



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release: Thursday, March 29, 2007

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Summary of the Senate's Fiscal 2007 Supplemental Funding Legislation

The Senate has approved legislation providing \$123.2 billion primarily for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, for improving the health care for returning soldiers and veterans, for continued Hurricane Katrina recovery for the Gulf Coast, to fill major gaps in homeland security, and to provide emergency drought relief for farmers. The legislation passed the Senate by a 51-48 vote.

Overall, the Senate legislation provides:

- More than \$97.5 billion is provided to the Department of Defense, primarily for continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The legislation also includes a \$1 billion increase for the National Guard and Reserve and \$1.1 billion for military housing.
- More than \$4.3 billion to ensure that returning troops and veterans receive the health care that they have earned with their service.
- \$6.7 billion for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.
- Emergency funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) totals more than \$745 million.
- Homeland security investments total \$2 billion, including funds for port security and mass transit security, for explosives detection equipment at airports, and for several initiatives in the 9/11 bill that recently passed the Senate.
- \$4.2 billion is provided to help relieve the enormous pressure on farmers and ranchers as a result of severe drought and agricultural disasters.
- The Senate legislation also includes emergency funding for forest firefighting, for low income home energy assistance, and for pandemic flu preparations.

The legislation does not include any restriction on funding for the troops in Iraq or Afghanistan. The legislation calls for a gradual redeployment of troops in conjunction with concerted efforts to train and equip the Iraqi security forces and to build regional and international support for the Iraqi government. Specifically, the legislation directs the President, within 120 days of enactment, to begin to redeploy the troops from Iraq, with only a limited number of troops remaining in the country on March 31, 2008. Some American forces would remain in Iraq for force protection, training and equipping Iraqi troops, and targeted counterterrorism options. The legislation would allow the U.S. military to focus its resources on Osama bin Laden, his organization that attacked the nation on 9/11, and destroying his base of operations in Afghanistan.

Importantly, the Iraq provisions include a series of benchmarks, outlined by the Bush Administration, for the Iraqi government to meet and also the inclusion of regular progress reports to Congress from the U.S. commander in Iraq.

An overall summary of the supplemental bill, by subcommittee, is below.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

PL 480 Title II (International Food Assistance)

FY 07 Annual Appropriation: \$1,214,711,000
President Supplemental Request: \$350,000,000
Senate Bill: \$475,000,000

Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust

FY 07 Annual Appropriation: \$20,000,000
President Supplemental Request: \$0
Senate Bill: \$82,000,000

Farm Service Agency Salaries and Expenses

FY 07 Annual Appropriation: \$1,338,537,000
President Supplemental Request: \$0
Senate Bill: \$75,000,000

OTHER ISSUES

Agriculture Disaster

The Senate approved \$4.151 billion for agricultural disaster. This includes \$115 million for the Conservation Security Program (CSP).

The Senate cleared a provision, adopted during committee consideration and authored by Senator Leahy, to extend the milk income loss contract program for one month, through September 30, 2007. This extension authorizes this program for the same period of time as other Farm Bill programs.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

The CJS chapters total \$772.589 million -- \$589.1 million above the President's request.

Title 1: Global War on Terror

The CJS chapter of Title I totals \$430.689 million. This is \$257.211 million above the President's request.

Inspector General: \$500,000

The Senate legislation provides \$500,000 for the Justice Department Inspector General to continue oversight and monitoring the FBI to ensure implementation of OIG recommendations pertaining to National Security Letters.

Legal Activities: \$4.093 million

The Senate legislation provides \$4.093 million for general legal activities for DOJ's criminal division to train law enforcement in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is equal to the President's request.

U.S Attorneys: \$17.5 million

The Senate provides \$17.5 million for the U.S. Attorneys. This amount includes \$5 million to prosecute terrorism cases in the U.S. as the President requested, and \$12.5 million to prosecute child predators under the Adam Walsh Act.

U.S. Marshals: \$57.5 million

The Senate provides \$57.5 million for the U.S. Marshals. This amount includes \$14.921 million for witness protection in Iraq/Afghanistan and increased court security in the U.S. for high threat terrorist trials as the President requested, \$10.079 million to upgrade security in the D.C. courthouse, and \$32.5 million to apprehend fugitive sex offenders who have failed to register as required by the Adam Walsh Act.

National Security Division (DOJ): \$1.736 million

The Senate legislation provides \$1.736 million to prosecute high-value detainees at Guantanamo Bay. This is equal to the President's request.

FBI: \$348.260 million

The Senate legislation provides a total of \$348.2 million for the FBI to fight the global war on terror, weapons of mass destruction and improvised explosive devices.

Of this amount, \$118.2 million was requested by the President. The Senate legislation recommends an additional \$230 million for the activities mentioned above.

In January, a Presidential Directive transferred responsibility for the Render Safe program from the Defense Department to the FBI. Render Safe is the program to respond to and disarm a WMD in the continental United States. However, the FBI was not given the requisite equipment, supplies and operational support to assume this new mission. The additional funding (approximately \$160 million) support this new mission.

In addition, the Senate legislation increased funding for the FBI's mission in Iraq and Afghanistan to counter IEDs and fight the global war on terror (approximately \$70 million). This funding will go for additional equipment, training, supplies and operational support to enhance the FBI's ability to protect the U.S from a terrorist attack.

DEA: \$25.1 million

The Senate legislation provides a total of \$25.1 million for the DEA to continue anti-drug operations in Afghanistan and hire additional DEA agents. Of this amount, \$8.468 million was requested by the President. The Senate legislation recommends an additional \$16.532 million to allow the DEA to hire new agents.

ATF: \$4 million

The Senate legislation provides \$4 million for the ATF to train explosives specialists in Iraq/Afghanistan and improve IED detection activities. This is the same as the President's request.

Bureau of Prisons: \$17 million

The Senate provides \$17 million to monitor prisoner communication and mail in the federal prison system. This is the same as the President's request.

Title II: Katrina

The CJS chapter of Title II totals \$341.9 million. The President did not request this funding.

Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants: \$170 million

The Senate legislation provides \$170 million for Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants. The President did not request funding for this activity. This amount includes:

- \$100 million for the cities of Denver and St. Paul to cover costs associated with the 2008 Democratic and Republican National Conventions (\$50 million each). In 2004, Congress provided New York and Boston with \$50 million each to help defray the costs of providing security for the events. This request is based on that precedent.
- \$70 million to help Louisiana and the other Gulf Coast states fight the increase in violent crime resulting from Katrina, of which \$55 million is designated for Louisiana

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: \$171.9 million

The Senate legislation provides \$171.9 million for fisheries and disaster recovery. The President did not request funding for this activity. This amount includes:

- \$111.5 million to help the Gulf Coast and Louisiana recover from Katrina:
 - \$6 million for a NOAA disaster response and recovery center for the Gulf Coast.
 - \$20 million for scanning and debris removal in Louisiana fishing grounds and waterways.
 - \$85 million for direct assistance to gulf fishermen. This activity is authorized under Magnuson-Stevens Authorization Act. Of this amount, \$45 million is designated for Louisiana, \$20 million for Alabama, and \$20 million for Mississippi.
 - \$500,000 for a PORTS system in Lake Charles, Louisiana
- \$60.4 million to fund a fisheries emergency declared by the Secretary of Commerce for the Klamath River salmon in the Pacific Northwest.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The committee provides \$93.5 billion in emergency spending for the Department of Defense to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, which is \$2 billion more than the President's request. This funding provides support for 140,000 troops deployed in Iraq and 20,000 in Afghanistan. It also fully funds the original escalation force of 21,000 combat troops plus an additional 4,729 personnel in Iraq and 7,200 troops in Afghanistan.

Additionally, the committee fully funds the accelerated conversion of two Army Brigade Combat Teams and a new Marine Regional Combat Team. The legislation adds \$1.3 billion for the Defense Health Program to address critical shortfalls. Another \$1 billion is added for Army National Guard Equipment shortfalls.

Military Personnel: \$13.4 billion

- Provides pay and allowances for troops maintained on active duty beyond normal end strength levels, and mobilized Reserve and Guard soldiers
- Provides Special Pays, including Imminent Danger Pay, to Active, Reserve, and Guard soldiers who are deployed in support of GWOT
- Supports required Pre- and Post-Mobilization Training for Reserve and Guard units
- Provides an additional \$1.1 billion for military family housing allowances to fully fund requirements identified by the Services

Operation and Maintenance: \$48.8 billion

- Funds military operations by the services and Special Operations Forces for incremental pre-deployment training and support, transportation to and from theater, operating tempo in theater, sustainment of equipment, and the full range of logistics and communications and intelligence assets support
- Provides funding for repair activities which involve the necessary depot and intermediate maintenance required to restore equipment returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to pre-deployment conditions
- Provides \$1.6 billion for individual body armor, including advanced combat helmets
- Provides \$120 million for transfer to the Coast Guard for operations in support of the Global War on Terror
- Provides \$9.7 billion for the Afghanistan and Iraq Security Forces Funds to train and equip Afghan and Iraqi Security Forces and assist their governments in assuming greater responsibility for their nation's security.
- Provides \$2.4 billion for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund. Fully funds the request for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Office and provides adequate funding and management flexibility to the Department in developing and fielding the necessary tactics, equipment, and training to defeat improvised explosive devices.
- Fully funds the Commander's Emergency Response Program
- Denies funding for unjustified global lift, sustain, train and equip programs -\$350 million.
- Reduces funding for coalition support based on low obligations of prior year spending -\$100 million.

Procurement: \$26 billion

Aircraft

- Fully funds the request for seven UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters
- Transfers funds requested for two Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters to replace two UH-60 Blackhawks lost in combat
- Fully funds four CH-47 heavy lift helicopters for the National Guard
- Provides more than \$295 million to protect Army helicopters from shoulder-launched missile threats in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Fully funds Predators for Air Force and U.S. Special Operations Command
- Funds Precision Engagement and enhanced communications for the A-10 aircraft
- Funds aircraft defensive systems for C-5As
- Funds Large Aircraft Infrared Counter Measures (LAIRCM) for C-17s, C-37s, C-40s, and C-130s
- Funds 39 Sniper Advanced Targeting Pods for Air Force aircraft
- Provides \$75 million to procure one EA-18G aircraft for the Navy to replace an EA-6B combat loss aircraft
- Provides \$290 million over the supplemental request for Marine Corps aircraft survivability equipment
- Provides \$178.5 million for upgrades to the EA-6B aircraft
- Provides \$50 million to start building new AH-1Z helicopters for the Marine Corps
- Includes \$30 million for enhanced crew protection for C-130 aircraft, which will allow 7 more aircraft to deploy to theater
- Provides \$113 million for Advance Targeting Forward Looking Infra-Red and Litening pods for the Navy's F-18 aircraft

Weapons/Missiles/Ammunition

- Provides \$848 million for ammunition

Vehicles/Force Protection

- Fully funds the Administration request, providing \$3.3 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAPs) for Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and SOCOM, \$1.5 billion above the request to accelerate production.
- Supports the Army's Brigade Combat Team acceleration initiative
- Provides \$1.5 billion for additional Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles
- Fully funds Army HMMWVs and force protection HMMWV modifications.
- Fully funds Bradley Fighting Vehicle sustainment
- Funds force protection modifications for Stryker vehicles
- Fully funds M1 Abrams tank upgrades

Other

- Provides \$1 billion for equipping the Army National Guard
- Fully funds equipment for the Naval Expeditionary Combat Command, including the replacement of more than 1,800 pieces of worn-out construction equipment used by Seabees in Iraq
- Fully funds 5,000 Combat Survivor Evader Locator radios for Air Force aircrews supporting Iraq and Afghanistan

Research, Development, Test and Evaluation: \$1.2 billion

Aircraft

- Funds development of aircraft survivability systems for the CH-53E and H-1 helicopters.

- Provides \$52 million to integrate advanced targeting pods on B-1 and B-52 aircraft and Hellfire missiles on A-10 aircraft to improve performance of these various aircraft in theater
- Provides \$20 million to improve targeting of Predator unmanned aerial vehicles
- Provides \$19 million to enhance signals intelligence capabilities of the Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle

Revolving and Management Funds: \$1.3 billion

- Supports the President's budget request for Defense Working Capital Funds

Other Department of Defense Programs: \$2.7 billion

Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities: \$255 million

- For Drug Interdiction and Counter-drug Activities in Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Defense Health Program: \$2.5 billion

- Provides an additional \$1.3 billion above the request, including:
 - \$740 million in uncovered and unbudgeted fees
 - \$500 million to eliminate efficiency wedge+savings and reinvest in military hospitals
 - \$20 million to repair facilities at Walter Reed
 - \$100 million for brain trauma injury and post traumatic stress disorder treatment and research.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

TITLE I

The Senate legislation provides \$63 million for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration for nuclear non-proliferation work . equal to the Administration request. Of that total, \$49 million is for International Nuclear Materials Protection, and \$14 Million is for the Global Threat Reduction Initiative.

TITLE II

The Senate legislation includes more than \$1.7 billion for the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts and for other work related to other natural disasters.

Specifically for Hurricane Katrina and Rita recovery, the legislation provides:

- \$150,000,000 to accelerate interior drainage projects in the New Orleans Metropolitan area.
- \$1,300,000,000 for increases in cost for the Lake Ponchartrain and Vicinity and the West Bank and Vicinity projects.
- \$107,700,000 for construction of interim flood and storm damage reduction measures along the Mississippi Gulf Coast recommended in the December 2006 Chief of Engineers Report.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Small Business Administration: The Small Business Administration expects to exhaust funds for its disaster loan program administrative expenses before the end of this fiscal year. As a result, the Senate legislation provides more than \$25 million to ensure this SBA work through the end of the fiscal year. In addition, the bill includes \$25 million for SBA economic injury disaster loans for the Gulf hurricane region.

HOMELAND SECURITY

The Administration requested no supplemental funding for securing the homeland, despite knowing the vulnerabilities on our borders, on our trains and planes, and at chemical sites.

Recommendations include \$2 billion focused on border security, explosives protection, rail, transit, and port security, on implementing provisions of the recently enacted SAFE Port Act, and the 9/11 bill (S.4) that recently passed the Senate.

In addition, the Senate legislation provides \$1.2 billion of additional funding for Katrina recovery in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

\$100 million for Secure Freight Initiative and SAFE Port Act implementation to purchase additional non-intrusive inspection equipment, integrate the equipment with radiation portal monitors at Northern Border ports, and meet the port staffing requirements of the SAFE Port Act.

\$40 million for additional staffing at Northern Border ports of entry for screening, admissibility, and threat, additional pilots and marine officers, vehicles, and address workstation and software deficiencies and needed hardening at CBP-owned Ports of Entry.

\$75 million for Air and Marine Operations on the Northern Border and Great Lakes . including the establishment of the Detroit Airwing and procurement of additional fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, marine and river vessels, unmanned aerial systems, and enhanced radar coverage

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

\$100 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) -- The Nationwide Plan Review, conducted by DHS after Hurricane Katrina, identified specific actions needed to update State and local emergency plans (including catastrophic disasters). This funding would allow State and local emergency management agencies to update those plans.

\$190 million for Port Security Grants -- The Coast Guard estimated that \$5.4 billion is needed through 2012 for facility security costs at our ports. Currently, major projects that would provide serious security for our ports are not occurring because there is simply not enough funds allocated to ports each year to tackle the larger projects. This

would provide \$400 million total in FY 2007 funding, which is the full amount authorized in the SAFE Port Act.

\$625 million for Rail and Transit Grants . Despite the train bombings in London, Madrid, Moscow, Tokyo, and Mumbai, DHS has limited its response to issuing unenforceable policy directives, deploying two very limited pilot programs, and distributing limited amounts of money to secure rail and transit facilities. Passenger rail systems in the United States carry about five times as many passengers each day as do airlines, over many thousands of miles of track, serving stations that are designed primarily for easy access. The transit community has estimated \$6 billion is needed in security related costs. This legislation help to meet that need.

\$35 million for regional grants and technical assistance to high risk urban areas for catastrophic event planning and preparedness -- DHS placed seven urban areas in the top tier of risk in the Nation. It is critical that these urban areas plan for response and recovery from threats such as a potential nuclear attack, a chemical incident or a major natural disaster.

\$20 million for FEMA Administration . Due to the reorganization of FEMA in Title VI of the FY 2007 Appropriations Act, FEMA has incurred many additional responsibilities for which the Administration has not requested resources. These funds will support regional strike teams to better coordinate federal, state, and local communications during a disaster; update financial systems to support the reorganization; and support the establishment of the Law Enforcement Liaison Office, the Disability Coordinator Office and the National Advisory Council.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

\$600 million for Explosive Detection Systems (EDS) procurement and installation of in-line baggage systems -- A recent independent baggage screening study estimated the need for new optimal baggage systems at airports nationwide to be \$3.69 billion. TSA has prioritized a backlog of funding requirements for the Nation's top 25 airports totaling \$1.1 billion. With an additional \$600 million, total funding in FY 2007 for EDS purchase and installation would be \$1.129 billion.

\$60 million for air cargo security -- The U.S. air cargo supply chain handles more than 50,000 tons of cargo each day, of which 7,500 tons is carried on domestic passenger aircraft. The majority of that cargo is not inspected. S.4, the 9/11 Commission recommendations bill, requires TSA to develop a system to screen all cargo being transported on passenger aircraft. The \$60 million doubles the number of air cargo inspectors from 300 to 600, includes funding to expand the National Explosives Detection Canine Team program by 100 teams (from a base of 422 canine teams), provides funding to complete vulnerability assessments at high cargo volume airports, and provides funds for equipment, technology, and other methods to screen air cargo.

\$15 million for Federal Air Marshals to increase flight coverage. As a result of terrorist plots to explode international flights last August, the Senate legislation wants to ensure that domestic flights are provided with sufficient protections.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

\$25 million to address the backlog that exists between USCIS and FBI on background checks for immigrants filing for benefits.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

\$10 million for the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center to better coordinate efforts to stem the flow of, and trafficking in, illegal aliens as authorized in the 9/11 bill.

\$10 million for the Visa Security Program to create and staff a Security Advisory Opinion review unit to vet visa applications from overseas consulates for risk and threat prior to issuing a travel visa.

Science and Technology

\$15 million for Air Cargo Research . Restart and aggressively pursue several unfunded initiatives.

Infrastructure Protection

\$18 million for Chemical Site Security -- Fully funds current chemical site security activities. At the direction of Congress, DHS has established chemical security standards, but DHS has not requested sufficient funds to hire personnel to inspect chemical sites to ensure compliance with the standards.

Hurricane Katrina Response

Disaster Relief Fund . The Senate legislation provides \$4.31 billion, above the \$3.4 billion requested by the President.

Match Waiver . The Senate legislation provides nearly \$1 billion in order to waive the local match requirements for the repair of public facilities, public assistance, and individual assistance initiatives related to recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, consistent with other major disasters such as 9/11.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

The Senate legislation provides an emergency fire suppression reserve fund totaling \$500 million. The emergency fire suppression reserve accounts at the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management have been completely depleted. These funds are only allowed to be used if all other wildfire suppression funds will be imminently expended, if emergency situations exist, and if certain cost reduction practices are implemented.

The Senate legislation also provides nearly \$13.2 million for avian flu research and monitoring. Given the recent spread of dangerous flu outbreaks in Western Europe, this funding is essential. Of the total amount requested, \$7,398,000 is for the Fish and Wildlife Service, \$5,270,000 is for the U.S. Geological Survey, and \$525,000 is for the National Park Service.

Secure Rural Schools: The Senate legislation provides \$425 million, in addition to \$100 million available from current receipts, for payments to states under the Secure Rural Schools program, which expired at the end of September. This is a one-year fix.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

The LHHS section of the Supplemental includes the following items.

- Funds the \$747 million FY 2007 shortfall in the State Children's Health Insurance program (SCHIP).
- Includes \$870 million in emergency funding for pandemic flu activities at HHS. Fifty million of the \$870 million is for the vaccine compensation program.
- Includes \$640 million for LIHEAP (\$320 million for formula grants and \$320 million in contingency funding).
- Provides extended availability for SSBG funds in states impacted by Hurricane Katrina.
- Includes \$30 million for higher education institutions impacted by gulf hurricanes of 2005.
- Includes \$30 million to attract teachers back to the Gulf Coast Region's elementary and secondary schools.
- Includes \$13 million for mine safety activities at NIOSH.
- Includes \$3.6 million for health screenings for 9/11 workers offset from DOL unexpended balances.
- Transfers bioterrorism research funds from NIH to HHS (BARDA).

The Senate legislation includes a provision authored by Senator Durbin with regard to Medicaid. The provision prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from implementing for a two-year period a proposed Medicaid rule (published January 18, 2007) that would limit payments to government health care providers and alter state financing mechanisms as well as a proposal to restrict Medicaid payments for graduate medical education. Senator Durbin paid for his amendment through an existing Medicaid program that requires brand name drug makers to provide a 15% rebate to the federal government on any drug it sells through the Medicaid program. Senator Durbin's amendment raises that to 20%.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Title I

Military Construction

President's Request (Amended): \$1,739,990,000

Senate Recommendation: \$1,643,980,000

The Senate legislation reduces or deletes \$88 million, plus associated planning and design funds, for three projects requested by the President:

- Air Force: Bagram, Afghanistan . Parallel Taxiway
Request: \$49 million
Senate: \$25 million
- Army: Bagram, Afghanistan . new roads
Request: \$26 million
Senate: 0
- Navy/Marine Corps: Camp Lemonier, Djibouti

Request: water production plant, \$18.3 million
Senate: 0

Request: wastewater treatment plant, \$19.7 million
Senate: 0

The legislation includes a proviso ensuring that none of the military construction funds are to be used for the purpose of providing facilities for permanent bases in Iraq.

Title II

Total Title II . Military Construction and Department of Veterans Affairs

President's Request: \$0
Senate: \$4,903,940,000

Military Construction (BRAC)

President's Request: \$0
Senate: \$3,136,802,000

Department of Veterans Affairs

President's Request: \$0
House: \$1,702,082,000
Senate: \$1,767,138,000

The Senate legislation includes:

- A prohibition on the expenditure of funds to close Walter Reed unless certain requirements are met to provide continuity of care to patients.
- \$50 million for new Level I polytrauma centers
- \$9.4 million in operations costs associated with the establishment of new polytrauma residential transitional rehabilitation programs. Severely injured veterans may require extensive periods of rehabilitation to successfully integrate back into the community. Traumatic Brain Injury, particularly in combination with PTSD and other stress reactions and mental health problems, is among the conditions that require extensive rehabilitation including transitional programming. The funding will allow the VA to establish four additional transitional programs.
- \$20 million for Vet Centers/Readjustment Counseling . Vet Centers and the readjustment counseling provided by them remain one of the top rated VA programs among veterans. These storefront centers have seen increasing usage from GWOT veterans leading to a strain and waiting lists at many of the sites. The additional funds would give the VA the ability to open new Vet Centers and hire additional staffing for existing centers.
- \$10 million for blind rehabilitation programs . Vision problems are likely to accompany TBI injuries. This and the aging veteran population have led to a need for more blind rehabilitative services. The additional funds will allow the VA to begin creating capacity to better serve today's vision impaired veterans.

- \$100 million for enhancements to mental health services . Mental health problems along with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are likely to rise dramatically due to extended and repeated deployments in the Global War on Terror. The additional funds are provided to allow the VA to begin to build capacity, including additional staffing, throughout the VHA.
- \$8 million for polytrauma clinic support teams . There are currently 76 polytrauma clinic support teams in the VA. These local teams of providers with rehabilitation expertise deliver follow up services in consultation with regional and network specialists. The additional funding would provide 10 more teams.
- \$5.4 million for polytrauma points of contacts . Smaller VHA facilities that do not have polytrauma services have points of contact who serve as referral of polytrauma patients to a facility capable of providing the level of service required. This funding would allow the VA to hire an additional 52 points of contact for smaller VHA facilities.
- \$201.3 million in additional funds to treat GWOT veterans . the VA modeling has consistently underestimated the number of GWOT veterans seen by the VHA. In FY 2007, the VA underestimated the number of GWOT veterans by 100,000 patients (almost 100%). The additional funding would provide the VA the ability to utilize additional funding without impacting services for other VA patients.

Medical Administration

President's Request: \$0

House: \$256,300,000

Senate: \$250,000,000

The Senate recommendation includes \$250 million in additional funds for the Administration of the VA health care system. On March 9, 2007, the VA transmitted a reprogramming notification outlining the Department's intention to transfer \$250 million from the Medical Services account to the Medical Administration account. The additional funding would negate the need for this transfer.

Medical Facilities

President's Request: \$0

House: \$595,000,000

Senate: \$595,000,000

The House and Senate recommendations are identical. Both recommendations include \$45 million for upgrades to the polytrauma network system.

Medical and Prosthetic Research

President's Request: \$0

House: \$35,000,000

Senate: \$30,000,000

The recommendation includes \$30 million for research associated with returning Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans and deployment health.

General Operating Expenses

President's Request: \$0

House: \$62,000,000

Senate: \$46,000,000

The Senate recommendation for General Operating Expenses is \$46 million. The additional funding is for the hiring and training of 400 additional claims adjudicators. The House included \$1.25 million in this account for digitization of records. The Senate provides an additional \$1 million in funding in the Information Technology account for this purpose.

Information Technology

President's Request: \$0

House: \$35,000,000

Senate: \$36,100,000

The Senate includes \$20 million for information technology support and improvements for processing of OIF/OEF veterans benefits claims, including making electronic DoD medical records available for claims processing and enabling electronic benefits applications by veterans; an additional \$1 million for digitization of health and benefits records, and \$15.1 million for remedial actions needed to provide services to veterans whose personal information is at risk due to a recent data breach.

Construction

President's Request: \$0

House: \$260,000,000

Senate: \$355,907,000

The Senate includes \$319.9 million in minor construction for VA identified needs that were not requested in FY 2007 or FY 2008. These are life and patient safety projects. Additionally the Senate provides \$36 million for construction needs associated with the establishment of additional polytrauma residential transitional rehabilitation programs.

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS

The Senate legislation provides \$5.73 billion for State-Foreign Operations programs, the same as the President's request. In general, we support the requests for funding for high priority needs in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Kosovo, and Sudan, as well as to combat avian influenza. However, the majority of the Senate legislation funding (\$3.2 billion) is for work in Iraq.

This bill imposes more rigorous oversight on assistance for Iraq and Afghanistan than previous supplemental legislation by placing limitations on funding and supporting independent inspectors general.

- Conditions 50 percent on Iraqi performance. No conditions have ever been tied to Iraq reconstruction funds in the past.
- Does not fund the type of infrastructure projects in Iraq that have been plagued by no bid contracts, cost over runs, and shoddy workmanship. Funding is provided instead for training, national, provincial and local government capacity building, community development, and humanitarian programs.

- Extends the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) oversight over 2007 funds and ensures sufficient funding do continue the SIGIR's work.
- Adds funds for USAID and State Department Inspectors General for both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Iraq . The Senate legislation for the State, Foreign Operations section includes \$2.9 billion for work in Iraq. Highlights include:

- In giving higher priority to funding provincial and local initiatives, the Senate legislation reduces funding for some national programs that we believe are of lower priority, have already received significant U.S. assistance or are unlikely to result in quick improvements in the lives of Iraqis.
- Increases funding for the Community Action Program (CAP) by \$50 million, double the amount requested for programs to provide services in neighborhoods. This successful program has bipartisan support.
- Increases funding to address the huge number of Iraq refugees and internally displaced persons by \$70 million above the President's request.
- Increases oversight funding by \$4.3 million to provide a total of \$39.3 million for oversight of funding in Iraq. The Senate legislation supports the President's request of \$35 million for the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) and adds funding for the Inspectors General of USAID and the Department of State to support their ongoing oversight of programs in Iraq.
- Funds Provincial Reconstruction Teams with \$1.03 billion.
- Requires the Secretary of State to certify that specific benchmarks on certain reconstruction assistance for Iraq have been met prior to the obligation of 50 percent of the funds.

Afghanistan . The Senate legislation includes \$824 million, an increase of \$103 million (14%) over the President's request of \$720.8 million, for reconstruction programs, primarily in provinces targeted by the Taliban.

- Increases reconstruction programs by \$33 million, including PRTs, governance and alternative livelihoods.
- Increases embassy security by \$7.8 million.
- Increases funding to address the emergency needs of returning refugees and internally displaced persons by providing \$36 million.
- Increases oversight by providing \$1.2 million for the Inspectors General of USAID and the Department of State to support their work to oversee programs in Afghanistan.

Lebanon . the Senate bill includes \$769.5 million, equal to the President's request.

Sudan . the Senate includes \$215.9 million, an increase of \$4 million above the President's request of \$212 million.

- Increases disaster and famine assistance to \$49 million (\$9.9 million more than the request).
- Provides \$150 million to support peacekeeping by the African Union mission, which is equal to the request.

Kosovo . the Senate includes \$229 million to support a wide range of activities after the anticipated settlement of Kosovo's status early this year. The legislation provides \$79 million to support post-status reconciliation and to build local government capacity, which is equal to the request.

Pakistan . the Senate includes \$110 million in assistance for the tribal areas of Pakistan, equal to the request.

Jordan – the Senate allows the Administration to transfer up to \$100 million to Jordan.

Chad . the Senate includes \$98 million for Chad, of which \$88 million was requested by the President to support peacekeeping operations and \$10 million, not requested by the President, is for humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of IDPs.

Somalia . the Senate legislation includes \$65 million for Somalia, of which \$40 million was requested by the President to support peacekeeping operations and \$25 million is for humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), an increase of \$5 million above the President's request.

Global Programs

Avian Flu . the Senate bill includes \$161 million, the same as the President's request, for expanded efforts to stop the spread of the avian flu virus.

International Exchanges . the bill includes \$10 million to support expanding exchanges among low income populations in predominantly Muslim countries. This is \$10 million below the President's request for the same activities, as an approved amendment authored by Senator Ensign reduced the amount for exchanges by \$15 million.

Public Diplomacy . the Senate includes \$20 million, the same as the President's request, for programs to improve the image of the U.S. in 18 predominantly Muslim target countries.

Contributions to International Organizations . the Senate includes \$59 million to make up a portion of the U.S. shortfall in assessed to key organizations involved in the fight against international terrorism and combating the avian influenza: NATO, IAEA, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Pan American Health Organization.

Refugees – the Senate includes a total of \$115 million for refugees, an increase of \$28.5 million for global emergencies of which \$55 million would be under Emergency Migration and Refugee Assistance account and \$60 million under the Migration and Refugee Assistance account.

TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

TITLE II

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Emergency Relief Program

Three weeks ago, FHWA announced the award of its Emergency Relief grants for Fiscal 2007 for the costs of repairing roads and bridges that were destroyed or damaged in declared disaster areas. Even after giving out these grants, the agency still has an anticipated backlog of \$389 million in costs associated with emergency repairs stemming from 24 separately declared disasters in 21 states. The bill provides \$389 million -- enough funding to cover these requests, including \$91 million to repair roads and bridges damage by Hurricane Katrina.

Transit Assistance for hurricane-impacted areas

The bill provides \$75 million in emergency transit assistance for the areas impacted by Katrina and Rita.

HUD Office of Inspector General

The Senate bill includes \$91.4 million or \$8.1 million over the President's FY 2007 request. This funding was needed largely to address the \$17 billion in CDBG funding for the hurricane disaster areas. Initial plans anticipated 45 people working full-time for 5 to 7 years at total cost of approximately \$50 million. Since we are so far into FY 2007, the bill provides an increase of \$5 million for a new Fiscal 2007 number of \$86.2 million.

The Senate approved a provision, first adopted in committee and offered by Senator Murray and Senator Feinstein. This provision requires the Bush Administration's proposed pilot project for cross-border trucking with Mexico to be subject to an open, transparent, process that will include public comment, quantifiable measures of success, and a requirement that safety be enhanced. It will also prohibit Mexican trucks from gaining access to U.S. highways as part of this pilot project until comparable and simultaneous access is granted to U.S. truckers wishing to travel on Mexican highways.