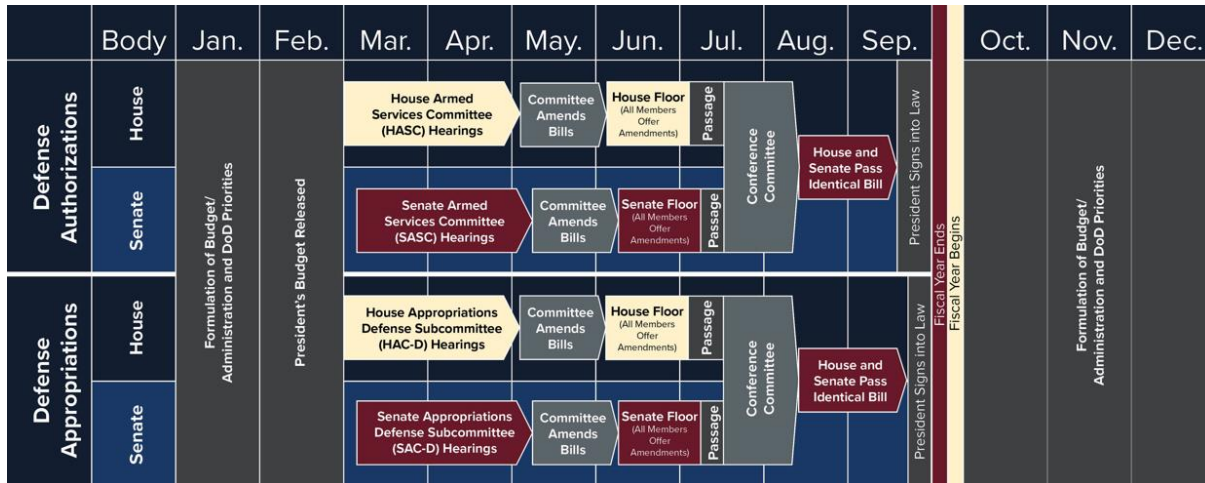




# NGAUS

## The Effects of Government Shutdowns and Continuing Resolutions

**BLUF:** The federal government fiscal year runs from October through September. In order to keep funding the government, Congress must either pass a new budget or pass a continuing resolution (CR) by October 1. In recent years, CRs have become quite common as Congress regularly passes Authorizations and Appropriations bills in December. Since 1977, Congress has passed the NDAA on average 42 days after the start of the Fiscal Year.



*In recent years, the main movements of the Congressional calendar are continually delayed, which leaves the government to rely on Continuing Resolutions at the start of a new Fiscal Year.*

### Why do shutdowns happen?

Without the 12 annual appropriation bills or a CR, the U.S. Government does not have approval or funding to function. The appropriation process covers discretionary spending, over 20% of the Federal budget. If Congress enacts some, but not all the 12 appropriation bills, only the agencies without appropriations have to shut down. This is known as a partial shutdown. On three occasions, in 2014, 2018, and 2019, no CR was approved, and the government shut down. The longest shutdown was in late 2018 and lasted for 34 days into 2019.

### What is a Continuing Resolution?

Continuing resolutions are temporary spending bills that allow the federal government to operate when final appropriations have not yet been approved by Congress and the President. CRs generally continue funding at the same level as the previous fiscal year until a specific date or an appropriations bill is passed. This can result in administrative inefficiencies and limited management options. There have been over 40 CRs in the last ten years, ranging in length from 1 to 176 days.

### Effects of Government Shutdown on National Guard Servicemembers:

- **No Pay.** DoD has no legal authority to pay any personnel during the shutdown.
- **No Drills.** Cancellations result in loss of pay to the Servicemember and family, which is not recouped.
- **No Schools.** Delay of training degrades readiness and delays military career timelines.
- **No Federal Technicians.** Puts all dual mission operations at a standstill.
- **Will NOT affect deployments.** Guard units continue to prepare to deploy for real-world missions.
- **Will NOT affect retiree payments.** Annuitants come from a retirement trust fund.

[Air Force Aid Society](#) and [Army Emergency Relief](#) are available to T10 Soldiers and Airmen.