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BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, March 13, 2014

U.S. House of Representatives,
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:30 a.m., in Room HVC-304, the Capitol, the Honorable Mike Rogers [chairman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Rogers, Conaway, LoBiondo, Nunes, Westmoreland, Rooney, Heck, Pompeo, Ruppertsberger, Thompson, and Himes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will call the committee to order for the purposes of a business meeting. I want to remind members that we are now in open session.

The committee will come to order. Our first item of business today is the committee's views and estimates on the President's budget request. We will then consider and vote on three requests from members for access to the Defense Department's damage assessment. In the interests of efficiency, we will consider the vote for the three requests en bloc. I want to remind members again we are currently in open session. I intend to remain in open session during the consideration of these items.

The views and estimates is exactly the way we have handled this the last 3 years, and because of the sensitive nature of the classified annex, it is the 800,000-foot level and it is a letter of stated intent. So it is there on your desk for a quick review. This is the way we always do it. It will have no impact, candidly, on the internal numbers of the classified annex. It will just give that unclassified overview of what our concerns and intentions are moving forward.

Are there any comments?

MR. RUPPERSBERGER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, first, the fiscal year 2015 combined budget request is \$59.8 billion, a decrease of 1.6 percent from last year's request. I share the Chairman's concerns about possibly underfunding certain programs, and I also think we need to have a very deliberate criteria on what is funded in the overseas contingency operations budget as opposed to the base budget.

We are going to be looking very closely at the base budget request starting today, and we look forward to reviewing the overseas contingency operations

request as soon as it is available. In the meantime, this letter is routine and it preserves our ability to add or subtract funding as necessary. I recommend we approve the letter.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. There are no comments.

The committee will now consider the draft committee views and estimates on the President's budget request which is before each member. Pursuant to the rules of the House, the committee provides formal views and estimates of the President's budget for fiscal year 2015 for the Budget Committee to consider in connection with the annual budget resolution. Because the specifics of our budget reviews are classified, our public views letter will be very limited in nature.

I have concerns that the critical and enduring intelligence programs continue to be funded in the overseas contingency operations budget and that long-term budget cuts increase the risk to important intelligence capabilities. We begin our annual budget hearings today and I hope we will bear these concerns in mind as the committee determines the proper funding authorization levels for fiscal year 2015.

Any members have any quick comments?

Seeing none, the chair moves that the committee approve the draft committee views and estimates. Without objection the previous question is ordered.

The question is whether to adopt the committee views and estimates on the President's fiscal year 2015. All those in favor will say aye; those opposed say no.

The ayes have it and the committee views letter is approved.

Next the committee will now consider pursuant to committee rule 14 whether to grant requests from three members to access the Department of Defense's Information Review Task Force 2 or IRTF2's initial assessment of the impact to the

Department of Defense of the compromise of classified materials by a former NSA contractor. The Representatives seeking access today are Representative Garrett, Representative Lance and Representative Terry.

As all members recall, we have voted to permit access to this report for more than 100 members in recent months. Taking into account the same considerations as we did then, the consideration and the factors required by committee rule 14(f), I continue to believe that it is important for Members to read the assessment, which concerns one of the greatest compromises of classified materials in our country's history.

I now yield to the ranking member for any comments he wishes to make.

MR. RUPPERSBERGER: Mr. Chairman, I recommend we approve Representatives Garrett, Lance and Terry's request to review the Department of Defense's Information Review Task Force 2's classified report. The committee has already authorized over 100 Members to review this report which is DIA's initial assessment of the potential impacts of Snowden's leaks on the Department of Defense. Members should know about the terrible impact these disclosures have had and will continue to have. This report does not compromise sources or methods. We should approve it.

Thank you. I yield back.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seeing no members wishing to speak, the chair moves that under rule XIV the committee approve the three pending access requests to the IRTF-2 damage assessment.

Without objection the previous question is order and the clerk will take the roll.

THE CLERK: Chairman Rogers.

THE CHAIRMAN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Conaway.

MR. CONAWAY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. LoBiondo.

MR. LOBIONDO: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Nunes.

MR. NUNES: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Westmoreland.

MR. WESTMORELAND: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Rooney.

MR. ROONEY: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Heck.

MR. HECK: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Pompeo.

MR. POMPEO: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Ruppertsberger.

MR. RUPPERSBERGER: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Himes.

MR. HIMES: Aye.

THE CLERK: Mr. Chairman, there are 11 ayes and zero noes.

THE CHAIRMAN: The ayes have it, the motion is carried, and the committee would notify the members of the committee's vote today.

Seeing no further business before the issues before the business committee,

the business committee meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:35 a.m., the business meeting was adjourned.]