



PRESS RELEASE

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Opening Statement of Chairman Roscoe Bartlett

Markup of H.R. 5122, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007

Washington, D.C. – Today we meet in open session to markup H.R. 5122, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007. Before I proceed, I would like to thank my friend and Ranking Member, Mr. Taylor, for his support in bringing together this mark. I would also like to thank the other Members of the subcommittee and the subcommittee staff for their efforts in what I consider to be a very fine mark.

This subcommittee has jurisdiction over a myriad of procurement and research and development programs representing over \$30 billion dollars in the Fiscal Year 2007 budget request. Overall, the subcommittee mark outlined before you adds \$1.3 billion to the Administration's \$30.7 billion dollar request.

Specifically the mark includes several initiatives that support the President's budget submission. They include:

- \$784 million for advance procurement for CVN-78,
- \$2.5 billion for procurement of one Virginia Class submarine,
- \$521 million for procurement of two Littoral Combat Ships,
- \$455 million for procurement of one T-AKE, and
- \$1.1 billion which represents the first increment of funding for LHA-6.

And our mark includes several additional procurement initiatives that are outside of the President's budget. They include:

- \$400 million in advance procurement funding for an additional Virginia class submarine to be procured in Fiscal Year 2009,
- \$200 million to accelerate the modernization program for the DDG-51 class destroyers,

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- \$66.8 million to buy out the lease for an additional Maritime Prepositioning ship, and
- \$300 million to procure three additional C-17s.

The mark includes several cuts to the President's budget:

- It cuts \$87.6 million from the KC-X program (the replacement aviation tanker),
- It cuts \$50 million from the Conventional Trident missile program, and
- It redirects \$390 million identified to close down the C-17 production line (and adds \$300 million to procure the 3 C-17s).

The mark also includes legislative initiatives to contain shipbuilding costs by holding the Navy to their cost estimates on CVN-21, LHA(R) and LPD-17. These provisions support the Chief of Naval Operations' shipbuilding plan which he can only hope to afford by keeping these programs within Navy cost estimates.

The mark also provides the President's request of \$2.6 billion dollars for the next generation destroyer (DD(X)) program. It authorizes the procurement of one ship, but also authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to enter into detail design contracts with two shipyards, allowing both efforts to move forward.

The mark also includes provisions regarding force structure. The mark:

- Mandates a minimum attack submarine force of 48 submarines,
- Allows for limited retirements of KC-135E tankers (the mark allows 29, the Department of Defense proposed 78),
- Prohibits retirement of any B-52s (except for one operated by NASA), and
- Sets a minimum strategic airlift force structure at 299 aircraft.

I believe that this mark funds the priorities of the Members and the Department of Defense; therefore, I recommend adoption of the mark.

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