



CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM CONGRESS THIS WEEK

January 12, 2024

by Steve Linton-Smith

Appropriations Top Line Agreement

- **Last weekend, Speaker Mike Johnson announced** that he had reached an agreement with Democrats on top line spending numbers for Fiscal Year 2024 that would fund the government under the same terms previously agreed to by former Speaker Kevin McCarthy.
 - **Despite howls of protest** from Speaker Johnson's right flank this week, he is standing firm, saying earlier today that "our top line agreement remains."
 - **The deal sets a \$1.590 trillion topline** for FY2024 funding, with \$886 billion for defense and \$704 billion for nondefense programs.
 - **Conservative Republicans were demanding** steeper cuts and quick action to secure the border – or shutdown the government. At least two House Republican have not ruled out offering a resolution to remove the Speaker.
 - **However, influential GOP appropriators** and most of the Republican conference back the agreement. Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) summed it up, "this is the best deal we are going to get."
 - **The major hurdle** in negotiations was whether Congress should abide by the spending limits agreed to last year in exchange for raising the debt limit.
 - **Stop me if you've heard this before...** with the current continuing resolution (CR) set to expire soon, the Senate is working on another CR to push funding out until the end of March. The current two-tiered CR expires on January 19 and February 2, with the latter including national security funding.
 - **Left unresolved** is a supplemental spending request from the President to support the wars in Ukraine and Israel.

Nomination Success

- **In the final days of 2023**, the Senate confirmed eleven pending senior military nominees. The upper chamber also returned to the President dozens of nominees, in a required procedural move – many of which have been renominated.
 - **Recent military confirmations:**
 - Lt. Gen. Michael Guetlein – Vice Chief, Space Operations
 - Lt. Gen. Gregory Guillot – Commander, NORTHCOM
 - Lt. Gen. Tim Haugh – Commander, NSA & CYBERCOM
 - VADM William Houston – Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program
 - VADM James Kilby – Vice Chief, Naval Operations
 - VADM Stephen Koehler – Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet



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- LTG James Mingus – Vice Chief of Staff, Army
- Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider – Commander, Pacific Air Forces
- Lt. Gen. Jim Slife – Vice Chief of Staff, Air Force
- Lt. Gen. Stephen Whiting – Commander, SPACECOM
- Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach – Commander, Air Combat Command
- **Pending civilian nominees:**
 - Cara Abercrombie – ASD(Acquisition)
 - Derek Chollet – USD(Policy)
 - Melissa Dalton – USD(Air Force)
 - Aprille Joy Ericsson – ASD(Science & Technology)
 - Ronald Keohane – ASD(M&RA)
 - Douglas Schmidt – Director, Operational Test & Evaluation
- **Pending senior military nominees:**
 - ADM Samuel Paparo – Commander, INDOPACOM

Key Dates: Policy & Presidential Primaries

Jan 15	Iowa Republican presidential caucuses
Jan 19	The first government-funding deadline for four of 12 funding bills.
Jan 21	Republican presidential primary debate in New Hampshire
Jan 23	New Hampshire presidential primary for both parties. President Biden removed his name from the ballot as the state because the state snubbed a change in Democratic Party rules that chose South Carolina as the party's first primary.
Feb	Congressional Posture Season Begins
Feb 2	The second government-funding deadline, for the remaining eight funding bills.
Feb 3	Democratic primary in South Carolina.
Feb 6	Nevada presidential primary for both parties. Nikki Haley is the only GOP candidate to participate in the primary, but no delegates will be awarded. Instead, the Nevada GOP will also hold a caucus on February 8.
Feb 8	Nevada Republican presidential caucus. Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis, and Vivek Ramaswamy will participate.
Feb 13	New York special election to fill the seat of former Rep. George Santos.
Feb 24	South Carolina Republican primary.
Feb 27	Michigan presidential primary for both parties.
Mar 5	Super Tuesday. Fifteen states and American Samoa hold presidential primaries.
Mar 7	State of the Union
Mar 11	Presidential Budget Request (tentative)
Mar 19	Primary election to fill the seat of former Rep. Kevin McCarthy