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MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION BILL, 2016

MAY 21, 2015.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. KIRK, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2029]

The Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, reports the same to the Senate with an amendment, and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

Amounts in new budget authority

Total of bill as reported to the Senate	\$280,711,140,000
Amount of 2015 appropriations	169,188,368,000
Amount of 2016 budget estimate	281,923,122,000
Amount of House allowance	279,725,640,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2015 appropriations	+ 111,522,772,000
2016 budget estimate	– 1,211,982,000
House allowance	+ 985,500,000

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BACKGROUND

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill provides necessary funding for the planning, design, construction, alteration, and improvement of military facilities worldwide. It also finances the cost of military family housing and the U.S. share of the NATO Security Investment Program. In addition, the bill provides funding, including environmental remediation, for base closures and realignments authorized by law. The bill provides resources to the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans benefits and healthcare and funding for U.S. cemeteries and battlefield monuments both in the United States and abroad, including the American Battle Monuments Commission and Arlington National Cemetery. Additionally, the bill funds the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the Armed Forces Retirement Homes.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends new budget authority totaling \$280,711,140,000 for fiscal year 2016 military construction, family housing, base closure, veterans healthcare and benefits, including fiscal year 2017 advance appropriations for veterans medical care and appropriated mandatories, and related agencies. This includes \$198,529,342,000 in mandatory funding and \$82,181,798,000 in discretionary funding. The table at the end of the report displays the Committee recommendation in comparison with the current fiscal year and the President's fiscal year 2016 request.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

	Budget request	Senate recommendation
New budget authority	\$281,923,122,000	\$280,711,140,000
Previous advances provided for fiscal year 2016 for medical care	58,662,202,000	58,662,202,000
Less advances provided for fiscal year 2017 for medical care	-173,331,739,000	-172,119,757,000
Less advances provided for fiscal year 2017 for appropriated mandatories	-103,982,585,000	-103,982,585,000
Total appropriations for fiscal year 2016	277,314,324,000	276,102,342,000

OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF BILL

The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill funds an array of programs that are vital to America's military personnel and their families, and to the Nations' veterans. For U.S. military forces and their families worldwide, the bill funds critical infrastructure, ranging from mission essential operational and training facilities to key quality-of-life fa-

cilities, including barracks, family housing, child care centers, schools and hospitals.

For America's 22.3 million veterans, the bill provides the necessary funding for veterans benefits and healthcare, from prescription drugs and clinical services to the construction of hospitals and other medical facilities throughout the Nation.

The bill also funds veterans cemeteries in the United States and provides funding for four independent agencies—the American Battle Monuments Commission, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Arlington National Cemetery, the Armed Forces Retirement Homes.

Construction Contracting Outreach.—The Committee remains concerned about the high unemployment rate of the Nation's construction industry. Despite the efforts of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to increase communication between procurement officers and industry, the Committee believes that local contractors very often do not know about nor have the opportunity to compete for local construction projects funded in this act. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretaries of the Defense and the Veterans Affairs Departments to ensure that regional/district offices responsible for construction projects inform and engage local construction industry contractors, especially small businesses, minority-owned businesses, and women-owned businesses, about Federal procurement opportunities and the bidding process. The Committee requests a clear outreach plan from each Secretary no later than 90 days after enactment of this act. This plan should modernize traditional outreach methods to reach a broader group of local contractors.

TITLE I
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST
HEARINGS

The Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held two hearings related to the fiscal year 2016 military construction budget request. Witnesses included representatives of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Missile Defense Agency, Pacific Command, Special Operations Command, and Defense Health Agency.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The fiscal year 2016 budget request for military construction and family housing totals \$8,437,620,000. The Committee recommends \$8,083,000,000, which is \$354,620,000 below the President's budget request.

REPROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

The following reprogramming guidelines apply for all military construction and family housing projects. A project or account (including the sub-elements of an account) which has been specifically reduced by the Congress in acting on the budget request is considered to be a congressional interest item and as such, prior approval is required. Accordingly, no reprogrammings to an item specifically reduced below the threshold by the Congress are permitted.

The reprogramming criteria that apply to military construction projects (25 percent of the funded amount or \$2,000,000, whichever is less) continue to apply to new housing construction projects and to improvements over \$2,000,000. To provide the services the flexibility to proceed with construction contracts without disruption or delay, the costs associated with environmental hazard remediation such as asbestos removal, radon abatement, lead-based paint removal or abatement, and any other legislated environmental hazard remediation may be excluded, provided that such remediation requirements could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission. This exclusion applies to projects authorized in this budget year, as well as projects authorized in prior years for which construction has not been completed.

Furthermore, in instances where prior approval of a reprogramming request for a project or account has been received from the Committee, the adjusted amount approved becomes the new base for any future increase or decrease via below-threshold reprogrammings (provided that the project or account is not a congressional interest item as defined above).

In addition to these guidelines, the services are directed to adhere to the guidance for military construction reprogrammings and notifications, including the pertinent statutory authorities contained in Department of Defense [DOD] Financial Management Regulation 7000.14–R and relevant updates and policy memoranda.

REAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Committee recommends a continuation of the following general rules for repairing a facility under “Operation and Maintenance” account funding:

- Components of the facility may be repaired by replacement, and such replacement may be up to current standards or code.
- Interior arrangements and restorations may be included as repair, but additions, new facilities, and functional conversions must be performed as military construction projects.
- Such projects may be done concurrent with repair projects, as long as the final conjunctively funded project is a complete and usable facility.
- The appropriate Service Secretary shall submit a 21-day notification prior to carrying out any repair project with an estimated cost in excess of \$7,500,000.

The Department is directed to continue to report on the real property maintenance backlog at all installations for which there is a requested construction project in future budget requests. This information is to be provided on the form 1390. In addition, for all troop housing requests, the form 1391 is to continue to show all real property maintenance conducted in the past 2 years and all future requirements for unaccompanied housing at that installation.

INCREMENTAL FUNDING

In general, the Committee supports full funding for military construction projects. However, it continues to be the practice of the Committee to provide incremental funding for certain large projects, despite administration policy to the contrary, to enable the services to more efficiently allocate military construction dollars among projects that can be executed in the year of appropriation.

MISSILE DEFENSE

The Committee remains committed to rapidly implementing the European Phased Adaptive Approach [EPAA]. The first Aegis Ashore missile defense site in Deveselu, Romania, is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2015. Construction in Romania has not been without difficulty, and the Committee notes the delays and additional costs associated with the high-altitude electromagnetic pulse [HEMP] shields. The Committee fully funds the request to build the second Aegis Ashore site, this one in Redzikowo, Poland, and expects the Missile Defense Agency [MDA] to apply the lessons learned from construction in Romania to expedite the project in Poland. As Iranian ballistic missiles become increasingly advanced, the activation of the Aegis Ashore sites is essential to the protection of U.S. and allied interests in Eastern and Central Europe. The Committee is aware that the European Reassurance Initiative has increased the number of U.S. and NATO rotational

forces in Europe and directs MDA to accelerate activation of the Aegis Ashore systems wherever possible.

Long Range Discrimination Radar.—Section 128 of the Military Construction Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014 prohibited the use of funds for “the decommissioning the Combined Heat and Power Plant at Clear Air Force Station, Alaska, until the Comptroller General of the United States conducts a review of the data used by the Department of Defense, including data in the Environmental Impact Statement and fiscal year 2010 Feasibility Study, to determine whether decommissioning the Combined Heat and Power Plant is the most cost-effective and beneficial option for the day-to-day operations and missions at the installation in support of United States national security.” On April 7, 2014, the Government Accountability Office [GAO] released to the subcommittee a report in response to this mandate. After the completion of that report the Missile Defense Agency announced that Clear Air Force Station is under consideration as a possible site for the new Long Range Discrimination Radar [LRDR] facility. If the LRDR is sited at Clear Air Force Station, the heat and power requirements and national security considerations are expected to significantly exceed those considered in the April 2014 GAO report. Moreover, the operators of the LRDR may find it advantageous for the Air Force to maintain the Combined Heat and Power Plant for security and operational reasons. In light of these changed circumstances, the Committee urges the Air Force to delay the decommissioning of the Combined Heat and Power Plant at Clear Air Force Station until such time as the future utility requirements can more accurately be determined.

Pacific Realignment.—U.S. economic and security interests are inextricably linked to developments in the arc extending from the Western Pacific and East Asia into the Indian Ocean and South Asia, creating a mix of evolving challenges and opportunities. The Department of Defense has stated that it would tailor its global presence and posture by rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific region, emphasizing existing alliances and expanding networks of cooperation with emerging partners throughout the region to ensure collective capability and capacity for securing common interests. As part of this rebalance, the U.S. Pacific Command [PACOM] currently has programmed \$775,000,000 over the next 5 years for military construction in the region.

Approximately 39,000 U.S. military personnel, 43,000 dependents, and 5,000 DOD civilian employees are currently stationed on Japan, and the majority of this presence resides in Okinawa. Okinawa hosts over 25 percent of the U.S. bases in Japan, and Okinawa’s bases house approximately 8,000 Air Force personnel and up to 19,000 Marine Corps personnel on any given day. Attempts to realign, consolidate, and increase the sustainability of this presence have been ongoing for nearly two decades. Early plans were to move approximately 8,000 Marines and 9,000 dependents from Okinawa to Guam; however, in 2012 representatives from the U.S. and Japanese governments announced a revised plan that would relocate over 9,000 Marines from Okinawa and realign Marine forces throughout the Pacific: 4,800 to Guam, 2,700 to Hawaii, and 2,500 rotational troops to Australia.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office [GAO] has been reporting to this Committee on Asia Posture plans and costs since 2011. Based on GAO's reports, it is not clear if sufficient existing military infrastructure is available in any of the receiving locations to support the relocation or if DOD has developed adequate cost estimates of infrastructure development that will be needed to ensure mission capability. In addition, the U.S. Government is still negotiating certain host nation and land use agreements that are key to executing the construction plan.

As a result, the Committee is interested in learning the status of progress being made on the various realignment initiatives, the costs associated with these plans, and whether any alternatives to this plan are being considered. The Committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and report the results of the study to the Congressional defense committees by April 18, 2016. At a minimum, the Comptroller General's study should answer the following questions:

- What is the status of the realignment initiatives, have alternatives been considered, and to what extent has DOD identified a plan that lays out the appropriate sequencing of projects supporting the realignment of Marines and the interdependent projects on Okinawa, including associated timeframes and costs for the projects?
- Can the Okinawa realignment timeframe be accelerated?
- What is the status of development of DOD's master plan to support the relocation of Marines to Guam?
- To what extent does sufficient, usable excess capacity exist on bases in Hawaii to support the Marines' relocation there?
- To what extent do sufficient facilities in Australia exist to support the planned force rotations there?
- What estimated costs has DOD identified it will need to develop new, or redevelop existing, infrastructure in Guam, Hawaii, Australia, Alaska, or other locations it may be considering for the realignment?
- What is the status of relevant host nation and land use agreements required to execute the plan?

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency—West.—The Committee recognizes the current National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency—West [NGA West] facility is functionally obsolete and faces increased force protection risks. The Committee understands that a replacement facility is needed to provide a safe and secure work environment to increase efficiency with minimal transitional burden to its 3,000 employees. The current lack of anti-terrorism and force protection measures are of great concern to the Committee. Further, the outdated facilities continue to require high maintenance costs that are increasingly unpredictable. The recommendation fully funds the President's request for the preliminary design of a new NGA West facility. The Committee recognizes the significant contributions of NGA toward national security and expects the fiscal year 2017 budget request to include full funding for the first phase of the new facility and further expects NGA to pursue construction expeditiously.

Overseas Military Construction.—The United States' foremost national security priority is to protect the Nation and keep its citizens

and its communities safe. However, in responding to emerging regional or global threats, the U.S. often bears a disproportionately large part of the cost-sharing burden, including the cost of infrastructure investment. Forward deployed military forces are a crucial element in protecting the security of the United States, but as military construction budgets decrease, our Nation's allies must similarly prioritize infrastructure investments as a cornerstone of cooperative defense policy. Therefore, the Department of Defense is urged to explore joint funding streams and seek greater host-nation contributions to U.S. military construction investments overseas.

Basic Allowance for Housing.—Annual housing market surveys are conducted on an installation-by-installation basis, and are used by the Department to set proper Basic Allowance for Housing [BAH] rates to cover housing costs, including rent, utilities, and rental insurance, when servicemembers and their families live in off-base housing. While on-base or privatized housing is available on most major installations, the inventory is generally limited, and it is the Department's policy to rely on the private sector as the primary source of housing for eligible military personnel and their families. To determine the annual BAH rates, the Department analyzes rental rates in communities surrounding installations to determine the average cost of renting suitable housing. While this is generally effective in establishing equitable BAH rates, for installations in rural States or regions where housing availability is constrained or where adjacent housing areas may not reflect the average cost of housing in nearby, more populous, communities, servicemembers may have difficulties finding affordable housing within the BAH rate. The Committee, therefore, directs the Department to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 90 days of enactment of this act on the analytics used to determine BAH rates for installations in rural States or regions, including the extent to which the rates are adjusted to reflect the availability-versus-demand of suitable housing in surrounding areas, and the extent to which the cost of rent, utilities and rental insurance in nearby more populous communities is factored into the rate.

Department of Defense Studies.—The Committee notes that the Department of Defense frequently fails to complete and deliver to Congress significant studies in a timely manner. As a result, the Committee is handicapped in its ability to adequately evaluate the Department's requests for additional projects due to the realignment of forces, consolidation of facilities, or major force structure changes.

Defense Access Roads and Entry Control Points.—The Committee remains concerned about the impact of military construction funding constraints on the prioritization of essential Defense Access Roads and Entry Control Points at a number of U.S. military installations. Of particular concern are growth installations that serve primarily as host commands for a wide array of military services and agencies, and bases that have experienced significant population growth as a result of base realignment activities.

Adding to the urgency of this problem, the U.S. Northern Command on May 8, 2015, raised the force protection level for all military installations in the continental United States to the second

highest alert level, Bravo, which applies when an increased or more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists. According to the Defense Department, the security order affects 3,200 sites, including bases, National Guard facilities, recruiting stations and health clinics. As a result of this action, there will be more comprehensive checking of those entering military installations, which could have traffic implications on surrounding roads. Moreover, the increased threat level is an urgent call to U.S. military installations to review the adequacy of their Defense Entry Control points, and to prioritize projects that will both increase security and ease surrounding traffic congestion.

The Committee commends the Department of the Army for prioritizing entry control points and traffic mitigation projects in its fiscal year 2016 Unfunded Priority List, and recommends funding of the highest priority projects. However, the Committee strongly encourages the services to prioritize funding of projects addressing Entry Control Points and corresponding Defense Access Roads in their annual military construction budget requests.

In addition to the security implications of adequate Entry Control Points and adjacent Defense Access Roads, the Committee also recognizes the immediate and significant transportation needs in many States and communities that are experiencing substantial population growth as a result of defense activities. The Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment estimates that there is a considerable amount of mission-critical transportation projects in need of funding. For those projects that are part of a State transportation improvement program or that are required as a result of Base Realignment and Closure development, making new Federal funds available would allow work on these projects to begin promptly. By including mission-growth transportation projects as eligible infrastructure projects for new Federal funds, important improvements can be made while creating jobs and strengthening national security.

The Committee supports adjustment in Defense Access Road eligibility thresholds and requirements for installations of strategic importance, and a separate and distinct Defense Access Road funding source to offset the impacts of base expansion on the surrounding transportation network. Federal funds are needed to complement other State and local resources to address the congestion issues that will persist for decades.

Energy Policy.—The Department of Defense [DOD] is the largest consumer of energy in the Federal Government, accounting for 80 percent of the total amount of energy consumption. The Committee commends the Department for its efforts to improve the energy efficiency of its facilities and installations, reduce its energy consumption, and invest in renewable energy projects and energy security. These efforts, as well as programs and projects to enhance water conservation and improve the security of military installation energy sources, are key components of the Department's strategy to meet the Congressional and DOD mandated goals for renewable energy generation and energy and water efficiency. The goals are critical to reducing long-term energy costs to the Federal Government and to ensuring that military mission capabilities and readi-

ness are not hampered by constraints on energy and water resources.

The Committee continues to support the Department's efforts to incorporate green building technologies into new facility construction and into the renovation of existing buildings. In doing so, DOD and the services should seize upon leading-edge technologies and new and underutilized, low cost energy-efficient technologies that provide value through minimal life-cycle costs. In order to capture the most innovative of these new technologies, the Department and the services are encouraged to monitor new technologies emerging from government, industry, and academia.

Military installations in Hawaii are among those at the forefront of the military's efforts to address these issues, including the development of net-zero energy military housing and installation facilities, and upgrades and retrofits for improved energy and water efficiency. Two of Hawaii's installations are serving as demonstration sites for the Smart Power Infrastructure Demonstration for Energy Reliability and Security [SPIDERS] program. The efforts underway in Hawaii, and at military installations elsewhere, are helping to inform Department-wide and Government-wide energy policies and investment strategies. These investments are already paying dividends in terms of both reduced energy consumption and cost savings. In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus noted that energy efficiency projects underway in Hawaii are projected to save the Federal Government \$4,500,000 per year. This is an example of the progress being made to reduce spending while addressing energy and water efficiency, conservation, and security at installations throughout the country.

Water Conservation on Military Installations.—The Committee notes with concern the prospect of increasingly severe drought-related water shortages in the Nation, especially in the western and southwestern regions of the United States. California's current drought-precipitated water crisis and prolonged droughts in other States should serve as a wake-up call to the Department of Defense [DOD] to redouble its efforts to manage and conserve water on military installations throughout the country. United States Code title 10 section 2866 grants the DOD authority to participate in programs conducted by a utility for the management of water demand or for water conservation. Section 2866 also permits the Secretary to carry out a military construction project for water conservation using funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department for water conservation, subject to congressional notification. The Committee encourages the Department to maximize its use of this and other authorities to preserve scarce water resources.

The Committee also notes that water conservation projects are eligible for funding through the Energy Conservation Investment Program [ECIP]. However, only 1 of the 33 projects requested in the fiscal year 2016 ECIP program addresses water conservation. The Department is urged to give water conservation projects equal consideration when selecting projects to be funded through ECIP.

The Committee recognizes that the DOD and the military services have in place a number of policies and initiatives to conserve

water on military installations, including the Army's Net-Zero Water Initiative. In order to assess the current status of programs and policies to conserve water on military installations, the Secretary of Defense is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 90 days of enactment of this act on the following: (1) the current use of authorities provided in section 2866 or other relevant sections of title 10 to manage and conserve water on installations, including the use of water conservation funding for military construction projects; (2) existing programs and policies being used to conserve water on military installations; (3) the annual impact of these programs and policies on installation water consumption; and (4) plans for additional initiatives to reduce water consumption on installations.

Coastal Erosion.—The Committee is aware that coastal erosion is a growing concern of the Department of Defense. On June 30, 2014, the Government Accountability Office [GAO] released a report (GAO-14-446), which assessed 15 existing sites at defense installations in the U.S. that are vulnerable to the effects of coastal erosion and provided recommendations to improve readiness and reduce fiscal exposure for DOD. Among its findings, the GAO noted that DOD officials are concerned that increased erosion on the Alaskan coast threatens several Air Force radar early warning and communication installations. Furthermore, Navy officials are concerned that if a storm surge occurs while a submarine is undergoing maintenance while sitting in a dry dock, the damage would be substantial and costly. Given the potential impact of coastal erosion on key military installations, the Committee directs the Department to include an assessment of coastal erosion and potential flooding risks in the siting of proposed military construction projects.

Military Construction Funding Initiatives.—The bill includes funding for military construction initiatives to address important unfunded priorities included in the Department of Defense's Unfunded Priority List provided to Congress. The Committee notes that in recent years the military construction budget requests have been at historically low levels. Amounts budgeted for facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization are similarly low. The infrastructure initiatives in the services Unfunded Priority Lists would ordinarily appear as part of the annual budget request, but were not included as the military construction budget remains constrained.

For this reason, the Committee includes an additional \$34,500,000 for the Army, \$34,320,000 for the Navy and Marine Corps, \$51,300,000 for the Army National Guard, and \$34,200,000 for the Army Reserve. All additional funding is reserved for projects that were included in the Unfunded Priority List submitted to Congress.

Rescissions.—The Committee recommends administrative provisions which rescind prior year unobligated funds due primarily to project bid savings and the slow execution of projects.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

Appropriations, 2015	\$4,777,212,000
Budget estimate, 2016	6,653,105,000
House allowance	5,693,003,000
Committee recommendation	6,513,565,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNTS—PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The military construction appropriation provides for acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Department of Defense. This appropriation also provides for facilities required as well as funds for infrastructure projects and programs required to support bases and installations around the world.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

Appropriations, 2015	\$528,427,000
Budget estimate, 2016	743,245,000
House allowance	663,245,000
Committee recommendation	663,245,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$663,245,000 for the Army for fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$134,818,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, and \$80,000,000 below the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

Army Readiness.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Army's Combat Training Areas, including the Joint Readiness Training Center [JRTC] located at Fort Polk, Louisiana, in providing forces with joint and combined arms training across the full spectrum of conflict. Critical to executing this mission is the Joint Operations Center [JOC] that functions as the battle command center for all rotational training conducted at the installation. The Army's Future Years Defense Program [FYDP] includes a project to replace the JOC in fiscal year 2021. The Committee is concerned that the lack of a modern JOC is hampering the ability to effectively train rotational units preparing to deploy overseas. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide an assessment of the impact that the current JRTC JOC has in training effectiveness, systems integrity and functionality, and associated maintenance and utility costs. The Secretary shall submit the assessment to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Appropriations, 2015	\$1,018,772,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,669,239,000
House allowance	1,349,678,000
Committee recommendation	1,619,699,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$1,619,699,000 for Navy and Marine Corps military construction for fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$600,927,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, and

\$49,540,000 below the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

Camp Pendleton Water Pipeline.—The budget request proposed \$44,540,000 for a raw water pipeline from Camp Pendleton to the City of Fallbrook to upgrade the Camp Pendleton water system and allow the city to access water from the Santa Margarita watershed. The Committee is aware that the Navy and the Fallbrook Public Utility District are under a Federal Court Order to reach a settlement over water rights from the Santa Margarita River and that negotiations to reach such a settlement are ongoing. The Committee believes that an agreement among all the parties should be finalized and approved by the Court before initiating construction on this project. Therefore, the Committee has not provided funding for the project and directs the Navy to identify and report the project cost allocation between the Department of Defense and civilian entities.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

Appropriations, 2015	\$811,774,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,389,185,000
House allowance	1,237,055,000
Committee recommendation	1,389,185,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$1,389,185,000 for the Air Force in fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$577,411,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2015	\$1,991,690,000
Budget estimate, 2016	2,300,767,000
House allowance	1,931,456,000
Committee recommendation	2,290,767,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$2,290,767,000 for projects considered within the Defense-Wide account in fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$299,077,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$10,000,000 below the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

Defense Health Agency.—The Defense Health Agency [DHA] employs a comprehensive approach to hospital construction, working closely with the military services and monitoring the process as military hospitals are planned, built, maintained, and replaced. Military hospital construction projects are managed by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command [NAVFAC], both of which have extensive experience and expertise in managing large construction projects. DHA consults with the

Corps and NAVFAC throughout the planning, design, and construction phases of a project to help manage project execution and change orders. Notably, DHA also accepts input from clinicians early on in the design process, but maintains control of the project after that point, which serves as a limiting factor on costly and time-consuming change orders. The close coordination among DHA, the Corps of Engineers, and NAVFAC enables DHA to more efficiently manage the design and construction of large-scale medical facilities, while containing cost and schedule overruns. Given the massive cost overruns and lengthy delays in recent Department of Veterans Affairs’ hospital construction projects, the Committee directs DHA to consult with VA on best practices in hospital design and construction. Further, the Committee directs DHA to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act regarding steps DHA has taken to fulfill this directive.

Medical Military Construction.—The Committee provides funding for seven projects to renovate or build new medical treatment facilities within the Department of Defense. The medical military construction budget submissions for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 are the lowest levels of investment in 7 years. As a result, planned projects continue to be deferred indefinitely in the Future Years Defense Program [FYDP]. For example, the Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, hospital replacement originally planned for fiscal year 2016 is once again deferred until fiscal year 2021 or later. The Committee notes the Surgeon General of the United States Army testified before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on March 25, 2015, that this hospital replacement project remains the Army’s top medical military construction priority. The existing hospital last underwent a major renovation nearly 40 years ago. Due to the quality of life importance of this and other medical facilities like it, the Committee strongly encourages the Department to prioritize and restore medical military construction projects within the FYDP submitted for fiscal year 2017. In addition, the Committee encourages the Department to continue collaborating with the Department of Veterans Affairs to pursue Joint DOD/VA medical facility projects.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Appropriations, 2015	\$128,920,000
Budget estimate, 2016	197,237,000
House allowance	167,437,000
Committee recommendation	197,237,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$197,237,000 for Military Construction, Army National Guard for fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$68,317,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

National Guard Military Construction.—Declining military construction investments resulting from current budget constraints are negatively impacting all branches of the Department of Defense. However, for the National Guard, securing military construction

funding is further inhibited by the need for the respective States to acquire land for a project before the project can be programmed for funding. While this is rooted in past instances in which project execution was jeopardized because of issues in acquiring a site, the result is that a State has to acquire and hold land before the Guard can request military construction funding for a project. This requirement often results in a disconnect in the availability of State and Federal funding for a National Guard project, making it more difficult for the Guard to prioritize future project funding. Therefore, within 120 days following enactment of this act, the Director of the National Guard Bureau is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on ways in which the process for National Guard military construction funding can be streamlined and more efficiently coordinated with the availability of land for a project so that Guard projects remain competitive in the Future Years Defense Program.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Appropriations, 2015	\$92,663,000
Budget estimate, 2016	138,738,000
House allowance	138,738,000
Committee recommendation	138,738,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$138,738,000 for Military Construction, Air National Guard for fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$46,075,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

Appropriations, 2015	\$103,946,000
Budget estimate, 2016	113,595,000
House allowance	104,295,000
Committee recommendation	113,595,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$113,595,000 for Military Construction, Army Reserve for fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$9,649,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

Appropriations, 2015	\$51,528,000
Budget estimate, 2016	36,078,000
House allowance	36,078,000
Committee recommendation	36,078,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$36,078,000 for Military Construction, Navy Reserve for fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$15,450,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, and equal to the budget

request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

Appropriations, 2015	\$49,492,000
Budget estimate, 2016	65,021,000
House allowance	65,021,000
Committee recommendation	65,021,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$65,021,000 for Military Construction, Air Force Reserve for fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$15,529,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2015	\$199,700,000
Budget estimate, 2016	120,000,000
House allowance	150,000,000
Committee recommendation	120,000,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] appropriation provides for the U.S. cost share of the NATO Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the NATO Treaty area.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$120,000,000 for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program [NSIP] for fiscal year 2016 as requested. This amount is \$79,700,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FAMILY HOUSING OVERVIEW

Appropriations, 2015	\$1,190,535,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,413,181,000
House allowance	1,413,181,000
Committee recommendation	1,413,181,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Family Housing appropriation provides funds for military family housing construction activities, operation and maintenance, the Family Housing Improvement Fund, and the Homeowners Assistance Program. Construction accounts provide funding for new construction, improvements and the Federal Government share of housing privatization. Operation and maintenance accounts fund costs associated with the maintenance and leasing of military family housing, including utilities, services, management, and furnishings.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$1,413,181,000 for Family Housing Construction, Operations and Maintenance, and the Department's family housing improvement fund for fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$222,646,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

Appropriations, 2015	\$78,609,000
Budget estimate, 2016	99,695,000
House allowance	99,695,000
Committee recommendation	99,695,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$99,695,000 for Army Family Housing Construction in fiscal year 2016, an amount equal to the budget request and \$21,086,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

Appropriations, 2015	\$350,976,000
Budget estimate, 2016	393,511,000
House allowance	393,511,000
Committee recommendation	393,511,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$393,511,000 for family housing operation and maintenance, Army for fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$42,535,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Appropriations, 2015	\$16,412,000
Budget estimate, 2016	16,541,000
House allowance	16,541,000
Committee recommendation	16,541,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$16,541,000 for Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps. This amount is \$129,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Appropriations, 2015	\$354,029,000
Budget estimate, 2016	353,036,000
House allowance	353,036,000
Committee recommendation	353,036,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$353,036,000 for family housing operation and maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps, in fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$993,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

Appropriations, 2015	
Budget estimate, 2016	\$160,498,000
House allowance	160,498,000
Committee recommendation	160,498,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$160,498,000 for Family Housing Construction, Air Force, in fiscal year 2016. This amount is equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

Appropriations, 2015	\$327,747,000
Budget estimate, 2016	331,232,000
House allowance	331,232,000
Committee recommendation	331,232,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$331,232,000 for family housing operation and maintenance, Air Force, in fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$3,485,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

Appropriations, 2015	\$61,100,000
Budget estimate, 2016	58,668,000
House allowance	58,668,000
Committee recommendation	58,668,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$58,668,000 for family housing operation and maintenance, Defense-Wide, for fiscal year 2016. This amount is \$2,432,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2015	\$1,662,000
Budget estimate, 2016	
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Family Housing Improvement Fund appropriation provides for the Department of Defense to undertake housing initiatives and to provide an alternative means of acquiring and improving mili-

tary family housing and supporting facilities. This account provides seed money for housing privatization initiatives.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends no funding for the Family Housing Improvement Fund in fiscal year 2016 in accordance with the budget request.

CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

Appropriations, 2015	\$38,715,000
Budget estimate, 2016	
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This account provides funding for design and construction of full-scale chemical disposal facilities and associated projects to upgrade installation support facilities and infrastructure required to support the Chemical Demilitarization Program. This account was established starting in fiscal year 2005 to comply with section 141(b) of the fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends no funding for chemical demilitarization construction projects for fiscal year 2016 in accordance with the budget request.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2015	\$315,085,000
Budget estimate, 2016	251,334,000
House allowance	251,334,000
Committee recommendation	251,334,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Section 2711 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 112-239) consolidated the Base Closure Account 1990 and the Base Closure Account 2005 into a single Department of Defense Base Closure Account. The Base Closure Account provides for cleanup and disposal of property consistent with the four closure rounds required by the base closure acts of 1988 and 1990, and with the 2005 closure round required by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends a total of \$251,334,000 for the Department of Defense Base Closure Account for fiscal year 2016, equal to the budget request. Funds provided for fiscal year 2016 are for environmental cleanup and ongoing operations and maintenance.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. The Committee includes a provision that restricts payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for work, except in

cases of contracts for environmental restoration at base closure sites.

SEC. 102. The Committee includes a provision that permits the use of funds for the hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. The Committee includes a provision that permits the use of funds for defense access roads.

SEC. 104. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits construction of new bases inside the continental United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. The Committee includes a provision that limits the use of funds for purchase of land or land easements.

SEC. 106. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the use of funds to acquire land, prepare a site, or install utilities for any family housing except housing for which funds have been made available.

SEC. 107. The Committee includes a provision that limits the use of minor construction funds to transfer or relocate activities among installations.

SEC. 108. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the procurement of steel unless American producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been allowed to compete.

SEC. 109. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits payments of real property taxes in foreign nations.

SEC. 110. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits construction of new bases overseas without prior notification.

SEC. 111. The Committee includes a provision that establishes a threshold for American preference of \$500,000 relating to architect and engineering services for overseas projects.

SEC. 112. The Committee includes a provision that establishes preference for American contractors for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific, and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf.

SEC. 113. The Committee includes a provision that requires notification of military exercises involving construction in excess of \$100,000.

SEC. 114. The Committee includes a provision that limits obligations during the last 2 months of the fiscal year.

SEC. 115. The Committee includes a provision that permits funds appropriated in prior years to be available for construction authorized during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 116. The Committee includes a provision that permits the use of expired or lapsed funds to pay the cost of supervision for any project being completed with lapsed funds.

SEC. 117. The Committee includes a provision that permits obligation of funds from more than 1 fiscal year to execute a construction project, provided that the total obligation for such project is consistent with the total amount appropriated for the project.

SEC. 118. The Committee includes a provision that permits the transfer of funds from Family Housing Construction accounts to the DOD Family Housing Improvement Fund and from Military Construction accounts to the DOD Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund.

SEC. 119. The Committee includes a provision that provides transfer authority to the Homeowners Assistance Fund.

SEC. 120. The Committee includes a provision that requires all acts making appropriations for military construction be the sole funding source of all operation and maintenance for family housing, including flag and general officer quarters, and limits the repair on flag and general officer quarters to \$35,000 per unit per year without prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 121. The Committee includes a provision that provides authority to expend funds from the "Ford Island Improvement" account.

SEC. 122. The Committee includes a provision that allows the transfer of expired funds to the Foreign Currency Fluctuation, Construction, Defense Account.

SEC. 123. The Committee includes a provision that allows the reprogramming of military construction and family housing construction funds among projects and activities within the account in which they are funded.

SEC. 124. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the use of funds in this title for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 125. The Committee includes a provision providing additional funds for unfunded military construction priorities for the Army.

SEC. 126. The Committee includes a provision providing additional funds for unfunded military construction priorities for the Navy and Marine Corps.

SEC. 127. The Committee includes a provision providing additional funds for unfunded military construction priorities for the Army National Guard.

SEC. 128. The Committee includes a provision providing additional funds for unfunded military construction priorities for the Army Reserve.

SEC. 129. The Committee includes a provision rescinding unobligated balances from various Military Construction accounts.

SEC. 130. The Committee includes a provision rescinding unobligated balances from 42 U.S.C. 3374.

SEC. 131. The Committee includes a provision regarding the consolidation or relocation of a U.S. Air Force RED HORSE Squadron outside of the United States.

TITLE II
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST
HEARINGS

The Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held three hearings related to the fiscal year 2016 and 2017 Department of Veterans Affairs [VA] budget request. The subcommittee heard testimony from the Honorable Carolyn M. Clancy, Interim Under Secretary for Health, the Honorable Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Honorable Robert A. McDonald, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommendation includes \$163,792,416,000 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016, including \$94,546,757,000 in mandatory spending and \$69,245,659,000 in discretionary spending. The Committee also recommends \$63,271,000,000 in advance appropriations for veterans medical care for fiscal year 2017 and \$103,982,585,000 in advance appropriations for appropriated mandates for fiscal year 2017.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Veterans Administration was established on July 21, 1930, as an independent agency by Executive Order 5398, in accordance with the Act of July 3, 1930 (46 Stat. 1016). This act authorized the President to consolidate and coordinate Federal agencies specially created for or concerned with the administration of laws providing benefits to veterans, including the Veterans' Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. On March 15, 1989, the Veterans Administration was elevated to Cabinet-level status as the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The VA's mission is to serve America's veterans and their families as their principal advocate in ensuring they receive the care, support, and recognition they have earned in service to the Nation. As of September 30, 2014, there were an estimated 22 million living veterans, with 21.9 million of them residing in the United States and Puerto Rico. There were an estimated 25.7 million dependents (spouses and dependent children) of living veterans in the United States and Puerto Rico, and there were 566,000 survivors of deceased veterans receiving VA survivor benefits in the United States and Puerto Rico. Thus, approximately 48.3 million people, or 15 percent of the total estimated resident population of the United

States and Puerto Rico, were recipients or potential recipients of veterans benefits from the Federal Government. The VA's operating units include the Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration, National Cemetery Administration, and staff support offices.

The Veterans Benefits Administration [VBA] provides an integrated program of nonmedical veterans benefits. The VBA administers a broad range of benefits to veterans and other eligible beneficiaries through 56 regional offices and a records processing center in St. Louis, Missouri. The benefits provided include: compensation for service-connected disabilities; pensions for wartime, needy, and totally disabled veterans; vocational rehabilitation assistance; educational and training assistance; home buying assistance; estate protection services for veterans under legal disability; information and assistance through personalized contacts; and six life insurance programs.

The Veterans Health Administration [VHA] develops, maintains, and operates a national healthcare delivery system for eligible veterans; carries out a program of education and training of healthcare personnel; conducts medical research and development; and furnishes health services to members of the Armed Forces during periods of war or national emergency. A system of 167 medical centers, 1,018 community-based outpatient clinics, 300 vet centers, and 135 community living centers is maintained to meet the VA's medical mission.

The National Cemetery Administration [NCA] provides for the interment of the remains of eligible deceased servicemembers and discharged veterans in any national cemetery with available grave space; permanently maintains these graves; provides headstones and markers for the graves of eligible persons in national and private cemeteries; administers the grant program for aid to States in establishing, expanding, or improving State veterans cemeteries; and provides certificates to families of deceased veterans recognizing their contributions and service to the Nation. In 2016, cemetery activities will encompass 134 national cemeteries, two rural National Burial Grounds, and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites.

Staff support offices include the Office of Inspector General, Boards of Contract Appeals and Veterans Appeals, and General Administration offices, which support the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary for Benefits, Under Secretary for Health, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, and General Counsel.

Whistleblower Protection.—The Committee is deeply concerned about unacceptable retaliation against whistleblowers within the Department across the Nation. The Department has made many promises recently to foster a culture of openness by encouraging VA employees to report cases of wrongdoing, yet the Committee continues to hear reports that when whistleblowers do bring problems to light, the whistleblowers themselves are attacked in official and unofficial ways. Some examples of retaliation against whistleblowers reported to the Committee include: investigating the whistleblower rather than the reported problem, lowering performance appraisal ratings, reducing access to computers, conducting formal meetings with co-workers to turn other employees against the whistleblower, refusing to investigate allegations of retaliation

against the whistleblower, and relocating the whistleblower's office space to areas with fewer amenities or unsanitary conditions. The Committee finds such actions reprehensible, and the Department is directed to send a clear and unequivocal message throughout the VA system that retaliation against whistleblowers will not stand, and those in leadership who condone or ignore such retaliation will be held accountable. The Committee will continue to advocate on behalf of those employees who receive unfair retribution for reporting wrongdoing at VA facilities and will bring to the Department's attention every instance of whistleblower retaliation brought to its attention.

The Committee is concerned there is no proper mechanism at the Department to inform employees of their rights under the law with regards to reporting wrongdoing and whistleblower protection. The Committee is aware there is no whistleblower protection training for employees mandated within the Department, and there is not an official handbook or orientation outlining and explaining employee rights and responsibilities in this area, to include management and their role and responsibilities either when reporting wrongdoing themselves or supervising someone who has blown the whistle on misconduct, waste, fraud, or poor patient care. Therefore, the Department is directed to ensure all employees are educated on: their rights from retaliation, existing whistleblower protections, and resources available to them, to include the VA Office of the Inspector General [OIG], Office of Special Counsel, and the Merit System Protection Board and the location of such resources on the OIG Web site. The Department is directed to implement education for all employees on these issues through employee orientation, employee manuals, and periodic briefings. Additionally, employees must be educated on exemptions from privacy laws, specifically that healthcare providers are exempted from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [HIPAA] privacy rules when disclosing to OIG allegations of problems with patient care. Further, any VA employee who discloses HIPAA and Privacy Act information to OIG for purposes of providing such information for an OIG investigation is not in violation of these laws. The law shall be clearly communicated by the investigator prior to any investigative interview with a VA employee. Currently, the law is not clearly stated on the OIG Web site nor regularly communicated to VA employees. It is critical all employees understand their protections under the law and are encouraged to report misconduct, waste, fraud, and poor patient care so those engaging in wrongdoing may be held accountable.

Electronic Health Record.—Achieving interoperability between the health records of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense remains one of the highest priorities of the Committee. The Committee believes from a servicemember's initial military entrance physical to their final interaction with VA, a seamless health record should follow the individual. VA's VistA Evolution and DOD's new acquisition of an electronic health record are two separate and distinct programs, yet the Departments have a mandate from Congress to ensure the records are able to transmit computable data that can be used by clinicians on either side. The Committee also notes the increased utilization of medical care

in the community by enrolled veterans makes it incumbent upon the Department to ensure medical information from outside VA can be easily brought into the VA's health record system. The Committee continues to expect the electronic health record will be developed with an open architecture to best leverage the innovation of the private sector.

In fiscal year 2013, 2014, and 2015, Congress required the Department to provide information on the cost, timeline, performance benchmarks, and interoperability capacity of VistA Evolution before releasing 75 percent of the funds appropriated. The Committee maintains in this act its oversight authority by placing similar constraints on the obligation or expenditure of funding for the development of VistA Evolution until certain conditions are met. Further explanation of the constraints included in the act is included in the appropriate section of the report.

Denver VA Medical Center.—The Committee was deeply disappointed to learn at the end of calendar year 2015 the scale of the gross mismanagement at the Denver VA Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado. With this project, the Department has breached the trust of the Committee, the Congress, and the taxpayer with its embarrassing mishandling of public funds. The new estimate to complete the hospital complex, as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers, is upwards of \$1.73 billion, which the Committee finds to be a wholly unacceptable cost for any VA major construction project of this scope. As late as October 2014, the Department was reporting to the Committee the total firm target price of the facility was \$640 million (revised upwards from the original total firm target price of \$604 million). The authorized amount for this facility was \$800 million, and the taxpayer may end up paying more than double that amount making this one of the most expensive medical centers in the world. The Committee finds it shocking the Department was aware the scale of the project and the choice in design as well as the type of contract VA negotiated made it possible the project might run over its authorized amount, yet it did not make rational decisions along the way to stay within budget. The Committee believes those managing this project were not good stewards of appropriated resources and were not advocates for the veterans they were duty-bound to protect and serve. The Department now finds itself in an untenable position of having to take money from other places within its budget in order to pay for the cost of the Aurora facility. The facility is also well behind schedule, as it will not be complete before the end of 2018.

Not only is the Committee disturbed by the egregious cost overrun and delay, the Committee has no faith in the Department's ability to manage major medical facility construction projects of this kind in the future. The Committee understands the Department has begun discussions with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] to seek their management of future major medical facility construction projects. The Committee believes USACE is the right partner for VA as it designs and constructs major medical facility construction projects, and the Committee directs the Department to enter into an agreement with USACE to manage the next seven major medical facility construction projects as outlined in the appropriate section of the report. The Department is directed to re-

port to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of enactment of this act on its agreement with USACE to manage these seven projects. Further explanation of the major construction account constraints included in the act is included in the appropriate section of the report.

Disability Claims Backlog.—The Committee commends the Department on its efforts to reduce the disability claims backlog and increase the accuracy of claims decisions, yet the backlog in disability claims remains a major concern of the Committee. The Committee is committed to ensuring the Department reaches its goal of processing all claims over 125 days with 98 percent accuracy and ending the backlog in 2015. The Committee has not only fully funded the request for claims processing in recent years, but has provided increases above the budget requests for hiring and training claims processors, bolstering the migration to electronic claims processing systems, and addressing the increasing backlog of appeals at the Board of Veterans Appeals. As a result of these funding levels and the specific measures intended to bring the backlog down included in the fiscal year 2014 and 2015 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies appropriations bill and report, VBA has made significant and notable progress in reducing the number of backlogged claims from a high of 611,000 in March 2013 to fewer than 158,540 as of May 9, 2015.

The Committee is also committed to ensuring there is not a recurrence of any backlog or a reduction in accuracy. To that end, the Committee will continue to host reoccurring meeting of the disability claims interagency working group that began in May 2013. This group includes the Under Secretary of Benefits and representatives from the Department of Defense, the Social Security Administration, and the Internal Revenue Service. The Committee will continue to assert its oversight ability by monitoring these agencies as they work to better expedite the flow of interagency information needed to process claims in a timely manner. The Committee will continue to require the Department provide monthly updates on performance measures for each Regional Office.

Additionally, there is concern the gains VBA has made recently are the result of temporary measures such as overtime work and one-time funding increases from the Committee for hiring and training. The Committee directs the Department shift from crisis-mode to maintenance-mode in the area of claims processing. Once the backlog is reduced at the end of the 2015, it will be unacceptable to the Committee for VBA to carry a backlog of disability claims again. The Department must consider processing all claims within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy a mandate of VBA, and the Department should fund and staff this agency accordingly.

The Committee is also focused on the next assumed issue for disability claims: the backlog at the appellate level. The fiscal year 2016 justification accompanying the budget request states appeals received by the Board of Veterans Appeals are projected to increase 65 percent, from 49,611 in 2012 to 81,640 by the end of 2016. The Committee notes the Department is aware the appeals process needs reform and resources, and to that end, the Committee requests a report no later than 180 days after enactment of this act

on the actions VBA is taking to reduce the backlog of appeals and streamline the appeals process.

Curing Hepatitis C within the Veteran Population.—The Committee is excited about the availability of new Hepatitis C drugs that have a cure rate of 96 percent. The Department is to be commended for robustly treating veterans with Hepatitis C as the veteran population is twice as likely to have the virus as the general population. The Committee is aware the Department was unable to provide accurate estimates of drug treatment costs in the fiscal year 2016 request, and therefore, the Committee is directing more funding be allotted with in the Medical Services account to provide proper resources to address the need in fiscal year 2016.

Homeless Veterans.—Between 2009 and 2014, the estimated number of homeless veterans has been reduced by 33 percent. As a result of the investments the Committee, the Department, and various other Federal, State, and local partners have made over the past several years, it is highly likely the Department’s Agency Priority Goal of ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 will be achieved. The Committee notes, however, the 2014 “Point in Time Count” prepared by the Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates there were 49,933 homeless veterans in the U.S. on a single night in January 2014. The Committee is aware even after “getting to zero” there remains much to be done to sustain the gains made in this area and prevent veterans from becoming homeless in the future. Therefore, the Committee provides the full fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budget requests for VA homelessness assistance programs and homeless veteran treatment costs. The Department is directed to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as soon as feasibly possible after the end of calendar year 2015 noting if the Department met the goal of ending veterans homelessness and detailing how the Department will shift focus and resources to prevention.

Tribal Veterans Service Officer.—The Committee notes current regulations regarding recognition of officers of National, State, and Regional Organizations by the Secretary do not adequately cover Tribal or Native American organizations. The Committee believes this oversight should be addressed expeditiously and urges the Department to revise its current regulations to permit the certification of Tribal Veterans Service Officers in the same manner as State and Regional Veterans Officers.

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2015	\$94,293,775,000
Budget estimate, 2016	94,712,847,000
House allowance, 2016	94,712,847,000
Committee recommendation, 2016	94,712,847,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriation, 2017	103,982,585,000
House allowance, advance appropriation, 2017	103,982,585,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriation, 2017	103,982,585,000

ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

The Veterans Benefits Administration [VBA] is responsible for the payment of compensation and pension benefits to eligible service-connected disabled veterans, as well as education benefits and housing loan guarantees.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$94,712,847,000 for the Veterans Benefits Administration. This amount is composed of \$79,124,675,000 for Compensation and Pensions; \$15,344,922,000 for Readjustment Benefits; \$77,160,000 for Veterans Insurance and Indemnities; \$164,558,000 for the Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund administrative expenses; \$31,000 for the Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program account, with \$367,000 for administrative expenses; and \$1,134,000 for the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program account. For the first time, the Committee recommendation also includes an advance appropriation of \$103,982,585,000 for the Veterans Benefits Administration for fiscal year 2017.

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2015	\$79,071,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	79,124,675,000
House allowance, 2016	79,124,675,000
Committee recommendation, 2016	79,124,675,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriation, 2017	87,146,761,000
House allowance, advance appropriation, 2017	87,146,761,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriation, 2017	87,146,761,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Compensation is payable to living veterans who have suffered impairment of earning power from service-connected disabilities. The amount of compensation is based upon the impact of disabilities on a veteran's earning capacity. Death compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation is payable to the surviving spouses and dependents of veterans whose deaths occur while on active duty or result from service-connected disabilities. A clothing allowance may also be provided for service-connected veterans who use a prosthetic or orthopedic device. In fiscal year 2016, the Department estimates it will obligate \$76,832,302,000 for payments to 4,299,512 veterans, 400,359 survivors, and 1,156 dependents receiving special benefits.

Pensions are an income security benefit payable to needy wartime veterans who are precluded from gainful employment due to nonservice-connected disabilities which render them permanently and totally disabled. Public Law 107-103, the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001, restored the automatic presumption of permanent and total nonservice connected disability for purposes of awarding a pension to veterans age 65 and older, subject to the income limitations that apply to all pensioners. Death pensions are payable to needy surviving spouses and children of deceased wartime veterans. The rate payable for both disability and death pensions is determined on the basis of the annual income of the veteran or their survivors. In fiscal year 2016, the Department estimates that the Pensions program will provide benefits to 306,155 veterans and 216,131 survivors totaling \$5,963,099,000.

The Compensation and Pensions program funds certain burial benefits on behalf of eligible deceased veterans. These benefits pro-

vide the purchase and transportation costs for headstones and markers, graveliners, and pre-placed crypts; and provides partial reimbursement for privately purchased outer burial receptacles. In fiscal year 2016, the Department estimates the Compensation and Pensions program will obligate \$274,796,000 providing burial benefits. This funding will provide 68,290 burial allowances, 33,512 burial plot allowances, 31,057 service-connected death awards, 497,644 burial flags, 354,840 headstones or markers, and 84,226 graveliners or reimbursement for privately purchased outer burial receptacles.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$79,124,675,000 for compensation and pensions. This is an increase of \$53,675,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request. For the first time, the Committee recommendation also includes an advance appropriation of \$87,146,761,000 for fiscal year 2017 for compensation and pensions for fiscal year 2017. This is \$8,022,086,000 above the fiscal 2016 request and equal to the fiscal year 2017 budget request.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

Appropriations, 2015	\$14,997,136,000
Budget estimate, 2016	15,344,922,000
House allowance, 2016	15,344,922,000
Committee recommendation, 2016	15,344,922,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriation, 2017	16,743,904,000
House allowance, advance appropriation, 2017	16,743,904,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriation, 2017	16,743,904,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Readjustment benefits appropriation finances the education and training of veterans and servicemembers under chapters 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 42 and 43 of title 38, United States Code. These benefits include the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program (Montgomery GI bill) and the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program. Basic benefits are funded through appropriations made to the readjustment benefits appropriation and by transfers from the Department of Defense. This account also finances vocational rehabilitation, specially adapted housing grants, specially adapted automobile grants for certain disabled veterans, and educational assistance allowances for eligible dependents of those veterans who died from service-connected causes or who have a total permanent service-connected disability, as well as dependents of servicemembers who were captured or missing in action.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$15,344,922,000 for Readjustment benefits. This is an increase of \$347,786,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request. For the first time, the Committee recommendation includes an advance appropriation of \$16,743,904,000 for Readjustment benefits for fiscal

year 2017. This is \$1,398,982,000 above the fiscal year 2016 request and equal to the fiscal year 2017 budget request.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

Appropriations, 2015	\$63,257,000
Budget estimate, 2016	77,160,000
House allowance, 2016	77,160,000
Committee recommendation, 2016	77,160,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriation, 2017	91,920,000
House allowance, advance appropriation, 2017	91,920,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriation, 2017	91,920,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Veterans insurance and indemnities appropriation consists of the former appropriations for military and naval insurance, applicable to World War I veterans; National Service Life Insurance, applicable to certain World War II veterans; servicemen's indemnities, applicable to Korean conflict veterans; and veterans mortgage life insurance to individuals who have received a grant for specially adapted housing.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$77,160,000 for Veterans insurance and indemnities. This is an increase of \$13,903,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request. For the first time, the Committee recommendation also includes an advance appropriation of \$91,920,000 for Veterans insurance and indemnities for fiscal year 2017. This is \$14,760,000 above the fiscal year 2016 request and equal to the fiscal year 2017 budget request.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

	Program account	Administrative expenses
Appropriations, 2015	160,881,000
Budget estimate, 2016	164,558,000
House allowance	164,558,000
Committee recommendation	164,558,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Veterans housing benefit program fund provides for all costs associated with the VA's direct and guaranteed housing loan programs, with the exception of the Native American veteran housing loan program.

VA loan guaranties are made to servicemembers, veterans, reservists, and unremarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes, and for refinancing loans. VA guarantees part of the total loan, permitting the purchaser to obtain a mortgage with a competitive interest rate, even without a downpayment, if the lender agrees. VA requires that a downpayment be made for a manufactured home. With a VA guaranty, the lender is protected against loss up to the amount of the guaranty if the borrower fails to repay the loan.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends such sums as may be necessary for funding subsidy payments, and \$164,558,000 for administrative expenses for fiscal year 2016. Bill language limits gross obligations for direct loans for specially adapted housing to \$500,000.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

	Program account	Administrative expenses
Appropriations, 2015	10,000	361,000
Budget estimate, 2016	31,000	367,000
House allowance	31,000	367,000
Committee recommendation	31,000	367,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program account covers the cost of direct loans for vocational rehabilitation of eligible veterans and, in addition, includes administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program. Loans of up to \$1,108 (based on the indexed chapter 31 subsistence allowance rate) are currently available to service-connected disabled veterans enrolled in vocational rehabilitation programs, as provided under 38 U.S.C. chapter 31, when the veteran is temporarily in need of additional assistance. Repayment is made in monthly installments, without interest, through deductions from future payments of compensation, pension, subsistence allowance, educational assistance allowance, or retirement pay. Virtually all loans are repaid in full and most in less than one year.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$31,000 for program costs and \$367,000 for administrative expenses for the Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program account. The administrative expenses may be paid to the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account. Bill language is included limiting program direct loans to \$2,952,381. It is estimated that the VA will make 3,129 loans in fiscal year 2016, with an average amount of \$943.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2015	\$1,130,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,134,000
House allowance	1,134,000
Committee recommendation	1,134,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Native American veteran housing loan program is authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, section 3761 to provide direct loans to Native American veterans living on trust lands. The loans are available to purchase, construct, or improve homes to be occupied as veteran residences, or to refinance a loan previously made under this program in order to lower the interest rate. The principal amount of a loan under this authority generally may not exceed \$417,000 however, in some locations this limit may be higher de-

pending on median area home prices. Veterans pay a funding fee of 1.25 percent of the loan amount, although veterans with a service-connected disability are exempt from paying the fee. Before a direct loan can be made, the veteran’s tribal organization must sign a memorandum of understanding with the VA regarding the terms and conditions of the loan. The Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program began as a pilot program in 1993 and was made permanent by Public Law 109–233, the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Act of 2006.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$1,134,000 for administrative expenses associated with this program. This is \$4,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2015	\$56,432,338,000
Advance appropriations, 2016	58,662,202,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,921,103,000
House allowance, 2016	1,593,367,000
Committee recommendation, 2016	1,746,010,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriation, 2017	63,271,000,000
House allowance, advance appropriation, 2017	63,271,000,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriation, 2017	63,271,000,000

ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

The Veterans Health Administration [VHA] is home to the United States’ largest integrated healthcare system consisting of 167 medical centers, 1,018 community-based outpatient clinic, 300 vet centers, and 135 community living centers.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care Collections Fund [MCCF] was established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–33). In fiscal year 2004, Public Law 108–199 allowed the Department to deposit first-party and pharmaceutical co-payments, third-party insurance payments and enhanced-use collections, long-term care co-payments, Compensated Work Therapy Program collections, Compensation and Pension Living Expenses Program collections, and Parking Program fees into the MCCF.

The Parking Program provides funds for the construction, alteration, and acquisition (by purchase or lease) of parking garages at VA medical facilities authorized by 38 U.S.C. 8109. The Secretary is required under certain circumstances to establish and collect fees for the use of such garages and parking facilities. Receipts from the parking fees are to be deposited into the MCCF and are used for medical services activities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2015, the Committee provided \$58,662,202,000 in advance appropriations for the VA’s medical care accounts for fiscal year 2016. This included \$47,603,202,000 for Medical services, \$6,144,000,000 for Medical support and compliance, and \$4,915,000,000 for Medical facilities. The Committee also includes an Administrative Provision allowing the Department to carry forward into fiscal year 2016 certain amounts provided as an advance

for fiscal year 2015. For fiscal year 2016, the Committee recommends an additional \$1,124,197,000 for Medical services. Additionally, the Committee recommendation includes \$621,813,000 for Medical and prosthetic research. Medical care collections are expected to be \$2,445,000,000. The Committee recommendation also includes an advance appropriation of \$63,271,000,000 for veterans medical care for fiscal year 2017.

Office of Inspector General Findings.—The Committee is concerned with past investigations and findings by the Office of Inspector General [OIG] at the Department's healthcare facilities. The Committee commends the Department for its efforts to resolve past issues at the G.V. Sonny Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi, but remains concerned about ongoing problems with VA facilities in the Southeast region, as evidenced by the findings of deficiencies by OIG at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System [HCS] in Biloxi, Mississippi (Report No. 14-04214-70). Therefore, the Department is directed to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the resolution of these issues at the Gulf Coast Veterans HCS. The Committee is hopeful these ongoing issues will not perpetuate distrust among the veterans it serves and urges the Department to continue to work diligently and expeditiously with VA centers across the country to resolve cases of delay, mismanagement, inappropriate activity, and inadequate care as discovered by OIG.

Quarterly Reports on GAO Recommendations.—The Committee notes with concern that VHA has been placed by GAO on its annual High Risk List. GAO identified many of the concerns the Committee has raised in previous years. While VA has taken action to address some of the GAO recommendations, more than 100 recommendations have not been fully addressed. Accordingly, the Department is directed to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly progress report containing the Department's actions to address outstanding GAO findings and recommendations regarding VHA. Each quarterly report shall be submitted no later than 30 days after the end of the respective quarter.

Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 Cost and Data Analysis.—In response to VA wait time manipulation and failure to provide timely, quality healthcare to veterans, Congress passed the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, Public Law 113-146 [VACAA] in July 2014, to improve transparency and provide veterans the choice to access healthcare if they live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility or their wait time for an appointment was more than 30 days through the Choice Program [the Program].

The Committee welcomed VA's recent decision to expand eligibility criteria for the Program by changing the calculation used to determine the distance between a veteran's residence and the nearest VA medical facility from straight line distance to driving distance. In determining the nearest medical facility, however, the Department does not take into consideration whether that facility is able to provide the medical services a veteran requires. On multiple occasions, VA has stated altering the interpretation of the 40

mile rule to consider whether a VA medical facility is capable of offering healthcare services sought by the veteran would not only require a new statutory authority but would be financially infeasible with a cost of tens of billions of dollars. The Committee understands a VA cost estimate to expand the Program to eligible veterans, approximately 4 million individuals, who live more than 40 miles from a Level 1 and Level 2 VA medical facility was produced, however, the methodology applied was disparate from the VA Chief Business Office and Congressional Budget Office cost estimates provided for the Program in 2014. The result of using a different methodology on the VA cost estimate to expand the Program yielded a projection ranging from \$4 billion to \$34 billion annually to support a baseline of 4 million veterans. The Committee is concerned the VA cost estimate lacks a consistent methodology and certain critical factors that would reduce cost substantially. In order to determine the potential cost of serving additional veterans who are not currently eligible under the Program or who are not currently able to receive access to non-VA care through other authorities, it is essential VA conduct a comprehensive cost analysis rooted in substantiated reliable data utilizing the same methodology that was used to inform Congress prior to the passage of VACAA in July 2014.

The Department is directed to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 90 days after enactment of this act detailing a comprehensive cost analysis of the VACAA 40 mile rule criteria that factors potential cost-savings resulting from unobligated or unrealized travel vouchers and benefits. The cost analysis should exclude veterans who are accessing non-VA care utilizing other VA authorities, veterans who are eligible under VACAA but have not yet used the Program, and veterans who are eligible under VACAA and are currently using the Program. The report to Congress must also provide potential legislative and non-legislative solutions that offer veterans access to non-VA care when they live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility incapable of providing medical services a veteran requires. This report shall include utilization data of non-VA care under the Program detailing the type of care (primary or specialty), healthcare services, procedures, and treatments administered to veterans by non-VA providers, and where geographically said healthcare is provided. The report shall include a survey of Community Based Outpatient Clinics and assess those capable and incapable of offering primary care services. The Committee recognizes VA may utilize title 38 section 1703 to permit veterans access to care outside VA due to geographic impediments, yet VA has not utilized this authority to augment and complement the VACAA 40 mile rule. The Committee expects VA to address this concern in the report and provide legal and reasonable justification that prevents VA from utilizing title 38 authorities.

Vet Centers.—The Committee recommendation includes the budget estimate of \$243,000,000 for readjustment counseling at Vet Centers. Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services. These services include: professional readjustment counseling to veterans and active duty servicemembers, counseling for the victims of mili-

tary sexual trauma, bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death, substance abuse assessments and referrals, VBA benefit information and referrals to Regional Offices, and employment counseling. Certain services also extend to the family members as a means to assist in the readjustment for veterans and active duty servicemembers. The Readjustment Counseling Service is composed of over 2,200 employees in 300 Vet Centers, 80 Mobile Vet Centers, and the Vet Center Combat Call Center. The Committee remains strongly supportive of these programs and notes the number of Vet Centers or Mobile Vet Centers is not expected to increase despite an increasing workload. In fact, VA estimates it will continue to operate the exact number of Vet Centers in fiscal year 2017 as it did in fiscal year 2014. Moreover, when existing law was changed to include eligibility for active duty servicemembers, it was determined the vast majority of those in the Reserve Components and the Guard were not eligible. The Committee is aware legislation has been introduced which would allow for expansion of eligibility to include the Reserve and Guard. In order to properly plan for this potential expansion, the Department is directed to undertake an evaluation of current and future workload to determine whether more Vet Centers or Mobile Vet Centers are needed. In addition, at Vet Centers where active duty workload exceeds veteran workload, VA should enter into discussions with DOD to determine if a reimbursable memorandum of understanding is warranted. VA shall submit details of this evaluation as well as what discussions have occurred with DOD to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than April 22, 2016.

Women Veterans.—The Committee believes VA must make better progress in addressing the needs of women veterans. Toward this end, the advance appropriation for fiscal year 2016 provided last year and the fiscal year 2017 advance appropriation included in the act fully fund gender-specific healthcare. Access to and utilization of VA benefits and services by women veterans remain low, with women often encountering cultural roadblocks in a system that was largely designed to meet the needs of male veterans. The Committee anticipates the results of an ongoing system-wide review intended to determine what type and number of healthcare workers the system should have to address current and future demand of gender-specific care. This review will help VA properly staff hospitals and clinics with healthcare professionals providing gender-specific care and lead to improved access for women veterans.

Last year, the Department was directed through the Women's Health Service and the Center for Women Veterans to begin to collect and analyze gender-specific data and to develop programs and funding recommendations based on this data. VA was also encouraged, in consultation with the Department of Defense, to establish a women's working group within the VA/DOD Joint Executive Committee aimed at creating or strengthening transition programs which address female concerns and cultural roadblocks so more women veterans access VA benefits and services. The Department is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the status of these efforts. To better assist women veterans

and increase their knowledge of the services and benefits to which they are entitled, the Department is directed to continue the Women Veterans Call Center. Additionally, in an effort to leverage VA's existing local community partnerships, such as those for homeless veterans, VA should establish support networks for women veterans to assist in accessing healthcare, employment services, financial counseling, and housing. Furthermore, recent studies have shown servicewomen who experience sexual assault while serving in the military are far more likely to develop PTSD as compared to other female veterans. VA must be prepared to provide these veterans with mental health services designed to treat the effects of military sexual trauma. The Department is directed to maximize the availability of mental health services available to veterans who were victims of MST and shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress semi-annually on these efforts.

MEDICAL SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2015	\$45,224,716,000
Advance appropriations, 2016	47,603,202,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,124,197,000
House allowance, 2016	971,554,000
Committee recommendation, 2016	1,124,197,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriation, 2017	51,673,000,000
House allowance, advance appropriation, 2017	51,673,000,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriation, 2017	51,673,000,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical Services account provides for medical services of enrolled eligible veterans and certain dependent beneficiaries in VA medical centers, VA outpatient clinics, contract hospitals, State homes, and outpatient programs on a fee basis. Hospital and outpatient care is also provided by the private sector for certain dependents and survivors of veterans under the civilian health and medical programs for the VA.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2015, the Committee provided an advance appropriation of \$47,603,202,000 for fiscal year 2016. The recommendation for fiscal year 2016 includes an additional \$1,124,197,000 as included in the budget request. In addition, VA has the authority to retain co-payments and third-party collections, estimated to total \$2,445,000,000 in fiscal year 2016.

The Committee recommendation also includes an advance appropriation of \$51,673,000,000 for medical services for fiscal year 2017. This is \$4,069,798,000 above the level for fiscal year 2016 and equal to the fiscal year 2017 budget request.

Office of Rural Health.—Currently, 3.2 million rural veterans are enrolled in the VA system. This represents 36 percent of the total enrolled veteran population based on the 2010 U.S. Census. Men and women veterans from geographically rural areas make up a disproportionate share of servicemembers and comprise approximately 31 percent of the enrolled Operation Enduring Freedom and

Operation Iraqi Freedom [OEF/OIF] veterans, many of whom return to their rural communities. The Committee maintains its strong support for the Office of Rural Health [ORH] and the Rural Health Initiative and recommends \$270,000,000 for the program in fiscal year 2016. The Committee is aware ORH collaborates with other VA program offices, Federal and State partners, and rural communities to optimize the use of available and emerging technologies, establish new access points to care, and employ strategies to increase healthcare options for all rural veterans. The Committee believes these partnerships are key to ensuring access to care for veterans in rural and highly rural areas. In order to ensure long term care and services are available, the Committee directs ORH to work with rural and highly rural States to determine the gaps that exist in long-term care and services in rural areas. To help facilitate the establishment of more bed space in underserved rural areas, bill language is included to allow up to \$20,000,000 to be transferred to the Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities.

Curing Hepatitis C Within the Veteran Population.—The Committee includes language in the act that funds the treatment of Hepatitis C within the VA system at no less than \$900,000,000 in fiscal year 2016. As previously mentioned in the report, the Committee is aware the Department's request for drug treatment costs in the fiscal year 2016 request was inaccurate, and therefore, the Committee is directing more funding be allotted with in the Medical Services account to provide proper resources to address the need in fiscal year 2016. The Department is directed to provide quarterly updates beginning at the end of the first quarter of fiscal year 2016 to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing the expenditures and obligations of funding Hepatitis C treatment to date in fiscal year 2016, the number of veterans treated to date in fiscal year 2016, the number of veterans deemed cured to date in fiscal year 2016, and the projection of spending, new starts for drug treatment, and number of veterans who will be cured in the next quarter. The first quarterly report shall include this same data for all of fiscal year 2015.

Intermediate Care Technician Program.—The Committee understands in many parts of the country VA facilities are experiencing a shortage of healthcare providers. In January 2013, VA launched the Intermediate Care Technician [ICT] program, which allows Army medics, Air Force medical technicians, and Navy/Marine and Coast Guard Hospital Corpsmen to go directly from active duty military service to work within VHA as ICTs without undergoing additional licensure. This highly successful program provided immediate employment opportunities to highly trained veterans to care for other veterans. The Committee directs the Department to expand this program by 250 additional ICT positions for an additional 3 years.

Access to Care.—Hawaii and Alaska present unique challenges for VA in delivering timely healthcare. For instance, if VA does not provide a particular healthcare service within the VHA system, Hawaii and Alaska veterans have been directed to fly thousands of miles to a VA medical center within the continental United States, regardless of whether adequate healthcare may exist within the

State through a local provider. The Committee remains concerned extensive travel requirements, coupled with lengthy delays scheduling this travel, create unusual hardships on Hawaii and Alaska veterans. The Department has reported it is making progress in addressing these unique problems through the “Care Closer to Home Program.” The Committee encourages VA to continue these efforts and will continue to monitor its progress.

Staffing of Alaska VA Healthcare System.—In its report to accompany the fiscal year 2015 bill, the Committee made note of the difficulties VA has encountered in finding a full time physician to staff the Wasilla Community Based Outpatient Clinic—a facility that should be assigned two full time providers given its patient load. The Committee also understands VA has faced challenges in maintaining consistent staffing at its Fairbanks Community Based Outpatient Clinic. To address gaps in primary care staffing in Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Alaska VA Healthcare System has entered into agreements with the Alaska Neighborhood Health Center and Southcentral Foundation, an Alaska Native health provider, to take over a significant portion of its primary care caseload. These are a few examples of the chronic difficulties the Alaska VA Healthcare System faces in maintaining consistent staffing. Recognizing these difficulties, the Alaska VA Healthcare System is investigating partnerships with medical schools to increase the number of physicians who pursue post-graduate training in Alaska. The reasoning behind this effort is physicians often decide to permanently practice in the communities in which they are trained. The Committee encourages VA to pursue this effort as well as other proactive steps to ensure Alaska veterans receive timely and appropriate healthcare. Toward this end, VA may also wish to investigate whether to contract the operation of particular Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Alaska to components of the Alaska Native Healthcare System and Community Health Centers which have the capacity to provide care to Alaska veterans without compromising the service provided to existing patients.

Access Received Closer to Home.—The Access Received Closer to Home [ARCH] program has been successful in benefitting rural and highly rural veterans in the States in which it operates. Veteran Integrated Service Network [VISN] analysis demonstrates more than 90 percent of veterans who received primary care services through ARCH were “completely satisfied” with the care and cited significantly shortened travel times. ARCH was reauthorized in Section 104 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Choice Act) for an additional 2 years, and VA was given the authority to expand the program within the VISN in which it operates. Given its proven track record, VA is urged to consider ARCH a model for establishing and maintaining a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with providers in local communities, which can remove barriers to accessing care for veterans in rural and highly rural areas. The Committee urges VA to consider the administrative and cost efficiencies that may be gained from working directly with local providers to administer the program. The Committee is concerned VA does not intend to expand the program within the VISNs in which it operates nor in-

tend to advocate extending ARCH beyond fiscal year 2017. The Department is directed to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act detailing the feasibility of extending and expanding the ARCH program. The report must include the internal VA process that determines whether a veteran receives non-VA care through ARCH, the Choice Act, or another fee care option. The report must include veteran satisfaction survey data and utilization data. The report must describe the healthcare services, procedures, and treatments administered to veterans by non-VA providers and where geographically said healthcare is being provided.

Affordable Housing for Low Income Veterans.—While homelessness among veterans has decreased steadily over the last several years, more must be done to ensure affordable housing is available to low-income veterans transitioning into permanent housing. The Committee is aware the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Public Housing Authorities, conducts outreach to landlords, property management companies, and housing developers to improve the availability of affordable housing to formerly homeless veterans. There is concern, however, the effectiveness of this outreach varies across the country. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act which outlines the type of outreach conducted and an action plan to close any gaps identified.

Homelessness in Rural Areas.—The Committee recognizes homelessness in rural areas differs from homelessness in more urban areas, as do the means to combat it. The Department is directed to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of veterans in rural areas who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless in order to better identify the homeless population in these areas and its needs. This assessment shall also include any recommendations the Department may have to improve the housing stability of these veterans and to strengthen community partnerships in order to achieve these goals. The Department is directed to submit a report no later than 180 days after enactment of this act detailing the assessment and the findings of the assessment.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families and the Grant and Per Diem Program.—Among the various programs essential to continuing the success of ending veteran homelessness, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families and the Grant and Per Diem Program, are important. These two unique programs support community-based organizations to provide critical services and transitional housing for veterans and their families. These programs provide important lifelines to veterans in need and their families. Accordingly, the Committee directs the Department to fund both of the programs at the fully authorized level.

Natural Resource Conservation Management.—The Committee includes language giving the Department the authority to administer financial assistance grants and enter into cooperative agreements in fiscal year 2016. The Committee is aware there are a number of non-profit, local, and State-based organizations capable of providing veterans with job training and employment opportuni-

ties in the area of natural resource conservation management. The Committee is further aware there has been broad support to end veterans homelessness and encourages VA to utilize the authority provided in this section in a way that combines job training and employment opportunities with the Department's continued commitment to mitigate homelessness among at-risk veterans. Before entering into any agreement, the Department is directed to create metrics for the program to ensure success can be clearly demonstrated and provide a report to the Committees of jurisdiction of both Houses of Congress detailing this program.

Veterans Justice Outreach [VJO] Program.—The Committee commends the Department for its efforts to support justice-involved veterans. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 9.3 percent of people incarcerated in the United States are veterans; 70 percent of these veterans are incarcerated for a nonviolent offense. The Department reports that 60 percent of incarcerated veterans suffer from substance abuse, 30 percent from a serious mental illness, and 60 percent from a major medical condition. Almost 50 percent of homeless veterans have interacted with the criminal justice system.

The Department's VJO specialists provide outreach and case management services to justice-involved veterans to help avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and substance abuse. VJOs also work directly with local law enforcement and court officials to help identify veteran-specific issues, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder [PTSD] and Traumatic Brain Injury [TBI], and they connect eligible veterans with VA treatment programs. To better understand the development of the VJO program, the Committee requests the Department to report no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the resources associated with this effort and the Department's ability to meet current demand.

Access to Care for New Hampshire Veterans.—New Hampshire is the only State in the continental United States that does not have a full service VHA hospital, which presents a unique challenge for VA in delivering timely healthcare. For instance, if VA does not provide a particular healthcare service within the limited VHA system in New Hampshire, veterans have been directed to drive hundreds of miles to a VA hospital in another State, regardless of whether adequate healthcare may exist within New Hampshire through a local provider. The Committee remains concerned that the extensive travel requirements, coupled with lengthy delays scheduling this travel, create unusual hardships on New Hampshire veterans. The Choice Card program, passed as part of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, has significantly improved the availability of healthcare options for veterans in States like New Hampshire, Alaska, and Hawaii that do not have a full service VHA hospital. Given the unique challenges facing veterans in these States, the Committee requests the Department to report no later than 180 days after the enactment of this act on the feasibility and advisability of further extending Section 101(b)(2)(C) of Public Law 113–146.

National Centers for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.—The Committee is concerned by ongoing issues with post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] faced by servicemembers transitioning into civilian

life after active duty service in Iraq and Afghanistan. While investments in the National Centers for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder [NCPTSD] have successfully improved the scientific understanding of PTSD, more must be done to ensure research and treatment for PTSD continues at a level commensurate with the needs of the population accessing services through VA. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act detailing how PTSD research at the NCPTSD has been used to inform care within the Department.

The Committee approves of the operational progress in the establishment of the Brain Bank, a valuable resource in PTSD research headquartered at the National Center's Executive Division. Additionally, the Rural Veterans with PTSD Outreach Program ensures access to care for underserved veterans in rural communities by offering consultation services to non-VA providers. The Committee directs NCPTSD be funded at no less than \$19,000,000, as outlined in the budget request. Additionally, in order to ensure NCPTSD is appropriately staffed, the Department is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the current and projected staffing levels, including those for the Brain Bank and rural outreach program, to ensure VA continues to advance the research, education, and training in the science, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD.

Nursing Handbook.—The Committee understands the VHA Nursing Handbook is currently under review. The Committee encourages VHA to seek input from internal VA program offices and external professional stakeholders prior to possible regulatory action and submission to the Under Secretary for Health for final approval. The Committee believes all possible outreach efforts should be used to communicate the proposed changes, to gather public comment, and to collaborate with Congress, stakeholders, VA nursing staff, and external organizations. The Committee requests VHA ensure changes to its handbooks do not conflict with other handbooks already in place within VHA.

Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Formularies.—In order to ensure continuity of care and to better understand where gaps exist in terms of medications used to treat behavioral health conditions, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall conduct a comprehensive assessment of VA and DOD's formularies. The results of this review shall be used to develop a plan to rectify any gaps identified. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act detailing the results of the review.

Orthotics and Prosthetics Workforce.—The Committee is concerned about the sustainability of the orthotics and prosthetics workforce treating veterans, particularly given an aging workforce with imminent retirements as well as a lack of availability of advanced degree programs necessary to train new professionals. Reports indicate up to 20 percent of the field's 7,100 clinicians nationwide are either past retirement age or within 5 years of retiring.

The Committee recognizes the contributions made by VHA's Orthotic and Prosthetic Residency Program to provide rotation opportunities through the VA system but acknowledges this program alone is inadequate to ensure a sustainable workforce for the future, especially in light of the skill set necessary to provide the increasingly complex, state-of-the-art orthotics and prosthetics care for OEF/OIF veterans. The Committee directs VHA to explore cost effective opportunities to grow the workforce pipeline in order to ensure a future orthotic and prosthetic workforce necessary for the Nation's new generation of veterans. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act detailing its findings.

Hepatitis B.—The Committee is aware hepatitis B, if left untreated, may lead to advanced liver disease, liver cancer, and the need for liver transplants, placing a greater financial burden on the veterans healthcare system. Given the high rates of viral hepatitis infections among Vietnam Era veterans, the Committee urges an aggressive and targeted outreach program consistent with CDC's viral hepatitis testing and treatment recommendations to identify veterans with Hepatitis B and to facilitate and encourage treatment for those identified with the disease.

Home and Community Based Services.—The Committee supports the Department's efforts to broaden veterans' options regarding long-term care support and services. The Committee notes the positive results of pilot programs such as the Veterans Independence Program, a veterans-directed Home and Community Based Services [HCBS] grant program administered jointly by VA and the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS]. The Committee encourages enhanced cooperation with HHS to expand and grow these programs. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the cost avoidance associated with these various non-institutional care programs. The report should include information on the demand for HCBS among the veteran population, the number of veterans currently being served by HCBS, and the Department's plans to expand the size and scope of HCBS. Given the success of current HCBS pilot programs, the Department should include an economic analysis of the cost-effectiveness of growing the existing pilot programs prior to national expansion to leverage coordination with HHS. The report should also detail the Department's efforts to coordinate with HHS on HCBS in future years. Given mandatory eligibility for certain types of care is associated with disability levels adjudicated by VBA, this report should offer some strategies for streamlining the claims process for veterans requiring long-term care.

Veteran Suicide.—The Committee remains concerned about the alarming prevalence of suicide among veterans. The Department is directed to submit a report no later than 180 days from enactment of this act and each year thereafter to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the number of veterans enrolled in the VA system who commit suicide, the factors which contribute to the rate of suicide among veterans, the method used by veterans to commit suicide, efforts by mental health professionals

and others to prevent suicide, and any pertinent recommendations for legislative changes which would assist in addressing this problem.

Mental and Behavioral Health Providers.—In 2006, Congress authorized the employment of licensed professional mental health counselors [LPMHC] and marriage and family therapists [MFT] by VA. However, the two professions comprise less than 1 percent of the VA behavioral health workforce despite representing 40 percent of the overall independent practice behavioral health workforce in the United States. As part of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 and the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act of 2015, VA has the ability to recruit and hire additional behavioral healthcare providers to serve veterans suffering from invisible wounds of war. The Committee notes VA has made progress with hiring providers in this field, however, LPMHC and MFT professionals remain under represented. The Department is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the status of hiring additional LPMHC and MFT professionals and detailing how many are currently enrolled and planned to be enrolled in VA's mental health professionals trainee program. The report should explain the eligibility criteria for LPMHC and MFT professionals as compared to other behavioral health professions, and the VA objectives, goals, and timing associated with increasing LPMHC and MFT representation in the behavioral health workforce.

Recruitment and Retention of Mental Health Providers.—The Committee notes persistent issues for VA health facilities in recruiting and retaining mental health providers in the face of national provider shortages and a highly competitive environment. Among different mental health provider types, the highest national vacancy rate was in psychiatry with 14.2 percent of positions unfilled. The Committee encourages the Department to consider the expanded use of physician assistants [PAs] specializing in psychiatric care to address the mental health provider gap. PAs provide high quality, cost-effective medical care and are held to the same standard of healthcare deliver as their physician colleagues. Furthermore, the Department is directed to review and report to Congress a plan to improve recruitment and retention initiatives for PAs, including consideration of including PAs in the Locality Pay System, implementing recruitment and retention tools targeting the Education Debt Reduction Program [EDRP] and the Employee Incentive Scholarship Program [EISP] to consistently include PAs, mandating that VHA list all midlevel provider positions for both PAs and Nurse Practitioners, maximizing the authority and instructions in Titles III and VIII of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, Public Law 113–146, to develop an optimal PA workforce.

Locum Tenens Physicians.—The Committee recognizes VA facilities across the nation often rely upon assistance from temporarily assigned locum tenens physicians. The Committee understands the use of locum tenens professionals at VA facilities enables a flexible staffing structure and allows responsiveness to changing patient population demands. Further, the VA's locum tenens system, in which a physician with a current license in at least one state may

work in any VA facility, has been a normal staffing practice of VA for decades. The Committee urges VA, in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration, to resolve any alleged regulatory issues concerning prescription drug issues for locum tenens professionals to ensure veterans have access to needed high quality local VA healthcare.

Infectious Disease Screening.—The Committee applauds VHA for developing electronic clinical reminders for recommended HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis screenings and urges VHA to implement these reminders in appropriate settings. To further improve screening rates, the Committee urges VHA to offer support to VISNs to implement recommended screening, including innovative strategies like point-of-care testing.

Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders and Gulf War Illness.—The Committee is pleased with the Department's plan to address Gulf War Illness, including how it relates to functional gastrointestinal disorders. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act detailing the progress made in implementing this plan.

Guide Dogs and Other Service Animals.—The Committee recognizes the importance of guide dogs and other service animals to veterans and encourages the Department to ensure veterans receiving VA medical care are not prohibited from bringing a covered service dog or other service animal into a medical facility of the Department, including with respect to staying overnight. The Department may prescribe regulations to ensure the safety and health of employees of the Department, patients, and the public, including by requiring a patient maintain responsibility for the covered service dog or other service animal.

The Clay Hunt SAV Act.—The Committee urges the Department to implement the pilot program on community outreach established in the Clay Hunt SAV Act, Public Law 114–2. The pilot program requires no less than five Veterans Integrated Service Networks [VISN] that have a large population of veterans to include: (1) a community oriented veteran peer support network carried out in partnership with an entity that has experience in peer support programs, and (2) a community outreach team for each medical center in each VISN. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days enactment of this act detailing these efforts.

Opioid Safety Initiative.—To help address the prescription drug abuse and overdose epidemic, the Committee directs VA, in consultation with the Department of Defense [DOD], to update the Clinical Practice Guideline [CPG] for the Management of Opioid Therapy [OT] for Chronic Pain and adopt the safe opioid prescribing guidelines for chronic, non-cancer pain in outpatient settings developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]. Upon release of CDC's safe opioid prescribing guidelines in fiscal year 2016, the Department is instructed to include such guidelines and release an updated CPG for the management of OT no later than December 31, 2016.

The Committee fully supports the Department's efforts to reduce the use of opioids to treat pain, including the Opioid Safety Initia-

tive [OSI] and the Opioid Therapy Risk Report tool. However, to help reduce rates of opioid addiction and fatal overdose, it is critical that real-time data is available at the individual prescriber and pharmacist level as well as the pharmacy management level to prevent inappropriate prescribing before it occurs. The Committee directs VHA in coordination with the Office of Information Technology to develop and deploy mechanisms for including real-time patient information on existing opioid prescriptions within VHA as well as patient controlled substances prescription information in the state prescription drug monitoring program. Such mechanisms should also alert a provider or pharmacist in real-time that an opioid or benzodiazepine prescription would be inappropriate and protect against “double-prescribing” when an in-patient continues to receive take-home opioid prescriptions despite being treated with opioids at a VA facility. The Committee further directs VHA to submit information on controlled substance prescriptions to state prescription drug monitoring programs.

In addition, to ensure VA providers are not prescribing opioids for mental health treatment, compliant with joint VA–DOD Clinical Practice Guidelines and to improve the DOD–VA transition, the Committee directs VA, in consultation with DOD, to establish within the DOD–VA Joint Executive Council [JEC] a working group focused on patient pain management and opioid therapy. This working group should build on the work of existing relevant working groups, including those on Evidence Based Guidelines, Mental Health, Patient Safety, and Pharmacy, and cover, at minimum, opioid prescribing practices, acute and chronic pain management, complementary and integrative health, and the concurrent use of opioids and prescription drugs used to treat mental health issues, including benzodiazepines.

Further, it is critical all VA medical facilities have the resources, necessary equipment, and supplies to help reduce the number of opioid-related overdose deaths and adverse events. As such, the Committee instructs VA to ensure all VA medical facilities are equipped with approved opioid receptor antagonists, such as naloxone, an opioid antagonist that reverses the effects of opioids, including respiratory depression, within 90 days of enactment of this act. The Committee urges VA to further ensure providers and pharmacists at every medical facility receive updated education on the use of approved opioid receptor antagonists, such as naloxone and other overdose death prevention strategies. The Committee fully supports VA’s Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution [OEND] program which distributes naloxone take-home kit prescriptions to at-risk patients and provides training on the proper naloxone administration technique and how to prevent, recognize, and respond to an opioid overdose. In recognition of the program’s initial success, the Committee encourages VA to accelerate and expand the OEND program to ensure all patients at-risk for opioid overdose have access to a naloxone kit.

Lastly, to strengthen oversight, the Committee directs the Government Accountability Office, in consultation with VA, to report to Congress on the effectiveness of the VA Opioid Safety Initiative and overall opioid prescribing practices throughout the VA system. This report shall include recommendations on improvements to the

Opioid Safety Initiative, deaths involving veterans prescribed opioids, overall opioid prescription rates, and indications at all VA facilities, including facilities and prescribers that are among the top 10 percent in the nation regarding the percent of their patient population receiving opioids, and the average dose per patient. In addition, the report shall note the use of benzodiazepines and opioid concomitantly and their prescription rates and indications along with facilities and prescribers that are among the top 10 percent in the nation regarding the percent of their patient population receiving opioids and the average dose per patient.

Caregivers.—The Committee notes the robust usage of the post-9/11 Caregiver program with its more than 20,000 approved applications, as well as the consistent positive reviews by caregiver families stating the program's stipend, respite care, formal training, and support structure as critical components of its success. Given the demonstrated success of the program, the Committee encourages VA to ensure caregiver coordinators at each VA medical center are fully resourced and, to the maximum extent possible, assigned designated caregiver duties as their chief and only responsibility. In addition, the Committee encourages VA to examine expansion of the program beyond the post-9/11 population. Noting the conclusions of the recent RAND Military Caregivers Study indicating the significant hardship borne by those caring for military personnel prior to separation, the Committee encourages the Department to engage in a lessons-learned dialogue with DOD in order to share best practices. The Committee recognizes many caregivers for severely wounded veterans are working dramatically reduced hours outside the home or have left the workforce completely, leading to financial hardship. This reduction in outside earnings results in difficulties meeting financial obligations, including student loan debt held by the caregiver. The Committee directs VA to survey all caregivers currently in the program to identify the number possessing outstanding student loan debt and develop a plan to monitor this issue, including future data collection. The Department is directed to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act and every 6 months thereafter detailing its plan and the survey findings.

Pain Management Boards.—In an effort to reduce the use of opioids for chronic pain and increase the use of complementary and alternative medicine, the Committee encourages VHA to establish Pain Management Boards [the Boards] within each Veterans Integrated Service Network [VISN]. The Boards should be comprised of healthcare professionals and clinical patients and/or family members of a clinical patient. The Boards would serve as a resource for the region's facilities, patients, and family members; provide best practices recommendations for pain management to VA facilities within its region, including patient, family member, and medical perspectives; and, provide an annual report to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs about pain management practices within its region, which would then be sent to Congress. The Department is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the feasibility of establishing such Boards.

Fertility Treatment.—The nature of the current military conflict and increasing use of improvised explosive devices has left some servicemembers with blast injuries that include spinal cord injury and trauma to the reproductive and urinary tracts. The Committee is concerned about the care and level of services provided for these injured servicemembers after they return home, and notes currently there is not parity between DOD and VA treatment of servicemembers with these injuries. The Committee directs VA to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act detailing the scope and the extent of veterans facing infertility issues due to service connected injuries suffered during Operation Iraqi Freedom [OIF] and Operation Enduring Freedom [OEF].

Fee-Based Medical Care.—The Committee is aware VA has several mechanisms to provide medical care to veterans outside of the VA healthcare system. As noted in a May 11, 2015, Congressional Research Service [CRS] analysis, “Implementation of the Veterans Choice Program [VCP],” these programs fall into three broad categories—contracts to purchase care, non-contracted medical care purchased on a fee-for-service basis from area providers, and emergency care when required. CRS estimates VA spent approximately \$7 billion in 2014, prior to enactment of the Veterans Choice Program, for fee-based medical care. As CRS noted, VA’s existing fee-based care programs were developed at various times in response to specific requirements, resulting in overlapping and sometimes contradictory eligibility requirements. The Committee is concerned over the apparent lack of coordination among the use of these programs and the potential for funding imbalances which could lead to shortfalls in some programs and surpluses in others. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 60 days of enactment of this act providing: (1) a description of each of the existing statutory authorities and programs, including the Veterans Choice Act, through which VA can provide medical care to veterans outside of the VA health care system; (2) an explanation of the reimbursement rate to providers for each of the programs; (3) the amount of funding projected to be required for each of the programs funded under the Department’s discretionary budget authority for fiscal years 2015 through 2017; (4) the amount of funds expended in each of the programs, excluding the Veterans Choice Act, in fiscal years 2013 and 2014; and (5) a plan establishing a policy to coordinate the administration and use of all of the Department’s fee-based care authorities.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

Appropriations, 2015	\$5,879,700,000
Advance appropriations, 2016	6,144,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	69,961,000
House allowance, 2016 .....	.....
Committee recommendation, 2016 .....	.....
Budget estimate, advance appropriation, 2017	6,524,000,000
House allowance, advance appropriation, 2017	6,524,000,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriation, 2017	6,524,000,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical Support and Compliance account provides funds for management, security, and administrative expenses within the VA healthcare system, in addition to providing costs associated with the operation of VA medical centers and clinics, VISN offices, and the VHA Central Office in Washington, DC. This appropriation also covers Chief of Staff and Facility Director operations, quality of care oversight, legal services, billing and coding activities, procurement, financial management, security, and human resource management.

The President's 2016 and 2017 submission for Medical support and compliance is based on an actuarial analysis founded on the current and projected veteran population, enrollment projections of demand, and case mix changes associated with current veteran patients.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2015, the Committee provided an advance appropriation of \$6,144,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 for the Medical Support and Compliance account. The Committee recommendation includes an advance appropriation of \$6,524,000,000 for Medical support and compliance for fiscal year 2017.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2015	\$4,739,000,000
Advance appropriations, 2016	4,915,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	105,132,000
House allowance, 2016	
Committee recommendation, 2016	
Budget estimate, advance appropriation, 2017	5,074,000,000
House allowance, advance appropriation, 2017	5,074,000,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriation, 2017	5,074,000,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical Facilities account provides funds for the operation and maintenance of the VA healthcare system's vast capital infrastructure. This appropriation provides for costs associated with utilities, engineering, capital planning, leases, laundry, groundskeeping, housekeeping, facility repair, and property disposition and acquisition.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2015, the Committee provided an advance appropriation of \$4,915,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 for the Medical Facilities account. The Committee recommendation includes an advance appropriation of \$5,074,000,000 for Medical facilities for fiscal year 2017.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

Appropriations, 2015	\$588,922,000
Budget estimate, 2016	621,813,000
House allowance	621,813,000
Committee recommendation	621,813,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical and Prosthetic Research account provides funds for medical, rehabilitative, and health services research. Medical research supports basic and clinical studies that advance knowledge leading to improvements in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases and disabilities. Rehabilitation research focuses on rehabilitation engineering problems in the fields of prosthetics, orthotics, adaptive equipment for vehicles, sensory aids and related areas. Health services research focuses on improving the effectiveness and economy of the delivery of health services.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$621,813,000 for the Medical and Prosthetic Research account. This is \$32,891,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The Committee remains highly supportive of this program, and recognizes its importance both in improving healthcare services to veterans and recruiting and retaining high quality medical professionals in the Veterans Health Administration.

Through the Department's research and development program, VA has implemented a comprehensive research agenda to develop new treatments and tools for clinicians to ease the physical and psychological pain of men and women returning from war zones, to improve access to VA healthcare services, and to accelerate discoveries and applications, especially for neurotrauma, sensory loss, amputation, polytrauma, and related prosthetic needs. The Committee encourages VA to continue its research into developing novel approaches to restoring veterans with amputation, central nervous system injuries, loss of sight or hearing, or other physical and cognitive impairments to full and productive lives.

Toxic Exposures.—The Committee wants to ensure VA is actively researching the residual impact to veterans of Agent Orange and other toxic exposures, such as oil well fires and burn pits. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act detailing ongoing activities and future plans for research into residual exposure to Agent Orange and other toxins.

C-123 Planes and Possible Exposure to Dioxin.—The Committee is aware of the Institute of Medicine [IOM] study of exposure to herbicide by servicemembers who served on Fairchild UC-123 "Provider" (C-123) aircraft post-Vietnam war. The report, commissioned by VA, states with confidence these servicemembers were exposed to potentially dangerous levels of dioxin. Given IOM's recent finding, the Department is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 14 days of enactment of this act on plans to provide appropriate care and benefits to servicemembers who flew or worked on C-123 planes that carried and sprayed Agent Orange and to revisit past and existing related claims previously denied.

Health Conditions of Descendants.—The Committee believes research and evidence is deficient regarding the potential connection of health conditions of descendants of veterans who were exposed

to toxic substances during their service in the Armed Services—such as Agent Orange in Vietnam, Gulf War neurotoxins, burn pits in Iraq, and other chemicals from conflicts or contingencies overseas. Many of the symptoms from toxic exposure are misdiagnosed in descendants of veterans because of a lack of understanding and scientific proof. Veterans have observed increased levels of cancers, birth defects, and other medical conditions in their subsequent generations. The evidence of health conditions in the progeny of service members who were exposed to toxic substances is mounting, and the Committee believes research is warranted to collect data and study this paradigm.

Respiratory Illnesses.—The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the current status and findings of the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, as well as information on other research and development activities the Department is conducting to explore the potential health risks of environmental exposures in Iraq and Afghanistan, particularly as they relate to respiratory illnesses such as chronic cough, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, constrictive bronchiolitis, and pulmonary fibrosis. The Department should include any research and surveillance efforts that evaluate the current incidence and prevalence of respiratory illnesses among service members and veterans.

Assistive Technology.—Whether because of age or injury, the Committee is aware veterans have a need for accessible, dependable, and affordable tools to overcome barriers to engagement, employment, and independent living. The continued development of 3D printing and other technological advances has the potential to make development and adaptation of devices faster and more affordable. The Department is urged to begin a pilot program to develop a more innovative and end-user friendly design-to-delivery process for assistive technology. In this effort, VA should work with research institutions with a multi-disciplinary approach that includes rehabilitation specialists, industrial designers, computer engineers, clinical specialists, and disability-specific support organizations.

MEDICAL CARE COST RECOVERY COLLECTIONS

MEDICAL CARE COLLECTION FUND

Appropriations, 2015	\$2,456,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	2,445,000,000
House allowance	2,445,000,000
Committee recommendation	2,445,000,000

MEDICAL CARE COLLECTION FUND—REVENUES APPLIED

Appropriations, 2015	-\$2,456,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	-2,445,000,000
House allowance	-2,445,000,000
Committee recommendation	-2,445,000,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical Care Collection Fund [MCCF] was established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–33). In fiscal

year 2004, Public Law 108–199 allowed the Department of Veterans Affairs to deposit first-party and pharmacy co-payments; third-party insurance payments and enhanced-use collections; long-term care co-payments; Compensated Work Therapy Program collections; and Parking Program fees into the MCCF. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has the authority to transfer funds from the MCCF to the Medical services account.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommendation includes the authority to retain co-payments and third-party collections, estimated to total \$2,445,000,000 in fiscal year 2016.

Third Party Billing.—The Committee again notes the large amount of third party health billings that go uncollected each year. The Committee believes procedures to provide for correct billing and prompt collection must improve at VA. Therefore, the Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after the enactment of this act identifying the amount of third party health billings owed to VA in fiscal year 2015 and the amount collected. Additionally, the report should include current efforts underway to increase VA’s efficiency, accuracy, and collection process, as well as what management practices are in place to provide proper oversight of the billing process so as to eliminate unnecessary and duplicative functions.

Third Party Fee Collection.—The Committee is concerned about the resulting loss of collections from third party insurers for non-service connected care as veterans receive more care at non-VA facilities. Purchased care has grown from \$3 billion in fiscal year 2008 to \$7 billion in fiscal year 2014. The level of fee-based care is expected to continue to increase. In 2011, OIG identified shortcomings in the Department’s non-VA fee care processes and estimated \$110 million annually in third party payments were not being recouped. Since that time, action plans implemented by VA have not produced a material improvement in non-VA fee care collections, and the identified shortcomings still exist. The Committee believes a comprehensive solution to the non-VA fee care issue is necessary to realize full collection potential and create structure that can best accommodate recent and future non-VA fee care growth. The Department is directed to initiate within 90 days after the enactment of this act a pilot program in one Veteran Integrated Service Network [VISN] that shall last 18 months. The Department shall choose through a fair and open competition a non-government entity with substantial private sector revenue cycle management experience to conduct the pilot. The objective of such a pilot is to review and report current state business processes, the impacts of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146), and implement improvements necessary to identify and execute actions to correct current gaps in non-VA care fee collection. The pilot shall further demonstrate a business case analysis focused on process standardization, staff education and training, and consistent system applications throughout the VISN health system that may result in an increase in reimbursement to VA from non-VA fee care. The business case shall provide rec-

ommendations in the following areas: improved tracking of patient information, increased collections to increase revenue, improving tracking of unbilled claims to the private sector, operations efficiencies within non-VA care, and the tracking and continuity of care. At the conclusion of the pilot, VA shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the financial and operational results of the pilot along with a plan for expanding the improvements beyond the pilot and shall include a point-of-view on consolidating non-VA care insurance identification, billing, and collection activities within VISNs or regions.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2015	\$256,800,000
Budget estimate, 2016	266,220,000
House allowance	266,220,000
Committee recommendation	266,220,000

ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

The National Cemetery Administration [NCA] was established in accordance with Public Law 93–94, the National Cemeteries Act of 1973. It has a four-fold mission: to provide for the interment in any national cemetery of the remains of eligible deceased servicemembers and discharged veterans, together with their spouses and certain dependents, and permanently maintain their graves; to provide headstones for, and to mark graves of, eligible persons in national, State, and private cemeteries; to administer the grant program for aid to States in establishing, expanding, or improving State veterans cemeteries; and to administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program.

Policies Regarding Headstones and Markers for Deceased Veterans.—The Committee is aware the Department furnishes headstones and markers for the graves of eligible veterans in any cemetery in the world. This benefit ensures veterans are remembered for their dedicated sacrifices to the country. The Department must ensure its policies adequately address deceased veterans who lack next-of-kin to request this benefit on their behalf. The NCA is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act detailing current policies and procedures regarding this issue and highlighting any problems in ensuring eligible veterans receive appropriate headstones and markers.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$266,220,000 for the National Cemetery Administration. This is an increase of \$9,420,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The Committee has included bill language to make available through September 30, 2017, up to \$26,600,000 of the National Cemetery Administration appropriation.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2015	\$8,177,894,000
Budget estimate, 2016	9,087,406,000
House allowance	8,401,906,000
Committee recommendation	8,911,482,000

ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

Departmental Administration provides for the administration of veterans benefits through the Veterans Benefits Administration [VBA], the executive direction of the Department, several top level supporting offices, the Board of Contract Appeals, and the Board of Veterans Appeals.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$8,911,482,000 for Departmental Administration. The amount is composed of \$321,591,000 for General administration; \$107,884,000 for the Board of Veterans Appeals; \$2,697,734,000 for General operating expenses, veterans benefits administration; \$4,106,363,000 for Information technology systems; \$126,766,000 for the Office of the Inspector General; \$1,027,064,000 for Construction, major projects; \$378,080,000 for Construction, minor projects; \$100,000,000 for Grants for construction of State extended care facilities; and \$46,000,000 for Grants for the construction of State veterans cemeteries.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2015	\$321,591,000
Budget estimate, 2016	346,659,000
House allowance	324,959,000
Committee recommendation	321,591,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The General Administration account provides funding for the Office of the Secretary, six assistant secretaries, and three independent staff offices.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$321,591,000 for General Administration. This amount is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$25,068,000 below the budget request. The Committee has included bill language to make available through September 30, 2017, up to \$12,141,000 for General Administration.

Franchise Fund.—The Franchise Fund was established in 1997 as a pilot program and made permanent in fiscal year 2006 under Public Law 109–114. The Department is directed to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act detailing the Franchise Fund business plan for fiscal year 2016. This plan should include a list of services, customers, overhead expenses, funds collected for services, and the unobligated balance from the previous fiscal year.

Security at Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities.—Intelligent policing solutions such as Smart Policing, real-time data analytics, and data-driven law enforcement are being widely embraced by State and local law enforcement entities nationwide. Security at VA hospitals must be handled in an intelligent way because they face several unique challenges. The population of patients served is composed of a large number of people dealing with a variety of mental health problems, including PTSD. Campuses are often located in urban areas in order to be accessible to veterans. The safety of physicians, nurses, and staff at VA hospitals is a top priority for the Department. There must be a balance between controlling and monitoring access to the facilities while not preventing veterans from accessing the care they need. The Committee looks forward to receiving a report from the Office of Security and Law Enforcement assessing the physical security at hospitals nationwide. The Committee expects to be kept apprised of how VA plans to implement the recommendations of that report and how intelligent policing solutions can enhance the security of hospital facilities.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

Appropriations, 2015	\$99,294,000
Budget estimate, 2016	107,884,000
House allowance	109,884,000
Committee recommendation	107,884,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As set forth in section 7101(a) of title 38 United States Code, the Board of Veterans Appeals is responsible for making final decisions on claims for veterans benefits presented to the Board for appellate review. The vast majority of the Board's workload derives from benefit claims initiated by the Veterans Benefits Administration's Regional Offices. The appellate process has multiple steps, most of which occur at the local Regional Office level. If a veteran is not satisfied with the Regional Office determination, he or she may appeal to the Board for a final agency decision. The Board adjudicates appeals covering all areas of veterans benefits, including: service connection, increased disability ratings, total disability ratings, pensions, insurance benefits, educational benefits, home loan guaranties, vocational rehabilitation, waivers of indebtedness, fee basis medical care, and dependency and indemnity compensation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$107,884,000 for the Board of Veterans Appeals, which is \$8,590,000 above fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2015	\$2,534,254,000
Budget estimate, 2016	2,697,734,000
House allowance	2,702,734,000
Committee recommendation	2,697,734,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account provides funding for the Veterans Benefits Administration to administer entitlement programs such as service-connected disability compensation, education benefits, and vocational rehabilitation services.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$2,697,734,000 for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration, which is \$163,480,000 above fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request. The Committee has included bill language to make available through September 30, 2017, up to \$134,800,000 for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration.

Claims Processing.—The Committee recommendation fully funds the Department's request for the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account. The Committee notes that within the \$163,480,000 increase over fiscal year 2015 the Department plans to hire 770 new personnel aimed at bolstering efforts to improve all aspects of the claims process. Over the past several years, VBA has focused on reducing the overall claims backlog for new and supplemental claims. While the Department has made significant improvement, the Committee believes VBA must guard against recurring backlogs and begin addressing the timeliness of the appellate process. The Committee fully supports the Department's request for 200 new appeals processors, 320 non-rating claims processors, 85 fiduciary field examiners, and 165 support personnel. To ensure each Regional Office is appropriately staffed, the Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on current and future staffing levels for each Regional Office. Further, the Committee believes proper management oversight should be in place within each Regional Office. Therefore, the Department shall include in the report plans to ensure Regional Offices, particularly those with 100 or more employees, have on-site directors. In addition, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall refresh the VA Strategic Plan to Transform the Appeal Process. This strategic plan should include the requirements outlined in Senate Report 113-48 that was referenced by the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied Public Law 113-235, the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015, and shall include a description, to include objective measurements and performance results, of the appeals modernization initiative, which is designed to speed the processing of appeals and improve the accuracy of decisions. Further, in addition to initiatives that lead to improved employee performance, the strategic plan shall also outline possible administrative reforms of the policies and procedures governing the adjudication of appeals, which may lead to more timely and accurate decisions including an estimate of the anticipated gains in efficiency (improved timeliness and accuracy) as a result of such administrative reform. The Secretary shall submit this report to Congress no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

The Committee continues to believe quality cannot be sacrificed in the pursuit of eliminating the claims backlog. As such, the Department must continue the efforts of the Quality Review Teams [QRT] in assessing the performance of claims processing operations and bridging the gap between local and national standards. It is critical QRTs perform follow-up spot audits in Regional Offices that have undergone challenge training to ensure quality standards are being met. Additionally, VA must ensure all training programs for claims processors are routinely followed up with testing and monitoring at regular intervals.

In order to continue to provide better oversight of quality reviews and training, bill language is included requiring the Department submit quarterly reports which shall include the number and results of QRT review audits conducted, corrective actions taken to address quality deficiencies, and training programs provided. The Committee will utilize this material to assess whether VA’s quality control and training programs are adequate to ensure both timeliness and accuracy in the claims process.

In addition to the quarterly reports, the Committee directs the Department to provide monthly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on performance measures for each Regional Office, including the number of backlogged claims, the average number of days to complete a claim, the accuracy rate, and the origination date of the oldest claim in each Regional Office’s inventory. The report may be submitted electronically and in spreadsheet format. Each report is due no later than 10 calendar days after the last calendar day of the previous month, and that report shall reflect the previous month’s data. The first report shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 10 days after the first full month of enactment of this act and continue for the remainder of fiscal year 2016.

Fully Developed Claims.—The Committee is concerned when the Department’s authority to issue retroactive effective dates for disability compensation claims that are fully developed expires on August 6, 2015, the progress in reducing the claims backlog via the Fully Developed Claims program will be reversed. VA’s goal of processing all claims within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy in 2015 has not yet been reached. The Committee strongly supports VA’s Fully Developed Claims program and urges VA to continue utilizing the program. Additionally, for original disability compensation claims filed via the Fully Developed Claim program, the Committee urges the VA to award provisional benefits to claimants if VA fails to issue a final decision within 180 days.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Appropriations, 2015	\$3,903,344,000
Budget estimate, 2016	4,133,363,000
House allowance	4,039,563,000
Committee recommendation	4,106,363,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Information Technology [IT] appropriation, along with reimbursements, funds the costs of all IT staff salaries and expenses,

the operations and maintenance of all existing information technology systems, and the development of new projects and programs designed to improve the delivery of service to veterans. This appropriation also funds the costs associated with the Office of Information and Technology which oversees the functions highlighted above.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$4,106,363,000 for the Information Technology Systems account. This amount is \$203,019,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$27,000,000 below the budget request. The Committee recommendation includes \$1,115,757,000 for staff salaries and expenses, \$2,512,863,000 for operation and maintenance of existing programs, and \$477,743,000 for program development. Additionally, the Committee directs a transfer of \$27,000,000 from MCCF to project development for development of the Medical Care Collections Fund electronic data exchange provider and payer system.

The Committee has appropriated the Information Technology Systems account as three subaccounts. This funding structure enhances the Committee’s ability to ensure funds are executed in a manner consistent with the Department’s budget submission. The Committee has provided sufficient flexibility within the subaccounts by way of authorized carryover amounts and reprogramming authority to give the Office of Information Technology as much flexibility as possible to accomplish its mission and goals, while ensuring proper accountability and oversight. The Committee will continue to work with the Department to ensure the IT projects currently underway, as well as the projects planned for the future, have the resources needed for success.

The Committee has included bill language that restricts the obligation of development funds until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Chief Information Officer submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification of the amounts, in parts or in full, that will be obligated and expended for each development project. Further, the Office of Information Technology is directed to provide an IT expenditure report, by project, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on a monthly basis.

The chart below reflects the Administration’s budget request for development projects and includes the Committee recommendation for each. This chart will serve as the Department’s approved list of development projects, and all requested changes are subject to the reprogramming guidelines as outlined in the accompanying act.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Fiscal year 2016 budget request	Committee recommendation
Access to Healthcare	28,970	28,970
Healthcare Efficiency IT Development	6,660	6,660
Electronic Health Record [EHR] Interoperability and VLER Health	25,000	25,000
VistA Evolution	81,900	81,900
New Models of Care	25,430	25,430

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Fiscal year 2016 budget request	Committee recommendation
Veterans Benefits Management System [VBMS]	86,000	86,000
Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record [VLER]	10,000	10,000
Veterans Relationship Management [VRM]	73,333	73,333
VHA Research IT Support Development	12,250	12,250
Other IT Systems Development	155,200	* 128,200
Total Development	504,743	477,743

*The Committee directs a transfer to "Other IT System Development" of \$27,000,000 to provide for the development of the MCCF electronic data exchange provider and payer system (sec. 215).

Electronic Health Records.—As mentioned previously in the report, the Committee remains concerned about the development of VA's electronic health record [EHR] and believes it necessary to monitor VA's progress, including its obligations and expenditures, as it pursues its VistA Evolution program. The Committee again includes language in the act limiting obligation or expenditure of information technology development funding for VistA Evolution to 25 percent of funds provided until the Department submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, a report that describes: (1) the status of and any changes to the VistA Evolution program plan [Plan], the revised VistA 4 product roadmap [Roadmap], and the VistA 4 Incremental Life Cycle Cost Estimate; (2) any changes to the scope or functionality of projects within VistA Evolution as established in the Plan; (3) actual program costs incurred to date; (4) progress in meeting the schedule milestones established in the Plan; (5) a Project Management Accountability System [PMAS] Dashboard progress report that identifies each VistA Evolution project being tracked through PMAS, what functionality it is intended to provide, and what evaluation scores it has received throughout development; (6) the definition being used for interoperability between the electronic health record systems of DOD and VA, the metrics to measure the extent of interoperability, the milestones and timeline associated with achieving interoperability, and the baseline measurement associated with interoperability; (7) progress toward developing and implementing all components and levels of interoperability; (8) the change management tools in place to facilitate the implementation of VistA Evolution and interoperability; and (9) any changes in the governance structure for VistA Evolution and its chain of decision-making authority.

Additionally, the Department is directed to continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress regarding schedule, milestones, and obligations. The Committee understands VA is committed to developing VistA Evolution under PMAS, which is focused on incremental development with deliverable milestones every 6 months. Therefore, the quarterly briefing should clearly define the 6 month PMAS delivery schedule.

The DOD/VA Interagency Program Office is directed to continue to provide briefings to the Committees on a quarterly basis regarding standards development and how those standards are being incorporated by both Departments. In an effort to ensure govern-

ment-wide accountability, the Committee also directs VA, in coordination with DOD, to provide the Federal Chief Information Officer of the United States with monthly updates on progress made by the two Departments to reach interoperability and modernize their respective electronic health records.

The Committee understands one of the goals of VistA Evolution is to create a more patient-centered enterprise-wide information system that will promote integration and efficiency. The Committee urges VA to prioritize efficiency and streamline the patient experience by expediting the VistA Evolution modernization effort.

When the Secretaries of the DOD and VA announced in February 2013 the two Departments would move forward in modernizing their respective EHRs instead of developing a single, integrated system, they provided assurances the systems would be interoperable. Therefore, the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Departments to use a data dictionary—a tool that promotes interoperability by allowing information entered with different terminologies on different EHR systems to be accurately interpreted and understood by healthcare providers—when no national standard for interoperability exists. Because interoperability of the two systems is a mandate from Congress, the Committee directs VA and DOD to make as rapid progress as possible on the congressionally-mandated requirement to use a data dictionary (unless or until a national standard exists) and commit funds from available recourses to support the implementation of such a system.

Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record.—Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record [VLER] Health Exchange allows VA providers to request and share certain parts of veteran health records with DOD and selected private healthcare providers in a secure electronic environment. The Department is directed to continue expanding efforts to address electronic health record interoperability issues that exist between VA and private healthcare providers. The Committee is aware VA continues to pilot this effort in several areas throughout the country and encourages the Department to prioritize the expansion of this capability to VA sites in states with designated Regional Health Information Organizations.

Information Security.—The Committee is concerned by persistent findings of significant material weaknesses in VA's information technology systems. At a time when health data is one of the biggest targets for cyber theft, VA must ensure a vigilant and aggressive cybersecurity posture and culture enterprise-wide. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act outlining VA's plan to close out all of its significant material weaknesses within the next 2 years. Further, the Committee directs VA to expand the use of third-party information security operation reviews in order to provide additional protection against threats.

Pharmacy Information Technology Systems.—The fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 107–314, 10 USC 1074 note), section 724, required VA and DOD to establish an interoperable pharmacy data transaction system by October 1, 2005. The Committee is concerned VA has failed to comply with

section 724 and does not possess an interoperable pharmacy data transaction system, and the absence of that system inhibits the timely and accurate transition of servicemembers and their records from DOD to VA. The Committee is also concerned the pharmacy division of the Veterans Health Administration [VHA] is not part of an integrated healthcare system consistent with the best practices of the healthcare industry. Additionally, the Committee is concerned VHA has failed to acquire needed information technology capabilities and modernize existing information technology within the pharmacy division of VHA. Within existing VHA pharmacy information technology systems, the Committee is concerned VHA pharmacies are not networked and data is not able to be viewed, shared, and transferred amongst the many VHA pharmacies located throughout the United States and its territories, which in turn may lead to waste, fraud, and abuse. The Comptroller General is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after the enactment of this act assessing whether VA has complied with section 724 of the fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act and currently possesses a functioning pharmacy data transaction system that is interoperable with DOD, and whether this system, or absence thereof, is impacting servicemembers who transition care from DOD to VA. The Comptroller General shall also assess the extent to which VHA pharmacy information technology systems are networked across the VHA enterprise so data can be viewed, shared, and transferred amongst the many VHA pharmacy locations. Finally, the report shall assess whether the pharmacy division of VHA has acquired and modernized information technology systems in accordance with the best practices of the healthcare industry to include an electronic prescription capability, prescription monitoring capability, and other technologies deemed relevant.

Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology Next Generation.—The Committee remains interested in the pending Transformation Twenty-One Total Technology Next Generation [T4NG] procurement and notes the T4NG program is a significant and complex VA information technology expenditure. It is important for VA to carefully consider a broad range of vendors during the procurement process in order to maximize competition, minimize continuity risks, procure experienced talent, and ensure good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Therefore, the Department is urged to extend the number of large business awards for those not reserved for particular categories of vendors in order to maximize its consideration of emerging technologies and minimize the risk to veterans from significant contractor support turnover.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2015	\$126,411,000
Budget estimate, 2016	126,766,000
House allowance	131,766,000
Committee recommendation	126,766,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of Inspector General [OIG] was established by the Inspector General Act of 1978 and is responsible for the audit, inves-

tigation, and inspection of all Department of Veterans Affairs programs and operations.

Antimicrobial Stewardship Program.—On January 22, 2014, VHA issued Directive 1031 establishing a policy for the implementation and maintenance of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs at all VHA facilities. Rates of antimicrobial resistance in hospitals continue to rise despite efforts to control the spread. As the directive states, “infection with resistant organisms is associated with increased mortality, excess hospital days, and increased healthcare costs.” While the Committee commends the Department for developing the policy guidance, there is concern that implementation of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs may vary from facility to facility. Therefore, the Office of Inspector General is directed to conduct a review of the efforts to implement these programs at VHA facilities in order to determine to what extent VHA is taking sufficient and consistent steps to improve antibiotic use and reduce antibiotic-resistant infections, including those priority pathogens identified in the President’s National Strategy to Combat Antimicrobial-Resistant Bacteria. In addition, the review shall also include an evaluation of VHA’s efforts to collect and analyze data on antibiotic use and resistance. The results of this review shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than September 30, 2016.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$126,766,000 for the Office of Inspector General. This is \$355,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request. The Committee has included bill language to make available through September 30, 2017, up to \$12,676,000 for the Office of the Inspector General.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

Appropriations, 2015	\$561,800,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,143,800,000
House allowance	561,800,000
Committee recommendation	1,027,064,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Construction, major projects account provides for constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities (including parking projects) under the jurisdiction or for the use of the VA, including planning, architectural and engineering services, needs assessment, and site acquisition where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in 38 U.S.C. 8104(a)(3)(A). Proceeds realized from Enhanced Use Lease activities may be deposited into the Construction, major projects and Construction, minor projects accounts.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,027,064,000 for the construction of major projects. This is \$465,264,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$116,736,000 below the budget request.

The following table reflects the President's budget request for major construction projects and the corresponding Committee recommendations.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 REQUEST—VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION [VHA] PROJECTS

(Dollars in thousands)

Priority	Location	Description	Status	Total already funded	Fiscal year 2016		Project total estimated cost (TEC)	Future cost		Estimated completion date
					Budget request	Committee recommendation		(dollars)	(percent)	
1	St Louis (IB), MO	Medical Facility Improvements & Cemetery Expansion.	In construction	242,000	90,100	90,100	366,500	34,400	9.4	August 2018
2	Louisville, KY	New Medical Facility	Early design	75,000	75,000	75,000	925,000	775,000	83.8	January 2019
3	American Lake, WA	Seismic Corrections—Bldg 81, Renov. Bldg 81AC and 18 and Construct new Specialty Care Building 201.	Construction documents.	5,260	11,000	11,000	161,700	145,440	89.9	June 2017
4	San Francisco, CA	Seismic Retrofit/Replace Buildings 1, 6, 8 and 12.	Construction documents.	22,480	158,000	158,000	346,700	166,220	47.9	January 2019
5	West Los Angeles, CA ..	Seismic Correction—12 Buildings.	In construction	70,500	35,000	35,000	370,800	265,300	71.5	June 2017
6	Long Beach, CA	Seismic Corrections—Mental Health and Community Living Center.	Construction documents.	126,100	161,000	161,000	317,300	30,200	9.5	September 2019
7	Alameda, CA	Outpatient Clinic and National Cemetery (Columbarium).	Construction documents.	17,332	70,000	70,000	240,200	152,868	63.6	December 2019
8	Livermore, CA	Realignment and Closure of Livermore Campus.	Early design	55,430	139,000	139,000	415,600	221,170	53.2	December 2018
9	Perry Point, MD	Replacement Community Living Center.	Construction documents.	9,000	83,700	83,700	92,700	.....	.....	April 2018
Total				623,102	822,800	822,800	3,236,500	1,790,598	55.3	

Major Construction Management.—As previously mentioned in the report, the Committee believes, in the wake of the cost overrun and mismanagement at the Denver VA Medical Center, the Department should partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] for the management of major medical facility construction projects. The Committee believes USACE is the right partner for VA as it designs and builds major construction projects, and the Committee directs the Department to enter into an agreement with USACE to manage the next seven major medical facility construction projects, five of which are funded in the act. The following table reflects the next seven projects where USACE should serve as VA's construction agent.

PROJECTS FOR USACE MANAGEMENT

[Dollars in thousands]

Location	Description	Total Already Funded	Fiscal year 2016		Project Total Estimated Cost (TEC)
			Budget request	Committee recommendation	
Louisville, KY	New Medical Facility	75,000	75,000	75,000	925,000
San Francisco, CA	Seismic Retrofit/Replace Buildings 1, 6, 8, and 12.	22,480	158,000	158,000	346,700
West Los Angeles, CA	Seismic Correction—12 Buildings.	70,500	35,000	35,000	370,800
Livermore, CA	Realignment and Closure of Livermore Campus.	55,430	139,000	139,000	415,600
Perry Point, MD	Replacement Community Living Center.	9,000	83,700	83,700	92,700
Portland, OR	Upgrade Portland Bldg 100/101 for Seismic Retrofit and Renovation.	.....	.....	.....	650,000
West Los Angeles, CA	Construct New Essential Care Tower/B500 Seismic Correction and Renovation.	50,790	.....	.....	1,027,900
Total .....	.....	.....	490,700	490,700	.....

The Committee includes language in the act directing \$490,700,000 shall not be available until the Department enters into an agreement with USACE to serve as the design and construction agent for the five projects in the above table with funding in fiscal year 2016. Going forward, all new medical facilities with a cost of \$250 million or greater should have USACE designated as its design and construction agent. The Department is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of enactment of this act on its agreement with USACE to manage these seven projects, and its plan to ensure all future new medical facilities with a cost of \$250 million or greater are managed by USACE.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

Appropriations, 2015	\$495,200,000
Budget estimate, 2016	406,200,000
House allowance	406,200,000
Committee recommendation	378,080,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Construction, minor projects account provides for constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities (including parking) under the jurisdiction or for the use of VA, including planning, assessment of needs, architectural and engineering services, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than \$10,000,000. Public Law 106–117, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act of 1999, gave VA authority to make capital contributions from minor construction in enhanced-use leases. Proceeds realized from enhanced-use lease activities may be deposited into the Construction, major projects and Construction, minor projects accounts.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$378,080,000 for minor construction. This is \$117,120,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$28,120,000 below the budget request.

The recommendation includes \$247,505,000 for the Veterans Health Administration, \$69,050,000 for the National Cemetery Administration, and \$61,525,000 for the Veterans Benefits Administration. The Department is directed to provide an expenditure plan to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 30 days of enactment of this act for the amount appropriated for minor construction.

Mobile Surgical Units.—The Department is directed to launch a pilot project in at least two VISNs that are contemplating renovation or construction projects with the intent of leasing or purchasing mobile surgical units for this purpose through full and open competition. In preparing for such pilot projects, VA should develop metrics for a cost efficiency analysis designed to determine for each individual project whether this approach will achieve savings for VA when compared to contracting with local medical providers for the same surgical services. VA should also establish national performance standards for mobile surgical units used in this way ensuring the units are state licensable and meet Joint Commission standards. The Department is directed to provide quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on its progress towards meeting these directives.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2015	\$90,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	80,000,000
House allowance	80,000,000
Committee recommendation	100,000,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This account is used to provide grants to assist States in acquiring or constructing State home facilities for furnishing domiciliary or nursing home care to veterans, and to expand, remodel, or alter existing buildings for furnishing domiciliary, nursing home, or hospital care to veterans in State homes. The grant may not exceed 65 percent of the total cost of the project. Public Law 102–585 granted permanent authority for this program, and Public Law

106–117 provided greater specificity in directing VA to prescribe regulations for the number of beds for which grant assistance may be furnished. This program has been a successful partnership between States and VA in meeting the long-term care needs of elderly veterans for decades.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$100,000,000 for grants for the construction of State extended care facilities. This is \$20,000,000 above the budget request.

The Committee recognizes Public Law 106–117 took an important step in directing VA to define regulations for the number of beds for which grants may be provided to States. Last year, the Committee noted VA had not updated the regulations defining “great, significant, or limited” unmet needs despite the legislation having been signed into law 5 years before. The Committee is pleased to learn VA is currently undertaking a revision of the regulation setting the maximum bed number of State homes beds for each State. As part of this revision, VA will review the methodology used in past years to determine these numbers as well as the current definitions for “limited, significant, and great” need. The Department is directed to keep the Committee apprised of the timeline of this revision and expects updates from VA to ensure no gaps in care exist across the country. Further, the Committee believes current regulation may not accurately reflect the unique needs of States with large rural populations or small States that do not have access to alternate facilities which provide this care. Therefore, the Committee directs the Office of Rural Health [ORH] to partner with State agencies to study the need for long-term care for veterans in rural or highly rural areas. In addition, the recommendation includes bill language allowing ORH to transfer up to \$20,000,000 to the grant program to assist in providing grants to rural and highly rural areas. Additionally, the Committee notes in fiscal year 2015, the Priority Group 1 list outlined a need of over \$409,000,000 just to keep pace with what was on the Priority list, yet the budget request for the program was \$80,000,000. The Committee has not received the fiscal year 2016 Priority Group 1 list; however, it is anticipated the need will likely be as high as it was in fiscal year 2015. Therefore, the Committee has added an additional \$20,000,000 above the budget request for the program and instructs the Department to begin to provide more realistic budget estimates in the future.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

Appropriations, 2015	\$46,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	45,000,000
House allowance	45,000,000
Committee recommendation	46,000,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Public Law 105–368 amended title 38 U.S.C. 2408 and established authority to provide aid to States for establishment, expansion, and improvement of State veterans cemeteries, which are operated and permanently maintained by the States. This statutory

change increased the maximum Federal share from 50 percent to 100 percent in order to fund construction costs and initial equipment expenses when the cemetery is established. States remain responsible for providing the land and for paying all costs related to operation and maintenance of the cemeteries, including the costs for subsequent equipment purchases.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$46,000,000 for grants for the construction of State veterans cemeteries. This is \$1,000,000 above the budget request.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. The Committee includes a provision which outlines transfer authority and responsibilities for the Veterans Benefits Administration.

SEC. 202. The Committee includes a provision which outlines transfer authority and responsibilities for the Veterans Health Administration.

SEC. 203. The Committee includes a provision which outlines the use of funds appropriated for salaries and expenses.

SEC. 204. The Committee includes a provision mandating that only construction funds may be used for land procurement.

SEC. 205. The Committee includes a provision allowing for reimbursements to the Medical Services account.

SEC. 206. The Committee includes a provision allowing for payments of prior year obligations.

SEC. 207. The Committee includes a provision which allows for the use of funds for prior year obligations.

SEC. 208. The Committee includes a provision which allows for payments from the National Service Life Insurance Fund.

SEC. 209. The Committee includes a provision which outlines the use of funds from enhanced-use lease proceeds.

SEC. 210. The Committee includes a provision which provides for funds for the Office of Resolution Management and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication.

SEC. 211. The Committee includes a provision which allows up to \$20,000,000 to be transferred from the Rural Health Initiative to the Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities account.

SEC. 212. The Committee includes a provision which requires disclosure of third-party reimbursement information.

SEC. 213. The Committee includes a provision which allows for the transfer of revenue derived from enhanced-use leases into the construction accounts.

SEC. 214. The Committee includes a provision which outlines authorized uses for medical services funds.

SEC. 215. The Committee includes a provision which allows funds in the Medical Care Collection Fund to be transferred into the Medical Services account.

SEC. 216. The Committee includes a provision which allows eligible veterans in the State of Alaska to obtain medical care services.

SEC. 217. The Committee includes a provision which allows for the transfer of funds into the construction accounts.

SEC. 218. The Committee includes a provision which allows for outreach and marketing to enroll new veterans.

SEC. 219. The Committee includes a provision requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit quarterly financial reports on the Veterans Health Administration.

SEC. 220. The Committee includes a provision outlining transfer authority for the Information Technology Systems account.

SEC. 221. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting any funds to be used to contract out any functions performed by more than 10 employees without a fair competition process.

SEC. 222. The Committee includes a provision limiting the amount of nonrecurring maintenance funds that can be obligated during the last 2 months of the fiscal year.

SEC. 223. The Committee includes a provision allowing for the transfer of funds from certain accounts to the Joint Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, as authorized by Public Law 111-84.

SEC. 224. The Committee includes a provision allowing for the transfer of funds from certain advance appropriation accounts to the Joint Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, as authorized by Public Law 111-84.

SEC. 225. The Committee includes a provision allowing for the transfer of certain funds deposited in the Medical Care Collections Fund to the Joint Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, as authorized by Public Law 111-84.

SEC. 226. The Committee includes a provision directing a minimum of \$15,000,000 be transferred from Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities to the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 227. The Committee includes a provision rescinding funds from certain accounts and appropriating additional amounts with 2-year authority.

SEC. 228. The Committee includes a provision requiring notification of all bid savings for major construction projects.

SEC. 229. The Committee includes a provision restricting scope increases for major construction projects above that specified in the original project justification.

SEC. 230. The Committee includes a provision requiring the Department to submit reports relating to the Veterans Benefits Administration on claims processing at Regional Offices.

SEC. 231. The Committee includes a provision limiting the funding from the Medical Services and Medical Support and Compliance accounts for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects.

SEC. 232. The Committee includes a provision requiring VA to notify the Committee 15 days prior to any organizational changes within VA of 25 or more FTE.

SEC. 233. The Committee includes a provision requiring the Secretary to report to the Committee each quarter about any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign exceeding \$2,000,000.

SEC. 234. The Committee includes a provision limiting funds provided under the heading "General Administration".

SEC. 235. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the Department from replacing the current system by which diabetes monitoring equipment and supplies are contracted.

SEC. 236. The Committee includes a provision rescinding unobligated balances from Medical Care accounts to incorporate assumed absorption of the proposed 1.3 percent pay raise. The Department continues to have the authority to use appropriated funds available to support the pay raise if it chooses to do so.

SEC. 237. The Committee includes a provision rescinding unobligated balances from across the Department reflecting a reduction in performance bonuses.

SEC. 238. The Committee includes a provision rescinding unobligated balances from the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.

SEC. 239. The Committee includes a provision rescinding unobligated balances.

SEC. 240. The Committee includes a provision rescinding unobligated balances from certain accounts across the Department.

SEC. 241. The Committee includes a provision amending The Whistleblower Protection Act to ensure title 38 employees are fully covered under the act.

SEC. 242. The Committee includes a provision allowing for grants to train and employ at-risk veterans.

SEC. 243. The Committee includes a provision regarding access to Office of Inspector General reports.

SEC. 244. The Committee includes a provision regarding construction accountability.

SEC. 245. The Committee includes a provision providing additional funding to hire additional caregiver support coordinators.

SEC. 246. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds to interfere with the ability of veterans to participate in State-approved medicinal marijuana programs or deny services to such veterans.

TITLE III
RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

OVERVIEW

The American Battle Monuments Commission was established by Congress in 1923 and is responsible for the following: designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining permanent American cemeteries in foreign countries; establishing and maintaining U.S. military memorials, monuments, and markers where American Armed Forces have served overseas since April 6, 1917 (the date of the United States entry into World War I), and within the United States when directed by public law; and, controlling the design and construction of permanent U.S. military monuments and markers by other U.S. citizens and organizations, both public and private, and encouraging their maintenance. ABMC administers, operates, and maintains 25 permanent American military cemeteries and 26 Federal memorial, monuments, and markers located in 16 foreign countries, the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the British Dependency of Gibraltar, and the United States of America.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$74,100,000
Budget estimate, 2016	75,100,000
House allowance	75,100,000
Committee recommendation	75,100,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$75,100,000 for the Salaries and expenses account. This amount is \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS

Appropriations, 2015	\$1,900,000
Budget estimate, 2016	2,000,000
House allowance	2,000,000
Committee recommendation	2,000,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends an estimated \$2,000,000 for the Foreign Currency Fluctuations account. This amount is equal to the budget request.

The Committee has again included language in the accompanying act, as proposed by the administration, that would allow funding for this account on a “such sums as necessary” basis.

Funding the account in this manner allows the Commission to maintain cemeteries regardless of the volatility of foreign currency fluctuations.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

OVERVIEW

The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims was established by the Veterans' Judicial Review Act of 1988. The Court is an independent judicial tribunal with exclusive jurisdiction to review decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals. It has the authority to decide all relevant questions of law; interpret constitutional, statutory, and regulatory provisions; and determine the meaning or applicability of the terms of an action by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. It is authorized to compel action by the Secretary. It is authorized to hold unconstitutional or otherwise unlawful and set aside decisions, findings, conclusions, rules, and regulations issued or adopted by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Board of Veterans Appeals, or the Chairman of the Board that are found to be arbitrary or capricious. The Court's principal office location is Washington, DC; however, it is a national court, empowered to sit anywhere in the United States.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$31,386,000
Budget estimate, 2016	32,141,000
House allowance	32,141,000
Committee recommendation	32,141,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$32,141,000 for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. This amount is \$755,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

OVERVIEW

The Secretary of the Army is responsible for the administration, operation and maintenance of Arlington National Cemetery and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery. In addition to its principal function as a national cemetery, Arlington is the site of approximately 3,000 nonfuneral ceremonies each year and has approximately four million visitors annually.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$65,800,000
Budget estimate, 2016	70,800,000
House allowance	70,800,000
Committee recommendation	70,800,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$70,800,000 for Salaries and Expenses. This amount is \$5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

Land Exchange.—The Committee recognizes the future burial capacity of Arlington National Cemetery would be dramatically increased through a land exchange in the area of the former Navy Annex site with Arlington County and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Committee strongly supports this effort and understands the Secretary of the Army is working with Arlington County and the Virginia Department of Transportation to finalize the land exchange agreement. The closure and relocation of current State and local roadways in this area would facilitate such an exchange. The Committee urges the Secretary of the Army to continue to work closely with the Virginia Department of Transportation and Arlington County to finalize details of the proposed land exchange so that the cemetery expansion plans, including the relocation of utilities, can move forward as expeditiously as possible.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

OVERVIEW

Appropriations, 2015	\$63,400,000
Budget estimate, 2016	64,300,000
House allowance	64,300,000
Committee recommendation	64,300,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends authority to expend \$64,300,000 from the Armed Forces Retirement Home [AFRH] Trust Fund to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, DC, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi.

Office of Inspector General Findings.—The Committee remains concerned with the findings of the Inspector General [IG] of the Department of Defense as included in report number DODIG–2014–093 regarding the Armed Forces Retirement Homes [AFRH]. The Chief Operating Officer of the AFRH is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act detailing its continued progress in complying with the IG recommendations. The report should include specific actions taken to implement the recommendations. The Committee intends to continue to monitor the AFRH as these issues are addressed.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. The Committee includes a provision allowing the relocation of a federally owned water main.

Sec. 302. The Committee includes a provision making available funds as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 4727.

TITLE IV
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the obligation of funds beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided.

SEC. 402. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the use of funds for programs, projects, or activities not in compliance with Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. The Committee includes a provision that requires pay raises to be absorbed within the levels appropriated.

SEC. 404. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the use of funds to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress.

SEC. 405. The Committee includes a provision that encourages the expansion of E-commerce technologies and procedures.

SEC. 406. The Committee includes a provision that specifies the congressional committees that are to receive all reports and notifications.

SEC. 407. The Committee includes a provision that limits funds from being transferred from this appropriations measure to any instrumentality of the United States Government without authority from an appropriations act.

SEC. 408. The Committee includes a provision regarding the posting of congressional reports on agency Web sites.

SEC. 409. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds to establish or maintain a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography, except for law enforcement investigation, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 410. The Committee includes a provision limiting the construction of facilities for the purposes of housing individuals detained at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND ACTIVITY

In fiscal year 2016, for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–177) or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Reaffirmation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–119), the following information provides the definition of the term “program, project, and activity” for departments, agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies subcommittee. The term “program, project, and activity” shall include the most specific level of budget items identified in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016, the House and Senate Committee reports, and the conference report and accompanying joint explanatory statement of managers of the committee of conference.

If a sequestration order is necessary, in implementing the Presidential order, departments, and agencies shall apply any percentage reduction required for fiscal year 2016 pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–177 or Public Law 100–119 to all items specified in the justifications submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives in support of the fiscal year 2016 budget estimates, as amended, for such departments and agencies, as modified by congressional action, and in addition, for the Department of Defense, Military Construction, the definition shall include specific construction locations as identified in the explanatory notes.

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7, RULE XVI, OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 7 of rule XVI requires that Committee reports accompanying general appropriations bills identify each recommended amendment which proposes an item of appropriation which is not made to carry out the provisions of an existing law, a treaty stipulation, or an act or resolution previously passed by the Senate during that session.

The Committee recommends funding for the following programs which currently lack authorization:

Title I: Department of Defense

- Military Construction, Army
- Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps
- Military Construction, Air Force
- Military Construction, Defense-Wide
- Military Construction, Army National Guard
- Military Construction, Air National Guard
- Military Construction, Army Reserve
- Military Construction, Navy Reserve
- Military Construction, Air Force Reserve

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program

Family Housing Construction, Army
 Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army
 Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps
 Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps

Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Air Force
 Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide
 Department of Defense, Family Housing Improvement Fund
 Chemical Demilitarization Construction, Defense-Wide
 Department of Defense Base Closure Account

Title II: Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Benefits Administration
 Veterans Health Administration
 National Cemetery Administration
 Departmental Administration

Title III: Related Agencies

American Battle Monuments Commission
 U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
 Cemeterial Expenses, Army
 Armed Forces Retirement Home

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7(c), RULE XXVI OF THE
 STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Pursuant to paragraph 7(c) of rule XXVI, on May 21, 2015, the Committee ordered favorably reported a bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, provided, that the bill be subject to further amendment and that the bill be consistent with its budget allocation, by a recorded vote of 21–9, a quorum being present. The vote was as follows:

Yeas	Nays
Chairman Cochran	Ms. Mikulski
Mr. McConnell	Mrs. Murray
Mr. Shelby	Mr. Durbin
Mr. Alexander	Mr. Reed
Ms. Collins	Mr. Tester
Ms. Murkowski	Mrs. Shaheen
Mr. Graham	Mr. Merkley
Mr. Kirk	Mr. Coons
Mr. Blunt	Mr. Murphy
Mr. Moran	
Mr. Hoeven	
Mr. Boozman	
Mrs. Capito	
Mr. Cassidy	
Mr. Lankford	
Mr. Daines	
Mr. Leahy	

Mrs. Feinstein
 Mr. Udall
 Mr. Schatz
 Ms. Baldwin

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 12, RULE XXVI OF THE
 STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 12 of rule XXVI requires that Committee reports on a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part of any statute include “(a) the text of the statute or part thereof which is proposed to be repealed; and (b) a comparative print of that part of the bill or joint resolution making the amendment and of the statute or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by stricken-through type and italics, parallel columns, or other appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions which would be made by the bill or joint resolution if enacted in the form recommended by the committee.”

In compliance with this rule, changes in existing law proposed to be made by the bill are shown as follows: existing law to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italic; and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman.

**TITLE 5—GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND
 EMPLOYEES**

PART III—EMPLOYEES

Subpart A—General Provisions

CHAPTER 23—MERIT SYSTEM PRINCIPLES

§ 2302. Prohibited personnel practices

(a)(1) * * *

(2) For the purpose of this section—

(A) “personnel action” means—

(i) * * *

* * * * *

(viii) a performance evaluation under chapter 43 of this title *or under title 38*;

TITLE 38—VETERANS’ BENEFITS

PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 3—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

§ 312. Inspector General

(a) * * *

(b)(1) * * *

(2) The President shall include in the budget transmitted to the Congress for each fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31 an estimate of the amount for the Office of Inspector General that is sufficient to provide for a number of full-time positions in

that office that is not less than the number of full-time positions in that office on March 15, 1989, plus 40.

(c)(1) Whenever the Inspector General, in carrying out the duties and responsibilities established under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), issues a work product that makes a recommendation or otherwise suggests corrective action, the Inspector General shall—

- (A) submit the work product to—*
 - (i) the Secretary;*
 - (ii) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;*
 - (iii) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;*
 - (iv) if the work product was initiated upon request by an individual or entity other than the Inspector General, that individual or entity; and*
 - (v) any Member of Congress upon request; and*
- (B) the Inspector General shall submit all final work products to—*
 - (i) if the work product was initiated upon request by an individual or entity other than the Inspector General, that individual or entity; and*
 - (ii) any Member of Congress upon request; and*
- (C) not later than 3 days after the work product is submitted in final form to the Secretary, post the work product on the Internet website of the Inspector General.*

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the public disclosure of information that is specifically prohibited from disclosure by any other provision of law.

**CONSOLIDATED AND FURTHER CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015, PUBLIC LAW 113–235**

DIVISION I—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

* * * * *

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

* * * * *

[(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)]

SEC. 223. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2015, for “Medical Services”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, up to \$245,398,000, plus reimbursements, may be

transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.】

BUDGETARY IMPACT OF BILL

PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PURSUANT TO SEC. 308(a), PUBLIC LAW 93–344, AS AMENDED

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority		Outlays	
	Committee allocation	Amount in bill	Committee allocation	Amount in bill
Comparison of amounts in the bill with the subcommittee allocation for 2016: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies:				
Mandatory	96,825	96,825	96,523	¹ 96,523
Discretionary	77,573	77,573	78,381	¹ 78,381
Security	8,083	8,083	NA	NA
Nonsecurity	69,490	69,490	NA	NA
Projections of outlays associated with the recommendation:				
2016				² 102,932
2017				5,562
2018				3,656
2019				2,123
2020 and future years				1,355
Financial assistance to State and local governments for 2016	NA	185	NA	13

¹ Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

² Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

NA: Not applicable.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
ALABAMA					
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
FORT RUCKER:					
FORT RUCKER ES/PS CONSOLIDATION/REPLACEMENT	46,787	46,787	46,787		
MAXWELL AFB:					
MAXWELL ES/MS REPLACEMENT/RENOVATION	32,968	32,968	32,968		
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:					
DANNELLY FIELD:					
TF1—REPLACE SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	7,600	7,600	7,600		
TOTAL, ALABAMA	87,355	87,355	87,355		
ALASKA					
ARMY:					
FORT GREELY:					
PHYSICAL READINESS TRAINING FACILITY	7,800	7,800	7,800		
AIR FORCE:					
EIELSON AFB:					
F-35A FLIGHT SIMULATOR SQUAD OPS/AMU FACILITY	37,000	37,000	37,000		
RPR CENTRAL HEAT & POWER PLANT BOILER PH3	34,400	34,400	34,400		
TOTAL, ALASKA	79,200	79,200	79,200		
ARIZONA					
NAVY:					
YUMA:					
AIRCRAFT MAINT. FACILITIES & APRON (SO. CALA)	50,635	50,635	50,635		
AIR FORCE:					
DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB:					
HC-130J AGE COVERED STORAGE	4,700	4,700	4,700		
HC-130J WASH RACK	12,200	12,200	12,200		

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
LUKE AFB:					
F-35A ADAL FUEL OFFLOAD FACILITY	5,000	5,000	5,000		
F-35A AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR/SQ 3	13,200	13,200	13,200		
F-35A BOMB BUILD-UP FACILITY	5,500	5,500	5,500		
F-35A SQ OPS/AMU/HANGAR/SQ 4	33,000	33,000	33,000		
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
FORT HUACHUCA:					
JTC BUILDINGS 52101/52111 RENOVATIONS	3,884	3,884	3,884		
AIR FORCE RESERVE:					
DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB:					
GUARDIAN ANGEL OPERATIONS	18,200	18,200	18,200		
TOTAL, ARIZONA	146,319	146,319	146,319		
ARKANSAS					
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:					
FORT SMITH MAP:					
CONSOLIDATED SOF	15,200	15,200	15,200		
TOTAL, ARKANSAS	15,200	15,200	15,200		
CALIFORNIA					
ARMY:					
CONCORD:					
PIER	98,000	98,000	98,000		
NAVY:					
CAMP PENDLETON:					
RAW WATER PIPELINE PENDLETON TO FALLBROOK	44,540	44,540		- 44,540	- 44,540
CORONADO:					
COASTAL CAMPUS UTILITIES	4,856	4,856	4,856		
LEMOORE:					
F-35C HANGAR MODERNIZATION AND ADDITION	56,497	56,497	56,497		

F-35C TRAINING FACILITIES	8,187	8,187	8,187	8,187	.....	.....	.....
RTO AND MISSION DEBRIEF FACILITY	7,146	7,146	7,146	7,146	.....	.....	.....
POINT MUGU:							
E-2C/D HANGAR ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS	19,453	19,453	19,453	19,453	.....	.....	.....
TRITON AVIONICS AND FUEL SYSTEMS TRAINER	2,974	2,974	2,974	2,974	.....	.....	.....
SAN DIEGO:							
LCS SUPPORT FACILITY	37,366	37,366	37,366	37,366	.....	.....	.....
TWENTYNINE PALMS:							
MICROGRID EXPANSION	9,160	9,160	9,160	9,160	.....	.....	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE:							
CAMP PENDLETON:							
SOF COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT FACILITY	10,181	10,181	10,181	10,181	.....	.....	.....
SOF PERFORMANCE RESILIENCY CENTER-WEST	10,371	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	+ 10,371
CORONADO:							
SOF LOGISTICS SUPPORT UNIT ONE OPS FAC. #2	47,218	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	+ 47,218
FRESNO YOSEMITE IAP ANG:							
REPLACE FUEL STORAGE AND DISTRIB. FACILITIES	10,700	10,700	10,700	10,700	.....	.....	.....
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:							
MOFFETT FIELD:							
REPLACE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FACILITY	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	.....	.....	.....
ARMY RESERVE:							
MIRAMAR:							
ARMY RESERVE CENTER	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	.....	.....	.....
AIR FORCE RESERVE:							
MARCH AFB:							
SATELLITE FIRE STATION	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL, CALIFORNIA	401,749	344,160	357,209	401,749	.....	- 44,540	+ 13,049
COLORADO							
ARMY:							
FORT CARSON:							
ROTARY WING TAXIWAY	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	.....	.....	.....
AIR FORCE:							
U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY:							
FRONT GATES FORCE PROTECTION ENHANCEMENTS	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	.....	.....	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE:							
FORT CARSON:							
SOF LANGUAGE TRAINING FACILITY	8,243	8,243	8,243	8,243	.....	.....	.....

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
AIR NATIONAL GUARD: BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE: ASE MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE FACILITY	5,100	5,100	5,100		
TOTAL, COLORADO	29,143	29,143	29,143		
CONNECTICUT					
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: CAMP HARTELL: READY BUILDING (CST-WMD)	11,000	11,000	11,000		
TOTAL, CONNECTICUT	11,000	11,000	11,000		
DELAWARE					
DEFENSE-WIDE: DOVER AFB: CONSTRUCT HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM	21,600	21,600	21,600		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: DAGSBORO: NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	10,800		10,800		+ 10,800
TOTAL, DELAWARE	32,400	21,600	32,400		+ 10,800
FLORIDA					
NAVY: JACKSONVILLE: FLEET SUPPORT FACILITY ADDITION	8,455	8,455	8,455		
TRITON MISSION CONTROL FACILITY	8,296	8,296	8,296		
MAYPORT: LCS MISSION MODULE READINESS CENTER	16,159	16,159	16,159		
PENSACOLA: A-SCHOOL UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING (CORRY STATION)	18,347	18,347	18,347		

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
AIR NATIONAL GUARD: SAVANNAH/HILTON HEAD IAP: C-130 SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	9,000	9,000	9,000		
TOTAL, GEORGIA	174,129	174,129	169,129	-5,000	-5,000
HAWAII					
NAVY: BARKING SANDS: PMRF POWER GRID CONSOLIDATION	30,623	30,623	30,623		
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM: UEM INTERCONNECT STA C TO HICKAM	6,335	6,335	6,335		
WELDING SCHOOL SHOP CONSOLIDATION	8,546	8,546	8,546		
KANEHOE BAY: AIRFIELD LIGHTING MODERNIZATION	26,097	26,097	26,097		
BACHELOR ENLISTED QUARTERS	68,092	68,092	68,092		
P-8A DETACHMENT SUPPORT FACILITIES	12,429	12,429	12,429		
AIR FORCE: JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM: F-22 FIGHTER ALERT FACILITY	46,000	46,000	46,000		
DEFENSE-WIDE: KANEHOE BAY: MEDICAL/DENTAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT	122,071	122,071	122,071		
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/DENTAL CLINIC ADDITION	123,838	107,563	123,838		+ 16,275
TOTAL, HAWAII	444,031	427,756	444,031		+ 16,275

ILLINOIS					
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:					
SPARTA:					
BASIC 10M-25M FIRING RANGE (ZERO)	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	
TOTAL, ILLINOIS	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	
IOWA					
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:					
DES MOINES MAP:					
AIR OPERATIONS GRP/CYBER BEDDOWN-RENO BLG 430	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,700	
TOTAL, IOWA	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,700	
KANSAS					
AIR FORCE:					
MCCONNELL AFB:					
KC-46A ADAL DEICING PADS	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:					
SALINA:					
AUTOMATED COMBAT PISTOL/MP FIREARMS QUAL COUR	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	
MODIFIED RECORD FIRE RANGE	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:					
SMOKEY HILL ANG RANGE:					
RANGE TRAINING SUPPORT FACILITIES	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	
TOTAL, KANSAS	13,900	13,900	13,900	13,900	
KENTUCKY					
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
FORT CAMPBELL:					
SOF COMPANY HQ/CLASSROOMS	12,553	12,553	12,553	12,553	
FORT KNOX:					
FORT KNOX HS RENOVATION/MS ADDITION	23,279	23,279	23,279	23,279	
TOTAL, KENTUCKY	35,832	35,832	35,832	35,832	

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
LOUISIANA					
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:					
NEW ORLEANS:					
REPLACE SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	10,000	10,000	10,000		
TOTAL, LOUISIANA	10,000	10,000	10,000		
MAINE					
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:					
BANGOR IAP:					
ADD TO AND ALTER FIRE CRASH/RESCUE STATION	7,200	7,200	7,200		
TOTAL, MAINE	7,200	7,200	7,200		
MARYLAND					
NAVY:					
PATUXENT RIVER:					
UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING	40,935	40,935	40,935		
AIR FORCE:					
FORT MEADE:					
CYBERCOM JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER, INCREMENT 3	86,000	86,000	86,000		
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
FORT MEADE:					
NSAW CAMPUS FEEDERS PHASE 2	33,745	33,745	33,745		
NSAW RECAPITALIZE BUILDING #2 INCR 1	34,897	34,897	34,897		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:					
EASTON:					
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	13,800	13,800	13,800		
TOTAL, MARYLAND	209,377	209,377	209,377		

MISSISSIPPI						
ARMY RESERVE: STARKVILLE: ARMY RESERVE CENTER	9,300	.....	9,300	.....	.....	+ 9,300
TOTAL, MISSISSIPPI	9,300	.....	9,300	.....	.....	+ 9,300
MISSOURI						
AIR FORCE: WHITEMAN AFB: CONSOLIDATED STEALTH OPS & NUCLEAR ALERT FAC	29,500	29,500	29,500	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL, MISSOURI	29,500	29,500	29,500	.....	.....	.....
MONTANA						
AIR FORCE: MALMSTROM AFB: TACTICAL RESPONSE FORCE ALERT FACILITY	19,700	19,700	19,700	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL, MONTANA	19,700	19,700	19,700	.....	.....	.....
NEBRASKA						
AIR FORCE: OFFUTT AFB: DORMITORY (144 RM)	21,000	21,000	21,000	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL, NEBRASKA	21,000	21,000	21,000	.....	.....	.....
NEVADA						
AIR FORCE: NELNIS AFB: F-35A AIRFIELD PAVEMENTS	31,000	31,000	31,000	.....	.....	.....
F-35A AIRFIELD PAVEMENTS	34,500	34,500	34,500	.....	.....	.....
F-35A LIVE ORDNANCE LOADING AREA	3,450	3,450	3,450	.....	.....	.....
F-35A MUNITIONS MAINTENANCE FACILITIES	3,450	3,450	3,450	.....	.....	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE: NELNIS AFB: REPLACE HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM	39,900	39,900	39,900	.....	.....	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: RENO: NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP ADD/A	8,000	8,000	8,000	.....	.....	.....

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
NAVY RESERVE: FALLON: NAVOPSTOEN FALLON	11,480	11,480	11,480		
TOTAL, NEVADA	128,330	128,330	128,330		
NEW HAMPSHIRE					
AIR NATIONAL GUARD: PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADE PORT: KC-46A ADAL FLIGHT SIMULATOR BLDG 156	2,800	2,800	2,800		
TOTAL, NEW HAMPSHIRE	2,800	2,800	2,800		
NEW JERSEY					
AIR NATIONAL GUARD: ATLANTIC CITY IAP: FUEL CELL AND CORROSION CONTROL HANGAR	10,200	10,200	10,200		
TOTAL, NEW JERSEY	10,200	10,200	10,200		
NEW MEXICO					
AIR FORCE: CANNON AFB: CONSTRUCT AT/FP GATE—PORTALES	7,800	7,800	7,800		
HOLLOWAN AFB: MARSHALLING AREA ARM/DE—ARM PAD D	3,000	3,000	3,000		
KIRTLAND AFB: SPACE VEHICLES COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT LAB	12,800	12,800	12,800		
DEFENSE-WIDE: CANNON AFB: CONSTRUCT PUMPHOUSE AND FUEL STORAGE	20,400	20,400	20,400		
SOF SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	11,565	11,565	11,565		

SOF ST OPERATIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES	13,146	13,146	13,146	13,146		
TOTAL, NEW MEXICO	68,711	68,711	68,711	68,711		
NEW YORK						
ARMY:						
FORT DRUM:						
NGO ACADEMY COMPLEX	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000		
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY:						
WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000		
DEFENSE-WIDE:						
WEST POINT:						
WEST POINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT	55,778	55,778	55,778	55,778		
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:						
NIAGARA FALLS IAP:						
REMOTELY PILOTTED AIRCRAFT BEDDOWN BLDG 912	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700		
ARMY RESERVE:						
ORANGEBURG:						
ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE SHOP	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200		
NAVY RESERVE:						
BROOKLYN:						
RESERVE CENTER STORAGE FACILITY	2,479	2,479	2,479	2,479		
TOTAL, NEW YORK	159,157	159,157	159,157	159,157		
NORTH CAROLINA						
NAVY:						
CAMP LEJEUNE:						
2ND RADIO BN COMPLEX OPERATIONS CONSOLIDATION	50,557		50,557	50,557		+ 50,557
SIMULATOR INTEGRATION/RANGE CONTROL FACILITY	54,849	54,849	54,849	54,849		
CHERRY POINT MARINE CORPS AIR STATION:						
KC 130J ENLISTED AIR CREW TRAINER FACILITY	4,769	4,769	4,769	4,769		
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM FACILITIES	29,657	29,657	29,657	29,657		
NEW RIVER:						
OPERATIONAL TRAINER FACILITY	3,312	3,312	3,312	3,312		
RADAR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FACILITY ADDITION	4,918	4,918	4,918	4,918		
AIR FORCE:						
SEYMWOUR JOHNSON AFB:						
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER/BASE OPS FACILITY	17,100	17,100	17,100	17,100		

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
CAMP LEJUNE:					
SOF COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT FACILITY	14,036	14,036	14,036		
SOF MARINE BATTALION COMPANY/TEAM FACILITIES	54,970	54,970	54,970		
FORT BRAGG:					
BUTNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT	32,944	32,944	32,944		
SOF 21 STS OPERATIONS FACILITY	16,863	14,334	16,863		+2,529
SOF BATTALION OPERATIONS FACILITY	38,549	38,549	38,549		
SOF INDOOR RANGE	8,303	8,303	8,303		
SOF INTELLIGENCE TRAINING CENTER	28,265	28,265	28,265		
SOF SPECIAL TACTICS FACILITY (PH 2)	43,887	43,887	43,887		
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:					
CHARLOTTE/DOUGLAS IAP:					
REPLACE C-130 SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	9,000	9,000	9,000		
TOTAL, NORTH CAROLINA	411,979	358,893	411,979		+53,086
NORTH DAKOTA					
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:					
HECTOR IAP:					
INTEL TARGETING FACILITIES	7,300	7,300	7,300		
TOTAL, NORTH DAKOTA	7,300	7,300	7,300		
OHIO					
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB:					
SATELLITE PHARMACY REPLACEMENT	6,623	6,623	6,623		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:					
CAMP RAVENNA:					
MODIFIED RECORD FIRE RANGE	3,300	3,300	3,300		

AIR FORCE RESERVE: YOUNGSTOWN: INDOOR FIRING RANGE	9,400	9,400	9,400	9,400	.....
TOTAL, OHIO	19,323	19,323	19,323	19,323	.....
OKLAHOMA					
ARMY: FORT SILL: RECEPTION BARRACKS COMPLEX PH2	56,000	56,000	56,000	56,000	.....
TRAINING SUPPORT FACILITY	13,400	13,400	13,400	13,400	.....
AIR FORCE: ALTUS AFB: DORMITORY (120 RM)	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	.....
KC-46A FTU ADAL FUEL CELL MAINT HANGAR	10,400	10,400	10,400	10,400	.....
TINKER AFB: AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER	12,900	12,900	12,900	12,900	.....
KC-46A DEPOT MAINTENANCE DOCK	37,000	37,000	37,000	37,000	.....
AIR NATIONAL GUARD: WILL ROGERS WORLD AIRPORT: MEDIUM ALTITUDE MANNED ISR BEDDOWN	7,600	7,600	7,600	7,600	.....
TOTAL, OKLAHOMA	155,300	155,300	155,300	155,300	.....
OREGON					
DEFENSE-WIDE: KLAMATH FALLS IAP: REPLACE FUEL FACILITIES	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: SALEM: NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE CENTER BLDG ADD/ALT (JFHQ)	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500	.....
AIR NATIONAL GUARD: KLAMATH FALLS IAP: REPLACE FIRE CRASH/RESCUE STATION	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200	.....
TOTAL, OREGON	26,200	26,200	26,200	26,200	.....

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
PENNSYLVANIA					
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
PHILADELPHIA:					
REPLACE HEADQUARTERS	49,700	49,700	49,700		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:					
FORT INDIANTOWN GAP:					
TRAINING AIDS CENTER	16,000	16,000	16,000		
ARMY RESERVE:					
CONNEAUT LAKE:					
DAR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT	5,000	5,000	5,000		
TOTAL, PENNSYLVANIA	70,700	70,700	70,700		
SOUTH CAROLINA					
NAVY:					
PARRIS ISLAND:					
RANGE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS & MODERNIZATION	27,075	27,075	27,075		
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
FORT JACKSON:					
PIERCE TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT	26,157	26,157	26,157		
TOTAL, SOUTH CAROLINA	53,232	53,232	53,232		
SOUTH DAKOTA					
AIR FORCE:					
ELLSWORTH AFB:					
DORMITORY (168 RM)	23,000	23,000	23,000		
TOTAL, SOUTH DAKOTA	23,000	23,000	23,000		

TEXAS							
ARMY:							
CORPUS CHRISTI:							
POWERTRAIN FACILITY (INFRASTRUCTURE/METAL)	85,000	85,000	85,000				
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO:							
HOMELAND DEFENSE OPERATIONS CENTER	43,000		- 43,000				
AIR FORCE:							
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO:							
BMT CLASSROOMS/DINING FACILITY 3	35,000	35,000					
BMT RECRUIT DORMITORY 5	71,000	71,000					
DEFENSE-WIDE:							
FORT BLISS:							
HOSPITAL REPLACEMENT INCR 7	239,884	189,884			239,884		+ 50,000
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO:							
AMBULATORY CARE CENTER PHASE 4	61,776	61,776			61,776		
AIR FORCE RESERVE:							
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO:							
CONSOLIDATE 433 MEDICAL FACILITY	9,900	9,900			9,900		
TOTAL, TEXAS	545,560	452,560	- 43,000		502,560		+ 50,000
UTAH							
AIR FORCE:							
HILL AFB:							
F-35A FLIGHT SIMULATOR ADDITION PHASE 2	5,900	5,900			5,900		
F-35A HANGAR 40/42 ADDITIONS AND AMU	21,000	21,000			21,000		
HAYMAN IGL00S	11,500	11,500			11,500		
TOTAL, UTAH	38,400	38,400			38,400		
VERMONT							
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:							
NORTH HYDE PARK:							
NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP ADDIT	7,900	7,900			7,900		
TOTAL, VERMONT	7,900	7,900			7,900		

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
VIRGINIA					
ARMY:					
FORT LEE:					
TRAINING SUPPORT FACILITY	33,000	33,000	33,000		
JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON:					
INSTRUCTION BUILDING	37,000			- 37,000	
NAVY:					
DAM NECK:					
MARITIME SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FACILITY	23,066	23,066	23,066		
NORFOLK:					
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER	75,289	75,289	75,289		
ELECTRICAL REPAIRS TO PIERS 2,6,7, AND 11	44,254	44,254	44,254		
MH-60 HELICOPTER TRAINING FACILITY	7,134	7,134	7,134		
PORTSMOUTH:					
WATERFRONT UTILITIES	45,513	45,513	45,513		
QUANTICO:					
ATFP GATE	5,840	5,840	5,840		
ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION UPGRADE	8,418	8,418	8,418		
EMBASSY SECURITY GUARD BEQ & OPS FACILITY	43,941	43,941	43,941		
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
FORT BELVOIR:					
CONSTRUCT VISITOR CONTROL CENTER	5,000	5,000	5,000		
REPLACE GROUND VEHICLE FUELING FACILITY	4,500	4,500	4,500		
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS:					
REPLACE FUEL PIER AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITY	28,000	28,000	28,000		
JOINT EXPEDITIONARY BASE LITTLE CREEK—STORY:					
SOF APPLIED INSTRUCTION FACILITY	23,916	23,916	23,916		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:					
RICHMOND:					
NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE CENTER BUILDING (JFHQ)	29,000	29,000	29,000		

NAVY RESERVE: DAM NECK: RESERVE TRAINING CENTER COMPLEX	18,443	18,443	18,443	.....	.....
TOTAL, VIRGINIA	432,314	395,314	395,314	- 37,000	.....
WASHINGTON					
NAVY:					
BANGOR:					
REGIONAL SHIP MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FACILITY	12,753	12,753	12,753	.....	.....
WRA LAND/WATER INTERFACE	34,177	34,177	34,177	.....	.....
BREMERTON:					
DRY DOCK 6 MODERNIZATION & UTILITY IMPROVE	22,680	22,680	22,680	.....	.....
INDIAN ISLAND:					
SHORE POWER TO AMMUNITION PIER	4,472	4,472	4,472	.....	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:					
YAKIMA:					
ENLISTED BARRACKS, TRANSIENT TRAINING	19,000	.....	19,000	.....	+ 19,000
TOTAL, WASHINGTON	93,082	74,082	93,082	.....	+ 19,000
WEST VIRGINIA					
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:					
YEAGER AIRPORT:					
FORCE PROTECTION—RELOCATE COONSKIN ROAD	3,900	3,900	3,900	.....	.....
TOTAL, WEST VIRGINIA	3,900	3,900	3,900	.....	.....
WYOMING					
AIR FORCE:					
F. E. WARREN AFB:					
WEAPON STORAGE FACILITY	95,000	95,000	95,000	.....	.....
TOTAL, WYOMING	95,000	95,000	95,000	.....	.....
CONUS CLASSIFIED					
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
CLASSIFIED LOCATION:					
OPERATIONS SUPPORT FACILITY	20,065	.....	20,065	.....	+ 20,065

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
TOTAL, CONUS CLASSIFIED	20,065	.....	20,065	.....	+ 20,065
BAHRAIN ISLAND					
NAVY:					
SW ASIA:					
MINA SALAMAN PIER REPLACEMENT	37,700	.....	37,700	.....	+ 37,700
SHIP MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FACILITY	52,091	.....	52,091	.....	+ 52,091
TOTAL, BAHRAIN ISLAND	89,791	.....	89,791	.....	+ 89,791
DJBOUTI					
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
CAMP LEMONNIER:					
CONSTRUCT FUEL STORAGE & DISTRIB. FACILITIES	43,700	.....	43,700	.....	+ 43,700
TOTAL, DJBOUTI	43,700	.....	43,700	.....	+ 43,700
GERMANY					
ARMY:					
GRAFENWOEHR:					
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	51,000	51,000	51,000	.....	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
GARMISCH:					
GARMISCH E/MS-ADDITION/MODERNIZATION	14,676	14,676	14,676	.....	.....
GRAFENWOEHR:					
GRAFENWOEHR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT	38,138	38,138	38,138	.....	.....
RHINE ORDNANCE BARRACKS:					
MEDICAL CENTER REPLACEMENT INCR 5	85,034	85,034	85,034	.....	.....
SPANGDAHLEW AB:					
CONSTRUCT FUEL PIPELINE	5,500	5,500	5,500	.....	.....
MEDICAL/DENTAL CLINIC ADDITION	34,071	34,071	34,071	.....	.....

STUTTGART-PATCH BARRACKS: PATCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT	49,413	49,413	49,413	.....
TOTAL, GERMANY	277,832	277,832	277,832	.....
GREENLAND				
AIR FORCE: THULE AB: THULE CONSOLIDATION PH 1	41,965	41,965	41,965	.....
TOTAL, GREENLAND	41,965	41,965	41,965	.....
GUAM				
NAVY: JOINT REGION MARIANAS: LIVE-FIRE TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX (NW FIELD)	125,677	100,677	125,677	+ 25,000
MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL CLOSURE	10,777	10,777	10,777	.....
SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM RECAPITALIZATION	45,314	45,314	45,314	.....
AIR FORCE: JOINT REGION MARIANAS: APR—DISPERSED MAINT SPARES & SE STORAGE FAC	19,000	19,000	19,000	.....
APR—INSTALLATION CONTROL CENTER	22,200	22,200	22,200	.....
APR—SOUTH RAMP UTILITIES PHASE 2	7,100	7,100	7,100	.....
PAR—LO/CORROSION CONTROL/COMPOSITE REPAIR	34,400	34,400	34,400	.....
PTC ROADS	2,500	2,500	2,500	.....
TOTAL, GUAM	266,968	241,968	266,968	+ 25,000
ITALY				
NAVY: SIGONELLA: P-8A HANGAR AND FLEET SUPPORT FACILITY	62,302	.....	62,302	+ 62,302
TRITON HANGAR AND OPERATION FACILITY	40,641	.....	40,641	+ 40,641
TOTAL, ITALY	102,943	.....	102,943	+ 102,943
JAPAN				
NAVY: CAMP BUTLER: MILITARY WORKING DOG FACILITIES (CAMP HANSEN)	11,697	11,697	11,697	.....

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
IWAKUNI:					
E-2D OPERATIONAL TRAINER COMPLEX	8,716	8,716	8,716		
SECURITY MODIFICATIONS—CVM5/MAG12 HQ	9,207	9,207	9,207		
KADEWA AB:					
AIRCRAFT MAINT. SHELTERS & APRON	23,310	23,310	23,310		
YOKOSUKA:					
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	13,846	13,846	13,846		
AIR FORCE:					
YOKOTA AB:					
C-130J FLIGHT SIMULATOR FACILITY	8,461	8,461	8,461		
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
KADEWA AB:					
AIRFIELD PAVEMENTS	37,485	37,485	37,485		
TOTAL, JAPAN	112,722	112,722	112,722		
NIGER					
AIR FORCE:					
AGADEZ:					
CONSTRUCT AIRFIELD AND BASE CAMP	50,000		50,000		+ 50,000
TOTAL, NIGER	50,000		50,000		+ 50,000
OMAN					
AIR FORCE:					
AL MUSANNAH AB:					
AIRLIFT APRON	25,000		25,000		+ 25,000
TOTAL, OMAN	25,000		25,000		+ 25,000

POLAND					
NAVY:					
REDZIKOWO BASE:					
AEGIS ASHORE MISSILE DEFENSE COMPLEX	51,270		51,270		+ 51,270
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
REDZIKOWO BASE:					
AEGIS ASHORE MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM COMPLEX	169,153		169,153		+ 169,153
TOTAL, POLAND	220,423		220,423		+ 220,423
SPAIN					
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
ROTA:					
ROTA ES AND HS ADDITIONS	13,737	13,737	13,737		
TOTAL, SPAIN	13,737	13,737	13,737		
UNITED KINGDOM					
AIR FORCE:					
CROUGHTON RAF:					
CONSOLIDATED SATCOM/TECH CONTROL FACILITY	36,424	36,424	36,424		
JAC CONSOLIDATION—PH 2	94,191	94,191	94,191		
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	130,615	130,615	130,615		
WORLDWIDE CLASSIFIED					
AIR FORCE:					
CLASSIFIED LOCATION:					
LONG RANGE STRIKE BOMBER	77,130		77,130		+ 77,130
MUNITIONS STORAGE	3,000	3,000	3,000		
TOTAL, WORLDWIDE CLASSIFIED	80,130	3,000	80,130		+ 77,130
NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM	120,000	150,000	120,000		- 30,000
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED					
ARMY:					
HOST NATION SUPPORT	36,000	36,000	36,000		
MINOR CONSTRUCTION	25,000	25,000	25,000		
PLANNING AND DESIGN	73,245	73,245	73,245		

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
NAVY:					
PLANNING AND DESIGN	91,649	91,649	91,649		
MINOR CONSTRUCTION	22,590	22,590	22,590		
AIR FORCE:					
PLANNING AND DESIGN	89,164	89,164	89,164		
MINOR CONSTRUCTION	22,900	22,900	22,900		
DEFENSE-WIDE:					
CONTINGENCY CONSTRUCTION	10,000			- 10,000	
ENERGY CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM	150,000	150,000	150,000		
PLANNING AND DESIGN:					
DEFENSE-WIDE	23,500	23,500	23,500		
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENT EDUCATION	42,183	42,183	42,183		
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY	31,772	31,772	31,772		
NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY	27,202	27,202	27,202		
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY	1,078	1,078	1,078		
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND	31,628	31,628	31,628		
WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICE	3,041	3,041	3,041		
EAST COAST MISSILE SITE		30,000			- 30,000
GENERAL REDUCTION		- 30,000			+ 30,000
SUBTOTAL, PLANNING AND DESIGN	160,404	160,404	160,404		
UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION:					
DEFENSE-WIDE	3,000	3,000	3,000		
DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY	5,000	5,000	5,000		
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF	8,687	8,687	8,687		
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND	15,676	15,676	15,676		
SUBTOTAL, UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	32,363	32,363	32,363		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:					
PLANNING AND DESIGN	20,337	20,337	20,337		

MINOR CONSTRUCTION	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:				
PLANNING AND DESIGN	5,104	5,104	5,104	5,104
MINOR CONSTRUCTION	7,734	7,734	7,734	7,734
ARMY RESERVE:				
PLANNING AND DESIGN	9,318	9,318	9,318	9,318
MINOR CONSTRUCTION	6,777	6,777	6,777	6,777
NAVY RESERVE:				
PLANNING AND DESIGN	2,208	2,208	2,208	2,208
MINOR CONSTRUCTION	1,468	1,468	1,468	1,468
AIR FORCE RESERVE:				
PLANNING AND DESIGN	13,400	13,400	13,400	13,400
MINOR CONSTRUCTION	6,121	6,121	6,121	6,121
FAMILY HOUSING, ARMY				
GERMANY:				
WIESBADEN:				
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS (12 UNITS)	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
FLORIDA:				
CAMP RUDDER:				
FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION (15 UNITS)	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
ILLINOIS:				
ROCK ISLAND:				
FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION (38 UNITS)	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
KOREA:				
CAMP WALKER (DAEGU):				
FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION (90 UNITS)	61,000	61,000	61,000	61,000
PLANNING AND DESIGN	7,195	7,195	7,195	7,195
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION	99,695	99,695	99,695	99,695
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:				
UTILITIES ACCOUNT	65,600	65,600	65,600	65,600
SERVICES ACCOUNT	10,928	10,928	10,928	10,928
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT	48,515	48,515	48,515	48,515
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT	840	840	840	840
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT	25,552	25,552	25,552	25,552
LEASING	144,879	144,879	144,879	144,879
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY	75,197	75,197	75,197	75,197

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS	22,000	22,000	22,000		
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	393,511	393,511	393,511		
FAMILY HOUSING, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS					
VIRGINIA:					
WALLOPS ISLAND:					
HOUSING SERVICE CENTER	438	438	438		
SKEETER LANE RENOVATION AND CONVERSION	3,658	3,658	3,658		
JAPAN:					
IWAKUNI:					
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 3	7,857	7,857	7,857		
PLANNING AND DESIGN	4,588	4,588	4,588		
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION	16,541	16,541	16,541		
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:					
UTILITIES ACCOUNT	67,692	67,692	67,692		
SERVICES ACCOUNT	19,149	19,149	19,149		
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT	56,189	56,189	56,189		
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT	373	373	373		
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT	17,534	17,534	17,534		
LEASING	64,108	64,108	64,108		
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY	99,323	99,323	99,323		
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS	28,668	28,668	28,668		
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	353,036	353,036	353,036		
FAMILY HOUSING, AIR FORCE					
GERMANY:					
RAMSTEIN:					
FAMILY HOUSING MANAGEMENT FACILITY	5,700	5,700	5,700		

JAPAN:						
KADEWA:						
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 4	35,776	35,776	35,776	35,776		
KADEWA:						
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 5	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000		
MISAWA:						
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 3	44,373	44,373	44,373	44,373		
YOKOTA:						
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 7	31,800	31,800	31,800	31,800		
PLANNING AND DESIGN	9,849	9,849	9,849	9,849		
	160,498	160,498	160,498	160,498		
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION						
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:						
UTILITIES ACCOUNT	40,811	40,811	40,811	40,811		
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT	52,153	52,153	52,153	52,153		
SERVICES ACCOUNT	12,940	12,940	12,940	12,940		
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT	38,746	38,746	38,746	38,746		
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT	2,032	2,032	2,032	2,032		
LEASING	28,867	28,867	28,867	28,867		
MAINTENANCE	114,129	114,129	114,129	114,129		
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS	41,554	41,554	41,554	41,554		
	331,232	331,232	331,232	331,232		
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE						
FAMILY HOUSING, DEFENSE-WIDE						
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:						
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY:						
UTILITIES	474	474	474	474		
FURNISHING	781	781	781	781		
LEASING	10,679	10,679	10,679	10,679		
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY	1,104	1,104	1,104	1,104		
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY:						
FURNISHINGS	3,402	3,402	3,402	3,402		
LEASING	41,273	41,273	41,273	41,273		
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY:						
UTILITIES	172	172	172	172		
FURNISHINGS	20	20	20	20		
SERVICES	31	31	31	31		
MANAGEMENT	388	388	388	388		

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY	344	344	344		
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	58,668	58,668	58,668		
DOD FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND					
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE	251,334	251,334	251,334		
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACCOUNT		30,000			-30,000
DEFENSE ACCESS ROADS (SEC. 131)					
RESISSIONS FROM PRIOR YEAR UNOBLIGATED BALANCES					
ARMY (RESCISSION) (SEC. 125)		-96,000			+96,000
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS					
AIR FORCE (RESCISSION) (SEC. 126)		-52,600			+52,600
DEFENSE-WIDE (RESCISSION) (SEC. 127)		-134,000			+134,000
AIR NATIONAL GUARD					
ARMY (SEC. 125)			34,500	+34,500	
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS (SEC. 126)			34,320	+34,320	
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (SEC. 127)			51,300	+51,300	
ARMY RESERVE (SEC. 128)			34,200	+34,200	
ARMY (RESCISSION) (SEC. 129)			-85,000	-85,000	
AIR FORCE (RESCISSION) (SEC. 129)			-86,400	-86,400	
DEFENSE-WIDE (RESCISSION) (SEC. 129)			-133,000	-133,000	
42 USC 3374 (RESCISSION) (SEC. 130)		-103,918	-65,000	-65,000	+38,918
RECAP					
ARMY	743,245	693,245	697,745	-45,500	+4,500
RESCISSION		-96,000	-85,000	-85,000	+11,000
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS	1,669,239	1,349,678	1,654,019	-15,220	+304,341
RESCISSION					
AIR FORCE	1,389,185	1,237,055	1,389,185		+152,130
RESCISSION		-52,600	-86,400	-86,400	-33,800

DEFENSE-WIDE	2,300,767	1,931,456	2,290,767	-10,000	+359,311
RESCISSION		-134,000	-133,000	-133,000	+1,000
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	197,237	167,437	248,537	+51,300	+81,100
RESCISSION					
AIR NATIONAL GUARD	138,738	138,738	138,738		
RESCISSION					
ARMY RESERVE	113,595	104,295	147,795	+34,200	+43,500
RESCISSION					
NAVY RESERVE	36,078	36,078	36,078		
RESCISSION					
AIR FORCE RESERVE	65,021	65,021	65,021		
RESCISSION					
NATO	120,000	150,000	120,000		-30,000
RESCISSION					
CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE					
RESCISSION					
DOD FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND					
RESCISSION					
HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM					
RESCISSION					
FAMILY HOUSING, ARMY	493,206	493,206	493,206		
CONSTRUCTION	(99,695)	(99,695)	(99,695)		
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	(393,511)	(393,511)	(393,511)		
RESCISSION					
FAMILY HOUSING, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS	369,577	369,577	369,577		
CONSTRUCTION	(16,541)	(16,541)	(16,541)		
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	(353,036)	(353,036)	(353,036)		
RESCISSION					
FAMILY HOUSING, AIR FORCE	491,730	491,730	491,730		
CONSTRUCTION	(160,498)	(160,498)	(160,498)		
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	(331,232)	(331,232)	(331,232)		
RESCISSION					
FAMILY HOUSING, DEFENSE-WIDE	58,668	58,668	58,668		
CONSTRUCTION	(58,668)	(58,668)	(58,668)		
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE					
RESCISSION					
BRAC	251,334	251,334	251,334		
RESCISSION					
42 USC 3374 (Sec. 135)		-103,918	-65,000	-65,000	+38,918
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS					

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				Budget estimate	House allowance
REVISION					
GRAND TOTAL	8,437,620	7,151,000	8,083,000	-354,620	+932,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016
 (In thousands of dollars)

Item	2015 appropriation	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)		
					2015 appropriation	Budget estimate	House allowance
TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE							
Military construction, Army	528,427	743,245	663,245	663,245	+134,818	-80,000	.....
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps	1,018,772	1,669,239	1,349,678	1,619,699	+600,927	-49,540	+270,021
Military construction, Air Force	811,774	1,389,185	1,237,055	1,389,185	+577,411	.....	+152,130
Military construction, Defense-Wide	1,991,690	2,300,767	1,931,456	2,290,767	+299,077	-10,000	+359,311
Total, Active components	4,350,663	6,102,436	5,181,434	5,962,896	+1,612,233	-139,540	+781,462
Military construction, Army National Guard							
Military construction, Air National Guard	128,920	197,237	167,437	197,237	+68,317	.....	+29,800
Military construction, Army Reserve	92,663	138,738	138,738	138,738	+46,075	.....	.....
Military construction, Navy Reserve	103,946	113,595	104,295	113,595	+9,649	.....	+9,300
Military construction, Air Force Reserve	51,528	36,078	36,078	36,078	-15,450	.....	.....
Total, Reserve components	49,492	65,021	65,021	65,021	+15,529	.....	.....
Total, Military construction	4,777,212	6,653,105	5,693,003	6,513,565	+1,736,353	-139,540	+820,562
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program							
Family housing construction, Army	199,700	120,000	150,000	120,000	-79,700	.....	-30,000
Family housing operation and maintenance, Army	78,609	99,695	99,695	99,695	+21,086	.....	.....
Family housing construction, Navy and Marine Corps	350,976	393,511	393,511	393,511	+42,535	.....	.....
Family housing operation and maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps	16,412	16,541	16,541	16,541	+129	.....	.....
Family housing construction, Air Force	354,029	353,036	353,036	353,036	-993	.....	.....
Family housing operation and maintenance, Air Force	327,747	160,498	160,498	160,498	+160,498	.....	.....
Family housing operation and maintenance, Defense-Wide	61,100	331,232	331,232	331,232	+3,485	.....	.....
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund	1,662	58,668	58,668	58,668	-2,432	.....	.....
Total, Family housing	1,190,535	1,413,181	1,413,181	1,413,181	+222,646	.....	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—Continued
 (In thousands of dollars)

Item	2015 appropriation	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)		
					2015 appropriation	Budget estimate	House allowance
Chemical demilitarization construction, Defense-Wide	38,715	251,334	251,334	251,334	-38,715	.....	.....
Department of Defense Base Closure Account	315,085	.....	.....	.....	-63,751	.....	.....
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS							
Military construction—fiscal year 2014 (Sec. 127)	125,000	.....	.....	.....	-125,000	.....	.....
Military construction—fiscal year 2015 (Sec. 128)	117,000	.....	.....	.....	-117,000	.....	.....
Military construction, Army (rescission) (Sec. 125)	-49,533	.....	-96,000	.....	+49,533	.....	+96,000
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps (rescission) (Sec. 130)	-25,522	.....	.....	.....	+25,522	.....	.....
Defense Access Roads (Sec. 131) .....	.....	.....	30,000	.....	.....	.....	-30,000
Military construction, Air Force (rescission) (Sec. 126)	-41,392	.....	-52,600	.....	+41,392	.....	+52,600
Military construction, Defense-Wide (rescission) (Sec. 127) .....	.....	.....	-134,000	.....	.....	.....	+134,000
Military construction, Army (Sec. 125) .....	.....	.....	.....	34,500	.....	.....	+34,500
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 126) .....	.....	.....	.....	34,320	.....	.....	+34,320
Military construction, Army National Guard (Sec. 127) .....	.....	.....	.....	51,300	.....	.....	+51,300
Military construction, Army Reserve (Sec. 128) .....	.....	.....	.....	34,200	.....	.....	+34,200
NATO Security Investment Program (rescission) (Sec. 132)	-25,000	.....	.....	.....	+25,000	.....	.....
Military construction, Army (rescission) (Sec. 129) .....	.....	.....	.....	-85,000	.....	.....	-85,000
Military construction, Air Force (rescission) (Sec. 129) .....	.....	.....	.....	-86,400	.....	.....	-86,400
Military construction, Defense-Wide (rescission) (Sec. 129) .....	.....	.....	.....	-133,000	.....	.....	-133,000
42 USC 3374 (rescission) (Sec. 134)	-63,800	.....	-103,918	-65,000	-1,200	.....	+38,918
Total, Administrative Provisions	36,753	.....	-356,518	-215,080	-251,833	-215,080	+141,438
Appropriations	(242,000)	.....	(30,000)	(154,320)	(-87,680)	(-87,680)	(+124,320)
Rescissions	(-205,247)	.....	(-386,518)	(-369,400)	(-164,153)	(-369,400)	(+17,118)
Total, title I, Department of Defense	6,558,000	8,437,620	7,151,000	8,083,000	+1,525,000	-354,620	+932,000
Appropriations	(6,763,247)	(8,437,620)	(7,537,518)	(8,452,400)	(+1,689,153)	(+14,780)	(+914,882)
Rescissions	(-205,247)	.....	(-386,518)	(-369,400)	(-164,153)	(-369,400)	(+17,118)

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Benefits Administration

Compensation and pensions	79,071,000	79,124,675	79,124,675	79,124,675	+ 53,675	.....
Advance appropriation, fiscal year 2017 .....	.....	87,146,761	87,146,761	87,146,761	+ 87,146,761	.....
Readjustment benefits	14,997,136	15,344,922	15,344,922	15,344,922	+ 347,786	.....
Advance appropriation, fiscal year 2017 .....	.....	16,743,904	16,743,904	16,743,904	+ 16,743,904	.....
Veterans insurance and indemnities	63,257	77,160	77,160	77,160	+ 13,903	.....
Advance appropriation, fiscal year 2017 .....	.....	91,920	91,920	91,920	+ 91,920	.....
Veterans housing benefit program fund: (Indefinite) .....	.....	(500)	(500)	(500)	.....	.....
(Limitation on direct loans) .....	.....	164,558	164,558	164,558	+ 3,677	.....
Administrative expenses	160,881	31	31	31	+ 21	.....
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account	10	(2,952)	(2,952)	(2,952)	(+ 75)	.....
(Limitation on direct loans)	(2,877)	367	367	367	+ 6	.....
Administrative expenses	361	1,134	1,134	1,134	+ 4	.....
Native American veteran housing loan program account	1,130	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration	94,293,775	198,695,432	198,695,432	198,695,432	+ 104,401,657	.....
Appropriations	(94,293,775)	(94,712,847)	(94,712,847)	(94,712,847)	(+ 419,072)	.....
Advance appropriations, fiscal year 2017 .....	.....	(103,982,585)	(103,982,585)	(103,982,585)	(+ 103,982,585)	.....

Veterans Health Administration

Medical services:						
Advance from prior year	(45,015,527)	(47,603,202)	(47,603,202)	(47,603,202)	(+ 2,587,675)	.....
Current year request	209,189	1,124,197	971,554	1,134,197	+ 925,008	+ 162,643
Advance appropriation, fiscal year 2017	47,603,202	51,673,000	51,673,000	51,673,000	+ 4,069,798	.....
Subtotal	47,812,391	52,797,197	52,644,554	52,807,197	+ 4,994,806	+ 162,643
Medical support and compliance:						
Advance from prior year	(5,879,700)	(6,144,000)	(6,144,000)	(6,144,000)	(+ 264,300)	.....
Current year request	69,961	69,961	69,961	69,961	.....	.....
Advance appropriation, fiscal year 2017	6,144,000	6,524,000	6,524,000	6,524,000	+ 380,000	.....
Subtotal	6,144,000	6,593,961	6,524,000	6,524,000	+ 380,000	.....
Medical facilities:						
Advance from prior year	(4,739,000)	(4,915,000)	(4,915,000)	(4,915,000)	(+ 176,000)	.....
Current year request .....	.....	105,132	.....	.....	.....	.....
Subtotal .....	.....	105,132	.....	.....	.....	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2015 appropriation	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)		
					2015 appropriation	Budget estimate	House allowance
Advance appropriation, fiscal year 2017	4,915,000	5,074,000	5,074,000	5,074,000	+ 159,000		
Subtotal	4,915,000	5,179,132	5,074,000	5,074,000	+ 159,000	- 105,132	
Medical and prosthetic research	588,922	621,813	621,813	621,813	+ 32,891		
Medical care cost recovery collections:							
Offsetting collections	- 2,456,000	- 2,445,000	- 2,445,000	- 2,445,000	+ 11,000		
Appropriations (indefinite)	2,456,000	2,445,000	2,445,000	2,445,000	- 11,000		
Subtotal							
DOD-VA Joint Medical Funds (transfers out)	(- 276,251)	(- 286,000)	(- 286,000)	(- 286,000)	(- 9,749)		
DOD-VA Joint Medical Funds (by transfer)	(276,251)	(286,000)	(286,000)	(286,000)	(- 9,749)		
DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (transfer out)	(- 15,000)	(- 15,000)	(- 15,000)	(- 15,000)			
DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (by transfer)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)			
Subtotal							
Total, Veterans Health Administration	59,460,313	65,192,103	64,864,367	65,027,010	+ 5,566,697	- 165,093	+ 162,643
Appropriations	(798,111)	(1,921,103)	(1,593,367)	(1,756,010)	(+ 957,899)	(- 165,093)	(+ 162,643)
Advance appropriations, fiscal year 2017	(58,662,202)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(+ 4,608,798)		
Advances from prior year appropriations	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+ 3,027,975)		
National Cemetery Administration	256,800	266,220	266,220	266,220	+ 9,420		
Departmental Administration							
General administration	321,591	346,659	324,959	311,591	- 10,000	- 35,068	- 13,368
Board of Veterans Appeals	99,294	107,884	109,884	107,884	+ 8,590		- 2,000
General operating expenses, VBA	2,534,254	2,697,734	2,702,734	2,697,734	+ 163,480		- 5,000
Information technology systems	3,903,344	4,133,363	4,039,563	4,106,363	+ 203,019	- 27,000	+ 66,800
Office of Inspector General	126,411	126,766	131,766	126,766	+ 355		- 5,000

Construction, major projects	561,800	1,143,800	561,800	1,027,064	+ 465,264	- 116,736	+ 465,264
Construction, minor projects	495,200	406,200	406,200	378,080	- 117,120	- 28,120	- 28,120
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities	90,000	80,000	80,000	100,000	+ 10,000	+ 20,000	+ 20,000
Grants for construction of veterans cemeteries	46,000	45,000	45,000	46,000	.....	+ 1,000	+ 1,000
Total, Departmental Administration	8,177,894	9,087,406	8,401,906	8,901,482	+ 723,588	- 185,924	+ 499,576
Administrative Provisions							
Medical services (Sec. 227)	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	.....	.....	.....
(Rescission) (Sec. 227)	- 1,400,000	- 1,400,000	- 1,400,000	- 1,400,000	.....	.....	.....
Medical support and compliance (Sec. 227)	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	.....	.....	.....
(Rescission) (Sec. 227)	- 100,000	- 100,000	- 100,000	- 150,000	- 50,000	- 50,000	- 50,000
Medical facilities (Sec. 227)	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	.....	.....	.....
(Rescission) (Sec. 227)	- 250,000	- 250,000	- 250,000	- 250,000	.....	.....	.....
Contract disability exams	40,000	.....	.....	.....	- 40,000	.....	.....
Payraise absorption (rescission) (Sec. 236) .....	.....	.....	- 313,626	- 255,000	- 255,000	- 255,000	+ 58,626
Bonus limit (rescission) (Sec. 237)	- 41,000	.....	- 101,000	- 55,000	- 14,000	- 55,000	+ 46,000
JIF (rescission) (Sec. 238)	- 15,000	.....	- 15,000	- 50,000	- 35,000	- 50,000	- 35,000
Department administration (rescission) (Sec. 239) .....	.....	.....	.....	- 6,052	- 6,052	- 6,052	- 6,052
Unobligated balances (rescission) (Sec. 240) .....	.....	.....	.....	- 90,293	- 90,293	- 90,293	- 90,293
Total, Administrative Provisions	- 16,000	.....	- 429,626	- 506,345	- 490,345	- 506,345	- 76,719
Total, title II	162,172,782	273,241,161	271,798,299	272,383,799	+ 110,211,017	- 857,362	+ 585,500
Appropriations	(105,316,580)	(107,737,576)	(106,724,340)	(107,386,559)	(+ 2,069,979)	(- 351,017)	(+ 662,219)
Rescissions	(- 1,806,000)	(- 1,750,000)	(- 2,179,626)	(- 2,256,345)	(- 450,345)	(- 506,345)	(- 76,719)
Advance appropriations, fiscal year 2017	(58,662,202)	(167,253,589)	(167,253,589)	(167,253,589)	(+ 108,591,383)	.....	.....
Advances from prior year appropriations	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+ 3,027,975)	.....	.....
(Limitation on direct loans)	(3,377)	(3,452)	(3,452)	(3,452)	(+ 75)	.....	.....
TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES							
American Battle Monuments Commission							
Salaries and expenses	74,100	75,100	75,100	75,100	+ 1,000	.....	.....
Foreign currency fluctuations account	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000	+ 100	.....	.....
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission	76,000	77,100	77,100	77,100	+ 1,100	.....	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2015 appropriation	Budget estimate	House allowance	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)		
					2015 appropriation	Budget estimate	House allowance
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims							
Salaries and expenses	31,386	32,141	32,141	32,141	+ 755		
Department of Defense—Civil							
Cemeterial Expenses, Army	65,800	70,800	70,800	70,800	+ 5,000		
Salaries and expenses	65,800	70,800	70,800	70,800	+ 5,000		
Total, Cemeterial Expenses, Army							
Armed Forces Retirement Home—Trust Fund							
Operation and maintenance	62,400	63,300	63,300	63,300	+ 900		
Capital program	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000			
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home	63,400	64,300	64,300	64,300	+ 900		
Total, title III	236,586	244,341	244,341	244,341	+ 7,755		
TITLE IV—OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS							
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps			244,004				- 244,004
Military construction, Air Force			75,000				- 75,000
Military construction, Defense-Wide	46,000		212,996		- 46,000		- 212,996
European Reassurance Initiative Military Construction	175,000				- 175,000		
Total, title IV	221,000		532,000		- 221,000		- 532,000
Grand total	169,188,368	281,923,122	279,725,640	280,711,140	+ 111,522,772	- 1,211,982	+ 985,500
Appropriations	(112,316,413)	(116,419,537)	(114,506,199)	(116,083,300)	(+ 3,766,887)	(- 336,237)	(+ 1,577,101)
Rescissions	(- 2,011,247)	(- 1,750,000)	(- 2,566,144)	(- 2,625,745)	(- 614,498)	(- 87,5745)	(- 59,601)

Advance appropriations, fiscal year 2017	(58,662,202)	(167,253,585)	(167,253,585)	(167,253,585)	(+ 108,591,383)	.....
Overseas contingency operations	(221,000)	.....	(532,000)	.....	(- 221,000)	.....
Advances from prior year appropriations	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+ 3,027,975)	.....
(By transfer)	(291,251)	(301,000)	(301,000)	(301,000)	(+ 9,749)
(Limitation on direct loans)	(3,377)	(3,452)	(3,452)	(3,452)	(+ 75)
						(- 532,000)

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