

4, 2007, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday, August 3, 2007, through Wednesday, August 8, 2007, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3222, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3222.

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#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3222) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, with Mr. ROSS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the bill is considered read the first time.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Chairman, the President requested \$463.1 billion in total FY 2008 new budget authority for the Department of Defense and intelligence community programs that fall under the purview of the Defense Subcommittee. This is an increase of about \$43.3 billion over last year's enacted level—a 10.3 percent increase in nominal terms. The lion's share of the increase over FY 2007, some 80 percent, was allocated to operation and maintenance and procurement programs. DoD's research and development program re-

quest is the same as last year's level, a decrease in real terms due to several major programs having completed their R&D phase and moved into full-fledged production.

The Committee's reported bill meets its budget authority allocation of \$459.6 billion for FY 2008. This figure is a little more than \$3.5 billion below the President's budget request. Nonetheless, the Committee bill provides an increase for Defense of \$39.7 billion over the FY 2007 enacted level, or about 9.5 percent in nominal growth. With respect to outlays, the Committee bill is roughly \$2.9 billion below the allocation.

In general, meeting the budget authority allocation required shifting funding for certain programs between the FY 2008 base budget bill and the FY 2008 war supplemental, to be considered in September. This largely affected appropriations for the Department's operation and maintenance activities. The bill recommends an overall reduction to the operation and maintenance accounts of some \$5.7 billion below the request. Nonetheless, the bill fully funds home-station training, equipment maintenance, and other key military readiness programs covered in these accounts. Finally, notwithstanding a slight reduction to the military personnel pay accounts, all other major program activities, such as weapons procurement and R&D, are funded at or above the President's request.

Meeting the allocation also required deferring consideration of several high profile programs until the FY 2008 war supplemental is taken up. These include:

The Basic Allowance for Housing shortfall.

The ground forces' strategic reserve readiness and equipment rehabilitation and recapitalization.

The purchase of at least ten C-17 cargo aircraft, \$2.5 billion, and MRAP vehicles, \$4 billion or more.

The purchase of additional Blackhawk MEDEVAC helicopters.

The Department's Global Train and Equip program.

The Defense Health Program "efficiency wedge" shortfall.

#### FUNDING STRATEGY

For some time now, the Committee has expressed considerable concern over the erosion of DoD's fiscal discipline. That erosion is reflected primarily in the Department's use of supplemental funding to cover what were once considered to be base budget costs, particularly weapons modernization and force structure costs. As such, the Committee endeavored to begin restoring traditional funding criteria to the FY 2008 Defense base bill, and will do so when considering the upcoming war supplemental. Thus, recommendations for the base bill sustain non-war-related activities and prepare for future threats by funding enduring personnel benefits, force structure initiatives, such as Army modularity and "Grow-the-Force" programs, infrastructure improvements, home-station training, and weapons modernization programs. Conversely, recommendations for the FY 2008 supplemental will be tailored to funding those programs and incremental costs that are arguably related to the war.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

The Committee's recommendations achieve a balance between preparing units for near-term deployments, supporting our military members and their families, and modernizing

our forces to meet future threats. Highlights of the Committee's recommendations are:

Supporting Our Troops and Their Families: First and foremost, the Committee recommends robust funding for programs important to the health, well-being, and readiness of our forces. In addition, the Committee proposes several initiatives that address issues raised by troops, their families, and Department of Defense officials in testimony before the Committee and visits to military bases in the United States and overseas.

Funding of about \$2.2 billion is recommended to cover the full cost of a 3.5 percent military pay raise, as approved in the House's version of the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization bill.

Under their "grow-the-force" initiatives, the Army and Marine Corps propose to add 7,000 and 5,000 new troops, respectively. The personnel costs of these increases are fully covered in the bill, as are the associated equipping and outfitting costs. For the Army the equipping costs for these new troops amount to more than \$4 billion; for the Marines the costs exceed \$2 billion.

Home-stationing training, optempo, and flying-hour costs are funded at robust levels. All told, the Committee's recommendations provide for a 13 percent increase in funding for these activities over last year's level.

The military services' force structure and basing infrastructure are in a state of transition. The Army, in particular, has been forced to manage significant changes in force structure, known as Army Modularity, base closures, and a global repositioning of forces, all while meeting the demands of war. Based on detailed information provided by the Army, the Committee recommends an important new initiative to assist the service in meeting this challenge. The Committee proposes adding \$1.3 billion to the Army's facilities sustainment and restoration budget request to offset the growing infrastructure costs associated with the global repositioning of its forces. These funds will be used to fix barracks, improve child care facilities, and enhance community services at Army bases throughout the United States, Europe, and Korea. Funding for each project is itemized in the Committee report, consistent with the information provided by the Army. This funding, however, will only partially cover the Army's needs. As such, the Committee will address additional infrastructure cost requirements—particularly military construction costs—during consideration of the fiscal year 2008 emergency supplemental request. Further, the Committee intends to work with all the military services to better understand and respond to their basing and infrastructure needs during this time of upheaval.

Another initiative proposed by the Committee directly responds to the needs of our military families. Total funding of \$2.9 billion is recommended for the military's family advocacy programs, childcare centers, and dependent's education programs. This amount is an increase of \$558 million over the Administration's request, with most of the increase allocated to DoD's family advocacy programs. This program provides counseling, education, and support to military families affected by the demands of war, and episodes of child or spouse abuse.

The Committee's recommendations continue its long tradition of supporting the Department's health programs. The Committee proposes several initiatives and additional funding