

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

FY 2014 Omnibus – Department of Defense Appropriations

Bill makes smart choices to strengthen our national security and military readiness, provides our troops with the resources they need, and holds the line on spending

The Omnibus legislation contains the fiscal year 2014 Defense Appropriations bill, providing funding to advance our nation's security, military readiness, and support for our troops at home and abroad. It also exempts medically retired military personnel and survivor benefit plan annuitants from the military retirement compensation reform made as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

In total, the Defense portion of the Omnibus is \$486.9 billion, virtually the same as the current operating level. This meets spending caps set in the Ryan-Murray budget agreement and denies the extreme cuts that would have occurred under the next round of sequestration – which would have had dire repercussions for our national defense. The funding in the bill will support important DoD programs and projects, a pay raise for our troops, and a high level of military readiness.

Medically Retired Military Personnel Pension “Fix” – The legislation amends the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (the “Ryan-Murray Agreement”) to exempt medically retired personnel (known as Chapter 61 retirees) and survivor benefit plan annuitants from the temporarily reduced COLA provision. This will ensure that those who sacrificed the most in military service do not see any reduction in benefits as a result of the military retirement compensation reform that was included in the Ryan-Murray Agreement.

Ongoing Military Operations – The bill contains \$85.2 billion for ongoing military operations in Afghanistan. This is a reduction of \$2 billion compared to the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This funding will provide the needed resources for our troops in the field, including funding for personnel requirements, operational needs, the purchase of new aircraft to replace combat losses, combat vehicle safety modifications, and maintenance of facilities and equipment.

Military Personnel and Pay – The legislation includes \$128.8 billion to provide for 1,361,400 active-duty troops and 833,700 reserves. This funding level is \$1.3 billion above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. The bill fully funds the one percent pay raise for the military, as requested by the President.

Defense Health and Military Family Programs – The bill contains \$32.7 billion – the same as the fiscal year 2013 enacted level – for the Defense Health Program to provide care for our troops, military families, and retirees. Several important health programs receive increases above the President’s request, including increases of \$256 million for cancer research, \$125 million for traumatic brain injury and psychological health research, and \$20 million for suicide prevention outreach programs.

Operation and Maintenance – Included in the legislation is \$160 billion for operation and maintenance –\$13.6 billion below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. Within this amount, priority is placed on funding for key areas such as essential readiness programs to prepare our troops for combat and peacetime missions, flight time and battle training, equipment and facility maintenance, and base operations.

This also includes \$447 million for Cyber Command, \$157 million for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs, and an additional \$25 million to expand the Sexual Assault Victims’ Counsel program to all the military services.

Research and Development – The bill contains \$63.0 billion – \$6.9 billion below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level – for research, development, test, and evaluation of new defense technologies. This basic and applied research, system development, and testing will help to advance the safety and success of current and future military operations and will help prepare our nation to meet a broad range of potential security threats.

Equipment Procurement – The legislation provides a total of \$92.9 billion – \$7.5 billion below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level– for equipment and upgrades. This funding is necessary to ensure our nation’s military readiness, and will provide the necessary platforms, weapons, and other equipment our forces need to train and maintain our force and to conduct successful operations.

Guantanamo Bay – The legislation prohibits funding for transfers of Guantanamo detainees to the U.S. or its territories, prohibits funding to modify any facility in the U.S. to house detainees, and places conditions on the release of detainees to other countries. These provisions are similar to language contained in the fiscal year 2013 Defense Appropriations legislation.

Savings and Reductions to President’s Request – The bill reflects common-sense decisions to save taxpayer dollars where possible in areas that will not affect the safety or success of our troops and missions. Some of these reductions include: \$867 million for Working Capital Fund excess cash balances; \$1.5 billion for overstatement of civilian FTE targets; \$380 million for revised economic assumptions; and \$2.0 billion in savings from rescissions of unused prior-year funding.

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