

21st Century Partnership Monthly Update

Nov 30, 2019



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/BLUF: Below are items of interest to Central Georgia leadership. Thank you for your continued support and, as always, let us know how we can better serve you.

SYNOPSIS:

[Happy Thanksgiving!](#)

In this season of thanksgiving, we are reminded of the generosity of this community. Is there any doubt that Middle Georgia is a Great American Defense Community? The 21st Century Partnership was pleased to help support the 2019 Support the Troops Care Package event again this year...And you have all broke records! The support shown by so many organizations and individuals would take your breath away and give you goose bumps! Please take a moment and visit our Facebook page to thank the many contributors @ <https://www.facebook.com/21stCenturyPartnership/>.

[Department of Defense Budget](#)

Congress has passed, and the President signed, an extension of the current Continuing Resolution (CR) for an additional four weeks. The new CR extends the current spending levels, based on last Fiscal Year's numbers, through to December 20th, just in time for Christmas. It did add a 3.1% military pay raise as well as temporarily extend three Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act provisions, included a spending measure for the Import-Export Bank and add spending for the 2020 census. This gives Congress a scant bit of breathing space to finish the budget process...but there is still a long row to hoe.

[21st Century Partnership DC Visit](#)

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[Middle Georgia STEM Alliance Update](#)

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As we've discussed in the past, there are two components to the budget for the military, the appropriations (the actual budgets) and the authorizations (the National Defense Authorizations Act (NDAA)). The budget gives the funding lines and the NDAA authorizes programs and execution of the funding. With a CR, the new programs and programs that require authorization are not able to execute. For instance, the Air Force has an additional \$11.8 billion in funding as a part of the FY20 budget they will not be able to execute.

This impacts 88 investment new starts, 14 production increases and 41 Military Construction projects across 19 states, to include the Consolidated Mission Operations Center at Robins Air Force Base. Other Georgia impacts include delays to starts of the Joint Air Dominance Center in Savannah and production increases for the C-37 built by Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. also in Savannah. There are many other second and third order of effects that will impact Georgia, including the beginning of the study for the Advanced Battle Management System (ABMS) currently authorized in the FY20 NDAA.

To be clear, these programs are not cancelled, but imagine being the business who has won these contracts and have begun to gather the resources to execute them...things like hiring staff and filling warehouses with material. You will now have to hold those resources until execution or eliminate the expense only to have to restart the process at a later date. For the new contracts that are delayed, a CR will likely factor into a businesses risk assessment as they prepare their proposal, increasing the costs to the

taxpayer. The CRs impact all government operations, not just the Department of Defense.

For those keeping track, there are 12 appropriations bills in the annual budget; 10 have made it through the House, four have passed the Senate. The language in the bills passed by both House and Senate is not aligned which means they will have to meet in committee to hammer out the differences...before Christmas.

Sticking points for the Defense bills (both appropriations and the NDAA) that remain are the border wall funding and the structure of the new Space Force. The Democrats would like to include provisions that would prevent border wall funding, the Senate does not nor would the President likely sign a bill with that included. The Senate would like to stand up a Space Force and the House is currently opposed.

An additional matter of concern is over PFOS/PFOA contamination. Perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid is a chemical found in many everyday items from weather resistant clothing to non-stick cookware to...important to this discussion... Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), a firefighting agent used by many including the military. The Democrats would like to include clean-up language in the Defense bills, and the Senate prefers to keep that language in the EPA bills. While The House Armed Services Chair Adam Smith (D-WA) has stated he believes this will be easily resolved, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has sent a letter to the Senate that she will not bring a NDAA bill to the floor without PFOS/PFOA language.

We remain hopeful that Congress can come to an agreement on all the funding bills required, as well as the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act. Time is still not on Congress's side in this case. When Chairman Adam Smith was asked if the NDAA bill should be expected in mid-December, he said he would not "make a bet on it."

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The first day the team had the opportunity to visit both the House and Senate and visit with Senator Johnny Isakson, Senator David Perdue, Congressman Austin Scott and Congressman Sanford Bishop.

The team presented a memento from the community to Senator Isakson for his years of dedicate public service. He has served this State with the Georgia Air National Guard from 1966 to 1972, Georgia House from 1976-1990, and Georgia Senate from 1992 to

1996, a Georgia representative to the US House from 1999 to 2005, and the US Senate 2005 to 2019.

Also presented to Senator Perdue was his certificate of support for his efforts in securing the designation of a Great American Defense Community for Middle Georgia.

As the team visited with Senator Perdue and Congressman Scott and Congressman Bishop, they had the opportunity to thank them for the support for the new Advanced Battle Management System (ABMS) and the Direct Hiring Authorities that have allowed Robins Air Force to hire the needed workforce. The team was able to advocate for the development of Middle Georgia as a Software Center of Innovation, additional programs that support our military families and relief for the rule that prevents the Department of Defense from hiring military retirees for 180 days after they leave the service. With Congressman Bishop, a member of the committee that has authority over Military Construction, the team advocated for increases in funding and authorities to allow Robins Air Force Base to refurbish needed facilities.

At the Pentagon the team met with Secretary James Stewart, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness; Secretary Robert McMahon, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment; Ms. Jennifer Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations); Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Director, Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA); and Preston Dunlap, the Air Force ABMS Architect. The team discussed the demonstrated support for the Department of Defense and Military families throughout Middle Georgia. They had the opportunity to hear the needs for the Department of Defense and the Air Force and their priorities going forward.

Additionally, the team was able to present a memento to Secretary McMahon from Middle Georgia to thank him for his years of support to our community.

We appreciated this opportunity to spend time with our leadership while in Washington and we believe the team was able to have a positive impact on both Congress and the Department of Defense. We look forward to hosting these visits in the future.









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This year, Bibb County has formed four new FTC teams. There are also new teams in Taylor and Peach Counties. We are working to start new teams next year in four more counties! This program gives students opportunities for hands-on experience with robotics design and construction, software development, electronics, as well as problem-solving and decision-making, in a fun competitive setting. The STEM Alliance provides volunteers for these events. Flint Energies and GA Power have generously funded this program. Join us for the next FTC competition at First Presbyterian Day School in Macon on Sat 7 Dec.

Also, congratulations to the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) teams in Houston and Bibb Counties. Houston took first place at the off-season event in Marietta on 2 Nov. Bibb finished in the top 10. FRC is a high school only program. Both teams finished in the top ten at FRC State Championship and competed in the Worlds competition in April 2019. For more information, visit <https://www.21stcenturypartnership.com/middle-ga-stem-alliance/> and @Middlegastem on Facebook.

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