

Holland & Knight Defense Situation Report: January 2024

A monthly roundup of defense policy news

Welcome back to Holland & Knight's monthly defense news update. We are pleased to bring you the latest in defense policy, regulatory updates and other significant developments. If you would like additional information on anything in this report, please reach out to the authors or members of Holland & Knight's [National Security, Defense and Intelligence Team](#).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

NDAAs Update

As covered in the [December 2023 Holland & Knight Defense Situation Report](#), for the 63rd consecutive year, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year (FY) 2024. The Senate and House passed the compromise measure on a bipartisan basis, and President Joe Biden signed the bill into law on Dec. 22, 2023. The FY 2024 NDAA included a topline funding level of \$886 billion, which matched the Biden Administration's budget request to Congress that was sent in March 2023. This also matches the topline funding level that appropriators set, though House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) have yet to announce if topline spending levels for defense appropriations will change. The topline funding level in the FY 2024 NDAA represents a \$28 billion increase over levels in the FY23 NDAA. View the full text of the [FY 2024 NDAA conference report](#).

Though it's always a feat to pass the annual NDAA, members of congress have already turned their attention toward the FY 2025 NDAA. The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) announced that it will begin accepting requests from HASC committee members on Feb. 1, 2024, and close the internal request process on March 1, 2024. As such, HASC members have begun soliciting requests from stakeholders who want to influence the FY 2025 bill, and they will have only a few weeks to submit requests to the committee.

Should you or your organization have any questions on FY 2025 NDAA requests, please do not hesitate to reach out to your *Holland & Knight Defense Situation Report* authors.

Defense Appropriations

The Republican-controlled House approved its version of the FY 2024 Department of Defense Appropriations Act ([H.R. 4365](#)) on Sept. 28, 2023, by a narrow vote of 218-210. The bill was agreed to after weeks of negotiations among House Republicans that saw the defense appropriations legislation get derailed twice. The draft that passed also included some hotly debated social policy provisions. A measure to provide \$300 million in aid for arming and training the Ukrainian military was also removed from the bill to make way for its passage. The House approved the aid to Ukraine separately by a vote of 311-117. Nonetheless, because the FY 2023 was set to end on Sept. 30, 2023, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) minutes before a shutdown that extended the funding for federal agencies until Nov. 17, 2023.

Despite Speaker Johnson indicating that he would not support additional stopgap spending measures, Congress has passed two additional CRs. The most recent CR keeps the government funded in laddered steps, with four of the 12 appropriations bills – including the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Act – expiring on March 1, 2024, and the other eight including Defense, expiring on March 8, 2024.

With a topline funding agreement in place by Speaker Johnson and Majority Leader Schumer, the next obstacle for appropriations was finding a topline spending level for each of the 12 appropriations bills, sometimes called "302(b) allocations," referring to the provision in the Budget Act governing subcommittee funding allocations. After much negotiating, reports indicated that House Appropriations Committee Chair Kay Granger (R-Texas) and Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-Wash.) finally made a breakthrough at the end of January.

Though the exact 302(b) levels have not been reported publicly, the agreement allows for the subcommittees in each chamber's Appropriations Committee to begin writing the 12 appropriations bills and lawmakers to negotiate the specific funding for agencies, programming and policy provisions of the entire federal government's \$1.7 trillion budget.

The defense appropriations bill faces many of the same obstacles in the Senate that the NDAA faced. In the Democrat-controlled Senate, the House's version of the defense appropriations bill is facing steep opposition for its inclusion of contentious social issues and the pared-down efforts to send aid to Ukraine. Further, President Biden has vowed to veto legislation that cuts down on or defunds the Pentagon's diversity programs or rescinds Pentagon policies that provide support for servicemembers seeking gender-affirming care, abortions or other reproductive healthcare.

As reported in the [December 2023 Holland & Knight Defense Situation Report](#), U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin [warned](#) in a Dec. 12, 2023, letter that a long-term CR would "misalign billions of dollars" and that thousands of U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) programs would be negatively affected. This would include the ability to counter the People's Republic of China (PRC), which is a priority identified in the DOD's National Defense Strategy, and impediments to the country's ability to react to emergent events. Similar letters detailing the harm of a full-year CR for the DOD were sent to Congress by the [Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff](#) and secretaries of the U.S. [Army](#), [Navy](#) and [Air Force](#).

CBO Sends Letter to Congress Warning Defense Cuts Under Debt Deal

In a [letter](#) to House Budget Committee leadership, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) – an agency within the legislative branch that provides nonpartisan, objective budget and economic information and analysis to Congress, colloquially known as "Congress' scorekeeper" – outlined the potential reductions the government would see under the budget deal struck last year between President Biden and then-House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif). The Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA; Public Law 118-5), first outlined in the [July 2023 Holland & Knight Defense Situation Report](#), suspended the nation's debt limit through Jan. 1, 2025, sets spending caps (called "limits" in law) for FY 2024 and 2025, caps defense spending at \$886.3 billion for FY 2024 (a 3.3 percent increase over FY 2023) and creates a penalty to incentivize enactment of the FY 2024 and FY 2025 appropriations bills such that if all 12 appropriations bills for FY 2024 are not enacted by the end of April 2024, defense and nondefense spending limits are reduced to 1 percent below FY 2023 levels.

Specifically, the CBO's letter sent to Budget Committee leadership said that the DOD would see a budget cut of approximately \$10 billion if mandatory reductions under the FRA take effect in April 2024 should Congress not pass all 12 appropriations bills for FY 2024 by the deadline. Though defense spending would see the mandatory 1 percent decrease under that scenario, the total number for defense spending, the CBO says, may actually grow under the \$886.3 billion cap set by the FRA. Despite this, and taking into consideration inflationary pressures, increases in national security programming and other items, the 1 percent cut would cause a strain on the DOD and defense contractors and throughout the defense industrial base ecosystem. It is noteworthy that the CBO also estimates that nondefense spending could be cut 5 percent, or \$41 billion below its current level, if the mandatory cuts take effect and could decrease by up to 9 percent, or \$73 billion, if Congress adheres to the FRA caps or extends current funding through the end of the year without waiving those caps.

ISRAEL, UKRAINE AND FOREIGN-MILITARY ASSISTANCE

On Feb. 4, 2024, senators [unveiled](#) a bipartisan national security supplemental totaling \$118.3 billion that includes policy changes for immigration and border security. The bill includes \$60.6 billion for Ukraine, \$14.1 billion in security assistance for Israel, \$4.83 billion to counter China and support regional partners in the Indo-Pacific, and \$10 billion for the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide humanitarian assistance in Gaza and Ukraine. The bill also includes the FEND Off Fentanyl Act, and the U.S. defense industrial base seeks to gain about \$35 billion through programming that would unlock military aid to Ukraine, Israel and allies in the Indo-Pacific. The deal, struck after months of negotiations by Sens. James Lankford (R-Okla.), Kyrsten Sinema (I-Ariz.) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), is in response to the growing national security needs around the globe and at U.S. borders.

The package will need to overcome a filibuster and receive 60 votes in the Senate to pass. Though Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) gave his support to the negotiator's package, Speaker Johnson declared the package "dead on arrival" in the House, where conservative Republicans have called for much broader changes to U.S. border security and immigration policies.

The bill differs from the Biden Administration's [supplemental funding request](#) from Congress worth nearly \$106 billion in emergency funds for Israel, Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific and America's borders, which it [announced](#) on Oct. 20, 2023. More than half of that request, approximately \$61 billion, is assistance for Ukraine. The package also includes approximately \$14 billion that would boost Israel's defenses, as well as \$10 billion for humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza and the needs of Indo-Pacific allies to counter China.

Across these initiatives, the Biden Administration said that the supplemental funding will ensure American military readiness by investing in the American defense industrial base through replenishment funding and other forms of security assistance, such as foreign military financing and the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI). Without additional replenishment funding, the DOD will be unable to continue to backfill the military services for equipment provided via drawdown to Ukraine and Israel, thereby degrading U.S. readiness.

Israel

After an unprecedented cross-border attack on Israel by Hamas in the Gaza Strip on Oct. 7, 2023, Israel formed an emergency unity government as it declared war on Hamas. As such, there have been calls for U.S. assistance both for Israeli defense and humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza. Since the attacks, members of Congress have voiced bipartisan support for providing aid to Israel, with both President Biden and Congress pledging swift support. Senate Majority Leader Schumer, who sets the Senate vote schedule, said that the Senate "stands ready to deliver on additional needs."

Although there is widespread support in Congress for aid to Israel, appropriators remain divided over whether it should be linked with aid to Ukraine. Despite the Biden Administration's vast \$106 billion supplemental funding request stalling in Congress, the House passed a \$14.3 billion Israel aid bill on Nov. 3, 2023. The measure was passed by a vote of 226-196, with 12 Democrats voting in favor and two Republicans voting against. The bill proposed to provide \$14.3 billion in aid to Israel and pay for it by cutting funding for the IRS by the same amount, which the CBO said would decrease tax revenue and increase the U.S. deficit in the long run. Further, the bill would have provided aid exclusively to Israel, as House Republicans maintain their vehement opposition to bundling aid to Ukraine and Israel in one combined measure.

Majority Leader Schumer was quick to label the bill as "stunningly unserious," and President Biden vowed to veto the bill if it landed on his desk. On Nov. 14, 2023, the Senate voted 51-48 to table the bill. Moving forward, the path to passing supplemental aid to Israel remains unclear despite bipartisan support for an aid package.

As the Israel-Hamas conflict has persisted, a group of senators announced an amendment to maintain congressional oversight and require congressional notification for all U.S. assistance to foreign militaries. The amendment, led by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.), would strike a provision in the proposed national security supplemental funding bill that waives oversight requirements for U.S. funding for Israel under the Foreign Military Financing Program. If passed, the amendment would maintain the congressional notification process for Israel, just as congressional notifications are required for all other nations. The amendment comes as the Biden Administration announced foreign military assistance from U.S. stocks for Israel without congressional approval.

Similarly, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) introduced a resolution under Section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act to force a debate that would increase scrutiny on American weapons being used in Israel's campaign in Gaza over whether Israel violated human rights against civilians. Section 502B(c) of this law allows Congress to request information on a country's human rights practices – such requests are privileged, allowing the sponsor to force a floor vote on the requesting resolution. Though the resolution would not change the type of U.S. assistance offered to Israel, it would force the State Department to issue a report on the types of weapons the U.S. provides. Additionally, had the resolution passed, and only after the report would have been conducted – or if the State Department failed to meet the deadline for issuing the report – would the U.S. be able to freeze or alter its annual \$3.8 billion in military aid to Israel. Senators ultimately voted 72-11 against the resolution, with 10 Democrats and one Republican voting in favor of the resolution.

Ukraine

Even more so than emergency funding to Israel, additional funding for Ukraine has been met with much skepticism among congressional Republicans, as that country's long-planned counteroffensive against Russia has seemed to stall. The White House had asked Congress for an additional \$24 billion in aid for Ukraine in the annual defense spending bill, but this request, along with the Biden Administration's

larger supplemental funding request that would provide nearly \$61 billion in aid to Ukraine, has sat idle for months.

The White House [sent](#) a letter addressed to congressional leadership regarding the need for urgent action to support Ukraine's defenses. In a last-ditch effort to rally support on Capitol Hill for Ukraine aid, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited Washington, D.C., in December and held high-level meetings on Capitol Hill to seek support.

Despite Speaker Johnson saying he was "confident and optimistic" that Congress would provide another aid package to Ukraine, obstacles remain, including a promise from Republicans to oppose any additional aid to Ukraine unless it is paired with robust border security measures to stem the flow of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. Speaker Johnson declared, "I understand the necessity of ensuring that Vladimir Putin does not prevail in Ukraine and march through Europe And so I will explain to [Zelenskyy] that while we understand that, I've made my position very clear literally since the day I was handed the gavel that we have to take our care of our border first, and our country."

As of Dec. 27, 2023 – after the Biden Administration and DOD announced new security and equipment assistance for Ukraine via the 54th presidential drawdown from DOD inventories – the U.S. exhausted all DOD funding available for Ukraine's military. As such, the White House [sent](#) a letter addressed to congressional leadership regarding the need for urgent action to support Ukraine's defenses and urged Congress to pass the emergency supplemental submitted in October 2023.

China

Of the \$106 billion in emergency supplemental funds requested by President Biden in October 2023, approximately \$2 billion was asked for to provide aid to Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific region. In November 2023, House China Select Committee Chair Mike Gallagher (R-Wis.) and six Republicans from the panel lambasted President Biden's request as "wholly inadequate," pushing congressional leadership to instead approve a \$12 billion aid package to "safeguard peace in Asia and deter conflict" and "treat the [Beijing] threat with the gravity it deserves." The lawmakers cited Chinese aggression in the South China Sea and a burgeoning alliance between China and Russia as justification for the larger request. They said the additional \$10 billion would be used to boost U.S. military presence in the Indo-Pacific region and expand production of munitions for the Indo-Pacific Command.

China and the Indo-Pacific in the Spotlight

On Jan. 17, 2024, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs held a hearing titled "Examining the Flow of U.S. Money into China's Military Might." Witnesses included subject matter experts from Washington, D.C.-based think tanks. Members of the committee agreed that the issue requires bipartisan action.

The hearing also came at a time when watchers were awaiting the DOD's annual list of "Chinese military companies" operating directly or indirectly in the U.S. in accordance with the statutory requirement of Section 1260H of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (P.L. 116-283). Section 1260H directs the DOD to begin identifying, among other things, PRC Military-Civil Fusion contributors operating directly or indirectly in the U.S. The DOD is determined to highlight and counter the PRC Military-Civil Fusion strategy, which supports the modernization goals of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) by ensuring that its access to advanced technologies and expertise are acquired and developed by PRC companies, universities and research programs that appear to be civilian entities. View the DOD's [1260H list](#).

On Jan. 11, 2024, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) received a briefing on the DOD's activities and policies related to the Indo-Pacific region from Dr. Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, and Admiral John Aquilino, head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Sens. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), SASC Chair and ranking member, respectively, said that "Failure to maintain deterrence against China and North Korea would be catastrophic for American national and economic security." Reports from the briefing said that it also focused on efforts to strengthen and expand the U.S. network of allies and partners and the DOD's work to improve U.S. force posture in the Indo-Pacific region and "provided evidence for why bipartisan efforts to tackle these challenges must be a top priority for our committee's work. We need to innovate and develop new ways of fighting, while also procuring and deploying the assets required to project power in the region effectively, support our allies, and send an unambiguous signal of strength to regional adversaries at the speed of relevance."

China Select Committee on Cybersecurity

On Jan. 31, 2024, the House Select Committee on the CCP held a hearing titled "The CCP Cyber Threat to the American Homeland and National Security." The panel consisted of four of the United States' most senior cybersecurity officials on the threats from China. The witnesses were U.S. Cyber Command Commander Gen. Paul Nakasone, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Director Jen Easterly, FBI Director Christopher Wray and National Cyber Director Harry Coker. This is the final time that Nakasone – a four-star general who serves concurrently as director of the National Security Agency and chief of the Central Security Service – testified in front of Congress because he is retiring in February 2024. It is also the first time that Coker testified since being confirmed to his position in December 2023.

The witnesses, who are all national security experts in their own rights, have spoken aplenty of the threats that the Chinese government and Chinese hackers pose to U.S. national security. This threat assessment has only increased as U.S. and Chinese relations with Taiwan have changed, which Easterly claimed "create panic and chaos" in the homeland, while Wray has said that China creates an "unparalleled" hacking threat, among other national security issues. Though this hearing was the first on cybersecurity within the committee, the report it published last year, which was highlighted in the [December 2023 Holland & Knight Defense Situation Report](#), recommended that the U.S. provide cybersecurity-specific aid to Taiwan as Chinese threats to the island continue to grow.

The day before, the select committee also held a hearing on "the CCP's support for America's adversaries," with witnesses including former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

A Reemerging, Growing Threat in the Middle East

The U.S. carried out strikes against Houthi rebels in Yemen in January 2024, joining four other countries to hit almost 30 positions held by the group. These strikes were in response to the rebels' escalated attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea. The Biden Administration's decision to attack the Iran-backed rebels has split opinion in Washington, D.C. Many congressional Democrats and Republicans believe that President Biden required congressional approval before greenlighting the operation. However, on Jan. 11, 2024, President Biden formally notified Congress of the strikes, claiming that they were necessary to deter future attacks by the Houthis.

The conflict escalated further when three American military personnel were killed and more than two dozen were injured at a base in Jordan near the border with Syria. Though U.S. officials said Iran-backed militias were responsible for these continued attacks on U.S. forces, they did not specifically name the group who launched this latest attack claiming the lives of American servicemembers.

In response, President Biden vowed that the U.S. will respond and "hold all those responsible to account" for the deadly attack. Despite this statement, he will now face pressure from Congress to confront Iran further, given Iranian proxies launching attacks around the region in Lebanon, Iraq and Hamas, which officials have confirmed received backing from the Iranian government.

In early January 2024, *The Washington Post* reported that almost one-fifth of U.S. freight arrives at East Coast ports through the Red Sea and Suez Canal, but economists do not anticipate a major impact on U.S. consumers unless the attacks increase. Despite this, the price of oil increased after the latest attacks in the region.

Finally, as *Holland & Knight Defense Situation Report* authors have previously stated, the involvement of the U.S. in various theaters of war across the globe may have an impact on its defense industrial base. With Congress working on an emergency supplemental that specifically addresses national security, including in Ukraine, Israel and the Indo-Pacific, adding another location and foe in Iranian-backed proxies could put additional strain on the defense industrial base.

EXECUTIVE AND DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Defense Secretary's Hospitalization Causes Consternation

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin drew public criticism after he failed to properly notify appropriate parties, including President Biden, over his hospitalization at Walter Reed Medical Center for treatment of prostate cancer. As such, the DOD's Office of Inspector General opened an investigation into the event, and the Austin's chief of staff directed the DOD's director of administration and management to conduct a 30-day review of the DOD's notification process for assumption of function and duties of the secretary of defense.

On Jan. 11, 2024, SASC Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Wicker [sent](#) a letter to Austin regarding the DOD's communications while the secretary was receiving medical care. The senators expressed their concerns about the lapse in procedure and called for specific issues to be addressed in the DOD's forthcoming reviews. Other members of congress have called for the Defense Secretary to step down or be forced from office.

DOD Releases First-Ever National Defense Industrial Strategy

On Jan. 11, 2024, the DOD released its inaugural [National Defense Industrial Strategy](#) (NDIS), which seeks to guide the DOD's engagement, policy development and investment in the industrial base over the next three to five years. Taking its lead from the National Defense Strategy (NDS), the DOD says that this strategy will catalyze generational change from the existing defense industrial base to a more robust, resilient and dynamic modernized defense industrial ecosystem. Though the NDS identifies risk to the industrial base, it also guides the DOD to solutions. Recognizing that the defense industrial base must provide the required capabilities at the speed and scale necessary for the U.S. military to engage and prevail in a near-peer conflict, the NDIS strategy calls out challenges, solutions and risks of failure concisely. The NDIS offers strategy following four priorities:

- resilient supply chains that can securely produce the products, services and technologies needed now and in the future at speed, scale and cost
- workforce readiness that will provide for a sufficiently skilled and staffed workforce that is diverse and representative of America
- flexible acquisition that will lead to the development of strategies that strive for dynamic capabilities while balancing efficiency, maintainability, customization and standardization in defense platforms and support systems, as well as flexible acquisition strategies would result in reduced development times and costs, and increased scalability
- economic deterrence that will promote fair and effective market mechanisms that support a resilient defense industrial ecosystem among the U.S. and close international allies and partners, along with economic security and integrated deterrence; effective economic deterrence, combined with fear of materially reduced access to U.S. markets, technologies and innovations, would sow doubt in the mind of potential aggressors

This proposed pathway to modernize the defense industrial ecosystem also recognizes that this effort cannot be a DOD-only solution, repeatedly emphasizing cooperation and coordination between the entire U.S. government, private industry, and international allies and partners.

CISA and FBI Issue Warning on China-Made Drones

On Jan. 17, 2024, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and FBI released "[Cybersecurity Guidance: Chinese-Manufactured Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#)" (UAS), to raise awareness of the national security threats posed by Chinese-manufactured UAS and provide critical infrastructure and state, local, tribal and territorial partners recommended cybersecurity safeguards to reduce the risk to networks and sensitive information. The guidance issued by CISA and the FBI is also targeted for critical infrastructure organizations that are encouraged to operate UAS that are secure by design and manufactured by U.S. companies. The guidance offers cybersecurity recommendations that organizations should consider as part of their UAS programs, policies and procedures.

The PRC has enacted laws that provide its government expanded legal grounds for accessing and controlling data held by firms in China. The use of Chinese-manufactured UAS in critical infrastructure operations risks exposing sensitive information to PRC authorities. This guidance outlines the potential vulnerabilities to networks and sensitive information when operated without the proper cybersecurity protocols and the potential consequences that could result.

The report and guidance issued by CISA and the FBI have been highly anticipated as the national security risks of UAS have been in the spotlight for nearly a decade. Further, the FY 2024 NDAA, which was signed into law late last year, also included the American Security Drone Act (Division A, Title XVIII, Subtitle B). The bill prohibits the federal government from operating or procuring any covered UAS system manufactured or assembled in countries identified as national security threats, such as the PRC. It also prohibits the use of federal funds awarded through contracts, grants or cooperative agreements to purchase covered UAS.

DOD Launches Distributed Bioindustrial Manufacturing Program

On Jan. 31, 2024, the DOD announced new opportunities for American businesses to advance biotechnology as part of President Biden's efforts to strengthen and build the resiliency of America's defense industrial base and secure its supply chains. Biomanufacturing has the potential to support the

U.S. military and its allies and partners by generating needed materials – from fuels and chemicals to food and medical supplies – where and when they are needed has significant implications for the U.S. military.

This request for whitepapers for the Distributed Bioindustrial Manufacturing Investment Program (DBMIP) seeks to strengthen domestic supply chains and sustain America's prominence in biotechnology. The DBMIP will execute investments through the [Defense Industrial Base Consortium \(DIBC\) Other Transaction Agreement \(OTA\)](#), which helps lower barriers to allow the DOD to work more expeditiously with small, nontraditional and large businesses.

The DOD expects to announce awards in May 2024 for approximately 30 proposals, submitters of which will each receive up to \$2 million to deliver a business and technical plan detailing how they intend to build a U.S. bioindustrial manufacturing production facility. Selected proposals will be eligible for follow-on efforts as part of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD A&S) five-year investment plan for the DOD's bioindustrial manufacturing base.

DIU Solicitations

In the past month, the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), which focuses on leveraging new commercial technology adaptation for the U.S. military, published three new solicitations.

The first solicitation is for net-zero buildings. Buildings and their supporting systems (e.g., lighting and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), etc.) have a significant impact on energy use and the environment. Commercial and residential buildings use approximately 76 percent of all electricity and are responsible for 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Much like the private sector, the DOD's building stock is one of the single greatest drivers of energy and water demand. With more than 283,000 locations on 500 installations worldwide, DOD buildings account for nearly one-quarter of total energy use in the federal government. DOD seeks to prototype novel design, construction techniques and materials in order to improve the energy and water efficiency for its new building construction. As such, the DIU is seeking new turnkey approaches for net-zero design and construction of new buildings. A net-zero building is one in which the total annual greenhouse gas emissions resulting from Scope 1 sources – direct emissions that are owned or controlled by a company – and Scope 2 sources – indirect emissions resulting from activities of an organization – related to all aspects of building energy use, are reduced to zero. Building systems that reduce ongoing maintenance actions by DOD personnel are preferred. Solutions should be capable of being designed, reviewed and approved within a nine- to 12-month time frame.

The second solicitation is for wastewater/attribution national threat infections – direct origin to evaluation, or ANTI-DOTE. COVID-19 reaffirmed a long-standing concern among public health officials that the spread of pandemic pathogens exposes biosecurity vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities are made worse by a lack of integrated early warning to be able to identify, triage and deploy countermeasures to change the potential trajectory of future pandemics and their impact on national security. The DOD seeks ways to improve both its situational awareness and ability to interpret and visualize data in a meaningful way for decision makers tasked with the biosecurity implications of future pandemics. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, wastewater and other monitoring systems matured to meet the commercial and government customer demand for solutions that can predict, test and provide policy or countermeasure solutions. As such, the DIU seeks to leverage these findings to implement a biosecurity solution focused on monitoring and predicting potential threats.



The third solicitation is for a production-ready, inexpensive, maritime expeditionary (PRIME) small unmanned surface vehicle (sUSV) with collaborative intercept capability. Because of the vastness of the globe's oceans providing maritime transit that is the backbone of international commerce, the U.S. Department of the Navy issued a solicitation for sUSV interceptors capable of autonomously transiting hundreds of miles through contested water space, loitering in an assigned operating area while monitoring for maritime threats, then sprinting to intercept a noncooperative maneuvering vessel. Interceptors will need to operate in cohesive groups and execute complex autonomous behaviors that adapt to the dynamic, evasive movements of the pursued vessel. The Navy intends to swiftly prototype and demonstrate one or more sUSV interceptors, aligned with robust commercial capacity to manufacture and deliver these sUSVs at scale.

CONTACTS



Misha Lehrer
Senior Public Affairs Advisor
Washington, D.C.
202.469.5539
misha.lehrer@hklaw.com



Daniel Sennott
Partner
Washington, D.C.
202.469.5199
daniel.sennott@hklaw.com



Simon E. Coon
Senior Policy Advisor
Washington, D.C.
202.469.5630
simon.coon@hklaw.com