

News from Congressman

Norm Dicks

Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

2467 Rayburn House Office Building ◻ Washington, D.C. 20515◻ (202) 225 5916◻
<http://appropriations.house.gov>

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.

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. Young, the ranking member, 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 agreed 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 all manner of 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. Although the practice of stop loss has largely ended, the recommendation will help troops with an additional \$500 per month for troops whose tours had been extended in this manner.

Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress have been recognized as frequent consequences of the conflicts our troops have been engaged in. 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 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.

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.

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. These same units also have to be prepared and equipped to respond to domestic missions. Over the last several years, the Congress has included funds to address shortfalls in equipment needed to allow National Guard units to be adequately equipped to respond the missions that they may be called to perform. The Committee's recommendation adds \$1,500,000,000 to continue to make significant investments in equipment for National Guard units.

Intelligence Programs

The nation's Intelligence Community conducts vital collection and analysis of information to anticipate and respond to threat 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.

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.

Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance

The Bill continues the Committee's commitment to providing increased 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 Secretary of the Air Force the opportunity 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 have demonstrated time and again the important roles that they play in a wide spectrum of missions. These missions range from building relationships in communities around the world, to training their counterparts in other nations, to direct action in pursuit of leaders of dangerous enemies. Special Operations Forces have a uniquely valuable role to play in countering the transnational threats that are likely to be an unfortunate reality for many years to come.

For the past several years, the Committee has sought to provide additional funding to meet Special Operations Command requirements 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 last 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 MH-47 helicopters and one MH-60 helicopter for Special Operations Force that were damaged or lost during recent combat operations in Afghanistan.

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 also funding for training and equipping 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.

Pre-Positioned Equipment

The pre-positioning of military equipment is the fastest, most effective way to respond to contingency operations 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 an additional \$1,416,781,000 to help the Army and Marine Corp to restore their inventories of pre-positioned equipment.

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