and Development II building which opened Feb. 13. As a result, the company is on a hiring spree, as well, with nearly 500 jobs available for the campus.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy awarded Melbourne-based Harris Corp. a \$14.6 million, five-month contract to provide services on the commercial broadband satellite program — a system that allows small and large navel combatant and support ships to communicate. All of the work will happen in Palm Bay, where Harris has nearly 200 jobs available.

Lastly, the U.S. Army awarded Longbow a \$10.4 million, one-year contract for engineering services on the laser device and Hellfire air-to-surface missile, which attaches to the Longbow attack helicopter. All of the work will be performed in Orlando.

Military contracts help create jobs and subcontractor opportunities for the local economy, and Central Florida is a major player in the defense industry. The region snags about \$4 billion in government contracts each year, the Orlando Economic Partnership reported, because the nation's Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines simulation operations are based in Central Florida Research Park. That work helps make Orlando the modeling, simulation and training capital of the world.

3. [Debbie Wasserman Schultz Intends to Help Panhandle Through Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee](#)

Florida Daily- February 22, 2019

With Democrats now in control of the U.S. House, **U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz**, D-Fla., is leading an important subcommittee and is trying to use that new perch to help the Sunshine State recover from **Hurricane Michael**.

[Last month](#), Wasserman Schultz became the chairwoman the **U.S. House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee**.

“The MilCon/Va Appropriations Subcommittee is the only one in the Congress that makes policy and provides funding for the entire life cycle of an individual’s service, from their time in the military and after they leave the service and join the ranks of veterans,” the South Florida Democrat’s office noted when she announced her new assignment.

This week, Wasserman Schultz headed to the Panhandle where she joined **U.S. Rep. Neal Dunn**, R-Fla., in touring military bases which were devastated by Hurricane Michael back in October.

“Northwest Florida desperately needs disaster funding,” Wasserman Schultz noted after touring the area. “On Tuesday I visited Naval Support Activity Panama City with Congressman Neal Dunn, M.D. and met with base leadership. The facilities sustained serious damage from Hurricane Michael – damages to the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division led to the displacement of 40 percent of the workforce.

“Not only are our military members dealing with sub-optimal conditions, but Hurricane Michael’s aftereffects have had a devastating impact on the region’s economy,” Wasserman Schultz added. “Maintaining military readiness and attending to the quality of life of our military personnel are top priorities. I will work to ensure military bases recovering from Hurricane Michael have access to needed additional funding.”

Wasserman Schultz also joined Dunn and **U.S. Rep. Al Lawson**, D-Fla., to see how the hurricane impacted **Tyndall Air Force Base**.

“I toured Tyndall Air Force Base with Congressman Neal Dunn, M.D. and Rep Al Lawson Jr. to survey the significant damage the installation sustained as a result of Hurricane Michael. It is clear that Tyndall urgently needs supplemental funds to rebuild,” Wasserman Schultz noted on Thursday. “The military accounts for about 37 percent of Bay County’s economy and Tyndall is the largest military facility in the county. U.S. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson committed to bringing three F-35 squadrons to Tyndall. Now Congress needs to match that commitment by allocating dollars to rebuild the base.”

Despite their political differences, Dunn praised the South Florida Democrat’s help in helping the military rebuild on the Panhandle.

“On Tuesday, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz joined me for a tour and briefing at Naval Support Activity Panama City and U.S. Coast Guard Station Panama City,” Dunn noted. “We surveyed damage from Hurricane Michael and discussed the needs of our military in the Panhandle. As chairwoman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Rep. Wasserman Schultz is committed to helping us rebuild and I thank her for the continued support.”

4. [Lawmakers Petition Trump to Put New Space Force COCOM Headquarters in Florida](#)

Military.com-February 19, 2019

Florida lawmakers are already petitioning President Donald Trump to place part of the newly minted U.S. [Space Force](#) in their state.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a Republican, said he will formally ask the president to locate the department's unified combatant command for space at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral.

"I am formally sending a request to @realDonaldTrump to place the headquarters for the Space Force Combatant Command here in Florida @NASAKennedy in Cape Canaveral," DeSantis [tweeted Tuesday](#).

"This is part of Florida's history and is a logical fit for our state," he wrote of the base, which conducts military and commercial space launches.

DeSantis is one of nearly a dozen elected officials vying to have Space Command placed in Florida.

In a letter to acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, Republican Reps. Michael Waltz and Bill Posey, members of the House Armed Services Committee, and 11 other Florida lawmakers said their state remains "the epicenter of America's space program," [Stars and Stripes reported](#).

If they get their way, Space Command would join Central Command, Southern Command and Special Operations Command as the fourth combatant command in the state.

In a ceremony Tuesday, Trump [signed Space Policy Directive-4](#), which lays a critical foundation to create the Department of the Space Force.

If approved by Congress, the Space Force will fall within the Department of the [Air Force](#), according to the directive.

The idea to organize Space Force [under the Air Force](#) first [made waves in December](#). That same month, [Trump signed a memorandum](#) creating the newest unified, combatant command: U.S. Space Command.

"Space Force," as the president calls it, encompasses both the proposed Department of the Space Force and the U.S. Space Force military service.

This includes the unified U.S. Space Command and the Space Development Agency, which will oversee procurement of new satellites, among other capabilities, much like the Space and Missile Systems Center at [Los Angeles Air Force Base](#) does now.

Last month, Shanahan said the Defense Department has identified a four-star general to head the new combatant command but did not name the person.

"We're working through the legislative branch on getting a commander confirmed to be the head of U.S. Space Command," a senior administration official said during a background phone call with reporters on Tuesday ahead of the president's signing of the document. "So, depending on that timeline and working with [Capitol Hill], it will help us establish the exact timeline for when we will [begin forming] U.S. Space Command."

For that reason, the location of the command is not addressed in the directive, the official said.

U.S. Air Force Space Command is located at [Peterson Air Force Base](#) in Colorado Springs.

[Space policy and budget experts have previously said](#) it would be wise to streamline operations at Peterson because the base already hosts a robust space mission.

The administration official said that the DoD wants to limit its infrastructure to save costs where it can but hinted it's not impossible the mission could move elsewhere. "There will be an official DoD basing study that will be done to determine the final location of U.S. Space Command," the official said.

5. [State legislators tour local military base damage](#)

WGJH- February 19, 2019

Congressman Neal Dunn paid a visit to Naval Support Activity Panama City Tuesday, and he didn't come alone.

The congressman was joined by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz of south Florida to tour Hurricane Michael damage. Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz leads the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on military construction. This is part of Representative Dunn's efforts to garner more disaster funding by encouraging members of Congress to see the devastation firsthand.

But following President Trump's declaration of a national emergency, some worry the billions of dollars he plans to use for border wall construction will come out of military relief money in the area.

Congressman Dunn said, "It actually can't happen, and I'll tell you why it can't happen: we haven't appropriated any money yet. So there is no money to pull from the bases." But according to Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz, the president can pull money from previous supplemental appropriations bills that have not yet been spent and would potentially be eligible. "Those of us that are from states like Texas and North Carolina and Florida that have gotten devastated by hurricanes will give him the fight of his life if he tries to come after that funding," said Representative Wasserman Schultz.

She added the president has not yet indicated he would target that money. Both Congressman Dunn and Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz will be touring Tyndall's damages on Wednesday. Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz says she foresees more money on the way to help military bases recover post-Hurricane Michael.

6. [Border wall could cost Eglin \\$63M](#)

NWF daily News- February 18, 2019

Money programmed — but not yet allocated — to two construction projects planned for Eglin Air Force Base could be steered to construction of a U.S.-Mexico border wall under terms of President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency.

U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., whose Northwest Florida district includes Eglin AFB, confirmed Monday that a proposed \$34.9 million outlay for an F-35A training center, and a proposed \$28 million outlay for an F-35A student dormitory, are part of the \$3.6 billion in military construction funding that Trump could tap for construction of the border wall. The F-35A is the Air Force version of the fifth-generation F-35 stealth fighter jet. Eglin serves as the testing center for the F-35, and it also trains F-35 pilots and maintenance personnel from the U.S. military services and partner nations.

“We may have to wait on those” two facilities, said Gaetz, who worked to have both projects included in the National Defense Authorization Act, the military spending and policy bill for the current fiscal year, which runs through Sept. 30.

“We need those facilities,” Gaetz said, but he added that even without them, “we are able to execute the mission” of F-35 training at Eglin AFB.

President Trump declared the national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border after Congress reached a compromise spending plan, aimed at avoiding a second government shutdown for the current fiscal year, that included \$1.4 billion for fencing at the southern border. Trump had sought \$5.7 billion in funding for a wall along parts of the border

7. [Shanahan works to find Pentagon money for border barriers without affecting military families](#)

Washington Examiner- February 18, 2019

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan is discovering firsthand — if he wasn't already well aware — that one of the principal tasks that falls to any defense secretary serving President Trump is turning his pronouncements unpopular in the Pentagon into policy that is more palatable to the military and its supporters.

The first thing that Shanahan made clear in his remarks to reporters flying back with him from the weekend Munich Security Conference is that military housing funds will not be part of the \$3.6 billion in military construction funds the president wants to divert to build more border barriers. “I've received a number of letters. I've had lots of feedback: ‘Do not

jeopardize the projects that are underway,” Shanahan said. “There are some priorities that won't be considered: military housing.”

Shanahan said he will be following a deliberate and careful process to figure out how to shift funds to meet the president's priorities while minimizing the impact on quality of life for military families. And he underscored that as of the weekend no decisions had been made.

5-YEAR MONEY VS. THIS YEAR MONEY: Shanahan is basically working with two pots of cash. The \$2.5 billion in counter-narcotic funds have to be spent this year. But the \$3.6 billion in military construction funds is five-year money, because construction projects take time. “All of this money has been assigned for other purposes, so it really then comes to what are you going to trade off,” Shanahan said. “When you say ‘tradeoff,’ it really is a tradeoff. There is without something that wouldn't be done that [was] planned to be done.”

THE LEGAL CHALLENGE: Meanwhile 16 states, led by California, are suing in federal court in an attempt to block the emergency declaration that authorizes the transfer of military money to wall funding.

California attorney general Xavier Becerra said in a statement that California's lawsuit argues the declaration is unconstitutional. “President Trump treats the rule of law with utter contempt,” Becerra said, according to the AP. “He knows there is no border crisis, he knows his emergency declaration is unwarranted, and he admits that he will likely lose this case in court.”

In Friday's announcement the White House was careful to cite the precise provisions of a law Congress passed in 1976 that specifically authorizes the president to declare a national emergency and then authorizes the secretary of defense to use unallocated (that is unspent) military construction funds to support the armed forces.

“The language itself is very simple,” said Shanahan. “In effect it says to support military operations, you have the discretion to utilize military construction funds, and it's basically that broad.” Shanahan says the Joint Staff will be conducting a careful “mission analysis” to determine how the military can support the Department of Homeland Security and how the funds can be spent legally. “We are following the law, using the rules, and we're not bending the rules,” he said.

TYING UP THE MONEY: But while the legal battle plays out, the funds will essentially be frozen. The Pentagon can't spend the money, about \$10 billion in FY 2020 funds, or they won't be available for the wall. And if a court issues an injunction, the money also won't be used for construction of new border barriers.

GENERAL CONFUSION: Given that no projects have been identified for defunding or delay, President Trump's Friday remarks that he was briefed by “the generals” and the projects “didn't sound too important” were curious, to say the least.

Trump invoked the “the generals” in arguing that the border wall was a higher priority than whatever else they money would be spent on. “Some of the generals think that this is more important. I was speaking to a couple of them. They think this is far more important than what they were going to use it for. I said, ‘What were you going to use it for?’ And I won't go into details, but it didn't sound too important to me.”

A request to the Pentagon for more information about which generals and what projects were discussed in what forum last week has gone unanswered.

In 2017 when President Trump tweeted an order declaring that “after consultation with my Generals” he was instituting a ban on transgender troops, it later turned out no generals had been consulted, and the tweet took the Pentagon by surprise.

HASC CHAIR FURIOUS: Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, took particular exception to Trump's remarks about relative value of military construction priorities. “It is utterly disrespectful of U.S. national security and the needs of our men and women in uniform, and it further undermines his credibility in requesting the upcoming defense budget,” said Smith in a statement.

Smith called Trump's move an “appalling decision” and “an egregious example of the President putting his political agenda ahead of the interest of the United States.”

“As the President begins to steal money from military needs to build his wall, Congress must conduct oversight to identify exactly which projects supporting servicemembers and their families the President has chosen to value less than this political stunt,” Smith said.

8. [Will money meant for \\$100 million military project in Mayport now go to border wall instead?](#)

JaxNews- February 15, 2019

Action News Jax Investigates is asking if a \$100 million project for Jacksonville and Mayport is in jeopardy.

The Mayport funding is for a Littoral combat ship operational training facility addition, and an LCS support facility.

“Those facilities are critical,” said former Navy Captain, Rick Hoffman.

Hoffman served at Mayport and was at the Pentagon for the procurement of the LCS program.

Hoffman said the new facilities would create jobs, and a better maintained fleet means a safer environment for sailors.

“It's already a risky business,” Hoffman said. “To cut corners on training, to cut corners on readiness, to cut corners on the combat system capability of the ships increases risk and increases risk for young men and women who have signed on to go do this very difficult job.”

Two new facilities for littoral combat ships are supposed to be funded this year.

Today, President Donald Trump announced he plans to use about \$3.5 billion from planned military construction projects toward border security. Action News Jax reporter Russell Colburn took the concerns to congressional lawmakers. Here are statements from congressional lawmakers sent to Action News Jax:

U.S. Rep. Al Lawson statement:

“The president’s manufactured crisis is threatening the training, readiness and quality of life of our military and their families by targeting the LCS Support Facility and the LCS Operational Training Facility Addition, two high-priority construction initiatives in Jacksonville. He is declaring an emergency over a crisis that doesn’t truly exist. Border crossings are actually down to one-fifth of what they were in 2000. With this unlawful declaration, the president is trying to go around the democratic process and that is not how any of this works.”

Congressman John Rutherford statement:

“I support President Trump’s decision to declare a national emergency to address the humanitarian and security crisis at the southern border. Every moment we delay securing our border is detrimental to communities across America ravaged by drugs, crime, and human trafficking. With regard to military construction projects, the White House has indicated they may be reviewing unspent dollars from previous years to fund sections of our desperately needed border wall. Through our conversations with the Department of Defense and the Appropriations Committee, we do not expect Fiscal Year 2019 projects such as those at Naval Station Mayport to be impacted by this declaration. As a member of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, I am committed to ensuring our warfighters and their families have the resources they need to defend our nation.”

Senator Rick Scott statement:

“Senator Rick Scott will always fight for Florida’s military members, veterans and their families, and will work with the Administration to ensure Florida’s bases receive all the resources they need to support the men and women of our armed forces that risk their lives to keep us safe.”

Senator Marco Rubio's office statement:

“We are currently in the process of confirming with the Department of Defense what specific accounts will be utilized in addition to any programs or projects which will be impacted.”

9 [Virginia Lawmakers Urge Air Force Secretary to Move F-22s to Langley-Eustis](https://www.military.com/news/2019/02/15/virginia-lawmakers-urge-air-force-secretary-to-move-f-22s-to-langley-eustis)
Military.com- February 15, 2019

A group of Virginia lawmakers wants F-22 Raptor fighters that were transferred to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, from Tyndall following Hurricane Michael to be permanently relocated to Joint Base Langley-Eustis.

Sens. Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine, both Democrats, are urging Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson to consider moving formal training units (FTU) such as the 43rd Fighter Squadron to Virginia for training and maintenance operations, as well as potential recruiting efforts.

"Beyond the existing ramp space and infrastructure at Langley that would allow it to quickly receive aircraft at minimal additional cost, a decision to move the F-22 FTU to Langley would leverage a number of key benefits that Langley and the surrounding areas have," the lawmakers said in a statement Friday. "The Hampton Roads area has a long history of supporting our nation's military and their families and would provide strong recruiting and retention ability."

Following Hurricane Michael, which damaged most structures at Tyndall as well as dozens of stealth jets, the Air Force moved its remaining F-22 fleet, dividing the aircraft between Langley-Eustis; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Eglin, located roughly 60 miles from Tyndall in the Florida panhandle, also took some of Tyndall's F-22s and T-38 Talon trainers. The Raptor schoolhouse for pilots, as well as maintenance operations, have been relocated to Eglin.

The lawmakers said moving the F-22s from Eglin to Langley-Eustis would give more missions to the Virginia base, which is currently "underutilized," they said. "Joint Base Langley-Eustis is currently underutilized, housing only two F-22 squadrons and supporting maintenance units," the letter states. It was co-signed by Reps. Bobby Scott, Robert Wittman, Gerry Connolly, Morgan Griffith, Don Beyer, A. Donald McEachin, Ben Cline, Elaine Luria, Abigail Spanberger, Denver Riggleman and Jennifer Wexton.

"Moving the F-22 FTU would advance an important recommendation put forward by the Government Accountability Office, which has emphasized the need for improving aircraft availability by consolidating the fleet into larger squadrons or wings," the letter states.

Last July, the GAO said the F-22 is rarely employed to its fullest potential, due to maintenance challenges and fewer opportunities for pilot training, as well as the fleet's inefficient organizational structure.

The lawmakers offered other reasons why they think the move makes sense.

"The Virginia Air National Guard stands uniquely positioned to support the FTU, with experienced instructors and maintainers well-versed on the platform," they wrote. The Virginia Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing flies F-22 Raptors.

"The East Coast Mid-Atlantic training ranges provide an excellent opportunity to train with other 4th- and 5th-generation aircraft in the region," the letter continues.

The lawmakers' effort comes as the Air Force is weighing moving three squadrons' worth of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters to Tyndall in the near future.

Trading F-22s for an F-35 mission at Tyndall would boost the number of F-22 aircraft in other parts of the country -- as the GAO recommended -- allowing units to consolidate their 5th-gen fleets. Squadrons would have the opportunity to plus-up their operational F-22 squadrons from "21 to 24 assigned aircraft," Air Force officials said in December.

The lawmakers on Friday said reshuffling the jets would be a strategic move. "We ask that you give full consideration to Joint Base Langley-Eustis as a host to this mission," they wrote.

Navy Update

1. **Military Services/Programs** – USS BILLINGS (LCS-15) completed its acceptance trials in the Great Lakes. The ship will be commissioned later this year. It will end up in Mayport along with USS MIWAUKEE, USS DETROIT, USS LITTLE ROCK, USS SIOUX CITY, and USS WICHITA. Although considered a small ship with a small crew, there are two crews for each ship AND the crews are much more senior and thus come with families providing a boost to the local economy. Navy says the ships will start their deployment cycles this year, and the best bet is they will be used for anti-drug operations, liaison with South American navies and showing the flag in far off places like Africa.

- An update to a previously reported story for NAS Jacksonville at the time has traversed the state to end up in Pensacola – poly-fluoroalkyl (PFAS) or what is commonly referred to as chemicals found in firefighting foam used for training purposes. The story started with the Air Force and has now consumed the Navy and contamination of drinking water in and around the installations (NAS Pensacola, Saufley Field, and Corry Station). The man-made chemicals do not absorb well in the soil and could migrate to groundwater. Navy has been coordinating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the local communities to make sure if there is contamination, how best to mitigate the problem. “Navy will provide alternate drinking water for residents if there private drinking water concentrations exceed the EPA health advisory level.”

- As previously reported Corry station is running triple shifts to meet the demand for cryptologists and Cyber Warriors. Commander Naval Education and Training (CNET) recently recognized Corry as the 2018 recipient of the 2018 overall NETC Training Excellence Award for best Navy learning center. This is the third year in a row for Corry to win this award. Corry trains over 21,000 students every year and delivers trained information warfare professionals to the Navy and joint services. The command offers 200 courses for cryptologic technicians, intelligence specialists, information system technicians, electronics technicians, and officers in the Information Warfare community. Well Done, Corry!!

As previously reported Navy has a new outlying landing field (OLF) after a unique deal that gave NAS Whiting Field a capable training site while Escambia County received land it wants to develop. The OLF is more capable than the one it replaces and is now open for helicopter training. The ceremonial land swap was attended by representatives of Navy, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The project cost the Navy nothing. A land exchange project of this nature is without recent precedent. Turns out to be a Win-Win for everybody.

Demonstrating the flexibility and broad capabilities of Florida in support of the military, jets from NAS Jacksonville were recently involved in a training exercise that involved the dropping of test bombs in Ocala National Forest.

Air Force

DoD Context

1. The public release of the DoD FY 2020 Budget Request should occur mid-March.
2. On 26 Feb, eight Senators introduced a \$13.6B disaster relief funding bill. Sponsored by Sens Rubio, Scott and six others from storm-affected states, the bill includes \$1.1B for Air Force installations – with some \$700M in MILCON for repairs from damage caused by Hurricane Michael last year. The Air Force hasn't released a "final" bill to repair all damage at Tyndall, but AF leadership continues to state their commitment to rebuilding the installation. Headwinds for this funding include the border wall funds conflict and the larger, multiple-installation, privatized military housing repairs requirement.
3. SOUTHCOM continues to monitor, plan and direct limited operations related to Venezuela. Last week the COCOM directed the airlift of humanitarian relief supplies for VEN, using Homestead ARB as an aerial port for some five or six C-17 missions into neighboring Colombia.

Air Force Context

1. The new US Space Force will be organized as a separate service under the Department of the Air Force.

Installation Specific Notes

1. Tyndall. MILCON funding bill introduced in the Senate, see above. Air Force commitment to beddown three operational F-35 squadrons at Tyndall continues, while Virginia (Langley AFB) actively pursues the F-22 training mission currently split between Eglin (flight ops) and Tyndall (academic and simulator training).

