



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee Markup

FY 2015 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill

May 30, 2014

Opening Statement As Prepared

Thank you for yielding. I would like to thank Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky for bringing forward the Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations bill for the Department of Defense.

The bill before us this morning provides \$570.4 billion in discretionary spending for DOD, including a \$79.4 billion placeholder for Overseas Contingency Operations which we expect to address once we receive a formal request from the Administration. I'm proud that this legislation prioritizes our precious tax dollars where they rightfully belong – in support of our warfighters, both active duty and reserve, and their dedicated families.

The legislation fully funds the authorized military pay raise, provides tuition assistance for our men and women in uniform to pursue their education, and ensures that the Basic Housing Allowance for our troops is maintained at 100 percent of cost. Defense Health Programs are funded at \$31.6 billion, including a \$246 million add for cancer research and \$38.8 million above the budget request for suicide prevention. In 2011, mental disorders accounted for more hospitalizations of service-members than any other illness and more outpatient care than all illnesses except musculo-skeletal injuries and routine medical care. We absolutely owe it to these brave men and women to ensure that they are getting the best quality of care when they return home from physically and emotionally challenging war-time conditions, and I'm proud that we've made impressive strides toward that goal with this bill.

Importantly, we've worked to fully fund key readiness programs to ensure that our troops are fully equipped and well-prepared for combat operations and peace-time missions. On top of full support for flying hours, tank miles, equipment and depot maintenance, training and base operations, the legislation provides the Services – including the National Guard and Reserve – with an additional \$1.2 billion to address damaging shortfalls in military readiness that are of great concern to us all. Finally, the legislation will also ensure that the United States military continues to be the most advanced and effective force in the world with targeted investments in key weapons systems, such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the procurement of critical Navy ships, and the development of the Air Force's next generation stealth bomber.

Recognizing that no department is immune from scrutiny during these difficult financial times, this bill makes responsible rescissions and reductions without negatively impacting the warfighter or compromising readiness. This is a good bill, and I urge the subcommittee to promptly report it to the full Committee.

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