



Amendments to H.R. 4974: Fiscal Year 2017 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations (Rep. Dent, R-PA) – Part II

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The committee report can be found [here](#), and the text of the bill can be found [here](#). The Legislative Bulletin on the bill can be found [here](#).

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF AMENDMENTS:

1. **[First Mulvaney \(R-SC\)](#)**: Would strike \$18.9 million in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for Army military construction. The projects that would be funded by this account can be found [here](#). Under the bill, these funds would be available for obligation until September 30, 2021.

According to HASC Chairman Thornberry, “These amendments would cut much needed funding from these critical EUCOM, AFRICOM and CENTCOM operations to deal with Russian aggression and terrorism in the Middle East.”

OCO funding is exempt from the base discretionary spending caps set in place by the Budget Control Act (BCA) and is meant to support ongoing war operations. However, under the FY 2017 National Defense Authorizations Act (NDAA) and appropriations bills reported by the House Appropriations Committee, \$23 billion of the \$59 billion in OCO funding would be used for base defense purposes instead of for war operations. This will leave OCO funding for operations in Afghanistan, against ISIS, and the Global War on Terror exhausted by the end of April, 2017.

Key Vote Yes: [National Taxpayers Union](#)

2. **[Second Mulvaney \(R-SC\)](#)**: Would strike \$59.8 million in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for Navy military construction. The projects that would be funded by this account can be found [here](#). Under the bill, these funds would be available for obligation until September 30, 2021.

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defense purposes instead of for war operations. This will leave OCO funding for operations in Afghanistan, against ISIS, and the Global War on Terror exhausted by the end of April, 2017.

Key Vote Yes: [National Taxpayers Union](#)

3. **[Third Mulvaney \(R-SC\)](#):** Would strike \$88.3 million in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for Air Force military construction. The projects that would be funded by this account can be found [here](#). Under the bill, these funds would be available for obligation until September 30, 2021.

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Key Vote Yes: [National Taxpayers Union](#)

4. **[Fourth Mulvaney \(R-SC\)](#):** Would strike \$5 million in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for Defense-Wide military construction. The projects that would be funded by this account can be found [here](#). Under the bill, these funds would be available for obligation until September 30, 2021.

According to HASC Chairman Thornberry, “These amendments would cut much needed funding from these critical EUCOM, AFRICOM and CENTCOM operations to deal with Russian aggression and terrorism in the Middle East.”

OCO funding is exempt from the base discretionary spending caps set in place by the Budget Control Act (BCA) and is meant to support ongoing war operations. However, under the FY 2017 National Defense Authorizations Act (NDAA) and appropriations bills reported by the House Appropriations Committee, \$23 billion of the \$59 billion in OCO funding would be used for base defense purposes instead of for war operations. This will leave OCO funding for operations in Afghanistan, against ISIS, and the Global War on Terror exhausted by the end of April, 2017.

Key Vote Yes: [National Taxpayers Union](#)

5. **[Blumenauer \(D-OR\)](#):** Would prohibit funds to implement a [VA directive](#) that prohibits VA medical providers from recommending medical marijuana to veterans seeking the drug in states that have legalized medical marijuana. Marijuana is classified as a Schedule 1 drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act. A similar amendment to the FY 2016 bill failed by a [210 - 213](#) vote.

Key Vote No: [Family Research Council](#)

6. [Fleming \(R-LA\)](#): Would prohibit funds for modifying military installations to provide housing for unaccompanied illegal alien children. [According to the Pentagon](#), it is considering six bases for housing illegal aliens. [According to the amendment sponsor](#), “This amendment follows on from a prohibition included in this year’s House-passed NDAA prohibiting housing on military installations for such purposes and a standalone bill introduced by Judge John Carter of Texas which has 61 House cosponsors (H.R. 4537).”
7. [Huffman \(D-CA\)](#): Would prohibit the display of the Confederate Battle Flag at VA cemeteries by prohibiting funds to implement section 8(d)(2) of the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration [Directive 3220](#) of November 22, 2005.

This section reads: “The Confederate flag(s) will be displayed as follows: At VA national cemeteries where Confederate veterans are buried in mass graves, the Confederate flag may be displayed on a separate flagpole that is subordinate to the United States of America flag on the day(s) identified in paragraph 8.b (Memorial Day and Confederate Memorial Day in cemeteries in those States that recognize a Confederate Memorial Day. In States that do not recognize a Confederate Memorial Day, NCA may approve a “ceremonial day” in lieu of Confederate Memorial Day).

8. [Gosar \(R-AZ\)](#): Would prohibit funds to display solicitations for union membership in VA facilities. According to the amendment sponsor, this would place unions on par with other non-profit organizations.
9. [Perry \(R-PA\)](#): Would prohibit funds made available by the bill to require Project Labor Agreements. President Obama has issued an Executive Order that encourages federal agencies to require Project Labor Agreements, which [increase](#) costs for those projects and [force contracts](#) towards unionized contractors. Some [previous](#) MilCon-VA appropriations bills included this rider, but this bill does not.

Key Vote Yes: Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)

10. [Sean Maloney \(D-NY\)](#): Would prohibit funds made available by the bill to be used in contravention of an Executive Order that requires potential federal contractors to “prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity”.

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