

News from Congressman

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For Immediate Release

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN NORM DICKS ON THE FY 2011 DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP
JULY 27, 2010

I welcome the Members to this mark-up of the fiscal year 2011 Defense Appropriations Bill.

I want to begin by recognizing that this year; we lost a great friend with the death of Chairman Jack Murtha. His presence on this Subcommittee and in the Congress is greatly missed. His commitment to the troops and the U.S. military was unmatched. I also want to recognize Mr. Young, who can't be here with us today, for his support and partnership in creating the recommendations you have before you – Mr. Frelinghuysen has agreed to fill in for Mr. Young today.

Additionally, I want to thank Mr. Obey, our Full Committee Chairman, for his leadership and support on the Committee. We will miss him next year, but we wish him well as he starts the next chapter of his life.

Mr. Frelinghuysen and I are please to present to you this bill. During its review of the fiscal year 2011 budget request, the Subcommittee and the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel held a total of 25 hearings and 7 formal briefings. I want to thank the Members and staff for their hard work throughout this year in helping to form these recommendations.

Taking Care of Our Military and Their Families

The bill recognizes that our Nation relies on the men and women who have volunteered to serve in the military, to go into harm's way, and defend us from all manner of threats. For the last 9 years, we have called on the military to face determined enemies using adaptive and skillful, yet despicable tactics in challenging environments. The intensity and duration of these conflicts have taken a toll on our forces and their families. The Committee's recommendation includes measures intended to respond to these impacts.

The recommendation fully funds the pay and benefits for the end strength levels requested by the Administration. Supporting the requested levels of force structure in each of the Military Services contributes to moving toward a better balance between periods of deployments and time at home; a balance that is essential to maintaining good morale and the well-being of individuals. In addition, while the practice of extending tours through stop loss has largely ended, the recommendation will help the troops with an additional \$500 per month for those whose tours were involuntarily extended by the stop-loss procedures.

To provide for the well-being of servicemembers and their families, the Defense Health Program includes \$31,469,401,000, which is \$534,290,000 above the request. The bill provides additional resources for

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Psychological Health programs to respond to the stresses placed on troops. The recommendation builds on the appropriations of previous years and the Administration's request to support both research and treatment, recommending \$359,195,000, an increase of \$125,000,000 above the request to address all levels of brain injury including headache research and psychological health issues that servicemembers and their families continue to experience. In addition, the bill provides \$2,308,300,000, as requested for programs addressing the needs of Wounded, Ill and Injured.

The bill also builds on past Committee initiatives by providing increases above the request for in-house medical treatment programs and facilities, as well as peer-reviewed medical research programs to address breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, orthopedic injuries and other conditions affecting servicemembers and their families.

In support of military families, which are so vital to the strength of our forces, the recommendation includes funds to help respond to the multi-faceted demands and stresses that multiple deployments can cause. Funds are included for the work of organizations that bind families together, respond to moments of crisis, and foster the growth and education of the children. The bill provides \$50,000,000 above the request for Impact Aid; \$250,000,000 above the request to improve the condition and capacity of schools on Department of Defense bases; and \$230,000,000 an increase of \$165,000,000 above the request to fully fund the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA).

Innovation Funds

The bill recognizes that all too often, innovative solutions struggle to find their way into the research, development and procurements of the Department of Defense. Small businesses encounter difficulties in getting proposals heard. Resources are lacking to take innovative ideas to a level of technical maturity so that they are ready to be incorporated into existing programs. Products and services that are ready for rapid employment get left behind for want of adequate funds.

The recommendation includes an additional \$504,000,000 in research and development funds, and a further \$100,000,000 in procurement funds to provide the Defense Department with resources that will spur innovation and deliver solutions to the warfighter more rapidly. The recommendation includes language that allows the Defense Department to build on the models of existing programs such as the Small Business Innovation Research program and the Rapid Equipping Force, while at the same time providing flexibility to employ other mechanisms within the bounds of acquisition statutes and regulations.

In addition to providing small businesses with the needed opportunity to make their products and services available to the Department of Defense, this funding will allow the Committee to significantly reduce the number of earmarks, and fundamentally reform the process by which earmarks are included in the Defense appropriations bill.

National Guard Equipment

The experiences of recent years have demonstrated to the nation that the capabilities of National Guard units are an essential component of today's warfighting capabilities. Our National Guard units also have to be prepared and equipped to respond to domestic missions. In recent years, the Congress has included funds to address shortfalls in equipment needed to allow reserve forces to be adequately equipped to respond to the missions that they may be called to perform. The Committee recommendation adds \$1,500,000,000 above the request to continue to make significant investments in equipment for National Guard and Reserve units.

Cyber Security

The great utility and pervasiveness of the internet have contributed to commerce, information sharing, and freedom of expression around the world. However, with this great value also have come significant risks. The very pervasiveness of the internet domain and our telecommunications systems has opened up avenues of vulnerability to our businesses, our critical infrastructure, our national security organizations, and individual citizens. The recommendation include significant resources (in classified accounts) to respond to the cyber threats and focus efforts across multiple agencies. I believe that cyber security is the problem of our time.

Intelligence Programs

The Nation's Intelligence Community conducts vital collection and analysis of information to anticipate and respond to threats to our national security. The nature of their work requires significant secrecy that is not generally associated with other government functions. For that reason, Congressional oversight and direction have particular importance.

A careful balance must be maintained between providing the Intelligence Community the resources and latitude that is necessary to perform their missions, and the restraint that is necessary to ensure that operations comport with the expectations of the nation. To that end, the recommendation has included substantial resources for intelligence operations, coupled with language that: prohibits new programs from being initiated without Congressional notification; prohibits contracting out of inherently governmental functions; curtails the growth of Senior Executive positions in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and prohibits use of foreign intelligence unless it has been lawfully collected.

Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance

The bill continues the Committee's commitment to providing increased intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capability to the warfighter. This includes sensibly funding existing programs and also exploring other ideas that provide increased capability at a decreased cost to the taxpayer. The recommendation includes \$248,300,000 above the President's request for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capabilities. These funds will allow the Defense Department to fund programs that may provide game changing capabilities such as active illumination of enemy forces, counter-IED capabilities, and sensors to provide persistent detection and tracking of vehicles.

Special Operations Forces

Our Nation's Special Operations Forces remain one of the most continually deployed elements of our military components, demonstrating time and again their capability to respond to a wide spectrum of missions. These missions range from planning and conducting global operations against terrorist networks, to enabling partners to combat extremist organizations themselves. They are engaged everyday in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and the Horn of Africa inflicting substantial losses against the leadership and operational capacity of Al Qaeda and its violent extremist affiliates. Special Operations Forces continue to play a uniquely valuable role in countering transnational threats that are likely to be a challenge to the security of our Nation and our allies for many years to come. To maintain this essential capability, the Committee provides additional funding to meet the requirements of Special Operations Command that may have arisen since the President's budget was submitted. For fiscal year 2011, the Committee recommends nearly \$250,000,000 in additional funding to address these critical capability shortfalls in procurement and development.

Shipbuilding

Reaching and maintaining the Navy's stated requirement of 313 ships requires that 10 to 11 new ships are constructed each year. Over the past decade, the Navy has requested less than seven ships per year. The fiscal year 2011 request improved on this by requesting nine ships. The Committee goes one step further by providing funding for the nine ships requested by the President and adding funding for the construction of an additional Mobile Landing Platform, bringing the total ship count for fiscal year 2011 to the ten ships required to reach a fleet size of 313 ships.

Helicopters

The Bill includes funding for the procurement of Apache, Blackhawk, Chinook, and Cobra helicopters. In particular, the recommendation includes funding to repair and replace two Chinook, six Blackhawk, one Osprey and three Cobra helicopters that were damaged or lost during recent combat operations in Afghanistan. The recommendation also includes four Blackhawk and four Pavehawk helicopters specifically for the National Guard.

Overseas Contingency Operations

The bill includes \$157,682,260,000 in Overseas Contingency Operations to support the troops in Afghanistan and to support a responsible drawdown in Iraq. This recommendation includes funding for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles and funds to train and equip Afghan and Iraq security forces. For several years, approximately 185,000 Military Service Personnel have been deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan. By August 31, 2010, personnel will redeploy from Iraq resulting in no more than 50,000 U.S. military personnel in Iraq. During 2011, this level will be maintained in Iraq and the mission will be limited to advising and assisting the Iraqis. This recommendation supports the President's plan for those troop levels and we anticipate that by December 31, 2011, all U.S. military personnel will withdraw from Iraq. Additionally, the recommendation provides funding above the request to support the influx of troops returning from deployments to home stations in the United States.

Pre-Positioned Equipment

The pre-positioning of military equipment is the fastest, most effective way to respond to contingencies around the world. The Committee has found that, since 2002, the Army and Marine Corp have used up much of the pre-positioned equipment for use in ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The recommendation, therefore, includes additional funding to help the Army and Marine Corp to restore their inventories of pre-positioned equipment.

Reforms

The bill provides \$523,869,946,000 in base funding, a reduction of \$7,019,233,000 below the budget request and \$157,825,260,000 in title IX for overseas contingency operations, a reduction of \$253,017,000 below the request. This level of funding recognizes that the Department of Defense must be part of the solution to the fiscal challenges facing the Federal Government. This level of funding also provides a rolling start toward the savings initiatives recently identified by the Secretary of Defense. The reductions proposed in this bill will not detract from modernization or readiness efforts. Instead, they will advance efficiencies that can be realized in existing programs within the Defense Department.

Building on past efforts to rein in the number of contractors hired by the Defense Department, the bill includes several limitations on contractors and outsourcing. The bill includes general provisions which

limit the extent to which the Defense workload may be outsourced, and requires the Defense Department to provide an inventory of the contractor workforce. Based on the slow pace of contractor reductions in Iraq, the bill includes a general provision that withholds a portion of resources pending a plan from the Defense Department to appropriately reduce the number of contractors in theater. The bill also provides additional funding for civilian personnel to in-source workload, and provides funding for training of additional employees in the acquisition workforce. The bill also supports ongoing efforts within the Intelligence Community to reduce the number of support contractors.

In conclusion, I ask that you support this bill and I will now turn to my good friend, Mr. Frelinghuysen, for any comments he would like to make.