

Only nine African Americans have ever served in this Senate. Illinois is proud to be home to three of those Senators, including the man who went on to become our first African-American President.

Among the museum's artifacts from Barack Obama's historic public life is the entire contents of a 2008 Obama for President headquarters in Falls Church, VA—packed up—lock, stock and barrel—and preserved by the Smithsonian for future generations.

Among the museum's other treasures are a fighter jet flown by Tuskegee Airman and shards of glass from the horrific Klan bombing in 1963 of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, an act of terrorism that claimed the lives of four little girls attending Sunday school.

Other artifacts remind us that the long march to freedom is not entirely over yet.

Poll tax receipts from a century ago remind us of the need to be vigilant in protecting every Americans' constitutional right to vote.

A guard tower from the infamous Angola State Penitentiary reminds us that racial inequities persist in America's criminal justice and we have more work to do to root it out.

To borrow a phrase from the immortal Sam Cooke, the National Museum of African American History and Culture "has been a long, long time coming."

It was first proposed more than a century ago by African-American veterans of the Civil War.

Congress approved it once, in 1927, but never funded it because of the Depression.

The idea was resurrected in the late 1980s, led by Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, an icon of the civil rights movement.

For 15 years, though, a bill to create the museum was defeated.

The logjam was finally broken in 2003, when President George W. Bush took up the cause.

More than any previous Smithsonian museum, this one has relied on private donations, rather than just public dollars.

A number of celebrities have made very large gifts, including \$5 million from Michael Jordan and \$21 million from Oprah Winfrey, the largest single benefactor.

But many of the donations have come from churches, sororities and fraternities, and other African-American groups. A large amount—\$4 million—came from average people in gifts of less than \$1,000.

The new museum looks like nothing else on the National Mall. It is clad in burnished bronze grillwork and built to resemble a three-tiered crown from an old African kingdom.

Looking at it, one is reminded of the words of the writer James Baldwin. In exhorting African Americans to take pride in their history, Baldwin wrote: "Your crown has been bought and paid for. All you must do is put it on."

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is one of the great jewels in that crown. It will help the ancestors to rest and allow this and future generations to learn and be inspired, and that is cause to celebrate.

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT NO. 5082 TO H.R. 5325

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have an explanatory statement regarding Senate amendment No. 5082 to H.R. 5325 printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY MR. COCHRAN OF MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS REGARDING THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5325

The following is an explanation of the "Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act".

This Act includes the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 (Division A), the Zika Response and Preparedness Appropriations Act, 2016 (Division B), the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (Division C), and a division on rescissions of funds (Division D). H.R. 5325 was used as the vehicle for the Senate amendment.

Section 1 of the Act is the short title of the bill.

Section 2 of the Act displays a table of contents.

Section 3 of the Act states that, unless expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

Section 4 provides a statement of appropriations.

Section 5 states that each amount designated by Congress as an emergency requirement is contingent on the President so designating all such emergency amounts and transmitting such designations to Congress.

Section 6 of the Act specifies that this explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference, and it specifies that any reference to the "joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act" contained in division A shall be considered to be a reference to this explanatory statement.

References in this explanatory statement in division A (Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017) to "conferees" are deemed to be references to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and references to the "conference agreement" are deemed to be references to the recommendations in division A of this Act.

The Act does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined by clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The following is an explanation of the effects of Division A, which makes appropria-

tions for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2017. Unless otherwise noted, reference to the House and Senate reports are to House Report 114-497 and Senate Report 114-237. The language set forth in House Report 114-497 and Senate Report 114-237 should be complied with and carry the same emphasis as the language included in the joint explanatory statement, unless specifically addressed to the contrary in this joint explanatory statement. While repeating some report language for emphasis, this joint explanatory statement does not intend to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein. In cases in which the House or the Senate has directed the submission of a report, such report is to be submitted to both Houses of Congress. House or Senate reporting requirements with deadlines prior to, or within 15 days after enactment of this Act shall be submitted not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act. All other reporting deadlines not specifically directed by this joint explanatory statement are to be met.

#### TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

*Bid Savings.*—The conferees note that, given information for cost variation notices required by 10 U.S.C. 2853, the Department of Defense continues to have bid savings on previously appropriated military construction projects. Therefore, the agreement includes rescissions to the Army, Air Force, and Defense-Wide construction accounts. The Secretary of Defense is directed to continue to submit 1002 reports on military construction bid savings at the end of each fiscal quarter to the Committees.

*Missile Defense.*—The conferees remain committed to rapidly implementing the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA). Construction of the first Aegis Ashore missile defense site in Deveselu, Romania, is complete and the site is operational. The Committees fully funded construction of the second site at Redzikowo, Poland, in fiscal year 2016, and expect the Missile Defense Agency to pursue an aggressive construction schedule to bring this critical asset online. Additionally, the conference agreement fully funds the request for the first phase of the Long Range Discrimination Radar at Clear, Alaska. This radar will dramatically improve our ability to effectively target ballistic missile threats to the homeland coming from the Pacific. As the missile threat continues to evolve, the conferees remain strongly supportive of the expeditionary deployment of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery on Guam. The conferees encourage the Department of Defense to consider making this deployment permanent and request the appropriate military construction projects in support of this critical mission be requested in future budget submissions.

*Overseas Contingency Operations.*—The conference agreement includes House Title IV, Overseas Contingency Operations. The Senate bill included funding for similar projects in Title I.

*Emerging Security Threats in Europe.*—The conferees are aware that heightened tensions between Russia and Europe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014 have increased security threats to European nations, particularly in Eastern Europe. In response to Russian aggression, the Administration in 2014 announced the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) to enhance allied security by increasing the presence and joint training activities of U.S. military forces in Europe. The ERI includes a number of military construction projects funded in both fiscal year 2015 and in this Act. The conferees note that although ERI military construction funding was originally intended to be a

one-time only investment, the evolving nature of the threat has prompted the Department of Defense (DOD) to expand its plans for investing in military construction to support the continual presence of U.S. rotational military forces in Europe, increased training activities with European allies, and the repositioning of Army combat-ready equipment in Poland to support an armored brigade combat team.

The conferees recognize the importance of providing reassurance and security to the Nation's European allies, but are concerned that DOD has not outlined a comprehensive plan for military construction requirements to support the ERI. Instead, the Committees have received ad hoc notifications of proposed planning and design expenditures for projects in support of the ERI, including a \$200,000,000 facility for repositioning Army combat brigade equipment in Poland, and nine ERI-related Air Force projects, primarily at U.S. Air Force bases in Germany, estimated to cost a total of \$260,000,000.

Given the magnitude of the planned ERI military construction investment thus far, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress (the Committees), with submission of the fiscal year 2018 budget request, a comprehensive plan for military construction requirements associated with the European Reassurance Initiative through the fiscal year 2018 Future Years Defense Program.

The conferees further direct the Comptroller General of the United States to provide to the Committees, not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, a report evaluating the extent to which the Department of Defense has developed a comprehensive force structure plan, including military construction requirements, to meet emerging security threats in Europe. The report shall include an assessment of the extent to which the Department has:

- (1) identified the near-term and long-term United States military force requirements in Europe in support of the European Reassurance Initiative;
- (2) evaluated the posture, force structure, and military construction options for meeting projected force requirements;
- (3) evaluated the long-term costs associated with the posture, force structure, and military construction requirements; and
- (4) developed a Future Years Defense Program for force structure costs associated with the European Reassurance Initiative.

The report shall also include any other matters related to security threats in Europe that the Comptroller General determines are appropriate, and recommendations as warranted for improvements to the Department's planning and analysis methodology. The reports shall be provided in the appropriate classified and unclassified formats.

*Al Udeid Air Base Mold Contamination.*—The conferees are concerned about reports that airmen serving at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar were living in dangerously contaminated barracks. On social media and later in the press, reports detailed collapsing ceilings, contaminated water, and toxic black mold found throughout the facility. The Committees have raised concerns in the past about low levels of funding for facility sustainment, restoration and modernization, and if the black mold issues at Al Udeid were a result of a lack of funding for maintenance, that is unacceptable. Also, the conferees are aware that the Department of Defense Inspector General released a report in September 2014 (DODIG-2014-121) that identified 1,057 deficiencies and code violations “that could affect the health, safety, and well-being of warfighters and their families” sta-

tioned in Japan. Included among the deficiencies were elevated levels of radon and excessive mold growth. In light of the Inspector General report and the reports from Al Udeid, the conferees direct the Department to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act detailing global military housing and expeditionary facilities locations with mold contamination, mitigation strategies implemented or expected to be in place, and any new construction standards designed to prevent mold contamination.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

The conference agreement provides \$513,459,000 for Military Construction, Army. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$98,159,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support.

*Aging Army hangars for Combat Aviation Units.*—The conferees recognize that the Army's aging hangars housing combat aviation units are structurally deficient and do not meet the operational requirements of the Army's Combat Aviation Brigades. A critical need exists for the Army to modernize infrastructure associated with operational needs, inclement weather, personnel changes, and unforeseen circumstances. The conferees direct the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act detailing the age and condition of the Army's Combat Aviation Brigade aircraft maintenance hangars, a prioritization of the most deficient infrastructure assets, and a plan to modernize or replace those hangars, including the required resources.

*Air traffic control facilities.*—The conferees are concerned that many of the Army's air traffic control facilities are unsafe, antiquated, and do not provide adequate control, communications or observation abilities for the current air traffic levels at certain locations. For example, the current facility located at Fort Benning, Georgia, will become wholly inadequate at the current pace of operations and a replacement facility is necessary to ensure air traffic services are available to support mission readiness and deployment platforms and the military flying community. The conferees are concerned that this could be a problem throughout the Army enterprise with the recent reductions to the Department of Defense's construction accounts. Therefore, the Secretary of the Army is directed to conduct a risk assessment on Army air traffic control facilities throughout the Army enterprise and develop a plan to update these facilities. This assessment shall be submitted to the congressional defense committees not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act.

*Defense Laboratory Enterprise Facilities and Infrastructure.*—The conferees note that DOD investment in Defense laboratories has been lacking, resulting in negative impacts on the ability of the military to develop new acquisition programs or perform cutting-edge research. At the same time, the Nation's near-peer competitors are making significant new investments in their research and development capabilities as part of the effort to close the technology gap with the U.S. military. Of additional concern, aging lab infrastructure also creates a disincentive to attracting new employees as DOD tries to rebuild its technical workforce.

One of the tools that Congress has provided to incentivize DOD lab investment is the establishment of a higher threshold for unspecified minor military construction (UMMC) for laboratories to enable the services to keep up with a threat that evolves faster

than the normal planning process. However, the conferees are concerned that the services are not programming sufficient UMMC to take full advantage of the laboratory revitalization initiative. For example, in fiscal year 2016, the Army, which operates an extensive network of DOD labs, did not allocate any unspecified minor military construction funding for necessary laboratory revitalization projects, and the request for UMMC in the Army has remained flat at \$25,000,000. Therefore, the conference agreement provides an additional \$10,000,000 to supplement unspecified minor military construction, and the Army is encouraged to pursue opportunities to use the additional funding for lab revitalization.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement provides \$1,021,580,000 for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$88,230,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

*Military Construction funding for the Navy and Marine Corps.*—Conferees are concerned about the need for the construction of an F-35C aircraft maintenance hangar, a communications complex and infrastructure upgrades, and an F-35C aircraft parking apron for the Marine Corps' four F-35C squadrons on the West Coast. This construction supports Carrier Air Wing operations with the USS *Carl Vinson* as the first F-35C compatible ship on the West Coast in support of the Pacific Command Area of Responsibility. The Marine Corps has identified these projects as its top priorities, critical to the F-35C squadrons and the conferees support these priorities.

*Townsend Bombing Range.*—Concerns still remain regarding the Townsend Bombing Range and its effect on the local timber industry. While the Navy and local stakeholders have started a dialogue, an agreement has not yet been reached. The conferees look forward to an agreement that meets the Navy's training needs and protects local timber stakeholders.

*Navy Unfunded Reprogramming Requirements.*—The Committees were recently informed that the Navy has been underestimating the cost of major construction projects over the past several years due to unrealistic cost assumptions and a flawed construction cost formula. The Navy acknowledges that it has been aware of this problem for some time but had taken no action to remedy the deficiencies in its construction cost estimating process or to notify the Committees in a timely manner of the situation or its potential impact on the execution of projects. As a result, the Navy is faced with a large inventory of underfunded projects, and insufficient unobligated balances from bid savings or cancelled projects to cover the shortfall. Thus, a number of authorized projects for which funds have been appropriated over the past several years are at risk due to insufficient funds to award a contract.

The conferees provide an additional \$89,400,000 in this Act, to address the Navy's highest priority urgent unfunded reprogramming requirements as well as unanticipated emergency construction requirements. However, the conferees are concerned that this is just the tip of the iceberg, and that additional underfunded projects for which no ready source of reprogramming funds is available will emerge. Therefore, the conferees direct the Secretary of the Navy to reassess the sufficiency of the appropriation request for all previously appropriated projects for which contracts have not been awarded, and to provide to the congressional

defense committees, within 60 days of enactment of this Act, (1) a detailed analysis of the process and decisions that led to the underestimating of construction costs, (2) the revised cost estimate, if applicable, for any project that is estimated to be underfunded due to unrealistic cost assumptions and/or a flawed construction cost formula, (3) a plan of how the Navy intends to address the shortfall within its own resources, including the identification of any previously appropriated projects that might have to be cancelled, and (4) a description of the steps it is taking to remedy the cost estimating process for future construction projects.

The conferees further direct the Secretary of Defense to review the construction cost formulas used to develop military construction appropriation requests by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assess the reliability of the formulas, and to report to the congressional defense committees within 90 days of enactment of this Act on its findings and any recommendations to improve the fidelity of the construction cost formulas.

All the services, including the Navy, have informed the Committees for the past several years that construction costs have been rising with the improving economy and the rebound of the construction market, and that bid savings have been subsequently decreasing. The conferees believe there is no excuse for the Navy's inability to or failure to address this problem, and fully expect a sound and justifiable cost estimate for any military construction projects submitted in the fiscal year 2018 and future budget requests.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement provides \$1,491,058,000 for Military Construction, Air Force. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$143,582,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services. Additionally, the conference agreement rescinds \$23,900,000 for three fiscal year 2014 projects in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), to support Air Force training exercises and provide an emergency divert location. The conferees are concerned that the Air Force has been unable to reach a land use agreement with the Government of the CNMI despite extensive negotiations, and no resolution to the issue is imminent. Therefore, the funding is rescinded without prejudice, and the Air Force is urged to resubmit the projects once agreement on the location is finalized and the projects can be executed.

*Air Force Facility Security Requirements.*—The conferees are concerned with the Department's funding recommendation for the Air Force's unspecified minor military construction account. An additional \$10,000,000 is provided to assist installations in the continental U.S. with significant facility entry and exit point concerns. Priority should be given to installations with access control points that present safety, security and traffic hazards.

*Air Force Ballistic Missile Facilities.*—The conferees are aware that ground-based intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) facilities at the Nation's three ICBM bases in Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming are aging and in urgent need of replacement. At a time of increased global tensions among nuclear-capable nations, it is imperative to replace crumbling and outdated ICBM infrastructure at U.S. installations with state-of-the-art nuclear deterrence facilities. Key to this effort is the replacement of the Cuban missile crisis-era Weapons Storage Facilities and Missile Alert Facilities at each of the ICBM bases. The conferees understand that the Air Force has developed a funding road-

map to replace the Weapons Storage Facilities (WSFs) at each ICBM base but are concerned that the current timeline for implementation of the roadmap is not sufficiently aggressive in light of the urgency of upgrading these facilities to meet current threat conditions. Given the failing condition of the current WSFs and the importance of the ground-based ICBM capability to the Nation's nuclear deterrence, the conferees urge the Air Force to prioritize and accelerate the replacement of the WSFs as well as the Nuclear Alert Facilities at ICBM bases. The conferees reiterate the directive in Senate Report 114-237 for the Secretary of the Air Force to undertake an analysis of the cost of maintaining the existing Missile Alert Facilities at the Nation's ICBM bases and to provide a report to the Committees within 90 days of enactment of this Act on the findings of the analysis and a projected cost and timeline for replacing the Weapons Alert Facilities at each of these bases. The conferees also direct the Secretary of Defense to assess the feasibility of using Defense Access Road funding and other sources of funding to build alternate routes for military equipment traveling on public roads to missile launch facilities, taking into consideration the proximity of local populations, security risks, safety, and weather, and to provide a report to the Committees within one year of enactment of this Act.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$2,025,444,000 for Military Construction, Defense-Wide. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$180,775,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services. Within this amount, an additional \$15,000,000 is provided for Missile Defense Agency planning and design. The additional funding is to expedite the construction and deployment of urgently needed missile defense assets in various locations within the continental United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

*Pentagon Metro entrance facility.*—The conference agreement includes funding for the Pentagon Metro entrance facility project as requested in the budget submission. The conferees remain concerned that this facility needs to be constructed in a manner that will further enhance the physical access and perimeter defense of the building in accordance with the Integrated Pentagon Security Master Plan and the Pentagon Century Review. Given that the design is only at 10 percent at this point, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to report to the congressional defense committees quarterly on the progress of the planning and design and any major construction changes to the current project's 1391.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The conference agreement provides \$232,930,000 for Military Construction, Army National Guard. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$8,729,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The conference agreement provides \$143,957,000 for Military Construction, Air National Guard. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$10,462,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

The conference agreement provides \$68,230,000 for Military Construction, Army Reserve. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$7,500,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

The conference agreement provides \$38,597,000 for Military Construction, Navy Reserve. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$3,783,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

The conference agreement provides \$188,950,000 for Military Construction, Air Force Reserve. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$4,500,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

#### NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The conference agreement provides \$177,932,000 for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

The conference agreement provides \$240,237,000 for the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, which is \$35,000,000 above the request. The additional funding is for the Army and the Navy to accelerate environmental remediation at installations closed under previous Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) rounds.

*Accelerated cleanup.*—The conferees recognize that many factors hinder the cleanup of BRAC sites. However, the conferees believe that strategic investments can lead to quicker clean-ups and faster turnover of DOD property to the local community. Therefore, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a spend plan for the additional BRAC funds not later than 15 days after enactment of this Act.

#### Family Housing Overview

*Homeowners Assistance Program—Delayed Expression or Delayed Identification of Injured Beneficiaries.*—As the Executive Agent for the Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) across the Department of Defense, the Army mistakenly administered approximately 76 applicants whose injuries were incurred during a military deployment, while they owned a home, and experienced delayed expression or delayed identification of the injury. The applicants were paid in good faith and in accordance with guidance from Congress and the Department of Defense to err in favor of wounded, ill, and injured HAP applicants. If these beneficiaries had suffered from an obvious physical injury—which the HAP statute envisioned—their injury would have been clearly documented at the time they owned their home, and they would have qualified for HAP benefits. Therefore, no funds from this Act shall be used to collect overpayments for any wounded, ill, or injured HAP beneficiary with delayed expression or delayed identification, or send notice letters, while the Department further develops permanent legislative solutions with Congress.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

The conference agreement provides \$157,172,000 for Family Housing Construction, Army.

#### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

The conference agreement provides \$325,995,000 for Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement provides \$94,011,000 for Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.

#### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement provides \$300,915,000 for Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps.

## FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement provides \$61,352,000 for Family Housing Construction, Air Force.

## FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement provides \$274,429,000 for Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Air Force.

## FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

The conference agreement provides \$59,157,000 for Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide.

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

The conference agreement provides \$3,258,000 for the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

## (INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes section 101 limiting the use of funds under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract.

The conference agreement includes section 102 allowing the use of construction funds in this title for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

The conference agreement includes section 103 allowing the use of construction funds in this title for advances to the Federal Highway Administration for the construction of access roads.

The conference agreement includes section 104 prohibiting construction of new bases in the United States without a specific appropriation.

The conference agreement includes section 105 limiting the use of funds for the purchase of land or land easements that exceed 100 percent of the value.

The conference agreement includes section 106 prohibiting the use of funds, except funds appropriated in this title for that purpose, for family housing.

The conference agreement includes section 107 limiting the use of minor construction funds to transfer or relocate activities.

The conference agreement includes section 108 prohibiting the procurement of steel unless American producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been allowed to compete.

The conference agreement includes section 109 prohibiting the use of construction or family housing funds to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

The conference agreement includes section 110 prohibiting the use of funds to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification.

The conference agreement includes section 111 establishing a preference for American architectural and engineering services for overseas projects.

The conference agreement includes section 112 establishing a preference for American contractors in United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll and in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf.

The conference agreement includes section 113 requiring congressional notification of military exercises when construction costs exceed \$100,000.

The conference agreement includes section 114 allowing funds appropriated in prior years for new projects authorized during the current session of Congress.

The conference agreement includes section 115 allowing the use of expired or lapsed funds to pay the cost of supervision for any project being completed with lapsed funds.

The conference agreement includes section 116 allowing military construction funds to be available for five years.

The conference agreement includes section 117 allowing the transfer of funds from Family Housing Construction accounts to the Family Housing Improvement Program.

The conference agreement includes section 118 allowing transfers to the Homeowners Assistance Fund.

The conference agreement includes section 119 limiting the source of operation and maintenance funds for flag and general officer quarters and allowing for notification by electronic medium.

The conference agreement includes section 120 extending the availability of funds in the Ford Island Improvement Account.

The conference agreement includes section 121 allowing the transfer of expired funds to the Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense account.

The conference agreement includes section 122 restricting the obligation of funds for relocating an Army unit that performs a testing mission.

The conference agreement includes section 123 allowing for the reprogramming of construction funds among projects and activities subject to certain criteria.

The conference agreement includes section 124 prohibiting the obligation or expenditure of funds provided to the Department of Defense for military construction for projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

The conference agreement includes section 125 providing additional funds for various Military Construction accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 126 providing additional funds for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.

The conference agreement includes section 127 rescinding funds from prior Appropriations Acts from various accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 128 rescinding unobligated balances from the fund established by Sec. 1013(d) of 42 U.S.C. 3374.

The conference agreement includes section 129 defining the congressional defense committees.

The conference agreement includes section 130 prohibiting the use of funds in this Act to close or realign Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The provision is intended to prevent the closure or realignment of the installation out of the possession of the United States, and maintain the Naval Station's long-standing regional security and migrant operations missions.

The conference agreement includes section 131 restricting funds in this Act to be used to consolidate or relocate any element of Air Force Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer until certain conditions are met.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
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ALASKA				
ARMY				
FORT WAINWRIGHT				
UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE HANGAR.....	47,000	47,000	47,000	47,000
AIR FORCE				
CLEAR AFS				
FIRE STATION.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
EIELSON AFB				
F-35A ADAL FIELD TRAINING DETACHMENT FAC.....	22,100	22,100	22,100	22,100
F-35A AIRCRAFT WEATHER SHELTER (SQD 2).....	82,300	---	82,300	82,300
F-35A AIRCRAFT WEATHER SHELTERS (SQD 1).....	79,500	79,500	79,500	79,500
F-35A EARTH COVERED MAGAZINES.....	11,300	11,300	11,300	11,300
F-35A HANGAR/PROPULSION MX/DISPATCH.....	44,900	44,900	44,900	44,900
F-35A HANGAR/SQUAD OPS/AMU SQ #2.....	42,700	42,700	42,700	42,700
F-35A MISSILE MAINTENANCE FACILITY.....	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON				
ADD/ALTER AWACS ALERT HANGAR.....	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
DEFENSE-WIDE				
CLEAR AFS				
LONG RANGE DISCRIM RADAR SYS COMPLEX PH1.....	155,000	155,000	155,000	155,000
FORT GREELY				
MISSILE DEFENSE COMPLEX SWITCHGEAR FACILITY.....	9,560	9,560	9,560	9,560
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON				
CONSTRUCT TRUCK OFFLOAD FACILITY.....	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900
ARIZONA				
NAVY				
YUMA				
VMX-22 MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	48,355	48,355	48,355	48,355
AIR FORCE				
LUKE AFB				
F-35A SQUAD OPS/AIRCRAFT MAINT UNIT #5.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
DEFENSE-WIDE				
FORT HUACHUCA				
JITC BUILDING 52110 RENOVATION.....	4,493	4,493	4,493	4,493
CALIFORNIA				
ARMY				
CONCORD				
ACCESS CONTROL POINT.....	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600
NAVY				
CORONADO				
COASTAL CAMPUS ENTRY CONTROL POINT.....	13,044	13,044	13,044	13,044
COASTAL CAMPUS UTILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE.....	81,104	81,104	81,104	81,104
GRACE HOPPER DATA CENTER POWER UPGRADES.....	10,353	10,353	10,353	10,353
LEMOORE				
F-35C ENGINE REPAIR FACILITY.....	26,723	26,723	26,723	26,723
SAN DIEGO				
ENERGY SECURITY HOSPITAL MICROGRID.....	6,183	---	6,183	---
SEAL BEACH				
MISSILE MAGAZINES.....	21,007	21,007	21,007	21,007
AIR FORCE				
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE				
FLIGHTLINE FIRE STATION.....	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
DEFENSE-WIDE				
CORONADO				
SOF HUMAN PERFORMANCE TRAINING CENTER.....	15,578	15,578	15,578	15,578
SOF SEAL TEAM OPS FACILITY.....	47,290	47,290	47,290	47,290
SOF SEAL TEAM OPS FACILITY.....	47,290	47,290	47,290	47,290
SOF SPECIAL RECON TEAM ONE OPERATIONS FAC.....	20,949	20,949	20,949	20,949
SOF TRAINING DETACHMENT ONE OPS FACILITY.....	44,305	44,305	44,305	44,305
TRAVIS AFB				
REPLACE HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM.....	26,500	26,500	26,500	26,500

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
-----				
ARMY RESERVE				
FORT HUNTER LIGGETT				
EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER.....	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500
CAMP PARKS				
TRANSIENT TRAINING BARRACKS.....	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
COLORADO				
ARMY				
FORT CARSON				
AUTOMATED INFANTRY PLATOON BATTLE COURSE.....	8,100	8,100	8,100	8,100
UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE HANGAR.....	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
AIR FORCE				
BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE				
SMALL ARMS RANGE COMPLEX.....	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
CONNECTICUT				
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
BRADLEY IAP				
CONSTRUCT SMALL AIR TERMINAL.....	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300
DELAWARE				
AIR FORCE				
DOVER AFB				
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
DEFENSE-WIDE				
DOVER AFB				
WELCH ES/DOVER MS REPLACEMENT.....	44,115	44,115	44,115	44,115
FLORIDA				
NAVY				
EGLIN AFB				
WMD FIELD TRAINING FACILITIES.....	20,489	20,489	20,489	20,489
AIR FORCE				
EGLIN AFB				
ADVANCED MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY COMPLEX.....	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
FLIGHTLINE FIRE STATION.....	13,600	13,600	13,600	13,600
PATRICK AFB				
FIRE/CRASH RESCUE STATION.....	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
DEFENSE-WIDE				
PATRICK AFB				
REPLACE FUEL TANKS.....	10,100	10,100	10,100	10,100
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
JACKSONVILLE IAP				
REPLACE FIRE CRASH/RESCUE STATION.....	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
GEORGIA				
ARMY				
FORT GORDON				
CYBER PROTECTION TEAM OPS FACILITY.....	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
FORT STEWART				
AUTOMATED QUALIFICATION/TRAINING RANGE.....	14,800	14,800	14,800	14,800
AIR FORCE				
MOODY AFB				
PERSONNEL RECOVERY 4-BAY HANGAR/HELO MX UNIT.....	30,900	30,900	30,900	30,900
DEFENSE-WIDE				
FORT BENNING				
SOF TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE HANGAR.....	4,820	4,820	4,820	4,820
FORT GORDON				
MEDICAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT.....	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
HAWAII				
ARMY				
FORT SHAFTER				
COMMAND AND CONTROL FACILITY, INCR 2.....	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
-----				
NAVY				
BARKING SANDS				
UPGRADE POWER PLANT & ELECTRICAL DISTRIB SYS.....	43,384	43,384	43,384	43,384
KANEOHE BAY				
REGIMENTAL CONSOLIDATED COMM/ELEC FACILITY.....	72,565	72,565	72,565	72,565
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
HILO				
COMBINED SUPPORT MAINTENANCE SHOP.....	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM				
F-22 COMPOSITE REPAIR FACILITY.....	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
IOWA				
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
DAVENPORT				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
SIOUX GATEWAY AIRPORT				
CONSTRUCT CONSOLIDATED SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.....	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600
KANSAS				
AIR FORCE				
MCCONNELL AFB				
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER.....	11,200	11,200	11,200	11,200
KC-46A ADAL TAXIWAY DELTA.....	5,600	5,600	5,600	5,600
KC-46A ALTER FLIGHT SIMULATOR BLDGS.....	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
FORT LEAVENWORTH				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
LOUISIANA				
AIR FORCE				
BARKSDALE AFB				
CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATION FACILITY.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
NAVY RESERVE				
NEW ORLEANS				
JOINT RESERVE INTELLIGENCE CENTER.....	11,207	11,207	11,207	11,207
MAINE				
NAVY				
KITTERY				
UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING.....	17,773	17,773	17,773	17,773
UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR NUCLEAR PLATFORMS.....	30,119	30,119	30,119	30,119
DEFENSE-WIDE				
KITTERY				
MEDICAL/DENTAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT.....	27,100	27,100	27,100	27,100
MARYLAND				
NAVY				
PATUXENT RIVER				
CBARS RDT&E HANGAR.....	40,576	40,576	40,576	40,576
AIR FORCE				
JOINT BASE ANDREWS				
21 POINTS ENCLOSED FIRING RANGE.....	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
PAR RELOCATE JADOC SATELLITE SITE.....	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
DEFENSE-WIDE				
BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL				
MEDCEN ADDITION/ALTERATION INCR 1.....	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
FORT MEADE				
ACCESS CONTROL FACILITY.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
NSAW CAMPUS FEEDERS PHASE 3.....	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
NSAW RECAPITALIZE BUILDING #2 INCR 2.....	195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
-----				
MASSACHUSETTS				
AIR FORCE				
HANSCOM AFB				
SYSTEM MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING FACILITY.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
MINNESOTA				
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
DULUTH IAP				
LOAD CREW TRAINING/WEAPON SHOPS.....	7,600	7,600	7,600	7,600
MISSOURI				
DEFENSE-WIDE				
ST LOUIS				
LAND ACQUISITION-NEXT NGA WEST (N2W) CAMPUS.....	801	801	801	801
MONTANA				
AIR FORCE				
MALMSTROM AFB				
MISSILE MAINTENANCE FACILITY.....	14,600	14,600	14,600	14,600
NEVADA				
NAVY				
FALLON				
AIR WING SIMULATOR FACILITY.....	13,523	13,523	13,523	13,523
AIR FORCE				
NELLIS AFB				
F-35A POL FILL STAND ADDITION.....	10,600	10,600	10,600	10,600
NEW HAMPSHIRE				
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
HOOKSETT				
NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP.....	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
ROCHESTER				
NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP.....	8,900	8,900	8,900	8,900
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADE PORT				
KC-46A INSTALL FUSELAGE TRAINER BLDG 251.....	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
NEW MEXICO				
AIR FORCE				
CANNON AFB				
NORTH FITNESS CENTER.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
HOLLOMAN AFB				
HAZARDOUS CARGO PAD AND TAXIWAY.....	10,600	10,600	10,600	10,600
KIRTLAND AFB				
COMBAT RESCUE HELICOPTER (CRH) SIMULATOR.....	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,300
NEW YORK				
NAVY RESERVE				
BROOKLYN				
ELECTRIC FEEDER DUCTBANK.....	1,964	1,964	1,964	1,964
SYRACUSE				
MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTER.....	13,229	13,229	13,229	13,229
NORTH CAROLINA				
NAVY				
CAMP LEJEUNE				
RANGE FACILITIES SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS.....	18,482	18,482	18,482	18,482
CHERRY POINT MARINE CORPS AIR STATION				
CENTRAL HEATING PLANT CONVERSION.....	12,515	12,515	12,515	12,515
DEFENSE-WIDE				
CAMP LEJEUNE				
DENTAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT.....	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000
FORT BRAGG				
SOF COMBAT MEDIC TRAINING FACILITY.....	10,905	10,905	10,905	10,905

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
SOF PARACHUTE RIGGING FACILITY.....	21,420	21,420	21,420	21,420
SOF SPECIAL TACTICS FACILITY (PH3).....	30,670	30,670	30,670	30,670
SOF TACTICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE FACILITY.....	23,598	23,598	23,598	23,598
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
CHARLOTTE/DOUGLAS IAP				
C-17 CORROSION CONTROL/FUEL CELL HANGAR.....	29,600	29,600	29,600	29,600
C-17 TYPE III HYDRANT REFUELING SYSTEM.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
AIR FORCE RESERVE				
SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB				
KC-46A ADAL BLDG FOR AGE/FUSELAGE TRAINING.....	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700
KC-46A ADAL SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITIES.....	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250
KC-46A TWO BAY CORROSION/FUEL CELL HANGAR.....	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
OHIO				
AIR FORCE				
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB				
RELOCATED ENTRY CONTROL FACILITY 26A.....	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600
OKLAHOMA				
AIR FORCE				
ALTUS AFB				
KC-46A FTU/FTC SIMULATOR FACILITY PH 2.....	11,600	11,600	11,600	11,600
TINKER AFB				
KC-46A DEPOT SYSTEM INTEGRATION LABORATORY.....	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
ARDMORE				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
PENNSYLVANIA				
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
YORK				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	9,300	9,300	9,300	9,300
AIR FORCE RESERVE				
PITTSBURGH IAP				
C-17 ADAL FUEL HYDRANT SYSTEM.....	22,800	22,800	22,800	22,800
C-17 CONST/OVERLAY TAXIWAY AND APRON.....	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200
C-17 CONSTRUCT TWO BAY CORROSION/FUEL HANGAR.....	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000
RHODE ISLAND				
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
EAST GREENWICH				
NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE CENTER BUILDING (JFHQ).....	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
SOUTH CAROLINA				
NAVY				
BEAUFORT				
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	83,490	83,490	83,490	83,490
PARRIS ISLAND				
RECRUIT RECONDITIONING CENTER & BARRACKS.....	29,882	29,882	29,882	29,882
DEFENSE-WIDE				
JOINT BASE CHARLESTON				
CONSTRUCT HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM.....	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
MCENTIRE ANGCS				
REPLACE OPERATIONS AND TRAINING FACILITY.....	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400
TEXAS				
ARMY				
FORT HOOD				
AUTOMATED INFANTRY PLATOON BATTLE COURSE.....	7,600	7,600	7,600	7,600
AIR FORCE				
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO				
BMT RECRUIT DORMITORY 6.....	67,300	67,300	67,300	67,300

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
-----				
DEFENSE-WIDE				
RED RIVER ARMY DEPOT				
CONSTRUCT WAREHOUSE & OPEN STORAGE.....	44,700	44,700	44,700	44,700
SHEPPARD AFB				
MEDICAL/DENTAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT.....	91,910	91,910	91,910	91,910
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
ELLINGTON FIELD				
CONSOLIDATE CREW READINESS FACILITY.....	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
NAVY RESERVE				
GALVESTON				
RESERVE CENTER ANNEX.....	8,414	8,414	8,414	8,414
UTAH				
ARMY				
CAMP WILLIAMS				
LIVE FIRE EXERCISE SHOOTHOUSE.....	7,400	7,400	7,400	7,400
AIR FORCE				
HILL AFB				
649 MUNS MUNITIONS STORAGE MAGAZINES.....	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,600
649 MUNS PRECISION GUIDED MISSILE MX FACILITY.....	8,700	8,700	8,700	8,700
649 MUNS STAMP/MAINT & INSPECTION FACILITY.....	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
COMPOSITE AIRCRAFT ANTENNA CALIBRATION FAC.....	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,100
F-35A MUNITIONS MAINTENANCE COMPLEX.....	10,100	10,100	10,100	10,100
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
CAMP WILLIAMS				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	37,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
VERMONT				
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
BURLINGTON IAP				
F-35 BEDDOWN 4- BAY FLIGHT SIMULATOR.....	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
VIRGINIA				
ARMY				
FORT BELVOIR				
SECURE ADMIN/OPERATIONS FACILITY, INCR 2.....	64,000	64,000	64,000	64,000
AIR FORCE				
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS				
AIR FORCE TARGETING CENTER.....	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
FUEL SYSTEM MAINTENANCE DOCK.....	14,200	14,200	14,200	14,200
DEFENSE-WIDE				
PENTAGON				
PENTAGON METRO ENTRANCE FACILITY.....	12,111	12,111	---	12,111
UPGRADE IT FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE-RRMC.....	8,105	8,105	8,105	8,105
ARMY RESERVE				
DUBLIN				
ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE SHOP/AMSA.....	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
WASHINGTON				
NAVY				
BANGOR				
SERVICE PIER ELECTRICAL UPGRADES.....	18,939	18,939	18,939	18,939
SUBMARINE REFIT MAINT SUPPORT FACILITY.....	21,476	21,476	21,476	21,476
BREMERTON				
NUCLEAR REPAIR FACILITY.....	6,704	6,704	6,704	6,704
WHIDBEY ISLAND				
EA-18G MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	45,501	45,501	45,501	45,501
TRITON MISSION CONTROL FACILITY.....	30,475	30,475	30,475	30,475
AIR FORCE				
FAIRCHILD AFB				
PIPELINE DORM, USAF SERE SCHOOL (150 RM).....	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
-----				
WISCONSIN				
ARMY RESERVE				
FORT MCCOY				
AT/MOB DINING FACILITY.....	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400
WYOMING				
AIR FORCE				
F. E. WARREN AFB				
MISSILE TRANSFER FACILITY BLDG 4331.....	5,550	5,550	5,550	5,550
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
LARAMIE				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
AUSTRALIA				
AIR FORCE				
DARWIN				
APR - AIRCRAFT MX SUPPORT FACILITY.....	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
APR - EXPAND PARKING APRON.....	28,600	28,600	28,600	28,600
BULGARIA				
AIR FORCE				
GRAF IGNATIEVO				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS/OPERATION ALERT FACILITY.....	---	---	3,800	---
FIGHTER RAMP EXTENSION.....	---	---	7,000	---
UPGRADE MUNITIONS STORAGE.....	---	---	2,600	---
CUBA				
ARMY				
GUANTANAMO BAY				
MIGRATION COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS.....	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
DIEGO GARCIA				
DEFENSE-WIDE				
DIEGO GARCIA				
IMPROVE WHARF REFUELING CAPABILITY.....	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
DJIBOUTI				
NAVY				
CAMP LEMONNIER				
MEDICAL/DENTAL FACILITY.....	---	---	37,409	---
AIR FORCE				
CHABELLEY AIRFIELD				
ACCESS ROAD.....	---	---	3,600	---
PARKING APRON AND TAXIWAY.....	---	---	6,900	---
ESTONIA				
AIR FORCE				
AMARI AB				
BULK FUEL STORAGE.....	---	---	6,500	---
GERMANY				
ARMY				
EAST CAMP GRAFENWOEHR				
TRAINING SUPPORT CENTER.....	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
GARMISCH				
DINING FACILITY.....	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600
WIESBADEN ARMY AIRFIELD				
CONTROLLED HUMIDITY WAREHOUSE.....	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL STORAGE BUILDING.....	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
AIR FORCE				
RAMSTEIN AB				
37 AS SQUADRON OPERATIONS/AIRCRAFT MAINT UNIT.....	13,437	13,437	13,437	13,437
SPANGDAHLEM AB				
EIC - SITE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE.....	43,465	43,465	43,465	43,465

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
HIGH CAPACITY TRIM PAD AND HUSH HOUSE.....	---	---	1,000	---
F/A-22 LOW OBSERVABLE/COMPOSITE REPAIR FACILITY...	---	---	12,000	---
F/A-22 UPGRADE				
INFRASTRUCTURE/COMMUNICATIONS/UTILITIES.....	---	---	1,600	---
UPGRADE HARDENED AIRCRAFT SHELTERS FOR F/A-22.....	---	---	2,700	---
UPGRADE MUNITION STORAGE DOORS.....	---	---	1,400	---
DEFENSE-WIDE				
KAISERLAUTERN AB				
SEMBACH ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL REPLACEMENT.....	45,221	45,221	45,221	45,221
RHINE ORDNANCE BARRACKS				
MEDICAL CENTER REPLACEMENT INCR 6.....	58,063	58,063	58,063	58,063
GUAM				
NAVY				
JOINT REGION MARIANAS				
HARDENING OF GUAM POL INFRASTRUCTURE.....	26,975	26,975	26,975	26,975
POWER UPGRADE - HARMON.....	62,210	62,210	62,210	62,210
AIR FORCE				
JOINT REGION MARIANAS				
APR - MUNITIONS STORAGE IGLOOS, PH 2.....	35,300	35,300	35,300	35,300
APR - SATCOM C4I FACILITY.....	14,200	14,200	14,200	14,200
BLOCK 40 MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	31,158	31,158	31,158	31,158
ICELAND				
NAVY				
KEFLAVIK				
P-8A AIRCRAFT RINSE FACILITY.....	---	---	5,000	---
P-8A HANGAR UPGRADE.....	---	---	14,600	---
JAPAN				
NAVY				
KADENA AB				
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE COMPLEX.....	26,489	26,489	26,489	26,489
SASEBO				
SHORE POWER (JULIET PIER).....	16,420	16,420	16,420	16,420
AIR FORCE				
KADENA AB				
APR - REPLACE MUNITIONS STRUCTURES.....	19,815	19,815	19,815	19,815
YOKOTA AB				
C-130J CORROSION CONTROL HANGAR.....	23,777	23,777	23,777	23,777
CONSTRUCT COMBAT ARMS TRAINING & MAINT FAC.....	8,243	8,243	8,243	8,243
DEFENSE-WIDE				
IWAKUNI				
CONSTRUCT TRUCK OFFLOAD & LOADING FACILITIES.....	6,664	6,664	6,664	6,664
KADENA AB				
KADENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT.....	84,918	84,918	84,918	84,918
MEDICAL MATERIEL WAREHOUSE.....	20,881	20,881	20,881	20,881
SOF MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	42,823	42,823	42,823	42,823
SOF SIMULATOR FACILITY (MC-130).....	12,602	12,602	12,602	12,602
YOKOTA AB				
AIRFIELD APRON.....	41,294	41,294	41,294	41,294
HANGAR/AMU.....	39,466	39,466	39,466	39,466
OPERATIONS AND WAREHOUSE FACILITIES.....	26,710	26,710	26,710	26,710
SIMULATOR FACILITY.....	6,261	6,261	6,261	6,261
KWAJALEIN				
DEFENSE-WIDE				
KWAJALEIN ATOLL				
REPLACE FUEL STORAGE TANKS.....	85,500	85,500	85,500	85,500
LITHUANIA				
AIR FORCE				
SIAULIAI				
MUNITIONS STORAGE.....	---	---	3,000	---

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
-----				
MARIANA ISLANDS				
AIR FORCE				
UNSPECIFIED LOCATION				
APR - LAND ACQUISITION.....	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
POLAND				
AIR FORCE				
LASK AIR BASE				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	---	---	4,100	---
POWIDZ				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	---	---	4,100	---
ROMANIA				
AIR FORCE				
CAMP TURZII				
MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA.....	---	---	3,000	---
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	---	---	3,400	---
TWO-BAY HANGAR.....	---	---	6,100	---
EXTEND PARKING APRONS.....	---	---	6,000	---
SPAIN				
NAVY				
ROTA				
COMMUNICATION STATION.....	23,607	23,607	23,607	23,607
TURKEY				
AIR FORCE				
INCIRLIK AB				
AIRFIELD FIRE/CRASH RESCUE STATION.....	13,449	13,449	13,449	13,449
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES				
AIR FORCE				
AL DHAFRA				
LARGE AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	35,400	35,400	35,400	35,400
UNITED KINGDOM				
AIR FORCE				
CROUGHTON RAF				
JIAC CONSOLIDATION - PH 3.....	53,082	53,082	53,082	53,082
MAIN GATE COMPLEX.....	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
DEFENSE-WIDE				
CROUGHTON RAF				
CROUGHTON ELEM/MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL REPLACEMENT.....	71,424	71,424	71,424	71,424
ROYAL AIR FORCE LAKENHEATH				
CONSTRUCT HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM.....	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
WAKE ISLAND				
DEFENSE-WIDE				
WAKE ISLAND				
TEST SUPPORT FACILITY.....	11,670	11,670	11,670	11,670
VARIOUS WORLDWIDE LOCATIONS				
NAVY				
TRITON FORWARD OPERATING BASE HANGAR.....	41,380	41,380	41,380	41,380
NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM.....	177,932	177,932	177,932	177,932
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED				
ARMY				
HOST NATION SUPPORT.....	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	25,000	25,000	35,000	35,000
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	80,159	80,159	99,059	80,159

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
<hr/>				
NAVY				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	88,230	88,230	91,030	88,230
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	29,790	29,790	29,790	29,790
AIR FORCE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	84,862	84,862	94,802	84,862
PLANNING AND DESIGN - ANDREWS AFB.....	18,720	18,720	18,720	18,720
PLANNING AND DESIGN - HANSCOM AFB.....	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000
DEFENSE-WIDE				
CONTINGENCY CONSTRUCTION.....	10,000	---	---	---
ENERGY CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM.....	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
PLANNING AND DESIGN				
DEFENSE WIDE.....	23,450	22,649	23,450	23,450
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENT EDUCATION.....	23,585	23,585	23,585	23,585
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY.....	27,660	27,660	27,660	27,660
MDA.....	---	15,000	---	15,000
NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.....	71,647	36,000	71,647	36,000
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.....	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND.....	27,653	27,653	27,653	27,653
WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICE.....	3,427	3,427	3,427	3,427
SUBTOTAL, PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	776,183	744,735	817,823	765,536
UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION				
DEFENSE-WIDE.....	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENT EDUCATION.....	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.....	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.....	8,631	8,631	13,631	8,631
MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY.....	2,414	2,414	2,414	2,414
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.....	3,913	3,913	3,913	3,913
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND.....	5,994	5,994	5,994	5,994
SUBTOTAL, UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	35,452	35,452	40,452	35,452
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	8,729	8,729	8,729	8,729
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	12,001	12,001	12,001	12,001
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	10,462	10,462	10,462	10,462
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	17,495	17,495	17,495	17,495
ARMY RESERVE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	2,830	2,830	2,830	2,830
NAVY RESERVE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	3,783	3,783	3,783	3,783
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	---	---	---	---
AIR FORCE RESERVE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
FAMILY HOUSING, ARMY				
KOREA				
CAMP WALKER (DAEGU)				
FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION (90 UNITS).....	54,554	54,554	54,554	54,554
CAMP HUMPHRIES				
FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION (216 UNITS).....	143,563	143,563	143,563	100,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	2,618	2,618	2,618	2,618
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION.....	200,735	200,735	200,735	157,172
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE				
UTILITIES ACCOUNT.....	55,428	55,428	55,428	55,428
SERVICES ACCOUNT.....	7,993	7,993	7,993	7,993
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.....	40,344	40,344	40,344	40,344
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.....	400	400	400	400
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT.....	10,178	10,178	10,178	10,178
LEASING.....	131,761	131,761	131,761	131,761
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	60,745	60,745	60,745	60,745
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS.....	19,146	19,146	19,146	19,146
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	325,995	325,995	325,995	325,995
FAMILY HOUSING, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS				
GUAM				
NSA ANDERSON				
REPLACEMENT HOUSING PHASE I.....	78,815	78,815	78,815	78,815
JAPAN				
IWAKUNI				
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS (36 UNITS).....	11,047	11,047	11,047	11,047
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	4,149	4,149	4,149	4,149
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION.....	94,011	94,011	94,011	94,011
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE				
UTILITIES ACCOUNT.....	56,685	56,685	56,685	56,685
SERVICES ACCOUNT.....	12,855	12,855	12,855	12,855
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.....	51,291	51,291	51,291	51,291
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.....	364	364	364	364
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT.....	17,457	17,457	17,457	17,457
LEASING.....	54,689	54,689	54,689	54,689
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	81,254	81,254	81,254	81,254
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS.....	26,320	26,320	26,320	26,320
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	300,915	300,915	300,915	300,915
FAMILY HOUSING, AIR FORCE				
JAPAN				
KADENA (CAMP FOSTER)				
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS (NORTH TOWERS).....	52,307	52,307	52,307	52,307
KADENA				
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS (KADENA HEIGHTS).....	4,179	4,179	4,179	4,179
SPAIN				
MORON AB				
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS (UNITS 650 AND 658).....	498	498	498	498
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	4,368	4,368	4,368	4,368
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION.....	61,352	61,352	61,352	61,352
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE				
UTILITIES ACCOUNT.....	37,241	37,241	37,241	37,241
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.....	42,919	42,919	42,919	42,919
SERVICES ACCOUNT.....	13,026	13,026	13,026	13,026
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT.....	31,690	31,690	31,690	31,690
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.....	1,745	1,745	1,745	1,745

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
LEASING.....	20,530	20,530	20,530	20,530
MAINTENANCE.....	85,469	85,469	85,469	85,469
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS.....	41,809	41,809	41,809	41,809
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	274,429	274,429	274,429	274,429
FAMILY HOUSING, DEFENSE-WIDE				
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE				
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY				
UTILITIES.....	367	367	367	367
FURNISHINGS.....	399	399	399	399
LEASING.....	11,044	11,044	11,044	11,044
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	800	800	800	800
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY				
UTILITIES.....	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100
FURNISHINGS.....	500	500	500	500
LEASING.....	40,984	40,984	40,984	40,984
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY				
UTILITIES.....	174	174	174	174
FURNISHINGS.....	20	20	20	20
SERVICES.....	32	32	32	32
MANAGEMENT.....	388	388	388	388
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	349	349	349	349
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	59,157	59,157	59,157	59,157
DOD FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND.....	3,258	3,258	3,258	3,258
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT.....	205,237	230,237	205,237	240,237
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY (SEC. 125).....	---	40,500	40,500	40,500
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS (SEC. 125).....	---	293,600	143,000	227,099
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE (SEC. 125).....	---	26,000	195,465	149,500
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (SEC. 125).....	---	67,500	16,500	67,500
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE (SEC. 125).....	---	86,500	30,000	30,000
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (S. SEC. 125).....	---	---	64,364	---
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD (SEC. 125).....	---	---	11,000	11,000
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS (SEC. 126).....	---	---	---	89,400
FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY (S. SEC. 125).....	---	---	14,400	---
RESCISSIONS FROM PRIOR YEAR UNOBLIGATED BALANCES				
ARMY (SEC. 127).....	---	-25,000	-30,000	-29,602
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS (H. SEC. 126).....	---	-51,848	---	---
AIR FORCE (SEC. 127).....	---	---	-22,340	-51,460
DEFENSE-WIDE (SEC. 127).....	---	-37,377	-132,283	-141,600
DEFENSE-WIDE - PLANNING AND DESIGN (SEC. 127).....	---	---	---	-30,000
AIR NATIONAL GUARD.....	---	---	---	---
42 USC 3374 (SEC. 128).....	---	-25,000	---	-25,000
NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (SEC. 127).....	---	-30,000	-15,000	-30,000

## TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION—  
COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$90,119,449,000 for Compensation and Pensions in advance for fiscal year 2018. Of the amount provided, not more than \$17,224,000 is to be transferred to General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and Information Technology Systems for reimbursement of necessary expenses in implementing provisions of title 38.

## READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

The conference agreement provides \$13,708,648,000 for Readjustment Benefits in advance for fiscal year 2018.

## VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

The conference agreement provides \$107,899,000 for Veterans Insurance and Indemnities in advance for fiscal year 2018, as well as an additional \$16,605,000 for fiscal year 2017.

## VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

The conference agreement provides such sums as may be necessary for costs associated with direct and guaranteed loans for the Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund. The agreement limits obligations for direct loans to not more than \$500,000 and provides that \$198,856,000 shall be available for administrative expenses.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM  
ACCOUNT

The conference agreement provides \$36,000 for the cost of direct loans from the Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program Account, plus \$389,000 to be paid to the appropriation for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration. The agreement provides for a direct loan limitation of \$2,517,000.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN  
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The conference agreement provides \$1,163,000 for administrative expenses of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program Account.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS  
BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

The conference agreement provides \$2,856,160,000 for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration and makes available not to exceed 5 percent of this funding until the end of fiscal year 2018. The full request for the Veterans Benefits Management System is provided in the agreement, which includes \$37,356,000 from this account and \$143,000,000 from the Information Technology Systems account. The agreement also includes the full budget request of \$26,695,000 for the centralized mail initiative and \$152,924,000 for the Veterans Claim Intake Program (VCIP), which is \$10,000,000 above the request.

The placement of the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account in the bill has been moved from Departmental Administration to Veterans Benefits Administration to align the administrative expenses of VBA with its program activities.

*Disability claims backlog.*—The conferees commend the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on its efforts to reduce the disability claims backlog and increase the accuracy of claims decisions, and is committed to ensuring that VA maintains its goal of processing all claims within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy. The Committees are also committed to ensuring there is not a recurrence of any sizeable backlog or a reduction in accuracy and will continue to assert their

oversight by monitoring on a monthly and quarterly basis each regional office's timeliness and accuracy performance measures.

The conference agreement includes section 228 which requires VBA to submit a quarterly report with the following data from each VBA regional office: (1) the average time to complete a disability compensation claim; (2) the number of claims pending more than 125 days, disaggregated by initial and supplemental claims; (3) error rates; (4) the number of claims personnel; (5) any corrective action taken within the quarter to address poor performance; (6) training programs undertaken; (7) the number and results of Quality Review Team audits; (8) the number of claims completed by each regional office based on the regional office being the station of jurisdiction; and (9) the number of claims completed by each regional office based on the regional office being the station of origin.

*Regional office performance.*—The conferees have been disturbed by repeated reports of manipulation of records and benefit data at several VBA regional offices, as well as irregular personnel practices that have jeopardized sound management of the regional offices. The conferees urge VA to monitor regional office performance to make certain that personnel and claims management activities remain fully transparent and comply with overall VA regulations and handbooks.

*Equitable relief.*—The conferees urge the Secretary to continue to grant or extend equitable relief to eligible veterans initially deemed eligible in instances of administrative error.

*Service satisfaction rates among women veterans.*—The conferees direct VA to provide to the Committees not later than the beginning of fiscal year 2017 an analysis of trends and satisfaction rates among women veterans participating in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program to ensure these services are adapting to the changing demographics of veterans and the needs of women veterans with disabilities.

*Disability benefits questionnaires.*—The conferees expect VA to meet with Members of Congress to explain their plans to develop additional disability benefits questionnaires (DBQs) for chronic multi-system illnesses experienced by veterans for which DBQs do not exist. Moreover, the conferees urge the Department to make permanent the period for filing Gulf War presumptive claims under 38 CFR 3.317.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL  
SERVICES

The conference agreement provides \$44,886,554,000 in advance for fiscal year 2018 for Medical Services and makes \$1,400,000,000 of the advance available through fiscal year 2019. The agreement also provides \$1,078,993,000 for fiscal year 2017 in addition to the advance appropriation provided last year. The fiscal year 2018 advance funding for medical services is \$6,786,446,000 lower than the fiscal year 2017 advance because of Department projections that increased amounts of medical care will be provided through the Medical Community Care account.

Given that there may be significant unfunded liabilities created by the winding down of the Choice Act, the conference agreement includes bill language in section 232 permitting the transfer of funding from multiple VA appropriations accounts to Medical Services to address unfunded needs.

The conference agreement includes bill language requiring the Secretary to ensure that sufficient amounts are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans and to provide access to therapeutic listening devices to vet-

erans with mental health or substance abuse problems or traumatic brain injury.

*Curing Hepatitis C within the veteran population.*—The Department is to be commended for robustly treating veterans with Hepatitis C (HCV), which is a particular concern because the veteran population is twice as likely to have the virus as the general population. Available HCV drugs have a cure rate of 96 percent, and early, preventative treatments avoid tens of thousands of dollars in future healthcare spending. To that end, the agreement includes funding for the treatment of Hepatitis C of \$1,500,000,000 in fiscal year 2017, which is \$840,000,000 above the President's request. The conferees understand that because of an uneven start to the Hepatitis C campaign due to funding interruptions, VA projects there will be a carryover of fiscal year 2016 funding that will increase the resources available in fiscal year 2017. The conferees are pleased that recent price reductions in the new Hepatitis C drugs will allow VA to treat patients faster and reach their target goal of treating all veterans with Hepatitis C years earlier than projected.

The conferees encourage VA to work to remove any barriers to timely screening and treatment for veterans with Hepatitis C, including maximizing the use of rapid testing techniques. Rapid testing can be especially helpful in reaching veterans who are medically underserved or who live long distances from VA facilities.

To assist in congressional oversight, VA is directed to continue to report to the Committees in quarterly briefings the number of veterans treated to date, the number of veterans treated each week, the number of veterans pronounced cured to date, the projected number of new cases, and the estimate of veterans likely to be cured during the next quarter. VA is also directed to report quarterly to the Committees obligations for funding Hepatitis C treatments as part of the larger crosscutting VA quarterly financial report required in section 218.

*Program priorities.*—The conference agreement provides the following fiscal year 2017 funding for these high priority areas: \$243,483,000 for readjustment counseling at Vet Centers; \$535,400,000 for gender-specific healthcare, which is \$20,000,000 higher than the administration request; \$734,628,000 for the caregivers program, which is \$10,000,000 above the request; \$257,477,000 for the homeless grant and per diem program, which is \$10,000,000 above the request; and \$320,000,000 for the homeless supportive services for low income veterans and families, which is \$20,000,000 above the request.

*Rural healthcare.*—The conference agreement includes the full budget request of \$250,000,000 for the Office of Rural Health (ORH) and the Rural Health Initiative. In addition to any directives contained in the House and Senate reports, the conferees direct that ORH coordinate directly with the Readjustment Counseling Service to develop and implement a strategy to expand the capacity of Vet Centers in order to ensure that the readjustment and psychological counseling needs of veterans in rural and highly rural communities are met. The conferees also direct VA to identify ways to obtain more accurate data on homeless and at-risk veterans in rural areas, as instructed in the Senate report. The conference agreement includes a one-year extension through fiscal year 2017 of the Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH) program, which provides care to veterans in areas without extensive access to VA health facilities. This extension is necessary to maintain veterans' access to healthcare during the transition as VA moves to consolidate its non-VA healthcare programs. The conferees encourage VA to expand its use of telehealth for rural areas

since the technique has proven particularly helpful in mental health and primary care health delivery.

*Mental health.*—The conference agreement provides the full budget request for all VA mental health services and programs, with additional resources within Medical Services provided for the Veterans Crisis Line and the National Centers for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. The conference agreement includes \$40,000,000 for the National Centers and \$78,572,000 for the Veterans Crisis Line. Overall, the agreement includes \$173,005,000 for suicide prevention outreach. The conference agreement includes bill language in section 238 similar to that contained in the House bill that requires certain professional standards for the suicide hotline.

*Opioid safety.*—To respond to the urgency of the opioid overdose epidemic, the Department is directed to continue to comply with the guidance included in the fiscal year 2016 conference report under the paragraph “Opioid Safety.” VA is also directed to make public the findings of the Office of Accountability Review investigation into accusations of widespread retaliation against whistleblowers at the Tomah VA Medical Center as well as the outside clinical review. The Department is encouraged to utilize the full spectrum of treatment options for dealing with opioid addiction and expand the use of medication-assisted treatment and other clinically appropriate services to achieve and maintain abstinence from all opioids. The conferees believe it is important for the Department to report necessary information to State-run prescription drug monitoring programs as this will ensure VA providers have the tools they need to better identify at-risk veterans.

The conferees are aware that only 14 States require their physicians to take pain management education credits. The conferees urge VA to ensure that healthcare providers learn the latest pain management techniques, understand safe prescribing practices, and be able to spot the signs of potential substance use disorders. The conferees believe that comprehensive training in the proper use of pain management medications is a vital step in combating the opioid problem.

*Choice Program delays.*—VA data indicate that the number of veterans waiting more than 30 days for an appointment is actually higher now than when the Veterans Choice Program was initiated. The conferees are concerned that this well-intentioned program was cobbled together quickly given the time constraints, which has contributed to delays. Further, an often-cited problem with the Choice Program is the lack of clear communications regarding the eligibility requirements of the program to both veterans and non-VA providers. The conferees believe that understanding the obstacles to efficient scheduling of appointments of veterans and swift reimbursement for providers would serve as crucial first steps in resolving some of these issues. The conferees urge VA and its third party providers to address the delays and the communication errors plaguing implementation of the Choice Program.

*Nursing authority.*—The conferees recognize that VA has recently published a proposed rule indicating that it is considering the issue of granting full practice authority to some or all of the four advanced practice nursing disciplines. The proposed rule indicates that decision will be reflected in the final rule, after consideration of all the public comments received. In addition, the Under Secretary for Health has testified that he plans to consider as an important variable whether there are significant shortages of the affiliated physician specialties throughout the VA system, which would validate the

need for full practice authority for those advanced practice nurse specialties. The conferees urge VA to carefully and thoughtfully seek additional input from internal and external stakeholders prior to publishing the final rule. The conferees encourage VA to make all possible outreach efforts to communicate the changes contained in the proposed rule, gather public comments, and collaborate with Congress, affected stakeholders, VA physician and nursing staffs, and external organizations.

*National Veteran Sports Programs.*—The conference agreement includes \$9,005,000, which is the budget request for the Office of the National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events. The conferees concur with the movement of this office to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and the agreement includes necessary bill language in section 257 to permit VHA to carry out the Office’s activities.

*Patient consults.*—The conferees direct VA to report not later than 30 days after the beginning of fiscal year 2017 on specific quality controls that have been implemented to ensure that patient consults are handled in a timely manner.

*Collaboration with historically black health professions schools.*—As described in the House and Senate reports, the conferees urge VA to increase its collaboration with the larger, urban hospitals with historically black health professions schools. The Secretary is directed, as in previous conference reports, to convene a symposium where minority collaboration concerns are discussed and addressed.

*Leveraging private sector programs.*—The conferees encourage VA to integrate into VA settings private sector programs that adapt information technologies and data interoperability capabilities to better coordinate healthcare services for veterans, as described in the House report.

*Medical residency positions.*—The conferees note that, to date, the Department has not submitted to the Committees a report that was directed in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-113 detailing current coordination with the Direct Graduate Medical Education Program, limitations that may restrict VA’s program and ability to expand to underserved areas, and a plan to more effectively carry out VA’s graduate medical education program within constraints that exist in the Direct Graduate Medical Education program. The conferees understand that the Department is reviewing comments provided by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and direct VA to move as expeditiously as possible in its review and submit the report to the Committees. Further, the conferees direct that VA provide an update to the Committees not later than 15 days after enactment of this Act on the status of this report and a timeline for submission.

*Rehabilitation equipment.*—The conferees are aware that the Department currently purchases or reimburses veterans for recumbent bicycles or hand cycles used for rehabilitative purposes only and does not cover the cost of upright bicycles. Given the many veterans in physical or mental rehabilitation programs who are able to use upright bicycles, the conferees urge the Department to make upright bicycles eligible for reimbursement to qualifying veterans. In addition, the conferees direct the Department to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress (hereafter “the Committees”) a report not later than the beginning of fiscal year 2017 outlining the steps needed to be taken to make upright bicycles eligible for reimbursement.

#### MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

The conference agreement provides \$7,246,181,000 for Medical Community Care, the account created in the Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act to consolidate all the VA programs that provide care for veterans in the community from non-VA providers. Section 217 of the conference agreement rescinds an identical amount from the Medical Services account. The agreement also provides \$9,409,118,000 in advance fiscal year 2018 funding for this account. Of the fiscal year 2017 funding, \$2,000,000,000 is made available until the end of fiscal year 2020; of the fiscal year 2018 funding, \$1,500,000,000 is available until the end of fiscal year 2021.

*Extended availability of funding.*—The conferees are aware the Department books obligations for non-VA care upon a veteran receiving authorization to obtain medical care outside of the Veterans Health Administration and not upon that authorization actually being filled and the Department billed by the outside provider. Due to the timing of reconciliation between obligations, authorizations, and the number of those authorizations filled through private providers, this accounting procedure has led to the de-obligation of funds past the life of the budget authority, leading to the expiration of millions of dollars that could have been applied to veterans healthcare programs. Therefore, the conferees have provided flexibility to aid the Department in ensuring all appropriations within this account are able to be obligated before expiration. This extended availability within the new Medical Community Care account should allow VA time to correct this problem; however, the conferees also note this longer period of availability is a temporary solution and will not continue unaltered into the future. The Department is expected to work towards identifying changes in execution that will result in a permanent fix, including discussing with the Office of Management and Budget how best to define the point of obligation for these funds. The conferees expect the Department to keep the Committees apprised of its progress towards a permanent solution and request this issue be addressed within the fiscal year 2019 advance appropriations request for this account.

#### MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

The conference agreement provides \$6,654,480,000 in advance for fiscal year 2018 for Medical Support and Compliance and makes \$100,000,000 of the advance funding available through fiscal year 2019.

*Filling senior position vacancies.*—In order for VHA to improve access and increase efficiency within the system, it must fill the critical senior management and clinical vacancies. Therefore, the conferees direct that not less than \$21,000,000, as provided in the budget request, be used to hire medical center directors and employees for other management and clinical positions within the Veterans Health Administration.

*Requirements for the hiring of VA healthcare providers.*—The conferees are deeply troubled by recent reports concerning practicing VA providers whose credentials have not been verified or have been misrepresented, and who have previously entered into settlements or completed disciplinary actions in other States where they may hold a medical license. To protect our Nation’s veterans, the Department must do more to guarantee that VA providers are of the highest quality and are, at the very least, in good standing with each State medical board with which they hold licenses. The conferees believe VA should be in strict compliance with Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1100.19 and Directive 2012-030 which require the Department to obtain any and all information on

medical license violations from each State medical board where a provider holds or has ever held a license and whether the provider has entered into any settlement agreements with a board for disciplinary charges relating to medical practice. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees not later than 90 days after the beginning of fiscal year 2017 providing an analysis and an assessment of VA field compliance with Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1100.19 and Directive 2012-030.

*Transmission of VA healthcare providers' information to State medical boards.*—Under current VA policy outlined in Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1100.18, in each instance in which a licensed healthcare professional whose behavior or clinical practice so substantially fails to meet generally-accepted standards of clinical practice as to raise reasonable concern for the safety of patients, the Department is required to provide a report to each State licensure board (SLB) where the professional holds a license.

The conferees are aware, however, that such reports sent to SLBs are typically limited to a generic description of the clinical shortcomings involved, and if the SLB wants more details of the situation it must respond to the report with a formal request for more information. The conferees note SLBs and the Federation of State Medical Boards find it extremely difficult to gain useful information even if they follow VA's exact procedures.

It is critical for VA to improve communication with SLBs and improve transparency surrounding medical practice violations. VA is urged to send promptly to each SLB where a provider holds a license and the SLB in the State where the provider practices, the full information concerning any violations during the provider's practice at VA.

While VA providers do not need to hold a license in the same State where the medical facility resides, the conferees believe such State's medical board should, nonetheless, have access to information about a clinical violation committed at a facility in their State to ensure the board can adequately fulfill its obligation to uphold safe medical practice. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees not later than 90 days after the beginning of fiscal year 2017 providing an assessment of VA field compliance with Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1100.18 and its ability to provide full reporting to SLBs in instances where licensed healthcare professionals' behavior or clinical practice so substantially failed to meet generally-accepted standards of clinical practice that it needed to be reported in compliance with Handbook 1100.18.

*Non-VA care provider reviews.*—As the Department continues to increase the scope and size of its non-VA care programs, it is imperative that VA develop policies that ensure that a healthcare provider removed from employment with the Veterans Health Administration due to substandard care, professional misconduct, or violation of the requirements of his or her medical license does not subsequently reemerge as a contracted healthcare provider in the community care programs, including the Choice Program. Therefore, the conferees direct the Department to submit to the Committees not later than the beginning of fiscal year 2017 the current VHA policy on entering into contractual agreements with private providers, either directly or through a third-party administrator, and the provisions of that policy which detail how VA ensures that no healthcare providers removed for misconduct subsequently become providers through the VA's community care programs. In addition, the Department is directed to include, with

the policy, what enforcement mechanisms are currently in place as a safeguard and any legislative authorities needed to ensure that veterans receive the highest quality of care from healthcare providers on contract to VA.

#### MEDICAL FACILITIES

The conference agreement provides \$5,434,880,000 in advance for fiscal year 2018 for Medical Facilities, as well as \$247,668,000 in fiscal year 2017 funding, which is in addition to the advance funding provided last year. Of the advance funding, \$250,000,000 is made available through fiscal year 2019.

*Medical facility inspections for food service and environmental quality.*—The conferees are disturbed by reports of sanitation and insect infestation problems at food service areas and kitchens at VA healthcare facilities, despite existing internal requirements for periodic inspections. In addition, health-threatening mold has been found in some VA facilities, as documented by the VA Inspector General. The conference agreement includes bill language in sections 251 and 252 requiring VA to contract with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations to conduct annual inspections of healthcare facility food service areas, with remediation and re-inspection required. Section 252 includes the requirement for the Joint Commission to conduct similar periodic reviews to inspect mold issues in VA medical facilities.

*Improved community-based outpatient clinics (CBOC) capabilities.*—The conferees are concerned that VA needs to improve its planning and contracting practices to allow for future expansion needs of CBOCs. In the case of the recently approved Rochester, New York CBOC (Phase I), the conferees have been informed that options to expand for potential future growth could not be included in the original lease contract, warranting procurement of a second facility. The conferees urge the Department to consider economic benefits when considering locations. Furthermore, the Department is directed to provide a report to the Committees not later than the beginning of fiscal year 2017 addressing the rationale as to why such flexibility cannot be included in lease contracts and identify any barriers, including necessary statutory changes, to ensure such options for flexibility are included in future lease contracts.

*Green energy management program.*—Given congressional concern with some prior wind energy projects, the conferees believe that the Committees need a clearer budget presentation of all green energy projects—wind, solar, geothermal, etc.—proposed to be funded in the fiscal year 2018 budget. Because green energy management funding was used to backfill shortfalls in the Denver hospital construction project, the Committees have difficulty discerning the strategic funding plans that remain for VA green energy management.

*Budget presentation.*—The conferees have found the current budget presentation for Medical Facilities distressingly difficult to interpret. The conferees direct VA in the fiscal year 2018 budget submission and in future years to include a list of the projects that are funded in the request, with the project's Strategic Capital Investment Priorities score identified. Recognizing that the list of funded projects may change during the course of the year, VA is directed to provide quarterly updates to the Committees that identify any changes to the list provided in the budget.

#### MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

The conference agreement provides \$675,366,000 for Medical and Prosthetic Research, available until September 30, 2018. Bill language is included to ensure that the

Secretary allocates adequate funding for research on gender-appropriate prosthetics and toxic exposures.

*Gulf War symptoms study.*—The conferees are aware that on March 23, 2015, VA contracted with the Institute of Medicine to fulfill the mandated Gulf War and post-9/11 veterans report as required by Public Law 110-389 and that VA is now in receipt of the report. The conferees direct the Department to review the report in an expeditious manner and transmit it to the appropriate congressional committees of jurisdiction not later than 60 days after the beginning of fiscal year 2017.

*New research areas.*—As indicated in the House report, the conferees encourage VA to create a Center of Innovation for research support and use as candidates for initial research hyperbaric oxygen therapy and magnetic EEG/EKG-guided resonance therapy.

*Study on toxic exposures.*—The conferees are aware the Department is finalizing a contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to assess the current research available on possible generational health effects that may be the result of toxic exposures experienced by veterans. The conferees are aware NASEM will also assess areas requiring further scientific study on the descendants of veterans with toxic exposures. In addition, NASEM will further assess the scope and methodology required to conduct research on such descendants to identify current or possible health effects in the veterans' descendants. The study will be similar to what is directed in the Senate report. The Committees have been provided a detailed list of the scope of the study and are aware the contract is to be awarded in fiscal year 2017. The conferees intend to monitor the award of this contract closely and expect the Department to finalize the award, as summarized above and presented to the Committees.

#### NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

The conference agreement provides \$286,193,000 for the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). Of the amount provided, not to exceed 10 percent is available until September 30, 2018.

*Rural veterans burial initiative.*—The Department is directed to submit to the Committees not later than the beginning of fiscal year 2017 a report detailing the progress to date of the Rural Veterans Burial Initiative and the expected timeline for completion of such initiative.

#### DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

##### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$345,391,000 for General Administration. Of the amount provided, not to exceed 5 percent is available for obligation until September 30, 2018. The agreement continues to include bill language in section 233 permitting the transfer of funds from this account to General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration.

The conference agreement provides \$10,545,000 for the Office of the Secretary. The recommendation fully supports and provides the requested amounts in fiscal year 2017 for the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Center for Minority Veterans, the Center for Women Veterans, and the Office of Survivors Assistance. The Office of Government Relations is funded at \$9,146,000, to include not more than \$5,900,000 for functions previously conducted by the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.

Within the amounts made available for General Administration, not less than an additional \$1,500,000 shall be specifically reserved for the hiring of Veterans Integrated

Service Network (VISN) directors; these amounts shall supplement and not supplant amounts included in the budget request for the hiring of VISN directors. Savings below the requested level for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs function and the immediate Office of the Secretary have been repurposed for this initiative, consistent with direction in the Senate report.

*Improving the veterans' experience at VA.*—The conferees note the Secretary is undertaking a major effort to better understand the myriad of ways veterans and eligible dependents interact with VA and then to measurably improve the veterans experience at the point of service delivery. The current customer experience when interacting with the Department is disjointed, inconsistent, and all too often frustrating for the veteran. For example, the VA has over 500 veteran-facing websites and almost a thousand 1–800 numbers for veterans to contact VA. To make matters worse, there is no consistent, VA-wide performance standard for the many call centers VA operates. In addition, the current process for training and integrating staff at VA is sorely lacking and not on par with commercial equivalents, particularly when it comes to front-line staff who directly interface with veterans. Also, many of VA's business processes (for example, compensation and pension exams) are built to be internal-facing instead of built to put the veteran at the center of the process. The sum of all these limitations has a direct impact on veterans. For example, only 47 percent of veterans surveyed marked “strongly agree or agree” with this statement: “I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to veterans.” The conferees believe VA can and should redesign, measure, and improve the way VA provides services to veterans nationwide, and note with interest the recent efforts by the Secretary to do that. The conferees are interested in the metrics and data the Department has promised it can provide that will show an increase in veteran satisfaction resulting from the efforts the Secretary's office has put into place over the past year intending to improve the veteran experience. The Department is directed to report quarterly to the Committees metrics and data that show improvement in customer satisfaction, the veterans experience, and employee training. The conferees did not provide a direct appropriation for this effort in fiscal year 2017; however, the Department is able and expected to continue improving the veterans experience.

*Financial management system.*—The conference agreement includes \$8,000,000 in this account as well as \$44,300,000 in the Information Technology Systems account for development of a new financial management system. The Department has dithered for years in replacing its antiquated legacy system and suffered the consequences of a near meltdown in the hospital system in 2015 when obligations could not be correctly reported. The conferees urge VA to make a decision in fiscal year 2016 to replace its inadequate system with a 21st century product so that the Committees can rely on financial information from VA and VA can manage its obligations.

*VA Patient Protection Act of 2016.*—The conferees remain concerned about reports of retaliation against whistleblowers within the Department across the Nation. VA has promised to foster a culture of openness by encouraging employees to report cases of wrongdoing, yet there continue to be reports that after bringing to light cases of wrongdoing, the whistleblowers become subjects of retaliation. The conferees note VA must create an environment that allows employees to openly and safely advocate on behalf of veterans, consistent with direction in the Sen-

ate report. The conference agreement includes bill language in section 247 that comprehensively addresses the creation of a formal process for whistleblowers to file disclosures when operations within the Department fail to meet the high standards of care and service veterans deserve. Section 247 establishes a Central Whistleblower Office designed as an independent investigatory body to process VA employee complaints, which will ensure whistleblower disclosures receive the prompt, impartial attention deserved. Section 247 defines what actions constitute prohibited retaliation against whistleblowers, sets forth a process under which supervisors will be punished for handling disclosures inappropriately, and requires VA supervisors to be evaluated on their handling of whistleblower complaints. Further, section 247 requires the Department to report annually to the Committees on the number of whistleblower complaints received and their outcomes and to provide the results of Office of Special Counsel investigations related to whistleblower complaints.

*Quarterly reporting.*—In section 218 of the conference agreement, the conferees continue to direct VA to provide on a quarterly basis, not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter, a quarterly financial status report that includes, at a minimum, the information identified in this paragraph. Such information shall include:

1. VHA obligations and collections for the four Medical Care accounts, Nonrecurring Maintenance (as a non-add), Medical Research, the VA-DOD Facility Demonstration Fund, and Medical Care Collections Fund (MCCF) collections—actual to date versus plan;
2. Updated ‘VA Medical Care Obligations by Program’ chart displayed in the fiscal year 2017 budget justification;
3. Choice Act obligations for sections 801 and 802—actual to date versus plan;
4. Hepatitis C obligations, amounts funded through appropriations versus Choice Act, both sources actual to date versus plan;
5. Cumulative tracking of all transfers made under any authority, including each transfer within the Medical Care appropriations accounts;
6. General Administration obligations—personal services versus all other—actual to date versus plan;
7. Board of Veterans Appeals obligations—personal services versus all other—actual to date versus plan;
8. VBA, GOE obligations—personal services versus all other—actual to date versus plan;
9. Compensation and Pensions, Readjustment Benefits, and Veterans Insurance and Indemnities—obligations year-to-date versus plan;
10. NCA obligations—personal services versus all other—actual to date versus plan;
11. Information Technology Systems obligations—personal services versus all other—actual to date versus plan;
12. Major and Minor Construction obligations—actual to date versus plan;
13. Obligations to date for each Major Construction project, broken into design versus construction; and
14. Status of VA full-time equivalent employment—by Administration/IT and revolving funds—by quarter, actual versus plan.

#### BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

The conference agreement provides \$156,096,000 for the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018. Bill language is included in section 233 permitting VA to transfer funding between this account and the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account if needed to align funding with the ap-

propriate account to hire staff to address the appeals backlog.

The conference agreement provides the full budget request in recognition of the growing backlog in resolving appeals. However, the conferees are skeptical that, without the necessary legislative changes proposed by the Administration, VA will be able to make a significant dent in the backlog. As one step, the conferees urge the Board to hire additional BVA board members.

*Legal assistance.*—The conferees request the Board to provide a report not later than 90 days after the beginning of fiscal year 2017 about the possible need for legal assistance by veterans who are appealing their ruling from the Veterans Benefits Administration. The report should include information about: (1) the percentage of appellants who receive free legal counsel from veterans service organizations or others versus those who represent themselves or have paid legal counsel; (2) the Board's estimate of unmet legal need among appellants; (3) possible mechanisms to provide free legal assistance to veterans who do not have and are unable to afford legal assistance; and (4) the legal assistance program provided through the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and whether such a program would be appropriate for the Board, including a description of program structure and cost.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$4,278,259,000 for Information Technology (IT) Systems. The agreement identifies separately in bill language the funding available for pay (\$1,272,548,000); operations and maintenance (\$2,534,442,000); and systems development, modernization, and enhancement (\$41,269,000). The agreement makes \$37,100,000 of pay funding available until the end of fiscal year 2018; \$180,200,000 of operations and maintenance funding available until the end of fiscal year 2018; and all IT systems development, modernization and enhancement funding available until the end of fiscal year 2018.

The conference agreement includes \$259,874,000 for VistA Evolution, the modernization of the interoperable electronic health record (EHR) or any successor program; \$143,000,000 in information technology funding for the Veterans Benefits Management System which processes disability claims; \$19,100,000 for the claims appeals modernization effort; \$20,000,000 for Section 508 compliance efforts; \$44,300,000 for development of a new VA financial management system; and \$370,067,000 for the VA information security program, including \$125,000,000 for the Cybersecurity Strategy Implementation program.

As with the fiscal year 2013–2016 appropriations Acts, the fiscal year 2017 agreement includes a prohibition on obligation or expenditure of more than 25 percent of fiscal year 2017 funds provided for development, modernization, and enhancement of the VistA Evolution EHR or a successor program until the Department meets reporting and accountability requirements contained in the conference bill language.

The conference agreement includes language prohibiting the obligation of IT development, modernization, and enhancement funding until VA submits a certification of the amounts to be obligated, in part or in full, for each development project.

The conference agreement includes language permitting funding to be transferred among the three IT subaccounts, subject to approval from the Committees.

The conference agreement includes language providing that funding may be transferred among development projects or to new

projects subject to the Committees' approval.

The conference agreement provides funding for IT development, modernization, and enhancement for the projects and in the amounts specified in the following table:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS  
(in thousands of dollars)

Project	Conference
Electronic Health Record Interoperability/VLER Health ...	17,322
Vista Evolution or successor EHR program .....	63,339
Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) .....	85,288
Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) .....	17,857
Veteran Customer Experience .....	73,624
VHA Research IT Support Development .....	15,066
Other IT Systems Development .....	198,773
<b>Total, All Development .....</b>	<b>\$471,269</b>

This table is intended to serve as the Department's approved list of development projects; any requested changes are subject to reprogramming requirements.

**Appointment scheduling.**—For more than a decade, VA has spent millions in an attempt to replace its antiquated scheduling system. VA has begun to fix some of the worst problems in the system with its rollout of VistA Scheduling Enhancement (VSE). But further efforts to modernize scheduling have been put on hold until VA makes a decision about what direction to take with modernizing the electronic health record. The conferees understand the need to align the two systems, but are distressed about the further delays in the implementation of both. The conferees expect that VA will finalize its strategic approach for both the electronic health record and scheduling before the end of fiscal year 2016.

**Expenditure plan.**—The conference agreement directs the Department to continue to provide an IT expenditure plan to the Committees not later than the start of fiscal year 2017, as indicated in both the House and Senate reports. This plan should be in the same format as the table above.

**Periodic briefings.**—The conferees continue to require VA to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees regarding schedule, milestones, and obligations for VistA Evolution or any successor program. The conferees also require quarterly briefings from the DOD/VA Interagency Program Office on the EHR interoperability project.

**Data matching with the Department of Education.**—The conferees urge VA to establish a matching program with the Department of Education to identify veterans who are unemployable due to a service-connected disability. Under current law, veterans who have been determined by VA to be unemployable due to a service-connected disability are also eligible for student loan forgiveness. However, given the complexity of the loan discharge process and the seeming lack of communication between the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Education, disabled veterans would stand to benefit from greater coordination between the two Departments.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The conference agreement provides \$160,106,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Of the amount provided, not to exceed 10 percent is available for obligation until September 30, 2018. The conference agreement directs that the OIG should post publicly any report or audit not later than 3 days after it is submitted to the Secretary in final form.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

The conference agreement provides \$528,110,000 for Construction, Major Projects, which is the same as the budget request. The agreement makes this funding available for five years, except that \$50,000,000 is made available until expended.

**Outside project management.**—To ensure the Department will never again mishandle public funds on a construction project in the manner and to the degree the Denver VA Medical Center in Aurora, CO, was mismanaged, the conference agreement directs that \$222,620,000 for Veterans Health Administration major construction projects shall not be available until the Department enters into an agreement with a non-Department of Veterans Affairs Federal entity to serve as the design and/or construction agent for each major construction project with a total estimated cost of \$100,000,000 or above. The conference agreement makes the funding available for obligation for each project only after VA certifies that the agreement with the non-Department Federal entity is in effect for that project. The two VHA projects affected by the fencing provision are in Reno, Nevada, and Long Beach, California. The requirement to contract with an outside agent for major construction projects was also mandated in Section 502 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-58), enacted on September 30, 2015. The law contemplates that the non-Department Federal entity will provide management over all or part of the project design, acquisition, construction, and appropriate contract changes, and the Department will reimburse the entity for all appropriate costs associated with the provision of such services.

The conference agreement funds the following items as requested in the budget submission:

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS  
(in thousands of dollars)

Location and description	Conference Agreement
<b>Veterans Health Admin. (VHA):</b>	
Long Beach, CA, seismic corrections for mental health and community living center .....	\$30,200
Reno, NV, upgrade seismic, life safety, utilities, and expand clinical services .....	192,420
Advance Planning and Design Fund—various locations .....	65,000
Major Construction staff—various locations .....	24,000
Claims Analysis—various locations .....	5,000
Hazardous Waste—various locations .....	10,000
Judgment Fund—various locations .....	9,000
Non-Dept. Fed. Entity Project Management Support .....	49,490
<b>Total VHA .....</b>	<b>385,110</b>
<b>National Cemetery Admin. (NCA):</b>	
Elmira, NY—new national cemetery—Western NY .....	36,000
Las Animas, CO—new national cemetery—South- ern CO .....	36,000
Jacksonville, FL—gravesite expansion .....	24,000
South Florida, FL—gravesite expansion .....	31,000
Advance Planning and Design Fund—various loca- tions .....	10,000
<b>Total NCA .....</b>	<b>137,000</b>
<b>General Admin.:</b>	
Staff Offices Advance Planning Fund .....	6,000
<b>Major Construction total .....</b>	<b>\$528,110</b>

**Major construction budget justification docu- ments.**—The conferees reiterate their concerns regarding the budget justifications submitted for projects funded in this account. The congressional budget justifica- tion materials that accompany the Presi- dent's Budget require a greater level of detail to enhance oversight of the Depart- ment's major construction projects. There- fore, the conference agreement includes a new administrative provision section 258, requiring the Department to submit enhanced budget justification documents for projects for which funds are requested. Pursuant to section 258, such justifications shall include, at a minimum, the following elements for all major construction projects:

1. Project description, to include phases (if applicable) delineated by fiscal year, and funding for each phase by fiscal year, and a detailed description of what that funding procures;
2. Project justification and analysis of ben- efits;

3. A comparison of budget authority with the prior year's President's Budget for budg- et authority already received and needed in future years;

4. A justification of any cost, schedule, or design change from prior years;

5. Total estimated cost with a detailed breakout by design, construction (differen- tiated by primary and support facilities), and operating costs;

6. A complete project schedule to include dates indicating design start, 35 percent design completion, award of construction docu- ments, design completion, award of construc- tion contract, and estimated construction completion;

7. Design contract type;

8. An analysis of alternatives with associat- ed costs;

9. Demographic data; and

10. Workload data.

The Department is directed to submit this information in a format resembling the De- partment of Defense form 1391 (DD 1391). In addition, language is included requiring the Department to submit a proposed budget jus- tification template that complies with this requirement to the Committees within 45 days of enactment of this Act.

**Alternative sources of construction funding.**— The conferees are aware of the budget chal- lenges with new facility construction at VA. The conferees are pleased that VA has begun to work with the private sector in developing public- private partnerships (P3). P3 projects take advantage of readily available private sector investment capital, expertise, and en- trepreneurial discipline. Where private sec- tor financing has already been identified, and where practical, the conferees urge VA to use a P3 model on future VA construction projects.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

The conference agreement provides \$372,069,000 for Construction, Minor Projects. The agreement makes this funding available for five years. Included within the total is \$285,000,000 for the Veterans Health Adminis- tration; \$56,890,000 for the National Cemetery Administration; \$20,000,000 for the Veterans Benefits Administration; and \$10,179,000 for General Administration—Staff Offices.

**Expenditure Plan.**—The conference agree- ment includes a directive for the Depart- ment to provide an expenditure plan not later than 30 days after the beginning of the fiscal year, as provided in the Senate report. This expenditure plan shall include a com- plete list of minor construction projects to be supported with the fiscal year 2017 appro- priation. The plan shall be updated six months and twelve months after enactment.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

The conference agreement provides \$90,000,000 for Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

The conference agreement provides \$45,000,000 for Grants for Construction of Veter- ans Cemeteries, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes section 201 allowing for transfer of funds among the three mandatory accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 202 allowing for the transfer of funds among the four medical accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 203 allowing salaries and expenses funds to be used for related authorized purposes.

The conference agreement includes section 204 restricting the accounts that may be used for the acquisition of land or the construction of any new hospital or home.

The conference agreement includes section 205 limiting the use of funds in the Medical Services account only for entitled beneficiaries unless reimbursement is made to the Department.

The conference agreement includes section 206 allowing for the use of certain mandatory appropriations accounts for payment of prior year accrued obligations for those accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 207 allowing the use of appropriations available in this title to pay prior year obligations.

The conference agreement includes section 208 allowing the Department to use surplus earnings from the National Service Life Insurance Fund, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund to administer these programs.

The conference agreement includes section 209 allowing the Department to cover the administrative expenses of enhanced-use leases and provides authority to obligate these reimbursements in the year in which the proceeds are received.

The conference agreement includes section 210 limiting the amount of reimbursement the Office of Resolution Management and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication can charge other offices of the Department for services provided.

The conference agreement includes section 211 requiring the Department to collect third-party payer information for persons treated for a non-service-connected disability.

The conference agreement includes section 212 allowing for the use of enhanced-use leasing revenues for Construction, Major Projects and Construction, Minor Projects.

The conference agreement includes section 213 outlining authorized uses for Medical Services funds.

The conference agreement includes section 214 allowing for funds deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund to be transferred to the Medical Services and Medical Community Care accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 215 which allows Alaskan veterans to use medical facilities of the Indian Health Service or tribal organizations.

The conference agreement includes section 216 permitting the transfer of funds from the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund to the Construction, Major Projects and Construction, Minor Projects accounts and makes those funds available until expended.

The conference agreement includes section 217 rescinding \$7,246,181,000 of fiscal year 2017 Medical Services funds that were provided in advance. This funding is now provided through the Medical Community Care account.

The conference agreement includes section 218 requiring the Secretary to submit financial status quarterly reports for each of the Administrations in the Department. The specific data requested is similar to that requested in the fiscal year 2016 conference report.

The conference agreement includes section 219 requiring the Department to notify and receive approval from the Committees of any proposed transfer of funding to or from the Information Technology Systems account and limits the aggregate annual increase in the account to no more than 10 percent of the funding appropriated to the account in this Act.

The conference agreement includes section 220 prohibiting any funds from being used in

a manner that is inconsistent with statutory limitations on outsourcing.

The conference agreement includes section 221 providing up to \$274,731,000 of fiscal year 2017 funds for transfer to the Joint DOD-VA Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

The conference agreement includes section 222 which permits up to \$280,802,000 of fiscal year 2018 medical care funding provided in advance to be transferred to the Joint DOD-VA Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

The conference agreement includes section 223 which authorizes transfers from the Medical Care Collections Fund to the Joint DOD-VA Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

The conference agreement includes section 224 which transfers at least \$15,000,000 from VA medical accounts to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.

The conference agreement includes section 225 prohibiting funds available to the Department in this or any other Act from being used to replace the current system by which VISNs select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

The conference agreement includes section 226 requiring that the Department notify the Committees of bid savings in a major construction project of at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent, whichever is less, 14 days prior to the obligation of the bid savings and their anticipated use.

The conference agreement includes section 227 which prohibits VA from increasing the scope of work for a major construction project above the scope specified in the original budget request unless the Secretary receives approval from the Committees.

The conference agreement includes section 228 requiring a quarterly report from each VBA regional office on pending disability claims, both initial and supplemental; error rates; the number of claims processing personnel; corrective actions taken; training programs; and review team audit results.

The conference agreement includes section 229 limiting the funding from the Medical Services and Medical Support and Compliance accounts for the electronic health record and electronic health record interoperability projects.

The conference agreement includes section 230 requiring VA to notify the Committees 15 days prior to any staff office relocations within VA of 25 or more FTE.

The conference agreement includes section 231 requiring the Secretary to report to the Committees each quarter about any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign exceeding \$2,000,000.

The conference agreement includes section 232 permitting the transfer to the Medical Services account of fiscal year discretionary 2017 funds appropriated in this Act or available from advance fiscal year 2017 funds already appropriated, except for funds appropriated to General Operating Expenses, VBA, to address possible unmet, high priority needs in Medical Services. Such unanticipated demands may result from circumstances such as a greater than projected number of enrollees or higher intensity of use of benefits. Any such transfer requires the approval of the Committees.

The conference agreement includes section 233 permitting the transfer of funding between the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account and the Board of Veterans Appeals account if necessary to permit the hiring of staffing at the appropriate stage of the appeals process to address mounting claims appeals workload. Any such transfer requires the approval of the Committees.

The conference agreement includes section 234 prohibiting the Secretary from reprogramming funds in excess of \$5,000,000 among major construction projects or pro-

grams unless the reprogramming is approved by the Committees.

The conference agreement includes section 235 rescinding \$40,000,000 in unobligated balances in the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.

The conference agreement includes sections 236 and 237 making general rescissions of \$169,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 advance appropriations and reductions of \$23,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 current funded appropriations.

The conference agreement includes section 238 mandating certain professional standards for the veterans crisis hotline.

The conference agreement includes section 239 pertaining to certification of marriage and family therapists.

The conference agreement includes section 240 restricting funds from being used to close certain medical facilities in the absence of a national realignment strategy.

The conference agreement includes section 241 which prohibits funds from being used to transfer funding from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other VA account.

The conference agreement includes section 242 which provides an extension through fiscal year 2017 of the Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH) program.

The conference agreement includes section 243 which ends a co-payment requirement for opioid antagonists and supports education on the use of opioid antagonists.

The conference agreement includes section 244 requiring the VA Inspector General to make public all work products.

The conference agreement includes section 245 permitting funding to be used in fiscal years 2017 and 2018 to carry out and expand the child care pilot program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111-163.

The conference agreement includes section 246 making mandatory the reporting to State prescription drug monitoring programs.

The conference agreement includes section 247 which includes the text of the VA Patient Protection Act of 2016 addressing protections for VA whistleblowers.

The conference agreement includes section 248 identifying information which may be used to verify the status of coastwise merchant seamen who served during World War II for the purposes of eligibility for medals, ribbons, or other military decorations.

The conference agreement includes section 249 providing monthly assistance allowances for disabled veterans competing on United States Olympic teams.

The conference agreement includes section 250 which provides coverage under the VA beneficiary travel program for certain types of special disabilities rehabilitation.

The conference agreement includes section 251 which requires VA to conduct annual inspections of kitchens and food service areas of each medical facility, through the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations, with required remediation if necessary.

The conference agreement includes section 252 which requires VA to conduct periodic inspections of mold issues at VA medical facilities through the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations, along with required remediation if necessary.

The conference agreement includes section 253 reinstating the requirement for a report on the capacity of VA to provide for specialized treatment and rehabilitative needs of disabled veterans.

The conference agreement includes section 254 permitting the Secretary to use appropriated funds to ensure particular ratios of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any VA program of rehabilitation.

The conference agreement includes section 255 indicating that no funds available in the Act may be used to deny the Inspector General timely access to Department records and documents over which the Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978.

The conference agreement includes section 256 forbidding funds to be used to enter into a settlement that would restrict an individual's freedom to speak to Members of Congress or their staff.

The conference agreement includes section 257 providing authority for the Veterans Health Administration to administer the National Veterans Sports Program.

The conference agreement includes section 258 requiring certain data to be included in budget justifications for Major Construction projects.

The conference agreement includes section 259 which authorizes 8 VA major construction projects that were funded in fiscal year 2016.

The conference agreement includes section 260 allowing the use of Medical Services funding for fertility treatment and adoption reimbursement for veterans and their spouses if the veteran has a service-connected disability that results in being unable to procreate without such fertility treatment.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and publish implementing guidance within 120 days of enactment of this Act. The implementing guidance developed by the Secretary shall not be materially different from, and in no way more expansive than, the implementing guidance promulgated by the Department of Defense in the April 3, 2012 memorandum from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) entitled "Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members".

#### TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES

##### AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$75,100,000 for Salaries and Expenses of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), as requested.

The conferees appreciate and support the meaningful work of the ABMC to preserve commemorative and historical sites and to educate the public about the United States Armed Forces. The conferees further recognize the critical role that African Americans and other minorities played during World War II. The conferees urge the ABMC to partner with Department of Defense historians to ensure that these servicemembers and support staff are properly recognized at ABMC sites. Further, the conferees direct the ABMC to appropriately incorporate the contributions of African Americans and other minorities into ABMC's interpretive exhibits and on the ABMC website.

##### FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

The conference agreement includes such sums as necessary for the Foreign Currency

Fluctuations Account. However, due to favorable exchange rates, no funds are expected to be required in fiscal year 2017.

##### UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$30,945,000 for Salaries and Expenses for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, as requested.

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$70,800,000 for Cemeterial Expenses, Army—Salaries and Expenses, as requested. Within that amount, up to \$15,000,000 in funding is available until September 30, 2019.

##### ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME TRUST FUND

The conference agreement includes a total of \$64,300,000 for the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH), as requested, but does not provide the funds in the manner requested. The agreement does not include the indefinite transfer of an estimated \$22,000,000 in funds from the Department of Defense (DOD), Operations and Maintenance, Defense-Wide Account, as requested. Instead, the conference agreement directs that \$42,300,000 be derived from the Trust Fund and \$22,000,000 be provided from the General Fund to support AFRH operations.

*Trust Fund Solvency.*—The conferees are disappointed the Department of Defense did not include with the fiscal year 2017 budget request legislative proposals and administrative actions that can be taken under current law in order to achieve Trust Fund solvency in spite of clear direction to do so in the Explanatory Statement accompanying Public Law 114–113, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016. Both legislative and administrative actions are necessary to improve Trust Fund solvency, eliminate AFRH's reliance on the General Fund, and maintain the high-quality services provided to AFRH residents. The conferees again direct DOD, working with AFRH, to take appropriate administrative action and to develop and submit proposed authorizing language with the fiscal year 2018 budget request that addresses the issue of Trust Fund solvency. In addition, AFRH is directed to regularly report to the Committees on efforts to stabilize the Trust Fund and to lease its property at the Washington, D.C. facility.

*Study Findings and Proposals.*—AFRH's budget request notes that DOD has undertaken an in-depth study to develop mid-term and long-term plans to improve Trust Fund solvency. The study also includes an analysis of AFRH operations to include benchmarking and to identify potential legislative changes to revise AFRH's funding model. The Committees request further information from DOD regarding the study, including a report on its cost, scope of work, deliverables, and timeline, and requests a briefing on the findings and resulting proposals. The conferees are troubled that the study's statement of work seems to be fo-

cused on cuts to core AFRH operations as a means of achieving Trust Fund solvency. The conference agreement directs that AFRH and the Department of Defense submit by October 1, 2016, a proposal that ensures the long-term sustainability of the Trust Fund by replenishing the Trust Fund's revenues, not by cutting core AFRH operations.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The conference agreement includes section 301 permitting funds to be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of a water main located on the Arlington National Cemetery property.

The conference agreement includes section 302 allowing Arlington National Cemetery to deposit and use funds derived from concessions.

#### TITLE IV—OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The conference agreement includes title IV, Overseas Contingency Operations, for military construction projects related to the Global War on Terrorism, the European Reassurance Initiative and Counterterrorism Support that were requested by the Administration in the Fiscal Year 2017 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

The conference agreement includes \$18,900,000 for "Military Construction, Army", as requested in the Fiscal Year 2017 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, for planning and design in support of the European Reassurance Initiative.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement includes \$59,809,000 for "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", as requested in the Fiscal Year 2017 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, of which \$21,400,000 is in support of the European Reassurance Initiative and \$38,409,000 is in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement includes \$88,291,000 for "Military Construction, Air Force", as requested in the Fiscal Year 2017 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, of which \$68,280,000 is in support of the European Reassurance Initiative, \$11,440,000 is in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, and \$8,571,000 is in support of counterterrorism efforts.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

The conference agreement includes \$5,000,000 for "Military Construction, Defense-Wide", as requested in the Fiscal Year 2017 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, for unspecified minor military construction for the Joint Staff in support of the European Reassurance Initiative.

##### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

The conference agreement includes section 401 regarding emergency designation for the Overseas Contingency Operations accounts.

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
-----				
FY 2017 OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS				
OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS				
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED				
NAVY				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	1,000	1,000	---	1,000
AIR FORCE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	940	940	---	940
DJIBOUTI				
NAVY				
CAMP LEMONIER				
MEDICAL/DENTAL FACILITY.....	37,409	37,409	---	37,409
AIR FORCE				
CHABELLEY AIRFIELD				
ACCESS ROAD.....	3,600	3,600	---	3,600
PARKING APRON AND TAXIWAY.....	6,900	6,900	---	6,900
EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE				
BULGARIA				
AIR FORCE				
GRAF IGNATIEVO				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS/OPERATION ALERT FACILITY.....	3,800	3,800	---	3,800
FIGHTER RAMP EXTENSION.....	7,000	7,000	---	7,000
UPGRADE MUNITIONS STORAGE.....	2,600	2,600	---	---
ESTONIA				
AIR FORCE				
AMARI AB				
BULK FUEL STORAGE.....	6,500	6,500	---	6,500
GERMANY				
AIR FORCE				
SPANGDAHLEM AB				
HIGH CAPACITY TRIM PAD AND HUSH HOUSE.....	1,000	1,000	---	---
F/A-22 LOW OBSERVABLE/COMPOSITE REPAIR FACILITY.....	12,000	12,000	---	18,000
F/A-22 UPGRADE				
INFRASTRUCTURE/COMMUNICATIONS/UTILITIES.....	1,600	1,600	---	580
UPGRADE HARDENED AIRCRAFT SHELTERS FOR F/A-22.....	2,700	2,700	---	2,700
UPGRADE MUNITION STORAGE DOORS.....	1,400	1,400	---	---
ICELAND				
NAVY				
KEFLAVIK				
P-8A AIRCRAFT RINSE FACILITY.....	5,000	5,000	---	5,000
P-8A HANGAR UPGRADE.....	14,600	14,600	---	14,600
LITHUANIA				
AIR FORCE				
SIAULIAI				
MUNITIONS STORAGE.....	3,000	3,000	---	3,000
POLAND				
AIR FORCE				
LASK AIR BASE				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	4,100	4,100	---	4,100
POWIDZ				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	4,100	4,100	---	4,100

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS  
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
-----				
ROMANIA				
AIR FORCE				
CAMP TURZII				
MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA.....	3,000	3,000	---	3,000
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	3,400	3,400	---	3,400
TWO-BAY HANGAR.....	6,100	6,100	---	6,100
EXTEND PARKING APRONS.....	6,000	6,000	---	6,000
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED				
ARMY				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	18,900	18,900	---	18,900
NAVY				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	1,800	1,800	---	1,800
DEFENSE-WIDE				
UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION				
THE JOINT STAFF.....	5,000	5,000	---	5,000
COUNTERTERRORISM SUPPORT				
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED				
AIR FORCE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	9,000	8,551	---	8,571

NOTE: FUNDING FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION WAS REQUESTED AND IS DISPLAYED  
IN TITLE IV. THE SENATE PROVIDED FUNDING FOR THESE  
PROJECTS IN TITLE I.

## TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

The conference agreement includes section 501 prohibiting the obligation of funds in this Act beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided.

The conference agreement includes section 502 prohibiting the use of the funds in this Act for programs, projects, or activities not in compliance with Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

The conference agreement includes section 503 encouraging all Departments to expand their use of “E-Commerce.”

The conference agreement includes section 504 specifying the congressional committees that are to receive all reports and notifications.

The conference agreement includes section 505 prohibiting the transfer of funds to any instrumentality of the United States Gov-

ernment without authority from an appropriations Act.

The conference agreement includes section 506 prohibiting the use of funds for a project or program named for a serving Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

The conference agreement includes section 507 requiring all reports submitted to Congress to be posted on official web sites of the submitting agency.

The conference agreement includes section 508 prohibiting the use of funds to establish or maintain a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography, except for law enforcement investigation, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

The conference agreement includes section 509 prohibiting the use of funds for the pay-

ment of first-class air travel by an employee of the executive branch.

The conference agreement includes section 510 prohibiting the use of funds in this Act for any contract where the contractor has not complied with E-Verify requirements.

The conference agreement includes section 511 prohibiting the use of funds in this Act by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purchase or lease of a new vehicle except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

The conference agreement includes section 512 prohibiting the use of funds in this Act for the renovation, expansion, or construction of any facility in the continental United States for the purpose of housing any individual who has been detained at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
-----							
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE							
Military Construction, Army.....	663,245	503,459	503,459	532,359	513,459	-149,786	+10,000
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.....	1,669,239	1,027,763	1,021,580	1,087,572	1,021,580	-647,659	-6,183
Military Construction, Air Force.....	1,389,185	1,481,058	1,398,758	1,579,798	1,491,058	+101,873	+10,000
Military Construction, Defense-Wide.....	2,242,867	2,056,091	2,024,643	2,038,980	2,025,444	-217,423	-30,647
-----							
Total, Active components.....	5,964,536	5,068,371	4,948,440	5,238,709	5,051,541	-912,995	-16,830
-----							
Military Construction, Army National Guard.....	197,237	232,930	232,930	232,930	232,930	+35,693	---
Military Construction, Air National Guard.....	138,738	143,957	143,957	143,957	143,957	+5,219	---
Military Construction, Army Reserve.....	113,595	68,230	68,230	68,230	68,230	-45,365	---
Military Construction, Navy Reserve.....	36,078	38,597	38,597	38,597	38,597	+2,519	---
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve.....	65,021	188,950	188,950	188,950	188,950	+123,929	---
-----							
Total, Reserve components.....	550,669	672,664	672,664	672,664	672,664	+121,995	---
-----							
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.....	135,000	177,932	177,932	177,932	177,932	+42,932	---
Department of Defense Base Closure Account.....	266,334	205,237	230,237	205,237	240,237	-26,097	+35,000
=====							
Total, Military Construction.....	6,916,539	6,124,204	6,029,273	6,294,542	6,142,374	-774,165	+18,170
=====							
Family Housing Construction, Army.....	108,695	200,735	200,735	200,735	157,172	+48,477	-43,563
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army.....	375,611	325,995	325,995	325,995	325,995	-49,616	---
Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps....	16,541	94,011	94,011	94,011	94,011	+77,470	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED  
 AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
-----							
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps.....	353,036	300,915	300,915	300,915	300,915	-52,121	---
Family Housing Construction, Air Force.....	160,498	61,352	61,352	61,352	61,352	-99,146	---
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Air Force...	331,232	274,429	274,429	274,429	274,429	-56,803	---
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide	58,668	59,157	59,157	59,157	59,157	+489	---
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund.....	---	3,258	3,258	3,258	3,258	+3,258	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Family Housing.....	1,404,281	1,319,852	1,319,852	1,319,852	1,276,289	-127,992	-43,563
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS							
Military Construction, Army (Sec. 127) (rescission)...	-86,420	---	-25,000	-30,000	-29,602	+56,818	-29,602
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (H. Sec. 126) (rescission).....	---	---	-51,848	---	---	---	---
Defense Access Roads (Sec. 132).....	30,000	---	---	---	---	-30,000	---
Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 127) (rescission).....	-46,400	---	---	-22,340	-51,460	-5,060	-51,460
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (Sec. 127) (rescission).....	-134,000	---	-37,377	-132,283	-141,600	-7,600	-141,600
Military Construction, Defense-Wide - Planning and Design (Sec. 127).....	---	---	---	---	-30,000	-30,000	-30,000
Military Construction, Army (Sec. 125).....	34,500	---	40,500	40,500	40,500	+6,000	+40,500
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 125).....	34,500	---	293,600	143,000	227,099	+192,599	+227,099
Military Construction, Army National Guard (Sec. 125).	51,300	---	67,500	16,500	67,500	+16,200	+67,500

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED  
 AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Military Construction, Army Reserve (Sec. 125).....	34,200	---	86,500	30,000	30,000	-4,200	+30,000
NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 127) (rescission).....	---	---	-30,000	-15,000	-30,000	-30,000	-30,000
42 USC 3374 (Sec. 128).....	-105,000	---	-25,000	---	-25,000	+80,000	-25,000
Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 125).....	21,000	---	26,000	195,465	149,500	+128,500	+149,500
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (S. Sec. 125).....	---	---	---	64,364	---	---	---
Military Construction, Air National Guard (Sec. 125)..	6,100	---	---	11,000	11,000	+4,900	+11,000
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 126).....	---	---	---	---	89,400	+89,400	+89,400
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve.....	10,400	---	---	---	---	-10,400	---
Family Housing, Army (S. Sec. 125).....	---	---	---	14,400	---	---	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Administrative Provisions.....	-149,820	---	344,875	315,606	307,337	+457,157	+307,337
Appropriations.....	(222,000)	---	(514,100)	(515,229)	(614,999)	(+392,999)	(+614,999)
Rescissions.....	(-371,820)	---	(-169,225)	(-199,623)	(-307,662)	(+64,158)	(-307,662)
General Provisions							
Arlington Cemetery Defense Access Road (FY 2016) (S. Sec. 130).....	---	---	---	30,000	---	---	---

DIVISION A. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
(FY 2016, rescission) (S. Sec. 130).....	---	---	---	-30,000	---	---	---
<b>Total, General Provisions.....</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>Total, title I, Department of Defense.....</b>	<b>8,171,000</b>	<b>7,444,056</b>	<b>7,694,000</b>	<b>7,930,000</b>	<b>7,726,000</b>	<b>-445,000</b>	<b>+281,944</b>
Appropriations.....	(8,542,820)	(7,444,056)	(7,863,225)	(8,129,623)	(8,033,662)	(-509,158)	(+589,606)
Rescissions.....	(-371,820)	---	(-169,225)	(-199,623)	(-307,662)	(+64,158)	(-307,662)

TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Benefits Administration

Compensation and pensions:							
Advance from prior year.....	---	(86,083,128)	(86,083,128)	(86,083,128)	(86,083,128)	(+86,083,128)	---
Current year request.....	76,865,545	---	---	---	---	-76,865,545	---
Subtotal, current year.....	76,865,545	86,083,128	86,083,128	86,083,128	86,083,128	+9,217,583	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	86,083,128	90,119,449	90,119,449	90,119,449	90,119,449	+4,036,321	---
Readjustment benefits:							
Advance from prior year.....	---	(16,340,828)	(16,340,828)	(16,340,828)	(16,340,828)	(+16,340,828)	---
Current year request.....	14,313,357	---	---	---	---	-14,313,357	---
Subtotal.....	14,313,357	16,340,828	16,340,828	16,340,828	16,340,828	+2,027,471	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	16,340,828	13,708,648	13,708,648	13,708,648	13,708,648	-2,632,180	---
Veterans insurance and indemnities:							
Advance from prior year.....	---	(91,920)	(91,920)	(91,920)	(91,920)	(+91,920)	---
Current year request.....	77,160	16,605	16,605	16,605	16,605	-60,555	---
Subtotal.....	77,160	108,525	108,525	108,525	108,525	+31,365	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	91,920	107,899	107,899	107,899	107,899	+15,979	---
Veterans housing benefit program fund:							
(indefinite).....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	---	---
Administrative expenses.....	164,558	198,856	167,612	198,856	198,856	+34,298	---
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account.....	31	36	36	36	36	+5	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(2,952)	(2,517)	(2,517)	(2,517)	(2,517)	(-435)	---
Administrative expenses.....	367	389	389	389	389	+22	---
Native American veteran housing loan program account..	1,134	1,163	1,163	1,163	1,163	+29	---
General operating expenses, VBA.....	2,707,734	2,826,160	2,826,160	2,856,160	2,856,160	+148,426	+30,000
<b>Total, Veterans Benefits Administration.....</b>	<b>196,645,762</b>	<b>106,979,205</b>	<b>106,947,961</b>	<b>107,009,205</b>	<b>107,009,205</b>	<b>-89,636,557</b>	<b>+30,000</b>
Appropriations.....	(94,129,886)	(3,043,209)	(3,011,965)	(3,073,209)	(3,073,209)	(-91,056,677)	(+30,000)
Advance appropriations, FY 2018.....	(102,515,876)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(+1,420,120)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	---	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(+102,515,876)	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED  
 AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
<b>Veterans Health Administration</b>							
<b>Medical services:</b>							
Advance from prior year.....	(47,603,202)	(51,673,000)	(51,673,000)	(51,673,000)	(51,673,000)	(+4,069,798)	---
Current year request.....	2,369,158	1,078,993	864,000	1,078,993	1,078,993	-1,290,165	---
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>49,972,360</b>	<b>52,751,993</b>	<b>52,537,000</b>	<b>52,751,993</b>	<b>52,751,993</b>	<b>+2,779,633</b>	<b>---</b>
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	51,673,000	44,886,554	44,886,554	44,886,554	44,886,554	-6,786,446	---
<b>Medical community care:</b>							
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	---	9,409,118	9,409,118	9,409,118	9,409,118	+9,409,118	---
Transfer from medical care accounts.....	---	(7,246,181)	(7,246,181)	---	---	---	(-7,246,181)
Current year request.....	---	---	---	7,246,181	7,246,181	+7,246,181	+7,246,181
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>16,655,299</b>	<b>16,655,299</b>	<b>16,655,299</b>	<b>16,655,299</b>	<b>+16,655,299</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>Medical support and compliance:</b>							
Advance from prior year.....	(6,144,000)	(6,524,000)	(6,524,000)	(6,524,000)	(6,524,000)	(+380,000)	---
Current year request.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Subtotal.....</b>	<b>6,144,000</b>	<b>6,524,000</b>	<b>6,524,000</b>	<b>6,524,000</b>	<b>6,524,000</b>	<b>+380,000</b>	<b>---</b>
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	6,524,000	6,654,480	6,654,480	6,654,480	6,654,480	+130,480	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED  
 AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
<b>Medical facilities:</b>							
Advance from prior year.....	(4,915,000)	(5,074,000)	(5,074,000)	(5,074,000)	(5,074,000)	(+159,000)	---
Current year request.....	105,132	649,000	---	495,100	247,668	+142,536	-401,332
Subtotal.....	5,020,132	5,723,000	5,074,000	5,569,100	5,321,668	+301,536	-401,332
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	5,074,000	5,434,880	5,434,880	5,434,880	5,434,880	+360,880	---
Medical and prosthetic research.....	630,735	663,366	663,366	675,366	675,366	+44,631	+12,000
<b>Medical care cost recovery collections:</b>							
Offsetting collections.....	-2,445,000	-2,637,000	-2,637,000	-2,637,000	-2,637,000	-192,000	---
Appropriations (indefinite).....	2,445,000	2,637,000	2,637,000	2,637,000	2,637,000	+192,000	---
Subtotal.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (transfers out).....	(-286,000)	(-274,731)	(-274,731)	(-274,731)	(-274,731)	(+11,269)	---
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (by transfer).....	(286,000)	(274,731)	(274,731)	(274,731)	(274,731)	(-11,269)	---
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (Transfer out).....	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	---	---
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (by transfer).....	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	---
<b>Total, Veterans Health Administration.....</b>	<b>66,376,025</b>	<b>68,776,391</b>	<b>67,912,398</b>	<b>75,880,672</b>	<b>75,633,240</b>	<b>+9,257,215</b>	<b>+6,856,849</b>
Appropriations.....	(3,105,025)	(2,391,359)	(1,527,366)	(9,495,640)	(9,248,208)	(+6,143,183)	(+6,856,849)
(By transfer).....	(301,000)	(7,535,912)	(7,535,912)	(289,731)	(289,731)	(-11,269)	(-7,246,181)
Advance appropriations, FY 2018.....	(63,271,000)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(+3,114,032)	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(58,662,202)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(+4,608,798)	---
<b>National Cemetery Administration</b>							
National Cemetery Administration.....	271,220	286,193	271,220	286,193	286,193	+14,973	---
<b>Departmental Administration</b>							
General administration.....	336,659	417,959	316,159	417,959	345,391	+8,732	-72,568
Board of Veterans Appeals.....	109,884	156,096	156,096	156,096	156,096	+46,212	---
Information technology systems.....	4,133,363	4,278,259	4,225,869	4,278,259	4,278,259	+144,896	---
Office of Inspector General.....	136,766	160,106	160,106	160,106	160,106	+23,340	---
Construction, major projects.....	1,243,800	528,110	528,110	528,110	528,110	-715,690	---
Construction, minor projects.....	406,200	372,069	372,069	372,069	372,069	-34,131	---
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities.....	120,000	80,000	80,000	90,000	90,000	-30,000	+10,000
Grants for the construction of veterans cemeteries....	46,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	-1,000	---
<b>Total, Departmental Administration.....</b>	<b>6,532,672</b>	<b>6,037,599</b>	<b>5,883,409</b>	<b>6,047,599</b>	<b>5,975,031</b>	<b>-557,641</b>	<b>-62,568</b>
<b>Administrative Provisions</b>							
<b>Section 226 (FY16)</b>							
Medical services.....	1,400,000	---	---	---	---	-1,400,000	---
(Rescission).....	-1,400,000	---	---	---	---	+1,400,000	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED  
 AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Medical support and compliance.....	100,000	---	---	---	---	-100,000	---
(Rescission).....	-100,000	---	---	---	---	+100,000	---
Medical facilities.....	250,000	---	---	---	---	-250,000	---
(Rescission).....	-250,000	---	---	---	---	+250,000	---
JIF rescission (Sec. 235).....	-30,000	---	-30,000	-52,000	-40,000	-10,000	-40,000
General rescission (Sec. 236).....	---	---	-337,382	---	-169,000	-169,000	-169,000
General reduction (Sec. 237).....	---	---	-46,618	---	-23,000	-23,000	-23,000
Medical Services (Sec. 217) (rescission).....	---	---	---	-7,246,181	-7,246,181	-7,246,181	-7,246,181
<b>Total. Administrative Provisions.....</b>	<b>-30,000</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>-414,000</b>	<b>-7,298,181</b>	<b>-7,478,181</b>	<b>-7,448,181</b>	<b>-7,478,181</b>
<b>Total, title II.....</b>	<b>269,795,679</b>	<b>182,079,388</b>	<b>180,600,988</b>	<b>181,925,488</b>	<b>181,425,488</b>	<b>-88,370,191</b>	<b>-653,900</b>
Appropriations.....	(105,788,803)	(11,758,360)	(10,647,342)	(11,656,460)	(11,313,460)	(-94,475,343)	(-444,900)
Rescissions.....	(-1,780,000)	---	(-367,382)	(-52,000)	(-209,000)	(+1,571,000)	(-209,000)
(By transfer).....	(301,000)	(7,535,912)	(7,535,912)	(289,731)	(289,731)	(-11,269)	(-7,246,181)
<b>Advance Appropriations, FY 2018:</b>							
Mandatory.....	(102,515,876)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(+1,420,120)	---
Discretionary.....	(63,271,000)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(+3,114,032)	---
<b>Advances from prior year appropriations:</b>							
Mandatory.....	---	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(+102,515,876)	---
Discretionary.....	(58,662,202)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(+4,608,798)	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(3,452)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(-435)	---
Discretionary.....	(76,023,741)	(78,126,787)	(76,648,387)	(77,972,887)	(77,472,887)	(+1,449,146)	(-653,900)

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED  
 AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Advances from prior year less FY 2018 advances	(-4,608,798)	(-3,114,032)	(-3,114,032)	(-3,114,032)	(-3,114,032)	(+1,494,766)	---
Net discretionary.....	(71,414,943)	(75,012,755)	(73,534,355)	(74,858,855)	(74,358,855)	(+2,943,912)	(-653,900)
Mandatory.....	(193,771,938)	(103,952,601)	(103,952,601)	(103,952,601)	(103,952,601)	(-89,819,337)	---
Advances from prior year less FY 2018 advances	(-102,515,876)	(-1,420,120)	(-1,420,120)	(-1,420,120)	(-1,420,120)	(+101,095,756)	---
Net mandatory.....	(91,256,062)	(102,532,481)	(102,532,481)	(102,532,481)	(102,532,481)	(+11,276,419)	---
Total mandatory and discretionary.....	162,671,005	177,545,236	176,066,836	177,391,336	176,891,336	+14,220,331	-653,900
TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES							
American Battle Monuments Commission							
Salaries and expenses.....	105,100	75,100	75,100	75,100	75,100	-30,000	---
Foreign currency fluctuations account.....	2,000	---	---	---	---	-2,000	---
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission.....	107,100	75,100	75,100	75,100	75,100	-32,000	---
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims							
Salaries and expenses.....	32,141	30,945	30,945	30,945	30,945	-1,196	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED  
 AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
-----							
Department of Defense - Civil							
Cemeterial Expenses, Army							
Salaries and expenses.....	79,516	70,800	70,800	70,800	70,800	-8,716	---
Armed Forces Retirement Home - Trust Fund							
Operation and maintenance.....	43,300	63,300	41,300	41,300	41,300	-2,000	-22,000
Capital program.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	---	---
Payment from General Fund.....	20,000	---	22,000	22,000	22,000	+2,000	+22,000
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home.....	64,300	64,300	64,300	64,300	64,300	---	---
=====							
Total, title III.....	283,057	241,145	241,145	241,145	241,145	-41,912	---
=====							
TITLE IV - OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS							
Overseas Contingency Operations							
Navy.....	---	38,409	38,409	---	38,409	+38,409	---
Air Force.....	---	11,440	11,440	---	11,440	+11,440	---
Subtotal.....	---	49,849	49,849	---	49,849	+49,849	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
<b>European Reassurance Initiative</b>							
Army.....	---	18,900	18,900	---	18,900	+18,900	---
Navy.....	---	21,400	21,400	---	21,400	+21,400	---
Air Force.....	---	68,300	68,300	---	68,280	+68,280	-20
Defense-Wide.....	---	5,000	5,000	---	5,000	+5,000	---
Subtotal.....	---	113,600	113,600	---	113,580	+113,580	-20
<b>Counterterrorism Support</b>							
Air Force.....	---	9,000	8,551	---	8,571	+8,571	-429
Total, title IV.....	---	172,449	172,000	---	172,000	+172,000	-449
Grand total.....	278,249,736	189,937,038	188,708,133	190,096,633	189,564,633	-88,685,103	-372,405
Appropriations.....	(114,614,680)	(19,443,561)	(18,751,712)	(20,027,228)	(19,588,267)	(-95,026,413)	(+144,706)
Rescissions.....	(-2,151,820)	---	(-536,607)	(-251,623)	(-516,662)	(+1,635,158)	(-516,662)
Advance appropriations, FY 2018.....	(165,786,876)	(170,321,028)	(170,321,028)	(170,321,028)	(170,321,028)	(+4,534,152)	---
Overseas contingency operations.....	---	(172,449)	(172,000)	---	(172,000)	(+172,000)	(-449)
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(58,662,202)	(165,786,876)	(165,786,876)	(165,786,876)	(165,786,876)	(+107,124,674)	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED  
 AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
(By transfer).....	(301,000)	(7,535,912)	(7,535,912)	(289,731)	(289,731)	(-11,269)	(-7,246,181)
(Transfer out).....	(-301,000)	(-289,731)	(-289,731)	(-289,731)	(-289,731)	(+11,269)	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(3,452)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(-435)	---

DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND  
PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS

The Act includes \$1,108,094,000 in fiscal year 2016 appropriations for Zika response and preparedness. These funds will provide the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, with additional resources to combat the Zika virus.

Within the funds provided for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a robust level of funding is intended to support mosquito control efforts conducted by State, county, or municipal programs, including mosquito control districts. CDC should consider the risk of active or local transmission of the Zika virus when allocating such funds.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services is encouraged to update the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System to account for specific coding requirements and

adequate reimbursement rates for Zika diagnostic tests recognized by the Food and Drug Administration.

Funds provided in the fifth proviso under the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund shall be administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reimburse for costs of health conditions related to the Zika virus.

A table displaying additional detail for the funding in division B follows:

DIVISION B: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016  
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final	Final vs. Request
-----					
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Food and Drug Administration					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency).....	10,000	---	---	---	-10,000
TITLE I					
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Health Resources and Services Administration					
Primary Health Care (emergency).....	---	---	40,000	---	---
Health Workforce (emergency).....	---	---	6,000	---	---
Maternal and Child Health (emergency).....	---	---	5,000	---	---
-----					
Total, Health Resources and Services.....	---	---	51,000	---	---

DIVISION B: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016  
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final	Final vs. Request
-----					
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention					
CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support.....	---	170,000	---	---	---
(emergency).....	828,000	---	449,000	394,000	-434,000
-----					
Subtotal, CDC-Wide activities and programs.....	828,000	170,000	449,000	394,000	-434,000
National Institutes of Health					
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (emergency).....	130,000	230,000	200,000	152,000	+22,000
Office of the Secretary					
Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (emergency) 1/ .....	295,000	103,000	150,000	387,000	+92,000

DIVISION B: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016  
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final	Final vs. Request
<b>General Provisions</b>					
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: Emergency Increase in Territorial Medicaid FMAP (CBO estimate)2/.....	157,000	---	---	---	-157,000
<b>Total, Title I.....</b>	<b>1,410,000</b>	<b>503,000</b>	<b>850,000</b>	<b>933,000</b>	<b>-477,000</b>
<b>TITLE II</b>					
<b>DEPARTMENT OF STATE</b>					
<b>Administration of Foreign Affairs</b>					
Diplomatic and Consular Programs (emergency).....	14,594	9,100	14,594	14,594	---
Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service (emergency).....	4,000	---	4,000	4,000	---
Repatriation Loans Program Account, Direct loans subsidy (emergency).....	1,000	---	1,000	1,000	---

DIVISION B: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016  
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final	Final vs. Request
-----					
UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT					
Funds Appropriated to the President					
Operating Expenses, USAID (emergency).....	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	---
BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE					
Funds Appropriated to the President					
Global Health Programs.....	---	100,000	---	---	---
(emergency).....	325,000	---	211,000	145,500	-179,500
Subtotal, Global health programs.....	325,000	100,000	211,000	145,500	-179,500
-----					
International Security Assistance					
Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (emergency).....	8,000	---	4,000	---	-8,000

DIVISION B: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016  
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final	Final vs. Request
-----					
Multilateral Assistance					
International Organizations and Programs (emergency)..	13,500	---	13,500	---	-13,500
General Provisions--This Title					
USAID Operating expenses (rescission) (emergency) 3/..	---	---	-10,000	---	---
Total, Title II.....	376,094	119,100	248,094	175,094	-201,000
=====					
GENERAL PROVISIONS - THIS ACT					
Unobligated balances (Public Law 113-235) (rescission) (emergency) .....	---	-352,100	---	---	---

DIVISION B: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016  
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final	Final vs. Request
Nonrecurring expenses fund unobligated balances (Public Law 110-161) (rescission).....	---	-270,000	---	---	---
Total, General Provisions.....	---	-622,100	---	---	---
GRAND TOTAL.....	1,796,094	---	1,098,094	1,108,094	-688,000
Appropriations.....	---	(270,000)	---	---	---
Emergency appropriations.....	(1,796,094)	(352,100)	(1,108,094)	(1,108,094)	(-688,000)
Rescissions.....	---	(-622,100)	---	---	---
Rescissions of Emergency funding.....	---	(-352,100)	(-10,000)	---	---

1/ Includes \$46M for Primary Health Services in Puerto Rico and other territories, of which \$6M is used for the National Health Service Corps

2/ OMB estimate is \$246M. FMAP is Federal Medical Assistance Percentage

3/ A rescission of \$7.522M is included in division D of this Act

DIVISION C—CONTINUING  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The Act includes the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017” as division C.

Section 145 of division C includes an additional \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 for the Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund, for activities related to major disasters. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall publish on a public website information accounting for how all grant funds are used, including the award and expenditure of funds. The Secretary shall update the information on the website on a monthly basis through December 31, 2016, and on a quarterly basis thereafter.

DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

The Act includes \$400,001,198 in budgetary savings for fiscal year 2016, as follows:

\$10,000,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Economic Development Assistance Programs”;

\$13,000,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Operations, Research, and Facilities”;

\$279,045 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Homeland Security, Departmental Management and Operations, Office of the Secretary and Executive Management”;

\$39,246 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses”;

\$48,075,920 is rescinded from “Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements”;

\$731,790 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Administrative and Regional Operations”;

\$168,100,000 is rescinded from unobligated amounts available under section 1323(c)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;

\$7,522,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances of Ebola response and preparedness funds under “Operating Expenses” of the U.S. Agency for International Development;

\$109,478,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances of Ebola response and preparedness funds under “Bilateral Economic Assistance, Funds Appropriated to the President”;

\$5,375,197 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment”;

\$37,400,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances of the Department of Transportation provided under section 108 of Public Law 101-130.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND  
MARITIME SECURITY ACT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, yesterday I joined my colleagues Senators NELSON, THUNE, and FISCHER in introducing the Surface Transportation and Maritime Security Act. The security of our Nation’s ports and rail and surface transportation systems is critical to the daily lives of Americans, as well as to the health of our national economy. I thank my colleagues for joining together on this important legislation and hope that it leads to improved safety for our country.

This legislation comes months after the tragic attack on the Brussels

metro and airport which killed 35 and injured over 300, and it comes just days after explosives were detonated in New Jersey and New York, threatening the lives of thousands. The sad reality is that attacks like these occur, and we must do more to protect our citizens.

The fact is mass transit and rail systems are challenging to secure. Meeting this challenge requires us to have a strategy in place that recognizes the evolving threats to surface networks and puts sufficient resources in place to match those risks. Currently, less than 2 percent of the Transportation Security Administration’s, TSA, budget and staff are dedicated to protecting surface transportation networks. While the Federal role has been to support and oversee State and local efforts to secure transit and other surface networks, we need to ask ourselves whether we are doing enough to protect passengers.

The Surface Transportation and Maritime Security Act requires the TSA Administrator to implement risk-based security plans for surface transportation in order to ensure resources are being driven to the most high-risk places. The bill directs TSA to conduct careful analysis to consider risks and provide mitigation strategies using information from global terrorist attacks. Additionally, I thank my colleagues for working with me to include language to the bill that will authorize more bomb-sniffing canines to be utilized to deter threats in our railroad networks and surface transportation. The bill also helps improve the screening of maritime workers and includes further measures to reform and improve port security. The bill includes several other important provisions that will yield new data to help inform future security needs. The bill is a product of compromise with my colleagues, and we will also need to work with our appropriator colleagues to ensure TSA has the resources to take these important security measures.

Again I thank my esteemed colleagues for partnering together on this legislation.

GROWTH DISORDER AWARENESS  
WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today, on behalf of every child currently living with a growth disorder, I wish to recognize this week—September 19 through 23, 2016—as Growth Disorder Awareness Week.

A child’s growth is a strong indicator of that child’s overall health status. According to the Pictures of Standard Syndromes and Undiagnosed Malformations, POSSUM, database, more than 600 serious diseases and health conditions can cause growth failure. These diseases range from nutritional disturbances and hormone imbalances, to far more serious conditions that affect the kidneys or even lead to brain tumors. While these conditions affect a child’s growth progress, a stunning 48

percent of children with the most common growth disorders go undiagnosed. To make matters worse, the longer a child with growth failure goes undiagnosed, the greater the potential for long-term health issues and higher costs of treatment. Early detection and diagnosis are, therefore, critical to ensuring a healthy future for these children.

This week, as we recognize Growth Disorder Awareness Week, I want to applaud the MAGIC Foundation for the tremendous work they do to further public awareness of growth failure and to improve the lives and health of the children whom they affect.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
KIWANIS CLUB OF MILWAUKEE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee. Over the past 100 years, the club and its members have served the families and children of Milwaukee through countless hours of service and commitment meant to better the community. This year, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary, I wish to honor their philanthropic achievements and dedication to this great Wisconsin city.

Founded in 1916 as a charter club, the Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee was the 23rd chapter founded in the United States and is now one of 8,309 worldwide. Although one of many around the globe, the Milwaukee Club has set itself apart through its 100-year tradition of service and advocacy on behalf of Milwaukee children.

One of the first projects members embraced in 1917 was providing coal for families in need. In 1939, they opened a Gaenslen School for handicapped children, and 20 years later, in 1959, they established a Boy Scout troop for 30 handicapped boys. Continuing their aid to children, in 1977, the club started a Children’s Center for Curative Rehabilitation. Elsewhere in their community, they sponsored and directed Milwaukee’s first river clean-up in 1982 and established the Kiwanis Landing community fishing area in 2010. The common thread in all these important programs was creating opportunities for children, regardless of their circumstances.

In all their efforts, Kiwanis members strive to improve the quality of life for all Milwaukee residents. In 2015, they conducted vision tests at 37 Milwaukee public schools, serving 5,550 children. Additionally, they served meals to more than 750 children and their families at the Ronald McDonald House. The Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee has spent countless hours tutoring children in Milwaukee public schools, as well as helping guide college students in organizing volunteer programs at three local colleges. Throughout the year, the club collects items such as hats, mittens, gloves, and personal hygiene products for homeless children, and they work to replenish local food banks.