



CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM CONGRESS THIS WEEK

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by Steve Linton-Smith

'Twas the Week Before Recess

*'Twas the week before recess and all thro' the Congress,
Not a creature was appropriating, despite laddered progress;
The NDAA was hung by the clerk's desk with care,
In hopes that bipartisan votes soon would be there;
With a long list of items to do on the Hill,
Sugar plum fairies searched for signs of good will.*



NDAA Conference Report Released

- **This week, Senate and House Armed Services Committees** completed their work on the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and released a final [conference report](#).
 - The bill authorizes \$886.3 billion in discretionary spending, which matches the President's budget request.
 - The Senate voted to open debate on the bill late this week with a final vote in the upper chamber likely to take place early next week. The House is expected to move the bill under "Suspension of the Rules," which requires a two-thirds vote for passage. This expedited process could smooth its path to final approval as it bypasses tricky procedural votes that have derailed prior NDAA's.
 - The final bill dropped many conservative priorities, which could put Speaker Johnson in a tight spot next year with his right flank on government funding. For example, negotiators nixed a Republican-backed proposal to block the Pentagon's abortion travel policy. However, a controversial four-month extension of FISA Section 702 warrantless government surveillance authorities was added.
 - The attached document includes notable items of interest to the CBD Enterprise.

Ukraine-Israel Funding Bogs Down over Border Policy

- **The President's emergency supplemental request** for \$110.5 billion in funding for military, economic and humanitarian aid to Israel and Ukraine, Taiwan and Indo-Pacific allies hit a snag this week as Republicans voted to uphold a filibuster against the foreign aid request as it lacked border policy changes.
 - Republicans are seeking immigration updates that will "dramatically" reduce illegal border crossings and assess asylum claims at the border instead of paroling asylees into the country while they wait for future adjudication on their claim.

Tuberville Drops DoD Nomination Hold

- **This week, Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) dropped** his hold on military nominations for three-star-level officers and below. There are 11 nominations at the four-star-level still pending.
 - With unanimous consent of all Senators, the remaining promotions could be approved rather quickly. However, if there isn't sufficient movement by the end of the year, the nominees must be returned to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

America's Game: ARMY vs. NAVY

- **This Saturday, the Army and Navy football teams** will square off in Foxborough, Massachusetts. This year's installment marks the first time in the 124-year history of the game that it will be played in New England, and only the third time it will take place outside of the mid-Atlantic region (Chicago in 1926 and Pasadena in 1983). If Army wins, they will take home the Commander-in-Chief's trophy.
- Both teams hold identical 5-6 records, which should elevate the quality of football in the region over the local NE Patriots (3-10) and Boston College Eagles (3-5).

