



NOTICE, NOTICE, NOTICE: *The Budget Control Act of 2011 has a directed mission to cut national security funds beginning in FY2012. The President is proposing \$27 Billion in cuts to military retirement and health care. The proposal includes "TRICARE for Life" payment increases and the establishment of a "BRAC" style commission to make changes to the military retirement system! In a letter dated September 20th to all MOAA members, VADM Ryan, MOAA President, stated "its time to man battle stations" and goes on to say "now is the time for all MOAA members to mobilize...and start working to protect their interests and those of the current and future force". We can do that by communicating with our elected officials and expressing our strong beliefs in national security. One easy way is to send MOAA-suggested messages to our elected officials when notified of specific "Calls to Action". To find VADM Ryan's complete letter go to www.MOAA.org.*

Ahh... Autumn's in the air, Congress is wrestling with the Budget Control Act of 2011, and the Commonwealth legislative rumblings focused on the 2012 General Assembly session are growing louder and LOUDER. As we struggle to peer over the horizon and into the vast and foggy political crystal ball here is what seems to be happening at the present time.

On the National Scene: Measurement of success on achieving the 2011-2012 Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC) National Legislative Objectives adopted in January remains uncertain. Principally, this is due to attempts to resolve the national deficit and debt which resulted in the passage of the Budget Control Act of 2011 and its directed cuts to national security funds beginning in FY 2012.

Congress will be in frenzy for the next three months to resolve several major issues to include:

- **September-October:** DOD will need to decide on specific initiatives to trim its [FY2012 and FY2013] budget by at least an estimated \$350 billion over the next ten years. The \$350 billion cut was adopted as part of the recent debt ceiling compromise. Possible initiatives include force reductions, pay raise caps, TRICARE and retirement changes, and more.
- **October 1:** That's the first day of the new fiscal year [FY2012]. If Congress hasn't passed all of the various federal departments' appropriations bills by that date (which almost certainly won't happen), Congress will have to pass a "continuing resolution" to avoid a government shutdown.
- **November 23:** This deadline for the so-called "Super Committee" – a bipartisan group of 12 legislators from the House and Senate – to put forward a proposal to further reduce the federal deficit by \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years [FY2014 - FY2021].
- **December 23:** The deadline for Congress to review and vote on any proposal agreed to by the "Super Committee." Congress must conduct an up-or-down vote on the proposal, with no amendments considered. If the committee can't agree on a proposal, or if Congress rejects the proposal without approving some alternative to achieve equal savings, an automatic enforcement mechanism (sequestration) will cut \$1.2 trillion from the budget over the next 10 years.
- **December 31:** Deadline for resolving "Doc Fix."
- **January 1:** Implement 30% reduction in Medicare provider fees if "Doc Fix not resolved and automatic cuts included in the Budget Control Act of 2011 or accepted proposals of the "Super Committee."