

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1790,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). I would like to start by thanking Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member THORNBERRY, and the House Armed Services Committee staff who have worked tirelessly throughout this past year to get us to this point. It's a good bill and I encourage my colleagues to support the conference report.

As the Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, I worked closely with members on and off the committee to ensure the bill addressed three priority areas affecting our military.

First, the bill includes a number of bipartisan provisions aimed at addressing problems associated with the management and oversight of military family housing. The bill does the following:

Requires the military services to establish a tenants' bill of rights for residents of privatized military family housing;

Requires the Department to establish a standardized assessment tool to be used in evaluating military housing for certain risks, including lead and mold;

Prohibits the use of non-disclosure agreements as a condition of moving out of military housing;

Authorizes additional funding to ensure installation housing offices are properly staffed; and

Provides for a temporary direct hiring authority for government housing personnel to increase oversight of private contractors.

Second, the bill authorizes additional funding and includes bipartisan provisions to mitigate contaminated drinking water for households and agriculture resulting from fluorinated compounds around military installations:

Bans DOD use of fire fighting agents containing PFAS by 2024;

Requires DOD to ensure that when disposing of AFFF and supplies used to remediate PFAS contamination, it does so in a manner that is safe and does not create further pollution;

Bans the use of PFAS chemicals in the packaging of the meals (MREs) our service members eat when deployed in combat areas and for training;

Closes a loophole in the DOD Environmental clean-up accounts that was keeping the National Guard from being able to access these funds to address PFOS and PFOA contamination;

Authorizes DOD to provide alternative water to farmers effected by PFAS contaminated agricultural water;

Bans the use fire fighting agents containing PFAS for training;

Bans the uncontrolled release of fire fighting agents containing PFAS for any purpose other than putting out fires;

Addresses DOD's refusal to acknowledge State-promulgated drinking water standards by requiring their use when they are more stringent than federal standards; and

Requires the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey to establish a performance standard for detecting PFAS and then conduct nationwide sampling to determine the extent of PFAS contamination and then report to Congress the results.

Third, the bill contains a number of provisions to increase military installation resiliency efforts to ensure better planning to assess vulnerabilities and facility codes to mitigate the risk future natural and man-made disasters:

Requires DoD develop installation master plans that assess current climate vulnerabilities and plan for mitigating the risks to installations from extreme weather events, mean sea level fluctuation, wildfires, flooding, and other changes in environmental conditions using projections from recognized governmental and scientific entities.

Limits DoD's ability to spend planning and design funds until it initiates the process of amending the building standards for military construction (Unified Facility Criteria) to ensure that building practices and standards promote energy, climate, and cyber resilience at military installations.

Requires all proposals for military construction projects to consider potential long-term changes in environmental conditions, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events, as well as, industry best-practices to withstand extreme weather events.

Requires DoD to report on the feasibility of transitioning installation planning from 100-year floodplain data to a forward-looking predictive model that takes into account the impacts of sea-level rise.

Establishes a pilot authority for the Department of Defense to carry out military construction projects, with prior congressional notification, that enhance military installation resilience, mission assurance, support mission critical functions, and address known vulnerabilities.

Authorizes an additional \$133 million for military construction projects under the Department's Energy Resiliency and Conservation Investment Program.

Directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a black start exercise at three major military installations to ensure installation resiliency in the case of a total power outage.

I'm proud of the funding authorized by, and legislative provisions included within the Readiness Subcommittee's jurisdiction. The bill authorizes \$261.6 billion in operation & maintenance funding to support training, maintenance, and military operations; \$11.8 billion for MILCON, family housing, and BRAC; and \$4.1 billion in emergency authorization for MILCON for recovery of military installations damaged by natural disasters. The conference report also provides twelve weeks of paid parental leave for all federal employees.

I'm also pleased this NDAA includes a 3.1 percent pay raise for our troops and includes key provisions of my bill, H.R. 2617, the Occupational and Environmental Transparency Health Act, which will require DoD to input any Occupational Environmental Health hazards exposure into servicemembers' records while deployed, so it is tracked throughout their career and into veteran status.

Additionally, this year's NDAA funds important priorities at Travis and Beale Air Force Bases in my district. The military construction projects authorized in this bill will support the new KC-46 mission at Travis Air Force Base

and will improve resilience and power supply at Beale Air Force Base, enabling it to continue to support intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and multi-domain operations.

While there are many positive outcomes, I am disappointed that the prohibition of funding for the deployment of new, low-yield nuclear warheads for submarines did not survive the conference process, and am also disappointed in the omission of critical provisions that were in the House-passed bill to reform border deployment and ensure funding for our military is spent wisely and as Congress intended, and not on an unnecessary border wall, such as the following:

Preventing the President from diverting Defense funding to pay for an unnecessary border wall;

Prohibiting funding for the construction of a wall, barrier, or fence along the southern land border;

Amending the emergency construction authority (10 USC 2808) to limit the total cost of military construction projects undertaken during a national emergency to \$500 million, with a further limit of \$100 million for construction projects within the United States; and

Prohibiting reprogramming of funds into the counter drug account, which has been used by the Administration to do construction along the southern land border.

Overall, I am proud of the Readiness Subcommittee's contribution to this year's bill and would like to thank the Readiness staff, Brian Garrett, Jeanine Womble, Melanie Harris, Brian Greer, John Muller, Dave Sienicki, Megan Handle, and Sean Falvey, and my personal staff, Betsy Thompson and Dan Naske, for their tireless work. Dan will be departing the Hill after next week, and I would like to personally thank him for his hard work and sharing his expertise with us this past year. He has been an invaluable member of my staff and we will miss him dearly.

This bill helps advance our military's near-term readiness goals and drives the Department to plan for and take action against long-term threats, and with that, I urge my colleagues to support the FY20 NDAA.

HONORING MICHAEL DAVID
SPADARO'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE NEW YORK STATE
POLICE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael David Spadaro's 25 years of dedicated service to the New York State Police.

Michael David Spadaro joined the State Police in 1994 and since then has served the State of New York with honor and distinction. Throughout our community, professionals in law enforcement, like Trooper Spadaro, dedicate their careers and risk their lives each day to keep us safe. Whether it be patrolling the highways connecting our towns, supporting local law enforcement, preventing terrorism, or responding to natural disasters, the New York State Police get it done. That is in no small part due to the dedication of Troopers like Michael David Spadaro. On behalf of New York's