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Appropriations Policy Brief

H.R. 2863 — Defense Appropriations Act for FY 2006

BY THE NUMBERS:

In Millions of Dollars

	FY05	FY06 Bush Request	FY06 Committee	Cmte v. Request	Cmte v. FY05
Appropriations	351,230	366,856	363,440	-3,416	+12,210
<i>Emergency Approps</i>	74,850	0	45,255	+45,255	-29,595
TOTAL	426,080	366,856	408,695	+41,839	-17,385

Excluding Emergency Appropriations, the Committee Bill is:

- **\$12.2 billion (3.5%) more than last year**
- **\$3.4 billion (1%) less than the request**

Budget Compliance: According to CBO, the bill is within the 302(b) allocation of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and thus complies with the Budget Act. H.R. 2863 also includes a \$45.2 billion “bridge fund” to fund the global war against terror. These funds are contemplated by the budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) which includes \$50 billion for ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Unauthorized Appropriations: According to the Committee report, roughly the entire bill constitutes unauthorized appropriations. The Rules of the House prohibit this practice, but the rule governing consideration of the bill waives this restriction. However, these programs will receive their authorization with the enactment of H.R. 1815, the FY06 Defense Authorization Act.

Presidential Terminations and Reductions:

National Drug Intelligence Center: Maintains funding for the NDIC at \$39 million instead of terminating the program and providing \$17 million in residual funding for shutdown costs as requested by the Administration. Created in 1993 to support drug enforcement efforts, the program (managed by the Department of Justice and funded by the Pentagon) was found to be duplicative of other efforts. The Administration proposed to consolidate such efforts.

Items of Note:

Contingency Operations “Bridge” Fund: Includes \$45.3 billion “for the first six months of fiscal year 2006 in order to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of resources to our troops in the field, and to avoid any disruption in funding for the global war on terrorism.” H.R. 1815, the National Defense Authorization Act, proposed a similar bridge fund but dispensed the funds in FY05. The Administration noted in its Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 1815 that such funding was not needed for the remainder of FY05. However, by releasing these funds in FY06, the Committee adheres to the FY06 budget resolution which allocated \$50 billion for such contingency operations.

Competitive Sourcing: Prohibits funds from being made available to perform any cost study pursuant to the provisions of OMB Circular A-76 (competitive sourcing), if the study being performed exceeds a period of 24 months after initiation of such study with respect to a single function activity or 30 months after initiation of such study for a multi-function activity.

New Wind Demonstration Program: Provides \$5 million “to coordinate a wind demonstration project on a U.S. Air Force installation using domestically manufactured turbines that are new to the U.S. market to test the security and reliability of wind generation on base.”

Religious Proselytizing Restriction: An amendment offered in full committee by Rep. David Obey (D-WI) and adopted by voice vote instructs the Secretary of the Air Force to develop a plan to ensure that the Air Force Academy “maintains a climate free from coercive religious intimidation and inappropriate proselytizing by Air Force officials and others in the chain-of-command at the Air Force Academy.” In addition, the amendment instructs the Secretary to report back to the Committee within 60 days after developing the above plan while reporting specifically on “the circumstances surrounding the removal of Air Force Captain Melinda Morton.”

According to news reports, Capt. Melinda Morton claims she was fired from her post as chaplain at the Air Force Academy. She says she was fired for speaking out about claims of religious intolerance, which include a Christian chaplain warning cadets about hell. Air Force officials say her duties changed as part of a planned reassignment. The academy said it had received 55 complaints of religious intolerance dating to 2000. For more information see:

<http://afa.gazette.com/fullstory.php?id=4963>

Earmarks:

- \$500,000 for Outdoor Odyssey, Roaring Run, PA to support the Youth Development and Leadership Program and STARBASE Program
- \$2.5 million for the Fisher House Foundation, Inc. for the construction of homes for military family members with ill or hospitalized beneficiaries.
- \$4.5 million for the Intrepid Sea-Air Space Foundation
- \$1 million to the Pentagon Memorial Fund
- \$4.4 million for the Center for Applied Science and Technologies
- \$1 million for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for the Teach Vietnam Initiative
- \$500,000 for the Westchester County World Trade Center Memorial
- \$1 million for the Woman in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation
- \$2 million for the Presidio Trust

Funding Summaries:

Dollars in Thousands

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Request	FY 2006 Cmte	Cmte Vs. FY 2005	Cmte Vs. Request	Cmte Vs. FY 2005	Cmte Vs. Request
Military Personnel, Total.....	91,614,333	84,961,976	84,132,276	-7,482,057	-829,700	-8.17%	-0.98%
Operations and Maintenance, Total.....	112,842,432	118,982,941	116,092,791	3,250,359	-2,890,150	2.88%	-2.43%
Procurement, Total.....	77,679,803	76,635,410	76,806,886	-872,917	171,476	-1.12%	0.22%
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Total.....	69,932,182	69,356,040	71,656,892	1,724,710	2,300,852	2.47%	3.32%
Revolving and Management Funds.....	2,378,836	3,119,844	2,753,799	374,963	-366,045	15.76%	-11.73%
Chemical Agents.....	1,372,990	1,405,827	1,355,827	-17,163	-50,000	-1.25%	-3.56%
Drug Interdiction.....	906,522	895,741	906,941	419	11,200	0.05%	1.25%
Related Agencies (intelligence, etc.).....	557,866	599,444	621,444	63,578	22,000	11.40%	3.67%

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