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## MIXED SIGNALS FROM REPUBLICANS MAKE IMPACT OF HOUSE TAKEOVER UNCLEAR

It is too early to gauge how newly victorious House Republican leaders will reconcile their pledges to shrink the size of the federal government with their long-standing support for national security, leaving the ultimate intentions of the new Republican majority for defense spending uncertain, experts say.

“No one really knows what’s going to happen,” said Paul Hirsch, president of Madison Government Affairs.

Many of the newly elected House Republicans ran on a platform of reducing the federal budget. But given the sheer number of freshman Republicans in the chamber, at least 84, and the fact that many are political novices, “there will be a lot of friction ... and a lot of unknowns,” he explained. “I think everything is on the table,” said Hirsch, who served as the director of analysis for the BRAC Commission from 1991 to 1993.

House Republicans will consider some cuts in defense spending, but DOD’s budget most likely will be spared the more significant cuts the new majority will propose for other agencies, he said.

One senior Republican already has stated that the department’s budget should continue to rise. The Obama administration’s current spending outlook for the military — limiting growth in the budget to a one percent annual increase in real terms — will not be sufficient to sustain the armed forces, according to Rep. Howard “Buck” McKeon (R-Calif.), the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

“One percent real growth in the base defense budget over the next five years is a net reduction for modernization efforts which are critical to protecting our nation’s homeland,” McKeon, who is likely to lead the committee in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, said this week.

And don’t look for the department’s military construction budget to be trimmed, said a House staff member on the Republican side. “There are too many needs out there,” he said.

On the other hand, one long-time follower of base closure and installations policy believes the new House leadership will pare DOD’s budget, with the cuts primarily concentrated in operations and maintenance, the account which includes base support, said Barry Rhoads, CEO of The Rhoads Group.

“There will be tremendous cutting of O&M and bases will be the first thing looked at,” said Rhoads, who served as deputy general counsel for the 1991 BRAC Commission.

There is a general consensus that the new House majority will extend the current one-year ban on

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earmarks, the vehicle lawmakers use to bring milcon spending to their installations.

Probably the best indication of the new House leadership's intentions regarding future spending will be how they address fiscal year 2011 appropriations, said David Berteau, senior adviser and director of the defense-industrial initiatives group at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The federal government currently is operating on a continuing resolution which expires Dec. 3. Following this week's Republican victories, the most likely scenario to keep the government running is for lawmakers to extend the continuing resolution into next year and allow the new Congress to either approve an omnibus spending package or a long-term continuing resolution for the remainder of the year.

An attempt to freeze FY 2011 spending at FY 2010 levels would create one set of expectations, noted Berteau, a senior BRAC official at DOD during the 1991 and 1993 rounds.

Prospects for lawmakers to pass another key piece of legislation this year, the FY 2011 defense authorization bill, still are unclear following the midterm elections. Two factors are working against passage of a measure — the short window of time available after lawmakers return to Washington Nov. 15 for a lame-duck session and the inclination of Republicans to put off as much legislation as possible into the next Congress when they will control the House and Democrats will have a smaller majority in the Senate. In September, Senate Republicans stopped Democrat leaders from bringing that chamber's version of the bill to the floor, partially over opposition to the provision repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" law, but also due to the decision by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (Nev.) to limit debate on the measure.

### The More Things Change ...

For defense communities, the most immediate impact of Tuesday's midterm elections, beyond ushering Republicans into power in the House, is a wholesale makeover of leadership on the Democratic side of the House's Armed Services Committee and Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee.

The transition shouldn't affect the agenda of the Armed Services Committee, however, according to

the House staffer. Political differences don't matter nearly as much as geographical ones, he explained.

For instance, it is unlikely the committee would reconsider the provision in the fiscal 2010 defense authorization bill eliminating the requirement for the military to seek fair market value when conveying BRAC sites. The committee already hashed out the issue last year, he said, adding, "It wasn't a political discussion. ... It was the right thing to do."

After announcing he would seek to chair the Armed Services Committee in the new Congress, McKeon outlined three priorities for the nation's defense policy:

- ensuring deployed troops have the equipment and training to complete their missions;
- providing warfighters and their families with resources and support they need; and
- investing in the capabilities and force structure needed to protect the nation from future threats, while insisting on fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency from DOD.

Randy Forbes (R-Va.), ranking member of the Readiness Subcommittee, is in line to become the panel's chairman, but the Republican conference first needs to select committee chairs before subcommittee chairmanships can be set. Heading the Readiness Subcommittee would provide Forbes an influential platform for opposing DOD's plan to close Joint Forces Command. Forbes' southeastern Virginia district includes the campus where many of the command's civilian workers are located.

Voters decimated the full committee's Democratic leadership, with three of the top four Democrats falling — Chairman Ike Skelton (Mo.), John Spratt (S.C.) and Gene Taylor (Miss.). The committee's third most senior Democrat is in danger of losing as well. Rep. Solomon Ortiz (Texas), chair of the Readiness Subcommittee, has not conceded his race after unofficial results showed him trailing his challenger by 799 votes. If Ortiz is defeated, there really is no frontrunner to replace Skelton as the leading Democrat on the committee.

An Ortiz loss also would mean that three of the four most senior Democrats on the Readiness Subcommittee were voted out of office this week.

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Taylor, the panel's number two Democrat, and Jim Marshall (Ga.), the number four, lost their re-election bids.

After Ortiz, the most senior Democrat on the full committee as well as the Readiness Subcommittee would be Silvestre Reyes (Texas). Reyes already chairs the House Select Committee on Intelligence, but it is possible he would consider taking on a larger role on Armed Services due to the importance the military plays in his El Paso district. El Paso is the host community of Fort Bliss.

### House Milcon Turnover

Several Republicans already are vying to lead the House Appropriations Committee — current ranking member Jerry Lewis (Calif.) and Harold Rogers (Ky.). The top Republican on the Milcon Appropriations Subcommittee definitely will be new since ranking member Zach Wamp (Tenn.) did not seek reelection so he could seek the Republican nomination in his state's gubernatorial contest. The next most senior Republican on the panel is Ander Crenshaw (Fla.).

Subcommittee Chairman Chet Edwards (Texas) lost his race this week, creating an opening which could be filled by the panel's number two Democrat, Sam Farr (Calif.). Several other Democrats will be off the panel as well — John Salazar (Colo.) and Allen Boyd (Fla.) lost their races, while Patrick Kennedy (R.I.) retired.

In the Senate, several changes to the rosters of the Armed Services' Readiness Subcommittee and Milcon Appropriations Subcommittee are worth noting. The retirement of Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) leaves the chairman slot for the Readiness Subcommittee open. Two other Democrats on the panel who were appointed to their Senate seats, Roland Burris (Ill.) and Carte Goodwin (W.Va.), will depart as soon as their elected successors arrive.

The full Senate Appropriations Committee will see significant turnover next year following the retirement of five senior members. Changes to the Milcon Appropriations Subcommittee will be less substantial, however. The Democratic side will miss Robert Byrd (W.Va.), who died in June; while the Republican side no longer will include Sam Brownback, who was elected governor of Kansas.

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## ACTIVE DEFENSE COMMUNITIES

### AIR FORCE IDENTIFIES DEVELOPER FOR WASTE-TO-ENERGY EUL PROJECT

The Air Force shortly will begin negotiations with Ogden Hill Community Energy LLC to develop recycling and waste-handling facilities at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, that can process up to 120,000 tons of recyclables and 200,000 tons of municipal solid waste annually. The project, which will be developed under the enhanced use leasing (EUL) program, will convert urban waste from the base and surrounding community into a source of renewable energy.

The project's recycling center will include a classroom for teaching the community about waste reduction, conservation, renewable energy and climate change.

The selection of Ogden Hill Community Energy represents the latest in a growing portfolio of Air Force energy projects developed through the EUL program. Other projects include the development of a photovoltaic solar array at Edwards AFB, Calif., and a second effort at Hill.

Meanwhile, officials held a groundbreaking last week for a massive, \$1.4 billion research park at Hill also being developed under the EUL program. Complete build-out of the Falcon Hill National Aerospace Research Park will take more than two decades, feature up to 8 million square feet of offices and supporting retail, create an estimated 15,000 jobs and cover 550 acres. The first phase will have more than 2 million square feet of commercial space. The project is being developed by Sunset Ridge Development Partners LLC, a partnership formed by Woodbury Corporation of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Hunt ELP Ltd. of El Paso, Texas.

For more information on the Air Force's EUL program, visit the Air Force Real Property Agency's [website](#).

## BASE REDEVELOPMENT

### AUCTION FOR FACILITY AT INGLESIDE UNSUCCESSFUL

An online auction for the 155-acre electromagnetic reduction facility at the former Naval Station Ingleside failed to receive any bids when it closed Nov. 2. The auction for the site, located along the Texas Coastal Bend, opened Oct. 4 with a \$3 million minimum opening bid.

At this point, the Navy is evaluating other disposal options for the property, according to an e-mailed response from the service's BRAC Program Management Office.

The site was declared surplus following the last round of base closures and was the subject of a reuse plan prepared by the local redevelopment authority. The property, located on the northeastern shore of Corpus Christi Bay in the city of Ingleside, includes 105 acres of submerged land. The city initially planned to apply for an economic development conveyance so it could redevelop the property into a marina and business park, but ultimately recommended the Navy sell the parcel.

The Navy returned the naval station's main base to the Port of Corpus Christi last April. In August, the port selected NSI Venture LLC to purchase a tract consisting of 483 acres from the Navy and 433 acres of undeveloped property the port added to increase interest in the project. The sale price is \$110 million, with the closing expected to occur by Jan. 11, 2011.

## 360 MARKETPLACE

### COMPANY NEWS

#### Weston and Partners Win Grant to Develop Underwater Munitions Detection System

Weston Solutions is helping develop an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) for detecting munitions and explosives of concern. West Chester, Pa.-based Weston is the principal investigator for the project, which is being funded by a \$1 million grant from DOD's Environmental Security Technology Certification Program. The firm's partners include San Jose, Calif.-based Geometrics and the University of Delaware.

The University of Delaware's AUV will be outfitted with a total field magnetometer from Geometrics, which locates iron-containing objects such as bombs, shells, and rockets. Integrating the two technologies is expected to provide cost savings over current approaches by requiring less manpower for operation and reducing or eliminating the need for support from a large ship. Other expected benefits include improved safety, portability, maneuverability, and the ability to operate multiple sensing systems simultaneously.

The detection system will be complemented with a unique noise compensation system to reduce or eliminate platform and electrical noise generated from the AUV's propulsion system. The noise compensation will increase munitions detection capabilities without compromising data quality.

The AUV magnetometer system has broad applications beyond the detection of unexploded munitions — it can be used to locate other objects of interest such as oil and gas pipelines and archaeological artifacts. It also can be used to conduct basic geophysical surveys for geological applications. For more information, visit [www.westonsolutions.com](http://www.westonsolutions.com), [www.geometrics.com](http://www.geometrics.com) or [www.udel.edu](http://www.udel.edu).

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