



Legislative Update – May 2, 2014

As provided by the House Appropriations and Armed Services Committees

- **On Wednesday, April 30, 2014, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015.**
 - The total recommended funding level for military construction and family housing is \$6.6 billion which is \$3.3 billion below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and the same as the budget request.
 - This funding level assumes some risk as the Services chose to take risk in the military construction program in order to reduce risk in readiness accounts.
 - The Services also noted that many factors are currently under review, such as force structure and European basing, which may impact construction needs.
 - The success of the Housing Privatization Program has also reduced the need for family housing construction.

- On Wednesday, May 7th, 2014, the House Armed Services Committee will consider the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act at full committee markup. A summary of the draft legislation is as follows:

Readiness Subcommittee Summary

- Supporting operations, training, depot maintenance, and flying hour programs across the services;
- Ensures our Nation's ability to respond for unforeseen contingencies across the globe;
- Boosts military construction accounts; and
- Funds force structure and capabilities needed to support Combatant Commander requirements.
- Rejects the President's request for an additional BRAC round and any other effort that seeks to lock in unwise force structure reductions during a time accelerated transition;
- Requires an accounting of enduring requirements funded through the Overseas Contingency Operations budget;
- Requests assessments of categories of excess capacity to better understand those areas the President believes need to be streamlined to achieve efficiencies; and
- Requires DoD to notify Congress in advance of bulk purchase of alternative fuels for operational use.

Tactical Air and Land Forces Summary

- Address an unfunded requirement for extended range modifications for the Army's Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System;
- Support the President's request for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle;
- Advance the procurement and development of the most up-to-date body armor and personnel protection equipment systems, to include equipment specifically designed for female service members;

- Requires a plan for capability upgrades to the F-16 Fleet, and a plan for the future of the Army's scout helicopter and unmanned systems programs;
- Support Marine Corps aviation recapitalization for 19 V-22 Osprey, 26 new H-1 series helicopters, and continued development of the CH-53K heavy lift helicopter;
- Support the F-35 program with 34 new aircraft and continued test and development;
- Support the President's request for the Global Hawk unmanned aerial system, and other high altitude intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms;
- Support Army aviation modernization with 197 new helicopters; and
- Provide for continued growth in unmanned aerial systems capability, including 19 MQ-1C Gray Eagle UAS for the Army and 12 MQ-9 Reaper UAS for the Air Force.
- Address an unfunded requirement for Hercules Improved Recovery Vehicles and Stryker Combat Vehicles, including double V-hull survivability upgrades and helps to maintain the viability of the combat vehicle industrial base;
- Support the hard Body Armor industrial base to maintain two viable vendors until the next generation body armor system begins production;
- Recognize that Foreign Military Sales alone in the current global environment are not enough to keep the Abrams tank line viable and supports additional Abrams Tank Upgrades; and
- Mitigate production breaks and maintains surge capacity in the medium and heavy tactical wheeled vehicle industrial base.

Military Personnel Summary

- Continue to address the troubling prevalence of suicide within the military community by requiring additional reporting on suicide rates for immediate family members of active and reserve forces and an assessment by the Secretary of Defense of the increase in suicides among special operators.
- Continue robust oversight and reform of the military's handling of sexual assault by mandating reporting requirements updating Congress on progress in implementing the dozens of reforms included in the FY12, 13 and 14 NDAA.

- Rejects proposals that would have increased out-of-pocket costs for military families, including the elimination of most TRICARE plans, and reduction of housing allowances and commissary benefits.
- Supports Military Health Care, monitors the restructuring of the military health system and Defense Health Agency and tasks the GAO with examining DHA structure. The proposal requires a review by the Comptroller General of policies governing the transfer of TBI and PTSD patients from DoD to the VA to ensure continuity of treatment plans and medications. The proposal prohibits the Secretary from restructuring Military Treatment Facilities until he reports on the methodologies used to identify facilities that will lose capacity. GAO is also tasked with an examination of this methodology.

Seapower and Projection Forces Summary

- Supports the nuclear refueling of CVN 73- a ship with 25 years of service life left-, thus preserving a fleet of 11 carriers rather than 10;
- Supports two DDG 51 flight IIA destroyers included in the President's budget request;
- Continues the highly successful block buy procurement of two Virginia class submarines included in the President's budget request;
- Ensures the Air Force is contracting for F117 propulsion system sustainment and overhaul in the most cost-effective manner possible;
- Supports the C-130 Avionics Modernization Program by requiring DoD to follow through with Congressional instructions to fund the modernization;
- Authorizes the first low-rate initial production lot of KC-46 aircraft and identifies concerns with potential divestment of the KC-10 tanker aircraft beginning in fiscal year 2016;
- Notes that the Navy is below their validated inventory requirements and authorizes an additional 96 Tomahawk missiles utilizing Multi-Year Procurement authority as necessary;
- Supports two Littoral Combat Ship and advance procurement for another two Littoral Combat Ships; and
- In order to ensure that the Navy is adequately sized, the mark ends the practice of counting "paper ships" by standardizing categories of vessels used in determining the overall size of the fleet.

- Continues to support construction of CVN-79;
- Supports the SSBNX, the Ohio Class replacement- the Navy's largest R&D investment included in the budget request- while establishing the Strategic Sea Deterrent Fund to offset the impact SSBNX development has on the rest of the shipbuilding budget;
- Seeks to better define future of the UCLASS program;
- Supports LRASM development; and
- Supports research and development for the Virginia Payload Module included in the President's budget request.

Strategic Forces Summary

- Continues support for the missile defense plan announced by Secretary Hagel in 2013.
- Protects specific missile defense technologies and strengthens oversight of U.S.-Russia missile defense cooperation.
- Continues support for missile defense cooperation with Israel, including the Iron Dome system.
- Strengthens the National Nuclear Security Administration's focus on finding cost savings and delivering for the military.
- Ensures robust oversight of major nuclear modernization programs.
- Initiates the development of a competitively procured next-generation liquid rocket engine to transition from the use of non-allied space launch engines to a domestic alternative.
- States that a fully-developed multi-faceted space security and defense program is needed to deter and defeat any adversaries' acts of space aggression and requires a review of the ability to deter and defeat space aggression.
- Continues oversight of the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program to maintain the required mission assurance, reduce costs, and provide opportunities for competition to certified providers.

Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities Summary

- Fully support cyber operations and U.S. Cyber Command while requiring the Comptroller General to develop an assessment of Cyber Command functions;
- Fully support Information Technology requests in the President's budget while requiring GAO to report on efforts to protect IT systems

from insider threats, as well as require assessments of the Department's efforts to develop the Joint Information Environment;

- Direct the Secretary of Defense to establish an executive agent to coordinate and oversee cyber training and test ranges, critical to operationalizing and improving our DoD cyber forces;
- Direct DoD to review and assess intelligence activities by U.S. Special Operations Forces and U.S. Special Operations Command as part of the committee's robust oversight of intelligence activities;
- Direct the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence to provide more information on how defense intelligence priorities are addressed in resource decisions for the Military Intelligence Program (MIP) or National Intelligence Program (NIP);
- Direct the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency to provide more information on DIA's efforts to address both national intelligence priorities and defense intelligence priorities;
- Require an annual briefing on satisfaction of combatant command intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) requirements, including the strategy to address those requirements;
- Direct the Comptroller General to assess DoD antiterrorism, force protection, and information system insider threat policies and programs;
- Support the President's request for Science and Technology programs, while emphasizing biodefense and biosecurity to include improving coordination efforts for development of medical countermeasures;
- Extend critical Counter Terrorism authorities including "Section 1208" for support of U.S. special operations forces to combat terrorism through 2017, and the Secretary of Defense's authority to establish rewards programs for information used in combating terrorists; and
- Extend authorities for U.S. forces to conduct "non-conventional assisted recovery" or NAR operations designed to rescue isolated U.S. personnel in harm's way around the globe.