passed legislation after we have done the same thing in the House, passed the same bills in the House that they could take up on our side, yet we are going to cede to the Senate position.

With that, I urge defeat of the motion to instruct.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD for their tremendous leadership and the work that they have done over the years to provide veterans with the best possible care, holding multiple hearings and passing a multitude of bipartisan bills. By working together, I know we can address this crisis and create a VA system that our veterans deserve.

I urge our colleagues to support this motion to instruct, so we get a bill to the President's desk quickly. This is not the end of our work, but it is an important step forward to meet the needs of our veterans.

I trust that Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, and the members of the conference committee will represent the interests of veterans very well in our conference committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 198, nays 220, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 316]

YEAS—198

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Rooney
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—220

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—13

Crawford
Goodlatte
Hanna
Kelly (IL)
Lankford
McHenry
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Nunnelee
Poe (TX)
Rangel
Ryan (OH)
Waxman

□ 1441

Messrs. LUCAS, JORDAN, BUCSHON, LATTA, UPTON, LAMALFA, TERRY, POSEY, SIMPSON, SESSIONS, ROSKAM, and FLEMING changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mrs. BEATTY changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, I was absent and missed rollcall votes Nos. 315 and 316. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 315—''yea,'' rollcall 316—''nay.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida). Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on H.R. 3230:

For consideration of the House amendment and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

Messrs. MILLER of Florida, LAMBORN, ROE of Tennessee, FLORES, BENISHEK, COFFMAN, WENSTRUP, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. WALZ.

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. 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 materials on H.R. 4870, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 628 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. 4870.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1443

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. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of New York in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, as we begin consideration of this important legislation, all of us in this Chamber want to pay tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces—all volunteers. They deserve our heartfelt thanks for their incredible service and sacrifices, and that of their families. Everything we do over the next few days should be dedicated to them.

□ 1445

My colleagues, the fiscal year 2015 Department of Defense Appropriations bill was reported out unanimously by the full Appropriations Committee on June 10. This recommendation is a product of countless staff hours, 10 official briefings, and 13 hearings.

Most of our hearings related to assuring success and reducing risk for our warfighters in their mission. It is worth noting that one of these hearings was exclusively dedicated to taking testimony from Members of the House on their views, opinions, and priorities for this year's Defense Appropriations bill.

I want to thank those Members who took time to inform and educate the committee, as well as other Members who made specific requests.

At the outset, I would also like to thank Chairman HAL ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY for their support of our committee's work. As they know, this bill is a product of a bipartisan and cooperative effort, for which I thank my good friend, the ranking member, PETE VISCLOSKY. He has been a valuable partner throughout this whole process. Thanks to all members of the committee and to our incredible staff.

The base funding recommendation is $491 billion, which is $202 million above the President's request and $4.1 billion above last year's enacted level.

As many Members are aware, the committee has not yet received the President's recommendation for overseas contingency operations—the OCO budget, as it is known—so we are forced to include a $79.4 billion placeholder in our legislation.

Our committee operates in a completely transparent and accountable manner, so clearly, this is not the way we wanted to proceed to the floor—with no details, with no context, with no facts for those accounts.

We have pressed the administration at every opportunity to get us the OCO plan. The administration has told us for months that it is finalizing its plan for the enduring U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, which will have a serious impact on the size of that funding request.

Three weeks ago, the President announced his plans for U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan beyond this year. The Army and Marines have already closed down bases and removed tons of equipment. Still, we have no request and are forced to debate a placeholder of nearly $80 billion.

While the Afghan Presidential elections are still unsettled, the leading candidates support the bilateral security agreement, supposedly the anchor for this funding request.

What is the holdup? We need to get on with it. I have to say that many people find it just a bit bizarre that the administration has proclaimed its opposition to the bill yesterday, when they have failed to do their job and lay out their game plan for overseas operations.

Whatever the recommendation we ultimately receive, we will closely examine their request because we still have troops and civilians on the ground, and no matter the number, they need to be protected.

Of course, we will also consider the deepening war and conflict in Iraq, the continuing disintegration of Syria, the aggressiveness of Russia in Eastern Europe and China in the Pacific, and the growing influence of Iran, increased terrorist attacks around the globe, especially in Africa.

While the administration feels the pending OCO request will have a great deal to do with our enduring U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, in reality, their request will have a great deal to do with our enduring role in the fight to protect Americans and our homeland from a growing list of global threats.

Even though we have returned to regular order this year, the committee faced many challenges in crafting this year's defense bill, but we have held firm to two guiding principles: ensuring that our men and women in uniform have the resources they need to defend our Nation and support their families; and, secondly, ensuring that the Department of Defense and our intelligence community have the resources they need to carry out their mission in the most efficient and effective manner.

Our goal throughout this bill is to support our warfighters, now and in the future, whenever the next crisis arises.

At the same time, our committee clearly recognizes the Nation's debt crisis. We found areas and programs where reductions were possible without adverse impact. Finally, it is important to note that we make every dollar count, without harming readiness or increasing risk incurred by our warfighters.

The bill before you attempts to meet those responsibilities within current fiscal restraints, while leaving no question for our allies and adversaries about our will and our ability to defend ourselves and our interests around the world. America must continue to lead, and this bipartisan bill enables that.

Let me highlight, briefly, just a few items included in this fiscal year 2015 Defense Appropriations request. It includes an additional $1.2 billion to fill readiness shortfalls; $534 million to fully fund the authorized 1.8 percent pay raise for our troops; $789 million to begin the refueling of the USS George Washington—a vital power projection platform; $5.8 billion for a total of 38 Joint Strike Fighters; $975 million to buy 12 additional electronic attack Growlers; $120 million to upgrade M1 Abrams tanks; $351 million for the very important Israeli Cooperative Program; and an additional $39 million for suicide prevention activities—$19 million of it targeted specifically to our Special Forces.

These are but a few examples of our commitment to the U.S. military dominance across the air, land, and sea, our commitment to our allies and partners, and our commitment to our servicemembers—all volunteers—and their families.

Mr. Chairman, I understand all—all of us do—that Americans are weary after 13 years of war. Despite the proclamations of some that al Qaeda and its followers have been decimated, the American people must understand the reality that terrorism is actually spreading worldwide.

Yes, our enemies have sustained serious damage, inflicted by the most skillful and powerful military intelligence organization on the globe, but in many cases, these enemies have adapted and grown to become even more dangerous.

We are witnessing an alarming collapse in Iraq. The central government now controls less than half of its sovereign territory, as it reels before a full-blown insurgency. The concept of an autonomous jihadi state or caliphate determined to attack the West is an unacceptable development that demands a response. We pivot elsewhere at our peril.

National defense is the priority job of the Federal Government. Our Constitution grants Congress the full range of authorities for establishing the defense of our Nation.

Our task in this House is to ensure that our military is ready to respond when the Commander in Chief calls. This legislation moves us towards a state of current and future military readiness that will protect America, and I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I					
MILITARY PERSONNEL					
Military Personnel, Army	40,787,967	41,225,339	41,183,729	+395,762	-41,610
Military Personnel, Navy	27,231,512	27,489,440	27,387,344	+155,832	-102,096
Military Personnel, Marine Corps	12,766,099	12,919,103	12,785,431	+19,332	-133,672
Military Personnel, Air Force	28,519,993	27,815,926	27,564,362	-955,631	-251,564
Reserve Personnel, Army	4,377,563	4,459,130	4,304,159	-73,404	-154,971
Reserve Personnel, Navy	1,843,966	1,863,034	1,836,024	-7,942	-27,010
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps	655,109	670,754	659,224	+4,115	-11,530
Reserve Personnel, Air Force	1,723,159	1,675,518	1,652,148	-71,011	-23,370
National Guard Personnel, Army	7,776,498	7,682,892	7,644,632	-131,866	-38,260
National Guard Personnel, Air Force	3,114,421	3,156,457	3,110,587	-3,834	-45,870
Total, Title I, Military Personnel	128,796,287	128,957,593	128,127,640	-668,647	-829,953
TITLE II					
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE					
Operation and Maintenance, Army	30,768,069	33,240,148	32,671,980	+1,903,911	-568,168
Operation and Maintenance, Navy	36,311,160	39,316,857	39,073,543	+2,762,383	-243,314
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps	5,397,605	5,909,487	5,984,680	+587,075	+75,193
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force	33,248,618	35,331,193	35,024,160	+1,775,542	-307,033
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide	31,450,068	31,198,232	30,896,741	-553,327	-301,491
Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve	2,940,936	2,490,569	2,535,606	-405,330	+45,037
Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve	1,158,382	1,007,100	1,011,827	-146,555	+4,727
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve	255,317	268,582	270,485	+15,168	+1,903
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve	3,062,207	3,015,842	2,989,214	-72,993	-26,628
Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard	6,857,530	6,030,773	6,116,307	-741,223	+85,534
Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard	6,392,304	6,392,859	6,393,919	+1,615	+1,060
Overseas Contingency Operations Transfer Account	---	5,000	---	---	-5,000
United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces	13,606	13,723	13,723	+117	---
Environmental Restoration, Army	298,815	201,560	201,560	-97,255	---
Environmental Restoration, Navy	316,103	277,294	277,294	-38,809	---
Environmental Restoration, Air Force	439,820	408,716	408,716	-31,104	---
Environmental Restoration, Defense-Wide	10,757	8,547	8,547	-2,210	---
Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites	287,443	208,353	233,353	-54,090	+25,000
Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid	109,500	100,000	103,000	-6,500	+3,000
Cooperative Threat Reduction Account	500,455	365,108	365,108	-135,347	---
Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund	51,031	212,875	51,875	+844	-161,000
Total, Title II, Operation and maintenance	159,869,726	166,002,818	164,631,638	+4,761,912	-1,371,180

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE III					
PROCUREMENT					
Aircraft Procurement, Army	4,844,891	5,102,685	5,295,957	+451,066	+193,272
Missile Procurement, Army	1,549,491	1,017,483	1,217,483	-332,008	+200,000
Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army	1,610,811	1,471,438	1,703,736	+92,925	+232,298
Procurement of Ammunition, Army	1,444,067	1,031,477	1,011,477	-432,590	-20,000
Other Procurement, Army	4,936,908	4,893,634	4,812,234	-124,674	-81,400
Aircraft Procurement, Navy	16,442,794	13,074,317	14,054,523	-2,388,271	+980,206
Weapons Procurement, Navy	3,009,157	3,217,945	3,111,931	+102,774	-106,014
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps	549,316	771,945	629,372	+80,056	-142,573
Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy	15,231,364	14,400,625	14,256,361	-975,003	-144,264
Other Procurement, Navy	5,572,618	5,975,828	5,923,379	+350,761	-52,449
Procurement, Marine Corps	1,240,958	983,352	927,232	-313,726	-56,120
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force	10,379,180	11,542,571	12,046,941	+1,667,761	+504,370
Missile Procurement, Air Force	4,446,763	4,690,506	4,546,211	+99,448	-144,295
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force	729,677	677,400	648,200	-81,477	-29,200
Other Procurement, Air Force	16,572,754	16,566,018	16,633,023	+60,269	+67,005
Procurement, Defense-Wide	4,240,416	4,221,437	4,358,121	+117,705	+136,684
Defense Production Act Purchases	60,135	21,638	51,638	-8,497	+30,000
Total, Title III, Procurement	92,861,300	89,660,299	91,227,819	-1,633,481	+1,567,520
TITLE IV					
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION					
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army	7,126,318	6,593,898	6,720,000	-406,318	+126,102
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy	14,949,919	16,266,335	15,877,770	+927,851	-388,565
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force	23,585,292	23,739,892	23,438,982	-146,310	-300,910
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide	17,086,412	16,766,084	17,077,900	-8,512	+311,816
Operational Test and Evaluation, Defense	246,800	167,738	248,238	+1,438	+80,500
Total, Title IV, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation	62,994,741	63,533,947	63,362,890	+368,149	-171,057
TITLE V					
REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS					
Defense Working Capital Funds	1,649,214	1,234,468	1,334,468	-314,746	+100,000
National Defense Sealift Fund	597,213	---	---	-597,213	---
Total, Title V, Revolving and Management Funds	2,246,427	1,234,468	1,334,468	-911,959	+100,000

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE VI					
OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS					
Defense Health Program					
Operation and maintenance	30,704,995	31,031,911	30,080,563	-624,432	-951,348
Procurement	441,764	308,413	308,413	-133,351	---
Research, development, test and evaluation	1,552,399	654,594	1,245,894	-306,505	+591,300
Total, Defense Health Program 1/	32,699,158	31,994,918	31,634,870	-1,064,288	-360,048
Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense:					
Operation and maintenance	398,572	222,728	222,728	-175,844	---
Procurement	1,368	10,227	10,227	+8,859	---
Research, development, test and evaluation	604,183	595,913	595,913	-8,270	---
Total, Chemical Agents 2/	1,004,123	828,868	828,868	-175,255	---
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense	1,015,885	---	---	-1,015,885	---
Counter-narcotics support	---	719,096	669,631	+669,631	-49,465
Drug demand reduction program	---	101,591	105,591	+105,591	+4,000
National Guard counter-drug program	---	---	169,465	+169,465	+169,465
Total, Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense	1,015,885	820,687	944,687	-71,198	+124,000
Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund	---	115,058	65,464	+65,464	-49,594
Joint Urgent Operational Needs Fund	---	20,000	---	---	-20,000
Support for International Sporting Competitions 1/	---	10,000	10,000	+10,000	---
Office of the Inspector General 1/	316,000	311,830	311,830	-4,170	---
Total, Title VI, Other Department of Defense Programs	35,035,166	34,101,361	33,795,719	-1,239,447	-305,642
TITLE VII					
RELATED AGENCIES					
Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System Fund	514,000	514,000	514,000	---	---
Intelligence Community Management Account (ICMA)	528,229	510,194	501,194	-27,035	-9,000
Total, Title VII, Related agencies	1,042,229	1,024,194	1,015,194	-27,035	-9,000

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE VIII					
GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Additional transfer authority (Sec.8005)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	---	---
Indian Financing Act incentives (Sec.8019)	15,000	---	---	-15,000	---
FFRDC (Sec.8023)	-40,000	---	-40,000	---	-40,000
Rescissions (Sec.8039)	-1,906,089	-265,685	-964,648	+941,441	-698,963
O&M, Defense-wide transfer authority (Sec.8050)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	---	---
Global Security Contingency Fund (O&M, Defense-wide transfer) (Sec.8067)	(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)	---	---
Fisher House Foundation (Sec.8068)	4,000	---	4,000	---	+4,000
National grants (Sec.8076)	44,000	---	44,000	---	+44,000
Shipbuilding & conversion funds, Navy (Sec.8080)	8,000	5,000	5,000	-3,000	---
ICMA transfer authority (Sec.8087)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	---	---
Fisher House transfer authority (Sec.8092)	(11,000)	(11,000)	(11,000)	---	---
Defense Health O&M transfer authority (Sec.8096)	(143,087)	(146,857)	(146,857)	(+3,770)	---
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (Sec.8100) (transfer authority)	(119,400)	(80,596)	(80,596)	(-38,804)	---
Ship Modernization, Operations and Sustainment Fund (Sec.8105)	2,244,400	---	540,000	-1,704,400	+540,000
Rescission	-1,920,000	---	---	+1,920,000	---
Superintendents review	1,000	---	---	-1,000	---
Revised econonmic assumptions (Sec. 8106)	-380,000	---	-545,100	-165,100	-545,100
Special Victims Program implementation	25,000	---	---	-25,000	---
General/Flag Officers	-8,000	---	---	+8,000	---
Working Capital Fund excess cash balances	-866,500	---	---	+866,500	---
National Defense Reserve Fleet (O&M, Navy transfer authority) (Sec.8128)	---	(291,000)	(291,000)	(+291,000)	---
John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Fund (O&M, Navy transfer authority)(Sec.8129)	---	(1,000)	(1,000)	(+1,000)	---
Military pay raise (Sec.8130)	---	---	533,500	+533,500	+533,500
Basic allowance for housing (Sec.8131)	---	---	244,700	+244,700	+244,700
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (Sec.8135)	---	---	139,000	+139,000	+139,000
Readiness (Sec.8137)	---	---	1,000,000	+1,000,000	+1,000,000
Total, Title VIII, General Provisions	-2,779,189	-260,685	960,452	+3,739,641	+1,221,137

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE IX					
OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS (OCO) 3/					
Military Personnel					
Military Personnel, Army (OCO)	5,449,726	---	---	-5,449,726	---
Military Personnel, Navy (OCO)	558,344	---	---	-558,344	---
Military Personnel, Marine Corps (OCO)	777,922	---	---	-777,922	---
Military Personnel, Air Force (OCO)	832,862	---	---	-832,862	---
Reserve Personnel, Army (OCO)	33,352	---	---	-33,352	---
Reserve Personnel, Navy (OCO)	20,238	---	---	-20,238	---
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps (OCO)	15,134	---	---	-15,134	---
Reserve Personnel, Air Force (OCO)	20,432	---	---	-20,432	---
National Guard Personnel, Army (OCO)	257,064	---	---	-257,064	---
National Guard Personnel, Air Force (OCO)	6,919	---	---	-6,919	---
Military Personnel (OCO)	---	---	5,100,000	+5,100,000	+5,100,000
Total, Military Personnel	7,971,993	---	5,100,000	-2,871,993	+5,100,000
Operation and Maintenance					
Operation & Maintenance, Army (OCO)	32,369,249	---	---	-32,369,249	---
Operation & Maintenance, Navy (OCO)	8,470,808	---	---	-8,470,808	---
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps (OCO)	3,369,815	---	---	-3,369,815	---
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force (OCO)	12,746,424	---	---	-12,746,424	---
Operation & Maintenance, Defense-Wide (OCO)	6,226,678	---	---	-6,226,678	---
Coalition support funds (OCO)	(1,257,000)	---	---	(-1,257,000)	---
Operation & Maintenance, Army Reserve (OCO)	34,674	---	---	-34,674	---
Operation & Maintenance, Navy Reserve (OCO)	55,700	---	---	-55,700	---
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve (OCO)	12,534	---	---	-12,534	---
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force Reserve (OCO)	32,849	---	---	-32,849	---
Operation & Maintenance, Army National Guard (OCO)	130,471	---	---	-130,471	---
Operation & Maintenance, Air National Guard (OCO)	22,200	---	---	-22,200	---
Operation and Maintenance (OCO)	---	---	58,675,000	+58,675,000	+58,675,000
Subtotal, Operation and Maintenance	63,471,402	---	58,675,000	-4,796,402	+58,675,000
Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (OCO)	199,000	---	---	-199,000	---
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (OCO)	4,726,720	---	---	-4,726,720	---
Total, Operation and Maintenance	68,397,122	---	58,675,000	-9,722,122	+58,675,000

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Procurement					
Aircraft Procurement, Army (OCO)	669,000	---	---	-669,000	---
Missile Procurement, Army (OCO)	128,645	---	---	-128,645	---
Procurement of Ammunition, Army (OCO)	190,900	---	---	-190,900	---
Other Procurement, Army (OCO)	653,902	---	---	-653,902	---
Aircraft Procurement, Navy (OCO)	211,176	---	---	-211,176	---
Weapons Procurement, Navy (OCO)	86,500	---	---	-86,500	---
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (OCO)	169,362	---	---	-169,362	---
Procurement, Marine Corps (OCO)	125,984	---	---	-125,984	---
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (OCO)	188,868	---	---	-188,868	---
Missile Procurement, Air Force (OCO)	24,200	---	---	-24,200	---
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (OCO)	137,826	---	---	-137,826	---
Other Procurement, Air Force (OCO)	2,517,846	---	---	-2,517,846	---
Procurement, Defense-Wide (OCO)	128,947	---	---	-128,947	---
National Guard and Reserve Equipment (OCO)	1,000,000	---	---	-1,000,000	---
Procurement (OCO)	---	---	12,220,000	+12,220,000	+12,220,000
Total, Procurement	6,233,156	---	12,220,000	+5,986,844	+12,220,000
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation					
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army (OCO)	13,500	---	---	-13,500	---
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy (OCO)	34,426	---	---	-34,426	---
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force (OCO)	9,000	---	---	-9,000	---
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide (OCO)	78,208	---	---	-78,208	---
Total, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation	135,134	---	---	-135,134	---
Revolving and Management Funds					
Defense Working Capital Funds (OCO)	264,910	---	---	-264,910	---

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
National Guard and Reserve Equipment					
National Guard and Reserve Equipment (OCO)	---	---	2,000,000	+2,000,000	+2,000,000
Other Department of Defense Programs					
Defense Health Program:					
Operation and maintenance (OCO)	898,701	---	---	-898,701	---
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense (OCO)	376,305	---	---	-376,305	---
Joint IED Defeat Fund (OCO) 2/	879,225	---	---	-879,225	---
Office of the Inspector General (OCO)	10,766	---	---	-10,766	---
Other (OCO)	---	---	1,450,000	+1,450,000	+1,450,000
Total, Other Department of Defense Programs	2,164,997	---	1,450,000	-714,997	+1,450,000
TITLE IX General Provisions					
Additional transfer authority (OCO) (Sec.9002)	(4,000,000)	---	(4,000,000)	---	(+4,000,000)
Rescissions (OCO) (Sec.9013)	-140,370	---	---	+140,370	---
OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS (OCO)	---	79,445,000	---	---	-79,445,000
Total, Title IX	85,026,942	79,445,000	79,445,000	-5,581,942	---
Net Grand Total	565,093,629	563,698,995	563,900,820	-1,192,809	+201,825
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RECAP					
Scorekeeping adjustments:					
Lease of defense real property (permanent)	30,000	31,000	31,000	+1,000	---
Disposal of defense real property (permanent)	10,000	8,000	8,000	-2,000	---
DHP, O&M to DOD-VA Joint Incentive Fund:					
Defense function	-15,000	-15,000	-15,000	---	---
Non-defense function	15,000	15,000	15,000	---	---
DHP, O&M to Joint DOD-VA Medical Facility Demonstration Fund:					
Defense function	-143,087	-146,857	-146,857	-3,770	---
Non-defense function	143,087	146,857	146,857	+3,770	---
O&M, Defense-wide transfer to Department of State:					
Defense function	-50,000	-30,000	-30,000	+20,000	---
Non-defense function	50,000	30,000	30,000	-20,000	---
Tricare accrual (permanent, indefinite auth.) 4/	7,258,000	6,963,000	6,963,000	-295,000	---
(OCO) 3/	164,000	---	---	-164,000	---
Total, scorekeeping adjustments	7,462,000	7,002,000	7,002,000	-460,000	---
Adjusted total (includ. scorekeeping adjustments)	572,555,629	570,700,995	570,902,820	-1,652,809	+201,825
Appropriations	(576,381,718)	(570,966,680)	(571,867,468)	(-4,514,250)	(+900,788)
Rescissions	(-3,826,089)	(-265,685)	(-964,648)	(+2,861,441)	(-698,963)
Total mandatory and discretionary	572,555,629	570,700,995	570,902,820	-1,652,809	+201,825

Department of Defense Appropriations Act - FY 2015 (H.R. 4870)
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
RECAPITULATION					
Title I - Military Personnel	128,796,287	128,957,593	128,127,640	-668,647	-829,953
Title II - Operation and Maintenance	159,869,726	166,002,818	164,631,638	+4,761,912	-1,371,180
Title III - Procurement	92,861,300	89,660,299	91,227,819	-1,633,481	+1,567,520
Title IV - Research, Development, Test and Evaluation	62,994,741	63,533,947	63,362,890	+368,149	-171,057
Title V - Revolving and Management Funds	2,246,427	1,234,468	1,334,468	-911,959	+100,000
Title VI - Other Department of Defense Programs	35,035,166	34,101,361	33,795,719	-1,239,447	-305,642
Title VII - Related Agencies	1,042,229	1,024,194	1,015,194	-27,035	-9,000
Title VIII - General Provisions (net)	-2,779,189	-260,685	960,452	+3,739,641	+1,221,137
Title IX - Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)	85,026,942	79,445,000	79,445,000	-5,581,942	---
Total, Department of Defense	565,093,629	563,698,995	563,900,820	-1,192,809	+201,825
Scorekeeping adjustments	7,462,000	7,002,000	7,002,000	-460,000	---
Total mandatory and discretionary	572,555,629	570,700,995	570,902,820	-1,652,809	+201,825

1/ Included in Budget under Operation and Maintenance
2/ Included in Budget under Procurement
3/ Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)
4/ Contributions to Department of Defense Retiree
Health Care Fund (Sec. 725, P.L. 108-375)(CBO est)

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation as well to Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and congratulate him on the collegial and transparent manner in which he crafted H.R. 4870, the fiscal year 2015 Defense Appropriations Act. I also want to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts of Chairman HAL ROGERS and Ranking Member NITA LOWEY and all of the members of the Defense Subcommittee.

Also, as I think all of my colleagues know, this bill could not have been written without the dedication, long hours, and discerning and thoughtful input by our committee staff and our associate and personal staffs. I want to thank each one of them.

I would like to begin by saying a few words about the overseas contingency operations title that the chairman referred to.

The committee has been placed in a very difficult position of having to provide $79.4 billion as a placeholder. Recent decisions on the post-2014 troop levels in Afghanistan clear up the major policy issue that held back a detailed budget request.

Unfortunately, the clarity gained was quickly muddled by the proposed $5 billion counterterrorism partnerships fund and the $1 billion European reassurance initiative.

At a time when many in Congress are rightfully looking to limit what is an eligible expense in OCO and shift activities to the base budget, these new proposals further complicate the issue. Clarity must be brought to the opaque nature of OCO, and I look forward to the debate on this during the consideration of amendments.

I support the bill we are marking up today and believe it provides for our national security and the protection of U.S. interests at home and abroad. Put simply, the bill provides stability for our military personnel, maintains readiness, and preserves the industrial base.

I am pleased by the subcommittee's continued efforts on sexual assault prevention and response. Specifically, the bill fully funds the budget request for the Special Victims' Counsel, continuing last year's initiative.

The bill increases funding relative to the President's budget request for traumatic brain injury and psychological health research, suicide prevention outreach programs, and several other invaluable medical programs.

Further, the bill and report carry strong language aimed at increasing cooperation between the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs in their ongoing efforts to develop interoperable electronic health records.

Specific to readiness, the bill includes an increase of $1 billion to fill gaps in key programs to prepare our troops, including $135 million for the Army Reserve and Army National Guard. The bill makes investments in programs that are vital to the rebuilding and resetting of the force after 13 years of conflict.

In particular, it increases funding by $720 million for facility sustainment and modernization and provides each military service with additional funding for depot maintenance.

I especially appreciate the chairman's focus on encouraging DOD to meet the FY 2017 deadline for achieving fully auditable financial statements. The measure provides $8 million above the request for the Comptroller's office to improve business and financial systems throughout the Department.

Continuing problems in DOD's strategic forces are also addressed in the bill, and funding is provided to address issues directly impacting intercontinental ballistic missile crews.

With regard to the industrial base, I was dismayed that, in its FY 2015 budget request, the administration proposed the elimination of several longstanding general provisions ensuring that contracts followed Buy America requirements and support domestic manufacturing.

I am pleased to note that the committee chose to reject the administration's inexplicable proposal to jettison these Buy America proposals.

The bill also contains several other provisions and initiatives aimed at securing our industrial base, including $220 million to establish a program for the domestic development of a next-generation liquid-fueled rocket engine. Hopefully, this program will swiftly fill a very troubling void in the U.S. space launch industry.

One other area of the bill I would like to highlight is the funding increase for the Humanitarian Mine Action Program. Albeit a small program, I believe its mission is of immense value.

All too often, innocent civilians are the victims of explosive remnants of war. It is only right to share our military's expertise with host nations on the detection, clearance, disposal, and demilitarization of explosive ordnance. I thank the chairman in particular for his special efforts in this area.

However, I would point out that there are certain aspects of the bill that give me pause. Fundamentally, these concerns have little to do with the detailed work of the subcommittee, which I believe did its very best under the constraints in which it operated; rather, the concerns stem from Congress' continued failure to confront our long-term fiscal challenges.

In its fiscal year 2015 budget request, the Department of Defense proposed some significant initiatives, including military pay adjustments, restructuring TRICARE, and the retirement of several weapons system—such as the A–10 and the Kiowa Warrior—in order to stay under the fiscal year 2015 budget cap, provide for future flexibility, and to meet the national security strategy.

Having said this, one could easily point out that the administration then undercut its own efforts by planning for higher spending in fiscal years 2016 through 2019 and by submitting the disingenuously named ''Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative,'' and subsequently also submitting unfunded priority lists.

Regardless, a number of the proposals the Department put forth for fiscal year 2015 do possess merit. With few exceptions, these proposals have gained no traction within Congress. Most were excluded or had language prohibiting or postponing their support in the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act.

I do not suggest that the administration is uniformly correct, nor do I dismiss the resultant impacts of many of these initiatives, but the alternative of staying the course and hoping for some relief in fiscal year 2016 is very wishful thinking.

The sooner Congress reaches the consensus required to make the difficult decisions that are essential to deal with the reality of finite resources, the better we can provide for our national defense.

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In closing, I want to reiterate my appreciation to the chairman for his cooperation, his friendship and diligence. He and his staff have ensured that the Defense Subcommittee continues its tradition of operating collaboratively and effectively. I am pleased to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the full Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I urge our colleagues to support this Defense spending bill for 2015.

This bipartisan legislation provides $491 billion in discretionary funding for our Nation's highest duty, and that is the security of country, the sustainment of our military operations, and the well-being of the brave men and women of our Armed Forces.

The bill before you today, Mr. Chairman, will help meet the most pressing needs of our military as we address current and arising threats to the safety of our Nation in an ever-changing global landscape. It also takes into account the ongoing challenges of our current fiscal situation, finding ways to trim excess spending and reduce lower priority programs without negatively affecting our troops or the success of our military missions.

Providing our military with the highest standard of readiness is a top priority in this bill. This includes procuring important equipment and resources, supporting troop training and flight time, and maintaining our bases and facilities. The bill marks investments in important defense technology R&D to help advance the safety and success of our military operations now and into the future. Investments like

these will help to preserve our military's status as the most effective and capable in the world.

The backbone of our military is, of course, the brave men and women who lay their lives on the line in defense of this Nation. With that in mind, the bill fully funds the authorized 1.8 percent pay raise for our military personnel instead of the 1 percent as requested by the President. Troop housing costs are also fully funded as authorized. This ensures that our more than 1.3 million Active Duty troops and 820,000 Guard and Reserve troops have the quality of life they deserve during their service. $31.6 billion is included for the Defense Health Program, to ensure a consistent and strong quality of care for our troops, their families, and retirees. Within this total, the bill includes increases above the President's request for cancer research, traumatic brain injury research, psychological health research, and suicide prevention outreach programs. The bill also provides an increase of $50 million above last year for sexual assault prevention and response programs, helping to address this growing challenge within our forces.

Lastly, the bill provides $79.4 billion in overseas contingency operations funding to support our troops in Afghanistan. As we have yet to receive an official budget request that reflects the most current and anticipated status of our troops in the field, this OCO funding will undoubtedly require further evaluation, particularly with the developing situations in Iraq and the Middle East.

By prioritizing these vital programs, closely scrutinizing the budget request and assessing the most current needs, the fiscal '15 Defense Appropriations bill ensures the best use of our limited Federal dollars. We made careful, targeted reductions wherever possible without adversely affecting the safety of our troops or the ongoing success of our military missions.

Mr. Chairman, as of today, we have completed 10 appropriations bills of the 12 through subcommittee. Eight have gone through full committee, and we have begun or we have completed the consideration of six bills on the floor. So, when we finish this bill and the ag bill, we will be half through the 12 bills. That has not happened in many years. We are moving at a remarkable pace, and if our colleagues in the other body continue their good work as well, we stand a great chance of completing this important work on time.

This is an even greater achievement because we have done so under regular order, with open rules that have allowed every Member to have his or her voice heard. Over the five bills we have considered on this floor so far, we have had more than 200 amendments, and I am sure we will add to that tally today. We have taken great care to weed out waste and excess and to terminate duplicative programs. In this year alone, we have found savings in every bill, and we have done all of this while abiding by the Ryan-Murray budget agreement.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I am pleased to yield to the chairman an additional minute.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Before I finish, Mr. Chairman, I can't help but compliment the new chairman of this subcommittee. This is his maiden voyage after becoming chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. I think he has steered the ship properly so far, and we look forward to the complete work that he is doing.

So congratulations to Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and to Ranking Member VISCLOSKY. They have done a great job. It is a bipartisan bill, and I urge the Members to support it.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member. The Defense Subcommittee has a long tradition of working closely together, and I sincerely appreciate these bipartisan efforts.

Mr. Chairman, this is an extremely important and timely bill as the Department is tasked with drawing down forces in Afghanistan, is appropriately responding to the upheaval in Iraq, and is facing other challenges across the globe. Totaling $490.7 billion, the base portion of the bill is approximately $200 million above the President's request. However, after accounting for appropriate increases in Active Duty pay and housing costs, the remainder of the bill is actually below the President's proposed level. Budget caps and sequestration force difficult decisions, many of which will be debated this week.

Before we begin that discussion, I want to again thank the chairman and ranking member and recognize the constraints under which they assembled the bill.

The bill includes a number of provisions I strongly support: additional investments to address the epidemic of sexual assault plaguing our military; substantial funds for health services and suicide prevention as my colleague just informed me that, in March, there were zero combat fatalities, but there were 700 suicides; a 1.8 percent increase for Active Duty pay; support for the National Guard and Reserves as well as family support programs; significant funding for cybersecurity to protect our critical infrastructure from cyber attacks; and continued support for the Israeli Cooperative missile defense programs.

I applaud the inclusion of language that fences 75 percent of funds for the Defense Healthcare Management System Modernization, requiring a report from the Secretary of Defense on acquisition and the cost of the program, plus the status of efforts to achieve interoperability with the Department of Veterans Affairs. This system is critical to the health of our servicemembers, and expeditious interoperability between the DOD and the VA is essential to ensuring quality of care as they become veterans. Through continued oversight, this committee will make sure that the DOD stays on course and delivers the promised objectives.

I remain concerned about the lack of a formal budget for the overseas contingency operations funds. With continued uncertainty about future U.S. actions in Afghanistan, work remains on this account.

Again, I appreciate the professionalism and collegiality of the process, and I look forward to further cooperation as we work toward passing this bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), a member of our Defense Subcommittee.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for yielding the time, and thank you for the work that you have done, along with Mr. VISCLOSKY, to present what I consider to be a very strong bill.

Mr. Chairman, when you look at the world today, it certainly hasn't gotten any smaller, and it certainly hasn't gotten any safer, but I think this bill balances the priorities that we need to balance and focuses on being able to meet the many, many challenges that we face in terms of our national security.

I consider it an honor to serve on this subcommittee because, when I read the Constitution, it teaches me that the number one responsibility of the Federal Government is to protect American lives. The best way to keep America safe is to keep America strong, and I think this bill does that.

We make sure that we are not making any short-term, budget-driven decisions that would be easy to make in these difficult economic times. The Navy decided that it would like to deactivate 11 ships. That is one half of our cruiser fleet. We don't need fewer ships—we need more ships—and I am proud that the subcommittee has worked out a compromise by which these ships will be modernized and their lives will be extended, and they will continue to do the work that they need to do around the globe. The people I represent back in Jacksonville, Florida, care greatly about national security. They care about the men and women in uniform, and they care about the men and women who work so hard to make sure the ships are repaired and the planes are flying in the sky.

The other thing that I wanted to point out in terms of shortsighted, budget-driven decisions is that there was an effort to say there is not enough

money to refuel the USS George Washington. That is one of our nuclear carriers. It has 25 years left of useful life if we spend the money to refuel that, and we are going to do that. That will also help us comply with the law that I helped write 8 years ago that says you have to have 11 aircraft carriers unless Congress says otherwise.

Finally, when I look at the airplanes—the new E–2D Advanced Hawkeye—these planes are relatively new, but they are incredibly important to our national security. Again, the P–8 Poseidon surveillance planes are relatively new but are critical to our national defense.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for putting together such a strong bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, this appropriations bill will ensure that all of the men and women of our Armed Forces have the resources they need to keep our country safe and secure.

I want to commend Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKY for their working together in order to craft a good bill under difficult budgetary conditions and with the uncertainty surrounding the OCO account.

Thank you to all of the members of the subcommittee for working together in a bipartisan and collaborative manner to put this bill together.

This legislation supports our troops and our military families. It strengthens the health care services available to our servicemembers, and it provides the essential support that our industrial base needs.

One issue I am very concerned about is the epidemic of sexual assault in the military. Sexual assault will not be tolerated and must be both prevented and prosecuted. There are resources in this bill to do that, and Congress must hold military leaders accountable to make sure that this progress is made.

I am also very concerned about the complete lack of oversight by this Congress in the armed drone program, which is funded under this bill.

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The lack of transparency surrounding drone strikes hinders our ability to evaluate their impact on innocent civilians.

There are other challenges and other tough choices made in this bill, and our hearings highlighted the fact there are tougher choices to make in the coming years.

With sequestration on the horizon for FY16 and beyond, Congress needs to act responsibly to balance the need for military readiness with the many nondefense challenges domestically that the American people face.

Congress needs to stop spending billions of dollars on excess bases and obsolete weapon systems that the Department of Defense does not want, and this bill starts that process by retiring the A–10 aircraft.

I believe this bill is responsible, and an important step forward.

Again, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership and doing what we need to do together as a country to maintain our military superiority in the 21st century.

Mr. Chairman, I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK), a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee and the ranking member, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Mr. VISCLOSKY, for their terrific leadership and the great work, tough work that has taken place in crafting this Defense Appropriations bill.

I also would like to thank the overall chairman and the ranking member, Mr. ROGERS and Mrs. LOWEY, for their leadership as well.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation on which our men and women in uniform, our intelligence community, and our futures depend.

America is at war, and we face continued uncertainty and new threats daily. Now is not the time to weaken our military. This bill equips the Department of Defense with the funding necessary to keep our Nation safe while making the tough decisions necessary to ensure we stay within our spending limits.

With $491 billion provided in discretionary spending, and another $80 billion as a placeholder in overseas contingency, the DOD will be able to maintain readiness at levels that protect our military's standing, support our ongoing war efforts abroad, and, most importantly, ensure that the health and well-being of our men and women in uniform and their ability to support their families is protected.

Our subcommittee, and our committee as a whole, is keenly aware of our Nation's deficits and debt. We are committed to thoroughly evaluating our spending to ensure our defense officials, both military and civilian, are accountable for smart policy objectives that responsibly steward taxpayer dollars.

We have had months of hearings, classified briefings, and bipartisan cooperation, and I believe we have successfully accomplished a bill, a good bipartisan bill, that is worthy of support.

Mr. Chairman, as I was thinking about my remarks today, I thought about that famous verse in ''America the Beautiful'' that says: ''Oh beautiful, for heroes proved, in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life.''

Mr. Chairman, we have an enormous obligation, a constitutional obligation, to protect the homeland. But we have an obligation to ensure that we protect those heroes referenced in that great patriotic song.

So the least we can do today is put our partisan differences aside and join collectively to send our collective appreciation to those who serve us in uniform by passing this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding, and for your very hard work on this Department of Defense Appropriations bill.

Mr. Chairman, as the daughter of a veteran, I know how important it is to fully fund and support our troops. I strongly support these provisions of this legislation.

With that said, though, there are many provisions in this bill which I cannot support. These include nearly $500 billion in discretionary funding, with an increase of $4 billion above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level, which we have not seen for any other appropriations bill this year.

This inflated level of spending fails to account, mind you, for the waste, fraud, and abuse that continue at the Pentagon. We must audit the Pentagon and reduce unnecessary Pentagon spending.

This bill also includes nearly $80 billion for the overseas contingency operations slush fund, which is what it is, at a time when the President has not even made a specific request about how much is needed. This is outrageous, and this slush fund should be eliminated.

Now I will be offering several amendments to this bill, one to limit operations in Afghanistan after 2014, as well as to repeal the 2001 blank check authorization.

The farm bill, transportation bill, other bills, other authorizations have end dates. We need to end this. Come back to Congress, debate what we are going to do in Iraq, if anything, in terms of military strikes and, in fact, repeal the authorization on Afghanistan passed in 2001.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I thank you, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, and also want to thank Ranking Member PETER VISCLOSKY for setting an example of how to take care of our Nation's dramatic needs and do it in an inclusive, bipartisan fashion.

Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN has shown great leadership in providing the resources our warfighters need to successfully defend our Nation, both here and abroad. He and I have often worked together on issues of shared interest, and I thank him for engaging with me on this very important issue.

Currently, the aircraft that are meant to protect our Nation's sovereign air space from both domestic and foreign threats, and also are routinely deployed, with the big Air Force, into war theaters overseas have gone without much-needed upgrades.

The F–16 Block 30 aircraft are tasked with a mission that absolutely cannot fail. The 177th Fighter Wing out of Atlantic City, New Jersey, along with other Air National Guard wings throughout the country, are assigned this critically important task of ensuring our home defense and, again, being able to integrate fully with the big Air Force into conflicts overseas, as they have done multiple times and, in fact, they are doing right now as we speak.

Due to the reduction of modernization programs, these F–16 Block 30 aircraft are without key combat avionic upgrades, such as the Scalable Agile Beam Radar.

Threats to our Nation continue to grow all over the world, from sovereign countries and terrorist organizations alike. The diversity of threats means that these aircraft must have the latest capability to make split-second decisions to protect our Nation here and abroad.

I ask that the chairman work with me to ensure that our Nation's airspace is properly defended, and that these F–16 aircraft are properly fitted for the threats of the 21st century.

With that, I yield to my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman, my colleague, for yielding on this important issue. I agree that upgrading these legacy aircraft is vital to our Nation's defense. It is our job, as elected officials, to protect our citizens, and the mission of the Aerospace Control Alert aircraft does just that.

I will work to ensure that we include report language in conference, or take other appropriate steps regarding this issue, as we work through the appropriations process.

I thank my colleague and friend from New Jersey for bringing this vital concern to my attention.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise to discuss H.R. 4870, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

I want to thank the committee for fully funding the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Student Initiative. The $34.4 million allocation supports the educational development of a growing number of minority scholars in science, technology, engineering, and math, also known as STEM.

I was proud when the House Armed Services Committee, and then the full House, approved my amendment to increase funding for this initiative by $10 million in the National Defense Authorization Act. By providing the full $34.4 million today, the Appropriations Committee and the full House will, once again, demonstrate our commitment to these outstanding scholars.

HBCUs produce one-fifth of the Nation's undergraduate science graduates and 20 percent of Black undergraduate engineers. This funding, through the NDAA, emphasizes our support for these students and encourages more minorities to take the STEM path.

In the long run, producing more qualified minority STEM graduates ensures a strong and diversified workforce, which is essential to our Nation's long-term well-being.

I have serious concerns about this bill. I wanted to use this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for the work of the House Appropriations Committee in support of this initiative.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise to engage in a colloquy with Ranking Member VISCLOSKY and Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN. But first I would like to commend the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership on this bill.

I am here today to address the importance of delivering the utmost care to our brave servicemen and -women who suffer from mental health disorders, and the benefits that public-private partnerships between the Department of Defense and teaching hospitals can provide, specifically to members of the National Guard and Reserve components who return from tours of duty and transition into civilian life far from a military base and without easy access to the care that they need.

I am pleased that the Department recognizes the benefits of these public-private partnerships and created a pilot program to improve efforts to treat members of the National Guard and Reserve components and their families who suffer from mental health disorders. But we must not stop there.

It is heartbreaking that preliminary readouts of suicide data for 2013 show that the Active component rate has come down about 18 percent, but the Reserve rates rose slightly. This problem is not going away.

That is why I am so pleased that the defense bill included language in the bill's report, recommended by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and me, that encourages the Secretary of Defense to expand this initial pilot to include additional community partners through a competitive and merit-based process.

There are a number of teaching and clinical hospitals around the country that specialize in mental health treatment and can make a real difference in addressing the soaring demand for mental health treatment.

I would like to work with the chairman and the ranking member to ensure that the Department has the necessary funding to expand this vital pilot program so more of our Nation's brave servicemembers are able to receive the best care possible.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I am honored to yield to Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from New York's kind words.

The committee recognized that suicide remains a very serious problem in the military, particularly among National Guard and Reserve troops.

I am proud to say that our bill strongly supports the efforts of the services to address this crisis. The report includes language which speaks directly to the gentleman's interest in the pilot program that was created to treat servicemembers suffering from mental health disorders in the National Guard and Reserve components through community partnerships.

In addition, the bill provides $158 million in requested funding for suicide prevention, mental health, and risk resiliency programs for the services. This includes an extra $39 million for suicide prevention programs, including the $19 million specifically for our special operators.

All the military services have taken significant steps to make suicide prevention a top priority and to improve the resiliency and health of our servicemembers.

We support those efforts, and I will continue to work with the gentleman from New York and his colleague, Mr. KING, to address these important issues.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would echo the sentiments about the importance of public-private partnerships and including teaching and clinical hospitals in finding ways to provide the best care possible to our servicemembers.

Mental health disorders are a growing trend in our military, and we must use all resources at our disposal to address the demand for treatment.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his interest and for the colloquy.

□ 1530

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from New Jersey, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN.

First, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and the ranking member for your efforts in putting together this legislation. In particular, I appreciate that this bill provides funding for the support for international sporting competition fund.

This account is crucial for ensuring the safety and security of countless Americans who participate in different Olympic initiatives, including the preparations for the Olympics, Paralympics, and Special Olympics.

The United States has a rich tradition of supporting the Special Olympics, both in the United States and abroad. These unique events empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while promoting acceptance for all and fostering communities of understanding on a global scale.

Approximately 1,000 athletes participated in the first Special Olympics World Games in 1968. By comparison, there has been a sevenfold increase, with 7,000 athletes expected to participate in the 2015 Special Olympic World Games, which will be held in Los Angeles, California.

With this substantial growth, there has come an increased need for security. It is important for this legislation to match as best possible our country's previous funding commitments. This critical funding need could be addressed either through additional funding for the support for international sporting competition fund or unobligated funds at the Department of Defense.

I asked for and look forward to the opportunity to work with the chairman, ranking member, and all of our colleagues who wish to continue our country's support for the Special Olympics through any available funds in this legislation.

At this point, I yield to the chairman for his response.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. The committee has a long history of support for international sporting competitions. Ranking Member VISCLOSKY and I will work with you to ensure that the remaining prior year balances appropriated for this purpose are spent for their intended purpose.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the chairman and the ranking member.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, at this point, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, as the ranking member may be aware, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs are conducted at schools throughout our great Nation.

They are traditionally led by retired military officers and enlisted personnel, and the program prepares high school students for leadership roles. JROTC teaches the young men and women the kind of discipline and self-confidence required to succeed outside the classroom.

In my congressional district is Shelton High School, which successfully operated their Navy JROTC program for 35 years. One year, they dropped three students below the minimum threshold, were placed on probation, and yet, despite the subsequent year exceeding the enrollment threshold, they were required to get to the end of the line, notwithstanding the 35 years of successful operation.

I don't think Shelton High School ought to have to do that. I don't think any high school in the United States ought to have to do that.

The Shelton High School Navy JROTC program provided unmatched leadership opportunities for students, and it instilled exactly the kind of values we want to instill in young people: patriotism, national service, and a sense of accomplishment and responsibility.

Additionally, this JROTC program, in its community, served as the color guard at community events and helped provide volunteers for community organizations. Its absence is now being acutely felt throughout all of the county.

So I respectfully request that we somehow find a way to work together to ensure the Navy has the necessary funds to support these programs at Shelton High School and throughout the Nation.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I certainly understand the gentleman's concerns and appreciate him making the committee aware of this issue.

I know that the Junior ROTC program has made a difference in the lives of many students, as well as our country. I would be happy to work with the gentleman on providing funding for this important program.

Mr. HECK of Washington. I thank the gentleman for agreeing to work with us, and I thank you and the chairman for your excellent work on this legislation, which I look forward to supporting.

I also want you to know that, when you tell me you will work with me, I know it to be the case because both of you are men of your word.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I thank the gentleman and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank you, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, for yielding for the purpose of a colloquy.

I want to thank you for your tireless efforts for our Nation's brave servicemen and -women and, just as importantly, for those who served and never made it home. This legislation fully funds the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Personnel Office account. The hardworking staff over at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, work tirelessly to track, locate, and recover these fallen heroes, and I thank them for their continued efforts.

I would like to have a moment to discuss a hero of the Vietnam war. Major Lewis P. Smith III majored in music at Penn State and graduated in 1964. He planned to teach music after his obligation to the Air Force was over.

Upon graduation from Penn State, Smith was trained on the T–38 and C–130 aircraft for the next 3 years, sent to Vietnam, and was assigned to the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron in Pleiku, South Vietnam.

On May 30, 1968, Smith piloted a Cessna O–2A Skymaster aircraft in Saravane Province, Laos. During the mission, Smith encountered enemy fire, resulting in the crash of his plane.

Electronic signals were heard at the scene, indicating that he had survived the crash, but he was not rescued. Major Smith was listed as missing in action and is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, panel 62W, line 2.

Major Smith's family has been working with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to recover his remains. The excavation site in Laos has been on the list for over 2 years, and the trip to excavate the crash site has been postponed twice due to budget pressures and sequestration.

Major Smith's family has reached out to me to help with their efforts to bring Lewis home. While I understand the budget-constrained times, the recovery of fallen servicemembers will bring closure to the families after such a loss.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for your support and urge the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to schedule the recovery trip to Laos and to bring home Major Lewis Smith's remains to his family and his country.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I understand the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office's mission is to provide the families of servicemembers lost in battle or taken as prisoners of war with information and, in applicable cases, to recover personnel from World War II, the Korean war, the cold war, the Vietnam war, and the Iraqi theater of operations.

I fully support the office and the work they do in searching and reuniting lost soldiers with their families. Returning the fallen servicemembers to their families is a priority, and I support your strong efforts and advocacy on behalf of Major Smith and his family. It is commendable. We honor it, and I thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee.

As many of our colleagues know, thousands of men and women from our Armed Forces have returned from Iraq

and Afghanistan with a variety of service-connected illnesses and complications caused by exposure to the noxious fumes of open-air burn pits and other airborne hazards.

There is a growing body of research about the disabling effects of burn pit exposure that confirms that such exposure is the cause of serious illnesses, including various cancers that have killed veterans and have left countless others seriously ill.

Leading researchers in this area, including Dr. Anthony Szema of Stony Brook University's School of Medicine in my district, are discovering clear evidence that fumes from burn pits have sickened the personnel deployed in their vicinity.

While their precise numbers remain unknown, it is estimated that up to 30,000 Active Duty servicemembers and veterans might be suffering as a result of their exposure to burn pits. We must learn from past mistakes to stop open-air burn pit exposure before such exposure becomes the agent orange for this generation of veterans.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I certainly understand the gentleman's concerns and appreciate him making the committee aware of this issue. I would be happy to work with him to provide attention and resources to this issue.

I am very pleased that he brought this to our attention today on the floor.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I thank the gentleman for his response and his leadership. I also thank the chairman of the subcommittee for his leadership, and I look forward to working with them on this issue.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would be delighted to yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member and the chairman for including language supporting continued work on lithium ion battery research.

However, in reviewing the underlying bill, I am concerned about the possible interpretation by the Office of Naval Research with respect to this effort. I believe it is important that the Office of Naval Research emphasize battery safety as a part of this work.

I would also request the opportunity to continue to work with the chairman and the ranking member to allocate research and development funding to promote battery safety and to retain such funding through conference on the underlying bill.

I hope to make it clear that this Chamber encourages investment in battery safety research.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I would want to make it clear to all of my colleagues, first of all, that my good friend from Wisconsin has been working on this issue for a number of years. I remember a meeting we had about a year ago on this issue, and he continues to press ahead, which I appreciate.

I certainly will continue to work with him on the development of lithium ion battery technology and promote battery safety as an important part of this research, and I appreciate the gentleman's concern, as well as his good work.

Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time as well.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment. No pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or their respective designees, may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose. Amendments so printed shall be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4870

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, for military functions administered by the Department of Defense and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Army on active duty, (except members of reserve components provided for elsewhere), cadets, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $41,183,729,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Navy on active duty (except members of the Reserve provided for elsewhere), midshipmen, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $27,387,344,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Marine Corps on active duty (except members of the Reserve provided for elsewhere); and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $12,785,431,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Air Force on active duty (except members of reserve components provided for elsewhere), cadets, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $27,564,362,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Army Reserve on active duty under sections 10211, 10302, and 3038 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $4,304,159,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Navy Reserve on active duty under section 10211 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $1,836,024,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Marine Corps Reserve on active duty under section 10211 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty, and for members of the Marine Corps platoon leaders class, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $659,224,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for

personnel of the Air Force Reserve on active duty under sections 10211, 10305, and 8038 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $1,652,148,000.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Army National Guard while on duty under section 10211, 10302, or 12402 of title 10 or section 708 of title 32, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10 or section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $7,644,632,000.

□ 1545

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 2, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $41,492,000)''.

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $41,492,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, right now, as I speak, there are thousands of unaccompanied minors, many of whom are 15, 16, and 17 years of age, but nonetheless, they are classified as minors, under 18, and our Border Patrol is being overwhelmed.

Our ICE agents, who are supposed to deport people improperly here, are being overwhelmed. As one ICE agent said yesterday, Chris Crane, that is the union president for the ICE agents, he said, basically:

We are having to change diapers, and so there is no criminal interdiction going on. We are not able to do our jobs because of the thousands of children that are coming.

I saw a report today from CBP, the Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, and they were saying the interviews they are doing yield results from the children saying that they are coming to America now because of a new law that the President has that allows children to come in and stay here if they just get here quick enough.

It has caused a national emergency. So what $41,492,000 does is provide for 1,000 National Guard troops. We know in the amendment we cannot legislate, but in order for the money to be available for the National Guard troops to assist on the border, the money needs to be available, and, therefore, we are asking that the money be moved from one account over into an account that could be utilized for National Guard troops to help with what has been termed by so many people as a humanitarian crisis.

Why is it a crisis? Because people in the administration are refusing, and failing to refuse, to do the job and faithfully execute the laws of this Nation. They have done a terrible job, and it is a great injustice to all those children who have been sent by aunts and uncles, by parents, and by others. Just get to the border, and if their parents are sending them, we get reports that the parents are hoping once they get in then they can bring the parents in in order to take care of them.

There are other reports, as we have seen from a Federal judge in south Texas, that the Department of Homeland Security is now engaging in human trafficking. It is part of the lure of these thousands and thousands of children every week coming in, that if they get to the border and either one of their parents or any relative is in the country, then DHS will engage in human trafficking and try to take them wherever in the country they think their parents might be, even though they may be here illegally.

So this money is to help with a Federal problem that should not be costing the States. It is a Federal problem, as the Department of Justice has indicated through our Attorney General's suing States like Arizona and saying that you can't deal with this problem, this is a Federal issue, you must have hands off.

Well, the locals need help. This will provide help. And that is why I am asking to move $41,492,000 over in the DOD budget so that we can help with National Guard troops when and where they are needed.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I insist on my point of order.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment proposes to amend portions of the bill not yet read.

The amendment may not be considered en bloc under clause 2(f) of rule XXI because the amendment proposes to increase the level of outlays in the bill.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I do.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, it is only the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, accounting that would say moving $41,492,000 from one account by that same amount into another account is having more in outlays than is being taken from one account. I think it is fuzzy math that the CBO is engaged in. To most of us, if you move $41,492,000 out of one account and you put that same amount in another account, it is not causing more outlays than we were removing from the account.

But I will leave that to the ruling of the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

To be considered en bloc pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI, an amendment must not propose to increase the levels of budget authority or outlays in the bill. Because the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas proposes a net increase in the level of outlays in the bill, as argued by the chairman of the relevant Subcommittee on Appropriations, it may not avail itself of clause 2(f) to address portions of the bill not yet read.

The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 2, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $41,492,000)''.

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $57,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, anticipating the fuzzy math from CBO that taking $41,492,000 from one account and putting that same amount in another account would not be considered equal, I went ahead and have another amendment that reduces the one account by $57 million, over $15 million more than we are transferring into the account that could be used for National Guard troops, so that, according to the fuzzy CBO math, the reduction will equal the increase.

But with that said, no matter how fuzzy the accounting is here in Washington, there is a massive problem on our border, and for this body to turn away when we can force the President's hand—he is not faithfully executing the laws of his office, he is not enforcing the immigration laws, and he is not enforcing the border. We can force his hand by making the proceeds available, the $41,492,000, to get the National Guard, make them available for this purpose, and then we think the outcry from America will force the President's

hand to get these people there, and the Governors will have a stake in this claim, but it is a Federal problem.

I continue to insist on this. Americans across the country are watching what we are doing. We need to be responsible and faithfully execute the laws of this country, and that is without regard to whether or not the President does. We have an obligation to get this money where it is needed. We believe this will do that, and so, Mr. Chairman, we move this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I insist on my point of order.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment proposes to amend portions of the bill not yet read.

The amendment may not be considered en bloc under clause 2(f) of rule XXI because the amendment proposes to increase the level of outlays in the bill.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I certainly do.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. GOHMERT. Because under the math of CBO, as fuzzy as it is, by reducing one account by $57 million, even CBO says, yes, that takes care of equalizing the outlay of $41,492,000 in the account to increase that for the National Guard. So it should have been addressed with the first amendment that I made. But this second one certainly addresses the fuzzy math that CBO provides. This does not increase the amount of expenditures over what is being taken from another account.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Seeing none, the Chair is prepared to rule.

To be considered en bloc pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI, an amendment must not propose to increase the levels of budget authority or outlays in the bill. Because the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas proposes a net increase in the level of outlays in the bill, as argued by the chairman of the relevant Subcommittee on Appropriations, it may not avail itself of clause 2(f) to address portions of the bill not yet read.

The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chair, parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GOHMERT. My inquiry is this, Mr. Chairman.

Can the Chair tell me how reducing one account by $57 million is not adequate to cover a $41,492,000 increase in another account? It is $15.5 million more we are reducing than the amount we are increasing.

So my inquiry is, please, Mr. Chairman, explain how the increase of $41,492,000 is more than the $57 million reduction.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair based the ruling on the fact that the amendment increased budget outlays.

Mr. GOHMERT. The rates are addressed, Mr. Chairman, by this $15.5 million amount. That is covered. Even CBO admits that. So I don't know where the chairman is getting his numbers. They are certainly not supported even by the fuzziest of math of our CBO.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair has ruled that the amendment increases the amount of outlays in the bill and is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Air National Guard on duty under section 10211, 10305, or 12402 of title 10 or section 708 of title 32, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10 or section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $3,110,587,000.

TITLE II

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Army, as authorized by law, $32,671,980,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $12,478,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Army, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Navy and the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, $39,073,543,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $15,055,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Navy, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, $5,984,680,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Air Force, as authorized by law, $35,024,160,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $7,699,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Air Force, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as authorized by law, $30,896,741,000: *Provided*, That not more than $15,000,000 may be used for the Combatant Commander Initiative Fund authorized under section 166a of title 10, United States Code: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $36,000,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of Defense, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not less than $36,262,000 shall be made available for the Procurement Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, of which not less than $3,600,000 shall be available for centers defined in 10 U.S.C. 2411(1)(D): *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to plan or implement the consolidation of a budget or appropriations liaison office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the office of the Secretary of a military department, or the service headquarters of one of the Armed Forces into a legislative affairs or legislative liaison office: *Provided further*, That $8,881,000, to remain available until expended, is available only for expenses relating to certain classified activities, and may be transferred as necessary by the Secretary of Defense to operation and maintenance appropriations or research, development, test and evaluation appropriations, to be merged with and to be available for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That any ceiling on the investment item unit cost of items that may be purchased with operation and maintenance funds shall not apply to the funds described in the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

□ 1600

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for working with me on this very important amendment. This is a very simple amendment that would provide a $5 million increase to available funds for research, development, testing, and evaluation related to multiple sclerosis under the Defense Health Program.

These funds would increase funding for multiple sclerosis research under DOD to $10 million. This amendment fulfills the request of $10 million for MS research that was included in a bipartisan letter signed by 78 Members of Congress earlier this year, including cochairs of the Congressional MS Caucus, Representative MICHAEL BURGESS and Representative VAN HOLLEN, and I will include the Dear Colleague letter for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 28, 2014.

Hon. RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.

Hon. PETE VISCLOSKY,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FRELINGHUYSEN AND RANKING MEMBER VISCLOSKY: On behalf of all people living with multiple sclerosis (MS), we would like to thank you for your past support for funding MS research through the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). As you know, MS is a chronic, unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. MS is generally diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, during the prime of an individual's life. Sadly, the cause of MS is still unknown and there is no cure. While we recognize the fiscal constraints the country faces, it is critical that we continue to fund this important research, which holds great promise for our military service members and all those who are affected by MS. We respectfully ask that you direct $10 million to fund the MS research program for Fiscal Year 2015.

MS interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with the disease. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research are improving the possibility of a world free of MS.

Currently, the FDA-approved treatments that are available to treat MS only slow the progression of the disease for a subset of the MS population. Of these available medical treatments, many are not effective for patients and cannot be tolerated by many others. Additionally, the cost of treating and living with MS is costly—approximately $69,000 annually.

Many U.S. veterans have stories and symptoms of multiple sclerosis. Preliminary evidence suggests that some combat veterans could have an increased risk of developing MS.

Over 23,000 veterans are being treated for MS through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

A study in the Annals of Neurology identified 5,345 cases of ''service-connected'' MS among U.S. veterans.

An epidemiologic study found a two-fold increase in MS between 1993 and 2000 in Kuwait, which suggests a potential environmental trigger for MS.

The VA is currently funding two MS Centers of Excellence to provide clinical care and education for these veterans, but now physicians at these institutions are seeking funding to explore a potential link between MS and combat service.

MS research has the potential to help all those living with MS, including our veterans. We ask that you support MS research by including $10 million in funding for the MS program within the, CDMRP in the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Appropriations. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Burgess, M.D., Henry C. ''Hank'' Johnson, Jr., André Carson, Daniel W. Lipinski, James R. Langevin, Charles B. Rangel, Chris Van Hollen, Eliot L. Engel, Sander Levin, Yvette D. Clarke, John Yarmuth, Frederica S. Wilson.

Peter DeFazio, Sheila Jackson Lee, Tony Cardenas, Christopher H. Smith, Mike Michaud, Ron Kind, Brad Schneider, Lloyd Doggett, Joe Courtney, Peter King, Jon Runyan, Alcee L. Hastings, Rick Larsen, Barbara Lee, Donald M. Payne, Jr., Danny K. Davis, Ann MacLane Kuster, C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger.

Jan Schakowsky, Steve Israel, Michael Grimm, Carolyn McCarthy, Steve Cohen, Luis V. Gutiérrez, Tim Bishop, Gerald E. Connolly, Tim Murphy, Carol Shea-Porter, Stephen F. Lynch, Rush Holt, Chellie Pingree, David N. Cicilline, Bill Foster, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Jim McDermott, Elijah E. Cummings.

John F. Tierney, Chaka Fattah, Dave Loebsack, Matt Cartwright, Juan Vargas, John Delaney, David Price, Jim Himes, Julia Brownley, Lois Frankel, Collin C. Peterson, Alan Grayson, Gregory W. Meeks, Spencer Bachus, John Garamendi, Robert A. Brady, Marc Veasey, Cheri Bustos.

Mark Pocan, Elizabeth H. Esty, Ann Kirkpatrick, Susan A. Davis, Dan Kildee, Dan Benishek, M.D., Ben Ray Luján, Ron Barber, Grace Meng, Tim Walz, John Conyers, Jr., Mike Thompson.

Ms. LEE of California. There are 2 million people worldwide living with MS. This complicated and unpredictable neurological disease interrupts the flow of information within the brain and between the brain and the body.

MS is a chronic disease that can often be debilitating for those living with it, and the symptoms of MS are as diverse as the people it impacts.

I am pleased to introduce this amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill, since MS has a significant impact on our armed services. Some 23,000 veterans are currently being treated for MS, with more than 5,000 cases having been identified as service connected.

Because of increased research funding in MS, the first disease-modifying drugs became available for people living with MS 20 years ago. However, these drugs only work for a subset of the population, and many people living with MS still have no viable treatment options.

Increased research funding could give scientists a better understanding of the disease, which could potentially unveil new therapies.

I will close by adding that I understand, on a very personal level, the impact of this disease. My sister, Mildred, shows me every day what life is like to live with the disease, and I am consistently amazed by her strength and her bravery. She and the millions of people around the world living with MS are really a testament to the importance of making stronger investments to find a cure.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my sister Mildred and on behalf of all of those living with MS, on behalf of the families and caregivers, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. LEE of California. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. First, I commend you on your amendment, and I withdraw my reservation.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman, and I urge a ''yes'' vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, there is an important program to help our Special Forces troops and families. It is called the Preservation of the Force and Family program.

Admiral McRaven, who is the commander of Special Operations Command, has told the Armed Services Committee that this is his highest priority. It combines several kinds of help and assistance to wounded warriors and to their families in a holistic way. For those who are in it and have benefited from it, it has been a tremendous, tremendous program.

What I am proposing in this amendment is to take $5 million from the Special Operation Command's budget request for flying hours, which in my understanding was increased by the Appropriations Committee, which is normally an excellent thing to fund, but they even gave, in my understanding, Mr. Chairman, above and beyond what the command had asked for.

So based on that, I am asking for a transfer back of $5 million from the flying hours budget to the Preservation of the Force and Family Program.

This aligns with what the Armed Services Committee had put in the NDAA after their deliberations in committee. I would ask that the House adopt this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition. The subcommittee

has always done everything we can to take care of our special operators, and that is reflected in the mark.

I do believe the gentleman's amendment is philosophically inconsistent with the underlying bill. I cannot justify devoting significant resources to SOCOM's $1 billion proposal to establish their own separate contractor-staffed facilities, when our services are undergoing tremendous downsizing pressures. It runs contrary to what we are trying to do in the bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey, the committee chair.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Further, SOCOM has provided no information or data to support this costly new endeavor, and Congress has raised questions in both the authorization bill and the appropriations bill about the affordability and efficacy of this program.

As our mark reflects, we have also raised serious concerns regarding SOCOM's prioritization of its requirements. Again this year, SOCOM proposed to fund their flying hour readiness programs at only 67 percent of their requirement, so they could fund these new contractors and facilities. They then made restoration of flying hours their number one unfunded priority.

I believe it is ill-advised to provide a 50 percent increase to hire personal trainers, sports nutritionists, and sports psychologists for special operators at an average cost in excess of $200,000.

With all due respect, all those who serve in our military—men and women, whether they be Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve or whether they are special operators—deserve the type of equipment and programs that keep them healthy and steadfast.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's remarks and would also point out that the committee has raised significant questions regarding duplication with service-related facilities and services by the Special Forces.

More importantly—and I think this is key—we must be careful not to create or give the perception that we are treating Special Forces differently than anyone else who serves this country in uniform.

Anyone who puts the uniform of the United States military on, they are all special. I strongly oppose the gentleman's amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I would agree with the assertion that every single fighting man and woman is special. The Special Operations Forces do have some tremendous stresses that they can undergo, especially in the kind of combat missions that they perform.

I believe that this is a program that has been successful in preventing suicide, so for that reason, I think it is timely. It is appropriate.

There are different programs to treat our wounded warriors who have PTSD, and every program does not work for every soldier, sailor, airman, or marine; but for those who do get the treatment they need, it is literally a lifesaver.

For that reason, I think it is a priority to address the aftereffects of PTSD, and this would be a very good program. I do appreciate the Appropriations Committee work that they do and the tough choices that they are constantly making, and I respect that, but I think this is a good choice, so I offer the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would simply close by saying that all members of the military are equal and that this amendment is unwarranted, and I do oppose it.

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey if he has anything to add.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, we have $19 million specifically to address the high incidence of suicide among our special operators, so it is not only servicewide, but we recognize the special burdens that special operators bear through their incredible work.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentlewoman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, this is a daunting time to be on the floor of the House during Defense Appropriations, and I add my appreciation to the chairman and to the ranking member for the bipartisan approach with which they have treated our men and women.

As we speak, there are soldiers who have left our soil, and they are in Iraq protecting our men and women at our embassy. There is never a time that we do not call upon our soldiers to stand and to defend our Nation or our citizens. My amendment recognizes that.

My amendment is a budget-neutral amendment. It adds $500,000 by reducing another account by $500,000 for an emphasis on PTSD, for outreach toward hard-to-reach veterans, especially those who are homeless or reside in underserved urban and rural areas.

Let me congratulate the committee for its hard work in recognition of the crisis of PTSD, but let me also cite that Houston is the third largest military retirement community in the United States, exceeded only by San Antonio and San Diego, California.

□ 1615

Houston is the second highest military recruiting district in the United States for all Armed Forces, to include the Coast Guard, and many return back to Houston. Twenty-three percent of the Houston adult homeless population are veterans, and nearly 2,500 men and women. I see them every day in my district. I have several homeless facilities that are particularly for veterans. As I interact with them, I see the clear signs of PTSD.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with this committee in establishing a PTSD center in one of our hospitals that was not a veteran facility. An estimated 7.8 percent of Americans will experience PTSD at some point in their lives, with women 10.4 percent and men 5 percent to develop PTSD; as well, estimates of PTSD from the gulf war as high as 10 percent; estimates from the war in Afghanistan are between 6 percent and 11 percent; and current estimates of PTSD in military personnel who served in Iraq range from 12 percent to 20 percent.

Posttraumatic stress disorder is of course something of great concern, and many times I have seen, again, these individuals who are in these very facilities. My amendment will help to ensure that no soldier is left behind and the urgent need for more outreach toward hard-to-reach veterans suffering from PTSD, especially those who are homeless and reside in underserved areas.

Mr. Chairman, I have been to what we call stand-downs. We have a number of them in our community. I started going to stand-downs way before I came to the United States Congress. These are street events that soldiers, retirees, or veterans come together, and particularly those who are homeless. I would say to you they are the most moving experiences that I have ever seen. The soldiers, the veterans are glad to see people who care. Many of them are suffering, but many of them—all of them—put on that uniform and served us.

Joe, for example, saw a good deal of active combat during his time in the

military. Some incidents in particular have never left his mind, like the horrifying sight of Gary, a close comrade and friend, being blown up by a land mine. Even when he returned to civilian life, those images haunted him. Scenes from the battle would run repeatedly through his mind and disrupt his focus on work. Filling up at the gas station, for example, the smell of diesel immediately rekindled certain horrific memories. At other times, he had difficulty remembering the past, as if some events were too painful to allow back into his mind. He found himself avoiding socializing with old military buddies, as this would inevitably trigger a new round of memories. His girlfriend complained that he was always pent up and irritable, as if he were on guard, and Joe noticed that at night he had difficulty relaxing. When he heard loud noises, such as a truck backfiring, he literally jumped as if he were readying himself for combat. He began to drink heavily.

I am glad that this committee has recognized the importance of providing these services for our soldiers, no matter the long range of time that they have been out, that they are now veterans, that they are still important and they still were willing to put on the uniform.

In light of our crisis with the Veterans Affairs, I would ask my colleagues to support this amendment providing extra outreach to those veterans who did not think for one moment to put on that uniform and defend their Nation. Let's now provide them with that extra comfort.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I withdraw my reservation.

We on the committee commend the gentlewoman for her concern for the health and well-being of all of our brave men and women in uniform. Taking care of the health and welfare of our servicemembers is of paramount importance and a concern to all of us.

I can assure you that both Mr. VISCLOSKY and I will work with you as well as the money we put in our bill to address the concerns you have rightly raised.

I thank you for yielding.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, I don't know if you heard, I thanked you for your caring response, along with the ranking member, putting together a bill that really recognizes service to our veterans.

With that, let me conclude and ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment. I indicate that Mr. CONYERS of Michigan joins me in this amendment.

I thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKY for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their devotion to the men and women of the Armed Forces who risk their lives to keep our nation safe.

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to explain my amendment, which is virtually identical to an amendment that I offered and was adopted in last year's Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 2397).

My amendment increases funding for the PTSD by $500,000. These funds should be used toward outreach activities targeting hard to reach veterans, especially those who are homeless or reside in underserved urban and rural areas, who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Mr. Chair, along with traumatic brain injury, PTSD is the signature wound suffered by the brave men and women fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq, and far off lands to defend the values and freedom we hold dear.

For those of us whose daily existence is not lived in harm's way, it is difficult to imagine the horrific images that American servicemen and women deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other theaters of war see on a daily basis.

In an instant a suicide bomber, an IED, or an insurgent can obliterate your best friend and right in front of your face. Yet, you are trained and expected to continue on with the mission, and you do, even though you may not even have reached your 20th birthday.

But there always comes a reckoning. And it usually comes after the stress and trauma of battle is over and you are alone with your thoughts and memories.

And the horror of those desperate and dangerous encounters with the enemy and your own mortality come flooding back.

PTSD was first brought to public attention in relation to war veterans, but it can result from a variety of traumatic incidents, such as torture, being kidnapped or held captive, bombings, or natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes.

People with PTSD may startle easily, become emotionally numb (especially in relation to people with whom they used to be close), lose interest in things they used to enjoy, have trouble feeling affectionate, be irritable, become more aggressive, or even become violent.

They avoid situations that remind them of the original incident, and anniversaries of the incident are often very difficult.

Most people with PTSD repeatedly relive the trauma in their thoughts during the day and in nightmares when they sleep. These are called flashbacks. A person having a flashback may lose touch with reality and believe that the traumatic incident is happening all over again.

Mr. Chair, the fact of the matter is that most veterans with PTSD also have other psychiatric disorders, which are a consequence of PTSD. These veterans have co-occurring disorders, which include depression, alcohol and/or drug abuse problems, panic, and/or other anxiety disorders.

My amendment recognizes that these soldiers are first and foremost, human. They carry their experiences with them.

Ask a veteran of Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan about the frequency of nightmares they experience, and one will realize that serving in the Armed Forces leaves a lasting impression, whether good or bad.

My amendment will help ensure that "no soldier is left behind" by addressing the urgent need for more outreach toward hard to reach veterans suffering from PTSD, especially those who are homeless or reside in underserved urban and rural areas of our country.

I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment.

PTSD ANECDOTES

ANECDOTE #1: (VETERAN)

Joe saw a good deal of active combat during his time in the military. Some incidents in particular had never left his mind—like the horrifying sight of Gary, a close comrade and friend, being blown-up by a land mine.

Even when he returned from to civilian life, these images haunted him. Scenes repeatedly through his mind and disrupt his focus on work.

Filing up at the gas station, for example, the smell of diesel immediately rekindled certain horrific memories. At other times, he had difficulty remembering the past—as if some events were too painful to allow back in his mind. He found himself avoiding himself socializing with old military buddies, as this would inevitably trigger a new round of memories.

His girlfriend complained that he was always pent-up and irritable—as if he were on guard, and Joe noticed that at night he had difficulty falling asleep.

When he heard loud noises, such as a truck back-firing he literally jumped, as if here were readying himself for combat. He began to drink heavily.

ANECDOTE #2: (AS TOLD BY A MILITARY SPOUSE)

My husband's PTS manifested itself in different ways. I remember Fourth of July at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., when we were all standing outside listening to the band, enjoying the picnic and listening to fireworks.

The fireworks bothered Adrian because they sounded so much like gunfire.

It made other soldiers upset too, and we all went inside. I thought it was ironic because the celebration was supposed to be for the American soldiers; they couldn't even enjoy it.

He'd see a can on the side of the road and swerve, thinking it was an improvised explosive device.

When he'd go out to dinner with other soldiers, I'd say it looked like a ''The Last Supper'' painting because they'd all sit there with their backs against the wall.

If a room became too busy, he'd want to leave. He'd suddenly become unfriendly or unapproachable.

At first, I confused his behavior with depression, or I thought maybe he was just tired. I also couldn't help but think it had to do with me; I'm only human.

I was fortunate that Adrian was willing to get help once he got back. Once he was diagnosed, I knew we'd know better how to deal with his symptoms. I educated myself on PTSD; I went to his group therapist and reached out to the Real Warriors Campaign for information. But the most important thing I did was listen to Adrian.

ANECDOTE #3: (TEEN-AGED GIRL)

Maria was only 15 when she was attacked by a group of men on the way home from school. They took turns screaming abuse at her and then they each raped her. Finally, they tried to stab her to death and would almost certainly have succeeded had the police not arrived on the scene.

For months after this horrifying event, Maria was not herself. She was unable to keep the memories of the attack out of her mind. At night she would have terrible dreams of rape, and would wake up screaming.

She had difficulty walking back from school because the route took her past the site of the attack, so she would have to go

the long way home. She felt as though her emotions were numbed, and as though she had no real future. At home she was anxious, tense, and easily startled. She felt ''dirty'' and somehow shamed by the event, and she resolved not to tell close friends about the event, in case they too rejected her.

ANECDOTE #4: (CIVILIAN WOMAN)

A 35-year-old lady was riding a bicycle in a carpark when she was hit from behind by a car.

Six months after the accident, she still had frequent vivid and intrusive memories of the incident.

She described seeing the car's wheels stopping just in front of her face and hearing the screeching sound of the brakes.

It felt as if it were happening again each time she recalled it. She jumped whenever she heard loud traffic noises and especially when she heard car brakes screeching.

She stayed in her room much more than usual, avoided using the bicycles at all and avoided travelling in any vehicle as much as she could.

She felt helpless and useless to overcome her symptoms even though her family were warm and encouraging to her.

Houston is the 3rd largest military retirement community in the United States (exceeded by San Antonio, TX and San Diego, CA).

Houston is the 2nd largest Veterans Community in the United States in terms of resident Veterans.

Houston is the 2nd largest Military Recruiting District in the United States for all Armed Forces Services, to include the U.S. Coast Guard.

23% of the Houston adult homeless population are veterans, nearly 2,500 men and women.

The Acting CHAIR. The reservation of a point of order is withdrawn.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chair, I am offering the second Lamborn amendment, 052.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 12, line 17, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, when you look at press accounts on what is happening at our southwest border, we are being overwhelmed. This amendment would take $5 million and give it to the Army National Guard out of the Department of Defense's administration operations account so that the National Guard is better able to get people and station them at our southwest border. They do not have dedicated funding or the additional funding they need for this border protection mission, yet they are involved in trying to establish order at the border.

The primary role of the Federal Government is to provide for our national security, and securing our borders is part of that national security mission. Mr. Chairman, I believe that this $5 million would be better spent on securing our border than adding more people to the Secretary of Defense's staff.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LAMBORN. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I appreciate the gentleman's interest in defending our borders, appreciate your raising this important issue, and we support your amendment.

Thank you for yielding.

Mr. LAMBORN. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the chairman's hard work and for his support of this amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. JEFFRIES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from New York and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chair, let me first thank the distinguished chairman as well as the distinguished ranking member for their great work with respect to this legislation.

This amendment makes a modest adjustment to the bill that would increase funding for the Defense Health Program by $10 million. It is budget neutral by reducing the Department of Defense's departmentwide operation and maintenance funds by a corresponding amount.

Let me first take this opportunity to express my strong support for the critical work of the Defense Department overall. The adjustment made by this amendment will still leave the Department with an extremely robust amount of operation and maintenance funding while ensuring that necessary resources are available for vital research and development that will aid both servicemembers and civilians alike.

The Defense Health Program oversees all medical and health care programs for the Defense Department. DHP's research and development activities help advance medical research to provide innovative solutions for servicemembers and their families facing medical trauma as well as advance the state of medical science in areas that benefit our broader society.

Over the last 10 years, there has been a significant increase in the amount of reported cases of PTSD in servicemembers. These increases are seen in both those deployed overseas as well as in nondeployed servicemembers. For those servicemembers who are deployed, the number of incidents of PTSD has increased twelvefold over the last 10 years. For those not deployed, the number of reported incident cases has nearly doubled. The annual total for reported PTSD cases has remained at unprecedentedly high levels over the last 5 years.

While we are currently winding down the war in Afghanistan, American troops continue to see action on the battlefield. With more of these troops returning from deployments over the next several years, it is likely that the number of PTSD cases will hold steady, if not increase. Furthermore, increased international unrest and uncertainty may result in future troop deployments to other parts of world, making it likely that the number of reported PTSD cases will remain at a high level. This amendment will invest resources to help inform health professionals on how best to treat our military personnel moving forward.

Furthermore, the need for increased research concerning PTSD is not limited to our military. High levels of violence in many communities throughout America have induced PTSD-like conditions for some trapped in these unfortunate circumstances. Research undertaken by the Department of Defense can benefit families and community health professionals in treating our children and others impacted in this way. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to support additional medical research to help the military victims of PTSD and our broader society.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JEFFRIES. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We on the committee thank the gentleman from New York for his concern regarding funding levels for traumatic brain injury, posttraumatic stress disorder, and psychological health research.

Just for the record, you should know that our bill does include $414 million, including a plus-up of $125 million above the request level of $289 million for all of those important issues.

We appreciate his work and his willingness to work with us, and we accept his amendment.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the Chair for his work on this issue as well as the ranking member.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $21,000,000) (increased by $21,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from West Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, earlier this year the Office of Management and Budget admitted that they made a mistake when they presented the President's budget request for the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. Since then, they have expressed that they intend to correct this mistake by offering a supplemental appropriation, because you and I know supplemental appropriations don't happen very often around here.

Congresswoman NAPOLITANO and I have a two-part approach to solve this mistake that has been created by OMB. First, Congress already has unanimously passed our amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act by increasing the authorization by $55 million to take care of this mistake. Under this amendment—this amendment—this bipartisan approach is we are willing to compromise to lower that amount to $21 million and restore the program, keep it intact.

Mr. Chairman, we shouldn't perpetuate the mistake that has been created by OMB by rejecting this amendment. Two mistakes don't make it right.

Mr. Chairman, this program addresses some serious needs and a dropout epidemic among our youth. These are real people with real problems. They need our help. Society may have given up on them, but we in Congress shouldn't.

Ms. NAPOLITANO. Will the gentleman yield?

Ms. MCKINLEY. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. NAPOLITANO. I rise to address this amendment, Mr. Chairman.

I thank my cochairman, Mr. MCKINLEY, on the National Guard ChalleNGe Program.

□ 1630

Thank you for your great help in the outreach to all of our Members of Congress.

We have been working in a bipartisan manner to help our Nation's throwaway children, those who have fallen through the cracks.

For 2015, Defense Appropriations will fund the program at $114 million. The current funding is $135 million, so it would be short.

This amendment increases by, as he mentioned, $21 million to have the same funding as 2014, increasing it to the same level of $135 million. It would prevent cuts to critical programs that are helping our youth integrate back into society. It reduces the budget line in operation and maintenance by the same amount.

It is critical for hundreds of our young people who drop out yearly to have an opportunity to be accepted into the program. The ChalleNGe Program has already educated 120,000 young people nationally. It also is a volunteer program free for 16- to 18-year-olds at no cost to the child or the family; 22½-week residential boot camp-like program led by the State's National Guard cadre; prepares them, educates them, instills discipline, builds employment potential, and returns them to school.

The 2012 RAND Corporation study finds that for every dollar spent, in return is $2.66, a yield of 166 percent return on investment—the best youth program in the Nation.

It effectively addresses part of our Nation's dropout epidemic on a very small level. America needs more of these programs, not less.

It is beneficial to our local businesses, to our communities, and to our Nation's ability to compete, to our future economy.

According to the 2009 National Labor Market study, California alone has 714,000 dropouts yearly, the sixth-worst State.

Our graduates are 800 a year. Basically, we need more funding to expand it to more qualified individuals who are on a waiting list. Our best retention rate is in California. It is educating, training, and retaining more than 90 percent.

There is very much a need for these programs. Please support this amendment.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, this is a mistake caused by OMB. We can correct it right here today. Again, as I said, these are real people with real problems, and they are trying to get on with their lives. The program has worked all across America. Let's not perpetuate this problem by reducing their funds. It was a mistake by OMB, and we can correct it here today.

I ask that my colleagues support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $3,500,000)'',

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $3,000,000)'',

Page 33, line 12, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(increased by $3,000,000).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Representatives JONES, SHEA-PORTER, TSONGAS, BORDALLO, and MOORE for joining me today in offering this amendment. They are leaders and champions in support of the benefits that service dogs provide to our servicemen and -women on and off the battlefield.

This amendment establishes a $3 million competitive grants pilot program for qualified nonprofit organizations whose mission is to address the physical and mental health needs of veterans and servicemembers with the assistance from trained service dogs. This is a very modest amount of money when we consider the need of our veterans and the number of organizations around the country dedicated to addressing this need.

Many of our servicemembers return home from the battlefield suffering from traumatic brain injury, PTSD, blindness or impaired vision, the loss of a limb, paralysis, impaired mobility, loss of hearing, and other mental and physical disabilities. Too many struggle with suicidal thoughts or find themselves unable to reintegrate back into family life or their communities.

Working with a trained service dog is a proven aid for these wounded warriors, the merits of which have been documented in decades of programs for civilians with similar mental or physical challenges. Providing grant opportunities for groups professionally engaged in this field is critical to ensuring that our military and our veterans receive the care that they deserve.

In December, I held a briefing that brought together experts to look more closely at the impact service dogs have on veterans' care. Medical experts, nonprofits, and veterans with trained service dogs participated, including retired Navy Lieutenant Bradley Snyder, who lost his eyesight to an IED while serving in Afghanistan. He was accompanied by this Fidelco-trained guide dog, Gizzy. Fidelco is a nonprofit guide dog training organization in Connecticut. Lieutenant Snyder has since gone on to compete in the 2012 London Paralympics Games, where he won two gold medals and one silver medal in swimming.

John Moon and service dog Rainbow represented the National Education for Assistance Dog Services, a nonprofit accredited service dog provider founded in 1976. Based in Massachusetts, NEADS has trained more than 1,400 assistance dogs. Since 2005, it has been actively working to bring service dogs to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Brett Simon is a veteran handler for police canines. Twice deployed to Iraq as an explosives detector canine handler, he described his work as a dog training specialist at K9s for Warriors Academy in Florida.

We also heard from Rick Yount, founder of the Warrior Canine Connection. The WCC Service Dog Training

Therapy Program has operated at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda since October 2011. I am very pleased to see that this bill continues to provide funds for this very special program.

Mr. Chairman, there are scores of similar organizations across the Nation. A modest grant pilot program will ensure that they reach even more of our wounded warriors with the assistance of a service dog.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Two weeks ago, I went to Walter Reed Hospital. I was told that two of my marines from Camp Lejeune had been severely wounded in Afghanistan. The first marine I saw was 23 years of age. He had lost both legs and an arm. His father was there from Louisiana, and I saw pain, I saw worry, I saw sadness in his eyes. The second marine I saw had stepped on a 40-pound IED and lost both legs. He was telling me about his little 8-month-old daughter and his wife. They were not there, but I heard that.

I know that these service dogs are making a difference in the life of the wounded, whether it be mental or it might be physical. This $3 million, when we are spending billions in Afghanistan, it would be a sin and a shame if we cannot find the $3 million to put into this program to make sure that those who have given so much have a little bit of support and a little bit of pleasure in having a loving animal that has been trained to give support to that person that has given so much for this country.

I hope that this amendment will be accepted.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. The committee would like to thank you, the gentleman from Massachusetts, the gentleman from North Carolina, and your colleagues for sponsoring this amendment.

The $3 million would be added to the $3 million which the committee, Mr. VISCLOSKY and I, put into our bill for similar purposes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I thank both gentlemen for raising this issue and offering the amendment. I strongly support it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BENISHEK

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000)''.

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of a very simple amendment, in which I am joined and sponsored by Mr. LOWENTHAL of California. I believe strongly that there is an epidemic, commonly referred to as Alzheimer's disease, that is sweeping our country.

My amendment would increase funding for the Defense Health Program by $2 million, with the intent of providing more peer-reviewed research to fight this devastating disease.

As a doctor who served at the Iron Mountain VA for 20 years, I know how important the health research programs at the Department of Defense are. These programs provide groundbreaking research into the health challenges that our veterans face.

These health research programs help us to provide better quality of care to those who have served our country and frequently lead to advances in treatment that benefit the rest of the population.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, over 5 million Americans are currently living with this disease. This number is expected to continue to rise, resulting in increased suffering for patients and their families and a dramatic rise in health care costs.

As a representative for a district with a large population of veterans and a large population of seniors, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of Alzheimer's. We must do more to combat this terrible disease.

This amendment will cut $2 million in funding for the Secretary of Defense's general operation and maintenance fund, an account which I believe can take a small cut, and applies those funds to the Defense Health Program for medical research.

By voting for this amendment, you will be supporting more research and development on the ground, rather than the salaries of bureaucrats in Washington.

I believe this amendment is a good, commonsense effort, and I hope my colleagues will support me in this effort to increase research into treating and eventually curing Alzheimer's.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We on the committee thank you for this amendment. Understanding your professional background and many of our constituents suffering under Alzheimer's, we are supportive of it.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BENISHEK. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. If supplied with a copy of his amendment, I would appreciate it very much.

Mr. BENISHEK. Absolutely.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 22, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would appropriate $10 million to fund an amendment passed unanimously in the 2015 NDAA that allocates additional financial literacy training programs for incoming and transitioning servicemembers. This $10 million will be spread equally among the service's operation and maintenance accounts.

This increased financial literacy training would be funded by allocating $10 million from the Navy's $14 billion aircraft procurement account, which includes nearly $1 billion in funding over the Navy's request to purchase 12 EA–18G Growler aircraft. The Navy actually requested none of these 12 aircraft.

The problem we have is that far too often servicemembers have inadequate training or experience. We are often talking about young people who have yet to really fully have their feet underneath them. When a servicemember has financial difficulty, often they are preyed upon by unscrupulous lenders, payday lenders, often.

□ 1645

In fact, in some cases—this was reported widely recently—offering and executing loans at up to 400 percent interest rates, often targeting these young servicemembers.

While this has an effect clearly on the financial condition of servicemembers, it also can have an effect on readiness, in that many servicemembers require a security

clearance to perform their duties, and financial difficulties and the loss of a clearance can have an enormous impact on readiness.

All that being said, I will be withdrawing my amendment. The offset that we offered, according to CBO, would require a $50 million offsetting cut to raise $10 million, and I will certainly yield to anybody who would like to explain to me the mathematics behind some of the scoring that comes up.

Hearing none, I will move on.

This is an important area. It is an important question. The House has already unanimously acted in the NDAA to support this program.

While it is my intention to withdraw this amendment, what I would ask, if the chairman and ranking member would engage and work with us on this—and certainly engage the Department of Defense—to find the financial resources to support this expanded literacy program, it would be of great benefit to our servicemembers, and it would be of tremendous value in terms of our readiness.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDEE. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I am sure the ranking member and I would be pleased to work with you on this issue

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $35,956,000)''.

Page 36, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $35,956,000)''.

Page 36, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $35,956,000)''.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I would point out to the Chair that we do not have a copy of the gentleman's amendment.

I would also point out to the Chair, if I would be given permission to, that this is the second time in the first hour of debate we have not been supplied with an amendment offered on the floor.

I would certainly appreciate the courtesy of making sure that we are noticed as far as the content of these very important amendments, so we can give them the appropriate consideration that they are due.

I appreciate the Chair's indulgence.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will distribute copies of the amendment.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, as read, this would transfer $35.956 million into an account under the bill that specifies, ''shall be for National Guard counterdrug program.''

We have spoken with people on the border. They know the problems they are having. They need equipment.

This amount would allow eight UH–72 helicopters to help with drug interdiction on the border. It is not like there are not enough helicopters to go around. There are 100 National Guard helicopters. This would only be utilizing eight of them, putting them in a place where they could be used on the border to help with the problem.

Mr. Chairman, right now, with so many of our ICE agents and so many of our Border Patrol engaged, as ICE agents said yesterday, in changing diapers instead of being involved in interdicting, as they should be, they need this equipment. This would be National Guard equipment that would allow them to participate in stopping the drugs that are flowing.

It is very apparent, from what is going on, that we even have drug cartels that are taking advantage of the situation. As ICE agents have explained, they are using this time—with all of the attention toward the children and the humanitarian crisis on the border—to step up their game in getting drugs into the United States.

According to the figures from CBO and from the figures we have gotten from the committee, this will not create an increase in outlays and should be in order in that regard.

I would like to point out that, since 2012, aircentric operations have resulted in an almost 70 percent increase in detection and interdiction, compared to the ground-based operations.

So this could make a real difference in providing for the common defense, which is our duty here in Congress, as well as the duty of the executive branch. This would make their job easier.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate the gentleman's concern, but would make three points to our colleagues.

The first is that the committee is absolutely aware of the problem that is taking place along the borders of our country.

Both relative to the problem that the gentleman has highlighted, as well as for this Nation's defense, I would point out to my colleagues that, in the underlying bill, we provide $1.356,227 billion for the procurement of 87 UH–60 Black Hawk helicopters, which is an increase of $119.226 million and eight aircraft above the President's request, so there is a recognition by the committee and in the bill that there is a need, and we filled that bill.

I would also point out that, relative to drug interdiction, the committee recommendation is for $944.687 million to deal with this problem; and I would, again, point out the gentleman's concern, that that is an increase of $124 million above the administration's request.

The last point is that the gentleman is taking it out of operation and maintenance, departmentwide.

I spoke in my opening remarks about the increases we have tried to provide to make sure our troops are prepared, maintained, trained, and ready. It is a mistake to take over $35 million away from our troops, who need that money for training.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Let me associate myself with the ranking member's comments earlier. We need to see the amendments. We are not seeing the amendments on a timely basis. As a basic courtesy, it would be helpful if both sides were provided with amendments by our colleagues.

Relative to this amendment, for the last several years, the National Guard has not even been able to spend the amount of money we have provided for counternarcotics, but instead has actually chosen to return funds to the Treasury; hence, the adjustment this year to actually re-source the National Guard.

Also, for the record, Mr. Chairman, the intent of the gentleman's request is to purchase equipment. This account does not provide resources to buy helicopters. This account provides funds for the National Guard's States' plan, operational funding, it is not money that can be used to buy helicopters.

I urge a ''no'' vote.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman's remarks.

Again, I would point out to my colleagues that I think $1.356 million is enough, and I strongly oppose the gentleman's amendment, given the 5 minutes we were allowed to review it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the attention that the committee has given to the issue and that, in the past, the National Guard may have had extra funds that were moved and able to be used elsewhere, but these are recent developments that have been going on even since our Appropriations Committee has been having hearings, and so this is such a dramatic problem that it is escalating every day.

I would like to correct the record. Actually, this proposal will not purchase any new helicopters. There are

100 National Guard helicopters. This would just pay for the use and the crew and the maintenance and upkeep of eight of those they already have. It won't purchase any more. I wish we could get helicopters that cheaply.

It will keep eight of them in use with the drug interdiction on our border right now because there is an invasion going on at our southern border. It is an invasion, and it is increasing, as I say, every day.

With that request, I don't think it is asking too much to have eight helicopters that have already been purchased—they just need crews, equipment, and upkeep—to help in the interdiction of the invasion in which drugs are being brought across our border in the south.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COFFMAN) having assumed the chair, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4413, CUSTOMER PROTECTION AND END-USER RELIEF ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–476) on the resolution (H. Res. 629) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4413) to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 628 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4870.

Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1659

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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) had been postponed, and the bill had been read through page 10, line 15.

□ 1700

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: ''(reduced by $10,000,000) (increased by $10,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Minnesota and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this amendment is very simple. It is to help American workers as defense-related factories wind down production. The intent of the amendment is to allocate an additional $10 million to the Office of Economic Adjustment from the general operations and maintenance funds.

The Office of Economic Adjustment helps communities across America when a factory shuts down. Over the last decade of war, middle class factory workers have stepped up to the plate to make sure our troops on the battlefield have had the weapons and equipment they have needed. As we transition away from two long wars and as defense production lines slow down, we cannot leave these workers with only pink slips in their hands. That is where the Office of Economic Adjustment comes in.

This little known but very important office in the Pentagon helps communities that would otherwise be devastated when a factory shuts its doors for the last time. The Office of Economic Adjustment provides grants and technical assistance to communities so that they can develop their own strategies to transition to a postwar economy. Just this month, the Office of Economic Adjustment provided grants to Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. Nearly 4,000 defense workers have lost their jobs in these States since 2012, but thanks to a grant from the Office of Economic Adjustment, a regional Defense Manufacturing Assistance Program is underway to help them find new areas of livelihood.

Simply put, the Office of Economic Adjustment helps hardworking Americans keep their jobs, so I urge my colleagues to support this modest amendment to create jobs and help the Americans who keep our men and women in uniform equipped with what they need.

I would also like to submit for the RECORD a good article from Roll Call which carefully details this issue of slowing down the wartime economy. The title of it reads, ''Don't Cut Programs that Help Communities Adjust to Pentagon Spending Reductions.'' It is dated June 9, 2014, and it is written by Miriam Pemberton and William Hartung.

[From Roll Call, June 9, 2014]

DON'T CUT PROGRAMS THAT HELP COMMUNITIES ADJUST TO PENTAGON SPENDING REDUCTIONS—COMMENTARY

(By Miriam Pemberton and William D. Hartung)

Spring budget season is almost over, and the House and Senate have once again placed parochial politics above budget discipline in their consideration of the Pentagon budget. The most extreme example came in the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act, which rejected virtually every cost-cutting measure put forward by the Pentagon, from base closings to retiring unneeded weapons systems. If the House's actions aren't reversed, they would bust the current budget caps to the tune of $50 billion over the next five years.

There was one place the House authorizers were willing to cut way back: a program designed to help communities adjust to defense downsizings. This is particularly ill-advised at a time when the Pentagon budget has been set on a path to come down from a wartime buildup that brought it to its highest levels since World War II.

While modest by historical terms, the defense build-down that is now underway will demand adjustments in the unrealistic spending plans Congress continues to authorize for the Pentagon. And the cuts that are coming will have impacts in scores of communities across the country.

Since the 1970s a small office within the Pentagon, the Office of Economic Adjustment, has offered planning grants and technical assistance to help these communities develop their own strategies to capitalize on existing economic strengths and adjust to postwar economic conditions. Once these strategies are in place, the OEA serves as a point of contact for impacted communities in accessing resources from other federal agencies to help with implementation of their plans. Just this week Ohio, Michigan and Indiana received a grant of more than $2.4 million to fund a regional Defense Manufacturing Assistance Program to address the loss of 3,900 defense-related jobs in those three states since 2012.

Most members of Congress want to base their judgments on Pentagon spending on what is needed to defend the country. But they also need to show defense-dependent communities, businesses and workers in their states and districts that they are watching out for their interests. The OEA's programs give them a way to judge procurement spending accounts on their merits,