

# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2017

U.S. SENATE,  
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The subcommittee met at 10:20 a.m., in room SD-124, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James Lankford (chairman) presiding. Present: Senators Lankford, Kennedy, Murphy, and Van Hollen.

UNITED STATES SENATE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND  
DOORKEEPER

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK J. LARKIN, SERGEANT AT ARMS

ACCOMPANIED BY:

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OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR JAMES LANKFORD

Senator LANKFORD. Good morning, everyone. The subcommittee will come to order.

This is our third fiscal year 2018 budget hearing for the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee.

We have with us today the Honorable Frank Larkin, Senate Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Matthew Verderosa, Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police. Thank you both for being here today.

Welcome, Chief. This is your first hearing I believe before this subcommittee. We will try to make it as painful as we possibly can. [Laughter.]

Senator LANKFORD. This hearing was originally planned for the morning of June 14. That same morning a man decided to open fire on Members of Congress while they held a practice for the congressional baseball game in Alexandria, Virginia.

It was because of the quick action by Capitol Police Officers, Special Agents Crystal Griner and David Bailey, who were on protective detail for House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, that the event

was not even more tragic. Because of their heroism, there were no fatalities, and there could have been many lives lost. We are incredibly grateful for their courage. We wish them full recovery in their injuries, and we are grateful to all those that were involved in their training and in their support. It made quite a difference that day.

We are also thankful that Representative Scalise has been upgraded to fair condition and continues to improve. I understand that just this past weekend, Matt Mika was discharged from the hospital as well and has returned home. Our thoughts and prayers are with them both and with all of those that were on that field that morning and what they continue to process through.

The entire congressional community was deeply affected by the shooting. We realize there could have been any of us practicing there that day and any of us targeted in any spot.

Senate Sergeant at Arms and Capitol Police both have unique missions. Now more than ever, they carry significant importance. Threats, both internal and external, are ever present and emergent in the environment in which we operate. Both of your agencies work diligently to protect Members of Congress, our staff, and the over 4 million visitors to the Capitol campus each year. It is a delicate balance that you manage. This is an office space. This is a museum. This is a tourist spot all at once. To be able to manage all those realities requires its own delicate task.

We truly appreciate the dedication of the men and women of your agencies that enable Congress to do its work, and we do thank you for that.

As I have mentioned at our first two hearings this year, we are again faced with a budget environment that will require difficult and important discussion on how we move forward in the upcoming fiscal year.

The value gained from your requested increases must be weighed against our duty to be fiscally responsible and to be able to balance out. We will need to make wise choices with our priorities, and so we are looking forward to any input that you can give us to help us make those decisions.

The Senate Sergeant at Arms request for fiscal year 2018 is \$204.6 million, an increase of approximately \$7.2 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The request includes \$73.1 million for salaries and benefits and a request of \$131.6 million for expenses.

The majority of the requested increase supports cybersecurity initiatives to prevent and protect against internal and external threats alike. The nature of these evolving intrusions have recently received increased attention and scrutiny, rightfully so, and it is important that we take the necessary steps to prevent the compromise of our Senate networks.

The Capitol Police requests a total of \$426.6 million, an increase of \$33.3 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. Of the funding requested, \$351 million is for salaries and benefits to cover fixed cost increases for pay and benefits of the existing staff, an additional 72 sworn officers and 48 civilians, for a total force of 1,943 sworn officers and 420 civilians. You can check me on those numbers to make sure I get it correctly.

The request for the expenses account is for \$75.2 million, an increase of \$7 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. This increase supports the lifecycle replacement of detection and screening equipment, as well as training and uniforms for officers.

Much of your requested increase comes from expanding mission requirements, and I look forward to hearing more about those needs today, as well as any additional needs that you have identified given the recent incident.

I would like to now turn to Ranking Member Senator Murphy for any opening remarks he would like to make.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER MURPHY

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Chairman Lankford.

I would like to welcome our witnesses today. I want to join Senator Lankford in expressing my gratitude to the Capitol Police force for their heroism on the ball field in Alexandria. As a member of the Democratic baseball team, this is one of these events that represents what is right with Washington despite a lot of things that are wrong with this place, which makes the attack even more tragic. So let me again send my best to Special Agents Crystal Griner and David Bailey and Henry Cabrera. We are so thankful for their skilled response to the training that you provided them. It is great news to hear that Special Agent Griner is now out of the hospital as well. We provide our thoughts to Congressman Scalise, to Zack Barth, and to Matt Mika.

On this subcommittee, we are in this really special and unique position to make sure that both the Capitol Police and the Sergeant at Arms have the resources that they need to help keep us safe and to deal with ever-changing threats.

Chief Verderosa, your budget would continue to ensure that we have top notch security on our campus and our grounds, and I am ready to work with you to support your efforts. I also look forward to discussing how we might provide some targeted increases to make adjustments to the array of growing threats.

Mr. Larkin, from cyber attacks on Federal agencies to Russian hacking, cyberspace right now is the modern battlefield, and that makes it even more critical that the Senate's IT security systems and, frankly, all of the ways in which Members interact with technology that our protections are robust and resilient given these threats.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I just want to note that the legislative branch is not exempt from the larger budget debate. Our bill funds not only your two security-focused organizations, but also other critical agencies to our work, including our watchdog, GAO. Just like we need parity and common sense to balance the needs of the legislative branch appropriations bill, we also need parity and common sense in the budget deal for fiscal year 2018. So that includes fully supporting your agencies but also making sure that other priorities that are vital to our work are protected in our bill.

This is a really important hearing to have. We look forward to talking to you in open session and then being able to have a private conversation as well. We look forward to your testimony.

Senator LANKFORD. I do want to remind any Members that come in, as well as our guests that are here, that we will move to a

closed session immediately following the open portion of this hearing. All relevant security issues will be dealt with in that closed session. And I would also like to request of those giving testimony today that we will reserve some of the more sensitive security items for that closed session, and we can have a frank discussion at that time.

Mr. Larkin, we will be honored to be able to receive your testimony at this time.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK J. LARKIN

Mr. LARKIN. Mr. Chairman, Senator Murphy, thank you. It is always a pleasure to appear before this subcommittee and offer some thoughts.

I would request that the subcommittee accept my formal testimony for the record that captures the breadth and depth of the challenges and the tasks accomplished by the Sergeant at Arms in the past year with measures of performance and operational impact that we have been able to achieve.

Senator LANKFORD. Without objection. We are glad to be able to receive both of your written statements as well for the record.

Mr. LARKIN. Mr. Chairman, as you mentioned, the budget request is for a modest increase of 3.7 percent. A portion of that is due to the cost of living adjustment for salaries, and we increased funding for cyber defense. We can address that in more detail shortly.

The SAA, or the Sergeant at Arms, is a very large, diverse organization, multifaceted, backstops all parts of the Senate institution and with a larger regard to the legislative branch as a whole. Our goal is to ensure a safe and secure environment, free of distractions, for Members and staff to do the Nation's business.

I am able to accomplish that by the talented leadership that I have behind me right now: Jim Morhard, my deputy; Mike Stenger, my Chief of Staff; Katrina Sims, my Executive Assistant; and fortified by my Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Dick Attridge for protective operations and continuity programs; Vicki Sinnett, our CIO; Bret Swanson, who does all our central ops here; Dave Bass, Capitol Ops; Terence Liley, my General Counsel who keeps me out of the drink more times than not; and Chris Dey, the chief financial officer.

The Sergeant at Arms is responsible for the safety and security of the Senate, as you pointed out. Emergency preparedness and continuity operations, information technology, and telecommunications support, access control, transportation and parking, printing and graphics, mail security, postal handling and delivery, facilities maintenance, chamber operations, State office support and readiness, furniture construction, repair and furnishing of offices, human resources, employee assistance, contracting and finance support, training and education, TV recording studio, media galleries, Senate pages and intern programs, photo studio, and finally hair care. Again, it is a diverse organization, with much responsibility, and many working components.

The silent team of highly competent professionals behind me, and beyond this hearing, work behind the scenes every day for this institution. I have folks on the job from 1 week to over 40 years,

quite a legacy of service within our organization for the Senate. They are innovative. They are constantly learning, forward leaning. They are responsive and very much customer focused. We are the problem solvers for the Senate.

We work in close partnership with the Secretary of the Senate, Julie Adams, and her deputy, Mary Jones. Our two organizations have committed themselves to a non-partisan support of the Senate, and our organizations are seamless in the way we support the institution to minimize the distractions on Members and staff so legislative business of the Nation can be done.

We also work closely with our legislative branch partners, the House Sergeant at Arms, Paul Irving; the Chief Administrative Officer, Phil Kiko, specifically as we join forces with our IT initiatives and cyber defense; the Architect of the Capitol, Stephen Ayers, a very important partner; and to my left Chief Verderosa, supported by his assistant, Steve Sund.

The Chief leads an exemplary force of men and women dedicated to protecting the legislative branch as evident on a daily basis as we move about this campus and certainly highlighted 2 weeks ago by the heroic acts of bravery by two USCP officers on the Alexandria ball field.

The two priority areas for me are physical security and safety of the Senate and legislative branch followed by cybersecurity. The threat of a cybersecurity intrusion is persistent and it requires our constant attention. I will address that in more depth in the closed session.

We are in a dynamic threat environment. The shooting 2 weeks ago perpetrated by a lone assailant highlights the potential for threats off campus and in Member home districts. Active shooter threats to the campus are the main concern for Chief Verderosa and me. Persistent cyber attacks and our persistent efforts to protect data and privacy are very high on our radar. Asymmetric threats that, as we have seen, have converted common use items into weapons of destruction using vehicles and other things to create mass harm and confusion, as well as, complex attacks on vulnerable public gatherings and areas of commerce. We are constantly being challenged now by technical evolution as we see with unmanned or remote controlled type apparatus. We have the overarching chemical and biological threats, of which this institution has in the past been subjected to and has caused significant disruption. And finally, we cannot take our eye off the insider threat. It is a reality of today's environment, we have to pay attention to it.

We have a proactive, forward-leaning posture to detect, deter, and disrupt threats, and that is where we are concentrating our efforts. Rapid response and assessment to critical incidents, early containment and mitigation are key.

We achieve that through our active engagements with our law enforcement and intelligence community partners. It is key that we have strong relationships and that we engage in joint training. We validate interoperable communications for crisis management; we plan and coordinate participation at events; and we use our resources efficiently.

We always need to question our facts and assumptions when we are looking at the complex nature of this campus and our ability

to protect it and secure it. We are always looking for efficiencies, innovative ways to become more effective with our resources. And I think the Chief would agree with me, goal line defense does not work in this dynamically challenging and changing environment. We have to lean forward. We have to be proactive.

Ultimately, it is about guaranteeing legislative branch operations and uninterrupted legislative processes.

That concludes my opening remarks subject to your questions.  
[The statement follows:]

#### PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK J. LARKIN

##### INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the subcommittee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am pleased to report on the progress of the Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms (SAA) and our plans to enhance our service to the Senate.

For fiscal year 2018, the Sergeant at Arms respectfully requests a total budget of \$204,663,000. This request represents a modest 3.7 percent increase from the current enacted budget, but is nearly identical to our budget level from fiscal year 2012. Since that time, we have realized significant cost savings from the staff buyouts completed in fiscal years 2013 and 2016 and from rigorous contract management and restructuring, while continuing to provide the critical, high-quality services that the Senate community has come to expect from us. Our customer satisfaction levels remain high and we remain good stewards of the funds entrusted to us.

Leading the efforts of the office of the Sergeant at Arms is an outstanding senior management team, including Jim Morhard, who serves as my Deputy; Chief of Staff Mike Stenger; Assistant Sergeants at Arms Dick Attridge (Protective Services and Continuity), Vicki Sinnett (Chief Information Officer), Bret Swanson (Operations), and David Bass (Capitol Operations); General Counsel Terence Liley; and Chief Financial Officer Chris Dey. The many goals and accomplishments set forth in this testimony would not have been possible without this team's leadership and commitment, as well as the dedication of the women and men who work for the Senate Sergeant at Arms office.

##### PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND CONTINUITY

###### *Emergency Preparedness*

Our plans and procedures are designed to ensure the life safety of Senators, staff, and visitors by equipping them with the necessary tools to respond to emergency situations. Our plans are developed to ensure the Senate can continue its essential functions following emergency events.

We worked with Senate offices to update 72 Emergency Action Plans and developed Emergency Action Plans for each newly-elected Member office. We ensured their suites displayed evacuation maps with detailed primary and secondary routes and elevator locations for mobility-impaired individuals, as well as, distributing supply kits, annunciators, and escape hoods. New Members and their staff received personalized training on emergency preparedness procedures, continuity, alert notification, personnel accountability, and equipment use. We distributed a new version of the Emergency Preparedness Quick Reference Guides to Members to familiarize them with critical information needed to respond to threatening situations, protestors, and other emergency events. We also assisted 35 Member offices and committees with drafting Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans, strengthening the Senate's ability to perform its essential functions.

We conducted a robust training program to ensure the Senate community is prepared to respond to a variety of emergency events at work and home. More than 3,200 staff members were trained during 201 classes covering a variety of emergency preparedness topics including responding to active shooters, the four protective actions, emergency action planning, and ALERTs/Remote Check-in procedures. The "Responding to an Active Shooter" class continues to be one of our most popular trainings. The course is taught with the U.S. Capitol Police and is vital to understanding what to expect from law enforcement throughout such an event.

The preparedness and protection of Senators, staff, and visitors within the Senate Chamber continues to be a primary focus. We worked with USCP to conduct a full-scale exercise to validate the Chamber Emergency Action Guide. The exercise in-

cluded over 200 participants, many from Member offices. Participants responded to several scenarios, including an active shooter event requiring players to shelter in place and an air intrusion situation forcing staff to evacuate the building rapidly.

We collaborated with the USCP to conduct annual evacuation, shelter in place, and Internal Relocation drills to familiarize staff with appropriate life-safety responses to potential emergency events. We supported over 25 drills that included the Capitol, Capitol Visitor Center (CVC), Senate office buildings, the Senate Page School, Employee Child Care Center, and Postal Square. Many of these exercises were “no notice,” which creates a more realistic response to emergency events. This past year, we conducted two new exercises. The first simulated an active shooter event in the Capitol and CVC. The second simulated a mass casualty event and examined procedures for gathering Member accountability information and ways to share it with senior leadership. We also conducted a full-scale exercise of the alternate Briefing Center at the Thurgood Marshall building.

To improve our alert messaging capability, we partnered with the USCP, House, and the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) to acquire a joint emergency mass notification system (JEMNS) at a significant cost savings to the Senate. JEMNS will improve and reduce the number of alert notification systems needed to transmit critical life safety messages throughout the Capitol complex. JEMNS has been installed and is undergoing operational testing for rollout later in fiscal year 2017. Once complete, the system will rapidly send alert notification messages to Senators and staff by e-mail, phone call, text message, desktop computer pop-up, and smartphone applications.

Communication between staff responsible for executing plans throughout emergencies is critical to ensuring successful outcomes, especially when deployed to continuity sites. We are upgrading our radio system to a modern version that will allow for multiagency interactions on encrypted equipment during exercises and real world events. We are also working with executive branch stakeholders to acquire new, interoperable secure mobile devices to provide classified communication capabilities for officers and emergency response staff.

#### *Contingency Programs*

SAA staff continued to develop and refine contingency plans in collaboration with Joint Congressional Continuity Board partners. Additionally, to better support the SAA’s Continuity of Government mission, efforts have been made with partners and within the Senate to establish collaborative forums for information sharing. Of note, the ASAA Continuity Council was formed to meet and collaborate on collective SAA organizational support and services. The group meets on a quarterly basis to discuss program improvements and the Senate’s requirements during continuity events. The Senate Continuity Coordination Group was also formed to provide a forum for information sharing between the SAA, Secretary of the Senate, USCP, AOC, and Office of Attending Physician. Finally, major progress was made toward establishing a joint concept of operations focused on continuity goals and requirements, and formalizing joint Congressional continuity efforts.

We continued managing a comprehensive Senate exercise program to regularly practice and validate plans. We conducted 26 exercises, tests, and guided discussions covering all aspects of emergency response including mobile assets, Alternate Chamber, Chamber Protective Actions, Emergency Operations Center, Briefing Center, communications, transportation, continuity staffing, evacuations, Internal Relocation, shelter in place, alert notifications, and Continuity of Government. Of particular note, the Test, Training, and Exercise Program led the first ever no-notice exercise of contingency communications capabilities. This functional exercise successfully tested the CIO’s ability to deploy, set up, and test information technology infrastructure associated with mobile vehicle assets.

#### *Security Planning and Police Operations*

SAA staff coordinates security and law enforcement support for the Senate community, including Member offices, State offices, committees, and other support offices on Capitol Hill.

We work closely with the USCP to include staffing for the USCP Command Center support program during all hours the Senate is in session and normal business hours during periods of recess to allow for real-time communication between the SAA, USCP, and the Senate community during special events, emergency incidents, and routine operations. More than 330 incidents and events were monitored through this program this year. SAA staff provided coverage during several Joint Sessions of Congress, and the Papal visit.

Our staff also handles the State Office Readiness Program, which delivers security and preparedness equipment and services free of charge to State offices. We provided security enhancements to 32 Senate State offices this year alone.

#### *Intelligence and Protective Services*

The SAA recognizes the value of maintaining collaborative partnerships. We work with various Federal, State, and local law enforcement, intelligence, and force protection entities to synchronize information, identify security risks, monitor threat streams, and maintain situational awareness. This ensures appropriate mitigation and prevention strategies are deployed to protect the safety and security of the Senate domestically and abroad.

Evolving and rapidly expanding social media use and the availability of open source material allows malicious individuals to publically relay intentions within minutes. We proactively research and analyze such material and engage with community partners and subject matter experts to maintain security-related situational awareness and identify threat data against Members, their families, staff, and associated offices/buildings domestically and abroad.

We collaborate with the USCP and other law enforcement entities to ensure appropriate outreach and coordination on behalf of specifically-targeted Members and staff. We continuously monitor, evaluate, and conduct vulnerability, risk, and threat assessments to determine and implement appropriate security measures and protective operations coverage. Additionally, our office maintains a regular situational awareness outreach campaign for the Senate community regarding significant upcoming events or planned activities, on and in close proximity to the Capitol complex and State offices, which may adversely impact Senate business.

Furthermore, our office coordinates with the USCP to implement several security initiatives, law enforcement outreach efforts, and protective services objectives to ensure Members and their staff receive the necessary guidance, tools, and support when planning and attending public events throughout the country.

Finally, we partner with the USCP and other agencies to support contingency planning; and oversee security operations planning and the creation of incident management and response action plans for major events. Events included the Presidential Inauguration, annual State of the Union address, Senatorial retreats, Republican/Democratic National Conventions, various Joint Sessions of Congress, and other high profile National Special Security Events.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### *Cybersecurity and Response*

The Senate is considered a prime target for cybersecurity breaches. Over the past 2 years, the Cybersecurity Department has focused on a multi-dimensional transformative approach to identify gaps in our security posture and implement strategies to be more proactive to the advanced cyber threat. This approach has not only focused on the technology, but also on educating the user and training of security staff, and has done so respecting the taxpayer's dollar.

From a people perspective, we developed partnerships with the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the commercial sector to develop a mobile application and conference series to educate the Senate community on where and how they are vulnerable and provided various security tips for the average user. These ongoing education efforts help continuously educate the user regarding the cyber threat.

Upon completion of a holistic cybersecurity technology review, our new strategy was developed and implemented. The installation of several new technologies is 95 percent complete and the Cybersecurity Department continues to develop and improve the associated standard operating procedures to leverage the investment. The past 2 years have seen completion of a large-scale effort to transform how network vulnerabilities are identified. This improvement reduced the network scan time from 25 hours to 5 hours and allowed for quicker identification of vulnerabilities and ability to determine the cyber risk. In 2016 alone, 12,868,866 malicious messages were blocked. With recent technology improvements, an additional 68,531 messages were analyzed for threat activity, blocked, and the affected users were notified to prevent a network breach. Similar results have been seen as well regarding the Senate Secure Web Gateway. In 2016, 273,576,800 connections to 54,540 websites were blocked to prevent threats from attacking the internal network. These statistics demonstrate the agility and dynamic capability of the advanced cyber threat.

We continue to develop processes to effectively and efficiently leverage the newly implemented technologies. One is the detecting and alerting of users establishing remote connections to the network from foreign countries. While not necessarily an

attack, it allows System Administrators to confirm the travel and, if not legitimate, implement blocking actions to prevent remote network access to the enterprise. Another process notifies users when credentials to their various accounts have been compromised and potentially sold on the cyber underground. While this is not a compromise of the network, it is possible that users are using the same password for Senate systems and this notification advises the user to change their password to protect their information and the network. Process development is continuing in parallel with the various technologies to promote an agile cyber defense strategy. Additionally, independent assessors confirmed the Senate has a higher than average level of security when compared to other Federal agencies, and there was no sign of the Senate network being breached.

While the improvements have significantly increased the security and reduced the overall risk to the Senate network, this will not prevent a breach. As the department improves its capability, the security will continue to increase. The Senate will also continue to improve its ability to be more proactive and resilient to the advanced cyber threat.

#### *Network Operations*

In 2016, the Network Operations Center received and serviced 2,189 Service Center “incident” tickets and processed 2,873 change requests, including more than 1,200 LAN drop requests. Of the 451 survey responses from users, 95 percent received a rating of “exceptional” or “very satisfied.”

The multi-year project migrating to broadband Internet service in Senate State office locations continues to show benefits. It significantly increases the bandwidth at each of the 460-plus locations, improving the performance at each site for both intranet and Internet services. The increased bandwidth also supports emerging technologies such as improved video conferencing capabilities between DC and a State office. We have completed the migration of more than 430 offices, saving the Senate more than \$185,000 a month since the beginning of the project. Migration for the remainder of the offices will be completed by the end of the year.

#### *Network Infrastructure*

A major upgrade was completed to the entire campus-based switch network. This upgrade was comprised of more than 51,000 feet of laser-optimized fiber and 130 new modular switches. The fiber installation will support the Senate campus for the next decade. This upgrade took more than a year to complete and required staff to work early morning hours to limit any disruptions to the Senate user community. As a result of the fiber upgrade and the increased connection speeds to these switches, we can now support 1 Gigabit connectivity to user systems and are working with other groups to coordinate the final step of enabling the faster speeds on end user systems within offices. Once complete, this upgrade will result in a better user experience across the entire Senate campus.

#### *Wireless Networking*

The Senate wireless network is now comprised of more than 1,100 wireless access points supporting 12 campus buildings and multiple State offices. The implementation of a “guest” wired network now allows constituents to connect to the Internet while visiting the campus. Peak usage of the guest network alone supports more than 3,000 concurrent users on a daily basis. Integration of our wireless network and authentication services with the AirWatch application ensures only Senate assets can connect to the internal network via the Discovery wireless network. The wireless group has worked closely with the Cybersecurity Department by installing more than 100 wireless intrusion sensors in the Senate office buildings with nearly 300 more to be installed over the next year.

#### *Network Engineering*

The migration to a new application load balancing solution was completed by replacing the existing hardware and software platforms, which provided load balancing and Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) offloading services for many Senate applications. The load balancers service more than 180 of the Senate’s most critical applications, including e-mail and Senate.gov web services. These services were migrated with minimal disruption through close collaboration and coordination among groups from different departments. The new application load balancing solution empowers system and application owners with direct access to efficiently monitor and manage application data and delivery, serving the Senate’s business and constituent services.

### *Senate E-mail Systems*

Senate e-mail systems processed an average of more than 1.4 million inbound and outbound e-mails daily. During the past year, we completed a technology refresh and upgrade to enhance outbound e-mail processing capacity and efficiency.

### *Data Center Management*

We continue to follow a best practices approach to modernize, improve and manage our data centers. Energy efficiency improvements include upgrading airflow, reorganization of space, and server rack consolidation in the data center in Postal Square. Enhanced monitoring of the facility environment, along with alerting, allows us to react to environmental issues more quickly and ensure systems availability. A 5-year data center plan has been initiated to include moving our primary data center off Capitol Hill.

### *TranSAAct*

#### *Our Platform for Doing Business Online*

We continue to add functionality to TranSAAct, our platform for doing business online, eliminating paper-based manual processes and addressing the requirements of offices and the Committee on Rules and Administration. Built on an extensible modern database framework, TranSAAct allows indefinite expansion as our customers identify new requirements.

Over the past year, we rebuilt the Floor privileges pages, including automating the Floor pass desk processes; automated the previously manual process of renewing software subscriptions; added constituent services systems financial reports; and rebuilt the ID request forms to address customer suggestions and conform to new requirements.

We are improving the functionality of the communications services requests and upgrading some of the technologies in TranSAAct. We are also pursuing customer requests to add managing SecurID cards into TranSAAct and include service recipient profile information to facilitate easier submission of future requests. Finally, we are working with stakeholders in the development of a new Technology Catalog so we can make appropriate changes to TranSAAct based on anticipated changes in business processes.

### *Otis*

#### *A Senate Personnel Management System*

Otis is an encrypted, secure, and replicated web-based personnel management system for Member and committee offices to manage administrative information about their staff. The system includes support for office administrators and staff, including leave, timesheet, and payroll paperwork. In the last year, we added additional features to expand leave and payroll capabilities, and to track FMLA and Student Loan Repayment Program participants. More than 70 offices and committees are actively using Otis, and we continue to work with the community on enhancements.

### *Privileged Access Management*

#### *Protecting our most sensitive systems and data*

Responding to an industry-acknowledged need for increased security of highly privileged accounts, we designed and implemented a privileged access management solution for use by SAA staff with administrative access to highly valuable data. Solution design required us to conduct extensive interviews of teams and individuals and conduct in-depth evaluations of several potential products. Once we selected a product, we designed the solution and integrated it with two of our network authentication systems (Active Directory and RADIUS) in order to provide the enhanced security of two-factor authentication. This solution significantly increases the security posture of Senate information systems, protecting the most sensitive data by limiting exposure of privileged credentials.

### *Local Administrator Password Solution*

#### *Securing the desktop*

We deployed the Local Administrator Password Solution (LAPS) to address the pervasive problem of a common password used for the local administrator account across multiple computers. This provides a simple, quick and secure way to create a unique and complex local administrator password on all computers in an office. System Administrators can grant staff temporary local administrative access to systems and change local administrator account passwords on demand. Passwords are stored securely in the network authentication system (Active Directory). By default,

the system will change passwords automatically every 30 days. This interval is configurable by the System Administrator. The implementation of LAPS empowers offices to significantly enhance the security of their computers at no additional cost to the Senate.

#### *VMI—Upgrade and Storage Refresh*

##### *More powerful and capable virtual servers*

We significantly upgraded the Senate’s Virtual Machine Infrastructure (VMI), which hosts more than 1,000 virtual servers supporting nearly every application in the Senate. The upgraded software added new capabilities, additional redundancy, and enhanced disaster recovery capabilities. The cross-organizational team within the CIO worked diligently to ensure there was no disruption to services during the upgrade process. Additionally, we refreshed the storage environment supporting the VMI, moving to a more powerful solution provided by a different vendor. This new solution provides a dramatic increase in performance, enabling the CIO to virtualize solutions that previously could not be supported. Due to meticulous planning and execution, we completed the migration of hundreds of terabytes of data from the old storage system to the new system without any disruption to the applications and services supported by the VMI.

#### *Operating System Imaging*

##### *Faster deployment of new computers*

We moved to a new method for creating and deploying images to desktops, laptops, and tablet computers. It enables us to more quickly resolve problems and speed the delivery of new machines to our customers. In addition, we are now able to perform updates to the images, installing the latest security and functionality upgrades from Microsoft. As a result, updates are done once and do not need to be installed on each new machine that is deployed, a time savings of approximately 45 minutes per computer. More than 3,000 computers have been deployed using this new capability, resulting in over 1,000 person-hours saved, and faster time to delivery for customers receiving new computers.

#### *Upgrading Existing Mobility Technologies and Support*

In 2016, the Samsung Galaxy Android series and the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus were added to the mobile communications offerings, providing additional options to the existing iOS and BlackBerry smartphone models. The transition from BlackBerry devices to iOS and Android platforms was hastened by the inability to obtain BlackBerry 10 stock from our wireless vendors. The increased demand for higher priced iOS and Android devices necessitated a better support infrastructure. In 2017, we developed a new support program to have warranty stock onsite so that users no longer have to visit a retail store to troubleshoot or exchange faulty devices. This program achieves cost savings to the Senate overall by eliminating the mandatory requirement for AppleCare+ on all smartphones, but does require an increase to the Mobile Communications Services (MCS) budget to stock full retail value devices to be used as warranty stock.

In 2017, we will evaluate the BlackBerry Mercury as a possible addition to mobile communications offerings. Testing of new smartphones is an ongoing process.

#### *Telecommunications*

The much anticipated, multi-year effort to upgrade and modernize the State office telephony infrastructure for all 460-plus State offices is underway. It will provide each State office with new hardware, increased flexibility, a feature-rich voicemail platform, more features, and additional security at a lower cost.

This project includes limited travel to some State offices during migration to ensure a seamless transition of services. Anticipated benefits will begin in fiscal year 2017 and increase throughout the life of the migration process.

The final stages of the Telephone Modernization Project are well underway with the implementation of Session Initiation Protocol trunk lines. This change will remove our dependency on Verizon for trunking and generate cost savings over the next several years. The upgrade of several servers integral to the DC telephone switch will allow us to remain up to date and prepared for future technologies.

While our DC voicemail platform was previously upgraded to allow for additional features and redundancy, we are now working on expanding capacity due to the increase in voicemail traffic. Splitting our voicemail platform into two separate clusters will allow for maximum capacity on each cluster and still maintain the features, functionality, and flexibility that offices expect.

*IT Help Desk and Installations*

Our central IT Help Desk answers approximately 10,000 questions from Senate users annually, taking trouble reports and coordinating the activities of the technicians who respond to and resolve the problems by phone, online, and in person. In addition, the installation team completed more than 5,000 installation projects over the past 12 months with the percentage of on-time arrivals averaging 99.5 percent. In addition, 48 percent of Help Desk calls were resolved during the initial call. Each time a Help Desk or installation ticket is closed, the customer is offered an online survey, and 98 percent of those surveys rated the IT Help Desk and installation services as either very satisfactory or excellent.

*Constituent Services Systems*

New Constituent Services Systems (CSS) contracts were issued in 2016. The new contracts include numerous updates identified by Senate and CIO staff over the course of the previous contract and include several new security-related requirements. CSS contracts were issued to four vendors and extend through the end of 2021, thereby providing Member offices with several CSS service provider options.

## OPERATIONS

*Central Operations**ID Office*

The ID Office has successfully simplified the badge issuing process by consolidating two card management systems prior to the beginning of the 115th Congress and issuing approximately 9,000 Congressional IDs during a 2-month initial renewal period.

Focus continues on the increased use of secure Smart Cards, which several hundred customers currently utilize. The Senate Smart Card program hopes to support various capabilities outlined in Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 12, such as e-mail encryption, two-factor authentication, and secure remote network access.

*Parking Operations*

Parking Operations continues to mitigate impacts of special events and construction projects on space availability. Long-term construction projects, such as the Russell building's exterior envelope rehabilitation, will inconvenience different groups of permit holders over the course of 4 years. Shorter targeted projects—such as repaving, refreshing paint, and replacing curbs and gutters—continue to have smaller impacts on outdoor permit holders. The planned renovations of the Russell Legislative Garage and the Thurgood Marshall Judiciary Office Building Garage will be of significant impact in the coming years.

Work on the Judiciary Office Building Garage is underway, and work continues with the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts to ensure proper focus on our customers' parking needs. The AOC has designed the work in phases to limit the disruption to permit holders. It is anticipated that all current permit holders will be accommodated in the garage throughout the project.

The Russell Legislative Garage renovation will displace the parking permit issuance booth and over 100 spaces that are under the control of the Committee on Rules and Administration. Parking Operations will work closely with the committee's staff and AOC personnel to ensure customer service can be maintained and displaced garage permit holders are accommodated in other Senate areas. The permit issuance booth issues more than 9,000 permanent permits each Congress, and maintaining a location to provide this service is extremely important. Ensuring all stakeholders are aware of the plans for the renovation will be a primary focus of Parking Operations.

*Transportation and Fleet Operations*

Transportation and Fleet Operations procures, manages, and maintains Senate vehicles; operates the Senate Daily Shuttle services; and provides the Senate with emergency transportation and logistics support. The fleet includes trucks, vans, buses, SUVs, electric vehicles, handicapped-accessible vehicles, and Segways. Focus continues on reducing older vehicle inventory with newer, more efficient vehicles, when necessary, to better meet the needs of our customers. In fiscal year 2016, staff transported more than 23,000 passengers through the SAA Shuttle service.

*Photography Studio*

The Photo Studio provides photography and photo imaging services for Senate offices and committees. The studio manages and maintains the Photo Browser appli-

cation, which provides Senate offices a secure location to upload, organize, download, and place orders for their photos through a Web interface. The Photo Browser provides a secure, accessible archive to all photos accumulated during a Senator's term in office.

The Photo Browser system currently contains more than 1.4 million photo image files. The new Photo Browser system launched in March 2017. Improvements include a more intuitive user interface, user tools that allow cropping and selection of templates, and opportunities for developing new features in the future.

In fiscal year 2016, staff photographed more than 68,000 images, produced more than 61,000 photo prints, and coordinated scanning for end of term archiving of more than 56,000 photo images for Senators leaving office.

#### *Printing, Graphics and Direct Mail*

The Printing, Graphics and Direct Mail (PGDM) department provides support to the Senate community through graphic design, printing, photocopying, mailing, document preservation, logistics, and security—producing more than 60.3 million items during fiscal year 2016.

As a good steward of fiscal resources, PGDM garnered notable savings for the Senate, including:

- In fiscal year 2016, PGDM reduced more than \$100,000 in equipment maintenance costs by re-negotiating vendor support contracts.
- More than \$1 million was saved by locally producing charts for Senate floor proceedings and committee hearings.
- More than \$960,000 saved in postage by pre-sorting and discounting 4.3 million pieces of outgoing Senate franked mail, even as costs continue to fluctuate within the postal industry.

PGDM produced 5.3 million digital images using high-speed digital scanners and software technology for imaging Members' mail, as well as using a document file management system. This provided Member offices the ability to conduct comprehensive electronic searches for specific dates, legislative issues, or individual constituent correspondence within their document collection.

PGDM has continued work with the Senate community to convert 6,148 obsolete media (VHS/Beta/cassette) to usable digital files, which amounts to over 4 terabytes of data. This service allows offices the ability to convert legacy tapes to current media formats, in compliance with National Archives standards.

Digital publications and multimedia are becoming an increasingly important complement to printing. The future of publishing is a world in which both print and digital live together. In fiscal year 2016, PGDM added new offerings called "Digital Media." Some examples of these jobs include fillable PDF forms, Web graphics, E-Pubs, video creation, animation, interactive PDFs, and animated slide shows.

Through effective communication and teamwork, PGDM's Senate Support Facility upheld the SAA mission for operational security in fiscal year 2016 by receiving 5,047,809 items from the USCP off-site inspection facility and transferring them to the Senate Support Facility. This process eliminated 436 truck deliveries to the Capitol complex, helping to reduce traffic and allow the USCP to focus on other aspects of safety.

Focus continues on identifying means of cost savings while not compromising service and customer satisfaction. PGDM combines job responsibilities throughout its department and engages in formal cross-training initiatives among employees to ensure a high level of service quality. In addition, PGDM plans to upgrade the current online work order system to provide Senate offices the ability to request additional products.

#### *Senate Post Office*

The Senate Post Office's workforce tests and delivers mail and packages to more than 180 locations within the Capitol complex while providing a messenger service to multiple locations within the Washington metropolitan area.

In fiscal year 2016, the Senate Post Office safely processed and delivered 7.9 million internal and incoming mail items. The Government Accountability Office reimbursed the Sergeant at Arms \$14,000 for screening their incoming U.S. Postal Service mail.

Following a successful bipartisan pilot program of the Sentry Air System, a new mail-screening unit for Senate State offices, the Senate Post Office purchased 30 additional units. Deployment of the new units will commence as older units are identified for replacement.

#### *Capitol Facilities*

Capitol Facilities supports the work of the Senate by providing a clean and professional environment in the Capitol Building for Senators, staff, and visitors. Our En-

vironmental Services Division cleans Capitol offices, hallways, and restrooms; moves furniture for offices; and provides special event setups for 15 meeting rooms in the Capitol and the Senate Expansion space in the Capitol Visitor Center. The Furnishings Division provides furnishings—including stock and custom furniture—carpeting, and window treatments to Capitol offices. It also provides framing services for Senate offices and committees.

Focus continues on realizing cost savings and improved efficiency while not sacrificing service. Capitol Facilities has combined job specialties and engaged in cross-training employees to ensure services are maintained at the highest level. Current initiatives include an upgrade to the Capitol Facilities Online Request System (CapFOR), our online tool that offices can use to request furniture, services, and framing. It also includes an online work order system to track the workload and software that enables us to provide furnishing floorplans to Senators for use in their Capitol offices.

#### *Office Support Services*

The State Office Liaison staff serve as the conduit between Senate offices and commercial landlords, or the General Services Administration for Senate offices in Federal facilities, overseeing 450 State offices. Managing this important program helps assure every Senator's ability to meet the growing needs of their local constituencies.

### CAPITOL OPERATIONS

Ensuring that our customers—both internal and external—have access to the Senate and understand its work remains the focus of the SAA's Capitol Operations team. Over the past year, team members provided a range of services to Senators and their staffs, visitors to the Capitol, members of the news media who cover Congress, and the public. Capitol Operations continues to focus on providing timely, accurate, and useful information that promotes safety, increases transparency, and enhances the experience of those who work in and visit the Senate.

#### *Senate Recording Studio*

In a time of instant communication and demands for transparency, the Senate Recording Studio helps ensure that the work of the Senate remains accessible to the public. During 2016, the Recording Studio provided 781 hours of gavel-to-gavel coverage of Senate Floor proceedings and continues to provide technical support for live-streaming and archiving of the proceedings on the Senate's website, [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov). Last year, the streamed proceedings were viewed 2.15 million times by more than 172,900 unique visitors. To keep the quality of this production in line with current standards, the studio is upgrading the Senate Floor audio system in 2017. The Recording Studio also broadcast 544 Senate committee hearings in 2016. The studio coordinates with Voice of America, the Department of State, and other agencies to provide these hearings to a larger audience. Another priority of the Recording Studio is to enable Senators working in DC to communicate with their constituents back home. During 2016, the studio produced 805 television productions and 899 radio productions, and edited more than 2,000 audio and video clips for Senators. In January 2017, the studio was responsible for the broadcast of the Presidential Inauguration to a record eleven jumbotrons along the Capitol grounds, six live streams, and the descriptive audio of the event.

#### *Senate Media Galleries*

For members of the news media, the Senate remains one of the most open and accessible institutions of government. On any given day, hundreds of reporters, producers, photographers, videographers, and technical support personnel can be found in hearing rooms, hallways, and in the Chamber, bringing the news of the Senate to people across the country and around the world.

Ensuring that the news media can conduct their business efficiently, safely, and in a manner consistent with Senate rules is the responsibility of the staff of the four Senate Media Galleries. The unique structure of the Media Galleries, dating back to the earliest days of the Senate, requires them to work closely and cooperatively with their respective Standing and Executive Correspondents' Committees, the USCP, and press secretaries and communications staff of Senators' offices and Senate committees. Media Gallery staff facilitate media credentials and arrangements for the approximately 6,000 members of the news media who can cover the Senate in a given year.

*Daily Press Gallery*

The Daily Press Gallery supports reporters working for publications that publish on a daily or more frequent basis. Last year, the Daily Press Gallery issued credentials to approximately 1,800 journalists. As custodians of the largest press complex on Capitol Hill, the gallery staff serve more than 100 reporters who physically work in the Press Gallery on a regular basis. Gallery staff also help control access to the Press Gallery inside the Senate Chamber and ensure gallery rules are followed. Daily Press Gallery staff coordinate with Senate committees on press coverage for hearings and other events around Capitol Hill. The Gallery staff remain focused on modernizing services by creating an electronic archival and filing system, streamlining the online credentialing process, and maintaining real time website updates on Senate Floor proceedings and notifications to Senate staff and reporters via e-mail and Twitter (@SenatePress). After successful work at the 2016 conventions and 2017 Presidential Inauguration, the gallery staff focused on preparations for the Supreme Court nomination hearings.

*Periodical Press Gallery*

The Periodical Press Gallery supports the news media working for non-daily periodicals and their online publications. Media interest in Capitol Hill has increased dramatically over the past year, and the Periodical Gallery has seen a 200 percent increase in applications for press credentials since October 2016. Gallery staff continue to process these new press applications in consultation with the Executive Committee of Periodical Correspondents, and will renew press credentials for the more than 1,200 correspondents currently credentialed. The staff remains focused on streamlining communication with gallery members and Senate staff. For example, the number of followers on the gallery's Twitter account (@Senate PPG) grew over 33 percent to 6,350 in 2016. These efforts help drive traffic to the gallery's website, where information on Senate Floor proceedings, the credentialing process, and other areas of interest is consolidated. Gallery staff also continue to assist Senate staff with media logistics for many high profile hearings in 2017, including the nomination hearings for the next Supreme Court Justice.

*Press Photographers Gallery*

The Press Photographers Gallery supports photographers representing news organizations from across the United States and around the world. Last year, the gallery credentialed approximately 300 news photographers. Unlike the other three Media Galleries, which have counterparts in the House of Representatives, Press Photographers Gallery staff support the media at news events and hearings in both Houses of Congress. During the past year, gallery staff supported press logistics at the national political conventions and the Presidential Inauguration, ensuring hundreds of press photographers could document for the world the process of the peaceful transfer of power in the United States. The Senate is a major focus of the press during the beginning of a new administration; accordingly, large numbers of photographers are covering Congress on a daily basis. The gallery staff works constantly with other SAA offices, the U.S. Capitol Police, and Senate offices to ensure press photographers' access without interfering with the duties of the Members. This year, the gallery looks to finalize press logistics for Continuity of Government plans.

*Radio and Television Gallery*

The Radio and Television Gallery serves as the Senate's primary contact to the broadcast news industry and ensures that the Senate's broadcast coverage rules are followed. Gallery staff function as liaisons between Senate offices and the broadcast media and, in 2016, assisted in organizing coverage of more than 200 news conferences, 1,200 committee hearings, 100 photo opportunities, and 25 special events. The gallery issued credentials to approximately 3,900 television and radio reporters, producers, and technical personnel. The gallery also maintains the studio and technical infrastructure that Senators use for news conferences. Recently, the gallery renovated the studio's audio system and added soundproofing. The renovated audio system incorporates a separate audio feed for ambient microphones. As a result, reporters' questions are clearly heard during news conferences by the viewing public.

*Senate Doorkeepers*

Senate Doorkeepers play a critical role in supporting the legislative process of the Senate. Doorkeepers provide access to those with Senate Floor privileges; enforce the rules of the Senate Floor; and facilitate the needs of Senators, Senate Floor staff, and Senate Pages. Doorkeepers also provide support for a number of special events attended by Senators, their families, and special guests. In addition to directly supporting Senators, Doorkeepers also ensure that people from around the world can visit the Senate Gallery safely. During 2016, the Senate Chamber aver-

aged 1,000 visitors per day—both when the Senate was in session and during recess—with the help of Senate Doorkeepers. Doorkeepers are also tasked with emergency preparedness roles and balance the dual priorities of maintaining access and being prepared for emergency situations.

#### *Senate Appointment Desks*

The Senate Appointment Desks are responsible for processing thousands of guests, who enter the Capitol each year for business meetings or other purposes, in a safe and efficient manner. During 2016, approximately 220,000 visitors were processed through our network of Appointment Desks located on the first floor of the Capitol, in the basements of the Russell and Hart Senate office buildings, and in the Capitol Visitor Center. Of these, 124,000 visitors were in the Capitol complex for official business or a direct meeting with a Member, a Member's office, or a committee. In addition, more than 25,000 international visitors relied on the CVC Appointment Desk for Senate Gallery Passes and information.

#### *Office of Internal Communications*

The Office of Internal Communications (OIC) streamlines communication within the SAA organization and to the rest of the Senate community through a combination of online, digital, and traditional print publications. Last year, the office sent 498 Notices and 61 Dear Colleague messages electronically, saving resources and speeding delivery of important information. In addition, the OIC manages two websites—one internal to the SAA and the other accessible to the Senate community. During the past year, OIC staff edited and helped produce 135 publications, including safety bulletins, newsletters for both Senate and SAA staff, procedural manuals, and dozens of documents sent to various SAA offices and the Senate.

#### SAA HUMAN RESOURCES

The primary function of the SAA Office of Human Resources is to provide personnel services and advice to SAA managers and employees. SAA Human Resources also provides workers' compensation, ergonomic assessments, Americans with Disabilities Act accommodation requests, and recruitment services to the broader Senate community.

#### *Senate Placement Office*

During fiscal year 2016, Senate offices submitted 404 requests for recruitment assistance to the Senate Placement Office; 21,052 resumes were processed by the Placement Office in response to these requests. Overall, in fiscal year 2016, the Senate Placement Office processed 23,657 resumes from applicants for vacancies in Senate offices and committees.

#### SENATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Office of Education and Training provides training to ensure that all Senate staff have the resources and skills they need to perform their jobs. In 2016, nearly 3,000 staff attended our classroom classes and nearly 1,200 staff attended online classes. In addition, the Office of Education and Training provided customized training, facilitation services, and coaching to more than 150 Senate Member, committee, and support offices, in which more than 2,000 staff members participated. The office also provided three conferences for 137 State staff.

This year, we will expand our leadership development offerings, provide training for the Academy Nomination Coordinators, and coordinate orientation and training for the Chiefs of Staff and Administrative Directors in the new Member offices.

#### *Health Promotion*

Our Health Promotion office has been legislatively mandated to provide Health Promotion activities and events for all Senate staff. Each year, the office coordinates and hosts the 2-day Health and Wellness Fair. In 2015, more than 2000 staff participated in health promotion activities, which included screening for glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure; exercise demonstration; and seminars on topics including healthy eating and cancer prevention. Through a revolving fund, we offer the opportunity to participate in Weight Watchers, yoga, and Pilates.

#### EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers a variety of emotional, behavioral, and work-related support resources and services to staff, their family members, Senate Pages, and interns. In 2016, nearly 1 in 20 Senate employees utilized the services of an EAP counselor; 221 employees took an online mental health screening; 47 managers requested a supervisory consultation; 2,268 employees attended an

EAP training activity; and 2,206 employees accessed resources for personalized information and referrals addressing childcare, parenting, adult care, aging, education, legal concerns, and/or financial issues.

CONCLUSION

The Sergeant at Arms is composed of a diverse array of organizations. All of them exist to serve the Senate so that it can function as part of the Legislative Branch of our government. To provide the checks and balances on any administration, the Legislative Branch must be able to function efficiently in an effort to create and pass legislation. To do so, the Senate Sergeant at Arms must and will provide the needed services that allow it to function.

APPENDIX A

FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET REQUEST

Office of the Sergeant at Arms—United States Senate

FINANCIAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

[Dollars in Thousands]

	Fiscal Year 2017 Enacted	Fiscal Year 2018 Request
General Operations & Maintenance:		
Salaries .....	\$70,900	\$73,090
Expenses .....	65,058	71,613
Total General Operations & Maintenance .....	\$135,958	\$144,703
Mandated Allowances & Allotments .....	43,657	42,188
Capital Investment .....	9,710	10,590
Nondiscretionary Items .....	8,110	7,182
Total .....	\$197,435	\$204,663
Staffing .....	847	854

To ensure that we provide the highest levels and quality of security, support services, and equipment, we submit a fiscal year 2018 budget request of \$204,663,000, an increase of \$7,228,000, or 3.7 percent, compared with fiscal year 2017. The salary budget request is \$73,090,000, an increase of \$2,190,000, or 3.1 percent, and the expense budget request is \$131,573,000, an increase of \$5,038,000, or 4.0 percent. Staffing is expected to be 854 FTEs.

We present our budget in four categories: General Operations and Maintenance (Salaries and Expenses), Mandated Allowances and Allotments, Capital Investment, and Nondiscretionary Items.

The General Operations and Maintenance Salaries budget request is \$73,090,000, an increase of \$2,190,000, or 3.1 percent, compared with fiscal year 2017.

The General Operations and Maintenance Expenses budget request is \$71,613,000, an increase of \$6,555,000, or 10.1 percent, compared with fiscal year 2017. The increase is due to funding for cybersecurity initiatives.

The Mandated Allowances and Allotments expense budget request for fiscal year 2018 is \$42,188,000. This budget supports State office rents at \$18,059,000; purchase of computer and office equipment at \$8,725,000; maintenance and procurement of Member office constituent mail services system at \$7,150,000; voice and data communications for Washington, DC and State offices at \$3,302,000; recording studios, \$2,100,000; State office security enhancements at \$1,607,000; wireless services and equipment, \$1,050,000.

The Capital Investments expense request for fiscal year 2018 is \$10,590,000. This budget includes funding for Recording Studio equipment upgrades at \$2,325,000; Data Network Campus Infrastructure at \$2,150,000; Storage Area Network at \$1,915,000; Enterprise Systems Infrastructure \$1,290,000; Network Operations Infrastructure, \$1,210,000; Cybersecurity Infrastructure, \$1,000,000 and Network Mgmt Equip & Technology Upgrade, \$700,000.

The Nondiscretionary Items expense request for fiscal year 2018 is \$7,182,000. This budget includes support for the Payroll System at \$3,689,000, funding to support the Secretary of the Senate for contract maintenance of the Financial Manage-

ment Information System (FMIS) at \$2,729,000, and maintenance and necessary enhancements to the Legislative Information System at \$764,000.

Senator LANKFORD. Chief Verderosa.

## UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

### STATEMENT OF HON. CHIEF MATTHEW R. VERDEROSA

#### ACCOMPANIED BY:

**STEVE SUND, ASSISTANT CHIEF**  
**RICHARD BRADDOCK, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
**JAY MILLER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**  
**GRETCHEN DEMAR, GENERAL COUNSEL**  
**FAY ROPELLA, INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Chief VERDEROSA. Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the subcommittee, I am honored to be here today and I appreciate the opportunity to present the United States Capitol Police budget request for fiscal year 2018.

I am joined here today by some members of my executive team and executive management team, including Chief of Operations, Assistant Chief Steve Sund; Chief Administrative Officer Richard Braddock; Chief Financial Officer Jay Miller; General Counsel Gretchen DeMar; and Inspector General Fay Ropella. Also in attendance today is Officer Gus Papathanasiou, the USCP Fraternal Order of Police Labor Chairman, who heads our sworn union.

I would like to thank the subcommittee for its generous and unwavering support of the United States Capitol Police and for providing the necessary funding and support for our personnel and operations.

As we have seen over the past several months, our officers are well prepared and highly trained to deal with any circumstances that they may encounter. What at first may appear to be routine may, in fact, be a threat to the safety and wellbeing of the Capitol complex or Members of Congress. This point is exemplified with the incident on June 14 in Alexandria, Virginia. The extensive training and quick response by Special Agents Crystal Griner and David Bailey saved lives. I would like to commend them publicly for their heroic and professional response in protecting the Members of Congress and Senators and others that day during the practice session for the congressional charity baseball game.

We have often discussed the department's needs to remain agile while also continuing to enhance our capabilities, and I believe that in the environment in which we operate, it will be necessary to provide increased coverage for Member events going forward. In doing so, we appreciate the Congress' continued support of our mission and its recognition of the need to provide additional resources as we identify new and increasing threats.

Accordingly, we have developed our fiscal year 2018 budget request of \$426.6 million with a focus on continuing to equip, train, and prepare our workforce to protect the United States Capitol and the Congress to ensure they remain safe and secure. Due to the global threat environment and the tactics of terrorist organizations targeting attacks at public venues, we have worked in close coordination with the Capitol Police Board and Chairman Larkin of the

board to determine that additional screening and various means must be employed to continue to keep the Capitol complex safe.

As a result, our fiscal year 2018 request includes funding for an additional 72 sworn officers and 48 civilians for the purpose of adding prescreening capabilities and civilianizing certain sworn positions as part of a multiyear plan to bolster the overall security of the Capitol complex, as well as enhancing and completing the House garage security effort.

Lastly, our request also addresses investments in training, recruiting, and outfitting new employees, replacing key equipment and systems that have become obsolete and restoring annual levels reduced in previous fiscal years to meet the vital department needs.

Our commitment to the mission and our steadfast dedication to ensuring the safety and security of Members, staff, and the millions of visitors who come to the United States Capitol is our top priority. This would not be possible without the dedicated women and men of the department. I continue to be impressed with their overall performance and professionalism every day. I am very proud of the troops, and they are here and they really understand the mission. We will continue to work closely with you to ensure that we meet the needs and expectations of the Congress, as well as our mission, in a reasonable and responsible manner.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to appear here today before you and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

[The statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF HON. CHIEF MATTHEW R. VERDEROSA

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Murphy, and Members of the Committee, I am honored to be here today, and I appreciate the opportunity to present the United States Capitol Police budget request for fiscal year 2018. I am joined here by some members of my Executive Team and Executive Management Team, including Chief of Operations, Assistant Chief Steven Sund; Chief Administrative Officer Richard Braddock; Chief Financial Officer Jay Miller; General Counsel Gretchen DeMar; and Inspector General Fay Ropella. Also in attendance today is Officer Gus Papathanasiou, the USCP FOP Labor Committee Chairman.

First, I would like to thank the Committee for its unwavering support of the United States Capitol Police. On behalf of the entire Department, I would like to express our appreciation to the Members of this Committee and the entire Congress for providing the necessary funding to support our personnel and operations. The women and men of the U.S. Capitol Police work tirelessly to ensure that the Congress is able to securely conduct its legislative responsibilities without disruption, all the while exhibiting the utmost respect for the institution, the Constitution and protecting First Amendment rights of all individuals.

I am thoroughly impressed with their performance, which is both seen and unseen by the community. And, I am thankful for their commitment to our mission and their steadfast dedication every day to ensuring the safety and security of Members, staff, and the millions of visitors who come to the United States Capitol.

As we have seen over the past several months, our officers are well prepared and highly trained to deal with any circumstances that they may encounter. What at first may appear to be routine or even mundane, may in fact be a threat to the safety and wellbeing of the Capitol Complex or Members of Congress. We also are always aware that the dynamic nature of any threat can change very quickly as the circumstances unfold.

This point is exemplified with the incident on June 14, 2017, in Alexandria, Virginia. The extensive training and quick response by Special Agents Crystal Griner and David Bailey saved lives. I would like to commend them for their heroic and professional response in protecting the Members of Congress and others that day during the practice session for the Congressional charity baseball game. We have

often discussed the Department's need to remain agile while also continuing to enhance our capabilities, and I believe that in the environment in which we operate, it will be necessary to provide increased coverage for Member events going forward. In doing so, we appreciate the Congress' continued support of our mission and its recognition of the need to provide additional resources as we identify new and increasing threats.

Mr. Chairman, the tremendous support of the Committee and the Capitol Police Board has contributed to our success in achieving our mission, as well as our ability to recognize and address the immediacy and dynamic nature of current threats. You and your staff have taken great time and made significant efforts to work closely with the Department's leadership team, and we are truly grateful for your keen understanding of the complexity of our mission and the challenges we face.

We have developed our fiscal year 2018 budget with a focus on continuing to equip and prepare our workforce to be agile and responsive to the operations of Congress and keeping the U.S. Capitol safe and secure. Our overall fiscal year 2018 request is \$426.6 million, and represents an increase of approximately 8 percent over fiscal year 2017.

As with all other law enforcement agencies, personnel salaries and overtime make up the majority of our annual budget. However, we could not do what we do without our dedicated law enforcement officers and professional staff. We have continuously worked throughout the Department to effectively and prudently allocate our existing resources to achieve the best possible balance of staffing to meet mission requirements. We are routinely analyzing our workforce distribution to align job functions, assignments, workload, risk management, and organizational readiness, along with the threat assessments and mandatory mission requirements, within a dynamic environment.

Further, our 2018 budget request continues to address the Department's new responsibility of protecting and securing the O'Neill House Office Building, which took effect on June 8, 2017. The Committee has been very understanding and cognizant of what this requirement adds to the Department's mission and its demands on our resources. Therefore, I am grateful to you and your staff for working with my team over the past several months to address our resource needs with this new responsibility.

As I noted earlier, around the world and even in the shadow of the Capitol Dome, we are seeing the nature of threats changing. Today, there are no routine traffic stops. There are no routine activities, as we have seen a rise in terrorist organizations attacking public venues. There have also been increased occurrences of home-grown, violent extremist "lone wolf" episodes, as we saw on June 14, 2017. As a result, we have seen an escalation in the number of mass causality events around the world and in the continental United States. As such, every event on Capitol Grounds, from demonstrations to concerts to Members crossing the street for votes, must be considered as presenting a risk.

Based on this rise in terrorist events and the tactics displayed by the assailants, the U.S. Capitol Police are continuing to review our operational and tactical postures to ensure that the Department is taking every measure possible to maintain the security of the Capitol Complex, while allowing the legislative process to continue to function in an open environment. Working in close coordination with the Capitol Police Board, the Department has determined that additional screening of various means must be employed. This involves implementing additional screening and pre-screening at various building access points, deploying security measures to better secure and screen in the House garages, and utilizing enhanced screening portals.

Instead of immediately requesting an increase in additional sworn personnel, the Department looked at its current mission load and worked closely with the Capitol Police Board to identify areas to modify or eliminate mission requirements to offset these new mission requisites. Additionally, the Department reviewed duties currently performed by officers that could be civilianized, and we began our initial efforts to reassign officers currently filling these roles to utilize their training and skills to better meet operational requirements.

For the 7 years preceding fiscal year 2016, our number of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) remained flat. However, faced with the new mission requirements detailed above, we continue to need additional sworn personnel to successfully implement all of these security enhancements throughout the Capitol Complex.

Therefore, our fiscal year 2018 request includes base funding for 1,871 sworn and 372 civilian positions, which is consistent with the staffing levels funded in fiscal year 2017. In addition, the request includes half-year funding for an additional 72 sworn officers and 48 civilians for the purpose of enhancing garage security, adding pre-screening capabilities, and civilianizing certain positions as part of a multi-year

plan to bolster Capitol Complex security. To support these efforts, the fiscal year 2018 funding request reflects an 8 percent increase over the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for personnel costs. This increase is necessary to address the annual cost of living and benefit cost increases incurred by the Department, additional staffing requirements, and overtime costs to meet mission requirements.

Currently, the Department's sworn staffing levels do not provide the complete and necessary resources to meet all of our mission requirements within the established sworn officer utility or the number of work-hours in a year that each officer is available to perform work. This utility number is used to determine overall staffing requirements. It balances the utility of available staff with annual salary and overtime funding along with known mission requirements. These known requirements include post coverage, holiday concerts, and projected unscheduled events such as demonstrations and late-night sessions. The utility number also estimates unfunded requirements that occur after the budget is enacted, such as unforeseen critical emergency situations, and providing adequate police coverage of Congressional hearings.

Because of the need to fill the mission requirement gap through overtime, the Department has struggled to take our sworn personnel from their posts to conduct training. In order to provide mandatory training, we must utilize overtime to ensure that the officers may be offline for training, while meeting our daily mission requirements. There are flexibilities that other law enforcement agencies have to offset or defer daily requirements to allow for officer training that our unique mission does not afford us.

Therefore, mission requirements in excess of available personnel must be addressed through the identification of efficiencies such as post realignment and/or reductions, technology, and cutbacks within the utility. Where necessary, we meet this requirement through the use of overtime. If the requested staffing levels for fiscal year 2018 are funded, the Department's overtime projection is approximately \$40.7 million. This amount will cover base mission requirements, our support of non-reimbursable events at the Library of Congress, and the ability for sworn employees to be backfilled while they attend mandatory and necessary training. This also includes overtime funds to provide coverage for the O'Neill House Office Building until the officers hired in fiscal year 2017 can be deployed. That specific overtime requirement will dissipate once the officers are deployed.

For the Department's General Expenses budget, our request includes items such as protective travel; hiring, outfitting, and training new sworn personnel; supplies and equipment; management systems and technology upgrades; and other non-personnel needs. In planning for increases in both the number of facilities we will be protecting and staffing requirements, we are requesting \$75.2 million for general expenses, which is an increase of \$7.2 million over the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. This funding will address increases in operating costs including investments in training, recruiting and outfitting new employees, replacing key equipment and systems that are becoming obsolete, and restoring annual levels reduced in previous fiscal years to meet vital Department needs.

An important new requirement included in this request is a necessary \$2.1 million investment in equipping a fully functioning Alternate Command Center. If the current Command Center at USCP Headquarters cannot be utilized due to power or access issues, at this time, the alternative is a room at another building that is sparsely populated with a limited amount of aging equipment. The proposed Alternate Command Center would include back-up power, emergency notifications systems, connectivity to the Senate, House and USCP messaging systems, secure communications, campus and airspace monitoring abilities, and stations for the commanders to conduct command and control oversight functions to ensure stakeholders are continuously provided situational awareness. As the level and type of threats have changed, we need to have all of the tools necessary to respond quickly and appropriately at our disposal. I believe having a fully functional, state-of-the-art Alternate Command Center at the ready is essential for the Department to be able to maintain the security of the Legislative Branch of government.

As the Chief of Police, it is my fiduciary responsibility to look at every possibility within the Department to accomplish our mission before asking for additional resources. The Committee and the Congress have been very supportive of the Department, and I would not ask for additional resources unless we have identified a great need. We put in much time and planning while formulating our budget request each year.

For the past 7 years, we have implemented uniform procedures to effectively measure and justify USCP planning, program, and resource requirements through a comprehensive, standardized, and repeatable management process that we call the "Force Development Business Process." It provides a transparent decisionmaking

process that includes reviews and approvals by an Investment Review Board made up of key agency management, and it provides a structure that is results-driven and based on meeting operational needs. In addition, to ensure the accuracy of our budget request, our fiscal year 2018 budget went through multiple layers of review and validation, and is tied to supporting documentation for each budget element.

Further, I am pleased to report that the Department received its sixth consecutive unmodified "clean" opinion on our financial statements from the USCP Office of Inspector General (OIG). The Department truly values the OIG's assistance in our efforts to further improve operations and performance, and the long-term resolution of recommendations related to internal controls, business processes and material weaknesses remains of the highest importance to me and our management team.

I am also proud to note that the Department was awarded the Gold Standard from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies during our fifth accreditation in 2014. This is the highest rating that a law enforcement agency can receive, and is reserved for organizations that exhibit strong organizational health. In 2017, the Department once again is seeking the Gold Standard accreditation, and will be going through an onsite assessment in August. This regular accreditation process ensures that we are continuously reviewing our programs and functions, sharing and receiving lessons learned with peer law enforcement agencies, and most importantly, constantly implementing best law enforcement practices into our operations.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the Committee that the U.S. Capitol Police is committed to always being at the ready to ensure that the Capitol Complex is safe and secure.

Our fiscal year 2018 budget request was developed with great thought and discipline to ensure that the necessary mission requirements were at the forefront of our planning and prioritization. We will continue to work closely with you and the Committee staff to ensure that we meet the needs and expectations of the Congress, as well as our mission, in a reasonable and responsible manner.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have at this time.

#### NEW SWORN POSITIONS

Senator LANKFORD. Thank you both for your testimony.

Chief Verderosa, let me start with you and we will have a brief time of questioning before we move to a closed session. You have made a request for 72 additional sworn officers. That would bring up the force up to 1,943 total officers. Can you talk briefly about why that request is needed and the additional tasks or additional locations that you need to provide coverage for?

Chief VERDEROSA. Certainly. The request for the additional personnel is very specific to a tasking that will close the loop on some vulnerabilities that have been existing for a number of years on the House side. I look at policing and security of the campus in totality. It is not an initiative where we are just deploying officers to the House side. This effort completes our perimeter and provides a level of security that we believe is necessary to finish something that has been started over the past fiscal years.

#### CIVILIANIZED POSITIONS

Senator LANKFORD. You also request an increase in civilian positions. Tell me the balancing that you are trying to accomplish there.

Chief VERDEROSA. Absolutely, sir. The 48 civilian positions would be for the purpose of taking our command center communications, firearms instructors, and there are one or two other positions that are currently occupied by sworn personnel and traditionally have focused on a sworn presence. Civilians can perform those tasks. By requesting civilian positions, we can quickly place those sworn officers that are being displaced back into the field where we get a

quicker turnaround as opposed to hiring new officers. New officers take time to select, train, and then deploy, which takes basically about a year to do. Civilianization returns the operational officers that are in these positions, back to the field. We can get more utility from those officers faster as opposed to hiring 48 new officers.

Senator LANKFORD. Fair enough.

Mr. Larkin, we have talked a lot about cybersecurity. We will talk a lot more about it in the closed session as well. The British Parliament just experienced a hacking where there were many email accounts that ended up being compromised.

As you look at this, tell me where you think our level of preparedness is and what needs to be done generally. And then we can talk more specifics in a closed session.

Mr. LARKIN. Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is that we are in a constant blocking and tackling drill. This is an ongoing battle. There are incidents around the world and certainly here within the United States that are highlighted every day. This institution is not immune to that.

We are constantly looking at our capabilities and our line of defense as far as dealing with this threat and also our ability to respond to an incident once we detect it, and that is key. Our ability to quickly identify an abnormality and then to contain it and effectively repair it is key to minimizing the damage that potentially could come from an attack that successfully penetrates our network.

I will say that our efforts require the support of this subcommittee because much of our technology and capability comes with a price. As Senator Murphy alluded to, it is "what is that balance point." How are we applying a common sense rule against a real world threat and are we in the right place? And that is a discussion that needs to be iterative between not only my organization but this subcommittee and that a level of comfort is achieved that we are protecting data, privacy, and other factors associated with our digital domain.

Senator LANKFORD. There is a request of \$1.6 million for process management and innovation. Tell me a little bit more about the responsibilities of this office.

Mr. LARKIN. We are partnering with industry in addition to other government agencies that are challenged by this threat. It is so that we can see the latest technologies and capabilities that are being designed, developed, and put into motion to deal with this threat. This particular unit is looking out ahead to the next ridge line, anticipating the technologies that potentially could help us in the future. We look to these technologies for planning and situational awareness of what we could leverage in order to ensure that we are defending our networks the best way we can.

Senator LANKFORD. Thank you.

Senator Murphy.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Larkin, can you talk a little bit about developing capacities to protect from internal threats with respect to cyber protection? This is, obviously, an increasing concern. There is a history of some of these problems occurring within the Senate itself. We can talk more about this in closed session, but talk a little bit about your

focus on internal threats and making sure that offices are protected from individuals who may have found a way inside to take information from servers that are shared.

Mr. LARKIN. In this institution, 99.9 percent of the employees are absolutely committed to its success. However, I think that we would be remiss if we did not posture ourselves to look for insider threat especially with the history of insider threat and the damage that it has done to other organizations within our government, as well as the private sector.

We are incorporating capabilities that are not only policy-based but also software-based. Policy-based in the sense of who has access to the sensitive information, and whether that access is appropriate. That can be achieved not only through authorities but also sophisticated levels of credentialing. The ability to monitor who is operating within a particular data area and scrutinize their activity. Are they harvesting data inappropriately? Are they moving data to a place where that data should not be making a transit? There are a number of ways that we can be alerted to inappropriate behavior.

The other piece of this is the focused training and education effort that we have been undertaking and continue to push with Member offices and their staffs. We need to be alert to individuals who may have a temporary presence in their office, who are working there for the summer or for a short period of time and may get access to that office's system and subsequently to the Senate system. Are we vetting these folks appropriately without interfering with the privacy rights of a particular individual. Are we alerting, for instance, my agency and others, when we sense that something is not right? This is a part of the conversation we are having with individual offices. Very often the systems administrators, the administrative officer, the chief of staff and so forth will notice an issue and seek assistance and that starts us down a path of confirming, if that is the case, that they have a problem.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you for that answer and for your focus on the issue.

#### CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING

Chief Verderosa, I wanted to ask you a question that is maybe a little bit out of the box. In the 21st century CURES Act, which is a piece of legislation we passed at the end of last year, we included support for something called crisis intervention teams, which are a community-based policing model designed to really understand the challenges that individuals with mental illness pose to law enforcement and the unique ways in which to respond to that threat, which often is not the immediate deployment of physical force.

You are asking for a lot of new money on training, very appropriate. But can you talk a little bit about how you approach this new model that a lot of different police departments are deploying to handle individuals with mental illness who may present a threat?

Chief VERDEROSA. Absolutely, sir. We actually do subscribe to a crisis intervention team—the concept. We attend the Metropolitan Police crisis intervention officer program. It is a 40-hour program.

We have actually been involved since 2014. They were very proactive in this area, and we feel there is great value. The Metropolitan Police is partnering with the DC Department of Behavioral Health to develop this, and it is based on the Memphis model where you have community engagement and we look at resources that are available with a goal of trying to divert, whenever possible, and get the appropriate services that are available for people suffering from mental health.

Obviously, there is great risk when there is a confrontation or an interface with law enforcement. The goal is to, one, be able to identify the needs of the individuals and to be able to provide them with the most appropriate services, and if charges are appropriate, there are also things that we can do that enable us to even within the criminal justice system ensure that the needs are met, the safety is ensured of individuals we face out on the street.

This training does safeguard the officers. It provides them with knowledge to be able to better understand any of the types of threats and understand the people we are dealing with. It provides them with essential skills. It also helps protect the community. And it leverages the core social services that are available in the community.

By the end of this calendar year, we should have about 75 officers that will be trained. In the future, we would like to be able to institute that program in-house as opposed to partnering. However, we partner quite often with other law enforcement agencies to leverage the training ability to various aspects of the different kinds of training.

Obviously, we are not counselors, but we can verbally de-escalate situations. Where the person is in need, we can determine emergency hospitalization. We work very closely with CPEP, the Comprehensive Emergency Psychiatric Program, here in DC, which is for both involuntary and voluntary commitments. It is all in the interest of protecting not only the officers, but protecting the individuals. We are very well-versed.

Senator MURPHY. Well, thank you for your commitment to that.

One last question. You have a unique array of challenges presented to you. Right now, there are a lot of people on this campus. Just yesterday there were, it seemed, a dozen different protests that were happening in different places throughout. People are very engaged in the democratic process, and so you have got a lot of people who want to be in our space.

But as you know, many of us were alarmed when a few weeks ago there was a directive sent out to press inside these buildings that they were no longer able to film interactions with Members of the Senate.

So maybe I will pose this maybe to you, Mr. Larkin, but either one of you can answer. Can you just walk us through what led to that directive being handed down and what the current disposition is today? My understanding is that there is no change in policy, that credentialed press are allowed to film interactions with Members of Congress as they traditionally have been allowed to do. But can you just walk us through how we got to that policy and where we are today?

Mr. LARKIN. Senator, as you know, some of the political issues that are front stage here on this campus and certainly in the eyes of the Nation have generated an increased level of attention from the media. However, that has resulted in a level of congestion at times in our hallways and stairways that primarily poses a safety risk. The Rules Committee sets those standards and they actually develop the right and left boundaries for media behavior and what is allowed and not allowed in this institution. We assist with maintaining a degree of order.

As we saw the hallways being congested, as we saw Members being overwhelmed by media, we sought to control that primarily from a safety perspective, not to interfere with media access. I think that effort was mischaracterized. In the end, we have approached the various media galleries and asked for their assistance. We would really like them to take care of this problem and understand the challenges that we have here.

We are not trying to restrict media access. However, we need to ensure there is some organization and some respect for not only the pathways that we have, whether it is in the Capitol Building or here in the office buildings, but also in regard for how they approach Members. At times, we have had Members that have been impeded from getting to their destinations because of the level of congestion and certainly the degree of pursuit that they have experienced.

We are just trying to find that balance point. This was something I think that got out of hand temporarily but was quickly resolved when we were able to have a dialogue with the right people. I think the media can help us out with this.

Senator MURPHY. But just to confirm, so the policy has not—

Mr. LARKIN. It has not changed.

Senator MURPHY. It has not changed.

Mr. LARKIN. No. They went back to the existing policies.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Senator LANKFORD. Senator Kennedy.

Senator KENNEDY. Gentlemen, I think I have maybe one or two questions.

I wanted to thank you both for your service.

Mr. Larkin, I wanted to ask you about the media directive. What did the original directive say? You indicated there was some confusion about it.

Mr. LARKIN. I believe that the initial incident was regarding camera locations, that there was a camera team that was in an inappropriate location. I think that over the years and with the change of personnel not only on the media side but other parts of this institution, common practice began to deviate from what the rule was. And so when this particular incident involving a camera crew in the wrong place was observed, it set some other things in motion.

Senator KENNEDY. What I am asking you is did the original directive prohibit cameras?

Mr. LARKIN. Cameras were prohibited in certain areas, and this particular camera team was not supposed to be in the area that they were in.

Senator KENNEDY. What areas were camera teams prohibited from? Do you recall?

Mr. LARKIN. There are pages and pages of rule guidance that diagram this out and, at this point, I would just be guessing.

Senator KENNEDY. Well, if the issue arises again—I understand you have to go through the Rules Committee—I would certainly like to know. And as you expressed, I think we have to be very careful here because I think the message that the public received was that the media with cameras could no longer access the peoples' representatives. And I do not think that is what any of us want. And I think there was a lot of confusion about it. But I would certainly like to know within the rules if another directive like that is being considered—I am not on the Rules Committee, but I would sure like to have some advance warning and offer some input. I just did not think it was very cool is what I am trying to suggest to you. I know it is not your call. I am well aware of that, Frank. But we just need to be real careful here.

Mr. LARKIN. I think it goes to communications and getting everybody in the same place saying the same thing and understanding what the rules are. I think we can come to that balance point. There is no intent to impede them from access to Members or anything else. We will work hard on making sure this does not happen again.

Senator KENNEDY. I know you will. I want to thank you and the Chief for your good work and especially your colleagues too.

Mr. LARKIN. Thank you, Senator.

Senator LANKFORD. Senator Van Hollen.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Murphy.

I thank both of you, first of all, for your service. I thank you for what you do to protect our Capitol and make it as safe as it can be consistent with the need to have a place that is open for the capital of democracy.

And I also want to join my colleagues in extending our gratitude to Special Agents Griner and Bailey for saving lives and to your entire teams.

And I had a question on cybersecurity as well, but I am going to defer that. I understand we may be able to take that up in a more confidential setting.

#### USCP COORDINATION WITH AGENCIES

But I have a question for you, Chief Verderosa. Last year, the GAO published a report on the Department of Homeland Security's Office of National Capital Region Coordination, and they recommended that they strengthen their coordination capabilities through the restructuring of the joint Federal committee and specified the roles and responsibilities of all the participating agencies, how they can best work together. The Department of Homeland Security accepted the GAO recommendations.

And my question to you and to you as well, Mr. Larkin, if relevant, is given the fact that the Capitol Police and the Sergeant at Arms are part of that security system, do you feel that those provisions, those GAO recommendations, are being implemented? Do you feel like you are being properly included as part of the team?

How are the lines of communication? What is your assessment of where we are today?

Chief VERDEROSA. We have very robust communication with all of our partners in the National Capital Region, specifically some members of Department of Homeland Security (DHS), DHS central. We are on their communication links. We work very closely particularly with large-scale events, national security events, and National Special Security Events. Frankly—and I say this to my partners all the time—in the 32-plus years that I have been in law enforcement, I have never seen better coordination between all entities particularly our really closest partners, Secret Service, FBI, the service being part of DHS. We get tremendous support. Information sharing is as good as I have ever seen. Intelligence sharing, both classified and unclassified information. I applaud the efforts of our partners in reaching out to us with information. We have a very active threat assessment investigations division, and I would say that we are equal partners with all of them. I am very pleased with our ability to work closely, communicate with, and share information with our DHS partners.

And I will certainly defer to Mr. Larkin.

Mr. LARKIN. And I agree with that. I will highlight two recent incidents.

One is the shooting a couple weeks ago where Chief Verderosa and I got on the scene very quickly, interacted with the leadership from the other Departments involved, the FBI, ATF, the other responding resources. We all knew each other. We already had that connective tissue in place. So it was about focusing on what was important, and we were quickly able to prioritize how we move forward in handling that incident because we have no time in this National Capital Region with everything that we are challenged with to deal with egos, to deal with people wanting to hold onto information and so forth. We have a very good relationship based on trust and confidence.

The other is DHS and the way we partner with them on cyber. We are talking about the physical side of it, but we cannot ignore talking about the cyber side. And we have situations here that develop where we have instantaneous communications with DHS, and we have to because they are a platform that has tentacles out to other agencies, probably one of the best alerting capabilities that we have that once we detect something is amiss to be able to let others instantly know about that. It goes to that mitigation of the damage effect because if they are hitting us, they are probably hitting other people, as we have seen with this incident this week around the world.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you.

Senator LANKFORD. This concludes the open session of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee hearing regarding fiscal year 2018 funding for the Sergeant at Arms and U.S. Capitol Police.

The hearing record will remain open for 7 days allowing Members to submit statements and questions for the record, which should be sent to the subcommittee by the close of business on Thursday, July 6, 2017.

CONCLUSION OF HEARINGS

The subcommittee will now adjourn and immediately reconvene in closed session to review security needs within the Sergeant at Arms and Capitol Police budgets. This portion of the hearing will be restricted to Members and staff with TS level clearance only.

I appreciate all of you being here and being part of this conversation. We look forward to reconvening in the other location for the closed session. Thank you.

This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, June 29, the subcommittee was adjourned and immediately reconvened in closed session. After the closed session, the hearings were concluded and will reconvene subject to the call of the Chair.]